

**MESSENGER** | BCR GROUP

Creating and Caring for our Built Heritage



# ST WULFRAM'S CHURCH, GRANTHAM (G8261)

Treatment Report for Internal Monuments

14/02/2020

# Contents

Neither the whole nor any part of this report, or any reference contained within, may be included in any published document, circular or statement, or publish in any other way, without the author's written approval of the form and content in which it may appear.

1. Brief and Scope .....	3
2. Project Details .....	4
3. Materials and Products .....	4
4. Newton Family Memorial .....	6
4.1 Pre Treatment Condition .....	6
4.2 Treatment .....	7
4.3 Post Treatment Condition.....	8
5. Monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens.....	9
5.1 Pre-Treatment Condition .....	9
5.2 Treatment .....	10
5.3 Post Treatment Condition.....	11
6. Monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne.....	12
6.1 Pre-Treatment Condition .....	12
6.2 Treatment .....	13
6.3 Post Treatment Condition.....	14
7. Monument to Thomas Bury.....	15
7.1 Pre-Treatment Condition .....	15
7.2 Treatment .....	16
7.3 Post Treatment Condition.....	18
8. Monument to Charles Clarke.....	19
8.1 Pre-Treatment.....	19
8.2 Treatment .....	20
8.3 Post-Treatment Condition .....	22
9. Summary .....	23

## 1. Brief and Scope

This report outlines the remedial works carried out by Messenger to clean and conserve five 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century funerary monuments in St Wulfram's Church, Grantham. The church lies in the parish of Grantham, Lincolnshire, in the diocese of Lincoln. Messenger BCR were commissioned by Dr John Manterfield of the Parochial Parish Council to carry out the conservative works which were completed between 13<sup>th</sup> of January to 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The following monuments were treated:

- Monument to the Newton Family d. 1807
- Monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens d. 1822
- Monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne d. 1852
- Monument to Thomas Bury d. 1722
- Monument to Charles Clarke d. 1795

Remedial works to these monuments included:

- Removal of dust
- Removal of surface dirt with a poultice pack
- Re-painting and/or touching up of lettering
- Steam-cleaning
- Re-pointing of cracks and defective joints
- Application of protective wax

The monument to Charles Clarke was the only one that needed structural work. The remedial works to this involved dismantling the marble plaque which is detailed in section 8.2.

Preliminary trials for the most effective method of removal were carried out using *Bird Brand* chemical pack and differing strengths of ammonia carbonate poultice pack. The approved method was the use of an ammonium carbonate chemical pack in a 10% concentration.

## 2. Project Details

<b>Name and address of Site:</b>	St Wulfram's Church, Church St, Grantham, NG31 6RR
<b>Associated reference numbers:</b>	Messenger BCR project reference G8261 – C
<b>Aim of project:</b>	Conservation of four internal monuments
<b>Contract period:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020- 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Client:</b>	Fabric Committee at St Wulfram's Church Grantham.
<b>The conservation team and their individual roles:</b>	Aneta Krupnir (AK), conservator Szahira Zielonka (SZ), conservator Adrian Bowen (AB), conservator Ian Crothers (IC), mason
<b>Specialist consultants proposed or employed for the project:</b>	N/A

## 3. Materials and Products

Material	Brand/Supplier	Use
Ammonium carbonate chemical pack	Kling Strip	Chemical poultice used on sections of monuments as a cleaning method.
Non- caustic chemical pack	Bird Brand	Used in trials to but unsuccessful.
Conservation grade soap	Vuplex	Used to clean vulnerable areas such as lettering containing original paint infill.
Micro-crystalline wax polish	Renaissance Wax	Post-clean treatment to protect the monument.
Acrylic paint	W H Smith	Colour matched and used to repaint the engraved lettering.
Fine casting plaster	Industrial Plasters Ltd.	Used to repoint any defective joints or cracks within the monument.
Rust Remover	Jenolite	Used to treat the ferrous brackets within the monuments.

