

# St. Andrews church, Cold

## Aston

Treatment Report

July 2022



## Giles Carter Memorial

Report prepared for  
The PCC

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## TREATMENT REPORT

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Job No.	Issue No.	Description	Issue Date	Reviewed
20011	1	Final Report	July 2022	DC

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**REGION:** Gloucestershire

**PROPERTY:** St. Andrews Church

**LOCATION:** Cold Aston

**OBJECT:** Giles Carter Memorial

**MATERIALS:** Painted limestone

**DIMENSIONS:** 1800 mm wide x 350 mm deep x 2900 mm high

**REPORT  
WRITTEN BY:** Douglas Carpenter

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## TREATMENT REPORT

### 1.0 Introduction

Cliveden Conservation was commissioned by John Hollows, church warden at St. Andrews, Cold Aston to undertake the conservation of the Giles Carter monument in line with the recommendations outlined in our condition report of December 2020.

The work was carried out from a fixed scaffold by the author of this report and Valerie Macfarlane between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The carving of the new flame finial was undertaken by Jem Hobbs and its reinstatement carried out from a tower scaffold on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022. We are grateful to Christopher Vane, Chester Herald, for his advice on the correct display regarding the pediment urns; his email on the subject is provided in an appendix to this report.

### 2.0 Treatment

The cherubs on the monument were removed to expose ferrous cramps retaining the pediment back to the supporting wall behind; one on the east side and two to the west side. A further cramp had been set over a calcite vein on the west side stone. The cramps were removed and replaced with stainless steel flat bar, but only one cramp was used to retain the west side stone since we could see no reason why two had been used previously.

Exposed ferrous cramps over a calcite vein were removed from the front and back of the west side cherub and replaced with stainless steel flat bar. The poorly refixed sinister side arm to the east side cherub was removed and the ferrous dowels used to hold it in place replaced with stainless steel studding.

The flame finial crest surmounting the coat of arms was found to be loose and was removed. The timber peg holding it in place was replaced with a stainless steel dowel. The existing straps supporting the shield were supplemented with a new stainless steel strap cramped into the top of the crest alongside the new finial dowel.

The cherubs were reset on top of the pediment with single locating stainless steel dowels used to hold them in place. The cherubs, and flame finials were all reset on a lime mortar bed:

- 
- 1 lime putty
  - 2 "S" silver sand (Limebase)
  - 0.5 Bath stone dust

The locating dowels were bedded into the top of the pediment with lime mortar as above but dry fitted into the cherubs themselves. All other dowels and cramps were bedded or fixed with epoxy acrylate (Reca resin P380).

The exposed heads of the fixings at lower level; to either side of the central inscription panel, behind the adjacent columns and to either side of the cherubs head on the apron below had loose rust removed, were treated with two coats of Kurust (a proprietary rust treatment) and then painted with Leyland Trade direct to metal paint tinted with earth pigments to match the colour of the stone. One of the fixing heads was found to be sufficiently decayed that it appeared to be no longer effectively restraining the stonework. The fixing was removed with a core drill and replaced with a length of stainless steel studding fitted with a hex nut.

Capping fills were made over each of the fixings with the following mortar:

- 1 lime putty
- 2.5 "S " silver sand (Limebase)

The exposed ferrous dowel in the top of the cherubs head of the monument apron was removed and the fragment of stone it supported reset with a new internal stainless steel dowel support fixed with polyester resin (General).

Plaster repairs to the top of the pediment where fixings had been removed and over the wall behind were made using lime plaster:

Base coat

- 1 NHL 2 hydraulic lime
- 2.5 "MPS" sand (Limebase)

Finish coat

- 1 NHL 2 hydraulic lime
- 2 "S " silver sand (Limebase)

The monument was dusted with a soft brush and vacuum cleaner and the surfaces then cleaned using Wishab sponges (Akapad). Some localised

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retouching was carried out with watercolours to water streaking at high level, ie. to the front of the east side cherub and pediment below. The mortar repair to the front of the west side cherub was painted with a masonry paint (Sandtex) tinted with earth pigments. The plaster repairs to the wall behind the pediment were painted with a limewash tinted to match the existing finish. a tinted limewash was also applied to some of the capping repairs on the lower half of the monument.

