The Angels of St Andrew's



A Shrivenham Heritage Society publication

Front Cover: An Angel watches over little Ann Dod.

She was only two



Email: shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk

AD: MMXXIV

The Angels of St Andrew's

By Neil B. Maw

During a major tidy-up of St Andrew's churchyard in Shrivenham by local volunteers in the winter of 2022 - 23, Neil Maw of Shrivenham Heritage Society was also helping by carrying out a survey of all the memorial stones, those standing and those laid down and overgrown. It took six months to complete for all the stones to be cleared of growth, brushed and floured, a non-destructive, environmentally acceptable technique, to enable the engravings to be legible, photographed and recorded.

Gravestone markers didn't become fashionable until the 17th century. Before this the grave of the ordinary person who could afford it, would have been distinguished by a mound of earth and perhaps a marker made of wood. The earliest stones were small and gradually got bigger through the 18th century. The oldest stone in St Andrew's is dated 1628 and because of it's small but thick dimensions, has survived in the upright position. All the other stones bearing 17th dates have long since fallen and

this has proved most fortuitous in that their carvings have survived being buried away from the corrosive weather.

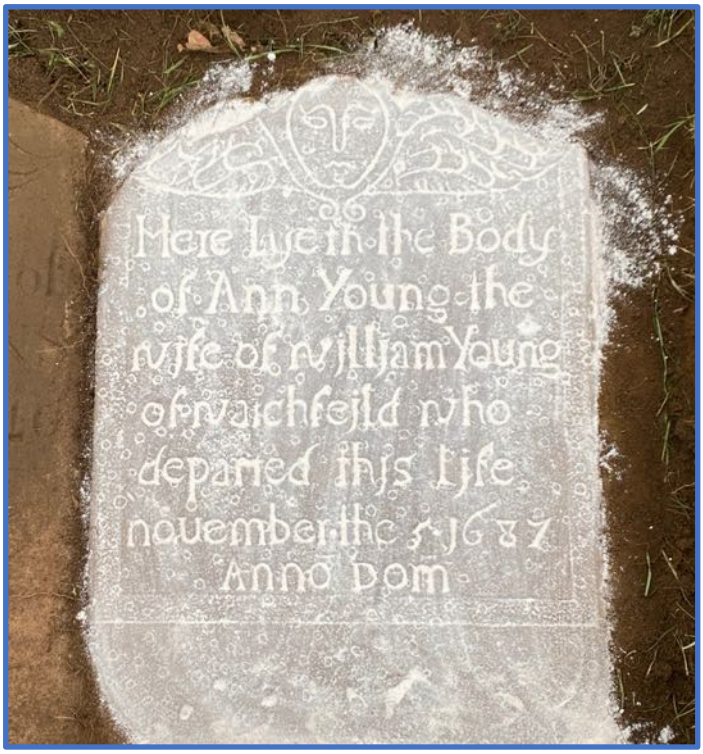
During the methodical tour around the churchyard recording the stones, it became clear that St Andrew's holds an extraordinary number of early gravestones. A visit to other graveyards in the vicinity of Shrivenham indicated that very few contained examples from the early period. Most of the 17th century stones have angels at the top and they continued into the next century but then stopped. So, the decision was made to make a separate list of stones that bore angels to enable a further study. This small book brings that study together and it becomes clear that the profession of gravestone masonry was in its early stages of development from that period and gradually increased to become more sophisticated and, presumably, expensive.

In the latter part of the 17th century, after the turmoil of the Civil War and the return of the monarchy in 1660, the harsh Puritan ways of religious thinking moderated. This may have caused the use of skulls and demonic carvings on gravestones to be replaced by more serene angels. The earliest stone discovered in St Andrew's bearing an angel at the top is dated 1684.



