

## MONUMENTAL BRASSES FORMERLY IN GREAT MARLOW CHURCH.

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In response to Mr. A. H. Cocks' request to supply an omission in his paper on "The Intra-mural Monuments and other Inscriptions of Great Marlow Church" (1), it gives me much pleasure to contribute the following notes on the brasses formerly in this church.

The shameful neglect which, when the church was pulled down in 1832, allowed the workmen to sell the brasses for old metal, has deprived Great Marlow of three of the most interesting examples in the County, one of which was also unique, no similar brass or case-metal having been noticed elsewhere. Fortunately, as Mr. Cocks remarks in his paper, impressions of two of the finest of the brasses are preserved in the British Museum, whilst in the great collection of rubbings given by the late Sir A. Wollaston Franks to the Society of Antiquaries are not only rubbings of these two, but of a third fine brass and of some less important inscriptions and fragments. From these impressions and rubbings the following descriptions have been taken and the accompanying illustrations prepared. The writer desires to express his gratitude to Messrs. A. H. Cocks, M.A., G. E. Fox, F.S.A., W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., and J. Challenor Smith, F.S.A., for the kind and ever-ready assistance rendered to him in the preparation of these notes.

### I.

THE CHILDREN OF SIR JOHN AND DAME JOAN SALESBURY,  
1388.

The total loss of this interesting and unique memorial is greatly to be deplored. Langley (2) states the stone

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(1). *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Vol. VIII., pp. 162-203.

(2). *History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Desborough*, by the Rev. Thomas Langley, Lond., 1797, p. 133.

to have been in the chancel, but gives a poor and inaccurate account of the brass. The composition, which measured 5 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 8 inches, originally consisted of a large figure of Our Lord rising from His Tomb, with the figures of angels at the sides. This filled the upper half of the stone. In the lower half were the kneeling figures of the four sons of Sir John Salesbury, each with a scroll from his hands, and below the eldest boy a small shield of arms. The whole was enclosed by a marginal inscription with the symbols of the four Evangelists at the corners.

The impressions and rubbings preserve everything with the exception of the tomb and figure of Our Lord, and three of the symbols of the Evangelists. The various pieces may now be considered in detail.

The casement or indent for the tomb and figure of Our Lord is clearly shown on one of the rubbings in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. From this it appears the tomb was an oblong, about 24 by 12 inches, from which Our Lord was probably represented as stepping. His figure, the upper part being about 18 inches in height, has the head nimbed, and carries a banner in the left hand. On each side of Our Lord is the figure of an angel vested in an albe, one hand pointing to the children below and the other holding a scroll, that on the right-hand side reading

**Coītes sīnt quatuor īstī**

*(Comites sint quatuor isti) ;*

and that on the left

**Surgentis xpī**

*(Surgentis Christi).*

The four sons, William, John, Louis, and John, are represented kneeling, with faces upturned and hands raised in prayer, the prayers being on scrolls which they hold in their fingers. The figures vary in size, the two on the left hand being respectively 15½ and 17½ inches in height, and the two on the right 16 and 14 inches. All are dressed alike in loose tunics with

close-fitting sleeves, and have long, curly hair. The scrolls respectively read, beginning at the left hand:

**Surg'e fac rpe tibi q<sup>os</sup> opit lapis iste.**

*(Surgere fac Christe tibi quos operit lapis iste.)*

**Ⓞ victor mortis nri miserer' cohortis.**

*(O victor mortis nostri miserere cohortis.)*

**Qui surgis ve' pces nobis miserere.**

*(Qui surgis vere parcens nobis miserere.)*

**Qui supas mortes fac nos ti scade' fortes.**

*(Qui superas mortes fac nos tibi scandere fortes.)*

It will be noticed that all these scrolls refer to the Resurrection, leaving no doubt as to the nature of the plate above, even if no other record remained. These children, as the inscription quaintly records, died in the months of September and October in the years 1383 and 1388. The largest figure, under which is the shield bearing the Salesbury arms, (*Az.*) *billey* and a *griffin segreant* (or), with a label of three points . . ., is undoubtedly the eldest son William, and the small figure on the left may be the first John, whilst the other two are probably Louis and the second John.

