

# **St Michael & All Saints Church, Thornhill.**

## **Conservation report on the internal monuments Section 6**

**Monuments 5, 6, & 7 located in the base of the tower.**



Prepared for:  
**Thornhill Parish Church Council**  
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By  
**MARTIN HOLDEN**  
**SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION SERVICES**  
Dalshangan  
Carsphairn  
Dalry  
DG7 3SZ



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**DRAFT (rev)**

## **Monument number 5 – Thomas Radcliffe Armigeri**

### **Location.**

South wall of the tower.



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### **Dimensions**

2000mm by 500mm by 3200mm

### **Description**



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An ornate memorial in the form of a corbel depicting a winged skull supporting a sarcophagus with deeply carved gadrooned elevations above which sit two putto draping a cloth between them. Above the sarcophagus is an inscription in the form of a medallion framed by an elaborate foliage wreath and a crest above.

The inscription is incised and painted black and remains legible. The crest has black pigmentation on it.

The memorial is carved from Carrara marble and Statuary Carrara marble.





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All parts of the memorial are heavily discoloured with deep staining and surface soiling which is very disfiguring and disruptive to the details of the carved form. This is particularly noticeable on the skull and the foliate wreath.



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Although hanging high on the wall the monument appears to be securely fixed at the current time and no obvious sign of corrosion and expansion of cramps was visible.

Periodic monitoring of the joints is essential to ensure it remains secure.



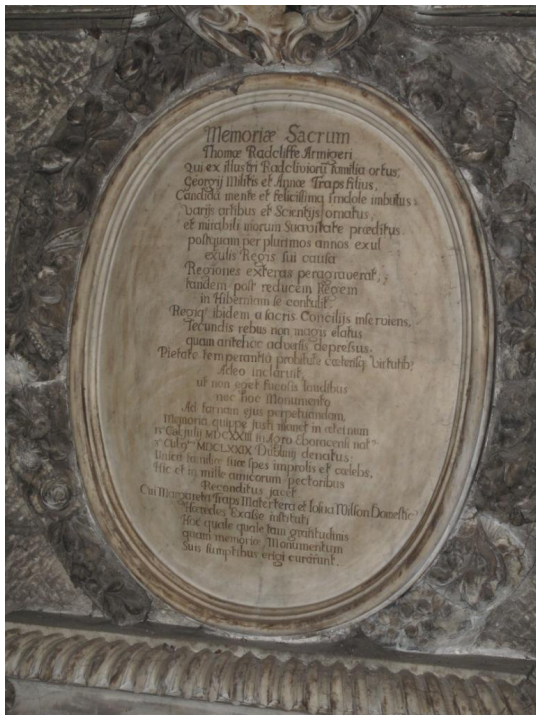
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The foliate wreath framing the inscription panel has been pointed with a mortar that appears to be cement based and would appear to be a later origin than the original date of the memorial. Is this an indication that it has been moved to the current location? Or is this indication of a repair having been carried out?



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View from above looking down on the sarcophagus.



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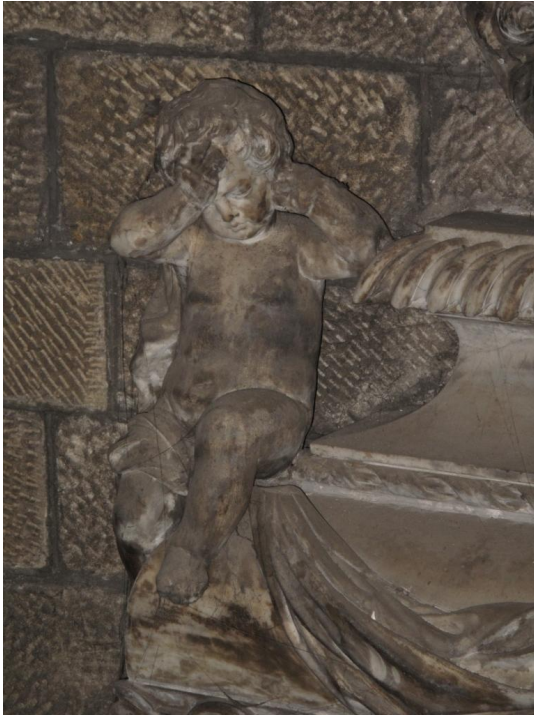


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Above left is a record of the inscription; the photograph also shows how badly disfiguring the dirt is.

Above right is the east elevation of the inscription medallion showing the cement based pointing that has been carried out.