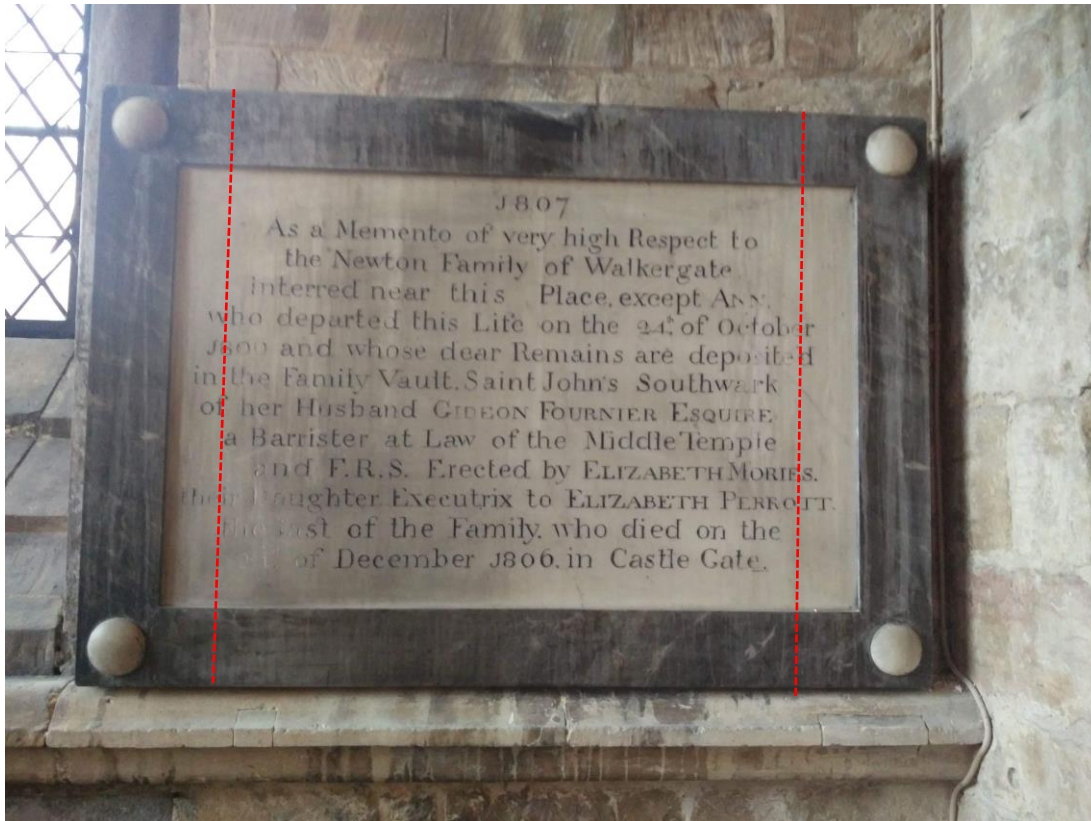
Metal Paint	Fortress	(Satin Black) Used to paint the ferrous brackets within the monuments.
Pigment	L. Cornelissen & Son	(Mars Black) used to mix with wax polish for dark marble protection.



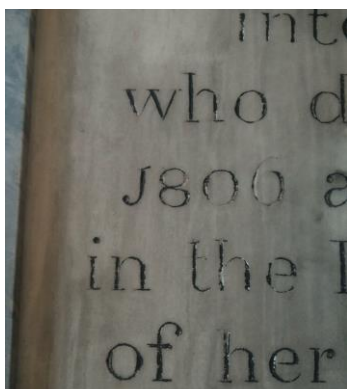
## 4. Newton Family Memorial

### 4.1 Pre-Treatment Condition

This rectangular wall mounted monument consists of a light marble centre with a dark marble border. Within each corner of the border is a hemisphere of white marble. The central plaque is engraved with text commemorating the Newton Family of Walkergate. The engravings are painted in a water-soluble paint. There are two ferrous iron pins running vertically within either side of the monument (see fig. 1).



