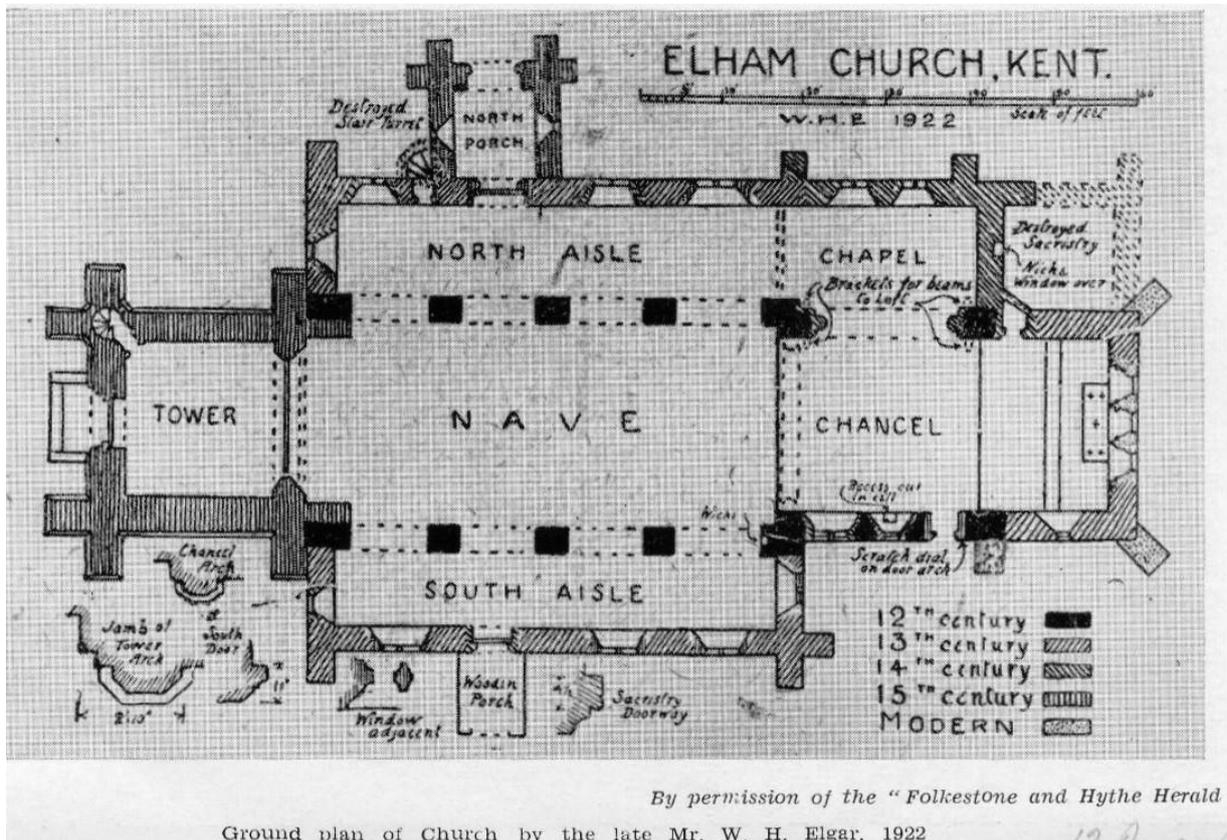


# Monumental Inscriptions within St. Mary's Church, Elham



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By permission of the "Folkestone and Hythe Herald"  
Ground plan of Church by the late Mr. W. H. Elgar, 1922

## The North Porch



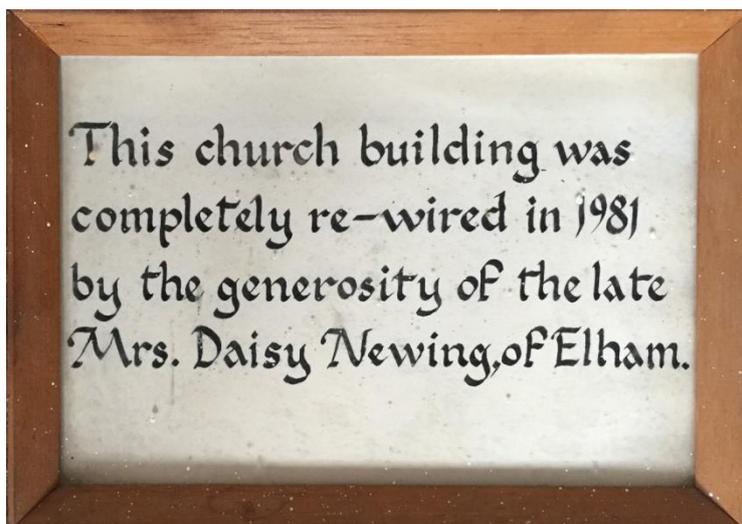
The Talbots lived for many years at The Poor's House.



THE FIGURE OF THE  
BLESSED V. M. AND CHILD  
OVER THIS PORCH  
IS IN MEMORY OF ALARD  
CHARLES de BOURBEL B. D.  
VICAR OF ELHAM 1900-1934.



## The North Aisle



Daisy Newing was the widow of Edwin who ran a grocery at Denmark House, with the advertising slogan "Stop at the Shop at the Top of the Street".

