

ENCAUSTIC FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES

ROTHLEY CHURCH



In Memory of
Elizabeth
wife of Robert Wilcox.
who died Dec. 1. 1870.
Aged 80 Years.

In Memory of
Robert Rinton.
who died Feb. 6. 1827.
Aged 94 Years.

In Memory of
Anne, wife of
Robert Rinton.
who died June 1. 1810.

In Memory of
Matthew Rinton.
who died Sept. 27. 1813.
Aged 2 Years.

In Memory of
Frank Pothkes.
of this Parish.
Who died Dec. 22. 1877.
Aged 55 years.

In Memory of
William Webster.
for many years Parish Constable.
Who died March 27th 1875.
Aged 58 years.

In Memoriam.
ELEANORA MARY ACWORTH.
Wife of
JOHN OSWALD MITCHELL.
Born at Rothley Vicarage. 4th May 1850.
Died 29th Nov. 1893.

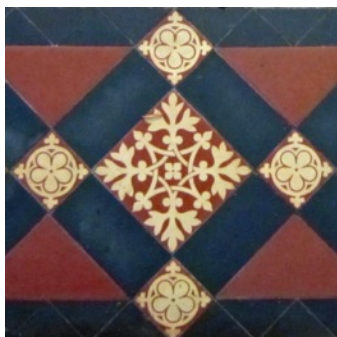
In Memory of
John Birch.
who died May 18th 1891. Aged 81.
A ring of these bells for more than 60
years. He sang at the Coronation
of King William IV.

In
Affectionate Memory
of
JOHN SPOONER PAGETT.
Born 4th Oct^r 1776;
Died 15th Oct^r 1864.

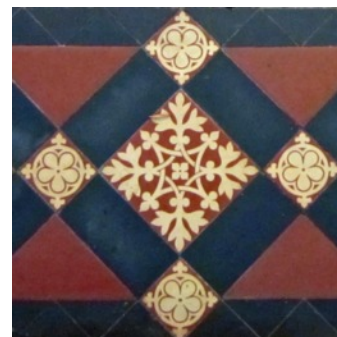
In
Affectionate Memory of
MARY.
Wife of
JOHN SPOONER PAGETT.
Born 7th Nov^r 1807;
Died 10th Sept. 1881.

In Memory of
Rev. W. ACWORTH, M.A.
who died Jan. 10th 1899. Aged 95 years.
Vicar of this Parish 1856-1855.
and a Justice of the Peace
for the County.

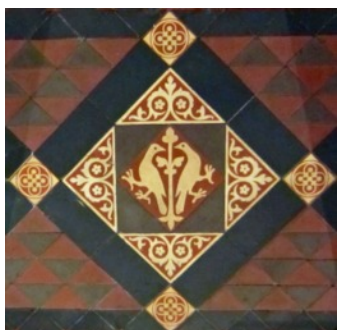
In ever loving Memory of
Elizabeth Ann Burton-B.
Wife of
Colonel Alexander Burton-B.
F.R.S. F.C.S.
who entered into rest from Roll
22nd March 190
in her 74th year.



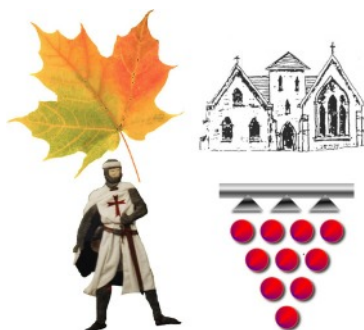
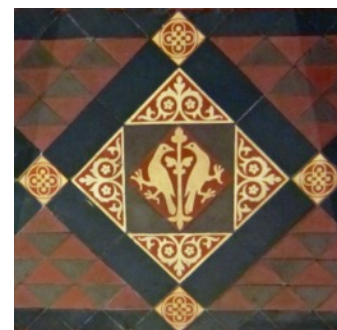
In 1897, in the South Aisle of Rothley Parish Church, a new window was put in place to attest to the wonder of faith and to commemorate the long association with the parish of the Paget family. A third and patriotic reason is likely to have been the national mood of celebration occasioned by the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. This led to an upsurge of more commemoration activity with the special commissioning of personalised tiles in the floor in front of this new window.



In each case the central four tiles of each diamond pattern in the floor were removed, originally laid in the 1877 restoration. The empty space was filled with a single larger tile dedicated to the memory of a particular individual. The tiles would have been ordered from a manufactory, and most of the examples at Rothley would have been ordered at the same time. A small number of tiles must have been ordered several years later, because of the dates of death. The manufactory must have still been able to reproduce the style, save for slight differences in the background motif. One last commemoration was concluded after a death in 1928. This example was of a much different type, built up from several odd-shaped tiles.



