

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Rural Deanery of Bitton

by M. E. Bagnall-Oakley
1902, Vol. 25, 170-181

© The Society and the Author(s)

- (b) Figure of infant boy, reclining; perfect.
- (c) Figure of infant; headless.
- (d) Trunk of large recumbent figure, with folded hands; head and lower part gone, dress perfect.
- (e) Female head, with wimple, nearly life size: does not fit (d).

RURAL DEANERY OF BITTON.

By M. E. B. OAKELEY.

Deanery—BITTON.

Parish—PUCKLECHURCH.

Church of St. Thomas à Becket.

Date of visit, &c.—W. E. B. May 18, 1901.

I.

1. (4) Merchant. (Plate.)
2. Recumbent effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Life-size; head rather large, well carved.
5. Recumbent figure, hands together: wears a long robe, with tight sleeves ending below the wrist, and a wrist-band also tight and buttoned. A tippet over the shoulders comes down between shoulders and elbows. In left of the robe is a slit, through which is a cord fastened to a purse. The eyes are open, the hair long and hanging down on each side of the face. A slight moustache and short beard; the upper and lower lips are either partly shaved, or do not grow much hair.
6. Cushion, with knobs at corners, and laid crossways on another cushion.

Supporting angels are at each side.

7. Dog.

8. The figure rests under a flat-topped canopy, with

flat ogee arches at each side; a battlemented and recessed moulding runs round under the edge of the top.

11. The hands are broken, and the angel on the left much broken; the angel on the right has arm broken.

12. Under the east arch, between nave and east end of north aisle. Part of the canopy was in the churchyard before the restoration of the church.

14. Figure pretty fair. Canopy cut away at west end of north side.

II.

1. (6) Lady.

2. Recumbent effigy.

3. Stone.

4. Life.

5. The dress is long, and full at the feet, fitting tightly to the body, with tight sleeves; two loops seem to come from the shoulders, falling below the waist and brought back under the arms. A cloak hangs from the shoulders, with a belt seen round the waist. In the bend of the left elbow, close to the body, is a fold of dress pulled up. Wears veil and wimple; across the forehead is a plait of hair.

6. Pillow, higher on right than left side.

7. Dog. Fore part raised, with head looking back at the figure.

8. The figure rests, leaning rather to its left, under a canopy, like the other tomb, but in better order. Above the flat top rises round the window, under which is tomb, a high ogee canopy. It runs up into pinnacles at each side, with a higher one in the middle, and has a small quatrefoil ornament along the moulding.

11. Hands gone; edge of plinth broken; face a good deal obliterated.

12. Under the easternmost window of the north wall of north aisle.

14. A wash of thin cement seems to have been brushed over the figure and lower canopy.

This figure looks as if it had been exposed to the

weather. Is it the one referred to by Miss Swaine in her paper? (*B. & G. Transactions*, vol. iii., p. 35.)

Both these figures are described in the *Transactions*, vol. xxiii., pp. 69, 70.

Deanery—BITTON.

Parish—DYRHAM. Church of St. Peter.

Date of visit, &c.—W. E. B. May, 1901.

I.

1. (2) Knight.

2. Effigy.

3. Stone.

4. A little under life.

5. He wears cuisses, genouilleres, jambes, round-toed, articulated solerets, breast-plate, plates over shoulders, skirt of aces, engraved brassarts, ornamented elbow-joints, a ruff. His hands in articulated gauntlets, rowel spurs with square buckle. Sword has a cross hilt, the scabbard is ornamented, and hangs by ornamented strap from belt, which is fastened by square buckle. He has a trimmed beard and short hair. Hands together.

6. Helmet.

7. Lion.

5. The wife, on her husband's right, has her head on elaborate cushion and her feet on a dog with a collar. Hands together. She wears shoes and an embroidered under-skirt, which a quilted (?) over-gown is turned back to show open from the waist, where it is tied in with a scarf. Sleeves tight and ornamented, small ruffles at wrist. She wears a ruff, and her cap is rather peaked in front, with back turned over head (Paris head). She wears a ring on little finger of right hand, and one on forefinger of left.