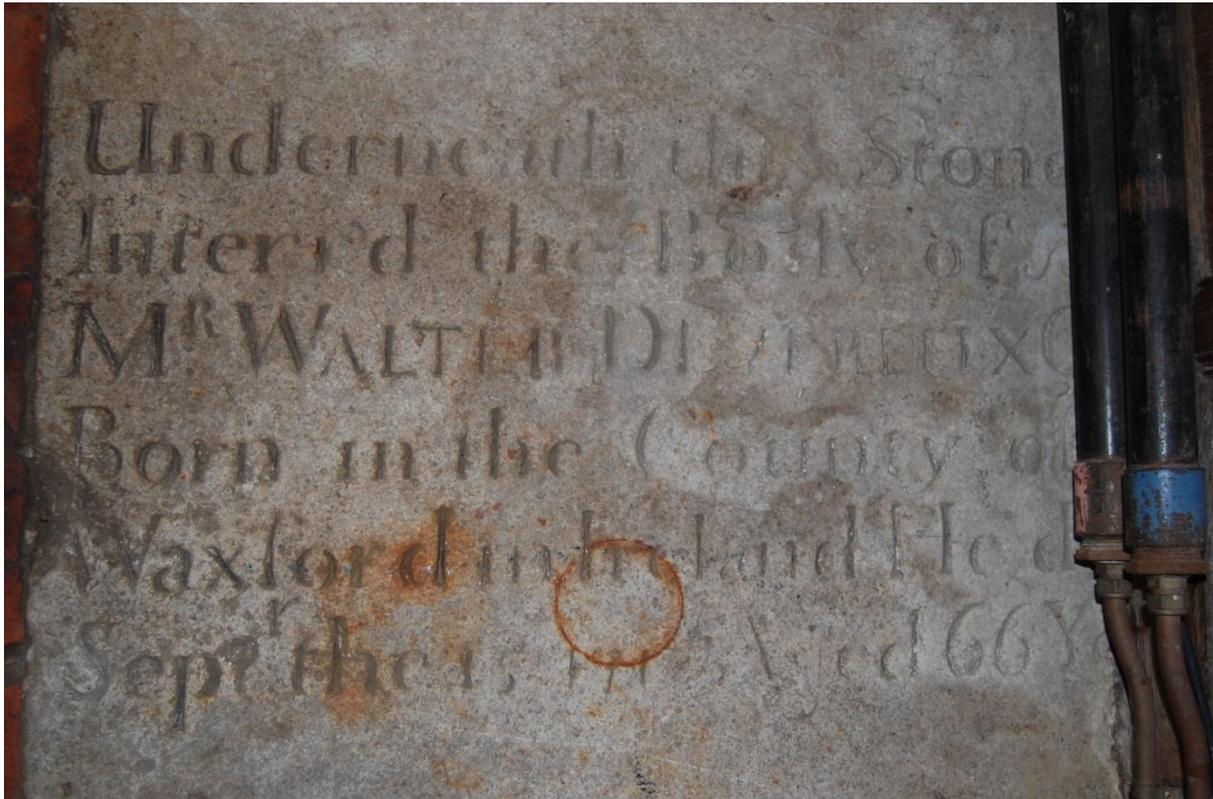


Florence Noble was the mother of Eleanor Palmer, who ran the Heritage Centre at North Elham until her early death.



Rev.Dr. Jonas Warly

The Warly family were butchers in Elham; however by the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century they had climbed the social scale and Jonas and his brother John went to university. Jonas became rector of Witham in Essex and by his will in 1722 he founded the Bread Charity as described on this board. It continued to function until the Second World War, but sadly no longer.



### Walter Devereux

Underneath this Stone [lies]  
Interr'd the Body of  
Mr WALTER DEVEREUX G[ent]  
Born in the County of  
Waxford in Ireland He d[ied]  
Sept'r the 15<sup>th</sup> 1718 Aged 66 Ye [ars]<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Sandgate Castle* by William Loftie Rutton, in *Archaeologia Cantiana XXI*, 1895: In the *Calendar of Treasury Papers* is mentioned a letter written by "Mr Devereux, an officer at Sandgate Castle," dated June 1690; the office held does not appear. Mr Fynmore identifies him as the "Mr Walter Devereux, Gen.....died 1718," whose gravestone is in the north aisle of Elham Church.

## Jesus Chapel

There are two non-figure brasses set into the floor of the Jesus Chapel, currently (April 2016) hidden under the fitted carpet, and their condition must be in some doubt.

### Nicholas More, 1577

Epitaph of Nicholas More being the owner of Bethnaham  
in Crambroke gentleman who toke to wyfe Clare ye Daughter  
of John Toke of greate Charte esquier & of Cyslie ye Daughter  
of Thomas Kemp Knight: The which Nicholas lived LIX  
yeres and dyed at Wingmore in Elham the 8<sup>th</sup> of Maye 1577

Here lieth y<sup>i</sup> good and godly man whose soule y<sup>e</sup> heavens have  
By testament constant and will much almes to poore he gave  
To releve the lambes of god in persecutinge days  
He gave to church and use of poore a gyfte y<sup>i</sup> lastes all ways

Ralph Griffin, "Kentish Items" in *Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society*, vol. VI, used rubbings of this and the Pyx brass from the collection of the Society of Antiquaries. He says:

There is in Cranbrook a manor named Betenham, which had proprietors of that name. It came to the Mores of Benenden by a co-heiress of a Betenham, and her son was the Nicholas of the inscription, who married Clare Toke, but died s.p. Hasted iii, 51, erroneously describes him as of Wigmore in Eltham, which the inscription corrects to Wingmore in Elham.<sup>2</sup> The brass of Clare Toke's father and mother still remain at Great Chart. The will of Nicholas More, of Elham, gent., dated the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1576, is preserved at Canterbury among the archives of the Archdeaconry (vol. 43, fol. 79).

