

## **Church of St Michael and All Angels, Thornhill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire**

### **Monument to Sir George Savile dd 1622**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.2 This report was written at the request of the Rector, the Reverend Canon Lindsay Dew and the PCC of St Michael & All Angels Thornhill.
- 1.3 My visit to inspect the monument was made on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> October 2006
- 1.4 All photography included in the report was completed with the aid of a 35 mm SLR optical camera loaded with Fujifilm 200 colour print film.
- 1.5 Surface moisture readings were taken with a Protimeter Surveymaster SM instrument.
- 1.6 I am grateful for all assistance given by Canon Lindsay Dew and Mr Brian Pearson in the production of this report and especially for the information provided in the following paragraphs.
- 1.7 The rainwater disposal systems were replaced in 1999 and connected to the mains drainage, as part of a major restoration scheme. They are now in good order and regularly maintained.
- 1.8 The heating system was completed in 2005 at a cost of £40,000.00. The system retains the Victorian ducts and some radiators and the remainder of the “wet” system is similar to the original. As part of the ongoing maintenance of the fabric, the heating is constantly powered to a temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit
- 1.9 The following is a copy of the text of the list description of this grade 1 listed building (Church of St Michael & All Angels, Church Lane, Thornhill, listed 30/6/49).

Church. Perpendicular west tower, probably C15, though the base may be earlier. North chapel (Savile chapel) 1447 extended by one bay 1493. Chancel and South chapel 1490. Nave vestry and some restoration work 1877 by G. E. Street in Decorated style. Ashlar. Stone slate roofs with roll-top copings to parapets. 4-bay nave with clerestorey, north and south aisles, south porch, west tower. 3-bay chancel with clerestorey and north and south chapels, vestry added to east end of south chapel. Aisles are buttressed and have tall 2 and 3-light traceried windows. Gabled south porch has elaborate frieze to parapet carved with 8 angels and Christ in the apex. Moulded doorway with 3 engraved colonnettes with foliage capitals. Ribbed and vaulted internally. The square tower is in two tall stages with reducing diagonal buttresses. West door with moulded surround, west window probably C19. 8-light mullioned and transomed bell-chamber openings with 5-foiled lights and traceried heads crenellated parapet on corbel-brackets and 8 crocketed pinnacles. The north chapel east window is of 5 lights with cambered head. The tall chancel east window is much restored and of 6 lights. Both have Perpendicular tracery.

Interior: Important collection of monuments to the Savile family in the Savile chapel: long effigy of a cross-legged knight in chain-mail with shield and sword, has head under a canopy, the face restored, thought to be of Sir John de Thornhill (c. 1260-1322); a tomb chest with alabaster effigy to Sir Thomas Savile (d. 1449) and his wife, the chest is divided into 18 ogee-headed panels with weepers; an oak tomb chest, 1529, formerly under a four-poster canopy, with effigies to Sir John Savile (d.1503) and his two wives, Alice Vernon and Elizabeth Paston. The chest is panelled with elaborate quatrefoils; a large monument, between this chapel and the chancel, to Sir George Savile (d.1614) and his wife Anne, sister of Sir Thomas Wentworth. Paired columns to each side support a segmental arch with large achievement and figure to each side and to top. At the foot of this on the north side is the kneeling figure of their 2nd son, and on the chancel side a reclining figure of their 1st son, holding a book and a skull, who died whilst studying at Oxford; on the north side a dresser tomb to Sir George Savile (d.1622) attributed to Maximilian Colt, an alabaster effigy in armour with columns to left and right supporting an entablature with 2 cartouches, shield and crest, good detailing; in the north-east corner, a black marble sarcophagus on large square base, to Sir George Savile of Rufford (d.1743), signed by William Barlow. The back supports a pediment and has scrolled support; a small alabaster baby lying on its back and holding a basin for a font, to the 2nd Lord Savile (d.1931) by Amy Lewis. This was brought from Rufford Abbey in 1948.

In the south chapel are C18 wall memorials to the Elmsall family and, an empty tomb recess in the south wall.

At the base of the tower is a good mid C18 wall memorial, consisting of a cartouche with supporting cherubs, and a skull and wings at the base.

Much original glass survives. In the Savile chapel a window on the north side has the name Thome Savill and the date 1447 (restored 1972).

The east window of the chapel, a 'doom window' and very faded, has the name William Sayvile and the date 1493 (restored 1953). The chancel east window bears the tree of Jesse, and was donated by Robert Frost, parson, and is dated 1499. Considerably restored in the C19. Other windows have fragments of early glass. Set in the screen between the chancel and south chapel is a stained glass escutcheon of Phillip Waterhouse (d.1614) bearing the motto BEE FAST.

The chancel is arcaded on octagonal piers, with C19 oak screens. The nave is arcaded on clustered piers. North chapel roof is panelled and original. Excellent chancel roof of C.1877 with traceried panelling and cusped and traceried bracings to the 6 irregularly placed tie-beams each of which ends in a well carved angel. Nave roof is arched braced. Octagonal panelled stone font with oak ribbed and crocketed cover c.1866. Elaborate stone pulpit. Organ placed in north aisle c.1981.

N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England*, 1967.

B. Nuttall, *A History of Thornhill (inc. The Church of St. Michael & All Angels)*, 1970.