

## **Monument # 6 John Pollard † 1737 & Elizabeth Pollard † 1736**

### **The Works**

The wall mounted monument comprises of sandstone elements with a central inscription panel, it was cleaned using solvent and poultice to reduce accumulated dirt.

#### **1 Monument Description**

- 1.1 This simple monument comprises of a central, very lightly inscribed inscription panel surrounded by a moulded border, all of which is supported by a pair of load-bearing, foliated corbels. The inscription panel, is painted dark-brown with dark-grey paint within the lettering.

#### **2 Location**

- 2.1 The monument is located on the north elevation of the tower, closest to the corner. The bottom bed is 2.40m above the top step of finished floor level.

#### **3 Condition Assessment**

- 3.1 Once the fixed access scaffold was safely erected, a fingertip survey of all surfaces was possible. A photographic survey was undertaken before works commenced.
- 3.2 All architectural sections were solid with no signs of movement and or separation. Restraint fixings in the top bed were obscured by mortar, which was in a sound condition. It was assumed the fixings will be made from iron and there were no signs of iron staining in the aged but sound mortar, indicating that they were also in a sound condition. There was slight resonance in the inscription panel when banged with a clenched fist, although this is well held within the moulded border.
- 3.4 The sandstone border displays historic textural breakdown in the form of disaggregation, particularly to the upper horizontal moulding and both corbels. After vacuuming the whole monument, it became clear that this is not current or progressive, with the moulded elements (which have close contact with the ashlar behind unlike the inscription panel) and corbels having direct contact with the ashlar and with it the passage of moisture and soluble salts.
- 3.5 The inscription panel has been painted historically, probably to give the appearance of a more expensive material. Approximately 40 - 50% of that applied coating has been lost and what remains is stable and well adhered to the substrate. This would indicate the inscription has been re-painted at some point to make it more legible, although the materials did not appear to be modern when viewed under magnification.

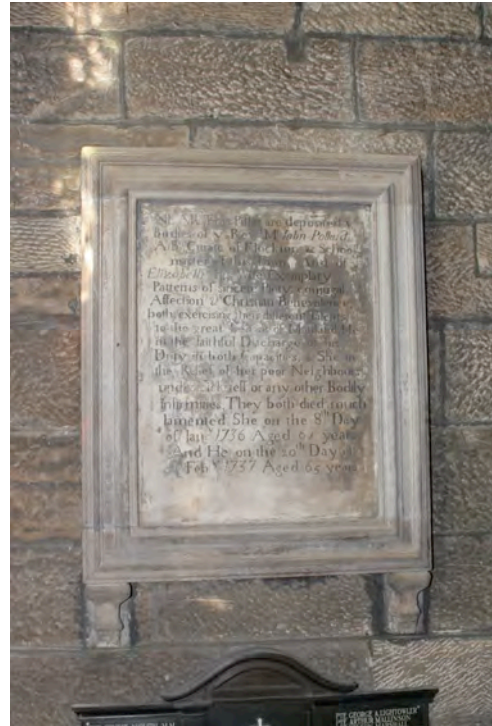
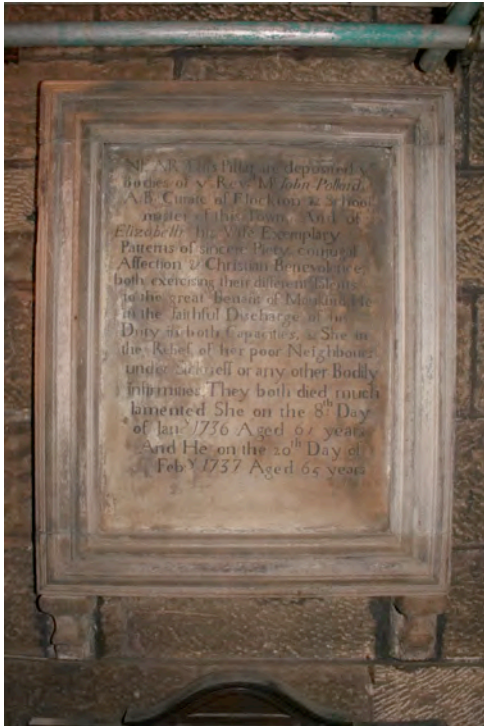
## **4 Conservation Works**

