

Church of the Holy Rood

Ampney Crucis

Gloucestershire.

**Report on the Condition of
ten Churchyard Monuments
and
the Mediaeval Preaching Cross.**

**Prepared for the P.C.C. of the
Church of the Holy Rood, Ampney Crucis,
Gloucestershire.**

by G.B. O'Hare M.Phil. PG.Dip. (cons.)

December 2022.

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Introduction.

This is a condition survey of ten funerary monuments and a cross within the churchyard around the Church of the Holy Rood, Ampney Crucis, in the Diocese of Gloucester.

The survey was carried out because their condition is a cause for concern, and such a survey listing the monuments within the churchyard, their condition, their problems and possible solutions, is a useful tool to aid their maintenance and continued survival into the future. It was conducted by Graham O'Hare in November 2022, and included visual inspection and use of a Protoval Elcometer P 150/E rebar and wall-tie locator to detect hidden metalwork.

Seven of the monuments are listed Grade II as "buildings of special interest". These are included in five listings, LEN 1090017, LEN 1172077, LEN 1172083, LEN 1172089 and LEN 1340998.

Two of the monuments are not listed. These were included in the survey because of their condition, and because more information about them was wanted.

The cross is both Listed Grade 1 (LEN 1090016) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (LEN 1014416).

This report was commissioned by the P.C.C. of Ampney Crucis.

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<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/>

NOTE:-The information in Bigland seems to have been gathered circa 1786.

7. John Leech, 1771.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Leech, Flux and Herbert Monuments, ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1340998.

Location: circa 3 to 5 metres S of SE tower buttress.

NGR SP 06494 01881

Listing description.

Group of 3 chest tombs. From north to south John Leech, died 1771; Robert Flux, died 1792; Herbert family, earliest decipherable date 1776. Limestone. Moulded plinth and capping. Leech: Plain 2-step flat top on base, nearly square, with indented corners. Plain raised end and side panels. ...”

Dimensions: 1.118 m long, 0.815 m wide x 1.3 m high.

Description.

This is a pedestal tomb made of local Jurassic, oolitic limestone. It may have originally supported an urn or cap, now lost. It was built with lime putty as mortar, and tight joints. The cramps used are probably non-ferrous.

There is a single, large covering slab, visible at the NE corner. A two-course plinth with re-entrant corners, made from shelly weatherstone, lies on this. The blocks for the lower course are plain without mouldings, but all have a vertical batted finish with horizontally batted marginal drafts to all corners, re-entrant corners and perpendicular joint edges. The blocks for the upper course are smooth. This course is deeper at the ends than at the sides. The height difference causes gaps at corners, each filled with a slip.

The side and end panels all have a flat, raised inscription field, with double *cyma recta* mouldings to create a frame.

There are inscriptions on the N and S sides.

S side:

Here reft the Remains of
JOHN LEECH Sen^r.
Who died April .. 1773 aged 88 years
& *Also of JOHN SWORY*,
who died the 30th Oct. 1830
Aged 84 Years
And **ELIZABETH** his Wife
who died the 28th of Dec. 1842
Aged 86 Years.

N side:

Here reft the Remains of
JOHN LEECH Jun^r.
Who died in Aug. 1771 aged 49 Year^s
Alfo of HESTER his Wife
who died in April 1771 aged 49 years
Likewife of MARY their daughter
who died in May 1781 aged 18 years.

The E and W ends are blank.

Bigland records:

John Leech, Sen.
Died in April 1773, aged 88.

John Leech, Jun.
Died in Aug. 1771, aged 49.

Hester his Wife
died in April, 1771, aged 49.

Mary, their Daughter,
died in May, 1781, aged 18.

Above is a frieze course in four stones, with a bead moulding at its lower edge.

The lid is in two halves, with re-entrant corners. There are *cyma recta* / fillet / drip / bull-nose / fillet / *cavetto* mouldings to the edges. Resting on this is a plain, rectangular blocking course in 3 stones. This in turn supports a top stone with re-entrant corners and *cavetto* / fillet edges.

Condition.

Individual stones are all in quite good though weathered condition, and with extensive yellow and white lichen growth. The covering slab has subsided to the SW. This movement has allowed all joints to open. Cramps may possibly have failed due to failure of the mortar allowing movement in their sockets, rather than damage to the cramps themselves, as there are no signs of damage to the surrounding stonework.

There has been some ivy penetration, as the perpendicular joints are open due to this movement.

The top stone has broken and been repaired with cement and three bronze cramps.

This monument has not been conserved previously, but has been repaired and extensively repointed using sand and cement. Movement has continued however, so that the joints have opened further.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

At present this monument is stable, but if left untreated, it will continue to deteriorate, and would eventually collapse.

It should be completely dismantled, and the covering slab lifted out using a lifting gantry, chain-hoist and soft straps. The resulting hole can be lined with geotextile and filled with lime concrete to provide a firm and level foundation pad on which to re-lay the cover slab, now lifted up to the modern ground level.

The monument can then be rebuilt using lime mortar and replacing any iron cramps found with stainless steel ones.



South side.



West end.



North side.



East end.



Detail showing joints opened due to structural movement. The stones themselves are undamaged.



The south side, again showing opened joints.

2. Robert Flux, 1792.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Leech, Flux and Herbert Monuments, ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1340998.

Location: circa 3 to 5 metres S of SE tower buttress.

NGR SP 06494 01881

Listing description.

Group of 3 chest tombs. From north to south John Leech, died 1771; Robert Flux, died 1792; Herbert family, earliest decipherable date 1776. Limestone. Moulded plinth and capping. ... Flux: stepped tent top with remains of roll moulding along top, badly eroded. On base. Fielded side panel to north with flanking fluted strips. Remaining panels recessed. ...”

Dimensions: 1.54 m long x 0.825 m wide x 1.5 m high.

Description.

A typical late 18th century chest tomb. It is probably built over a brick-lined burial shaft, designed to accommodate multiple burials.

A very large shelly weatherstone covering slab is visible at ground level at the E and W ends, and is also discernible through the turf on the S side.

The plinth is constructed in two courses from shelly weatherstone. The lower is a blocking course in four pieces. Above this is a deep moulded course in only two stones., with *cyma reversa* / blocking to its edges.