This booklet features each tile on its own page, together with a commentary by **Terry Sheppard** on the specific individual's place in the life of the parish.

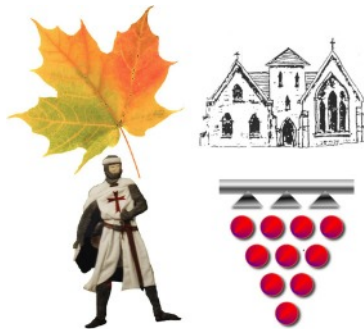


ROTHLEY HERITAGE TRUST

ENCAUSTIC FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES

SOUTH AISLE ROTHLEY CHURCH

Photographic images and descriptions
prepared by Terry Sheppard
for the Rothley Heritage Trust
MMXI



ROTHLEY HERITAGE TRUST

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



William Acworth was born in 1803 at Chatham in Kent, the third of eight children, and studied at Queen's College Cambridge. Installed as a curate at the Babington Manor of Cossington in 1832, while its Rector, John Babington, was doubling up as the Vicar of Rothley. One of the last acts of Thomas Babington before he died was to install William Acworth as the Vicar of Rothley, in 1836, where he created the National School in 1837. Revd Acworth's second of four wives died in 1846 at Rothley Vicarage.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



William Acworth transferred to a parish at Plumstead in Kent in 1852. His daughter Eleonora married a Glasgow-born military officer serving at the Woolwich Royal Arsenal, thirteen years her senior, and had many children by him in their settled home in Govan. William died at Bath aged 95, lovingly attended by his fourth wife.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Another daughter of Revd William Acworth, Lucy, also married a Scot serving in the Royal Artillery, travelling with him to overseas postings in Canada and elsewhere. Andrew Orr died at Woolwich at the early age of 40 in 1870. Lucy settled with her children in genteel niceness at Frimley in Surrey.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Carr Glynn followed his father William in taking up the ordained ministry and was one of the executors of his father's extensive will. Carr Glyn was probably responsible for organising the placing of the previous Acworth memorials. This must have been recognised by his own executors, who in 1928, many years after the last Victorian-style memorials were laid, arranged for this example to be produced.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



This tile, although made in one piece for insertion in the place where four tiles had been removed, nevertheless shows a leaf motif being added to the background, meaning its production at a later date. Batchelor Richard Burton came as Curate in 1858, stepped up to the post of Vicar in 1871, and remained a powerful figure of the parish landscape until his death in 1909. He led the two major building programmes of doubling the size of the School in 1871, and rescuing the Church from decay in the £4,000 restoration of 1877.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Elizabeth Ann was Richard Burton's sister, who notably was divorced by the Revd Henry Vale in 1872, on falling for the tall erudite Scotsman in uniform, Alexander Brown. Cleaving to him in 1873, she left behind her remaining seven of eleven children, and he added her maiden name to his. Widowed, she may have been living at the Vicarage to care for her increasingly frail father when she died in 1906.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



John Birch was born in Rothley in 1810. He lived all his married life with Sarah in a little cottage on the west side of North Street. No children appear in the census records. The two of them made a living at a stocking frame, and when John gave that up, he did a bit of gardening work. But he did love the church bells. Perhaps they were his children. Who would have paid for this tile in his honour?

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Frank was christened Francis after he was born in Rothley in 1824, but soon came to be known as Frank. This was in memory of an earlier birth of a Frank in 1820, who survived for just two months. The Franks were the sons of Dawson and Mary Fowkes [nee Bostock], who farmed from a base in Fowke Street. Dawson died in 1860, and his widow and the unmarried Frank retired to live in Anthony Street. Mary died in November 1877, Frank following her into a churchyard grave a month later.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



John Hart was born in Oakham in 1802 but by 1841 was a bachelor lodging in Anthony Street. The various census records show him as a labourer, and the 1881 listing shows him as an inmate in the Workhouse, still unmarried, worn out by his years of digging. As Sexton he would have prepared the graves in the churchyard for many of the village people, the place where he was finally laid to rest on 28 March 1885.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Mary Brewin married her John Needham in 1840, while still a teenager. The couple had at least six sons and one daughter, bringing them up in their Town Green house, where John worked his stocking frame. Mary was laid to rest in the churchyard on 9 July 1878, John following two years later in 1880. This tile must have been commissioned by one of their children in the general 1897 campaign.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Robert Kinton was born in Rothley way back in 1733. He held the office of Churchwarden in 1773. Buried in the churchyard where he is also commemorated, his headstone declaring that he departed this life in the year MDCCCXXVII. He does not appear as a person being awarded land under the 1782 Enclosure Act.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Ann Newbold was born in 1739 and married Robert Kinton at Rothley on 29 June 1765. Ann's remains lie with her husband in the churchyard, where the headstone records that she *resigned this mortal life*, aged 77. One of their children was born in 1775, and given her name, Newbold Kinton, who developed his life in London, marrying Ann Collings in 1810 at St Martin in the Fields.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Matthew was Newbold & Ann's first child, christened at St Andrew's Holborn on 5 Oct 1811. He died at Rothley and is buried in the churchyard. A very sad thing to happen on a visit to show the new grandchild to his grandparents. The headstone records that Matthew's London home was in Lambs Conduit Street.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Another Kinton son, John, was born in Rothley, marrying a Rothley girl, Harriett, in 1801. This Harriett's remains lie in the same grave as the little Matthew of the previous tile. The Burial Register records that Harriett's normal abode was Haylesbury in Wiltshire, which probably means she was visiting Rothley when she died. Perhaps she had come to see her father-in-law Robert at 90.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