He directs his body to be buried in the parish church of Elham, where the Vicar of the parish appoints. He names Mr Carden, the then vicar, and leaves him 20/-.<sup>3</sup> He gives £5 to the poor persons of the parish who may be present at his funeral, and gives 40/- to be put into the poor menn's box of Brooklands. The testator leaves 40 ewes to be managed with their produce for the good of the poor of Elham for ever.<sup>4</sup> The will indicates that Mr More was very wealthy, for the legacies are numerous and large, and the real estate disposed of extended into various parishes.

He mentions (i) Nicholas Goldbeme, son of his sister Elizabeth; and Darkys Lightmaker, her daughter. He elsewhere calls this Nicholas his cousin; (ii) Jane Medwood, daughter of his sister Cysley Darbye; (iii) his sister Tayloer and her children Dorothe, wife of Geo. Meller, and Clare Everndon; (iv) Thos More (v) Nicholas Toke, gent.; three of his godsons; (vi) Richard Toke, his brother-in-law.

He gives many bequests to servants, and leaves the residue to Clare More, his wife, whom he appoints his executrix.

The large freehold property is left to the sons and heirs in gavelkind of his cousin John More, late of Pluckley. Their Christian names are Owen, Edward, George, Thomas, Brent, and Nicholas.

The witnesses were Richard Besseley, preacher of Canterbury; Wm Wood, one of the preachers pertaining to the Cathedral Church of Canterbury; and Nicholas Toke.

The executrix proved the will on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1577.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> In the Cranbrook entry, Hasted also has the date of his death as 1556.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Carden predeceased More, having been buried on the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

<sup>4</sup> Sadly there is no parochial flock today, nor does Hasted have one in his list of parochial charities. One cannot be sure if that clause of More's will was ever implemented.

<sup>5</sup> Clare More subsequently married John Coldwell, rector of Saltwood, who became the first married Bishop of Salisbury in 1592

## Michael Pyx, 1601

Here Michell Pyx Interred lyes  
of Folkestone Mayor and Hith  
Bayly to Yarmowth once he was  
Long tyme before he died

His only Sonne he left behind  
who Thomas hath to name  
with blubbred Cheekes and pensive minde  
He caused to Wright the same

He Deceased the XXV of September An<sup>o</sup>  
1601 beinge of the age of LXX yeres

Ralph Griffin writes:

There was a family of Pix of some standing in Ken, but whether Michell Pyx belonged to it or not does not appear. The pedigree in the Visitation of 1610 does not help us as it begins with Wm Pix, d. 1609 (Harleian Series, vol. xlii, p. 162). The Pixes seem to have been dwelling at Hawkhurst, Crayford, New Romney, and Rucking. Michael Pix, of Folkestone, appears in the pedigree of Godfrey of Lydd in the Visitation of 1619, where he is said to have married the daughter and heiress of Richd Strughill and to have left a daughter and heiress, who married as his second wife Thos Godfrey, of Lydd, between 1580 and 1585, so we may with some confidence identify her father with the Michell buried at Elham.

This is confirmed by his will, for in the Probate Registry at Canterbury is to be found (Archdy 52, fol. 241) the will of "Michael Pyx, of Elham, woollendraper". It is dated 20 April 1601; 43 Eliz.

The testator gives £10 to the poor present at his burial and considerable money legacies to (i) Catherine Beane, daughter of John B. of Elham; (ii) Myldred Brodnax "my goddaughter" and daughter of Robt B. of Cheriton, gent.; (iii) Margaret Hale and her eldest daughter, late his servant, "now the wife of Robert Willmott"; (iv) Myldred Hale, his cousin (late wife of John Hale, late of Cheriton, deceased) and her daughter, Elizabeth Hale.

His son, Thomas, being under age, he appoints Christopher Sutton, of Folkestone, and Thos Morris, of Horton, his guardians. He appoints his son, Thomas, his executor and leaves him all his property with gifts over if he dies under age or before he is married. The gifts over include: £100 to Thomas Godfrey, son of Thomas Godfrey, of Lydd, "my son-in-law", and £200 to Elizabeth, sister of the younger Thomas.

He further mentions John Pix, son of Henry Pix, my brother's son. The name is spelt in the will both Pyx and Pix, more often the latter.

It appears from the visitation that the son died either under age or sine prole.

Michael Pyx was mayor of Folkestone in 1582.

The Vicar of Elham has written to say that there is a tradition in the parish that there is a brass under the organ, and as the instrument may shortly be moved the brasses may come to light.

In the second volume of the *Topographer and Genealogist* (1859), p. 450, there is a Domestic Chronicle written by Thos Godfrey, who was the grandson of Michael Pyx. The writer says his mother was "sole daughter and heir of Mich. Pix, of Ashford, sometime Jurat of Folkestone, where my mother was borne, and also Jurat of Hith; from whence he went Bailif to Yarmouth. He had a dwelling also at Faversham, at Deale, Burie in Suffolk' at St Catherine's White Chappell in London, at Kingsnorth (*blank*), and at Elam, in Kent, where he was buried". In a note to this passage the Editor quotes Parsons' transcript of the inscription of Michell Pyx and

adds "By 'Bayly to Yarmouth' is meant an officer who was sent to Yarmouth from the Cinque Ports for the general regulation of the herring fishery, and remained there while the fair lasted, for a period of forty days".

The Sir Edmund Berrie Godfrey, whose murder caused such a sensation temp. Chas II, was Michael Pix's great-grandson. In the State Trials he is always called Sir Edmund-Bury Godfrey, but incorrectly as appears from the Domestic Chronicle.