The S side is carved with a *cavetto* frame around a slightly convex inscription field. The top part, from the moulding upwards, is a replacement in two stones. The carving of the moulding is cruder than the original. The inscription reads:

ROBERT FLUX AND
MARY his Wife, He died
March y^e 5th, 1792 aged 84 Yea^{rs}
She died June y^e 1st, 1791
Aged 68 Years.

The N side is different, with a wider countersunk frame with *cavetto*, chamfered back out to a raised, flat inscription panel. This is empty, with no inscription. The top has been very crudely repaired with a pinkish cement render.

The E and W ends are identical (in mirror image), with a simple *cyma recta* moulding around a countersunk central inscription field. This is convex. On the S side of each end panel is a deeply countersunk central field with a *cavetto* around the edge and raised centre with mitred corners. On

the N side of each end panel, there is reeding (7). There is no inscription at the W end. That on the E end reads:

Near this Place
resteth the remains
of JOHN FLUX
who departed this Life
in joyful hopes of
a blessed Eternity
on the 29th of October
1822 *aged 20 Years*

Above the side and end panels is a frieze course in only two stones, with bead and fillet to its bottom edge.

The lid is constructed in four stones with *cyma recta* / fillet edge moulding. The stone on the N is a modern replacement, in Stoke Ground base bed Bath Jurassic oolitic limestone. There is a blocking course in three pieces. Above is a capping in two stones, with apex roll, *cavetto* sides and mitred corners. This type of cap seems to be more common in the eastern Cotswolds than the West (Marples, 1982).

Condition.

This monument has been conserved, reportedly by Maurice Hanks about twenty years ago. The covering slab is very level, and the monument may have been completely dismantled and rebuilt on a new foundation, though this is unclear. Iron cramps have been replaced with non-ferrous or stainless steel ones. Open joints have been repointed with sand and cement. The condition of the E and W ends is very good. The N side is good, but the pinkish cement mortar is unsightly, and deteriorating. The frieze course is in good condition, except on the N side, where it has snapped in two places, and the central part is frost shattered, with a large spall detached, glued back on with cement, then failed again. The lid is deteriorating badly. Although the two ends are quite good, the central stone on the S side is disintegrating due to frost damage, and the central stone on the N side is a newer replacement in Stoke Ground base bed Bath Jurassic oolitic limestone, but this too is suffering from frost damage. The blocking course is in poor condition, with extensive frost damage. The cap is very poor and about to disintegrate, except the E end section which still has all moulding details intact.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

The monument should be dismantled to lid level, the N and S centre lid stones replaced, and the broken stone on the N frieze repaired by removing it and reattaching using polyester resin and small stainless steel pins and repair mortar.

All cap stones should be replaced with new, carved to replicate the original shapes.



East end.



South side.



West end.



Detail showing frost damage to the cap stones on the north side.



Frost damage on the south side of the cap.



North side.



The crude mortar repair to the top of the side panel on the north side.



The pieced-in stone repair on the south side. Note the difference in accuracy in the mouldings.

1. Herbert Family monument.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Leech, Flux and Herbert Monuments, ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1340998.

Location: circa 3 to 5 metres S of SE tower buttress.

NGR SP 06494 01881

Listing description.

Group of 3 chest tombs. From north to south John Leech, died 1771; Robert Flux, died 1792; Herbert family, earliest decipherable date 1776. Limestone. Moulded plinth and capping. ... Herbert: Badly eroded flat top. Plain incised square panels to ends and to side, divided into two. ...”

Dimensions: 1.685 m long x 0.855 m wide x 0.91 m high.

Description.

This is a very simple, plain chest tomb. It has a single plinth course in seven pieces with a simple chamfer, made from shelly weatherstone. The ends and sides are plain ashlar of a finer-grained local limestone, and have flush beaded frames around inscription field. The ends have one each, the sides two. The N side is made in one piece, while the S side is in two. There is a workshop piecing-in to the inscription on the S side, where a small rectangle of stone has been inserted to remove a blemish in the stone.

Inscriptions:

S side:

In Memory of
RICHARD HERBERT
who died July
the 4th 1776 Aged
65 Years.

In Memory of
DEBORAH Wife
of **RICH.^D HERBERT**
who died March
The 17th. 1774 Aged
66 Years.

N side

In MEMORY of
JOHN HERBERT
who died Dec. 13th,
1831
Aged 87 Years

In Memory of
ANN the WIFE of
JOHN HERBERT
who died January
the 24th 1814
Aged 68 Years.

W end:

Near this Place lieth y^e
Body of *HESTER* the
WIFE of *HERBERT*
JORDAN who died Janr^y
the 1st 1779 Aged 42
Years.

E end:

In Memory of
WILLIAM HERBERT
who died Aug^t. 24 1815
Aged 74 Years.

Ralph Bigland records:

Richard Herbert
died July 2, 1774, aged 65.

Deborah his Wife
died March 17, 1776, aged 66.

Hester, wife of William Jordan,
died Jan. 1, 1779, aged 42.

The lid is a new replacement one, made from Stoke Ground base bed Bath stone or similar. It is in two halves, with a simple chamfer moulding under the edge.

Condition.

This monument has been dismantled and rebuilt previously, using sand, cement and stone glue. The plinth has been rebuilt square and level on a cement concrete base with an edge of modern bricks, which are visible beneath the stone plinth at the E end. There are no visible covering slabs over a shaft, and it seems likely that this had subsided and is buried below the modern ground level, with the later bricks and concrete used to level up and raise the plinth a little. Cramps are present across the top of each perpendicular joint below the lid, but are non-ferrous replacements. Joints have been filled with a sand and cement mortar.

There is a relatively recent polyester stone glue filler repair to a large frost spall on the top of the lid. This is not working, and further frost damage is occurring. The cement-filled perpendicular joints have cracked through, but this is more likely to be due to thermal movements than subsidence or structural movement.

There is some moss on the plinth and a moderate lichen growth, more on the S side.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

Open joints should be repointed with lime mortar. The damaged area of the lid should be cut out, and a rectangular piece of replacement stone fitted in using an NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime mortar and fine sand.



East end.