The new flame finial was decorated to match the other finials using Keim Soldalit paint and 24 carat gold leaf applied over a 3 hour size (Charbonnel).

Following enquiries through the College of Arms and discussion with the client about how to set about relocating the flame finial in possession of the church the decision was taken to locate it on the west side of the monument and carve a new flame/urn to sit on top of the in situ socle on the east side of the pediment. The socle on this die is somewhat smaller than its counterpart and so it was bedded up to give a similar finish level. Both urns were set on dry stainless steel dowels.

### **3.0 Condition**

The monument will require ongoing monitoring but should not be at any risk of significant deterioration in the short to medium term. The previously exposed fixings are likely to require ongoing maintenance in line with the treatment outlined above. Although some of the fixings that were removed were perished and/or had caused jacking up of the adjacent stonework the majority appeared relatively sound. All the removed metalwork restraining the monument back to the wall were fixed into timber supports set into the masonry in the wall behind, either directly (in the case of the spiked fixing adjacent to the inscription panel) or indirectly (in the case of the pediment straps which were nailed in place). This arrangement is fairly unusual but does suggest the fixings are original to the construction of the monument in its present position. It was interesting to note also that the repairs to the east side cherubs arm seem to have taken place at an early point in the monument`s history, possibly also contemporary with the monument construction. The same lime mortar appears to have been used (rather messily) for bedding the cherubs, the east side socle and repairing the arm. The ferrous fixings in the arm appear to have been set with a natural resin of some kind.

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### Condition Code Summary

Stability	i	(i – stable; iv – highly unstable)
Condition	B	(A – excellent; D – poor):
Treatment priority	1	(1– no treatment; 4 – urgent)

#### 4.0 Further Recommendations

Monitor for any change of appearance or loss of material.

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6.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



*Exposed cramps to west side of pediment*



*During fitting of replacement cramps and locating dowel for west cherub*





*Exposed cramps to east side of pediment*



*During fitting of east side replacement cramp, shield strap and dowel for crest finial*



*Decayed timber peg for crest finial*



*East side cherub before refitting arm*



*East side cherub arm removed*



*East side cherub with new dowels*



*Rear of west side cherub with replacement cramp*



*Works to pediment completed*



*West and east side cherubs after treatment*



*Fixing to west side of inscription tablet before and after replacing with stainless*



