

Welcome into the church of St Peter & St Paul



We have some interesting historic monuments inside our church depicting the history of the village and many of the past residents. There are links with conflict, politics and the Pilgrim Fathers.

The building also has some striking stained glass windows which shed a wonderful warm light across the chancel.

The organ along with bells are also noteworthy and both provide a rich audible feature to this Grade 1 Listed building.

The numbering below follows that in the: Northamptonshire Family History Society Booklet 'Memorial Inscriptions at The Church of St Peter & St Paul Watford'. We are grateful for The Society allowing us to use their text.

A Guide To The Memorials.....

C1: List Of Parish Vicars can be found on the west wall of the south isle.



C2 - Stone memorial of west wall of nave, south of organ: **PHILIP CONSTABLE** d 1824 aged 59 years

C3: Worn ledger stone on north wall of nave



C4 - Stone memorial on north wall of nave: **John Lee** d. July 31st 1802: Aged 56 years) & **Alice** (d July 2nd 1807 Aged 56 years- his wife (daughter of **ROBERT ABBEY**, of Silsworth in this parish)

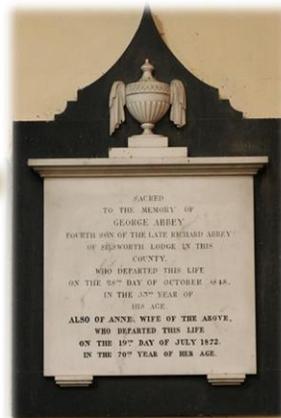
C 5: Stone memorial on north wall of chancel: Near this place lie the remains of **RICHARD ABBEY** (of Silsworth Lodge) who departed this life on the 20th of May 1821 in the 72nd year of his age. Also of **ELIZABETH** (his wife) who departed this life on the 12th of March 1837 in the 72nd year of her age. **RICHARD ABBEY** was the 2nd generation of Abbeys that were farmers and graziers on the lands of Silsworth,



C 6: Marble memorial - **ALICIA ABBEY** d.1848 -: Sacred to the memory of **ALICIA ABBEY** youngest daughter of **RICHARD** and **ELIZABETH ABBEY** of Silsworth Lodge, died April 1st AD 1848 aged 44 years.

C 7: Marble memorial GEORGE ABBEY d.1848 & ANNE d.1872:

Sacred to the memory of **GEORGE ABBEY**, fourth son of the late **RICHARD ABBEY** of Silsworth Lodge in this county who departed this life on the 28th day of October 1848 in the 53rd year of his age. Also of **ANNE**, wife of the above who departed this life on the 9th day of July 1872 in the 70th year of her age.



C 8: Susanna Eyton 1585-1631

A stone wall tablet with Tuscan columns, inlaid wooden plaque with long inscription, it is also the oldest memorial in the church. The inscription is below:

"Nescit virtus mori" SUSANNA EYTON in this towne of her birth heere dyed, & in this mould remains interr'd, hereafter to rise more glorious. Shee was descended from the auntient and right worthy family of the BURNEBIES; her father being that renowned Gent. THO. BURNEBIE Esq; & Lord of this Watford, & Captaine of the Foote of this Countie. Her mother a most pious & virtuous woman (close by whose grave shee now lyves) was of the SAPCOTTS neare unto Lincolne, knowne to be a family of auntient gentry. Shee had two husbands; the first was STEPHEN AGARD Esq; who & his ancestors had oflonge time bene Lords of Broughton in this Countie. By him she had foure children, THOMAS, KATHERINE, GEORGE & JOHN. Her last husband THO EYTON Esq; brother to Sir PHILIP EYTON of Eyton Kt being a most autient and worthy family in Shropshire, whose appellation she bare to the grave, but by her had no issue. Shee was the crowne & glorie of her husbands, as now the greife and lamentation of th's shee left behind. To doe her memorie justice, shee was not after the ordinarie stampe of weomen. Of that sex shee was the mirroure & beyond the art of flatterie good. Shee had ever an aspiring humilitie & holy ambition after the best things. In the exercise of her charitie you might see her hand always stretch'd out to the poore. Hungrie bellies & naked armes were the object of her meditation. It was not enough others knewher to be good, except they felt it. Shee hath now put of nature & chang'de frailness for eternitie. Shee hath built herself a good name, w'ch is the best of monuments, more durable th'n t'e glittering titles of fading glorie. Every action speakes of her, & now while she sleeps her fame growes on. Shee beyond all exception must needs be good, whom the most rancorous Spirit & impurest mouth dare not detract from. Not knowing how to deseemble, shee knew not how longer to live. As she was exemplarie in her life, so at her last taught others to dye after her paterne; in the 44 yeare of her age A^D 1631 June the XX shee yeilded up her spirit to him that gave it, and left to her frends the sad desire of her. In brief such an one was she whom the worldmay often wish for, but seldom finde. (last 6 lines not readable). Posuit amoris conjugalis ergo THO. EYTON.