From *The White and Black Books of the Cinque Ports 1432-1955*, ed. F. Hull, 1966.

A Special Gestlinge held at Hythe the 23 July 1583

Folkestone: Mychell Pyxe, mayor; John Pixe etc.

New Romney General Brotherhood held on Tuesday 27 July 1585

Hythe ... Michael Pixe, jurat

Michael Pixe of Hythe and Thomas Edolff of Rye admitted as bailiffs to Yarmouth

General Brotherhood held at New Romney on Tuesday 26 July 1586

Hythe ... Michael Pix, jurat

Michael Pix of Hythe and Thomas Edolph of Rye, bailiffs to Yarmouth, made their relation.

Allowed and discharged.

General Brotherhood held at New Romney on Tuesday 23 July 1588

Hythe ... Michael Pix, jurat

General Brotherhood held at New Romney on Tuesday 21 July 1590

Hythe ... Michael Pix, jurat

General Brotherhood held at New Romney on Tuesday 25 July 1591

Hythe: Michael Pix, mayor

General Brotherhood held at New Romney on Tuesday 25 July 1592

A complaint of Hythe that Michael Pix of Hythe 'hath infranchised himself in Maydestone in Kent and yet continueth his Freedome in Hythe aforesaid which seemeth to be dangerous to the state of the Cinque Ports'. The mayor of Hythe is to call Pix before him and is to ask him to set a day to relinquish 'by matter of Record' his freedom in Maidstone or else within a month after that day to disfranchise him in Hythe 'by reason no man can doe a bodely service in two places at one tyme'.



Herbert John Wilcox

On the panelling to the north of the altar is a small brass plaque which reads:

THE EAST WINDOW CONTAINING  
16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DUTCH ROUNDELS  
WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF  
HERBERT JOHN WILCOX  
HEADTEACHER OF ELHAM C of E SCHOOL  
1912 – 1946



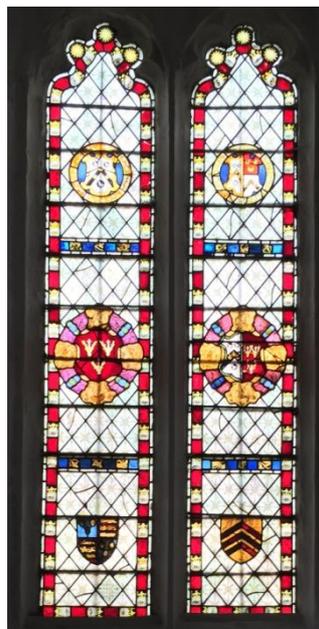


Miss Margaret Merriman

The eastern window on the north side contains armorial glass from St Alban's Court at Nonnington. It was placed here in the mistaken belief that the Hammond family were the same as the Hamons of Acrise Place, once owners of Elham Manor.

It bears the inscription:

In  
Memoriam  
Margaret H.  
Merriman  
1863 – 1950





### Robert & Maria Rigden

The western window on the north side is old glass put together by Samuel Caldwell of Canterbury (“S. Caldwell fecit 1956”).

It bears the inscription:  
 In  
 Memoriam  
 Robert & Maria Rigden  
 1822 - 1950





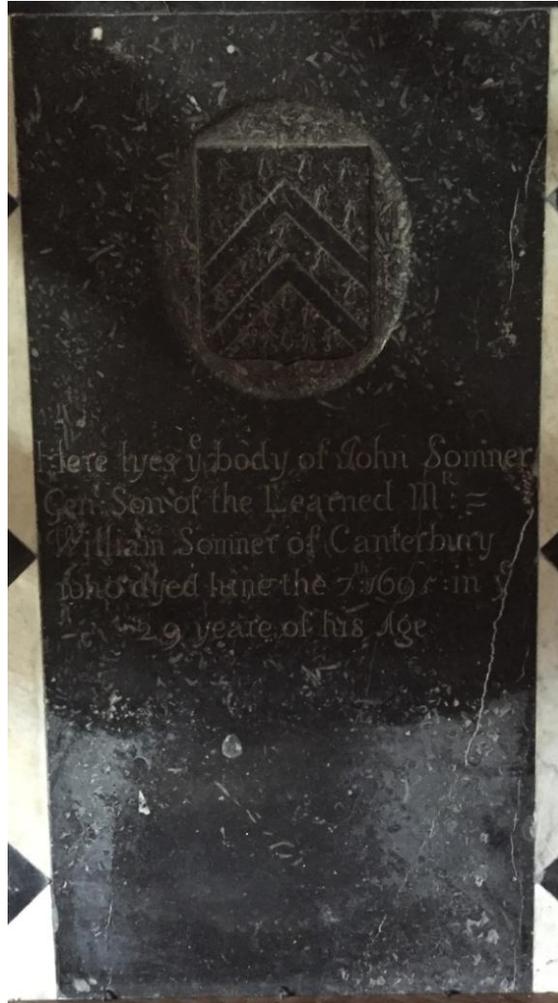
## Walter George Yates

IN MEMORIAM WALTER GEORGE YATES PRIEST MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 1938 R.I.P

The Rev. Walter George Yates was an assistant priest at St Saviour's Church, Folkestone, and the altar was given in his memory by Mrs Sacree, also of Folkestone, when the Jesus Chapel was restored after the removal of the organ in 1937.



