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# St John the Baptist Hawkchurch Devon

Treatment Report Job Ref: 19253

July 2020



## Rob Smith Memorial Plaque

Report prepared for  
Angela Dudley

CLIVEDEN CONSERVATION WORKSHOP LTD  
HOME FARM AMMERDOWN ESTATE KILMERSDON BATH BA3 5SN

T: +44(0)1761 420300 F: +44 (0)1761 420400

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**CLIVEDEN**  
**CONSERVATION**

Home Farm  
AMMERDOWN ESTATE  
Kilmersdon  
Bath BA3 5SN  
t. 01761 420300  
f. 01761 420400  
t. (Cliveden) 01628 604721

**TREATMENT REPORT**

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<b>Job No.</b>	<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Checked By</b>
19253	1	Final Report	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	BH

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

**REGION:** Devon  
**PROPERTY:** Hawkchurch  
**LOCATION:** South wall  
**OBJECT:** Inscribed memorial plaque  
**MATERIALS:** Polished limestone  
**DIMENSIONS:** 750mm x 90 x 1250mm high  
**REPORT WRITTEN BY:** Brian Bentley

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## TREATMENT REPORT

### 1.0 Introduction

Cliveden Conservation was commissioned by Angel Dudley on behalf of St John the Baptist Church, Hawkchurch Devon to relocate and repair the wall plaque dedicated to Rob Smith dated 1683. It was felt that the south wall of the tower was damp and open to water ingress, leading to the potential for ongoing damage to the monument. The South aisle was drier and the plaque could be re-set in a lower, more easily accessible position, allowing the plaque to be more easily seen by visitors. It was repaired in accordance with the Condition Report prepared in May 2019 by Cliveden Conservation.

### 2.0 Treatment

The memorial plaque was moved from high on the internal south wall of the tower to the south west corner of the church to provide more. The plaque has been carved from a dense carboniferous limestone that takes a high polish. The plaque has an incised inscription that appears to have been originally painted in black. The lettering had largely faded along with the polished surface which also had deeply ingrained water marks.

The plaque was taken down using a scaffold with a block and tackle and was transported to the Bath workshop for repair. Less than 5% of the highly polished surface remained amidst a general dull and lacklustre surface; an equal percentage of black lettering remained. Several vertical streaks caused by water ingress marred the face of the plaque.

The dull and matt surface persisted after two applications of buffed microcrystalline wax and the water streaks remained highly visible. The only way to remove the streaks was to restore the highly polished surface using marble polish and oxalic acid. Wax was then applied with the addition of Lamp Black pigment to restore the original colour. Two coats of pigmented wax were applied and buffed to a high polish with a rotating mechanical wool pad. This process greatly reduced the water streaks and restored depth and lustre to the stone. The incised lettering was then painted-in with black acrylic paint before the plaque received a final wax coat. The corbel stone surface and lettering were treated in the same way.

Scaffold was built to the new location in order to raise the plaque into position, and a new hole was cut into the wall by the south porch to house the corbel that

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was set in fast setting Prompt Natural cement. The plaque rests on the corbel and is secured at the top with a stainless steel flat bar restraining cramp set into the wall with polyester resin.

### 3.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



*This image shows the plaque in its original location. Note the water streaks.*



*This image shows some of the few remaining fragments of polished stone surface.*