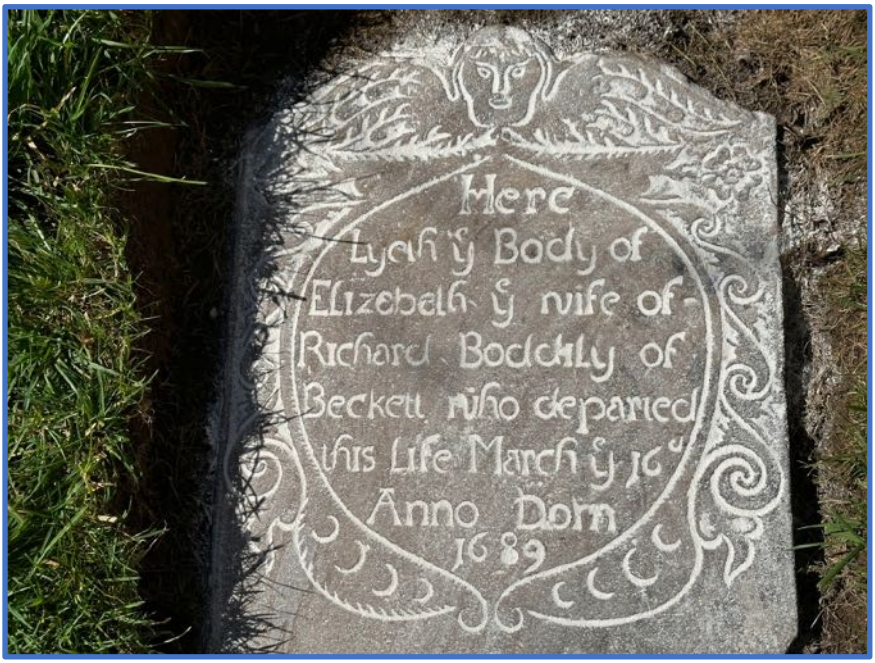


death parts deare lovers for a while and makes them sigh which often use to smile and after death our unfixt joys shall tey eternal knots betwixt my love and I. Simon parish who departed March the 21 Anno dom 1684



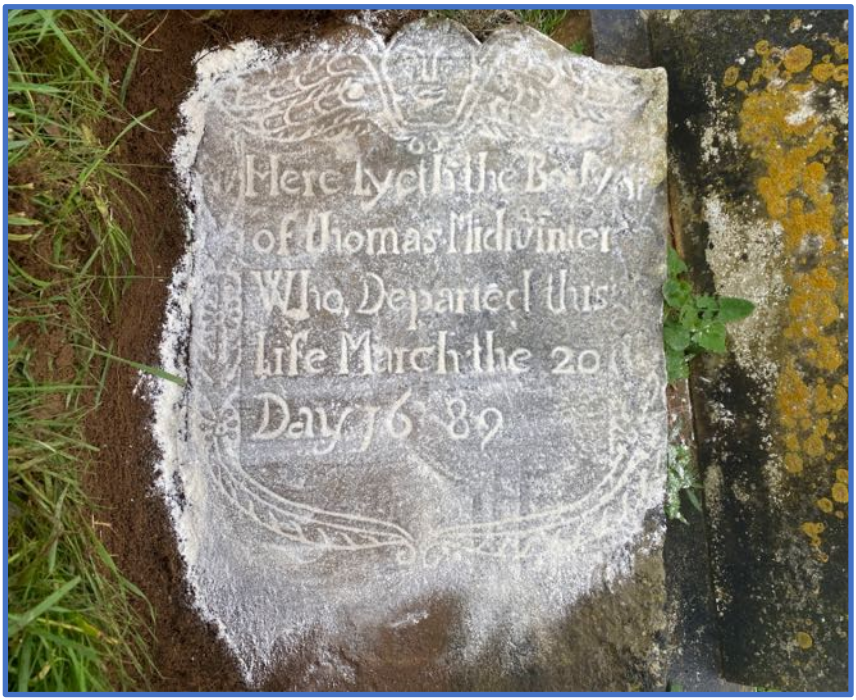


Here lyeth the body of Ann Young the wife of William Young of Watchfield who departed this life November 5 1687 anno dom



