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ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH ~ FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN



WALL MONUMENTS

OUTLINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

AUGUST 2016

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MONUMENTS ~ ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH, FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN
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1 SUMMARY

The PCC of St Mary Magdalen Church, Fifehead Magdalen, Dorset, commissioned this report to establish the current condition of the fabulous 18th Century monument within the North Chapel to the Newman Family and propose a strategy for it's conservation. Additional wall monuments were looked at during the site visit and commented on within this report but not inspected fully. The monuments date from the late 17th century to the mid 19th century.

2 BRIEF

- 2.1 The aim of this report is to record the general condition and identify the conservation requirements of the wall monuments focusing particular attention on the Newman Memorial on the north elevation of the North Chapel.
- 2.2 Lynne Humphries of Humphries & Jones Ltd carried out the investigation into the condition and conservation requirements of the monuments. The survey was carried out from ground level on 28th June 2016.
- 2.3 Church Warden Rosemary Redwood ~ St Mary Magdalen Church
Conservation Consultant Lynne Humphries ~ Humphries & Jones Ltd
Building Surveyor Philip Hughes ~ Philip Hughes Associates

3 LOCATION

All the monuments this report focuses on are wall monuments. They are arranged throughout the church as indicated on the plan below. The primary monument we were requested to look at is item 1, in memory of The Newman Family by Sir Henry Cheere, which is situated in the North Chapel on the North elevation. The monuments are situated on external walls with the exception of 9, the Royal Coat of Arms, which is on the South Elevation, above the doorway to the Porch.

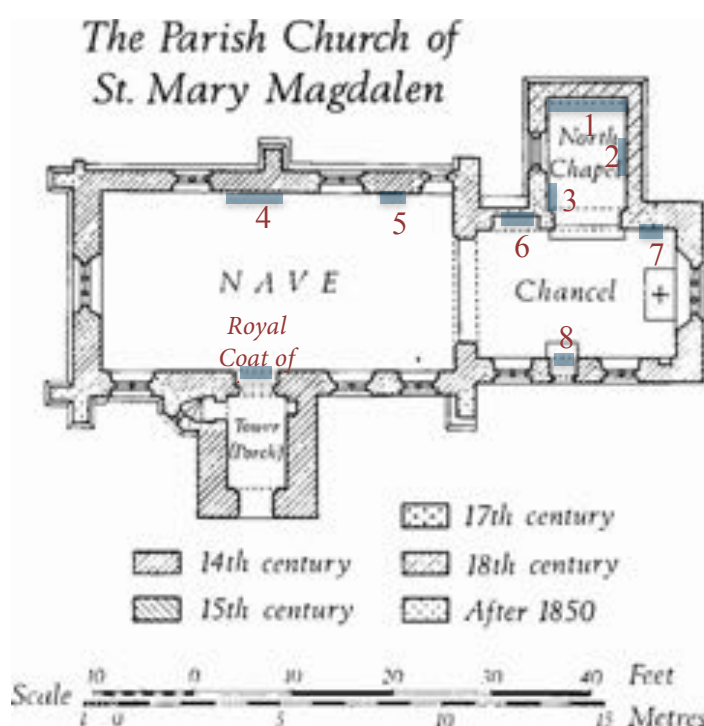


Figure 1 ~ Plan of the church with the memorials indicated in blue and numbered.

4 OUTLINE DESCRIPTION, CONDITION & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen dates from the 14th century. It is constructed of squared and coursed rubble with ashlar dressings, and stone roofs. The North Chapel was added by the Newman family to house the monument and is thought to date from c. 1750.

The church has undergone several phases of repair and intervention, including a major restoration in 1905. The plaster has been removed from the nave elevations. Concrete was noted around the perimeter of the internal walls. The extent of this was not established during the site visit. It has been assumed that these works were carried out with the aim of treating a severe damp issue within the church. The exterior of the building was briefly looked at and notes made which may impact the condition of the interior are included.

The monuments, for ease of reference, are numbered as on the plan. (Figure 1) A brief description of each monument follows, each on a separate page including an outline of the general condition and proposal for prioritised conservation.