South side.



West end.



North side.



Detail showing modern brickwork below the plinth course at the east end.



Detail showing modern brickwork at the north-east corner.



An area of frost damage to the lid has been repaired by filling with polyester resin.

8. William Morse, 1828.

Not Listed.

Location. To the SE of 3 and to the W of 1.

Dimensions: 2.22 m long, 2.29 m wide x 0.855 m high.

Description.

A very substantial variation on a ledger. This monument consists of a flat, paved rectangle of five stones, originally supporting wrought iron railings of square section, set in with lead. Within this enclosure are two massive ledgers, E and W, with a copper inscription plaque on the W stone. These are supported by a high plinth in four stones, without cramps at the corners. Originally there were also wrought iron braces at the cardinal points, from the ledgers to the iron railings.

The construction uses very large pieces of very shelly weatherstone. There is a substantial shaft underneath.

The inscription is engraved on a copper plate, fixed into a rectangular rebate in the upper surface of the W ledger stone, with lead. It reads;

In Memory of
WILLIAM MORSE
who died June 29th: 1828
Aged 52 Years.
Also of MARY his Wife
who died Dec^r: 4th: 1829.
Aged 65 Years

It is signed R^D. MILLS F. and has a decorative border around the edge of plaque, with a ribbon tie at the top and two fronds running downwards to meet the signature below the inscription. Richard Mills, of Cirencester, was active around Cirencester in the 1810s, 20s and 30s, as a monumental mason (particularly wall plaques), but also built Hannington Bridge (Kempsford), over the Thames in 1841.

The use of a copper plaque for inscription combined with shelly limestone available in very large dimensions but not suitable for letter-cutting is a typical combination.

Condition.

Removal of all ironwork (in the 1940s?) removed the ties fixing the four plinth stones together at the corners, allowing everything to move. Subsidence of the slabs has then caused movement. The subsidence may be caused by deterioration of the top few courses of a brick-lined shaft or vault beneath. Movement has opened up all the joints, allowing the weather to remove any mortar completely.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

This monument is not in imminent danger of collapse, but is slowly becoming more unstable. Eventually individual stones will be able to rotate and fall out of position.

This monument would benefit from being dismantled and rebuilt. It is likely that the top of any structure underneath will need to be repaired. The extent of this work would need to be assessed after removal of the stones above.

It should be dismantled using a lifting gantry, chain-hoist and soft straps, and rebuilt using hydraulic lime mortar.

The copper plaque should be lightly cleaned and protected with a coat of “Renaissance” wax.



East end.



South side.



West end.



North side.



Detail showing the remains of cut-off iron railings, set in lead.



Detail showing one of the cut-off iron braces.



The engraved copper inscription panel set into the western ledger stone.

3. Sarah Stratton, 1803.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Stratton Monument, ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1172077.

Location: circa 4 metres SW of SW tower buttress.

NGR SP 06483 01884

Listing description.

Chest tomb. Sarah Stratton died 1803, earliest decipherable. Limestone. Stepped tent top with roll moulding along top. Moulded plinth and capping on raised base. Plain recessed side and end panels, with small flanking strips to side panels.”

Dimensions: 1.66 m long x 0.76 m wide x 1.9 m high.

Description.

This is an interesting large, early 19th century monument. Stylistic similarities of mouldings and details indicate that it may have been made by the same workshop as the Flux monument (2). It was well designed, very well built, and uses high quality stone.

The monument is probably built over a vault. There is a single, massive shelly weatherstone covering slab, fully dressed on all its faces. This forms the roof. The W end is buried, but at the E end the supporting structure is visible. Two courses of large ashlar blocks with a vertical axed finish are visible on the N and S sides, and these continue below ground. At the W end, substantial quoins continue downwards, and are probably the jambs to an entrance. Between these the infill uses smaller, somewhat less dressed stones than the N and S sides. Access would have been possible by removing and replacing this masonry.

The monument itself is built directly on top of the covering slab.

The plinth is a single course of three stones, with fillet / bead / *cyma reversa* / fillet / blocking mouldings around the edge.

The E and W ends are identical (in mirror image), with a simple frame with fillet / *cavetto* / fillet moulding around a countersunk, slightly convex inscription field. The S side of each end panel is fluted (5), while the N sides have a frame with fillet / *cavetto* / fillet mouldings around a flat, countersunk field.

The N side panel has a simple frame with Roman *ovolo* moulding, around a slightly convex, countersunk inscription field.

The S side panel has the same mouldings as on the ends.

Inscriptions.

That on the S side was the first:

To perpetuate
The dear and precious memory of
those who reft in peace within is this
Tomb Erected
Mr.^s SARAH STRATTON Wife of
JOHN STRATTON *Gent.* Of this
Parish, died 13 of March 1803
Also Mr.^s. ANN BADDILY, Wife of the
Rev.^d RICHARD BADDILY
of Upper Easton near Bristol
died 22.nd of October 1808.

Followed by the E end:

LIKEWISE
Miss MARY PIGOTT,
who died at *Wantage*
in Berks.
10 of November, 1809
ALSO the Remains of
the Rev.^d RICH.^D BADDILY,
who died at Upper
Easton near Bristol,
on 23 May 1817
Aged 92.

The N side was used last:

In Memory of
M^{rs}.: SARAH CHAPMAN
Wife of GEORGE CHAPMAN, Esq.^r
of W
who died August the ? 1820.
Aged 70 Years.

The W end is blank.

The inscriptions record four actual burials; Sarah Stratton, 1803, Ann Baddily 1808, Mary Pigott 1809 and Richard Baddily 1817. Sarah Chapman 1820 is memorialised, but may not be buried here, and John Stratton Gentleman of this Parish and George Chapman Esquire of Wantage are only mentioned. The occurrence of four surnames on the same monument is probably due to some of the women being sisters. Genealogical research would be needed to clarify this.

Above the sides and ends is a frieze course in six sections, with roll / fillet / blocking / roll / fillet moulding. The central stone on the S side has the first line of the inscription carved on it – “To perpetuate”.

The lid, in four parts, is embellished with bullnose / *cavetto* / fillet / fillet / drip / fillet / *cyma recta* mouldings to edges. Above this is a plain blocking course in four stones.

