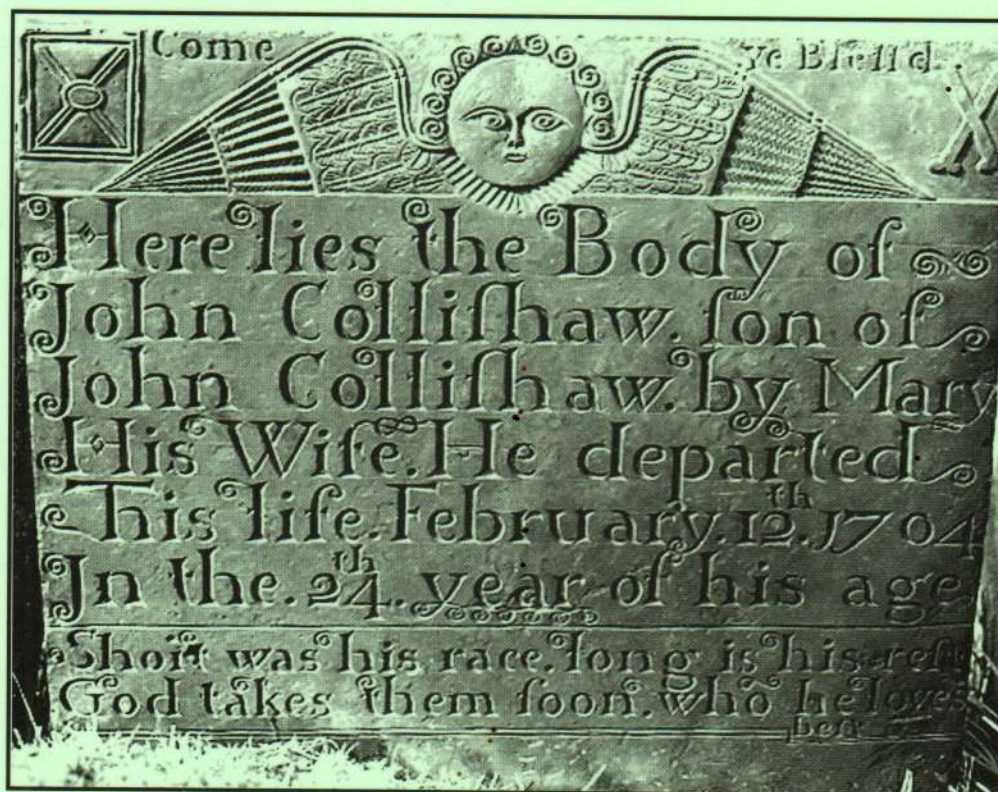


# VALE OF BELVOIR ANGELS

A SURVEY OF A GROUP OF EARLY SLATE HEADSTONES WITH  
CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE  
CHURCHYARDS OF THE VALE AND SOME SURROUNDING  
PARISHES OF LEICESTERSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE &  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED

BY

PAULINE F. & BERNARD V. HEATHCOTE

Front Cover: Photograph taken in the churchyard of St. Luke, Hickling on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1976. See Section 2. No. 3. page 13.

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by Bernard V. Heathcote, 27 Plough Lane, Lowdham,  
Nottingham NG14 7AT

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# VALE OF BELVOIR ANGELS

**A SURVEY OF A GROUP OF EARLY SLATE  
HEADSTONES WITH CHARACTERISTIC  
FEATURES WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE  
CHURCHYARDS OF THE VALE AND SOME  
SURROUNDING PARISHES OF  
LEICESTERSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & RUTLAND**