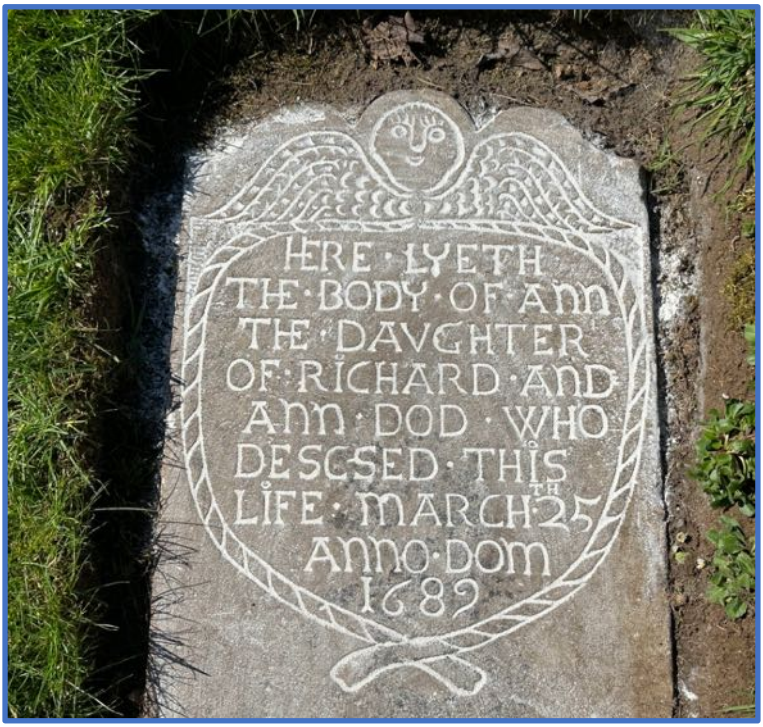


Here lyeth ye body of Elizabeth Boddily of Beckett who departed this life March ye 16th Anno Dom 1689





Here lyeth the body of Thomas Midwinter who departed this life March the 20th day 1689



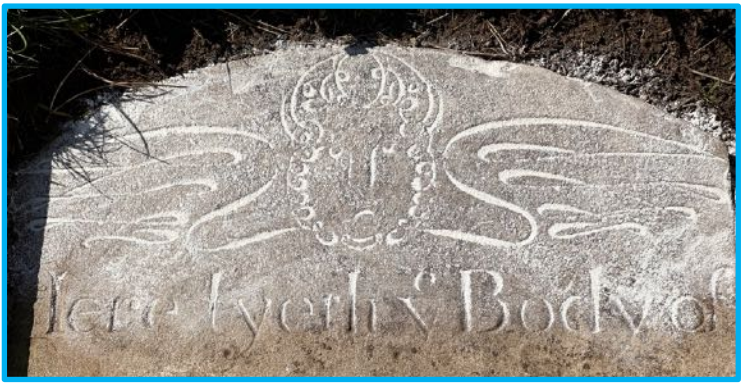


Here lyeth the body of Ann the daughter of Richard and Ann Dod who descsed this life March the 25th Anno Dom 1689. (She was age 2)

Towards the end of the 17th century there seems to have been a change from an angel that was almost comical and child-like to one of art. Presumably the role of the angel was still intended to escort the soul of the departed to heaven but that a more skilful depiction of the angel could sway those who could afford it, to employ that particular mason's skills.

However, it seems more likely that the change through that last decade of the century was brought about by what became known as the Glorius Revolution of 1688. On the throne at the time was King James II, a Catholic, whose policies conflicted with Protestant England. In Holland, the grandson of King Charles I called William, had been brought up as a Protestant, and in an act of political alliance, was married to his cousin Mary, the daughter of James, Duke of York, who was second in line to the English throne. Due to the turmoil in England, William led an invasion of England which caused James II to flee for his life and with William and his wife Mary both having a legitimate claim to the throne they were crowned joint sovereigns in 1689. They both swore on oath to govern according to Parliament's laws, sweeping away forever the divine right of Kings. It was a new era in English politics where the monarchy worked in cooperation with Parliament.





Here lyeth ye body of Joan the wife of Stephen Warren who departed this life Nov 28th AD 1704



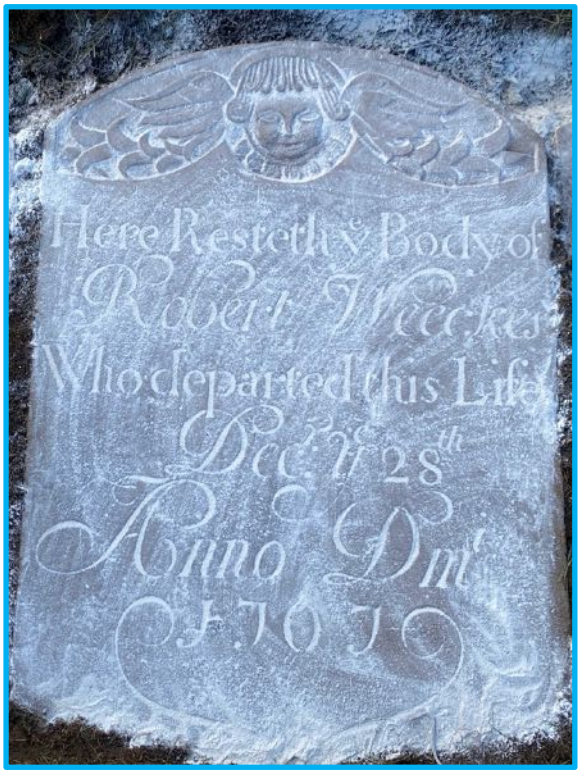


Here lyeth the body of John Gresham who departed this life Oct ye 19th AD 1706 Aged 76 years