*Lower half of monument with exposed ferrous fixings treated*



*Capping repairs over apron fixings and removal of fixing to cherub head*

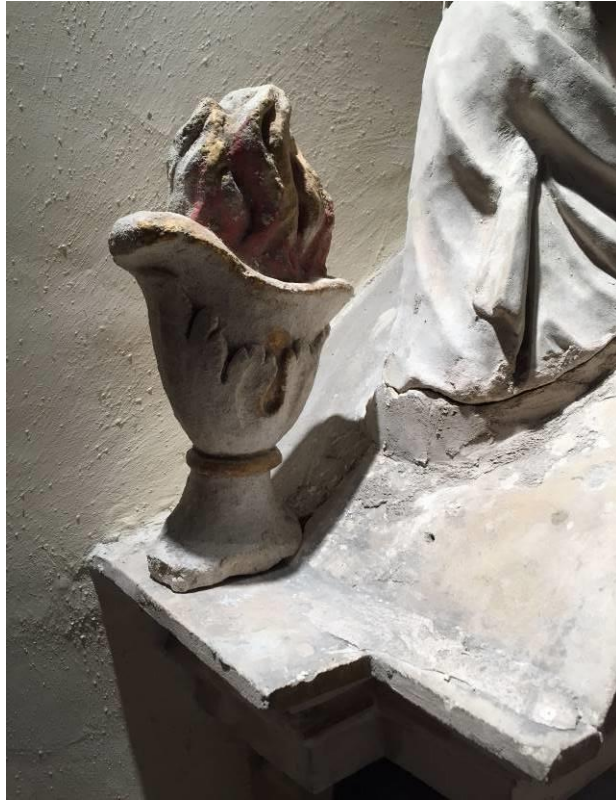


*Lower half of monument after treatment*



*Fixing for west side flame finial*





*West side flame finial*



*East side finial socle before treatment*



*West side urn and newly carved east side urn on original socle, prior to retouching to match*



*Monument after treatment*

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## APPENDICES

- A **Condition Code Summary  
Cliveden Conservation Workshop**
  
- B **email from Christopher Vane, Chester Herald re: pediment urns**

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Condition Code Summary, Cliveden Conservation Workshop Ltd**

## CONDITION CODE SUMMARY

<b>STABILITY (i-iv)</b>		
i	Stable	Condition not expected to deteriorate within the next 10+ years
ii	Potentially unstable	Condition not expected to deteriorate within next 5-10 years
iii	Unstable/Steady deterioration:	Change in condition likely to be evident between 1 –5 years
iv	Highly unstable:	Change in condition likely to be evident within 1 year
<b>CONDITION (A–D)</b>		
A	Excellent	Little or no damage evident
B	Good	Minor amount of damage and/or loss of original and added material, or with light discoloration or accretions.
C	Fair	Noticeable damage and loss and appears disfigured with visible accretions.
D	Poor	Considerable and/or significant loss of original or added material or major damage/breakage or disfigurement. May be endangering other objects and surfaces.
<b>TREATMENT PRIORITY (1-4)</b>		
1	No treatment	Conservation treatment not required beyond routine maintenance.
2	Desirable	Conservation treatment desirable but not necessary to ensure the long term stability of the object. For instance, conservation treatment may be required for curatorial reasons.
3	Necessary	Conservation treatment necessary to avoid further deterioration, loss or undesirable strain on an object and/or loss of significance (evidential or artistic value).
4	Urgent	Conservation treatment required to prevent significant deterioration in condition of object and/or loss of significance (evidential or artistic value). This may include structural vulnerability, risk of total loss of entire object or part of object, or risk of accident to visitors/users.

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## **APPENDIX B**

**Email to author from Christopher Vane, Chester Herald Re: pediment urns,  
13.5.2022**

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**Email to author from Christopher Vane, Chester Herald Re: pediment urns,  
13.5.2022**

Dear Douglas,

I must apologise for not getting back to you sooner.

I suppose you would like to know how the monument looked originally rather than what would have been correct heraldically. Many church monuments contains heraldic mistakes. Of course what would be correct heraldically may indicate what was there originally.

Arms belong to lines of descent and not surnames.

At all times significant numbers of people have just assumed "arms" irregularly and without lawful authority. This may be a matter of regret to the Heralds but it is a fact of life. The Heralds have always had difficulty controlling the irregular use of arms. Such irregular use of arms is often of considerable historical interest. In practice where "arms" are just assumed it is not uncommon for a family to assume "arms" which are similar or even identical to the arms of another family with the same or a similar surname.

The coat of arms is that which goes on the shield. The crest is that which goes on top of the helm. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was not unusual for a family to have a coat of arms but no crest.

I am not persuaded that Giles Carter had arms. A family called Carter from Cornwall were recorded as being entitled to the coat of arms on his monument, but they were not recorded as having a crest: Heralds' Visitation of Cornwall 1620 (College of Arms: 2C1/387b).

My guess is that the larger flame finial was placed on the monument above the helm as a substitute for a crest and so could be characterised as decorative rather than heraldic and that this was flanked by two smaller flame finials. I do not think it would make any sense if finials designed to surmount the sides of a monument were not of the same size.

I hope this makes sense.

Regards,

Christopher Vane,

Chester Herald.