**Figure 1: Pre-treatment condition of Newton family memorial. Diagram shows placement of iron pins.**



**Figure 2: Pre-treatment condition of Newton family memorial lettering.**

## 4.2 Treatment

To conserve this monument, it was firstly cleaned to remove all dust before treatment could begin. The treatment process was then as follows:

- An ammonium carbonate poultice in a 10% concentration was applied to the dark marble border and left for 45 minutes before removal.
- The poultice was removed with de-ionised water and *Flash Magic Eraser* sponges.
- The lettering in the plaque is painted with water soluble paint, therefore, the central plaque was cleaned with a solution of *Vulpex* and white spirits in a solution of 1:5.
- The dark marble border was treated with renaissance wax.
- Two ferrous metal cramps were treated with *Jenolite* and painted with black Dulux metal paint.
- The plaster on the sides of the monument were re-pointed with casting plaster.
- Lettering on the central plaque was touched up with an acrylic paint colour matched to the original colour.



**Figure 3: Plaster repairs to the side of the Newton monument.**

## 4.3 Post Treatment Condition

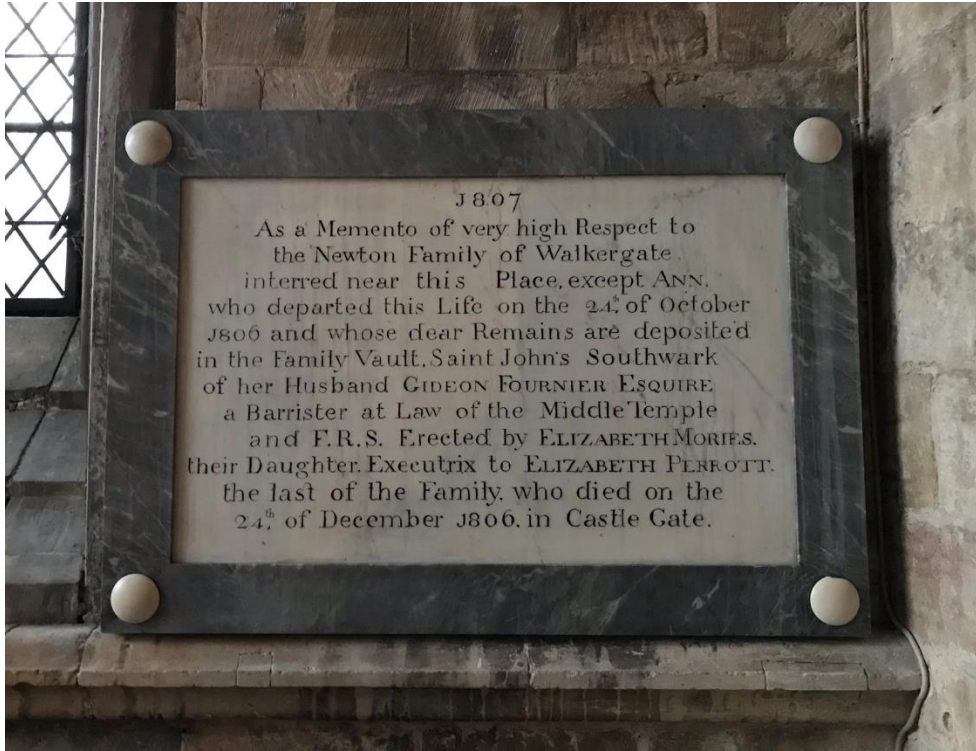


Figure 4: Monument to the Newton Family after treatment.



## 5. Monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens

### 5.1 Pre-Treatment Condition



**Figure 5: Pre-treatment condition of the monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens.**



**Figure 6: Rust stains on the monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens.**

## 5.2 Treatment

This monument consists of a dark stone surround with a white marble plaque, topped with a pediment. The dark surround is coated in a fine layer of varnish that has become detached in some areas. The engraving in the centre has lost its original paint infill.