The monument is completed by a deep capping with apex roll and Greek *ovolo* / *cavetto* / fillet / blocking mouldings, in two sections.

Condition.

This monument is in remarkably good condition. All stone is only moderately weathered, with the exception of the N side panel where there has been some loss to the surface of the inscription field, obscuring some of the letters and numbers. There is no damage from deteriorating cramps (they are probably copper), and no movement. It was built with very tight, narrow joints and lime putty as a mortar, and this has weathered away in a few places, most notably the perpendicular joints above the lid, in the cap and blocking course.

There is an extensive growth of green algae, particularly on the N side, and moss on the S side at plinth level.

The base, below the covering slab, has been repointed with sand and cement. This does not appear to be causing problems, and is in good condition.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

This monument is in good condition and requires little work. Open joints should be repointed using lime mortar.



South side.



West end and south-west corner.



East end.



North side.



Detail showing the lid and cap.



Detail showing the probable entrance to the burial shaft.



Detail showing the difference in the stonework between the sides and the east end.



Detail showing the entrance.

13. George Hine, 1880.

Not listed.

Location: On the N side of the Church, N of the Nave and WNW of the NW corner of the N Transept.

Dimensions. 2.09 m long x 0.72 m wide x 0.53 m high.

Description.

This is a Victorian, recumbent gravestone, probably built directly over the grave with only a rudimentary foundation. It consists of a Forest of Dean grey- green sandstone plinth in four sections with smooth honed finish and a simple chamfer. Above this is a rectangular pyramid, also of Forest of Dean sandstone. This is decorated with countersunk quatrefoils at the ends, with a cross bottonny, (St. Maurice) within at the E end, and an IHS monogram at the W end. The E end also has an inscription, "Thy will be done".

An inscription on the S side reads:

In Loving Remembrance of
George Hine
who died June 2 1880
Aged 52

In the midst of life we are in death.

(This is Thessalonians 4.16, used in the Book of Common Prayer).

Immediately east of this is a cross, positioned as closely as possible. This has a one piece Forest of Dean sandstone base with chamfered "plinth" and top, and two steps to the N and S sides. The top has a socket for the cross, now snapped off and missing. The bottom of the base is buried in the ground, with packing stones around it, hidden under the turf. An inscription on the east face of the base reads:

IN MEMORY
OF
JOHN PHILIP POUND HINE
DIED DEC 18 1884
AGED 9 MONTHS

IS IT WELL WITH THE CHILD
IT IS WELL
FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

(references 2 Kings 4:26)

Condition.

There has been a little subsidence, but this is unlikely to be active, and the monument is stable. All stones are in good, moderately weathered condition, with extensive lichen and moss growth. There is no mortar present; either there never was any, or it has washed out completely.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

The moss should be removed. All joints should be repointed using an NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime mortar so that plants cannot grow in them.



East end.



The cross base at the east end of this monument.



South side.



West end. The quatrefoil contains an IHS monogram.



North side.



The inscription on the cross base.



The inscription on the south side of the monument.

10. William Bennett, 1810.

Not listed.

Location: to the SE of the SE corner of the chancel.

Dimensions. 1.945 m long x 1.11 m wide x 0.36 m high.

Description.

This is an early Victorian ledger. The ledger itself is a plain slab of red Forest of Dean sandstone with vertical batted sides (horizontal at the corners). The inscription reads:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM BENNETT,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
DECEMBER 6th 1840.
AGED 68 YEARS
ALSO OF
MARY HIS WIFE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
JUNE 23rd 1842,
AGED 69 YEARS

This rests on a low plinth of grey Forest of Dean sandstone, in four sections, batted top and sides, with mitred top and horizontal batting at the corners.

Condition.

There has been a little subsidence to the South. The E end plinth stone has split along a line of weakness within the stone. The monument has been repointed in sand and cement, but there has been further movement.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

The split E plinth stone should be lifted out, thoroughly cleaned, and repaired using stainless steel pins and polyester resin. The pins can be inserted from the back, so that they do not show. It can then be re-bedded, and all joints repointed using NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime mortar.



East end.



South side.



West end.



North side.



The inscription on the ledger, revealed by brushing off the loosely attached moss.

4. Sarah Timpany, 1771 & Elizabeth Cherington, 1789.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Cherington/Timpany Monument ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1090017.

Location: circa 8 metres ENE of cross in churchyard.

NGR SP 06518 01883

Listing descriptions.

Pedestal tomb. Sarah Timpany (?), died 1771, earliest decipherable, and Elizabeth Cherington, died 1789. Limestone. Moulded plinth and capping. Indented corners, fielded side and end panels. Square cap with moulded upper edge rising to smaller chamfered section with moulded top.

Dimensions: 1.17 m long x 0.89 m wide x 1.7 m high.

Description.

This is a pedestal tomb, taller than it is wide, with a top which has given rise to the nickname “tea-caddy”. The plinth, lid and the square base to the socle are carved from shelly weatherstone. Other components are made of a fine-grained, not particularly oolitic local limestone, with few fossil fragments.

The monument is probably built over a brick-lined shaft, designed to contain multiple burials. There are one or two cover slabs, with simple chamfered edge. Above this is a plinth in two courses; a blocking courses with vertical batting (horizontal on the marginal draft at corners) in four stones, and above this a moulded course, again in four stones, with small roll / *cyma reversa* mouldings and re-entrant corners.

The N and S side panels each have a simple moulded frame around a flat central field for inscriptions. The E and W ends are similar, with their N and S faces carved with bellflower margents suspended from 5-petalled flowers.

There are three inscriptions:

W end –

Here resteth the Body of
DAVID TIMPANY
who died Dec^r. 1? 17??
Aged 73 Years

N side -

.....SARAH
the Wife of JOSIAH TIMPANY
who died Oct ?? 1771 Aged 24

S side –

To the Memory of
ELIZABETH CHERINGTON
who died March 12: 1789 Aged 77

There is no inscription on the E end. These inscriptions are not included in Bigland, so the monument was probably built after 1786.

Above the sides and ends is a frieze course with blocking and astragal in only two stones.