NORTH CHAPEL

- 1 North elevation ~ SIR RICHARD NEWMAN BART 1721, HIS WIFE FRANCES 1730, HIS SON SAMWELL 1747, AND HIS DAUGHTERS, FRANCES 1775, BARBARA 1763, AND ELIZABETH 1774
- 2 East elevation ~ THOMAS NEWMAN 1649 AND HIS SON RICHARD NEWMAN 1664
- 3 West elevation ~ RICHARD NEWMAN 1683 STONE TABLET RECORDING TRANSFER OF COFFIN, 1693

NAVE

- 4 North Elevation ~ GEORGE DAVIDGE, 1772, HIS WIFE JOAN, 1759, THEIR CHILDREN JOHN, 1744, HESTER, 1758, GEORGE, 1772,
- 5 North Elevation ~ WILLIAM MANSEL PEACOCK 1811

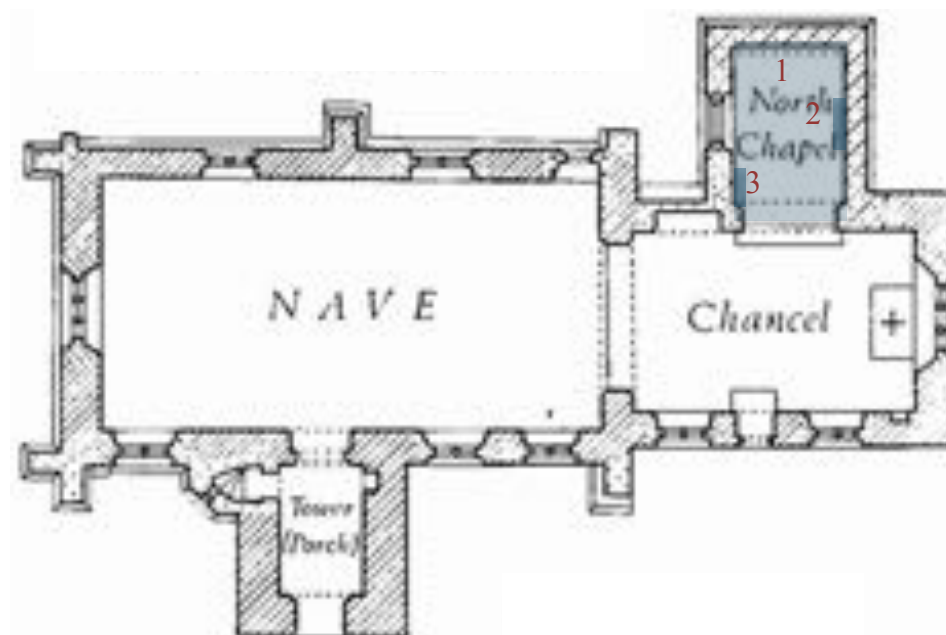
Royal Coat of Arms: in relief, gilded, late 18th century

CHANCEL

- 6 North elevation ~ THE REV EDWARD PEACOCK MA 1848
- 7 North elevation ~ ANNE, WIFE OF THE REV EDWARD PEACOCK MA 1832
- 8 South elevation ~ THE REVEREND HENRY FORESTER MA 1819

4.1 NORTH CHAPEL

The chapel is entered from the South through the archway from the Chancel.

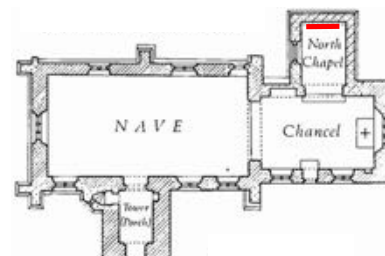


The North Chapel has walls of ashlar and of coursed rubble with plain square plinths. Internally, a moulded trefoil wall-arch at the head of the gabled north wall springs from shaped corbels, forming a recess for the Newman monument (2). In the west wall is a square-headed window with a moulded surround, probably of the 17th century.

The North Chapel was added by the Newman family to house the monument and is thought to date from c. 1750; the wording of monument 3 implies that it replaces a chapel or burial vault of 1693. The North wall of the chapel has been looked at by a Structural Engineer during the writing of this report and deemed it to be safe. Please refer to separate report for detail.

