

Some monumental inscriptions from St Mary Church in Swinbrook, Oxfordshire

By Bob Kirby, 16 Sept 2007

1. *The Hatton Chest Tomb*

Type and Location: Large limestone chest tomb standing just to the south of the path on the southward side of the church. Panel inset on the south side being (rather unusually) in slate rather than local limestone.

Condition: Badly weathered, inscription on the eastern side is almost completely eroded away as is the west end of the northern side.

Text on the North Side (i.e. facing the path and church):

In memory of Thomas Hatton of Widdiford

Who died ** 1779 Aged 7[2, the numeral is badly eroded but under oblique lighting just discernable]

And his wife Elizabeth

*** died June 9 ****

Aged 77

Text on the South Side:

In memory of John Hatton

(late of Widford)

who died March 6th 1811

Aged 61 Years

Also the wife of the above

Who died ** **** 183* [possibly 1830]

Aged 7* [character is rounded and could be 0,6, or 9, church records say 70] Years

Thomas Hatton Son of

Sarah and John Hatton

Text on the East Side:

1st line may possibly be 'George Hatton'. Nothing else could be deciphered with the equipment and lighting available at the time of the visit.

2. *The Killmaster Chest Tomb*

Type and Location: Large limestone chest tomb standing just to the south of the path on the southward side of the church.

Condition: Badly weathered

Text on the North Side (i.e. facing the path and church):

In memory of

Richard Killmaster

Who died ** **** 1799 [this looks like 1700 but the adjacent tomb of Richard KILLMASTER, born abt 1760, identifies this as his father's tomb, see next entry]

Aged 6* [probably 9 but looks like 0] Years

And of Sarah his Wife

Who died April 17** [probably 98 but looks like 08]

Text on the West Side:

In Sacred memory of
William the Son of
Richard Killmaster
Who died Feb 1770
Aged 8*

3. The Killmaster Slab Tomb

Type and Location: Large limestone horizontal slab tomb lying just to the south of the Killmaster Chest Tomb

Condition: Deep inscription but heavily weathered

Text:

Sacred to the memory of
Richard Killmaster
And Ann his Wife
She died Jun 14th 1825
Aged 70 Years
He died June 18th 1830
In the 70th year of his age
The eldest Son of Richard
And Sarah Killmaster whose remains
** body ***** adjoining tomb

4. The Killmaster Headstone

Type and Location: A large vertical, sandstone?, headstone lying just to the south east of the Hatton Chest Tomb

Condition: Surface spalling badly in parts but where it is not then the inscription is very clear

Text:

Here are deposited the mortal
Remains of
John Killmaster
Of PAYNES Farm
Who died this day
April 6 1856
Aged 25 Years

Also
Charlotte Morris
His wife
Who died August 6th 1890
Aged 61 Years

5. The Secker Headstone

Type and Location: To the east of the church

Condition: Reasonable

Text:

In loving memory of my dear wife
Rose Edwards Secker
Who died Dec 27th 1945

Aged 79 Years
Also
Hubert Henry Secker
Died Feb 20th 1952
Aged 89 Years

6. *The Kempster headstone*

Type and Location: To the east of the church, near the path and to the east of it.

Condition: Poor (appeared to be a very old headstone)

Text:

Chris Kempster

November ****

Aged 65 Years