## The Chancel



### John Somner

Here lies ye the body of John Somner

Son of the Learned Mr

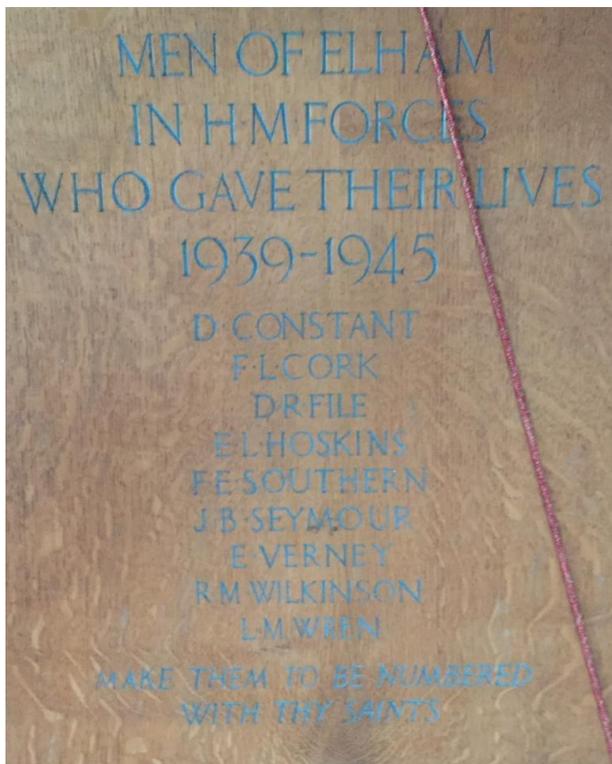
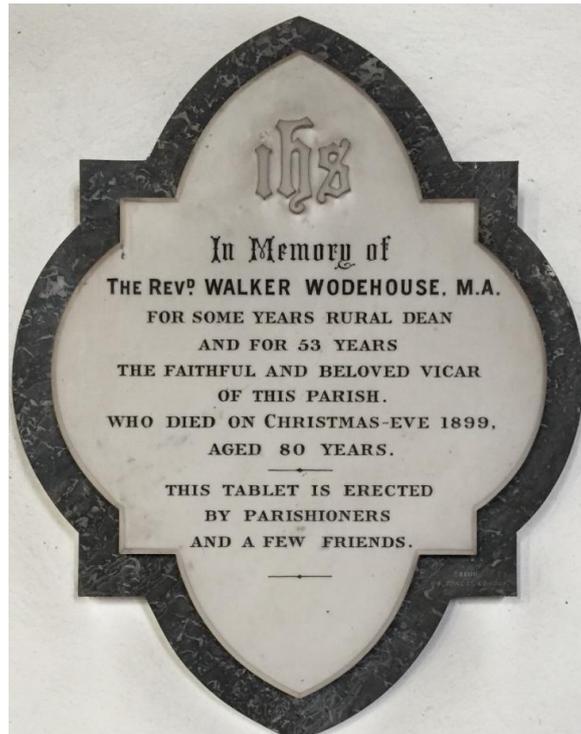
William Somner of Canterbury

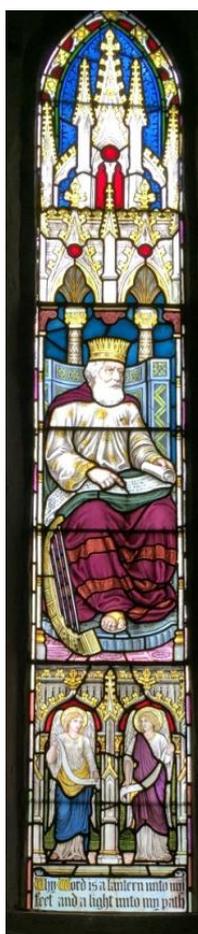
who died June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1695 in ye

29 year<sup>e</sup> of his Age<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> John Somner was the son of Barbara nee Dawson the second wife and widow of William Somner, who later married Henry Hannington, vicar of Elham, as his second wife. White Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough, in his “Life of Mr. Somner” dated Feb.15 1693, which appeared in various editions of the latter’s works, refers to her two sons William Somner, vicar of Lyminge and John “who practises chirurgery (*surgery*) with good repute in these parts”.

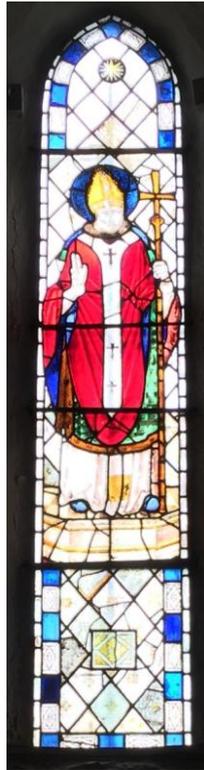




### Rev. Walker Wodehouse

The image of Saul in this window is a portrait of Walker Wodehouse himself. He was a grandson of Lord Wodehouse; a cousin of the Earl of Kimberley (Foreign Secretary to Queen Victoria), and the author P. G. Wodehouse was a distant relation.





Albert Castle

was the village tailor for many years, working at the house in the High Street now known as Verney's.  
Frank Verney was his apprentice and Elham's last tailor.