The son of Thomas and Ann Pagett, John Spooner was baptised in Rothley Parish Church. He owned land in Rothley, Newtown Linford & Markfield, and is variously described as a Farmer and Grazier. At one time he did duty as one of Rothley's Overseers of the Poor. He married the Mary of the next tile in 1847.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Mary Walton was a Groby girl. In 1871 after John Spooner's death she and her two daughters, Mary Ann (born 1849), and Dinah (1851) shared a home in Town Green. Dinah married Edward Frost in 1877, moving to Leicester, and Mary Ann remained unmarried.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



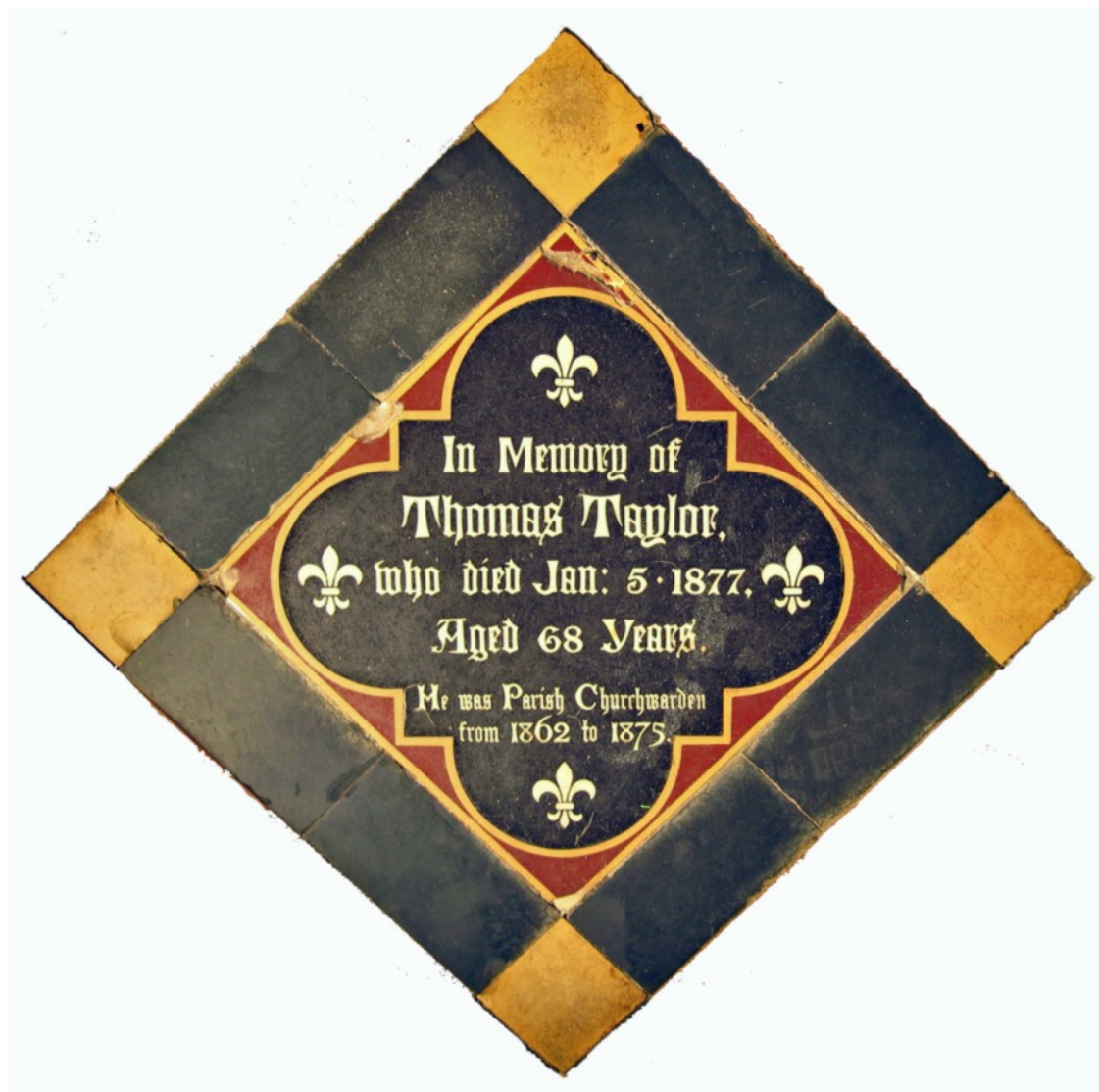
This is the signature tile for the whole installation in the south aisle. It gives the year, tying in with the dedication in the new window above by Ann Grieve, formerly a Rothley Pagett. The unmarried Mary Ann must have inherited some of the family money coming down through her father John Spooner Pagett because she lived on until 1929 in Vine Cottage, Mountsorrel Lane "on her own means". Clearly very proud to name a Pagett as a former Vicar.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



