

£24,000 URGENTLY NEEDED TO RESCUE NEWMAN MONUMENTS

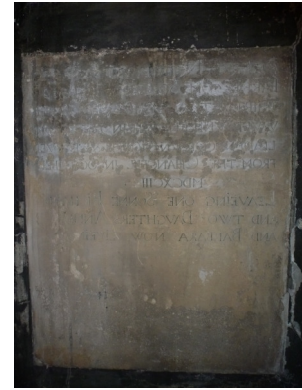
Funds are **urgently** needed to rescue a magnificent Newman family monument in the village church at Fifehead Magdalen in Dorset. Two other Newman memorial plaques in the church are also in need of repair but the most urgent work is needed to save the monument to Sir Richard Newman (1676 – 1721) which is at risk of falling from its wall mountings.



Top Left: Fifehead Church (south face)
Lower: Newman chapel on north side



Centre: Cheere's monument to Sir Richard Newman and family.



Plaques - top: Richard 1650-82;
Lower: Thomas d.1649; Richard d.1664

The Monument: The monument (photo centre) features busts of Sir Richard, his wife Frances and their four offspring, Samwell, Frances, Barbara and Elizabeth. It was sculpted by Sir Henry Cheere (1703 – 1781) whose works are more usually associated with Westminster Abbey and the V&A Museum. The monument was probably commissioned around 1750 by Sir Richard's eldest daughter Frances following the death of her brother Samwell in 1747. The family owned a residence in Westminster where they were neighbours of Sir Henry.

Background: The Newman family had a long association with Fifehead, beginning with a John Newman who was Rector of Fifehead between 1405 and 1408. The family continued living in and around Salisbury for the next 100 years and more when, around 1530, Robert Newman of Stour Provost and St Augustine's Abbey took a lease over the Fifehead estates. This lease was held by the family for another five generations until 1660 when Richard Newman (1620 – 1695) purchased the freehold. The family's association with Fifehead continued for another three generations until 1775 when Sir Richard's spinster daughter Frances Newman died, she being the last of that line of Newmans.

Further information about Fifehead church and its monuments, and the Newman family's associations with Fifehead, can be found at www.newman-family-tree.net (key in "Fifehead" into the search bar).

Funding requirements: A local specialist in sculpture conservation has offered a cost estimate of almost £39,000 (including £4,500 provisional sums) to repair all monuments inside the church, of which £24,000 covers repairs to the three Newman monuments. Further estimates are being sought but are not expected to be significantly less. The parish council has launched an appeal to raise these funds and is seeking assistance from various funding organisations including the Lottery Fund, but substantial private donations are needed to demonstrate sufficient public interest and community involvement before these organizations will offer assistance. Fifehead village has less than 100 residents of whom only around 15 are regular church-goers, rendering it unlikely that they will be able to raise sufficient funds without outside assistance. **The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is therefore appealing to others, in particular anyone connected with the Newman family, to contribute towards the cost of saving these monuments for future generations to visit and enjoy.**

HOW TO DONATE: Cheques payable to “Newman Chapel, Fifehead Magdalen” can be sent to Rosemary Redwood at: Three Farthings, Fifehead Magdalen, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5RR. Donations can alternatively be sent by direct bank transfer to “Newman Chapel, Fifehead Magdalen” at Sort Code: 30-65-21, Account No: 41758260.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the declaration below and return it to Mrs Rosemary Redwood, Three Farthings, Fifehead Magdalen, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5RR. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you.

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Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTES

1. Please notify the church/PCC at the above address if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20%, which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

2. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code. Fifehead Magdalen PCC Charity Reference No. XR37279.