

St. Cyr's Church

**Stinchcombe,
Gloucestershire.**

Report on the Conservation of six Churchyard Monuments.

**Prepared for the P.C.C. of
St. Cyr's Church**

by G.B. O'Hare M.Phil. PG.Dip. (cons.)

October 2019.

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Introduction.

These monuments were first examined in Summer 2018, as a result of concern that the contents of the burial chamber under the John Marbett 1879 monument were visible, due to movement of some of the surrounding stonework. Subsequent visual inspection of other monuments in the churchyard showed that some others also needed attention due to rusting iron fixings.

A condition report was prepared by G.B. O'Hare in January 2019, and this aided decision making and raising of funding. The monuments were subsequently conserved in August and September 2019 by G.B. O'Hare and D. Collins.

Bibliography.

Ralph Bigland "Historical, Monumental and Genealogical Collections relative to the County of Gloucestershire": Part Three: Naunton-Twining. (no date, but circa 1799, revised after 1875) (The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Gloucestershire Record series Volume 5, 1992). "Stinchcombe", pp 1166-1169.

Burgess, Frederick, 1963. "English Churchyard Memorials". (The Lutterworth Press, Cambridge).

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<https://www.historicengland.org.uk>

1. John Marbett, 1879.
John Marbett, 1795.
Thomas Marbett, 1731.
Mary Browning, 1727.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed:	Grade II (26.IV.1984).	List entry number 1090869.
	Grade II (26.IV.1984).	List entry number 1090868.
	Grade II (26.IV.1984).	List entry number 1090867.
	Grade II (26.IV.1984).	List entry number 1090910.

Location: circa 6 m N of end bay of the Nave (S side).

NGR ST 72966 98878
ST 72966 98877
ST 72966 98875
ST 72967 98873

Listing descriptions.

“Chest tomb. Late C 19. Sandstone. Hipped capping over stepped capping mould, stepped plinth, panelled sides. John Marbett, 1879. Stands on former railed enclosure with chest tombs to Mary Browning, Thomas Marbett and John Marbett, and included principally as completing this group..”

“Chest tomb. Late C 18. Limestone. Moulded capping and plinth, quarter balusters, palmette frieze, oval inscription panels with corner rosettes, decorative end panels. John Marbett, 1795. Stands on formerly railed enclosure with chest tombs of Mary Browning, Thomas Marbett and John Marbett II (q.v.).”

“Chest tomb. Early C 18. Limestone. Cyma capping and cavetto base, lyre-shaped scrolled end panels with baroque carving including grieving putti, enriched cartouche panel to north, and simpler panel to south, some traces of limewash. Thomas Marbett, 1731. Stands on formerly railed enclosure with chest tombs to Mary Browning, John Marbett and John Marbett II.”

“Chest tomb. Early C 18. Limestone. Cyma capping and moulded plinth, lyre-shaped scrolled end panels with emblems. Enriched cartouche to north, with putti and plainer inscribed panel to south; traces of limewash. Mary Browning, 1727. Stands on formerly railed enclosure with chest tombs to Thomas Marbett, John Marbett and John Marbett II.”

Condition Assessment.

This group of chest tombs is built above a row of brick-lined burial shafts. Due to the slope of the churchyard from the east down towards the west, the ground is terraced at this point so that the west ends of the shafts are hidden below ground-level. The west side of the terrace is delineated by a very substantial Forest of Dean sandstone edging.

The two stones forming the edging have rotated and slid towards the west, and are no longer resting on their brick foundation (-also the west wall of the series of burial chambers). This is probably due to a combination of subsidence, and growth of tree roots between the east edge of the edging stones and the west ends of the paving slabs around the monuments.

The northern stone measures 1.26 m x 0.42 m x 0.38 m. (This is 0.201 m³, and as Forest of Dean sandstone has an average density of 2416 kg per metre³, this weighs approximately 485.6 kg).

The southern stone measures 4.04 m x 0.42 m x 0.38 m. (Therefore 0.645 m³, and 1558.32 kg).

This movement has opened a gap approximately 200 mm wide at the north end of the edging. Looking through this, it is possible to see the west wall of the burial chamber beneath the John Marbett 1879 monument, and part of the interior.

Conservation.

The two sandstone edging slabs were lifted using an overhead gantry, running bogie, chain-hoist and lifting straps. Soil on the E side of the stones was removed, sufficient to be able to move them back into their correct positions. This revealed the original foundation of hard, shelly limestone rubble bedded in lime mortar, still in good condition. Also uncovered were W (head) ends of the brick-lined burial shafts under the John Marbett 1879 and Thomas Marbett 1731 monuments. The stones were rebedded in their original positions. A lime mortar of sand, con-mix and NHL5 hydraulic lime was used.