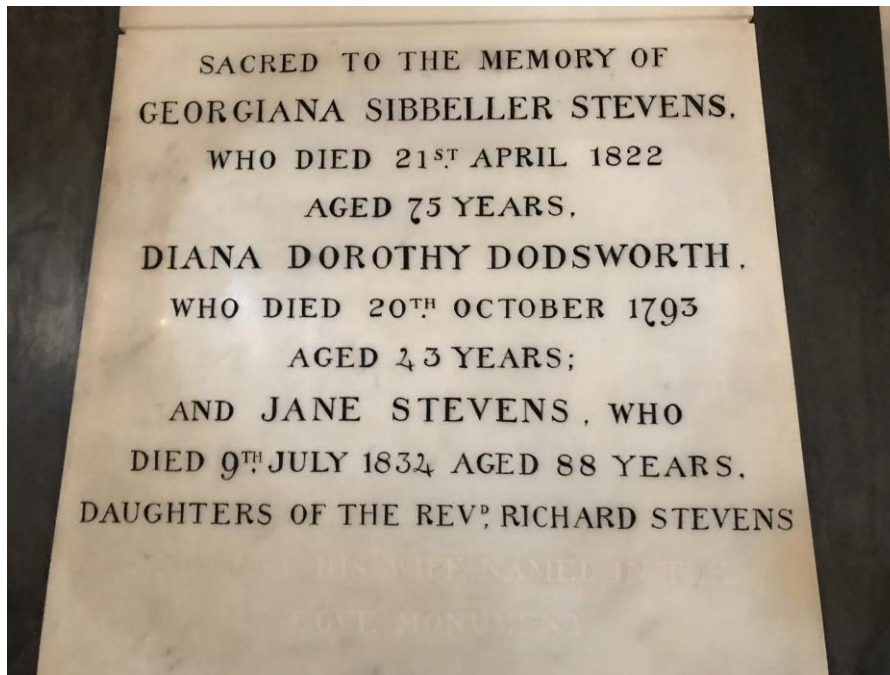
To conserve this monument, it was firstly cleaned to remove all dust before treatment could begin. The treatment process was then as follows:

- An ammonium carbonate poultice in a 10% concentration and 2% EDTA was applied to the dark marble border and left for 45 minutes before removal.
- During this process the glue stains evident at the top of the monument (see fig.) were also removed.
- The monument was then steam cleaned with a DOFF steam cleaner to remove the poultice.
- The dark marble border was treated with renaissance wax mixed with black pigment.
- The lettering was entirely repainted with colour matched acrylic paint.
- There were slight rust stains to the base of the white marble plaque that were touched up with Jenolite.



**Figure 7: Image showing the poultice that was used on the black marble border.**

## 5.3 Post Treatment Condition



**Figure 8: Image of the monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens after treatment.**

## 6. Monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne

### 6.1 Pre-Treatment Condition



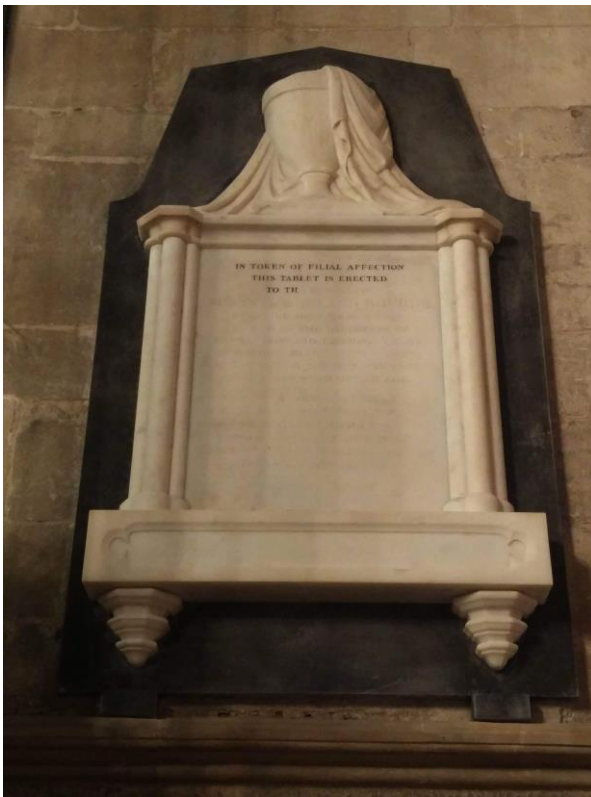
**Figure 9: Monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne.**

This wall mounted monument, situated close to the west doors, consists of a dark marble surround and a white marble monument. The ornate white marble monument is decorated with two columns flanking the central inscription, while an urn shrouded in fabric sits at the top. The engraving has lost its original paint infill.