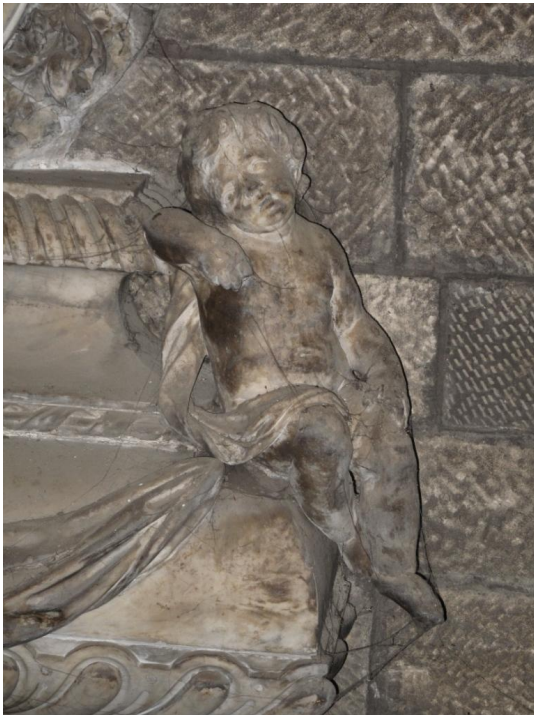




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Detail of the eastern putto.

The surface of the marble has heavy oily looking soiling – perhaps coal tar from domestic chimneys and the industrial past in this region?



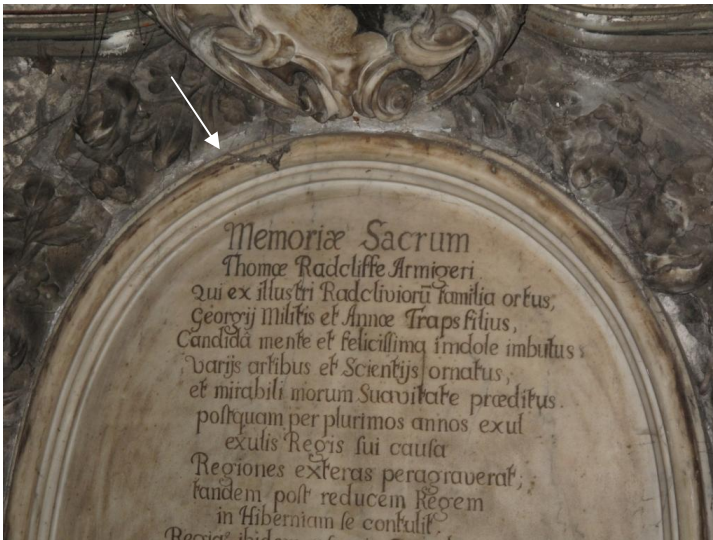
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Detail of the western putto.



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Detailed view looking down upon the central area on top of the sarcophagus between the draped cloths.



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Detail of the top area of the inscription showing mortar around the edge which is similar, and cement based in appearance, to the mortar used to point around the outer edges as highlighted above.



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Detail of the winged skull.

This is likely to be an embellishment and not a structural corbel. The Shelf and sarcophagus legs above are likely to be corbelled to the wall.





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The crest leans forward but on site inspection indicates that it appears to be secure upon its original fixing.



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Looking towards the east behind the crest.

Note the metal fixing bar which is shown in greater detail below.



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The metal bar has only superficial surface corrosion, is likely to be made from wrought iron and appears in a condition fit for purpose.



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Detail of the western elevation of the sarcophagus looking east.

There is a flaw in the marble as indicated but this is not considered to be a structural concern at present.



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Underneath the winged skull is a ferrous metal tie bar which appears to restrain the bottom of the carved stone. It would offer some measure of support but would not provide sufficient to allow the skull to act as a corbel.



**Monument number 6 – John Pollard (1737) and his wife Elizabeth (1736).**

## Location

On the north wall of the tower; west side.

