

In the R spandrel is a full face directed forwards. It has hair cut in a fringe, large round owl-like eyes, nose and protruded tongue. The main feature of this character is his enormous pair of ears, shown like huge leaves, that fill both sides of the spandrel and clearly illustrate the evils of listening to the private conversation of others.

The three bench ends contain a remarkable portrayal of the evils of deceit, lies and wilful eavesdropping, and are another splendid insight into mediaeval life and its forceful caricatures'

On page 79 of the same book is his description of the rosary bench end, as follows: 'There is one other portrayal of the rosary (*The others being at Kingston St Mary*) and this is in the top corner of a plain bench end at Cheddar (22a). This carving is in the spandrel caused by the traceried arch of the bench end. The hand, which springs from a very small section of sleeve is extremely finely carved with slender fingers and thumb; even the fingernails are shown. The knuckles of the forefinger pass across the corner to grip the last bead of the decade with the thumb. The rosary is of only four decades, and this may be because of the very restricted space. Each decade has ten beads with a larger 'our Father' between each. The upper decade is partly obscured by the hand. At the pointed base of the spandrel is an animal's head pointing downwards. It is not clear what this animal is; the ears brow and nostrils are distinct but it could be a dog or a deer'

Peter Poyntz Wright does not describe one further 15<sup>th</sup> C bench end, 3a on the plan, which has a fox's head emerging from foliage, with pricked ears, large eye, and many teeth, and with long barbed ended tongue as with the human faces.

One of the 'typical' bench ends with tracery, and foliage and flower decoration in the spandrels, has also been photographed. It is 36 on the plan.

The restorers, Trask & Sons, added to these with two 'copies', rather more crudely carved, bench end 52 in the S aisle, copies 32, and bench end 25a copies one of the spandrels of 30. They also copied the foliage and floral decoration in the spandrels of all the new bench ends, with great skill so that the whole is pleasing to the eye.

In the S. Porch are stored 4 bench ends, 2 pre and 2 post-restoration, 1 x narrow front desk end, 2 benches and a kneeler.

- 2 Oak
- 3 15<sup>th</sup> C with 19<sup>th</sup> C restoration
- 4 See Ch Plan
- 5,6 Butterfield, & Trask & Sons.
- 7-9 a) JCD Smith, 'Church Woodcarvings, a West Country Study' David & Charles 1969
- 10 -