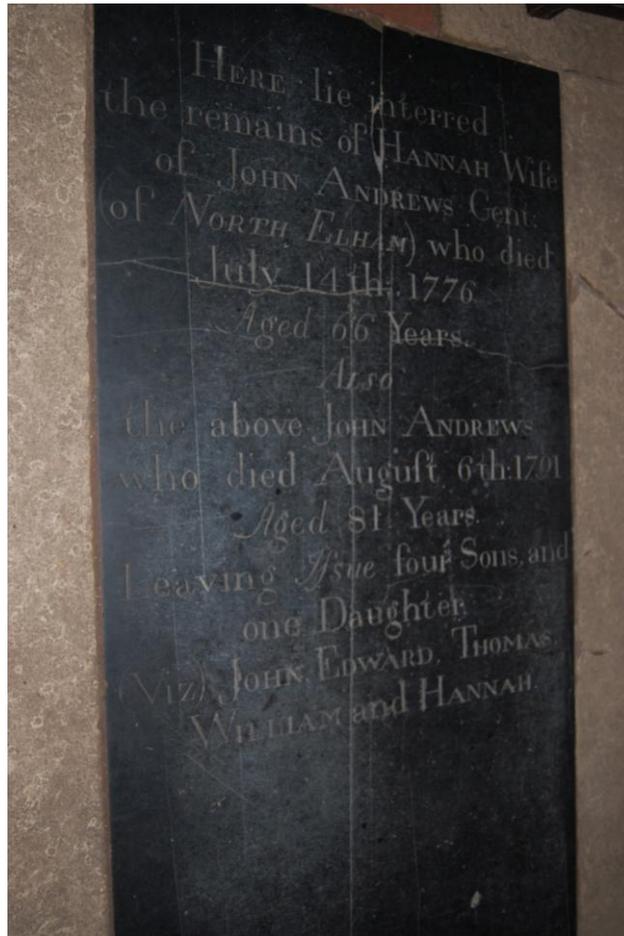
### Clara Eliza Huddesford

Clara Eliza  
Huddesford  
Ob: 19 Martii  
1778  
AEt  
Ann: 2<sup>do</sup>  
Vita quam brevis<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Elham Parish Register* Clar Eliz Huddesford Buried March 18.

John Huddesford served as curate at ELham between 6<sup>th</sup> January 1776 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1778. He was described as Clerk, of Barham, aged 30, when he obtained a licence to marry Hester Catherine Nickoll, also of Barham, aged 20, daughter of Henry Nickoll, yeoman, at Barham, 21 October 1775. Hasted has him succeeding Brownlow North as vicar of Lydd in May 1775, which seems incorrect (or more than one John Huddesford?)



### Hannah & John Andrews

HERE lie interred  
the remains of HANNAH Wife  
of JOHN ANDREWS Gent  
(of North Elham) who died  
July 14<sup>th</sup> 1776  
Aged 66 Years  
Also  
the above JOHN ANDREWS  
who died August 6<sup>th</sup> 1791  
Aged 81 Years  
Leaving *Issue* four Sons and  
one Daughter  
(Viz) JOHN. EDWARD. THOMAS.  
WILLIAM and HANNAH<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Andrews family are believed to have been related to Mr. & Mrs. Andrews of the famous portrait by Gainsborough, now in the National Gallery.

## The Nave



### Rev. John Hill

“In the Cross of Christ” [Greek]

Here lieth the body of y<sup>e</sup>

Rev.<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> John Hill Dean &

Vicar of Elham who died

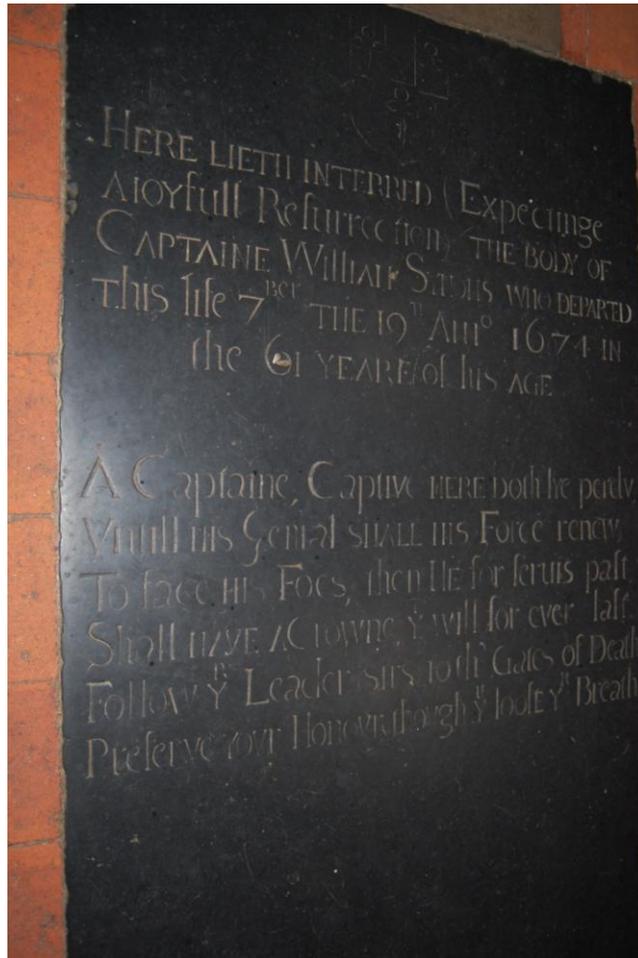
y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>: of Feb: 1730: Ag<sup>d</sup> 43 Y<sup>rs</sup><sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> The date on this tablet is Old Style.

John Hill died intestate. His probate inventory [PRC 11/70/226] was taken by Edward Foreman and John Hambrook on 27 February 1731, and shown in court on 27 March by the administratrix, Elizabeth Hankins. The inventory total is rather modest at 53/7/4, including books valued at ten pounds, and underwood felled in Pearceley Wood [at North Elham, part of the glebe] valued at thirty-five shillings.