The lid, again in two parts, has *cyma recta* / fillet / fillet / *cavetto* / roll / fillet mouldings.

The cap has a blocking course in two stones, then a second course with *cyma recta* / fillet / bullnose mouldings, in two stones. Then there is a socle, and a capstone, domed with mitred corners, and astragal to its bottom edge. Socle and capstone are not shelly weatherstone.

Condition.

The covering slabs are in excellent condition (there is a spall at the SE corner due to a natural vent weathering out). The monument is level and straight, with no signs of movement. The mortar up to and including the frieze course appears to be original lime putty with very tight joints. There are no ferrous cramps, or damage caused by them.

The edges of the lid have been eroded, shattered by frost. There is also frost damage to the moulded course below the socle. On the W side is a replacement stone (Stoke Ground Bath stone or similar), fitted well with lime mortar, but the top of this is also frost damaged. The socle is badly frost damaged, and about to lose all its corners. The cap is still good.

This monument was reportedly partly dismantled and rebuilt circa 20 years ago by Maurice Hanks. It seems likely that he only worked on the lid and above, but he may have replaced iron cramps with non-ferrous ones.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

While most of this monument is in good condition, the lid and socle are deteriorating rapidly due to frost damage. The edges and top surfaces of the lid stones should be repaired by piecing in new stone, and the socle should be replaced.



The Timpany / Cherington monument.



East end.



South side.



West end.



North side.



Detail showing the frost-shattered socle.

5. William Smith, 1787.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Smith Monument ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1172089.

Location: circa 6 metres ESE of cross in churchyard.

NGR SP 06518 01878

Listing description.

Chest tomb. William Smith Jr, died 1787. Limestone. Tent top, moulded plinth and capping. Fluted frieze with corner rosettes. Fielded side panels with flanking carved strips on each side, plain ends.”

Dimensions: 1.46 m long x 0.68 m wide x 1.23 m high.

Description.

A large, tall chest tomb, built over a burial shaft. There are three or four covering slabs. Those at the ends are certainly single slabs. The middle one may be two stones. There is a moulded plinth course in two parts, with *cavetto* / fillet / bullnose / blocking mouldings. (These and the lid are carved from harder, shellier weatherstone).

The E and W ends are very simple flat panels with a flush bead border around an empty field, without inscriptions. However their N and S sides are carved as pilasters which flank the side panels.

The S and N sides differ. Each has a large rectangular inscription field framed by a countersunk *cyma recta* and shallow chamfer moulding. On the S side the inscription reads:

This Stone is Erected in Memory of
WILLIAM the Son of
WILLIAM and MARY SMITH,
who Departed this Life Nov^r, the 30th
1787 Aged 16 Years.
Beneath Deaths Gloomy Silent Shead,
Lay Youth and Virtue in the Duft.
Murn not Dear Parents he is not Dead
But Sleeps to Raife up with the Juft.

The pilasters to either side are decorated with countersunk low-relief carving. On each there are a sunflower, small ribbon bow, and suspended from this a margent of laurel leaves tied in bunches of three. The background is “sparrow-pecked”.

In contrast the carving of the pilasters on the N side is in raised low relief. Again there are sunflowers, but much larger ribbon bows, suspending vine stalks with leaves, tendrils and bunches of grapes. The background is sparrow-pecked, with a marginal draft left smooth to form a border.

The inscription on this N side reads:

Near this place are deposited the remains
of WILLIAM SMITH GENT of *SOUTH*
CERNEY Who Died January the 15th
1812, Aged 75 Years.
MARY SMITH
Died March the 27 1802
Aged 67 Years.

Originally the whole monument was painted white, with black lettering. Traces survive.

Above sides and ends is a deep frieze course with deep fluting and a roll / *cavetto* moulding to its bottom edge.

The relatively thin lid is a single piece of very shelly weatherstone. Originally it had piecings-in to all four corners. This may have been due to a mistake in the workshop, due to the re-entrant corner detail caused by the mouldings on underside where they meet the pilasters. The top of the lid is pyramidal, with mitred corners. There is a drip-mould, then *cyma recta* / fillet / *cyma reversa* around the edge.

Condition.

This monument is in good condition. It has been conserved to a high standard, but using white cement. This work was carried out by Maurice Hanks “about twenty years ago”. Cover slabs and plinth are straight and level. The cramps are non-ferrous. A break to the N side panel at the NW corner has been repaired with a Bath stone piecing-in. It has had ivy growing on it, but this has been removed. There is some moss on the cover slabs and plinth on N side.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

This monument is in good condition and does not require any conservation work. Moss growing on the plinth and cover slabs should be brushed off to prevent it holding moisture against the stone and creating a soil.



North side.



East end.



South side.



West end and north-west corner.



West end and south-west corner.



The north-west pilaster, showing the vine motif carved in relief.



The relief-carved vine motif. Note the “sparrow-pecked” background.



The south-west pilaster, with laurel leaves carved by countersinking around them.



Another view of the south side.

9. Thomas King, 1782 & Martha Radaway, 1774.

This monument is listed as follows:

“King/Radaway Monument ...

Listed: Grade II (17.VI.1986). List entry number 1172083.

Location: circa 4 metres SE of South Porch.

NGR SP 06505 01882

Listing description.

Chest tomb. Thomas King, died 1782; and Martha Radaway, died 1774. Limestone. Flat top, moulded plinth and capping on base. Sides have large central recessed panels and plain side strips. End slightly fielded.”

Dimensions: 1.71 m long x 0.765 m wide x 1.0 m high.

Description.

This is a chest tomb, of plain and simple design. Cover slabs and lid are carved from very shelly weatherstone. A less shelly hard limestone has been used for the plinth. Sides and ends are of a finer, slightly oolitic limestone, with few small fossils.

There are three substantial cover slabs, and a very simple deep plinth with chamfer in pieces. On the N side there is a piecing-in which crosses a joint.

The E and W ends are relatively thick. Each has a simple countersunk frame around a flat inscription field. The S and N sides have a low relief frame around a flat, countersunk field.

All four sides have inscriptions originally with black letters and borders, on a white background.

S side:

In Memory of *MARTHA*
the Wife of JOHN RADAWAY
She died April the1774 Aged 74
Also in Memory of John Radaway, Who
died May the 1: 1787 Aged 83 Years.