8. The tomb is a large one under a canopy, supported by solid masonry on east and south, open under round arch on west and two round arches on north. Length, 8 ft.; width, 4 ft. 8 ins.; height from floor to slab on which figures rest, 2 ft. 4 ins.; height to top of canopy, about 10 ft. 6 ins.

In south wall are three small openings and two carvings of weepers in bas-relief. The canopy has columns fluted in upper half at corners, and between arches on north carving in spandrels, and a rich interlaced frieze and open-work balustrade above it. In middle of north side, coat of arms. Wynter and Brain, at west side Wynter arms.

Winter Shield—Dyrham Church: "(Sable) on a fess, and in chief a crescent ermine, one of the last for difference argent"—Wynter: impaling quarterly 1 & 4, "(Sable, may be azure) on a fess between three bugle horns stringed (argent) a hemple hackle (gules)." 2 "(? Sable) on a cross (or) an oak slip of three acorns (vert.)," *query* Doyngell. 3 "(Azure) six plates 3, 2, 1, on a chief (argent) a lion rampant (of the field)"—Degon or Digus. Bigland read 2 and 3 wrong.

The weepers on south side are, to left, four men: the first three in armour kneeling on cushions, with their helmets at their side, the last a boy in long dress: all wear ruffs. To right, seven female figures; three of them have head-dresses with veils (?) hanging out behind, and all wear ruffs.

The tinctures are not indicated except the ermine, and the crescents for difference are most likely proper instead of argent.

9. On east wall: "Georgio Wynteri armigeri. (qui animam efflavit XXIX. die Novembris Anō Dmī 1581) Anna Wynter uxor pia charo conjugii hoc monumentum posuit. Statuens, cum et ipsa Dei jussu vitæ hujus stationem peregerit hic juxta mariti funus suum quoque reponi. Ut quibus vivis unus erat animus, eisdem et mortuis, unus esset corporum quiescendi locus, sub spe futuræ Resurrectionis."

On the ornamental slab on which the figures rest, along the edge, is: "Psal. 33. Redimet Dominus animas servorum suorum."

Round the side of the lower part of tomb in and out round some of columns, and between them, are: "Mole . sub . hac . placidam . capiunt . en . membra . Georgi . Wynteri . requiem . duos . persæpe labores . Qui . solida . in . terra . qui . flucti-

vagantibus . undis. Et . pace innocua . simul . et . pagna-
cibus . annis . Sustinuit . patriæ . du . publica . munia gessit.

“Anna . fuit . quondam . hæc . illi fidissima . conjux
undenas . thalami sobole . tulit . ista . viriles quatuor et
septem . generoso . stemate . natas.”

12. At east end of south aisle. It was possibly moved
from a position a little further west.

14. General condition good.

15. George Wynter bought Dyrham from Sir Walter
Dennys. G. W. was brother of Sir William Wynter, of
Lydney, who was Vice-Admiral at the Armada.

Deanery—BITTON.

Parish—IRON ACTON.

Church of St. James the Less.

Date of visit, &c.—W. E. B. June 21, 1901.

I.

1. (2) Knight.
2. Effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Life.
5. High helmet and camail, overlapping plates on
shoulders, gauntlets.
8. Upper part of figure; wears moustache, hands folded;
part of a recumbent effigy.
12. It is let into socket on pillar projecting from
north parapet of tower, and stands above parapet.
9. About Edward III. from dress.
11. Only upper half of body.
13. Mentioned vol. iv., p. 84, *B. & G. A. S.*
14. Much weathered.

II.

1. (6) Lady.
2. Incised slab.
3. Stone.

4. Life.

5. Wears a dress with tight-fitting body, low in neck, laced from hands to waist, skirt full, sleeves tight. Reticulated head-dress.

8. Inscription runs round slab in a border.

9. "Here lyth Anne, the firste wife of Roberd Poyntz, of whos sowle God have mercy. Amen."

Date before 1420, as her husband died that year and she was first wife.

12. East of south aisle, Poyntz Chapel.

13. Mentioned vol. iv., p. 81, *B. & G. A. S.*

14. Much worn.

III.