**1681 TO 1759**

**COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY**

**PAULINE F. & BERNARD V. HEATHCOTE**

**He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways**  
[from Psalm 91]

**Dedication of the new edition**

To Gaynor, companion and chauffeuse

## **Foreword to the new edition**

I was most pleased to receive many favourable comments following the publication of the first edition of *The Vale of Belvoir Angels*. The interest shown in these early slate headstones, which feature charming little carvings of angel heads, was most encouraging. Although the layout of the text is often far from precise, with either letters or words inserted almost as an afterthought, this however tends to give them additional appeal. I always realised that thirty years ago, my late wife and I may not have discovered all the Vale of Belvoir headstones in the churchyards in the villages under investigation. This has proved to be the case, and in addition a number of other places in which these headstones can be seen have also been identified. I have therefore decided to publish a new edition of this book. These new parishes have been visited, and some others re-visited, the inscriptions recorded and included in this new book. Whilst all the slates have carvings of angel faces with the characteristic down-turned wings some of these newer finds, whilst they were executed in the early to mid-eighteenth century differ somewhat in style to the cherub faces seen in the churchyards, which have the more abundant clusters of these slates. Although, they are clearly carved by different hands I have included them in order to complete the survey and indicated in the text where I believe they are variants. To date it has not been established who was responsible for carving these Vale of Belvoir headstones but it has been surmised that they were undertaken by a family of engravers, possibly resident in Hickling or an adjacent village. It is known that John Wright, a talented worker, was domiciled in Hickling and flourished between 1790 and 1830. Were the un-identified carvers of Vale of Belvoir headstones perhaps his forebears?

Bernard Heathcote

## **Acknowledgements**

I am extremely grateful to Ann Schmidt, who has generously shared her vast knowledge of graveyards in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire with me, and for indicating other parishes where these Vale of Belvoir Angel slate headstones may be seen.

I also wish to acknowledge the help given to me by my friend, Gaynor Ford, for her interest and enthusiasm in this project, for driving me to churchyards, and cheerfully assisting me in searching for "angels".

My thanks also to Pauline Miller for providing me with a transcript, made in the early 1900's, of the Vale of Belvoir headstone in St. Mary's churchyard in Nottingham. This slate is very eroded, probably by atmospheric pollution, and is now very difficult to decipher.

I very much appreciate the expert help and guidance that has been cheerfully given by my friend Dennis Apple in reading the proof, correcting my typographical errors, and helping to solve my computer problems.

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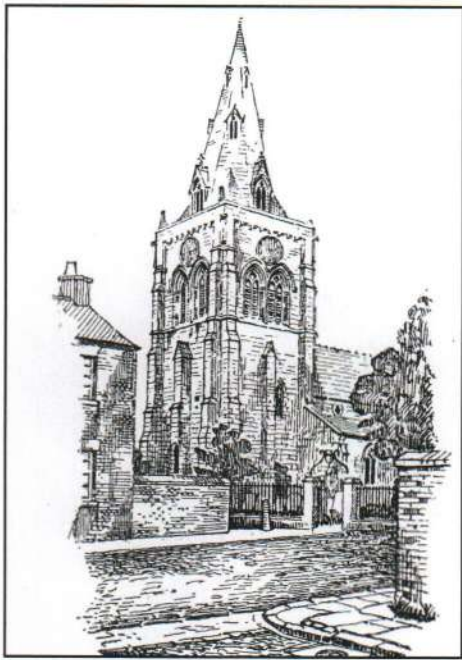
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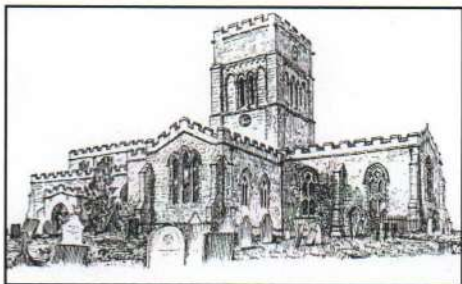
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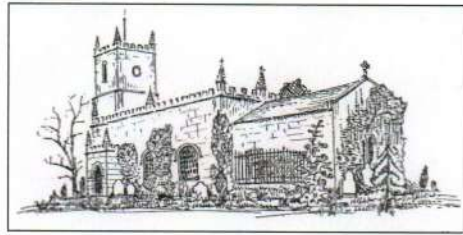
**St. Mary & All Saints, Bingham**