4.1.1 MONUMENT 1 ~ THE NEWMAN FAMILY

Monument to Sir Richard Newman Bart 1721, wife Frances 1730, son Samwell 1747, and daughters; Frances 1775, Barbara 1763, and Elizabeth Kitchen 1774; and three further children who died young; Richard, Grace and Edmonds.



LOCATION

North Chapel ~ North elevation

DESCRIPTION

Large wall monument of white, grey, pink and yellow marbles, with busts of Sir Richard, his wife and son, medallions of his daughters, foliate brackets, wreaths, inscription tablet, cartouche, and obelisk-shaped back-plate. A black border is painted on the wall behind, this may be over an original border.

It is thought that the dates on the inscription post 1747 were added later, which would date the monument to c. 1750. However this cannot be confirmed and it may be that the dates were intentionally painted in a contrasting colour.

The Monument is attributed to Sir Henry Cheere (1703 – 1781)

Sir Henry Cheere was one of the most successful sculptors in mid-18th century Britain, and unlike

some of his more eminent sculptor contemporaries, such as Rysbrack and Roubiliac, he was born in England. He specialised in portrait busts and tomb sculpture, and in the latter was particularly adept in the use of coloured marbles. He also employed a light, and yet at the same time highly-finished, style that was typical of the Rococo.



The Newman Monument is a fine example of Cheere's work and style as well as of Georgian funerary monuments. Please refer to Appendix for similar designs attributed to Cheere.

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OUTLINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

CONDITION

General ~ The structural condition of this monument is poor. Cracks are evident to the north elevation on both the east and west of the monument. These extend up to and across the ceiling.

Losses ~ At least one marble element is detached or lost.

Ferrous fixings ~ The upper half of the monument has moved away from the wall. This is likely to have been caused by corroding iron fixings. The lower half of the monument is more stable.

Stability ~ the corrosion of the fixings is on-going and movement is noted particularly at high level. Joints are open. Bronze dowels were noted to support some of the smaller elements. These are stable.

Cracks ~ Some of the marble elements are cracked, broken and at least one has detached.



Figure 4, 5 & 6 ~ Details of cracks to the east and west of the monument, as well as extending across the ceiling.

Soiling ~ The monument is dirty and the covered with a large amount of loose dust and debris.

Polychromy ~ The inscription is in-painted and legible, however some of paint is lost giving it an uneven appearance. A painted black border frames the monument on the plastered wall. Although this has been repainted it is likely to be over an original similar border. It would be interesting to establish if this exists and the extent of the border.



Figure 7 ~ Obelisk back plate detaching along full height on east side.

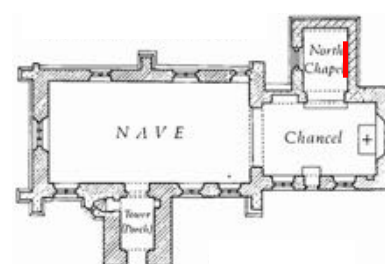


Figure 8 ~ An historic tell-tale across a crack to the upper east of the monument is in tact and appears to still be adhered. This implies that the movement has ceased. However the date of the tell tale is unknown.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- The structural stability of the north elevation has been further assessed by a Structural Engineer. Please refer to engineer's report. It is understood that the report surmised that the wall was deemed safe.
- External work to the elevation is evident including repointing but the extent of this is unknown. It would be useful to locate any records of the work externally to the north chapel, including roof works.
- Record location of all elements to ensure re-assembly in the original position.
- Collect, label and bag detached fragments for reinstatement during conservation works. Record the location where all fragments are found
- Carefully dismantle upper sections. Commence with the busts. Allow for any holding conservation and protections required during the lifting and moving. Set to one side and protect. It is hoped and anticipated that the lower sections may remain in situ. All efforts must be made to retain the painted plaster surrounding the monument, in particular the painted black border. This may not be possible in all instances.
- Assess lower sections
- Examine the structure behind. (Determine necessity for and extent of further interventions.)
- Fill cracks to north elevation. Monitor further opening for signs of movement and structural instability.
- Remove remains of pointing and bedding mortars.
- Remove corroding ferrous cramps/fixings.
- Re-fix dismantled elements on wall incorporating a DPM using stainless steel 316 armatures.
- Repair elements using stainless steel and epoxy resin (Akemi or Marmolit).
- Clean all elements in-situ and ex-situ using selected methods based on the results of the trials.
- Re-fix busts bedding on Plaster of Paris and incorporating stainless steel pins / cramps where necessary.
- Re-point and fill all joints with Plaster of Paris.
- Consolidate friable polychromy and applied decoration (inscription and surround)