## 6.2 Treatment

To conserve this monument, it was firstly cleaned to remove all dust before treatment could begin. The treatment process was then as follows:

- An ammonia carbonate poultice in a 10% concentration and 2% EDTA was applied and left for 18 hours.
- This poultice was not sufficient to remove all of the surface dirt so an additional ammonia carbonate poultice of 15% was applied for half an hour.
- These were removed with de-ionised water and steam cleaned.
- The remaining dirt was removed with sponges and brushes in combination with solution of white spirits and vulpex.
- The lettering was repainted with acrylic paint, colour 'Paynes black'.



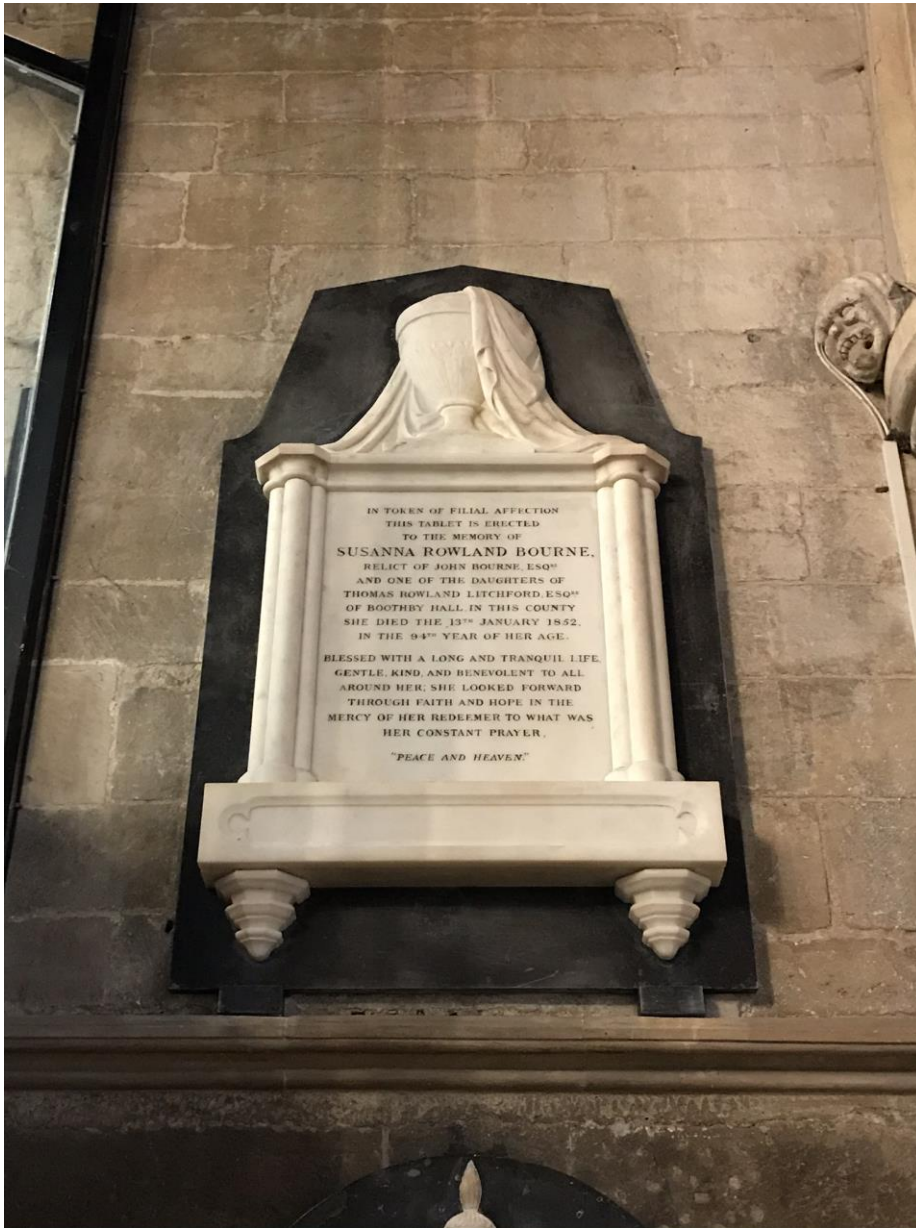
**Figure 10: Image showing the re-painting of lettering.**