C 9: Marble memorial under the arch to the right of C8:
ANTHONY MORTON HENLEY, He was born August 4th
 1873 and died suddenly at Bucharest May 17th 1925.

In memory of **ANTHONY MORTON HENLEY**, third son
 of the third Lord **HENLEY**. 'A good life hath but a few days
 but a good name endureth forever'. Educated at Eton & Baliol
 College, Oxford. He was called to the bar in 1898. The outbreak
 of the South African War allowed him to gratify his ambition to
 be a soldier by enlisting in Compton's Horses. He acted as
 Lance Corporal until he won, in November 1900, a commission in The Royal Scots Greys. In 1908
 he was promoted into the 5th Lancers. Passing from the Staff College he served in the War Office,
 and as Brigade Major to the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. He was appointed secretary to the Secretary of
 State for War when the Prime Minister assumed that additional office in the crisis of April 1914. At
 the outbreak of the Great War he rejoined his regiment. Having served with distinction as a Staff
 officer he was promoted to command the 127th Brigade, was mentioned 8 times in despatches (sic)
 and awarded the D.S.O. and C.M.G. Leaving the army on the conclusion of peace he brought into
 the conduct of affairs the same qualities of organisation, leadership and courage which had gained
 him military distinction. Wise and independent in judgment, imaginative and wide culture. He won
 the respect, affection and admiration of those with whom he came into contact.



C 10 Marble memorial between arches on north wall of chancel: in
 memory of **CHARLES WILLIAM CLERKE** Esqr, son of
EDWARD CLERKE Esqr and **MARY (SKIPWITH)** his wife, and
 grandson of 8th **ROBT CLERKE** of Watford in this county. Born
 28th February 1735, died 22nd April 1764 aged 29. And Mrs
MARTHA CLERKE, wife of **CHARLES WILLIAM CLERKE**
 Esqr (daughter of **SAMUELmCHAPMAN** AM, Rector of Radnage
 in the County of Bucks and of Little Kimbell in the same county and
MARTHA his wife). She died March 28th 1778 aged 44.

C 11: Ornate stone memorial with inscription on slate
 plaque – north wall of chancel: Sacred to the memory of
GEORGE CLERKE Esquire, the last male heir of a most
 ancient and respectable family, for many years **Lords of the Manor**,
 who departed this life on the fourteenth day of September in the year
 of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven in the fifty
 second year of his age. Also to the memory of **ANN**, the wife of the above
 named **GEORGE CLERKE**. She was the daughter of **HENRY**
PILKINGTON of Prestop Park in the parish of Ashby de la Zough in
 the county of Leicester, gentleman and married for her second
 husband **JOHN BENNETT** Esquire of the City of London. She
 departed this life on the twenty sixth day of December in the
 year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty
 four in the ninety third year of her age.



C 12: On north wall of sanctuary: **George Clerke (NB: undated)**

Translation: To the sacred memory of **GEORGE CLERKE** Esq., descended from the ancient family of the same name from Willoughby in the County of Warwick, who had as his wife **MARY** daughter of **PHILIP HOLMAN** of Warkworth in the County of Northampton, Esq, by whom he had two sons, **GEORGE** and **PHILIP** (who died as infants) and six daughters, **MARY** the first-born married to **WILLIAM CRAVEN** of Winwick in the County of Northampton, Knight. **BARBARA** who died in infancy, another **BARBARA** joined in marriage to **GILBERT CLARK** of Chilcote in the County of Derby, Knight, **DOROTHY** who had as husband **JOHN FRANKLIN** of Bonehurst in the County of Bedford, Knight, **JANE** married to **WILLIAM BEECHER** of Howbury in the County of Bedford, Esq., and **ELISABETH** wife of **THOMAS HANBURY** of Kelmarsh in the