### **Cleaning**

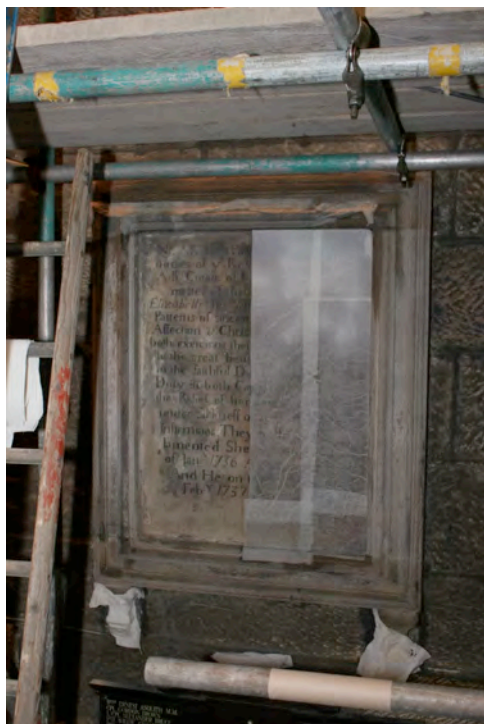
- 4.1 All elements underwent a preliminary dry clean with a vacuum cleaner to remove the heavy layers of dust especially from the top bed.
- 4.2 A series of cleaning and solubility trials were conducted on representative areas of the painted and un-painted surfaces, which were found to be non-fugative and non-soluble indicating an oil based material as opposed to a lime-based distemper or similar.
- 4.3 Detailed vacuuming removed much of the accumulated dirt/debris from the coarse-grained, pore structure of the sandstone.
- 4.4 Due to the historic deterioration of the sandstone and loss of case hardened original upper surface, low-pressure steam cleaning was discounted so as not to adversely affect the stone further. As the dirt was slightly greasy it was decided to use a 1% v/v solution of de-ionised water and Synperonic A7 (a non-ionic surfactant). This was applied by soft stencil brushes using two beakers, one for soiled water and one kept clean, so as not to re-distribute dirty water. The inscription panel was cleaned by painting on the same solution to un-bleached paper towelling on the surface, to keep the active ingredient in contact with the delicate surface but not to saturate the stone where the substrate was visible, therefore keeping water to a minimum. Small sections were peeled back and the revealed area cleaned with larger, softer bristle bristles, with the paper towelling collecting the soiled run-off.
- 4.5 The different cleaning techniques were successful in removing as much surface dirt as possible without saturating the stone unnecessarily or compromising the fragmentary painted remains.

## **5 Maintenance Considerations**

- 5.1 The stone did not warrant surface or even deep consolidation and this would not be necessary unless there was a marked deterioration in the integrity of the upper surfaces. This should be monitored on a quinquennial basis.



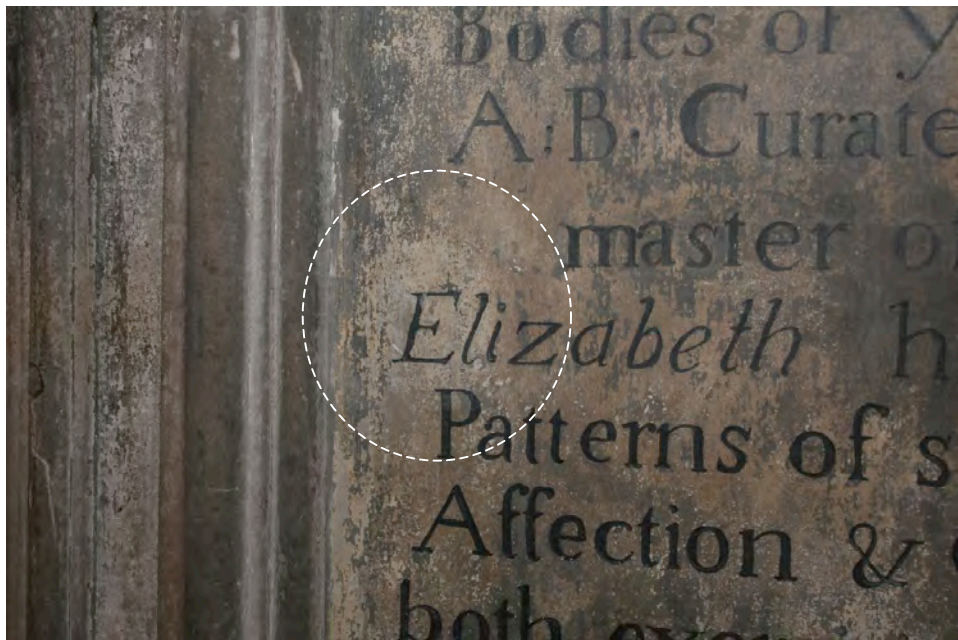
General views of the monument before and after conservation, showing the subtle level of cleaning achieved. Note the after image on the right was taken early afternoon with diffuse sunlight visible above, which later goes on to bath the inscription in direct sunlight. This will have had a negative impact on the surface over a prolonged period, with repeated heating/cooling cycles affecting the painted surfaces and possibly the reason why the stone was painted originally.



The left-hand image showing paper towelling in place, dampened with the cleaning solution, which keeps it at the surface, rather than saturating the stonework. The right-hand image shows the level of cleanliness achieved on the moulded border, with just the corbels left to clean.



The top bed of the monument showing the location of restraint fixings securing the top moulded element to the wall. Note the small air gap between the tooled walling and the rear surface of the moulding, which will have prevented penetrating moisture transferring into the inscription panel. Note there were no signs of iron staining or corrosion jacking from beneath the mortar so it was left.



Detail after a cleaning trial to the inscription panel, with the area highlighted illustrating the subtle level of cleaning achievable, without disrupting the painted flatwork or the inscription.