4.1.2 MONUMENT 2 ~ THOMAS NEWMAN 1649 AND HIS SON RICHARD NEWMAN 1664



LOCATION

North Chapel ~ East Elevation

DIMENSIONS

Approximate

1355 x 990 mm (h x w)

Height of cartouche approx. 600mm

DESCRIPTION

Marble tablet in segmental-headed moulded stone surround, surmounted by three cartouches-of-arms of Newman; tablet, 17th century, surround probably 18th century.

CONDITION

General ~ one element has detached from the base element of the monument; stability of remaining elements is acceptable.



Figure 10 & 11 ~ Front and rear view of white marble inscription detached from lower element.

Losses ~ No losses were noted. However white marble element applied to base had detached.

Ferrous fixings ~ Corroded fixing on detached element.

Stability ~ Relatively stable. Corrosion of the fixings will be on going, however their condition does not warrant dismantling at this stage.

Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.

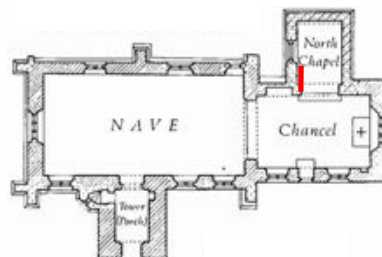
Polychromy ~ Inscription generally legible. Some friable polychromy to cartouches. A painted black border frames the monument on the plastered wall. Although this has been repainted it is likely to be over an original similar border. It would be interesting to establish if this exists and the extent of the border.

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CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Re-fix detached element using Stainless steel 316 or carbon fibre dowel.
- Clean all elements (methods to be based on results of trials)
- Consolidate friable polychromy and applied decoration
- Repoint open joints
- Inpaint losses to black surround

4.1.3 MONUMENT 3 ~ RICHARD NEWMAN 1683 ~ STONE TABLET RECORDING TRANSFER OF COFFIN, 1693.



LOCATION

North Chapel ~West Elevation

DESCRIPTION

Wall mounted memorial, constructed of simple stone inscription panel with black frame. Water pipe is surface mounted along the north edge.



CONDITION

General ~ Heavily soiled with surface loss and structural cracking to the south. Water pipe runs down the north side.
Losses ~ Surface loss in areas and adjacent to cracks on frame.
Ferrous fixings ~ unknown.
Stability ~ secure, however the crack requires attention and monitoring
Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.
Inscription unclear
Surface friable particularly to upper areas

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all
- Assess for ferrous fixings
- Fill open joints and monitor for future movement
- Clean all and record. Assess requirement to consolidate friable areas.
- Consider legibility of inscription. If evidence of original paint, consider repainting.

4.2 NAVE

The Nave north wall has been extensively restored.

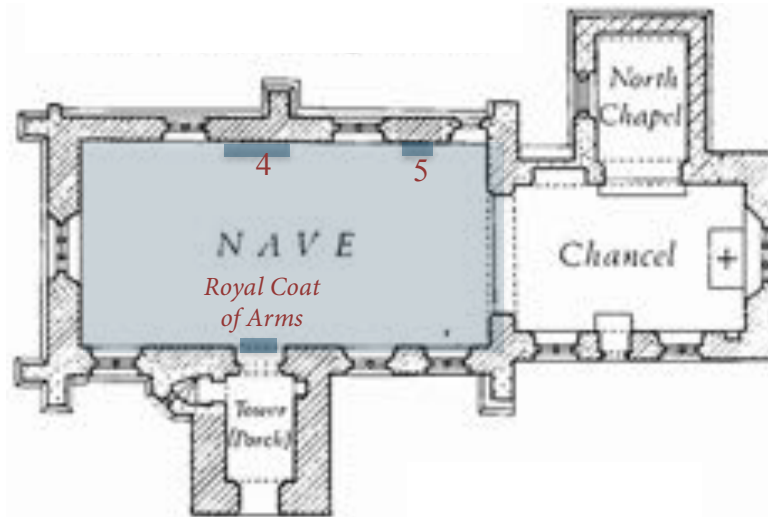
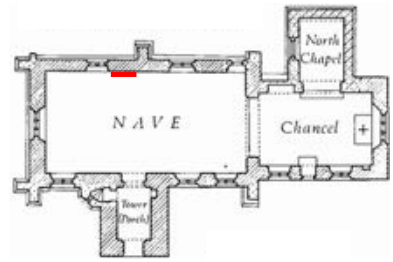