The marginal inscription, originally with the symbols of the Evangelists at the corners, but only that of St. Matthew remaining, reads thus:

**✠ Hic iacent Will's Johes Lodovic' ; Johes  
fili legiti Dni Johis Salesbury militis Regis  
Rici secudi ; Dne Johē Aroris predicti Johis  
qui obierūt annis dñi Anno CCCmo Lxxiii<sup>o</sup>  
; viii<sup>to</sup> mensibus Septemb' ; Octob' quor'  
aiab; ppiciet' deus amen.**

In addition to the curious method of expressing the date of death, this inscription contains the unusual phrases of "fili legitimi" and "miles regis." The attainer of the father explains the former, and in the



Patent Rolls, &c., Sir John is constantly referred to, first as the King's Esquire and subsequently as the King's Knight. It may also be remarked that the right-hand strip of the inscription faces outwards, rather suggestive that at some time or other the slab may have been against a south wall, possibly on a high tomb, and the strip was turned outwards for convenience of reading.

The most perfect rubbing extant is one in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries taken in 1804, and from which the accompanying illustration<sup>(1)</sup> has been prepared from drawings and tracings made by Mr. G. E. Fox, F.S.A., and Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., to whom the writer desires to express his obligations. The Society has a second rubbing, but imperfect and undated. There is an impression, also imperfect, in the Craven Ord collection in the British Museum (Add. MS. 32, 478, fol. 17).

Sir John Salesbury was in high favour with King Richard II., and some interesting details of his career can be gleaned from the public records. His connexion with Marlow appears to have commenced in 1376, when Edward III. granted to him by letters patent the custody of the manor of Great Marlow during the minority of the son and heir of Edward, Lord Despencer, at a rent of £57 17s. yearly.<sup>(2)</sup> In 1378 (1 Ric. II.) this grant was confirmed, he being termed "esquire of the late King."<sup>(3)</sup> In several grants and licences issued between 1381 and 1384 he is styled "King's esquire"<sup>(4)</sup>, and in 1385 "usher of the chamber."<sup>(5)</sup> On Sept. 10, 1385, he had a grant for life, in which he is styled "usher of the chamber," of £40 yearly from the issues of the manor of Bensingon, &c.<sup>(6)</sup> This, however, was vacated by surrender and cancelled because on Oct. 31 the King granted to him for life, from the date of the

(1). The brass has been figured in the *Portfolio of the Monumental Brass Society*, pt. VII., pl. 2, but imperfectly, a missing sheet of the rubbing having been found since this illustration was prepared and published.

(2). *Abbreuatio Rotulorum Originalium*, Vol. II., p. 342.

(3). *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Record Office Series, Richard II., 1377-81, p. 242.

(4). *Ibid.*, p. 603, and 1381-85., pp. 91, 178, 400

(5). *Ibid.*, 1381-85, pp. 517, 575.

(6). *Ibid.*, 1385-89, p. 15.

King's mother's death, the manor of Bensington, and the hundred of Bensington, Warburgh, and Shilingford, parcel of the honor of Wallingford, in the county of Oxford, to the yearly value of £40, he accounting for any surplus value to the King's ministers of that honor; of the said manor and that of Nettlebed with the courts and liberties thereof, and the said hundred without rendering aught therefor; in consideration of his having taken the order of Knighthood when the King first displayed his standard and to aid him to support his rank.<sup>(1)</sup> In 1386 there was a further confirmation with the assent of the Council of the manor of Great Marlow with the addition of the advowson thereof.<sup>(2)</sup>

This is the last recorded grant, for in this year the commission of regency was appointed for the term of one year at the instigation of the Duke of Gloucester, and the King was powerless. In the following year the King consulted the judges upon the legality of the commission, and they declared that Parliament might not put the King in tutelage. Richard prepared to prevent by force the renewal of the commission, but was opposed and defeated by Gloucester and others, who, in the Parliament of 1388, sometimes called the "Wonderful" and sometimes the "Merciless" Parliament, impeached the King's principal adherents. Amongst others Sir Simon Burley, Sir John Beauchamp of Holt, Sir John Salesbury, and Sir James Berners were impeached in sixteen articles as traitors and enemies of the kingdom. They were found guilty, and sentenced to be drawn and hanged, their lands, tenements, &c., to be forfeited to the King.<sup>(3)</sup> Sir Simon Burley and Sir John Beauchamp were beheaded. Sir John Salesbury and Sir James Berners were hanged, as is thus recorded by the chronicler Walsingham: "Johannes Salesbury et Jacobus Berneys, ambo milites, ambo juvenes, sed ambo proditores, tracti sunt, parliamenti judicio, et suspensi."<sup>(4)</sup> In the following year

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(1). *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Record Office Series, Richard II., 1385-89, p. 41.