The plinth stone is subsiding towards the west.



The north-west plinth stone, rotated due to subsidence.



The gap, exposing the interior of the burial chamber, temporarily filled by a log.



The north-west plinth stone after repositioning.



The stones rebbeded on lime concrete.





The works completed, from the N, with joints pointed and soil reinstated.



The completed works, viewed from the NW.



The brick-lined shaft beneath the John Marbett 1879 monument.



The west (head) end of the shaft.



At least two coffin-plates and a coffin handle are visible.

2. Anne Morfe, 1677.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed: Grade II (26.IV.1984). List entry number 1090909.
Location: 6 m E of N porch.
NGR ST 72965 98874

Listing description.

“Chest tomb. C 17. Limestone. Heavy cyma capping, moulded panels. Gothic script to inscription Anne Morfe, 1677.”

This is a very simple chest tomb, showing typical features for a 17th century Gloucestershire monument of this kind. The east and west ends have rectangular, countersunk fields framed by a moulding, and are relatively very thick. The north and south sides each have two countersunk panels, with the carved frames continuing across onto the north and south edges of the end stones. The lid is also relatively thick, with a *cyma recta* moulded edge, and the plinth with simple chamfered edge, now largely buried below the modern ground level, is one solid slab of stone.

There are several chest tombs of very similar design and date to the west of the north porch of St. Mary's Church at Berkeley.

1.845 m x 0.79 m x 0.865 m high.

The inscription in memory of Anne Morfe, 1677 is deeply carved in Gothic letters on the left panel on the north side of the monument. It is difficult to read due to the form of the letters. It is not mentioned by Bigland (q.v.).

Condition Assessment.

The limestone is in sound condition, with moderate weathering of the surface and some growth of lichens. Some of the lime mortar in joints between the stones has weathered back, potentially allowing more water to enter. The plinth below the side and end panels is now largely buried, due to a rise in the ground level within the churchyard. There is no sign of iron cramps at the corners, and no signs of the damage they usually cause, and the lid has not been lifted or displaced.

Conservation.

Open joints were repointed with lime mortar, (using 2 parts Frithend sand, 1 part Holme sand, 1 part Daglingworth stone dust and 2 parts NHL2 natural hydraulic lime). Earth and turf were trimmed back around the plinth on the E and N sides so that its edges are visible and no earth is in contact with the sides of the monument.



North side, with inscription before conservation.



East end.



West end before conservation.



South side.



West end after conservation.



South side after conservation.



East end after conservation.



North side after conservation.

3. Unidentified chest tomb, early 18th century.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed: Grade II (26.IV.1984). List entry number 1340574.

Location: circa 7 m N of NE corner of chancel.

NGR ST 72980 98879

Listing description.

“Chest tomb. Early C 18. Limestone. Baroque tomb, cyma capping and cavetto plinth, enriched quarter balusters, cartouche panel to west and plain panels to other faces. Inscriptions not legible.”

This is a large and substantial chest tomb with relatively thick ends, a thick lid and massive, one-piece plinth. This rests on a course of covering slabs, closing the brick-lined burial chamber.

1.73 m x 0.835 m x 1.2 m high

Condition Assessment.

Individual stone elements are in sound though moderately weathered condition. Due to its construction with a one-piece plinth and thick end panels, the chest has remained in place despite movement in other parts of the monument. Iron cramps at each corner have rusted, expanded, and lifted the lid, and the cramp at the SE corner has also broken part of the stone away. Although the covering slabs (which cover the top of the burial chamber) at the E and W ends are wide enough to bridge right across and have stayed in position, the smaller ones used for the N and S sides have subsided outwards. Although the monument is not in a state of collapse, its long term stability is compromised.

There is ivy growing between the plinth and covering slabs on all sides of the monument.

Conservation.

The lid was lifted, rusting iron cramps removed, and replaced with stainless steel ones, before repositioning the lid on a bed of lime mortar. Open joints between the ends, sides and plinth were repointed. All ivy was removed, and the roots treated using a systemic root killer. The N and S side covering slabs were repositioned on firmer foundations made with concrete blocks and lime mortar. The very wide joint between the covering slabs and the plinth stone was repointed with a coarser mortar of 3 parts Ashton Keynes sand, 2 parts Frithend sand and 2 parts NHL 2 and Cotswold stone roofing tiles, packed in deeply. This will prevent future recolonisation by ivy.



South side before conservation.



East end.



West end before conservation.



North side.



A rusting iron cramp lifting the lid at the south-west corner.