**Figure 11: White marble before and after cleaning.**



### 6.3 Post Treatment Condition



**Figure 12: Post treatment condition of the monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne.**

## 7. Monument to Thomas Bury

### 7.1 Pre-Treatment Condition



**Figure 13: Monument to Thomas Bury.**

This baroque standing monument consists of a white marble plaque with decoration and a dark marble background to the upper section. This dark marble was coated in a layer of varnish and the whole monument was flecked with cementitious deposits. The two marble pillars flanking the monument are constructed from a grey marble with pink and purple hued veins. The monument is topped by a pediment and below this is a decorative white marble urn. It was suggested that this monument may need dismantling in the Skillington's report produced in January 2017, but after further investigation, it was concluded that this would not be necessary.

## 7.2 Treatment

To conserve this monument, it was firstly cleaned to remove all dust before treatment could begin. The treatment process was then as follows:

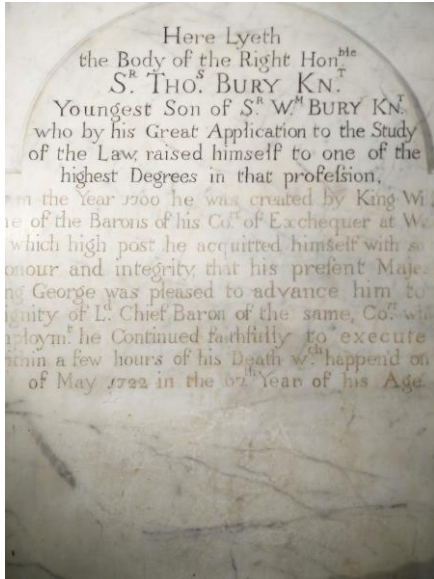
- An ammonia carbonate poultice in a 10% concentration was applied to the monument for 12-18 hours.
- The poultice was removed with de-ionised water and a Flash 'Magic eraser' sponge.
- The varnish on the black marble was removed with the poultice.
- Renaissance wax was mixed with a black pigment and applied to the black marble.
- Repointing to the monument was carried out using fine casting plaster and then colour washed with acrylic paint to distress the colour and make the repair less obvious.
- The shield and lettering were cleaned with a steam cleaner.
- The cementitious deposits on the monument were carefully removed with a scalpel.



**Figure 14: Image of the application of the poultice pack to the Thomas Bury monument.**



**Figure 15: Section of repair with fine casting plaster.**



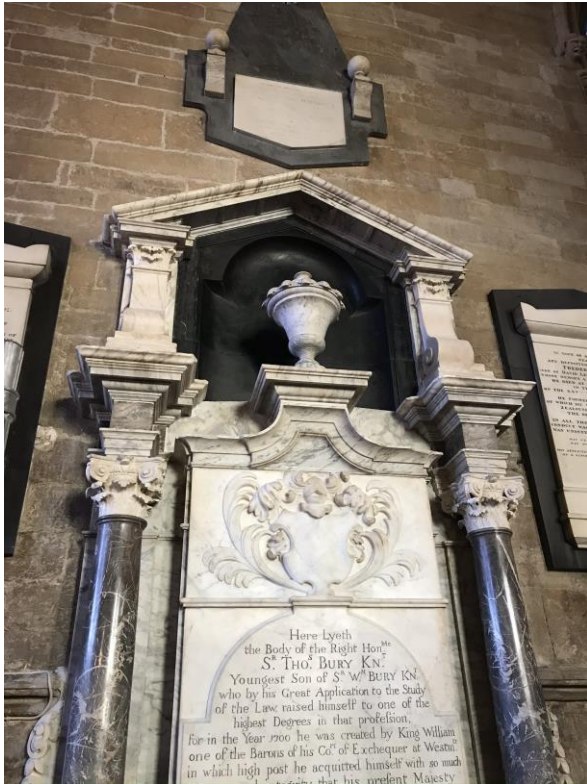
**Figure 16: Image showing the repainting of lettering.**