(2). *Ibid.*, p. 126.

(3). *Rolls of Parliament* (1388, 11 Ric. II.), Vol. III., p. 241.

(4). Walsingham's *Historia Anglicana*, Vol. II., p. 174. *Rolls Series Chronicles and Memorials*.

Sanctificator  
firmis  
hominis  
cus  
Platinatus  
epi  
dignis  
predicare  
lib



primo  
dilecti  
vita  
Johannes  
Warner  
Rectoris  
Mar

1421

Scale 0 | Face

JOHN WARNER, RECTOR, 1421.  
FORMERLY AT GREAT MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

*About one-eighth full size.*

the King granted to Nicholas Salesbury, clerk, in fee, the manors, lands, and tenements in Bucks. and Berks. which were held of Sir John Salesbury, Knight. (1) Finally, in 22 Ric. II., there is a proclamation revoking judgment against John de Salesbury and others. (2)

The maiden name of Sir John Salesbury's wife is unknown, but to her piety and maternal affection we are doubtless indebted for the curious brass.

## II.

## JOHN WARNER, RECTOR, 1421.

A fine figure of a priest, 33 inches in height, in mass vestments, viz., cassock, the sleeves of which just appear at the wrists, albe, stole, plain chasuble, maniple and amice. The apparels of the amice and albe are ornamented with large, bold flowers, and the maniple and stole with dots enclosed in circles. An excellent example of the best period of brass engraving, the vestments hanging gracefully and shading being but little employed. A very similar figure, possibly from the same workshop, occurs at Great Bromley, Essex, to William Byschopton, rector, who died in 1432. (3)

The marginal inscription is unfortunately imperfect, three strips alone remaining. These read as follows:—

. . . . . primo discessit vita Joh<sup>n</sup>is  
 Warner Rectoris merl . . . . . sanctis  
 sanctificandi Quod sibi prestare digneris  
 rpe creator' Plasmatis eius hominis eternus  
 sanctificator.

Langley, p. 134, gives the word "Merlawe" as complete.

The illustration (4) is taken from the impression in the Craven Ord collection in the British Museum (Add.

(1). Cal. Rot. Pat., p. 219.

(2). *Rolls of Parliament* (1399, 22 Ric. II.), Vol. III., p. 411.

(3). Engraved in the Rev. C. Bontell's *Series of Monumental Brasses* (two plates), and in the *Essex Review*, Vol. V., p. 214.

(4). Originally published in the *Portfolio of the Monumental Brass Society*, Part IX., pl. 3.



MS. 32, 478, fol. 32), the only one which preserves the inscription. In the collection of the Society of Antiquaries are two rubbings of the figures, one taken in 1804; the other undated, but no copy of the inscription.

John Warner was apparently appointed rector on the resignation of Nicholas Salesbury, and, dying in 1421, was succeeded by John Cambus on April 4 in that year.

### III.

#### TWO PRIESTS, c. 1430—40.

Effigies of two priests in mass vestments, each 18 inches in height. Scrolls from mouths and foot inscription lost. Both are vested alike in cassock, albe, stole, plain chasuble, maniple, and amice, a slight variation in the ornamentation of the apparels being the only difference. Langley, p. 134, notes the figures as then in the chancel, and says: "From the right

proceeds this label:—**Credo quod redemptor meus vivit**; from the left, **Credo videre bona domini**; and formerly this broken inscription:  
**Orate . . . . us olim rectoris huius ecclesie et domini Johannis . . . . de Bustleham qui obiit xiiii Feb . . . .**  
**. . . . quorum animabus**  
**. . . .**

Probably John Campus, who died in 1438, and had a relation a monk of Bisham."