County of Northampton. He married for a second time **SARAH**, daughter of **EDWARD TURNER** of Holingbury in the County of Essex, Knight and Chief Baron and died without issue. He was a man noted for his wisdom, piety and all kinds of virtue; he was distinguished not only for his intellectual but also his physical talents which made him most pleasing to all people. He shone no less with learning, prudence and Christian charity, than with wise judgement and kindly intellect which he cultivated during travels through the greater part of Europe. Furthermore he excelled in service to his relations, was a most indulgent husband, a most loving father, a most constant friend, most faithful subject, abundant in love to his country which he served faithfully in Parliament for 17 years as elected representative for this County (with not enough general approval and recognition) in the reign of Charles II. He succumbed at last to death, with due piety but immortalised by his reputation and virtues, hoping for the glory of eternal life, on ** **** in the Year of our Lord ****.

To the eternal memory of the said **GEORGE CLERK** of **MARY**, his wife, and of the said **PHILIP CLERK** who lye all near this place interr'd, Dame **DOROTHY FRANKLIN** widow and relict of Sir **GEORGE FRANKLIN**, daughter and sole executrix of ye said **GEORGE CLERK** hath according to his will erected this monument.

C13: Ornate stone memorial with inscription on brass plate: Here under lyeth the body of **Sir GEORGE CLERKE**, Knt. Descended of ye familie of ye Clerke's of Willoughbie in ye Countie of Warwicke, who deyrtd this life w'th assurance of a better, on ye 30th day of January 1648 and in ye sixtie first year of his age, leaving issue by his wife **BARBARA**, daughter of **ROBERT PALMER** of Hill in ye Countie of Bedford Esqr; **GEORGE**, **ROBERT** & **CLEMENT**, sons, **MARY**, **BARBARA**, **SARAH**, **ELIZABETH** and **DORCAS**, daughters, of which were then married: **GEORGE** to **MARY** only daughter of **PHILIP HOLLMAN** of Werkworth in this Countie, Esqr, Mary to **ROBERT ATKINS**, son & heire of **ROBERT ATKINS** one of the Barons of ye Exchequer and **BARBARA** to **WADHAM WYNDHAM**, son of Sr **JOHN WYNDHAM**, late of Orchard in the Countie of Somerset, Knight. And since his decease **SARAH** to **THOMAS KINNERSLEY** of Loxley in the Countie of Safford Esqr; **DORCAS** to **JOHN COTES**, son and heir of **JOHN COTES** of Woodcote in the Countie of Salop Esqr; and **ROBERT** to **FRANCIS** daughter of the last mentioned **JOHN COTES**; **ELIZABETH** to **JOHN WALCOT** of Walcot in the said Countie Esqr; and **CLEMENT** to **SARAH** daughter and sole heire of **GEORGE TALBOT** of Ridge in the said Countie Esqr.

To whose pious memory his said widow hath dedicated this testimony of her affections. Whose body now lies also interred next to his, which in spite of death would be separated (sic) who on the second of February 1655 in the 56th year of her age willingly resigned up this life to be possessed of a better.



C14 : Black marble ledger stone Under lyeth the body of **GEORGE CLERKE Esqr**; To whose memory this monument was erected Ano Dni 1710

C 15: East Window: In affectionate remembrance of Emily Augusta, wife of Anthony Lord Henley, who died Feb 15th 1862:

Picture: Mary (left), Jesus, and Martha (right) with the words 'Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her' (Luke 10 verse 38-42). Above are the twelve disciples (six on each side) and the four gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (along with other windows here made by Heaton, Butler & Bayne).