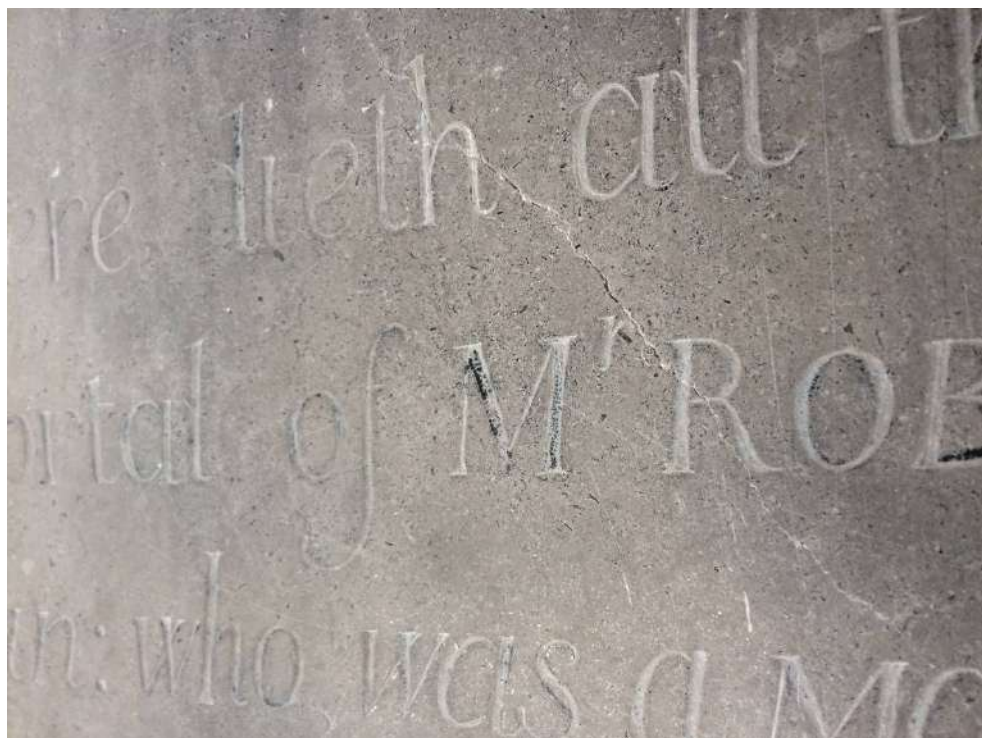


*The water streaks have etched into the surface leaving lighter coloured stone.*





*This image shows the corbel after cleaning the right hand side*



*This image shows some remaining black paint within the incised lettering. The diagonal line is a natural shake that has not developed into a structural weakness.*



*Plaque after restoring the polished surface.*



*Plaque following waxing with pigmented microcrystalline wax. The original lettering is now more visible.*





*Retouching the lettering.*



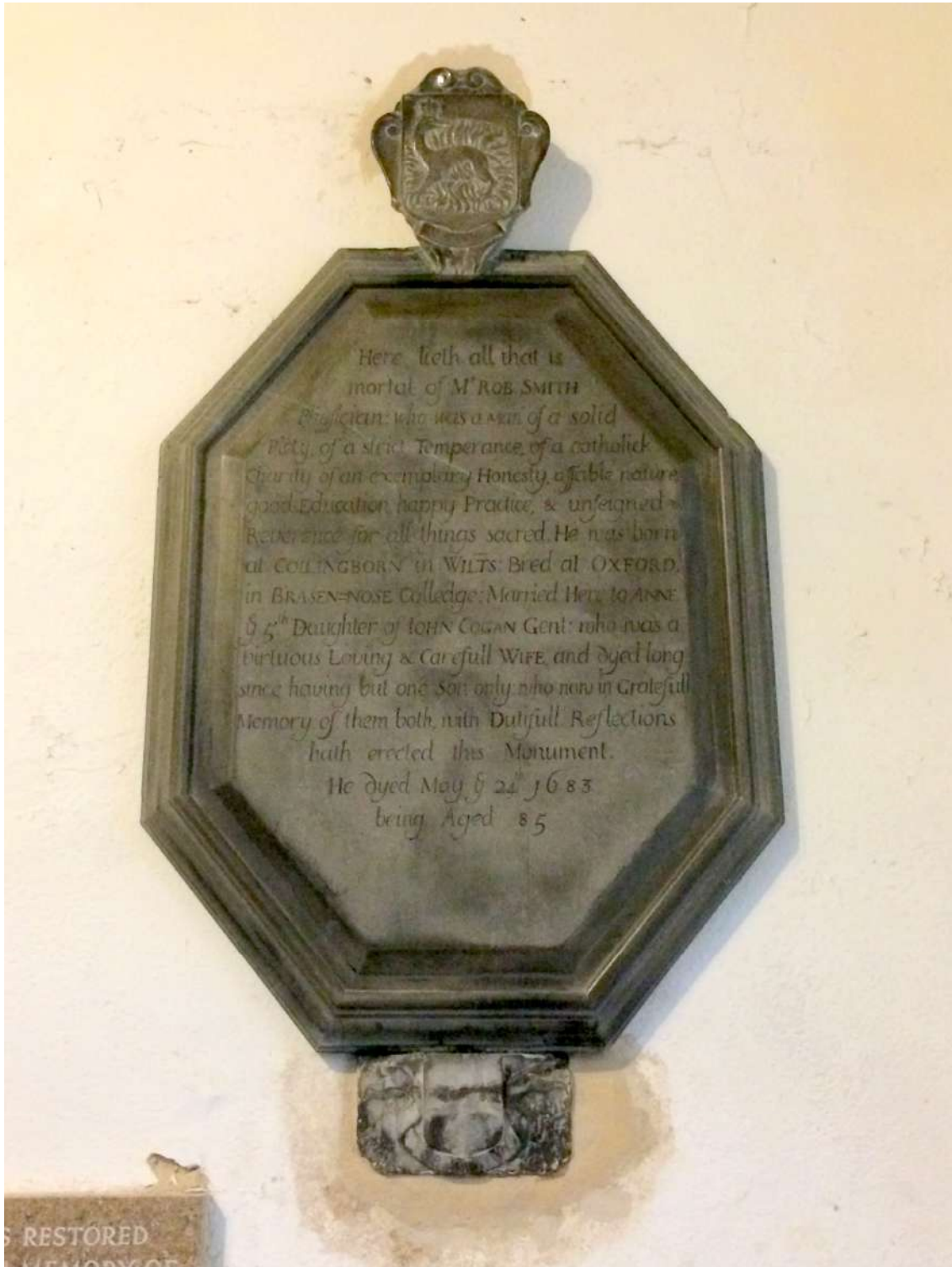
*Plaque on completion of treatment.*



*Plaque in its new location on the south wall.*



*Following painting of the surround*



*Prior to repainting the surround*