A similar cramp at the south-east corner. This one has also broken off the corner



The lid was removed, and the iron cramps replaced by stainless steel ones.



The monument after conservation. South side.



East end.



The monument after conservation. West end.



North side.

4. Mary Manning, 1715.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed: Grade II (26.IV.1984). List entry number 1090872.
Location: circa 10 m N of chancel wall.
NGR ST 72972 98881

Listing description.

“Chest tomb. Early C 18. Limestone. Cyma capping, raised and fielded panels. Mary Manning, 1715.”

1.79 m x 0.87 m x circa 0.8 m high

Bigland records an inscription which would appear to belong to this monument:-

“MARY, Relict of FRANCIS
MANNING, of this Parish, *Clothier*,
who died March 27, 1745,
Also MARY BAINE, of *Dursley*,
who died March 28, 1784,
Aged 41.”

Condition Assessment.

This monument has collapsed completely. The stone itself is moderately weathered, but the material is sound. Some components have broken on impact, due to point loadings, but these are “clean” breaks. All components are still present.

Conservation.

The pile of stones was taken apart and all broken edges cleaned with water and a nylon scrubbing brush. After drying, the “jigsaw puzzle” was reassembled using polyester resin and stainless steel threaded dowels. The N, S and W panels were all broken into several pieces, particularly the N side, as this had been hit by the S side and the lid when the monument collapsed. It was reinforced by setting stainless steel flat bars into slots cut with a small angle-grinder using polyester epoxy resin.

The plinth stone was lifted using the gantry, and put to one side. It too was broken, but this was an old break, previously repaired with lime mortar, and probably associated with dismantling and rebuilding of the monument in the course of a secondary burial. The plinth rested directly on earth, and there was no sign of a brick-lined shaft beneath covering slabs.

Removal of the plinth created a rectangular hole. This was made more regular, lined with a geotextile membrane and filled with lime concrete made with 3 parts continuity mix to 1 part NHL 5 hydraulic lime.

The lime concrete raft provides a stable and level foundation for the monument, and lifts it up to the modern ground level.

The monument was subsequently rebuilt using a mortar consisting of 2 parts NHL 2 hydraulic lime, 3 parts Frithend fine sharp sand, 1 part Holme sand and 1 part Daglingworth stone dust.

After re-bedding the plinth, a lightweight concrete block core was built up to the same height as the side and end panels. These were then rebuilt around it. Slates were added above the concrete core, so that it is slightly higher than the stonework.

The cramps holding the sides and ends together at the corners, previously of iron, were replaced with stainless steel ones, set in polyester epoxy resin and using the existing cramp holes and slots where possible. There were two sets of holes for cramps, indicating that the monument had been rebuilt at least once previously.

The lid was rebedded on lime mortar, but its weight is now taken by the core, rather than by the weakened, repaired side panels which now support only their own weight.



The completely collapsed monument, from the west.



Seen from the south.



East end.



Broken pieces of the north and south side panels lie under the lid.



After lifting out the plinth stone, the area was prepared for a limecrete foundation.



The repaired side and end panels were rebuilt around a blockwork core.





Detail showing stainless steel reinforcement/repair.



Slates were added to raise the top of the core above the sides.



The monument after conservation. West end.



The monument after conservation. South side.



East end.



The monument after conservation. The north side.

5. Joseph Hicks, 1739.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed: Grade II* (26.IV.1984). List entry number 1090907.

Location: 2 ½ m N of N Porch.

NGR ST 72963 98876

Listing description.

“Chest tomb. 1739. Limestone. Baroque style, cyma capping, cavetto base, on raised plinth; enriched quarter balusters, cartouches to short ends and south side, latter flanked by grieving putti. To Joseph Hicks, 1739.”

This is a typical Baroque chest tomb, with end panels incorporating corner balusters, and the N and S sides each formed from three stones. The plinth is carved from a single stone, and rests on three covering slabs above the burial chamber.

1.81 m x 0.91 m x 1.0 m high

The inscription on the S side reads:

In Memory of William Hicks
of this Parish Gent. Who died
January 31st. 1742 Æt. 46.
Also Deborah Wife of the above
William Hicks Gent. Who died
Febr. 6th. 1759 Æt. 49

The inscription on the N side reads:

In Memory of
Elizabeth, Relict of
JOSEPH HICKS
who died July 7: 1739
Ætatis Suæ 66

Bigland records:-

“JOSEPH HICKS, of *Cam*,
who died May 3, 1728, Aged 76.
WILLIAM HICKS,
of this Parish, who died
Jany. 13, 1742 Æt. 46.
Also DEBORAH, his Wife,
who died Febr. 6, 1750, Æt. 49.
ELIZABETH, Relict of JOSEPH
HICKS, who died July 7, 1739,
Æt. Suæ 66.”