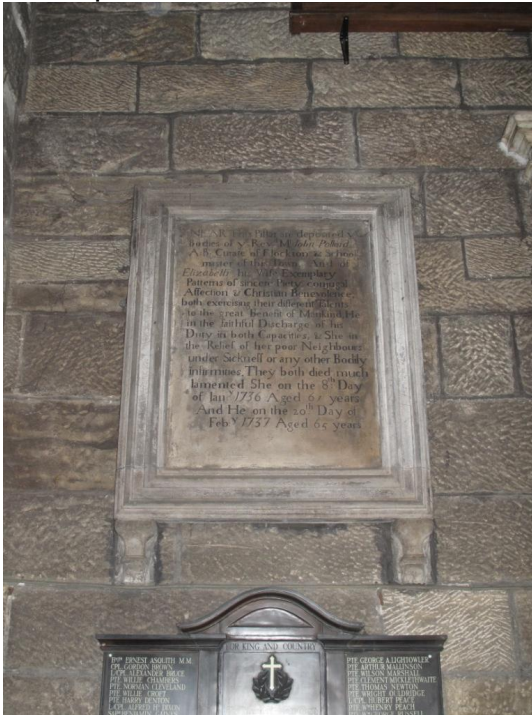


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## Dimensions

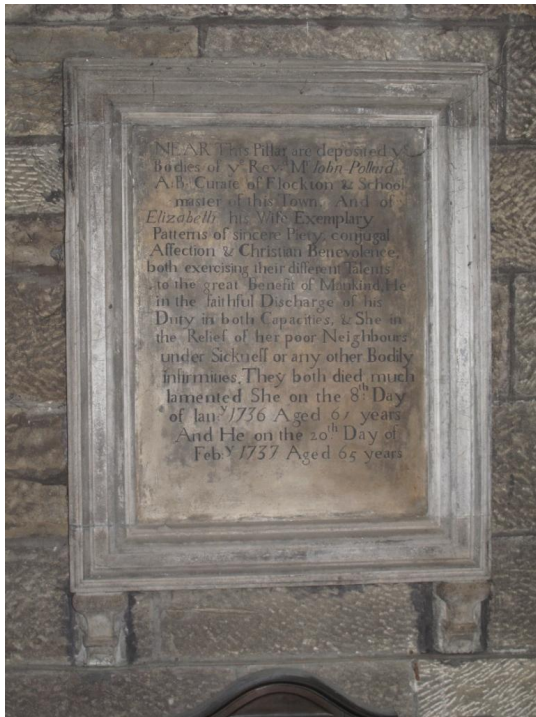
1120mm by 150mm by 1525mm.

**Description.**



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A marble inscription panel with incised and black painted lettering is surrounded by a simple limestone moulded frame. The whole rests upon two limestone corbels.



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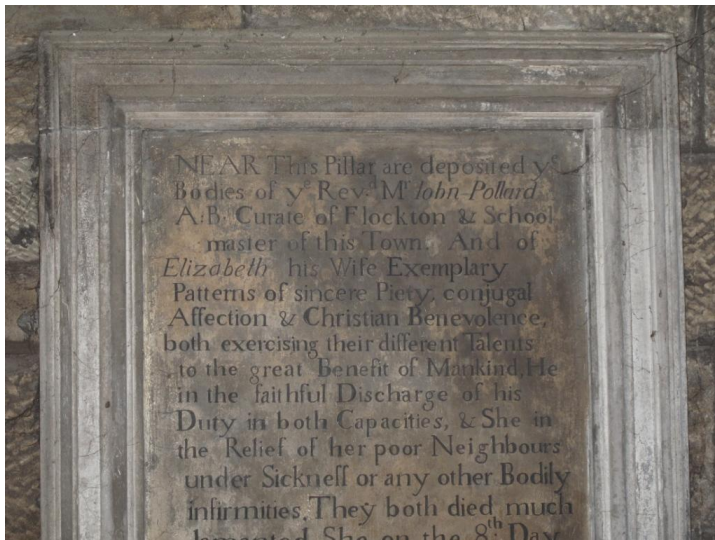
General view of the monument.

The inscription panel is heavily stained and disfigured but the lettering remains clearly legible and in good condition.

The limestone frame and corbels are also very dirty.

The corbels appear to have been pointed with a dark cement mortar not contemporary with the date of the memorial. This might indicate repair works or that it has been moved sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or later.

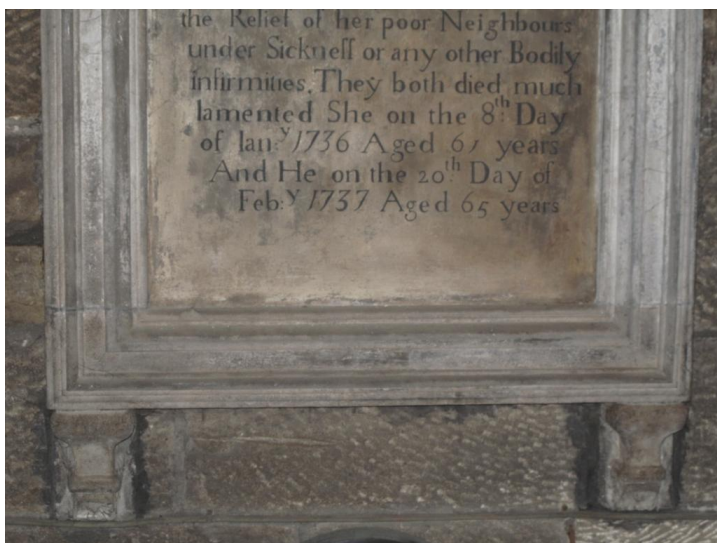
The top restraint was not established at the time of the survey but there was no indication of movement that gives cause for concern.