W end:

On the Path side of this
Tomb lieth y^e Body of
THOMAS KING.
He was a good Youth
B'oth^r and kind Unkle
who died May 178?
Aged ?7 Years.

E end:

In Memory of
HENRY RADAWAY
who died July y^e 16
179⁸ In the 39 Year
of his age

N side:

To the Memory of
HESTA MATILDA RADWAY
THIRD DAUGHTER OF
THOMAS KING

ANN RADWAY
WHO DIED APRIL 8th. 1857
AGED 30 YEARS.

Ralph Bigland records the following:

Ann, the Wife of
Henry Radway,
died March 30, 1781,
Aged 33.

Martha, the Wife of
John Radway,
died April 10, 1774,
Aged 74.

Thomas King
died May 27, 1782,
Aged 65.

The lid is one large stone with a flat top and simple *cavetto* edge.

Condition.

This monument is in remarkably good condition, with no movement, except for the slipped lid, twisted slightly anticlockwise and displaced towards the S.

There do not appear to be any cramps, and the ends are thick enough not to need them. All mortar in the joints seems original, although many are now empty, as it has weathered out. The piecing-in to the plinth on the N side has snapped through due to a slight movement.

It is very possible that this monument is in such good condition now due to it being dismantled and rebuilt in 1857 carefully and well. Even so, the stones are all very well preserved.

Recommended treatment for conservation.

This monument is in good condition, but would benefit from repointing of all open joints. The lid could also be lifted using a lifting gantry, chain-hoist and soft straps, and re-bedded in its correct position on a thin bed of lime mortar.



East end.



North side.



West end.



South side.

6. Preaching Cross.

This monument is listed as follows:

“Cross in Churchyard of Church of the Holy Rood

Listed: Grade I (26.XI.1958). List entry number 1090016.

Location: in churchyard, S of South Transept.

NGR SP 06512 01879

Listing description.

Churchyard cross. Late C14/early C15. Two large square steps on slanted plinth. Base of cross is a square rising to tall octagon with slanted top, with tapering shaft carved with leaf decoration at base rising to reset head in form of gabled tabernacle with four faces. Each face has figure(s) set in traceried niche: to west, Virgin and Child; south, St. Laurence; east, the Crucifixion; north, Robert Fitz-Harmon. The head was discovered in 1860 hidden in the old stair to the rood tower and replaced in its original position. Restored late C20. AM (Glos) 417.”

In addition to being Listed, it is also a **Scheduled Monument**.

Listed: 24.VI. 1965. List entry number 1014416

Reasons for Designation.

“ ... The churchyard cross in Holy Rood churchyard, Ampney Crucis, is believed to be in its original position; it is also thought to be the cross from which the parish took its name. The restored head was found in the church and belongs to the cross. The cross and head, now brought back together, survive well as a visually impressive monument of the medieval period. This cross is one of a pair of crosses in Ampney Crucis, the other being a wayside cross c. 130 m to the east.

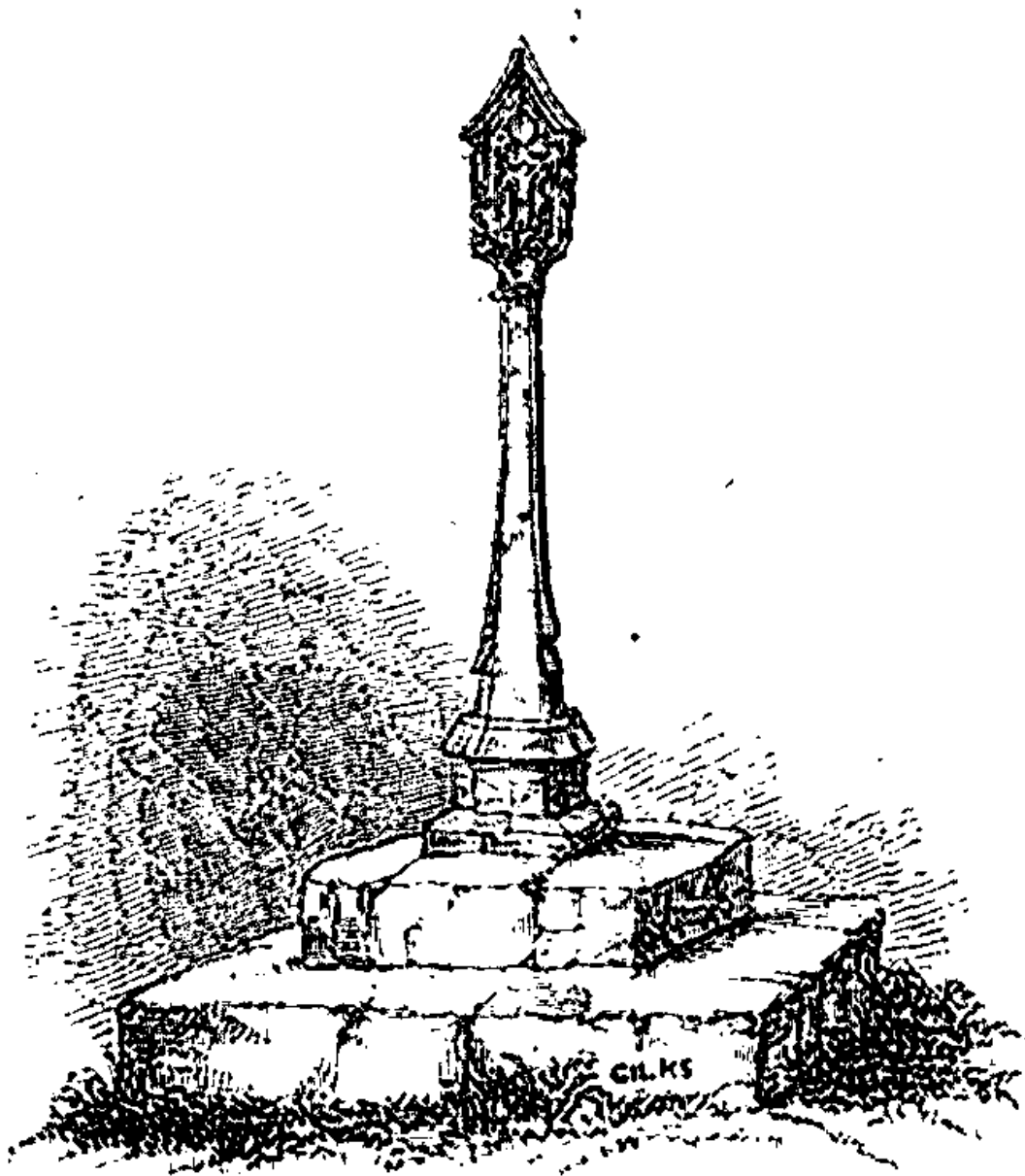
Details.