Condition Assessment.

The limestone is in sound condition, with moderate weathering of the surface and some growth of lichens. Some of the lime mortar in joints between the stones has weathered back, potentially allowing more water to enter. Iron cramps present at the corners have rusted, expanded, and lifted the lid. The N side panel is broken, possibly by an iron cramp. The monument has been repaired previously using cement. The gap created by the lifting of the lid has been filled with cement-based mortar and slate wedges, but the iron cramps are still *in situ* and continue to lift the lid. The plinth has not moved on the covering slabs beneath, and is stable.

Conservation.

All cement pointing was removed. The lid was lifted, and rusting iron cramps removed and replaced with stainless steel ones, before repositioning the lid on a bed of lime mortar. The broken N side panel was removed without disturbing the S panel and ends, and repaired and reinforced by setting stainless steel flat bars into slots cut with a small angle-grinder using polyester epoxy resin. The break was repaired using a lime repair mortar mixed to match the stone for colour and texture. Open joints were repointed. The very wide joint between the covering slabs and the plinth stone was repointed with a coarser mortar of 3 parts Ashton Keynes sand, 2 parts Frithend sand and 2 parts NHL 2 and Cotswold stone roofing tiles, packed in deeply.



North side before conservation.



Note previous repairs carried out using Portland cement.



The south side before conservation.



Before conservation. The east end.



West end.



The lid was removed to enable replacement of rusted iron cramps.



The north side panel, showing an iron cramp from a previous repair.



The north side panel after cleaning and realignment.



The north side panel pieces repositioned using polyester resin.



The broken panel was then reinforced using stainless steel bars set into slots.



The repaired panel prior to reinstatement.



Rusted iron cramps were replaced by stainless steel ones.





The monument after conservation. West end.



South side.



East end.



The north side after conservation.



6. John Wind, early 18th century.

This monument is listed as follows:

Listed: Grade II* (26.IV.1984). List entry number 1090908.
Location: 5 ½ m N of N Porch.
NGR ST 72961 98880

Listing description.

“Chest tomb. Early C 18. Limestone. Baroque style. Cyma capping and base, on raised plinth; enriched corner balusters, cartouche panels at sides and ends; inscriptions not legible at time of survey, but presumed member of Hicks family.”

This is a fine Baroque chest tomb, with end panels incorporating corner balusters. All faces are embellished with elaborate cartouches. The plinth is carved from a single stone, and rests on three covering slabs above the burial chamber.

1.81 m x 0.885 m x 1.01 m high

On the S side there is an inscription:

In Memory of John Wind of
H

Bigland records the following inscription, and it is likely that this is the same monument:-

“JOHN WIND, of *Hengaston*
in the Parish of *Berkeley*,
who died May 22, 1747,
Aged 58 Years.
Also of SARAH, his Wife,
who died Febr. 13, 1736,
Aged 58 Years.
JOHN, Son of JOHN and SARAH
WIND, died July 29, 1727,
Aged 13 Years.
EDWARD WIND,
of *Hengaston* in the Parish of
Berkeley, who died Jany.1, 1765,
Aged 44 Years.
MARY, his Wife, died July 19, 1759,

Aged 51 Years.
SARAH, their Daughter,
(Wife of JOHN SIMS, of this Parish,)
died June 5, 1794, Aged 44 Years.
Also many of her Children
who died in their Infancy.
Also DANIEL, Son of JOHN and
SARAH WIND, died July 25, 1736,
Aged 19 Years.”

Condition Assessment.

The limestone is in sound condition, with moderate weathering of the surface and some growth of lichens. Some of the lime mortar in joints between the stones has weathered back, potentially allowing more water to enter. Iron cramps present at the corners have rusted, expanded, and lifted the lid to a considerable degree. The lid is now unstable. The plinth has not moved on the covering slabs beneath, and is stable.

Conservation.

The lid was lifted, and rusting iron cramps removed and replaced with stainless steel ones, before repositioning the lid on a bed of lime mortar. Open joints were repointed. The very wide joint between the covering slabs and the plinth stone was repointed with a coarser mortar of 3 parts Ashton Keynes sand, 2 parts Frithend sand and 2 parts NHL 2 and Cotswold stone roofing tiles, packed in deeply.



The south side before conservation.



The east end.



The north side before conservation.



West end.



The top was removed using a lifting gantry, and the rusted iron cramps taken out.



A rusting iron cramp.



The monument after conservation. East end.



West end.



The monument after conservation. North side.



The monument after conservation. South side.