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Detail of the upper section of the inscription.





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Detail of the lower section of the inscription.

## **Monument number 7 – Rev. John Michell (1793) and his brother Gilbert Michell (1792).**

### **Location**

On the north wall of the tower; east side.

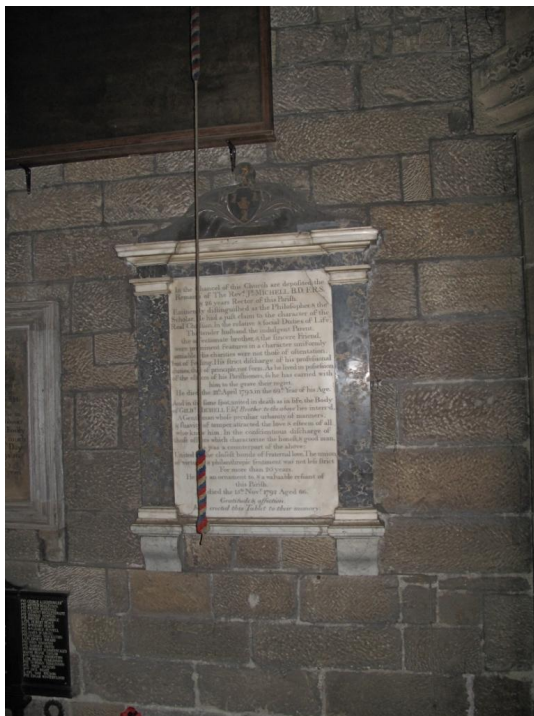


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### **Dimensions.**

1440mm by 185mm by 2250mm

### **Description.**



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A wall memorial consisting of two large corbels supporting pilasters forming a niche and supporting an entablature above which is a curved pediment with crest; between the pilasters is an inscription panel.

The memorial has been carved from Statuary Carrara marble, Carrara marble, Belgian black marble, and Black and gold marble.

The crest is painted and gilded.

The lettering of the inscription is incised and painted black

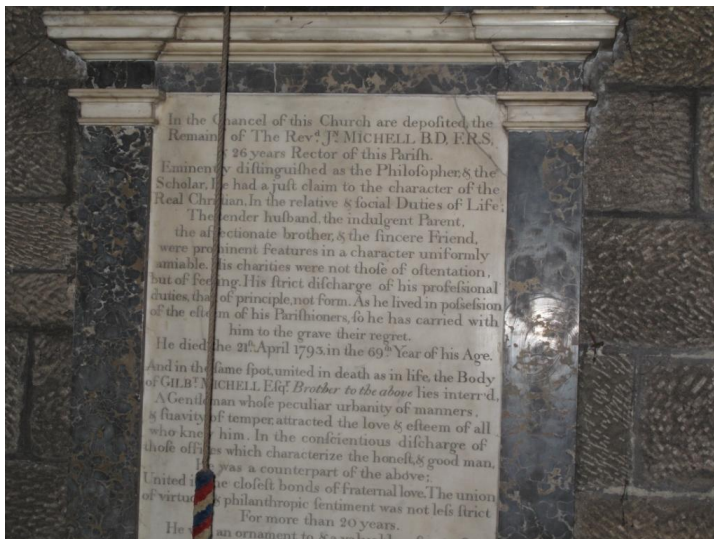




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The pediment and entablature.