**Figure 17: Image showing engravings found in cement during treatment.**



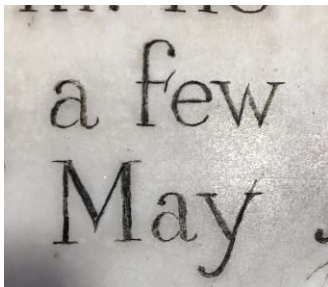
### 7.3 Post Treatment Condition



**Figure 18: Post treatment condition of the Bury monument.**



**Figure 19: Post treatment condition of the decorative scrolls on the Bury monument.**

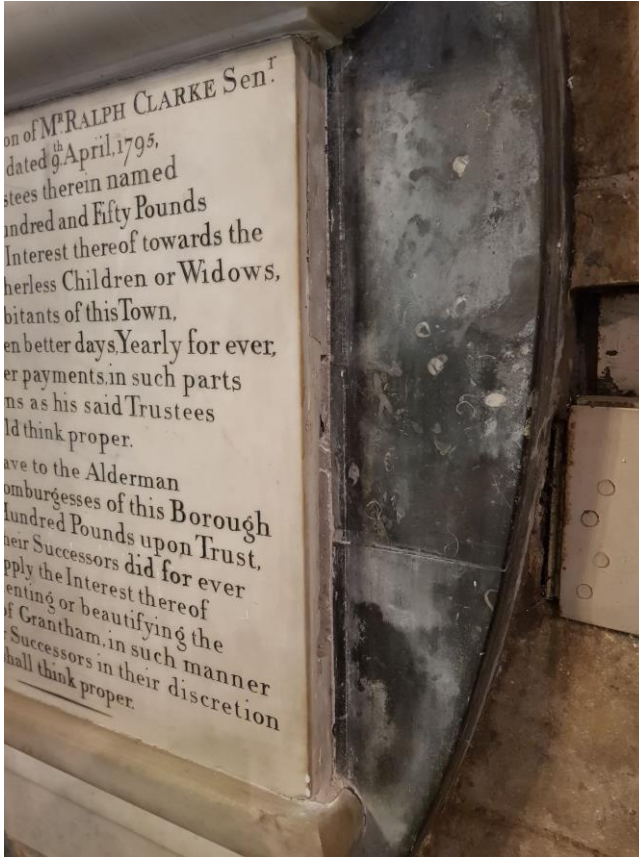


**Figure 20: Image of the condition of lettering**



## 8. Monument to Charles Clarke

### 8.1 Pre-Treatment



**Figure 21: Pre-treatment condition of the monument to Charles Clarke.**

This oval wall mounted monument is situated on the west wall of the Nave and consists of a white marble plaque, urn, cornice and apron set against a dark marble background. The inscription on the plaque is infilled with black paint.

## 8.2 Treatment

To conserve this monument, it was firstly cleaned to remove all dust before treatment could begin. The treatment process was then as follows:

- There were many concerning open joints on the monument, so it was first dismantled to survey its structural integrity.
- This was done by removing the plaque from the face of the monument and the four bolts that held it together were assessed.
- The bolts were treated with Jenolite to inhibit rust
- The left handle of the urn at the top of the monument was loose and was re-fixed with glue and casting plaster.
- Once reconstructed, the loose joints were repointed with casting plaster
- The lettering was retouched with colour matched black acrylic paint
- The varnish was removed from the black background with a poultice
- Wax with a black pigment was applied to the black background