Figure 14 ~ View looking west along Nave

4.2.1 MONUMENT 4 ~ GEORGE DAVIDGE, 1772, HIS WIFE JOAN, 1759, THEIR CHILDREN JOHN, 1744, HESTER, 1758, GEORGE, 1772



LOCATION

Nave ~ North Elevation

DESCRIPTION

Tablet in stone surround with enriched architrave and entablature, and broken segmental pediment with urn finial.

CONDITION

General ~ evidence of corroding fixings and heave/movement away from wall.

Losses ~ extensive on-going surface loss of inscription tablet

Ferrous fixings ~ corroded

Stability ~ the corrosion of the fixings is on-going and movement is noted particularly at high level

Soiling ~ all areas are soiled. Staining from bat droppings is evident across all surfaces.



Figure 16 ~ Crack at high level along the side of the monument.

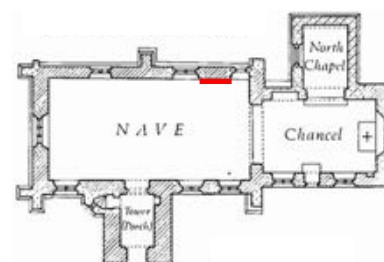
Figure 17 ~ Laminating surface of inscription panel.



CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all.
- Assess necessity to dismantle upper sections and record location of all elements to ensure re-assembly in the original position.
- Collect, label and bag any detached fragments for reinstatement during conservation works. Record the location where all fragments are found.
- Carry out emergency consolidation of the inscription panel to ensure no further losses.
- Carefully dismantle upper sections. Allow for any holding conservation and protections required during the lifting and moving. Set to one side and protect. It is hoped and anticipated that the lower sections may remain in situ. Assess lower sections
- Remove remains of pointing and bedding mortars.
- Clean all using selected methods based on the results of the trials.
- Remove corroding ferrous cramps/fixings.
- Re-fix dismantled elements incorporating a DPM between wall and marble. Use stainless steel 316 armatures.
- Clean all elements in-situ and ex-situ.
- Bed on Plaster of Paris and incorporating stainless steel pins / cramps where necessary.
- Re-point and fill all joints with Plaster of Paris.
- Consolidate friable inscription panel and apply mortar fillets to laminating areas. Grout any voids using pigmented dispersed hydrated lime.

4.2.2 MONUMENT 5 ~ WILLIAM MANSEL PEACOCK 1811



LOCATION
Nave ~ North Elevation

DESCRIPTION

Wall mounted monument, constructed of black marble or slate with white marble inscription panel.

CONDITION

General ~ Monument detaching from wall

Losses ~ None

Ferrous fixings ~ corroded and expanding. Most notable at lower edge

Stability ~ corrosion of the fixings is on going, stability compromised and detaching from wall

Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.