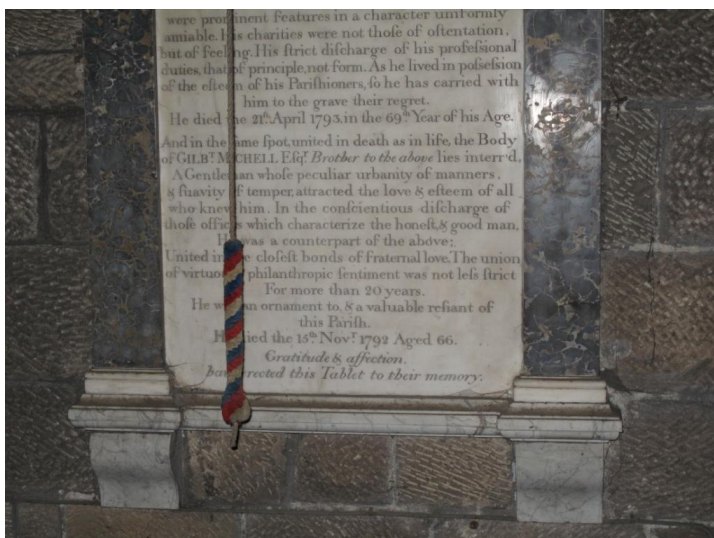
The surfaces of the memorial are cleaner and less stained than many of the others within the church. This raises a question as to why? Has this been brought into this location from some where else within the building where it was previously protected or was it even brought from another building?



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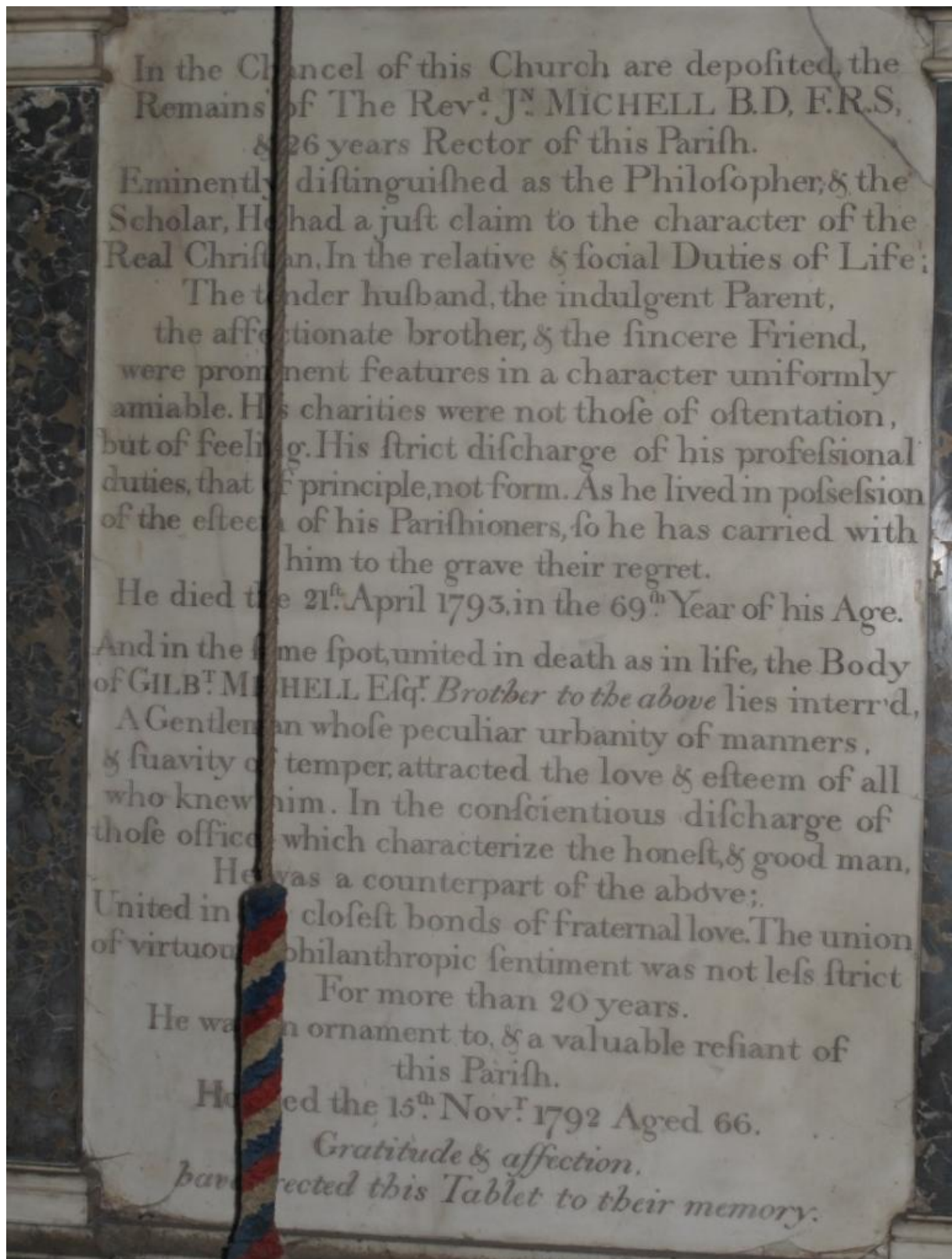
Upper section of the inscription panel.