**Figure 22: Image showing the deconstruction of the Clarke monument.**



**Figure 23: Images showing the stages of repair for the urn handle.**



### 8.3 Post-Treatment Condition

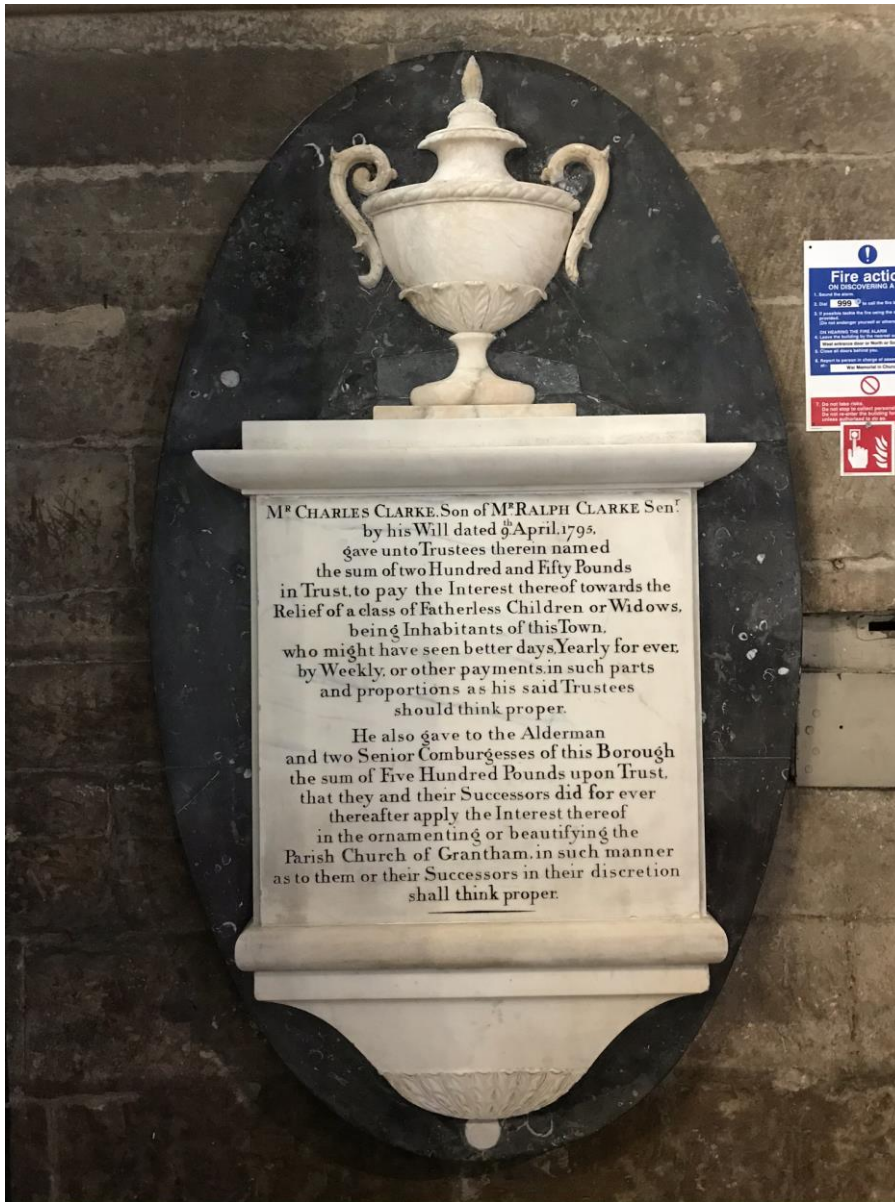


Figure 24: Post treatment condition of the Clarke monument.

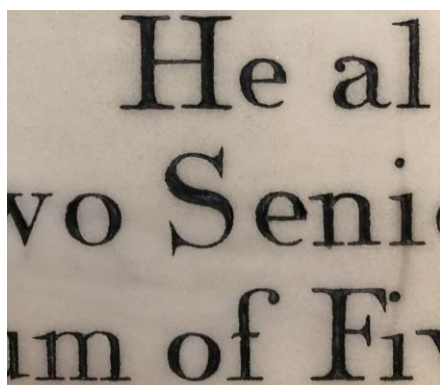


Figure 25: Lettering on the Clarke monument post treatment.

## 9. Summary

To conclude this report, Messenger Conservationists completed restorative works to five monuments in St Wulfram's Church, Grantham. These were:

- Monument to the Newton Family d. 1807
- Monument to Georgiana Sibbeller Stevens d. 1822
- Monument to Susanna Rowland Bourne d. 1852
- Monument to Thomas Bury d. 1722
- Monument to Charles Clarke d. 1795

The successful works completed to conserve these monuments included dust removal, repointing of cracks, removal of dirt and general cleaning of marble elements, reinstatement of painted lettering and the protection of marble with microcrystalline wax. The monument to Charles Clarke was the only one to receive structural treatment involving the removal of the central plaque. The ferrous bolts were treated and open joints were re pointed with casting plaster.