Here lyeth ye body of Martha wife of John New of Lower Bourton who died Decr ye 19th AD 1707 Aged 51 years





Here resteth ye body of Robert Weekes who departed this life Dec 28th Anno Dom 1707





Here resteth the body of Thomas Curtice who departed this life Feb ye 27 Anno Dom 1707





Jane daughter of William and Jane Hore who died Feb 3rd AD 1708 aged 24 years.



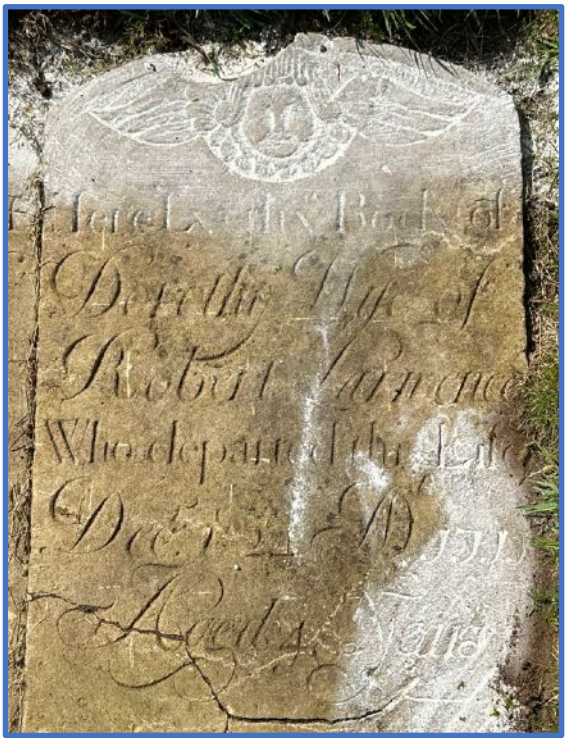


Here lyeth the body of Thomas Gresham who departed this life Nor the 20th AD 1709 Aged 41 years





Here lyeth also ye body of Margaret Wife of Thomas Dore who departed this life June ye 11th AD 1711 Aged about 60 years





Here lyeth the body of Dorothy Wife of Robert Lawrence who departed this life Decr 21 AD 1711 Aged 48 years





Here lyeth the Body of Margaret daughter of John and Alice Naish Who departed this Life May ye 29 AD 1712



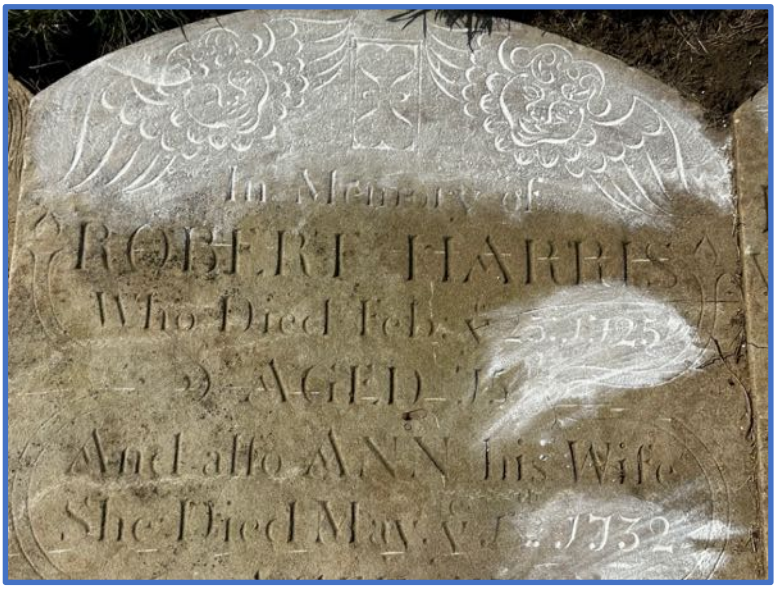


Here lyeth ye Body of Alice ye wife of Laurance Lewis. And also Robert his son who died Sept 8th AD 1715





William Hoare departed this life Jan 7th 1719 Aged 63 years





In Memory of Robert Harris who died Feb ye 25th 1725 aged 75 and also Ann his Wife. She died May ye 19th 1732 aged 77





In Memory of Mary daughter of John & Mary Bennett. She died Octr 19th 1725 aged 19 years.