Thorough cleaning may have been carried out but the lack of deep staining on the inscription panel for example is at variance with the adjacent and opposite memorials.



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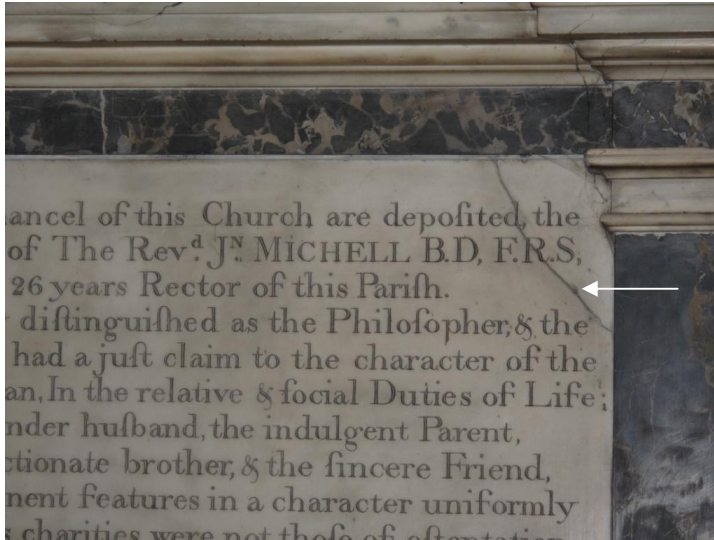
Lower section of the inscription.



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Record photograph of the inscription.





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The upper east corner of the inscription panel has been broken but the section remains firmly in place.



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Detail of the crest on which traces of paint and gilding can be seen.

## **Treatment Options.**

All the monuments should have detailed treatment record reports detailing the works carried out and containing recommendations for future monitoring and maintenance.

### ***Monument number 5 – Thomas Radcliffe Armigeri***

The monument is badly disfigured by the extremely dirty appearance and would greatly benefit from being cleaned. On site cleaning tests would be required to ascertain the appropriate method and level of cleaning.

The pointing and mortar around the frame should be checked and replaced with a suitable lime mortar if it is found to be too hard and potentially deleterious to the long term preservation of the monument.

The application of a micro crystalline wax coating following cleaning would be a sound measure for reducing the problem of dirt being absorbed by the surface in the future.

Where defective the pointing in the joints should be replaced. This should be based on the original pointing which is most likely to be plaster of Paris.

At the time of survey no indications of serious structural problems were noted and the memorial appears sound.

Scaffold would be required for the cleaning works and this would also enable more detailed inspection to locate and understand the existing fixings. This information should be brought into the maintenance recommendations of the treatment report and be used to assist in the future monitoring for signs of movement or corrosion within the cramps.



**Monument number 6 – John Pollard (1737) and his wife Elizabeth (1736).**

The memorial would benefit from cleaning.

Following cleaning the inscription panel would benefit from an application of micro-crystalline wax.

The surrounding frame should be checked for any friability and localised consolidated carried out if required using an acrylic emulsion. The frame should also be checked to ascertain if it has been coated - this is a reference to the general requirement in the church to investigate the possible use of coatings on limestone memorials relating to the treatment of the Sir George and Lady Anne Monument.

It should be monitored closely for signs of movement or corrosion within the cramps. In particular when a conservator is working within the church with suitable access the top restraint should be investigated and checked to ascertain that it remains in good condition.

The structural stability of the monument is a matter for ongoing monitoring with specific recommendations forming part of the maintenance section of the treatment report.

**Monument number 7 – Rev. John Michell (1793) and his brother Gilbert Michell (1792).**

The monument would benefit from cleaning of the surfaces to help restore the intended polychrome effect of the different marbles. On site trials would be undertaken in order to establish the appropriate method and level of clean.

The painted crest should be examined by a specialist and be examined closely to ascertain if it requires any consolidation to preserve it: If agreed consolidation should be carried out.

Following cleaning an application of micro-crystalline wax would be applied.

At the time of survey no serious structural concerns were noted but this should be checked properly when access is available. In particular the presence of metal cramps and fixings should be mapped and used for future monitoring.