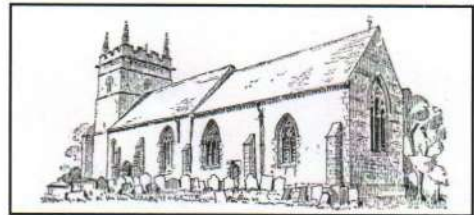
**St. Andrew, Langar**



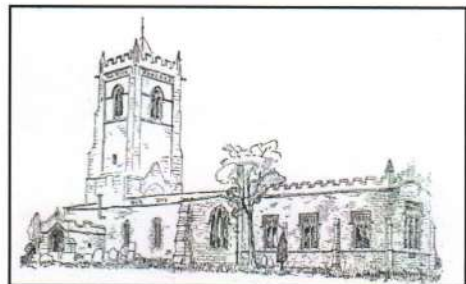
**St. Margaret, Owthorpe**



**St. Michael & All Angels, Elton-on-the Hill**



**All Saints, Granby**



**St. Luke, Hickling**



**St. John of Beverley, Whatton-in-the Vale**

**Sketches from: John T. Godfrey, Notes on Churches of Nottinghamshire  
– Hundred of Bingham, Phillimore & Co., London (1907).**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During the mid-1970's my late wife, Pauline Heathcote, and I visited many parish churchyards, principally in Nottinghamshire, in order to make a photographic record of slate headstones. We are particularly fortunate in this area in having an abundant number of early headstones, many of which are essentially as pristine as when they were carved in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Unfortunately, some have suffered from neglect by man and regrettably in some parishes headstones have been lifted and laid flat or stacked in heaps or propped against the boundary or church wall. The slate originated from the quarries in Charnwood Forest, in north-west Leicestershire, and had been mined for very many years; one of the principal uses was that of roofing material.



Through our photographs we endeavoured to depict the work of a number of the local engravers who carved these slates, especially the symbolism which they included in addition to the names of the deceased and accompanying verse. These photographs are now held in the collection of the Local Studies Library in Angel Row Nottingham. We held a number of exhibitions of our work in Nottingham libraries in the County and the City and in the Museum of Nottingham Life. Also Pauline often mentioned these headstones in her local history lectures.

However one group of slates were particularly fascinating. These were carved from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and we affectionately styled them "The Vale of Belvoir Angels". The Vale of Belvoir is a somewhat ill-defined area, although Michael Honeybone offers a definition<sup>1</sup>. He concluded that the boundaries lie at the west by the Fosse Way, at the north to include Staunton-in-the-Vale, at the north-east by the Lincolnshire border and at the south by the villages of Nether & Upper Broughton and Ab Kettleby. We visited most of the villages in the Vale but we also went to a number in the bordering counties of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. These parishes are listed in Section 4 Miscellany, together with the number of slates of the Vale of Belvoir type recorded. Also the persons commemorated are listed in alphabetical order. The main characteristic of the group is that they all have one or sometimes two cherubs' heads with



down-turned wings and an attendant ruff. These heads were usually carved at the top of the slate, but occasionally in the middle

or at the bottom. The design of these headstones barely changes over the 60-year period in which they were produced. There is no symmetrical layout to the lettering but a straight-forward carving from the left-hand edge to the right with a final letter or word sometimes squeezed in above or below the line. The foregoing shows that the words had not been laid out prior to engraving. The earliest carving found in the Vale was at Redmile which bears the date 1690 although an earlier one, 1681, was discovered at

Melton Mowbray. The latest was dated 1759 at Old Dalby. The slates recorded are listed alphabetically by parish in Section 2, each being numerically identified, giving a grand total of 328 recordings. Some of these gravestones were photographed and these are reproduced in Section 3. The vast majority are located in those churchyards within the Vale, with the greatest concentration being at seen at Granby (22 slates), Upper Broughton (25 slates), Hickling (33 slates) and Nether Broughton (34 slates). Maurice Barley<sup>2</sup> came to the conclusion that the individuals who carved these unsigned slates most likely were domiciled in one of these villages. Although the general style and the crudeness of their work are consistent throughout the period, by close inspection it is possible to detect carvings by different hands and Maurice Barley<sup>2</sup> gives us a number of examples.