John Talton was a Grocer in Loughborough's High Street, employing two men and two boys. His father John was farming in Sileby at the time of his birth in 1845. Though he soon after took up a farming lease in Rothley, resident on Town Green. The loss of their son at such an early age was the likely prompt for father John and Mary Ann his mother to source this tile.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Thomas Taylor was one of that breed of Yeomen Farmers that fitted in stints as Churchwarden around their farming activity. He was born in Hope, Derbyshire and married the Mary Webster of the facing page in December 1830. Their base was in Town Green, and they had a daughter Eliza in 1833 and son Henry in 1835. Neither of these children married or left the farming home, and in 1901 the brother and sister duo were still at the helm of the farming operation.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Mary Brown was previously married to William Webster, who died in July 1829 aged 40. Mary was carrying a child at the time of his death, and Sarah Webster was born in 1830. Sarah is recorded in the 1881 census as half sister to Henry, resident in the family farm in Town Green. The much older Mary clung onto life for just a month after the death of her husband, Thomas. These tiles would most likely have been commissioned by Henry & Eliza.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



There are no obvious clues to the circumstances of this person, other than a note in the Church burial register. The entry records that Elizabeth died at her "abode in Loughborough". There does not appear to be a record of a baptism in this name around her birth year of 1777, so it may be possible that Tebbutt is her married name.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



William was the son of the Mary Brown (Taylor) of a previous page, and the deceased William Webster. By profession the 1871 census lists him as a Harness Maker, and as the tile indicates, would have been called out when the services of a Constable were required. No stone remains in the churchyard to mark his grave.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



In 1861 Robert appears in the census as a Confectioner in Syston High Street, but in 1851 he was unmarried in the family home in Town Green. There is a headstone in the churchyard that bears 'affectionate remembrance' of Robert and his wife Elizabeth. The evidence of his marriage and the birth of his School Teacher daughter Fanny Catherine show he must have moved around a lot.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Corby born widow Elizabeth Grocock brought a three-year-old child Charlotte Grocock and a five-year-old Mary M Grocock to her marriage to Robert Wilcox in 1852 at Liverpool. In 1851 she was running a shop in Upper Brown Street, Leicester. Their own daughter Fanny was born in Birmingham. The Church burial register notes that her abode at death was 'Leicester'.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Thurmaston born William gave up the family Ironmongery business in Cambridge in his late forties and came to the White House in Church Street, Rothley, to live the life of a country gentleman. From the evidence of the tile he clearly played a large part in the caring Church & Vestry. He met his wife Elizabeth, a native of Saffron Walden, while in Cambridge, and she died in 1895. They are both remembered on a headstone in the churchyard.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES



Henry first came to the area in 1778 as a Curate at Cossington straight after his ordination before moving to Somerset as a Rector in 1780. He returned in 1783 to become Rector of Cossington and Vicar of Rothley, before moving to Caythorpe in 1788. There are no obvious clues as to who commissioned this tile.

ROTHLEY CHURCH FLOOR MEMORIAL TILES

The commentaries under each tile are derived from the registers of the Parish Church, now lodged at the County Record Office at Wigston, and the Victorian Census schedules released by the Office for National Statistics.

Much use has been made of the Census and BMD material in its online form, and the digital transcriptions of the Rothley Church burial register provided by the Leicestershire Family History Society.

The detailed survey of the Rothley churchyard headstones begun by the Rothley History Society and completed by the Heritage Trust has been a further source of data.

Published by



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The two tile designs on the rear cover are from those laid in the chancel area of Rothley Parish Church.