1. (6) Lady.

2. Effigy.

3. Stone.

4. Life.

5. Long dress, rather full: it is caught up in the bends of elbows. Reticulated head-dress, with veil.

6. Cushion.

7. Beast.

8. Figure rests on floor: the hands are folded and hold something larger than that which the other figure does.

9. Possibly a little later than the Knight.

11. Beast's head, much worn; also features of effigy.

12. South side of chancel, said formerly to have been standing against east wall of Poyntz Chapel, south aisle.

13. Described slightly vol. iv., p. 83, *B. & G. A. S.*

14. The whole much worn.

IV.

1. (2) Knight.

2. Incised slab.

3. Stone.

4. Rather under life; slab, 6 ft. 6 ins.

5. Figure wears helmet; body in plate, with skirt of

traces; gorget with slight trace of mail (?); round shoulder pieces, brassarts on arms, gauntlets with pointed cuffs; legs in plate, genouilliers not large, with band or strap going round leg; solerets of plate.

7. Dog.
8. Inscription runs round slab in a border.
11. Been broken across in two places.
12. East of south aisle, Poyntz Chapel.
13. Mentioned vol. iv., pp. 81-82, *B. & G. A. S.*
14. Face, left shoulder, arm, and part of leg, much worn away.
15. Stepyl in inscription may be the preaching cross. Vol. iv., pp. 81-82, *B. & G. A. S.*

9. "Here lyth Robert Poyntz, Lord of Iren Acton and thys stepyl maked, who deyde the fyftene day of Junne, the year of owre Lord MCCCCXX., of whos sowle God have mercy. Amen."

V.

1. (2) Knight.
2. Effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Life-figure, about 5 ft. 6 ins.
5. Wears high basinet, camail, hauberk of mail showing at armholes coming below jupon; arms covered by brassarts of plate (?) with elbow-pieces having a band inside; epaulières; the legs seem to be in mail with genouilliers. The sword-belt is low on the hips, and in front of it hangs either the end of the belt or a broken poinard; hands in gauntlets; rowel spurs on feet.

The figure is like that of Thomas, third Lord Berkeley, 1361. *B. & G. A. S. Transactions*, vol. xv., pl. 6.

6. Helmet slightly cut away.
7. Beast; head gone, tail broken.
8. Figure rests on floor; the hands are folded over breast, and appear to hold something. (heart (?).)
9. Reign of Edward III., possibly Sir John Poyntz (vol. iv., p. 83, *B. & G. A. S. Transactions*).

11. Most of sword is gone; the toes of right foot worn away; little fingers gone.
12. South side of chancel, formerly said to have been standing against east wall of Poyntz Chapel, south aisle.
13. Described slightly, vol. iv., p. 83, *B. & G. A. S. Transactions*.
14. Whole much worn.

Deanery—BITTON.

Parish—MARSHFIELD.

Church of St. Mary.

Date of visit, &c.—W.E.B. June 8, 1901.

1. (6) Lady.
2. Effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Life.
5. So much worn and obliterated as to make description very difficult.

It may be a figure with hair puffed out at the sides; or with a couvre chef falling at each side.

Some trace of mantle, and of the place where the dress or robe ends, about seven or eight inches above feet.

6. Large cushion or pillow.
7. A lump which may be dog, but impossible to say.
8. The figure is recumbent: hands seem to have been folded.
9. It has been suggested it might have been the effigy of an abbess (?). It seems earlier than end of 15th century.

11. Face and head almost worn away: hands gone, and lower part of arms and the feet also: the whole figure blurred and worn.

12. South side of church, a little west of south door; possibly formerly in small chapel on south of south aisle.

14. The whole so much worn as to be hardly describable.

15. Atkyns says that Marshfield was connected with Keynsham Abbey: he also says, "The Abbey of Tewkesbury hath presented to this Church."

Deanery—BITTON.

Parish—BITTON. Church of St. Mary.

Date of visit, &c.—W. E. B. May 16, 1901.

I.