The monument includes a restored standing cross situated in the churchyard at Ampney Crucis c. 8m south of the church. The cross has a square two step calvary, a socket stone, shaft and restored head. The base of the calvary is 2.3m square and 0.45m high; the second step is 1.55m square and 0.3m high. Above this the octagonal socket stone, which has a deep drip moulding on its upper face, is 0.75m square at its base, then runs into the octagonal, each side being 0.25m long; above this is the drip moulding which overlaps the octagonal by 0.025m. The whole socket stone is 0.55m high. The shaft, square at the bottom, sits in a socket which is 0.3m square. Above this it tapers, with octagonal section, to the restored head. The shaft is formed of two stones joined by an iron bracket, with a total height of c. 1.4m. At the top of the shaft is an octagonal decoration which appears to be of more recent construction. The head, which was found in the church and later restored to its position, is divided into four niches containing figures sculptured in relief. On the north side is the figure of a knight, on the south side a clerical figure, the Virgin and Child are on the west side, and the Crucifixion on the east side. The calvary is constructed from stone blocks. The socket stone is hewn from one piece of stone. It is considered that the style of armour on the carving of one of the figures on the head dates to 1415. It is thought that this is the cross from which the parish takes its name. The cross is Listed Grade I”.

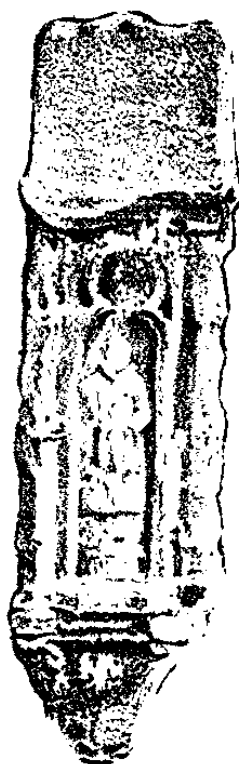
Charles Pooley in his “Notes on the Old Crosses of Gloucestershire” of 1868 mentions that “Under a heap of rubbish deposited in a small recess on the south side of the church of Amney Crucis, the

doorway of an ancient Rood staircase, I was fortunate enough to find the head of the old Cross, whose base and shaft stand in the adjoining churchyard". His description is "... a tapering octagonal shaft formed of two stones cemented together by an iron bracket". He identifies the iconography of the carvings on each side of the lantern as the Virgin and Child, to which Tewkesbury Abbey is dedicated, the Rood, (i.e. the Crucifixion with St. John and the Virgin) to which the parish church is dedicated, Gyraldus, first and founding Abbot of Tewkesbury Abbey, and Robert Fitz-Haimon, founder and first sponsor of Tewkesbury Abbey.

"This Cross has since been restored in good taste by the Rev. Canon Howman".



CROSS AT AMNEY HOLY-ROOD (RESTORED).



G.P. del.

11. 2. 18. 18. 18.

AMNEY HOLY ROOD.

The Listing identifies the figure on the S side as St. Laurence, rather than Abbot Gyraldus.

Dimensions:

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Lantern | 0.965 m high x 0.35 m wide. |
| Capital | 0.25 m high x 0.265 m wide. |
| Shaft | 1.55 m high x 0.305 m thick. |
| Base | 0.57 m high x 0.762 m wide. |
| Upper step | 0.305 m high x 1.524 m wide. |
| Lower step | 0.37 m high x 2.235 m wide. |

The total height is 4.01 m

Description.

The cross consists of a lantern top, carved from a single large block of fine-grained limestone, supported by a collar at the top of the shaft, the shaft itself, an octagonal base, and a square pedestal with two steps. Below this, visible on the E and S sides and at the SW corner, but otherwise buried in the turf, is another deep course of stones, with chamfer and *cavetto* mouldings. It is accurately described in its Listing and Schedule.

From a structural point of view, the following are significant.

The lantern top is a single block of stone. Pooley's drawing of 1868 shows that the bottom part below the carved figures on the E side was damaged or badly weathered. This area has been repaired by piecing in new stone and copying the details from the surviving W side to match. The collar at the top of the shaft is a replacement. It is fitted to the top of the surviving, original shaft with cement mortar, and there must be a dowel of some kind too.

It is not clear whether the shaft was originally in one piece of very shelly hard limestone, edge-bedded, or whether it was constructed in two stones. There is a horizontal joint about half way down, but it could be a break. This is braced by four bronze cramps set into sockets with sand and cement. Three of these are flat bars; one is a round rod.

The base of the shaft is set into a corresponding square socket in the top of the octagonal base with sand and cement.

The stepped pedestal is level, stable, and although the joints are wide, this seems to be due to weathering, rather than movement. The joints are pointed with a hard, sand and cement mortar.

Condition.

The lantern top shows some signs of sulphation under sheltered overhangs, particularly behind and below the figure of Robert Fitz-Haimon on the N side. This has also affected the collar to a lesser extent.

The bronze cramps and sand and cement mortar on the top, collar, shaft and base are weathered but in good condition and still functioning properly.

The cement pointing of the steps is deteriorating, with cracks due to slight movements. These allow water to penetrate the joints, washing out the mortar inside. As a result at least some of these joints are empty and hollow. The condition of the bottom step, now largely below ground level, appears to be similar to the steps above, or better.

The shelly weatherstone used for all parts below the collar is weathered but sound, with an extensive growth of lichens. This is not harmful, and in fact indicates that the surface of the stone is stable.