The rooms listed are: parlour, hall, kitchen, little parlour, brewhouse, middle chamber, and chamber over the hall. This suggests that there may have been a third chamber, of which the contents were not appraised; maybe they were the property of the housekeeper [?Elizabeth Hankins].



**Capt. William Symons**

HERE LIETH INTERRED Expectinge  
 A joyfull Resurrection THE BODY OF  
 CAPTAINE WILLIAM SYMONS WHO DEPARTED  
 This life 7<sup>BER</sup> THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANN<sup>O</sup> 1674 IN  
 the 61 YEARE of his AGE

A Captaine Captive HERE doth lie perdu  
 Untill his Gen'ral shall his Force renew  
 To face HIS Foes then HE for servis past  
 Shall HAVE A Crowne Y<sup>t</sup> will for ever last  
 Follow Y<sup>t</sup> Leader Sirs to th' Gates of Death  
 Preserve your Honour though Y<sup>u</sup> LoosE Y<sup>R</sup> Breath



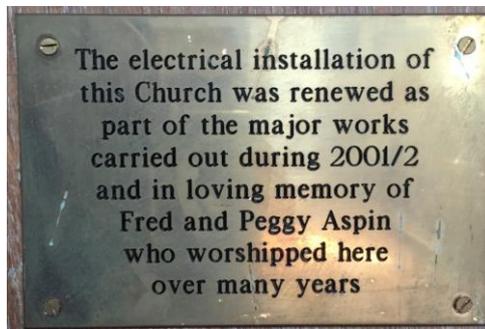
**Rev. John Williamson**

Under this Stone  
are deposited  
the remains of the  
Rev<sup>d</sup> John Williamson  
son of the late  
Rev<sup>d</sup> William Williamson  
Rector of *Westbere*  
He died October 20<sup>TH</sup> 1810  
aged 27 Years<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *Elham Baptismal Register*: John Son of the Revd William Williamson and Margaret his Wife May 22<sup>nd</sup> (the said John was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1784. *Burial Register* 1810 John Williamson aged 23 Octr 25<sup>th</sup>. His age is therefore incorrect both on the stone and in the Register.



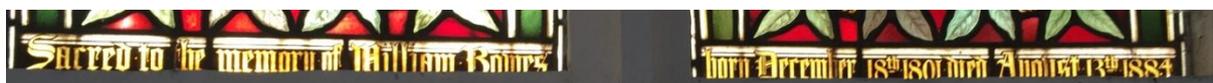


Fred Aspin was Headmaster of Elham primary school, and his wife Peggy also taught locally.



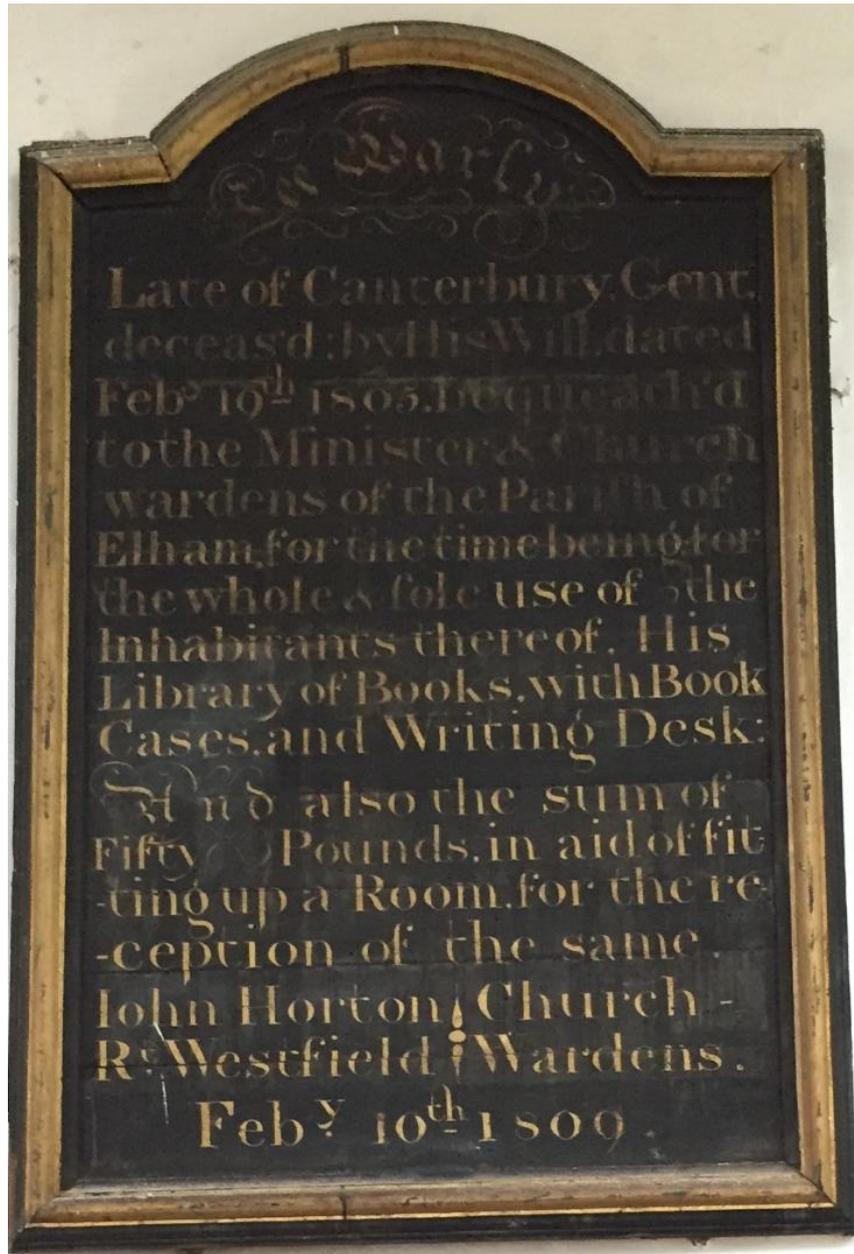
The cradle roll was started in 1980 and is still ongoing.

