

HANKERTON HISTORY – DID YOU KNOW? #9

We are going inside the church this month. Have you ever looked at the memorials and plaques in the North Aisle?

Most striking is the memorial to Giles Earle of Eastcourt, a soldier and MP for Chippenham. Dated 1775, it was produced by the sculptor Joseph Nollekens, generally considered to be the finest British sculptor of the late 18th century. He enjoyed the patronage of King George III, became an associate of the Royal Academy in 1771 and a full academician the following year.

Quite unusual for a village church to house such a splendid monument which no doubt reflected the status of the Earle family.



Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
The 1775 plaque to Giles Earle
of Eastcourt, by Nollekens.
28 February 2009



Holy Cross Church, Hankerton.
One of the two 1775
charity boards.

28 February 2009

On the north wall of the North Aisle are two charity boards. These record charities for the poor donated by an unknown benefactor and added to by Mary Panting in 1747, followed by Lady Winchcombe's charity and Hannah Ludlow's charity in 1848. These were amalgamated and administered jointly in 1979.

The charity's remit is to support "poor and needy" young and elderly parishioners. Support may take the form of cash or be given in kind, such as heating oil, or school support.

The charity owns a small parcel of grazing land within the parish, from which it derives a small rental income.

We have a record below dating from 1793 which shows that villagers were given both books and money in that year.

Lady winchcombe's gift

The Account of 16 years Money Given to the poor of Hankerton and
Orally this second day of Feb^r 1794 and due from John White Midsummer last
1793 given as follows

	Books	Money	Total
Mr ^s White	2 Bibles	10	10
Rev ^d Searis	2 Bibles	14	14
Wm. Pearson Sen ^r	2 Bibles	12	12
John Blizard	2 Bibles	7	7
John Howard	2 Bibles	10	10
Total	10 Bibles	53	63

Finally there is a plaque to the Packer family. Edgar Packer retired as vicar of Hankerton in 1945. His daughter Margaret died in 1996 and left a considerable sum of money to be spent on the fabric of the church. The timing was very fortunate as it enabled the church tower to be repaired in the late 1990s and the fund remains important to the on-going maintenance of the church building.