

St. Mary's, Potterne

Churchyard Wall with Monuments at South East angle of Churchyard

In continuation of our plan of last year to publish a careful record of all the legible inscriptions on monuments, tablets and tombs in the churches and chapels of Devizes, we intend this year to give complete lists of such inscriptions contained in many of the churches of the county. In thus wrestling these antiquities from the oblivion which "hath an [?] to make dust of all things," we hope to render some little service to the antiquary by their preservation. And it is not a moment too soon. Already most of the tablets on exterior walls are undecipherable, or have been removed and lost during restorations and renovations.

At Potterne there are sixteen tablets which have been removed, and "re-hung" so to speak, on the brick wall at the eastern side of the churchyard. These are for the most part much defaced, and in a plain style, in stone, calling for no comment. Above is an inscription recording that "These monuments, once affixed to the outside walls of the Church, were at its restoration removed to this spot. A.D., 1872." The inscription of such as are legible we reproduce:

Underneath lyeth the body of JAMES GLASS, Sen., and of MARY, his wife. She died May 3rd, 1762, aged 95 years. He died Feby 22nd., 17--, aged 72 years.

In memory of WILLIAM SALMON, who died 8 Oct. 17-7, aged -. Likewise their daughter ELIZABETH died April 19, 1718, aged 31. JOHN died July 21, 1766, aged 18. SAMUEL died Jany, 18, 1763, aged 56. The – died at Lavington. All lie beneath or near this place.

In memory of MARY, wife of Nicholas Baily, who died Feby. 16Th, 1761, aged 45 years and three of their Childfen, who died in their Infancy. Also of Nicholas BAILEY [one line here illegible] who dies April 26th, 1780, aged 68 years.

Near this place lyeth the body of MARY, wife of Alexander Applegate, who died Decr. 13Th 1722 (?) aged 53 years – [remainder illegible]

Near this place lieth the body of SARAH, wife of John Shorter, who died May ye 22, 1766, aged 38, also of ANN, their daughter, who died June – 17--, aged 11 years. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away.

Near this place lyeth ELIZABETH, only daughter of Christopher and Eliz. Biggs. She died July – 1717, aged – years – [remainder illegible]

To the memory of ELIZABETH MACKEY, who departed this life July 19th, 1831, aged 77 years – [Underneath is an illegible text].

In Memory of NICHOLAS SHORTER, who departed this life ye 3 Oct, 1750, aged 66 years - [Two line illegible].

Near this place lyeth the body of MARK BOND, who died July -0, 1740, Aged [Rest illegible].

Underneath this place lyeth the body of RACHEL, wife of Johnathan White, who departed this life July the 6th, 1781, aged 56 years. Also to the memory of JOHNATHAN WHITE, who died May the 21st, 1806, aged 79 years. Also in memory of ISAAC & SUSANNAH, son and daughter of Johnathan and Rachel. Isaac died June the 6th, 1800, aged 10 years, Susannah died June the 30th, 1810, aged 19 years.

Devizes and Wilts Advertiser 28 April 1898

Johnathan (sic) White buried 1809.

OPC notes:

Names & dates do not necessarily align with the Parish Register, some year examples ... William Salmon buried 1727.
Samuel Salmon buried 1768.
Mary Applegate buried 1772.
Elizabeth Biggs buried 1747.
Mark Bond buried 1746.
Rachel White buried 1788.