The lantern top was reinstated in 1868 or shortly before, and it is possible that the iron bracket recorded by Pooley was removed then, and replaced by the bronze cramps now in place. No such fixings are shown in the 1868 illustration of the restored cross. However the 1965 Schedule includes the iron bracket. The Listing mentions "Restored late C 20".

Recommended treatment for conservation.

While the cross is structurally stable, it would benefit from some maintenance. Any gaps around existing joints and mortar down to the level of the top step should be pointed and filled with lime mortar. The existing cement mortar should not be removed, as although it is hard it is not causing problems, and removal could cause damage.

All joints in the square base should be raked out and repointed, ensuring that all joints and any voids found are filled completely. This is best done by pointing the external perpendicular joints with NHL 2 hydraulic lime mortar, tamping the horizontal joints between the three step courses with roofing felt or geotextile, and grouting the voids with a suitable lime based grout. The felt allows excess water to escape without letting the grout through, and this also indicates that the grout is penetrating properly. After grouting the felt is removed, and the joint pointed in the usual way.

The calcium sulphate skin which has built up in sheltered areas on the lantern top should be removed using an ammonium carbonate poultice. After removal of the poultice, the stonework of the lantern should be gently scrubbed with small nylon bristled brushes to remove any remaining dirt and sulphation.

One application of limewater should be given, until the water begins to "sit" on the surface of the stone. The limewater should be seen as a catalyst to the recrystallisation of broken calcite crystals, rather than as a consolidant *per se*. This follows German practice and research, rather than the "Baker Method" used at Wells Cathedral. Alternatively "Nanolime" can be used in the same way.

The lantern top should then be protected with a lime putty-based shelter-coat, mixed to match the colour of the stonework.



The Preaching Cross. Viewed from the North-west.



Viewed from the North-east.



The north side. The lantern top.



The north side. The shaft cap and bronze cramps.



The north side. The shaft base.



The north side. The shaft drum.



The north side. The stepped pedestal.



The west side. The lantern top.



The west side. The shaft cap and bronze cramps.



The west side. The shaft.



The west side. The shaft base and drum.



The west side. The stepped pedestal.



The north side. A figure in armour, probably Robert Fitz-Haimon.



The East side. The Crucifixion.



The south side. A clerical figure, probably Gyraldus, Abbot of Tewkesbury (or perhaps St. Laurence).



The west side. The Virgin and Child.

Recommendations.

Of the eleven monuments examined in this report, ten would benefit from some conservation work to prolong their existence by removing or reducing sources of deterioration. None are in danger of sudden collapse, or pose any immediate safety hazard within the churchyard.

However, three monuments in particular should be given higher priority, and these are numbers 1, 2 and 4. The former needs a new lid, which would prevent its ultimate collapse and then protect the rest of the monument. The latter is at risk because the damage to the lid is active and will rapidly get worse if not treated. The Cherington monument, 4, is mostly in good condition, but parts need replacing soon, as otherwise the details needed to copy them accurately will be lost.

Priority A

Monuments which should be conserved sooner rather than later. They are not in immediate danger of collapse, but work should be done soon, before further frost damage destroys the evidence of the shapes and mouldings needed to replicate the parts that need replacement.

1. Herbert, 1776
2. Flux, 1792

Priority B

This is less urgent, but should be done for the same reasons.

4. Timpany / Cherington, 1771

Priority C

Monuments which require some work, will continue to deteriorate, but are less urgent.

3. Stratton, 1803
6. Preaching Cross
7. Leech, 1771
8. Morse, 1828
9. Radway / King, 1774
10. Bennet, 1810
13. Hine, 1880

Priority D

This monument is in substantially good condition, and requires only monitoring in Quinquennial Inspections.

5. Smith, 1787

A note on the general construction of chest tombs.

Although each one is different, “chest tombs” all share a similar construction, with only minor variations. The following is a generic description of the construction.

Each monument is built over a grave. Occasionally this is a simple single inhumation, consisting of a hole dug into the earth to a depth of approximately 1.8 m and back-filled with a body inside a wooden coffin, covered with earth. In the case of chest tombs however the hole may be deeper than this, with reported examples up to about 2.5 m. This is to accommodate a stack of two, three or more coffins. The shaft (grave) is lined with bricks and mortar to support the sides and maintain it as an open space. The brick lining reaches up to just below ground level.

In some areas the lining is also dressed stone and mortar, rather than brick, depending on the easy availability of suitable stone in the area.

Occasionally there is no lining, if the local geology is such that there is no likelihood of the collapse of the sides without one.

The grave is closed by a course of stone slabs, laid across the top of the brick-lined shaft. Above this is a stone plinth, either a single stone with moulded edge, or a course of stones. The sides of the chest rest on this, and are fastened together at the corners by wrought iron cramps set into holes and slots with lime mortar. A lid made from a single large slab of stone tops the chest.

Bees and Bats.

In the course of our work in other churchyards previously, bumblebees have been observed nesting within chest tombs. The bees were not identified precisely, but there are many species of colony-forming and solitary bees that use cavities. At Berkeley (Gloucestershire) they were probably *Bombus hortorum*, *B. terrestris* and *B. pratorum*. At St. Cyr's Church, Stonehouse (Gloucestershire) there were two colonies of the new arrival *B. hypnorum*, the Tree Bumblebee.

As a result of these observations, it is good practice to leave suitable access points into conserved monuments where this is possible without compromising their stability. A slot 40 mm long left under the lid on the N side and a 15 mm hole at ground level on the S side can be formed by omitting some mortar pointing. This also provides some passive ventilation, reducing or eliminating condensation within the chest.

Single bats (probably males) sometimes use chest tombs as Summer roosts. Evidences for this are mummified remains found at Miserden and Arlingham (Gloucestershire).

Maintenance of monuments after conservation.

After conservation, monuments should need little or no maintenance. Care should be taken when cutting grass around them not to cause mechanical damage to the stonework with blades or strimmer cord.

Ivy should be removed. In itself it causes little if any damage, but may exploit pre-existing holes, cracks or open joints, and once established can force stones apart.

In the very long term, the stone will continue to slowly weather. This is inevitable.

The condition of the monuments can be monitored long-term by including them in the quinquennial survey of the church.