



## *Monkton Farleigh Church & Churchyard Memorials*

### **Within The Church**

On the walls within the Church of St Peters are many attractive and interesting memorials, some of which date back to the early 1700s. Generally these memorials are of carved and engraved stone, marble or brass and they are for the most part in very good condition. However, detail on some of the memorials is not easily readable - an example of this being the memorial to Thomas Butler and members of his family, which bears some dates in the early 1700s. The actual year of Thomas Butler's death is not clearly discernible and neither is the name of his infant daughter, although other details on the plaque are still quite clear and date to 1709 and 1710.

Over the door, inside the Church, is a large white stone or marble memorial plaque with a dedication to Joseph Blinman and a large amount of text, but the black of the lettering is very faded and not readable either from floor level or from photography. (Elsewhere in the Church is a memorial to another Joseph Blinman & his son, also Joseph). A further example of a memorial which is now difficult to read with complete certainty is that to Mary Cottle, which takes the form of another white plaque with very faded black lettering.

Some families are commemorated in the church by several fine memorials, amongst them being those to Wade Brown and to members of his family, and those of the Cottle, Blinman, and Hobhouse families.

Within the Chancel is an oblong blackened memorial bearing a hard to distinguish coat of arms, dedicated to William Watson and his Wife Elizabeth and bearing dates which appear to be 1693 and 1707. There can also be seen two fine mosaic commemorative plaques for former Rector Thomas Hammond Tooke ( Rector 1865-1887), and his wife Frances Wycliffe Tooke. Also to be seen within the Chancel area is a darkened and undated stone commemoration to the children of a former Rector who was also Vicar of Southstoke and Chaplain to one of the Earls Cadogan: unfortunately the Rector's name cannot be made out with any degree of certainty, although the names of his wife & children can be, and there is no date given.

Former Rectors and their families are further remembered in the nave with a carved plaque remembering Susan, the wife of former Rector Edward Brown (Rector 1842-1863), and on the rear wall of the church a memorial for a Reverend Richard White, a former Rector who died in 1735 (the surname is not perfectly clear, but White seems to be correct at the time of writing).

A memorial commemorating some of those who died in the two World Wars is to be seen on the wall to the left as you enter the Church, and bears at the foot the inscription 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. St John XV 13'. A full hand-written Roll of Honour is displayed behind glass in the Church porch.

A final point of interest is the well-known memorial to Sara Grant, who died in 1602, which bears the inscription "Five pounds she gave unto the poore, William King gave so much more. Imploy thin crease, keep stock in store".

## Churchyard Memorials

Although not large, the churchyard holds many fine tombstones commemorating the village families and others who came and lived in Monkton Farleigh - but sadly the passage of time, the growth of lichen and the action of the weather has made quite a number of the memorial inscriptions on the older stones either partly or wholly illegible.

The tombstones are naturally of many different ages, varieties and sizes. Those horizontal at ground level include large plain stones, some large stones with a slightly domed appearance, and two embellished with large carving in high relief. There are a few chest-form tombs of the early eighteen hundreds, and upright stones in many variations of style, size, decoration and age. There are also some simple metal markers from the early 20th Century. A section of the churchyard contains the tombs of many members of the Hobhouse family, and four of these memorials are marked by large and finely carved standing Celtic crosses.

The churchyard contains several memorials which bear only a single set of initials with no name, date of death or inscription, and in other cases two or three sets of initials on the same stone, with no date or memorial inscription. There are also two or three stones which bear several sets of initials and a date after each set of initials but no other information.

One older inscription still clear to be seen commemorates a young man, Charles Daw, who died at Carthage, Alabama, USA, in 1871 aged 22, and is remembered on his family tomb.

There are memorials to two servants who are buried in the churchyard. The first commemorates Jane Hodge, who died in 1846, recording her as servant for 10 years to The Reverend E Browne, and the second commemorates Eliza Hawkins of Cirencester, who died in 1884 and is remembered as ' for four years a faithful servant of the Manor House '.

Other inscriptions which mention a person's occupation are those which remember Samuel George Kendall (1949), 'For many years Churchwarden of this Parish', and Captain Hector Farquharson of the R.A.F. (1924).

Amongst those recorded as originating from outside Monkton Farleigh itself are John Phelps Gill of Bath (1858), Abraham Taylor of Bath (probably 1733, although the date is very worn), and Wyatt Cottle of Farleigh Wick.