A churchyard with its gravestones presents us with an oasis of calm and tranquillity. In those instances where the monuments have been removed the area surrounding the church appears sterile and sanitized; all its former character having been swept away. Much may be gleaned from a study of gravestones and as previously mentioned, we in the southern area of Nottinghamshire and the borders with Leicestershire and Lincolnshire are very fortunate in having many slate headstones; every effort should be made to preserve them. Many of these slates were carved by individuals residing in the villages and therefore of interest to modern-day local historians. Apart from the afore mentioned slates, they are sometimes signed by the maker's name or initials. Ecclesiastical symbolism is carved into many slates and well-worth a close look; death being represented by a skeleton or a hand-held skull, eternity by a circle depicted by a snake biting its own tail. Other symbols include the tree-of-life, grief by the weeping willow, hope by an anchor, purity by a lily, affection by a pair of birds, and receiving the soul into heaven by the hand of God reaching out from the clouds. Time is represented by a figure clad in a loin-cloth, holding a hour-glass or a scythe, mortality by an engraving of the earth, and the grave by the sextants' tools, crossed pike & shovel. The early angel heads seen on the Vale of Belvoir stones possibly represents the soul of the departed winging its way to heaven.

Finally let us reflect on Sir John Betjeman's poem entitled 'Churchyards'. This is a selection:

*For churchyards then, though hallowed ground  
Were not so grim as now they sound,  
And horns of ale were handed round  
For which churchwardens used to pay  
On each especial vestry day,  
'Twas thus the village drunk its beer  
With its relations buried near,  
And that is why we often see  
Inns where the alehouse used to be  
Close to the church when prayers were said  
And Masses for the village dead...  
But this I know, you're sure to find  
Some headstones of the Georgian kind  
In each old churchyard near and far,  
Just go and see how fine they are.  
Notice the lettering of that age*

*Spaced like a noble title-page,  
The parish names cut deep and strong  
To hold the shades of evening long,  
The quaint and sometimes touching rhymes  
By parish poets of the times,  
Bellows, or reaping hook or spade  
To show, perhaps, the dead man's trade,  
And cherubs in the corner spaces  
With wings and English ploughboy faces.  
I hate to see in old churchyards  
Tombstones stacked round like playing cards  
Along the wall which then encloses  
A trim new lawn and standard roses  
Bird-baths and objects such as fill a  
Garden in some suburban villa*

**Grimston (cont.)**

**No.3**

Here lieth the body of Mary wife of John Henson who died August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1735 her age 63 years [*This slate was partially broken*]

**No.4**

Here lieth the body of William Burgess the son of John Burgess by Anne his wife who departed this life May the 20<sup>th</sup> 1707 [*The top of this slate was broken off*]

**HARBY, Leics. (Recorded 10<sup>th</sup> May 1976)**

**No.1**

Here lies the body of Tho: Kent who departed this life Aug<sup>t</sup> the 15<sup>th</sup> 1720 aged 66 [*Size of slate 51.5 x 55*]

**No.2**

Here lies the body of Katherine wife of John Hand of Thorroton and daughter of Tho: and Eliz<sup>th</sup> Hand of this Town she died January the 23<sup>rd</sup> 1719 in the 41<sup>st</sup> year of her age [*Size of slate 45 x 57 cm*]

**No.3**

Here lies the body of Eliz. ye wife of Ralph Whittle Sen<sup>r</sup> she died Feb the 7<sup>th</sup> 1716 in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of her age [*Size of slate 52 x 53 cm*]

**No.4**

Here lies ye body of John ye son of Tho: Hand by Eliz: his wife who died Dec. ye 1<sup>st</sup> 1727 in ye 31<sup>st</sup> year of his age [*Size of slate 54 x 80 cm*]