C16: Stone memorial in south wall above altar rail: Sacred to the memory of **ANTHONY HENRY HENLEY**, Third Baron Henley of Chardstock now in the County of Devonshire of the Peerage of Ireland and First Baron Northington of Watford in the County of Northampton in the Peerage of the United Kingdom. Eldest son of **ROBERT** second Lord **HENLEY** by **HARRIET**, youngest daughter of Sir **ROBERT PEEL**, First Baronet of Drayton Bassett in the County of Stafford. He was born on April 12th 1825 and married firstly on July 31st 1846 **JULIA EMILY AUGUSTA**, only daughter of The Very Revd **JOHN PEEL DD** Dean of Worcester and by her who died in 1862 he had two sons. **FREDERIC** who succeeded him and **ANTHONY EARNEST** and three daughters. He married secondly on June 30th 1870 **CLARA CAMPBELL LUCY**, second daughter of **JOSEPH H S JEKYLL Esqre**, By whom he had two sons, **ANTHONY MORTON** and **FRANCIS ROBERT** and one daughter. **He represented the Borough of Northampton in Parliament from 1859- 1874. In 1885 he was created a Peer of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Northington of Watford.** The High Sheriff in 1854, a Deputy Lieutenant, a Justice of Peace and one of the first County Councillors for Northants and took a keen interest and an active part in all matters relating to the business of that county. He died at Watford Court on November 27th and was interred in the vault beneath this chancel on December 2nd 1898.





C 16a In memory of Florence Mary, eldest daughter of Anthony Lord Henley. She died May 28th 1866 aged 18 years. Biblical scene from Mark chapter 5 v39 of Jesus raising Jairus' 12 year old daughter ('The damsel is not dead but sleepeth').

C 17 Frederick Eden 1784-1823 Marble plaque on south wall of chancel, below window: To the memory of The Honourable **FREDERICK EDEN**, eldest son of **MORTON**, Lord **HENLEY** and the Lady **ELIZABETH** his wife. He was born August XIX MDCCLXXXIV and died November V MDCCCXXIII. His remains are deposited in the vault below.

C 18: Marble plaque (below C16a & to the right of C17): In the vault beneath are deposited the remains of **Elizabeth, wife of Morton Lord Henley**. daughter and co-heiress of **ROBERT** First Earl Northington, sometime Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

*Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but a woman that feareth
the Lord, she shall be praised.
Proverbs C.XXXI v30*

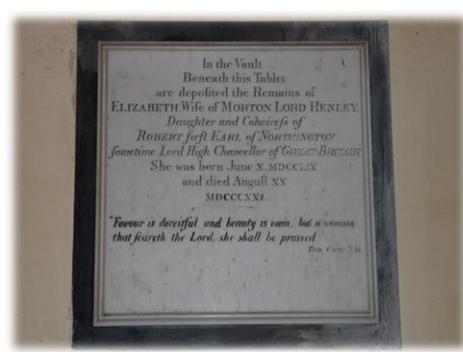


C 19: Ornate memorial on south wall of chancel (between the windows- above small door), coat of arms at top: In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of **Robert Henley, second Lord Henley of Chardstock in the County of Dorset**. He married in 1824 Harriet, youngest daughter of Sir Robert Peel of Drayton Bassett in the County of Stafford (and **sister of the Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel 2nd Baronet**), by whom he left two Sons and died 1841. For nearly 15 years he held the office of Master of the High Court of Chancery and in 1831 assumed by Royal Permission the paternal name and arms of Henley.





Picture: The resurrection of Jesus ('Behold there was a great earthquake for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it,' Matthew 28 v2).



C 19a: In affectionate remembrance of Harriet, Relict of Robert, Second Lord Henley. She died 7th of May 1869.

Harriett was the younger sister of Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-1835 and 1841-1846 who introduced the first properly organised police force, thus giving rise to policemen being known as "Bobbies".

C 20: Augusta Frederica d 27th July 1905 the beloved wife of FREDERIC, 4th Lord Henley and youngest daughter of HERBERT LANGHAM Esqr of Cottesbrooke Park, Northamptonshire. *Until the day break and the shadows flee away.*

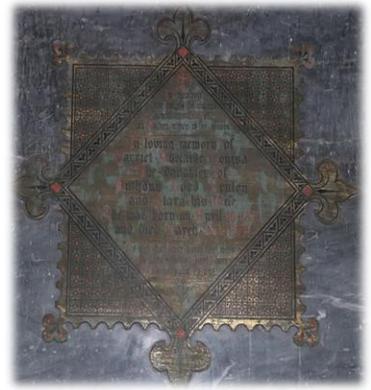


C 21: Marble plaque below window ;Sacred to the memory of The **Right Honourable MORTON Lord HENLEY** of Chardstock in the County of Dorset, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, one of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. He was descended from the antient (sic) family of the Eden's of West Auckland in the County of Durham, being the 5th son of Sir ROBERT EDEN, Bart and was born on the 8th of July 1752. He was educated at Eton School and