1. (3c) Canon or chantry priest or prebendary of the church. (*Ellacombe's History of Bitton.*)
2. Effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Diminutive.
5. Surplice long, just showing feet; almuce (hood is up like a cowl); cope hood loosely round neck; almuce ends show wide in front.
6. Cushion.
8. About 3 ft. 8 ins. long.
11. Face and hands rather worn.
12. Chapel on north of nave, which is possibly Lady Chapel.
13. *Ellacombe's History of Bitton*, pp. 33-34; *B. & G. A. S. Transactions*, vol. ix, p. 69.
14. Somewhat worn.

II.

1. (3c) Canon, called chantry priest or prebendary of the church, in *Ellacombe's History of Bitton.*
2. Effigy.
3. Stone.
4. Diminutive.
5. Dressed in surplice short enough to show feet, which are in shoes; almuce; collar flat on shoulders (ends hang down); cope, the hood of which lies on pillow. Cassock visible at wrists.
6. Cushion or pillow, resting crossways on an oblong pillow.
7. Dog (?)
8. The effigy is about 3 ft. 6 ins. long.

11. Face, and hands indistinct.
12. Chapel or north of nave, which is possibly Lady Chapel.
13. Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*, pp. 33-34; *B. & G. A. S. Transactions*, vol. ix., p. 69.
14. A good deal worn and some of the shapeness gone.

III.

1. (3 a) Ecclesiastic.
2. Effigy
3. Stone.
4. A little under life size.
5. Sandals.
Alb.
Stole.
Tunic.
Chasuble.
? Looks like Pall.
11. Only the lower part of figure, broken off just below the knees.
12. Chantry Chapel, found among the fillings-up of hagioscope on south side of chancel arch.
13. Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*, p. 9.
14. Pretty good condition.

IV.

1. (2) Knight.
2. Semi-effigial slab.
3. Stone.
4. Nearly life size.
5. A fragment of effigy, giving part of left leg clothed in chain mail and part of surcoat showing, with sword belt; the left hand holds sword. There is a kind of genouilliere, somewhat shaped to the knee.
11. Only part of figure.
12. Chantry Chapel; the fragments were found built in the western wall.
13. Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*, pp. 36-37.

V.

1. (6) Lady.
2. Effigy.
3. Stone (?).
4. A little under life.
5. Late 13th century.
A veil over the head, with band round it.
9. Possibly Petronilla de Vivon, 1286. See *History of Bitton*, p. 37.
11. Only head and upper part of slab.
12. Chantry Chapel or Lady Chapel.
13. *History of Bitton* (Ellacombe), pp. 36-37.

VI.

1. (2) Knight.
2. Effigy.
3. Purbeck.
4. Above life size.
5. The figure is in rather low relief, with some of the work incised, completely clothed in suit of chain mail, wearing a surcoat; the sword lies on the breast from right shoulder over the left thigh, the pomel projects above the shield, which carries a fess, (the coat is said to be Ermine, a fess gules), he wears prick spur. Very short.
6. Cushion.
7. Dog.
8. Slab about 6 ft. 8 ins. The shield is believed to be coat of the de Buttons.
12. Against wall of vestibule of Chantry Chapel, found a few inches below surface of ground on south side of the Church in 1826, where was believed to have been a Mortuary Chapel.
13. *History of Bitton* (Ellacombe), pp. 8, 35-36.
14. Broken across: surface getting tender in places.
15. Supposed to be Robert de Button: lived in reign of Henry III., father of Thomas de Button, Bishop of Exeter.

VII.

1. (6) Lady.
 2. Slab, with head.
 3. Purbeck, I think.
 4. About 6 ft. 4 ins. long.
 5. Hair hanging down side of face. Two ornaments at each side of forehead.
 8. Coffin lid. Slab narrows to base. Double moulding, with inscription between; a floriated cross on tall shaft with stepped foot (head is above the cross).
 9. Em. mote : De : Hastings : gist : ici : Deus : Saal : me : eit : merci :
 11. Features of face obliterated.
 12. Chantry Chapel or Lady Chapel (?) against north wall, found, like Robert de Button's effigy, under surface on south side, 1826.
 13. Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*, pp. 8, 35, 36.
-