There are two rubbings of the figures in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries, one dated 1804, the other undated. From these the accompanying illustration has been prepared by Mr. C. J. Praetorius, F.S.A. There is no rubbing in the British Museum collection. One of the figures may possibly represent John Cambus, who was instituted rector of Great Marlow in 1421, and died in 1438. The other may have represented his brother or some other relative who was vicar of Bisham, but not, as Langley suggests, a "monk" of that house. Pairs of priests are very unusual, one example, two brothers in mass vestments,



TWO PRIESTS, C. 1430-40.

FORMERLY AT GREAT MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

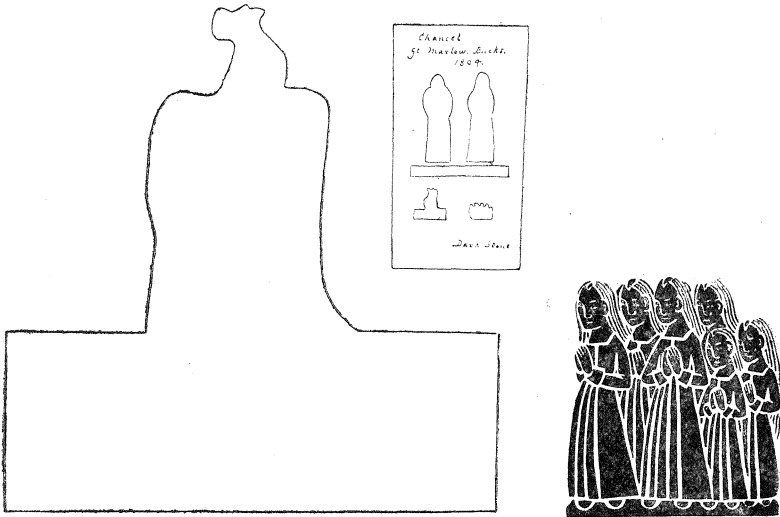
*About one-fifth full size.*

occurs at Dronfield, in Derbyshire, to Thomas and Richard Gomfrey, 1399, one being rector of Dronfield, the other of Tatenhull. In the chapel of Merton College, Oxford, are two figures in academical dress, one being John Bloxham, warden of the College, and the other John Whytton, rector of Wodeton; date of brass, c. 1420.

## IV.

## SIX DAUGHTERS, C. 1500.

A group of six daughters,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches, each with long hair and wearing the usual close-fitting gown of this period. A portion of a brass formerly in the chancel, and thus described by Langley, p. 134: "An ancient stone, and on brass, two figures, a man and a woman, under them six children." There are two rubbings on this group of children in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. One, taken in 1804,



CURIOUS INDENT AND GROUP OF SIX DAUGHTERS, C. 1500.

FORMERLY AT GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.

*About one-quarter full size.*

has a rough diagram of the stone showing the indents for the figures of the parents with a foot inscription beneath, and then a curious-shaped indent for a son or sons below the father, and the plate of daughters below the mother. This curious indent for the son or sons appears to have had a separate inscription plate below. The accompanying illustration is from a tracing of the rubbing.

## V.

RALPH CHASE, 1644.

Inscription only. Size of plate,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  by 7 inches.

MR RALPH CHASE AN EXAMPLE OF RARE PATIENCE IN  
SICKNESS & DEATH BEING RELEASED FROM HIS GREAT  
PAINES SEPT<sup>R</sup>: 21<sup>O</sup>: AN<sup>O</sup>: 1644. AGED 65. FROM  
HENCE

EXPECTETH A IOYFVLL RESVRRECTION OF HIS BODY.

ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY BY ELIZABETH HIS  
SVRVIVING WIFE, HOPING SHORTLY TO IOYNE  
THERE DVSTS IN THE SAME VRNE.