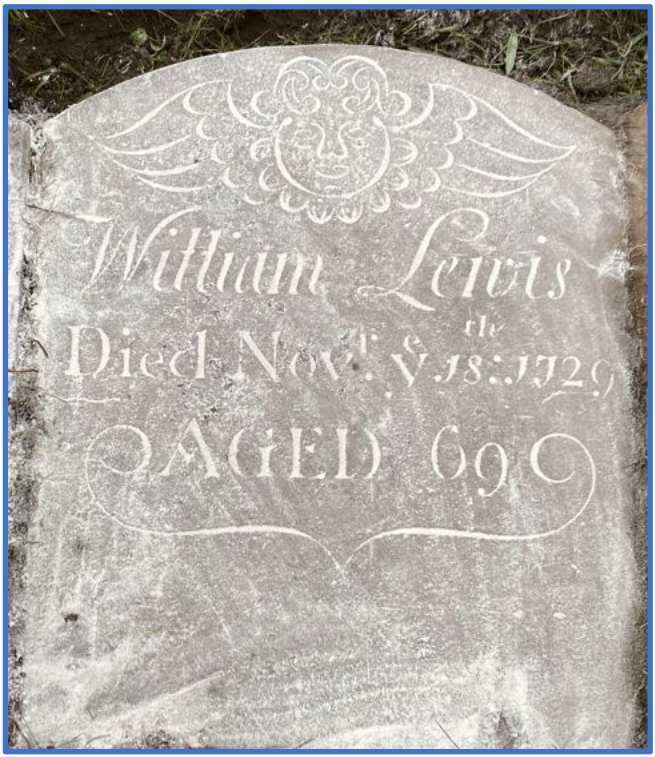


In Memory of John Prestwood who died Octr 21st 1726 aged 81 years also Mary his Wife. She died May 21st 1722 aged 52 years