afterwards at Oxford, having been first a student of Christ Church and subsequently Fellow of All Souls College. On quitting the University he embraced the diplomatic profession and became Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Munich, Ratisson, Copenhagen, Dresden, Weimar, Berlin and Vienna, having been also appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of Madrid. On his retirement from public life in the year 1799 he was, in reward for his services which he had rendered to his country, created a Peer of Ireland by the title Baron Henley of Chardstock. He married on the 7th August 1783 ELIZABETH, youngest daughter of ROBERT 1st Earl of NORTHINGTON, by whom he had three sons, FREDERICK who died in his lifetime, ROBERT HENLEY who succeeded him in his title and WILLIAM in Holy Orders and one daughter MARY JANE. He departed this life on the 6th of Decr 1830 in the 79th year of his age.

C 22: Metal plaque on marble

In heaven the angels do always behold the face of the Father which is in heaven. HARRIET ADELAIDE LOUISA, the daughter of ANTHONY LORD HENLEY. April 16 1871 - March 28 1879 aged 8yrs No ills shall ever harm her more, She goes unto the silent shore, Where pain is no more.



C 23 Ledger stone: Here lyeth the body of **ROBERT CLERKE** Esq second son to Sr **GEORGE CLERKE B^{nt}**. He took to wife **FRANCES COTES** second daughter of **JOHN COTES** Esq of Woodcoat in Shropshire by whom he had 6 sons and 4 daughters. He departed this life ye 23d day of Aug 1687



C 24: In ever loving memory

Those who died in the Great War 1914-1919 - Marble tabled divided into two.

In ever loving memory of

PERCY H ADNITT

JOHN ALLEN

CHARLES ALLEN

FREDERICK W BODILY C^{ORP}

OLIVER H D BOND

ERNEST T CATER

GEORGE CHEYNEY

WALTER C DUNKLEY

WILLIAM DUNKLEY

Who died in the Great War 1914-1919.

C 25: Beneath: Two framed illuminated rolls of honour hanging side by side, divided vertically. Roll of Honour, Watford, Northants

C 26: (Ledger stone in south cross aisle) P.C. 1824

C27: (Ledger stone in south cross aisle) Here lieth the body of **JAMES EYRE** who departed this life the fourth day of September Anno Dmi 1713 and in the 79th year of his age (rest illegible)

C28: Ledger stone in central aisle of nave RN 1821 EA 1837 AN 18(4?)8 GA 18 (48?) AN 1872

The Church Bells

The tower contains six bells dating from 1721, on a Historic Wooden frame possibly c1695. The bells were installed by George Day & Son, Bell Hangers of Eye, Suffolk c 1910. However, evidence in the stonework within the bell tower shows that an earlier set, and probably smaller set of bells, were once housed in the tower - these being replaced by the current bells and their' housings. The company of 'George Day and Son' was a family run business. Its final owner, Frederick Day, ceased trading in 1939.

Details of the bells

1. Treble: CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM H.B. 1695. Cast by Henry II Bagley 1695, dia 28.88 in. Wheel sole diameter 5 ft. 2 in. (est.wt 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt)

2. ABR RUDHALL OF GLOUCESTER BELLFOVNDER. 1712. Cast by Abraham I Rudhall 1712, dia. 30.75 in. This bell replaced an earlier one inscribed: **HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1695 (Henry Bagley made me 1695).** (est.wt 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt)

3. HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1695. Cast by Henry II Bagley 1695, dia. 32.18 in. (est.wt 7cwt)

4. HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1695, Cast by Henry II Bagley 1695, dia. 34.63 in. (est.wt 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt)

5. HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1695. Cast by Henry II Bagley 1695, dia. 37 in. (est.wt 9 cwt)

6. Tenor: RECAST 1820. Cast by Thomas II Mears 1820, dia. 42.18 in. Wheel sole diameter 6 ft. 3 in. This bell replaced an earlier bell inscribed: **SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI MARIA VOCATA SANCTE PETRE: H:B: 1695 [I am, when rung, called Mary the Rose of the World .. St Peter?]** (est.wt 15 cwt)