## The South Aisle



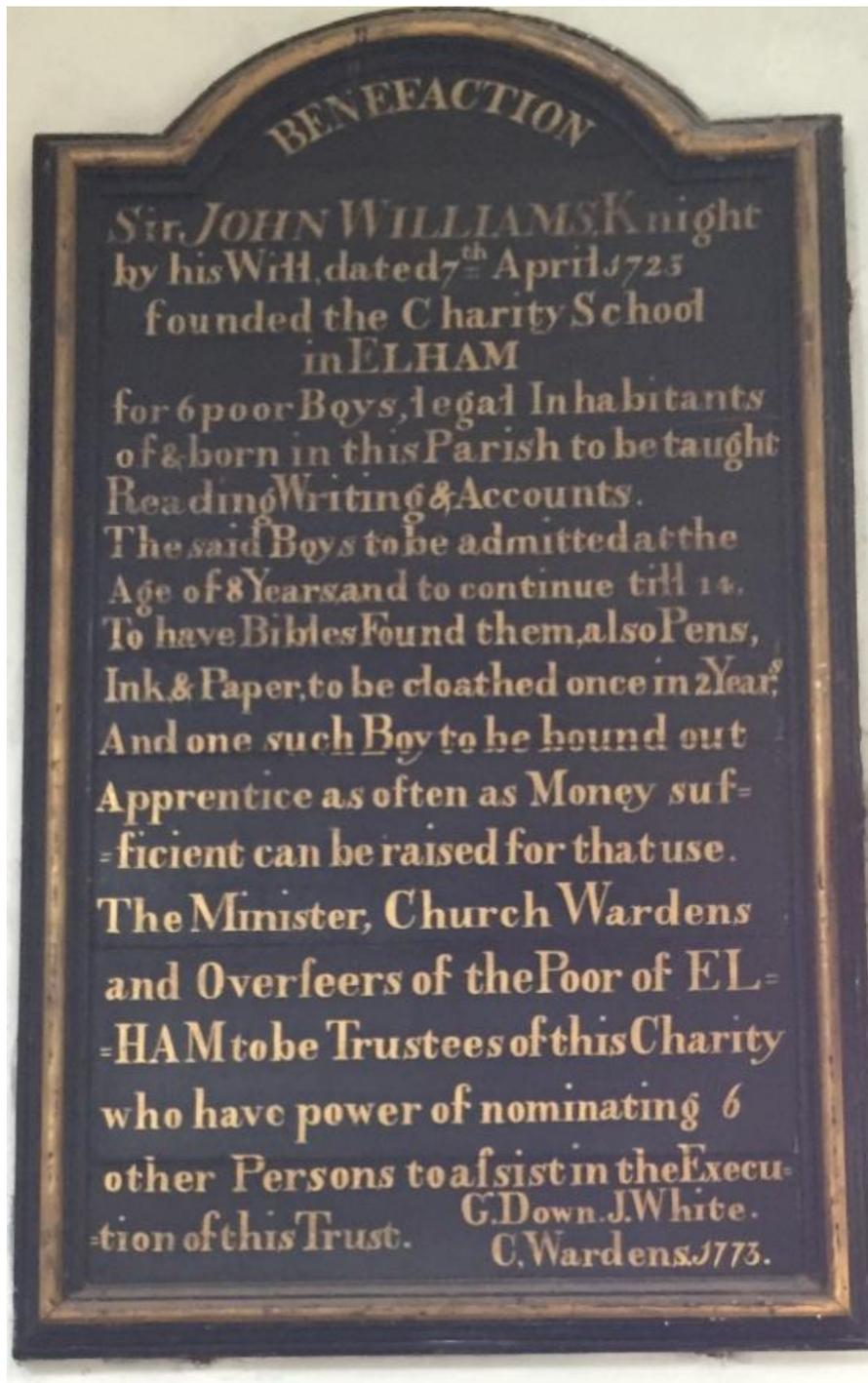
### William Bowes

Members of the Bowes family lived in Elham for many generations. Their houses, which included Coopers and Mount Bottom Farm, have splendid yew trees in their front gardens. There is a relationship between this family and the Bowes-Lyon family of the late Queen Mother.



### Lee Warly

Lee Warly, a nephew of Rev. Jonas Warly, was a lawyer in Canterbury. His house is now Nason's stores. The library which he bequeathed to Elham parish is now housed in Canterbury Cathedral Library, minus some that have been "lost" along the way. He had inherited many of his books from his cousin Henry Oxenden of Barham, whose collection of Civil War pamphlets is an invaluable source to historians of that period.



### Sir John Williams

Sir John lived at Pengethley Manor in Sellack, near Ross on Wye, Herefordshire. He was also Lord of the Manor of Elham, for which he clearly had an affection, as he left this generous provision in his will for the founding of a charity school. That school was amalgamated with the village primary school in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the present day village school still receives funds from his foundation. There is also provision for grants to children of the village who are in further education.



This plaque commemorates men who had been baptised here and fell in the First World War.



Derek Hall was a Dover G.P. who retired to Elham, where he and Mardi took an active part in the life of St. Mary's church.

Produced by the  
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