In Memory of Isaac Greene who died July ye 11th 1729 aged 46 years



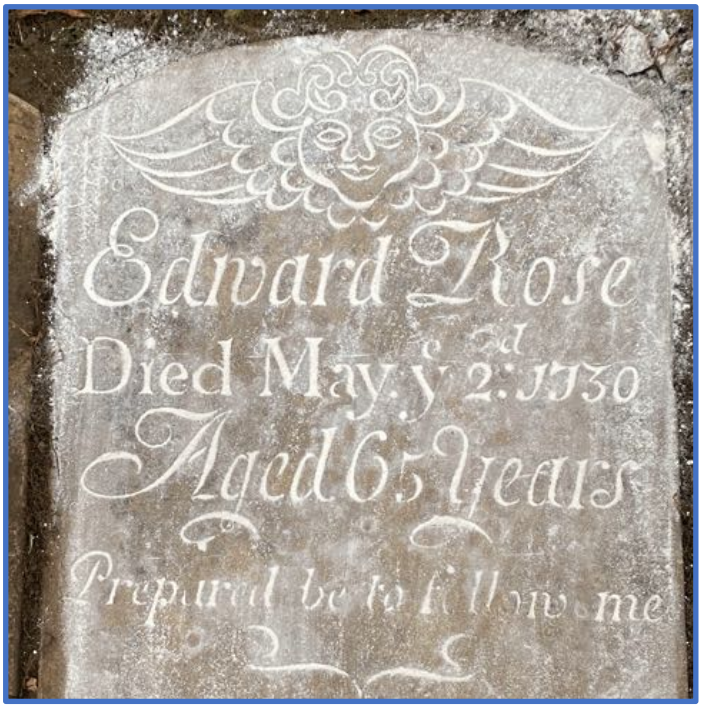


William Lewis died Nov ye 18th 1729 aged 69





Mary ye Wife of Isaac Young died Aug ye 29th 1729 aged 63



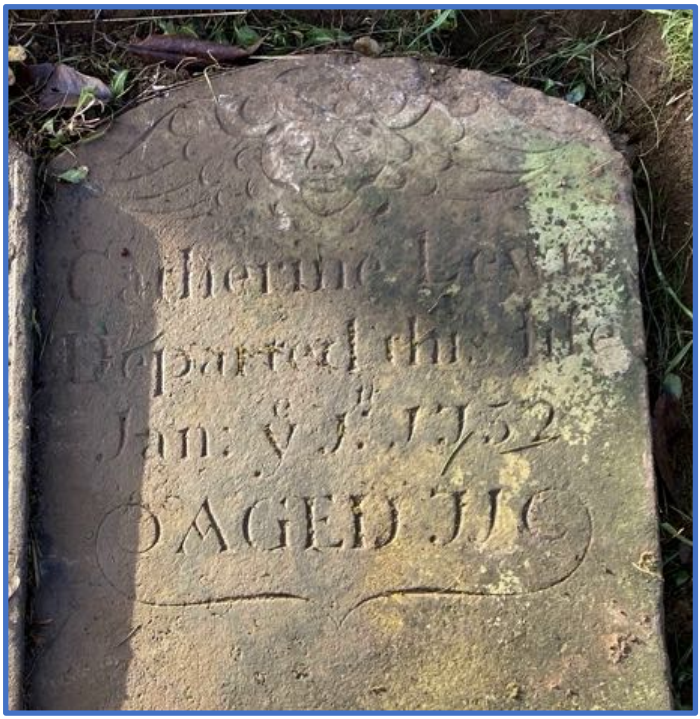


Edward Rose died May ye 21st 1730 aged 65 years





Jane ye Wife of John Lewis died June ye 5th 1731 aged 26 years





Catherine Lewis departed this life Jan ye 7th 1732 aged 71



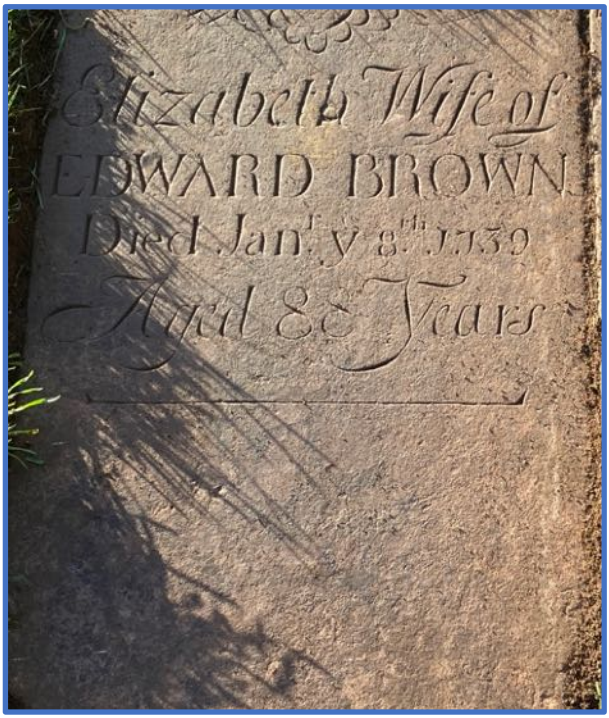


Farewell fond World, I've seen enough of thee, And value not what though canst say of me. What though hast seen and in me look home, And then you'll find there something to be done. George Knapp died Aug ye 25th 1732 aged 74 years





John Pinnil of Bourton died on November 20th 1737 aged 85





Elizabeth Wife of Edward Brown died Jan ye 8th 1739 aged 88 years





Mary Wife of Isaac Arnoll died Feby12th 1741 aged 55





Elizabeth Wife of John Pinel departed this life January ye 5th 1742 aged 61





In Memory of John Harris who departed this life June 14th 1745 aged 61





John Willson died Febr ye 20th 1745 aged 46. Weep not my Wife and Children dear For my Glass is run It was the Lord that brought me here So let his will be done





In Memory of John Pinel who was Buried February ye 17th 1747 aged 35





Here lies for a joyful Redirection the body of John Frampton who died Dec 21st 1786 aged 89 years



No Angel but just a basic stone crudely carved, *to the memory of (TTMO) John Jacob 1647*. A casualty of the Civil War perhaps?



The oldest dated stone in St Andrew's Graveyard, *John Parson who died the last day of July 1628*