Polychromy ~ Inscription legible but faded

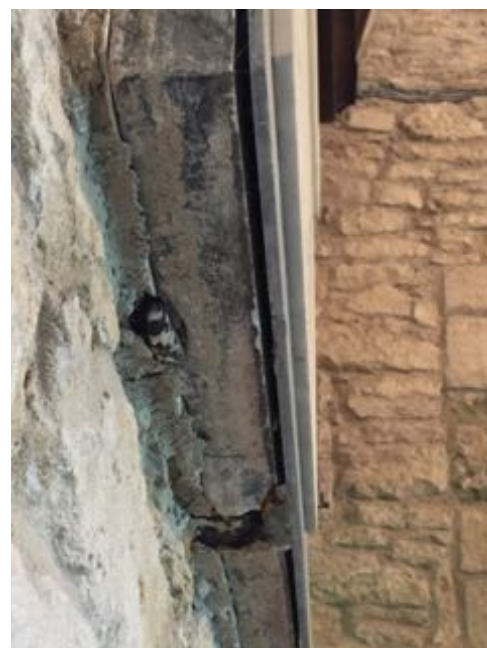
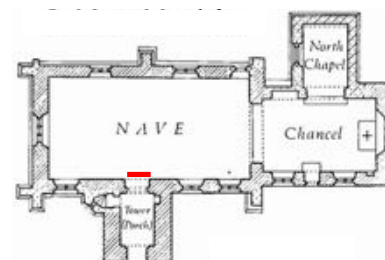


Figure 19 & 20 ~ Corroding ferrous armature causing monument to detach from wall

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all
- Monitor fixings
- Dismantle all and refix using stainless steel armatures with a DPM against wall
- Clean all
- Consider repainting inscription to improve legibility
- Apply microcrystalline wax to marble

4.2.3 ROYAL COAT OF ARMS



LOCATION

Nave ~ South Elevation, above main doorway

DESCRIPTION

Small royal Coat of arms

Gilded.

Late 18th century

CONDITION

Viewed from ground level. Close inspection recommended.

General ~ generally sound at present, however close inspection is required to confirm this

Losses ~ none noted

Ferrous fixings ~ unknown.

Stability ~ secure

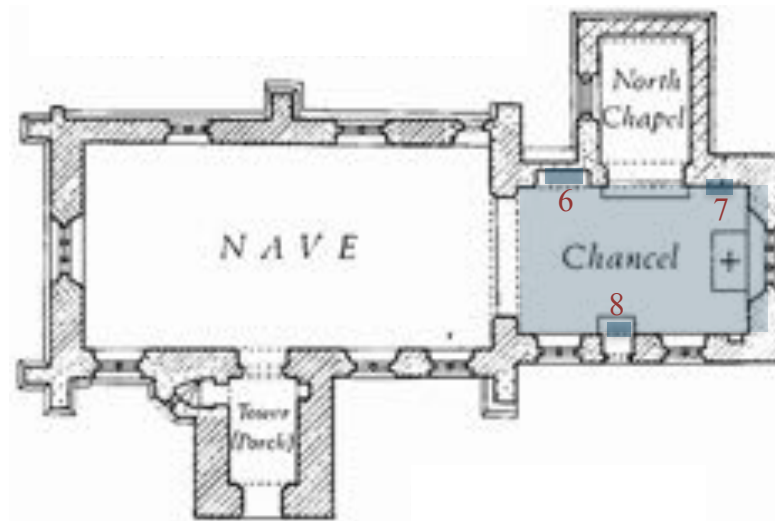
Soiling ~ all areas are soiled and possibly poorly over painted in the past.

Polychromy ~ gilding and applied decoration stable but tarnished and soiled

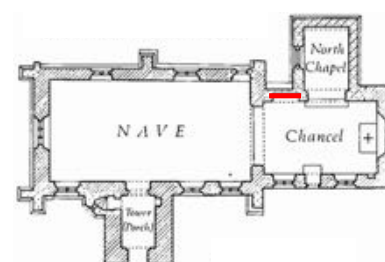
CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all
- No urgent conservation required at this stage
- Would benefit from cleaning and further inspection. Possibility to remove over paint.

4.3 CHANCEL



4.3.1 MONUMENT 6 ~ THE REV EDWARD PEACOCK MA 1848



LOCATION

Chancel ~ North Elevation, behind organ

DESCRIPTION

Wall mounted monument, constructed of black marble or slate with white marble inscription panel.

CONDITION

General ~ generally sound at present, however access was difficult and inspection not possible

Losses ~ possible historic surface loss at high level

Ferrous fixings ~ condition unknown.

Stability ~ secure.