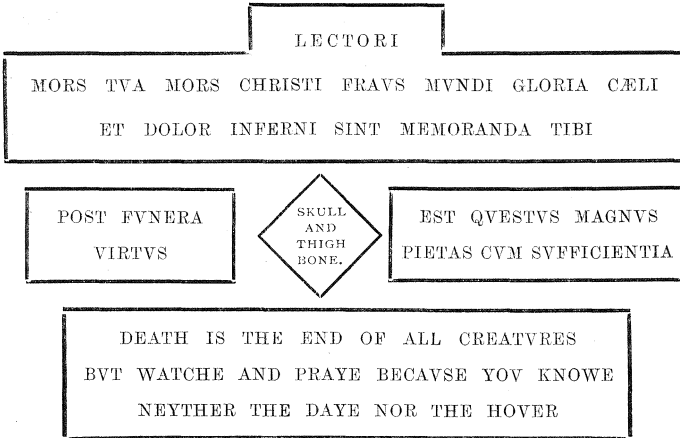
From a rubbing in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. According to Langley, p. 135, this plate was in the chancel. Elizabeth Chase was the widow of John Barker, who died in 1611, and to whose memory there was a stone in the chancel with an inscription round the edge to Elizabeth, "sometime the wife of the said Thomas Barker, and lately the wife of Ralph Chase, gent.," but the date of death seems to have been covered in Langley's time.

## VI.

UNKNOWN, DRAPER OR FARMER FAMILY, 17TH CENTURY.

A collection of small plates, the centre one having a skull with a thigh bone below, and the other four various moralities on death.

The plates are thus arranged:



The top plate measures 18 inches in length by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in its widest part, the lozenge is 3 by 3 inches, the small side plates 8 by 3 inches, and the bottom one 15 by 3 inches.

The shields, each 5 by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches, are charged with the following arms:—

(1). (*Gu.*), *three bendlets (or), on a chief per fess (arg.) and ermine three fleur de lys in the upper part (sa.)* DRAPER.

(2). *Per chevron engrailed (or) and (sa.) a lion rampant counterchanged.* BARKER. Quartering, *Per chief (sa.) and (arg.) over all three tilting spears erect counterchanged.* BURLEY.

From a rubbing in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. The plates were on a raised tomb in the North transept, which tomb Langley, p. 128, apparently on the authority of an entry in the parish register, assigns to "John Farmer, Esq., who was buried there Nov. 6, 1631." He also notes a third shield bearing the above arms impaled. Lipscomb<sup>(1)</sup> also describes the tomb, "in the North transept is a raised altar-tomb of Bethersden marble, on the cover of which are three plates of brass, also a small lozenge with a skull and

(1). *History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, Vol. III., p. 603.

thigh bone. On the side panels of the tomb are these escutcheons of arms (as above) in brass. This coat is also repeated, but the largest escutcheon has been stolen."

Mr. A. H. Cocks has kindly sent the writer a list of the Draper and Farmer entries in the parish register:

1592. Dec. 19. Agnes ffarmer, wife of Thomas ffarmer  
alias Draper, gent., was buried.  
1596. April 11. John Draper, baptised.  
1598. April —. Thomas. . . . alias ffarmer, baptised.  
1608. Jan. 4. Thomas ffarmer, Esquire, buried.  
1609. Feb. 7. James ffarmer, gent., buried.  
1614. Sept. 11. Joan Draper, buried.  
1631. Nov. 36. John Farmer,        ,,  
1632. July 2. John Farmer,        ,,  
1633. March 30. Jane Farmer,     ,,  
1634. March 8. Richard Farmer,   ,,  
1638. June 29. Robert Farmer,    ,,  
1643. Oct. 3. John Farmer,        ,,  
1657. Oct. 4. Mary Draper,        ,,

Langley also records four brasses of which no rubbings are extant:

(1). At p. 128. "In the middle aisle on a brass plate,"

"Here lyeth buried John Jourden, yeoman, of Great Marlow, who deceased the 25th of January, 1616, aet. 54. Cogite mori."

(2). At p. 129. "In the north transept an ancient stone, with the portraitures of five children in brass. Those of the man and part of the woman are torn off."

(3). At p. 134. "In the chancel a brass destroyed,"  
"Orate pro animabus Willielmi Sandys et Johanne uxoris ejus qui obiit 10 die Januarii 1492 quorum animabus propicietur deus."

(4). At p. 139. "In Sir James Etheridge's burial-ground, on an ancient stone, the portraitures in brass of a man in a gown and a woman; under the man three sons, and under the woman one daughter. At their feet this inscription, also of brass:"

"Here lyeth buried the boðys of Thomas Ponde and Mildred his wife, who had issue three sons and one daughter: John, Thomas, Daniel, and Eleanor: which Thomas deceased the 1st day of February, 1597: and Mildred deceased ———."