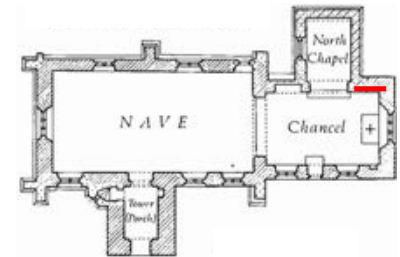
Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.

Polychromy ~ Inscription legible.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all
- Closer inspection required
- No conservation required at this stage

4.3.2 MONUMENT 7 ~ ANNE, WIFE OF THE REV EDWARD PEACOCK MA 1832



LOCATION

Chancel ~ North Elevation, east side

DESCRIPTION

Wall mounted monument, white marble inscription panel, supported on two grey marble slips.

CONDITION

General ~ generally sound at present, however evidence of corroding fixings

Losses ~ none noted

Ferrous fixings ~ corroded. But no particular movement noted

Stability ~ secure, however the corrosion of the fixings is on going. Cement pointing to perimeter.

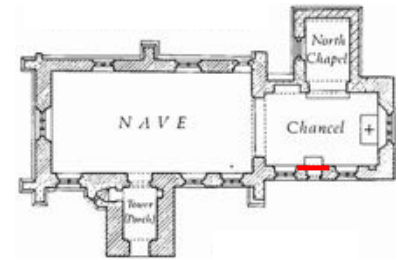
Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.

Polychromy ~ Inscription legible.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all.
- Monitor fixings
- No conservation required at this stage but could be cleaned.

4.3.3 MONUMENT 8 ~ THE REVEREND HENRY FORESTER MA 1819



LOCATION

Chancel ~ South Elevation, over door

DESCRIPTION

Wall mounted monument, white marble inscription panel supported on white marble lipped ledge

CONDITION

General ~ generally sound at present, however bronze fixings corroding and cracked support ledge

Losses ~ loss to front moulding of support ledge adjacent to crack

Fixings ~ bronze fixings corroded. Possible ferrous fixing on ledge.

Stability ~ relatively secure. Ledge cracked

Soiling ~ all areas are soiled.

Polychromy ~ Inscription legible.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

- Record all.
- Monitor fixings
- Assess condition of support ledge and fill.

5 CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 PRELIMINARY ITEMS

5.1.1 RECORDING AND MONITORING

On-going recording and monitoring of all the monuments is important to avoid future failures. Any joints should be monitored for signs of movement.

5.1.2 REMEDIAL AND EXTERNAL WORKS

Previous repair works to external elevations of chapel is evident. It is not clear what all the works entailed involved and it would be beneficial to establish if there are records outlining the works.



Figure 25 & 26 ~ North elevation of Newman chapel above and north east corner below. The perimeter footprint of the chapel is clear however algae on the east wall adjacent to the down pipe implies there might be an issue with the correct functioning of the rainwater goods.





Figure 27 ~ West elevation of Newman Chapel with access to underground area. This area was inspected.



Figure 28 ~ Detail of area to west of Newman Chapel. A build up leaves at base of down pipe.

It is important to regularly check and clear the rainwater goods to ensure they do not get blocked.

5.2 GENERAL ITEMS

Apply protections to floor and other areas as deemed necessary, surrounding the work place.

Erect access platform to reach high level.

De-dust and Hoover all areas. Use a soft brush and avoid friable areas and locations with loose paint. Apply protection/softening to end of vacuum to prevent damage to the stone.

Carry out emergency consolidation where described in recommendations above.

Collect, label and bag any detached fragments for reinstatement during conservation works. Record the location where all fragments are found.

Carry out conservation trials to establish the most suitable consolidant and adhesive for the polychromy and delaminating inscription panel.

Carry out conservation trials to establish the most suitable method of cleaning the:

- Marble inscription panels
- Lime stone
- Polychromy

Carry out conservation works as outlined against each monument.

6 APPENDIX

Sir Henry Cheere was one of the most prolific English sculptors and monumental masons of the 18th century. He began his own business at the age of 23 and 7 years later, in 1733 went into partnership with Henry Scheemakers.



Figure 29, 30 & 31 Clockwise from top left ~
Designs for wall monument's attributed to Henry
Cheere © Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Many similarities may be noted with the
Newman Monument.