**No.5**

Here lies the body of Thomas the son of Thomas and Margret Francis he died Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1716 his age 22 years [*Size of slate 35.5 x 39 cm*]

**No.6**

Here lies the body of Thomas Laming who departed this life March ye 12<sup>th</sup> in ye 73<sup>rd</sup> year of his age 1718 [*Size of slate 60 x 86 cm*]

**HARSTON, Leics. (Recorded 8<sup>th</sup> October 1976)**

**No.1**

Here lies the body of William Stevenson who died March ye 29<sup>th</sup> 1709 aged 87  
*All ye days of my appointed time*  
*Will I wait till my change shall come*

**HICKLING, Notts. (Recorded 4<sup>th</sup> October 1976)**

**No.1**

Here lyeth ye Body of Dofie who was the wife of John Fawkes who died December ye 23<sup>rd</sup> 1727 aged 51 years [*Photograph on page 65*]

**No.2**

Here lies the body of Rebekah the wife of Edward Collishaw she died Octo: the 5<sup>th</sup> 1749 Aged 65 years

*Also:* Here lyeth the body of Edward Collishaw who departed this Feb (?) 1732(?) aged 51(?) [*Raised lettering but badly worn*]

**Hickling (cont.)**

**No.3**

Here lies the body of John Collishaw son of John Collishaw by Mary his wife he departed this life February 12<sup>th</sup> 1704 in the 24<sup>th</sup> year of his age

*On the reverse:* Here lies interred the body of Anne the daughter of Edward Collishaw by Rebebecca his wife who died December ye 20<sup>th</sup> in ye year of our Lord 1729 aged 20 years [*Photograph of the front face on page 66*]

**No.4**

Here lyeth the Body of Robert Morriss he died May ye 2<sup>nd</sup> aged 69 years 1752

*On the reverse:* Here lies ye body of Magrett the daughter of Robt Morris by Francis his wife she died May 28<sup>th</sup> 1723 in ye 7<sup>th</sup> year of her age  
[*Photograph of the front face on page 67*]

**No.5**

Here lyeth the body of Edward Collishaw Senir who departed this life Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 1729 aged 70 years

**No.6**

*Badly broken headstone:* Here lyeth the body of Bryan --erton he -- July 7<sup>th</sup> 1703

**No.7**

Here lies the body of Anne the daughter of Ellin Caunt who died Mar ye 7<sup>th</sup> 1734 aged 17 years [*Photograph on page 68*]

**No.8**

Here lyeth the body of John Caunt the son of John Caunt by Dorothy his wife who departed this life August ye 20<sup>th</sup> Anno Dom 1702 in ye 31<sup>st</sup> year of his age

**No.9**

Here lies the body of Samuel Morley he died June ye 8<sup>th</sup> 1738 aged 48 years

**No.10**

Here lyeth the body of John Barlow son of William Barlow by Sarah his wife he died Sept. the 7<sup>th</sup> 1710 his age 25 years

**No.11**

Here lyeth the body of Ann Musson she died June ye 13<sup>th</sup> 1755 in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of her age

**No.12**

Here lies the body of Richard Smith deceased March the 5<sup>th</sup> 1719 age 59

Here also lies the body of Elizabeth wife of Richard Smith above s'd who died March the 5<sup>th</sup> 1734 her age 74 years

**No.13**

Here lyeth the body of John Smith of Cropwell who died Dec the 23<sup>rd</sup> in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age

**No.14**

Here lies ye body of Margret ye wife of Christopher Neal who died Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1734 age 48 years

**No.15**

Here lieth the body of John ye son of John James by Margaret his wife he died December 27<sup>th</sup> 1719 aged 7 years

Thomas ye son of John and Margaret aforesaid died May 23rd 1719 aged 20 week

**Hickling (cont.)**

**No.16**

Here lies the body of Margret the wife of Joshua Man she di'd December the 10<sup>th</sup> 1730 in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of her age

**No.17**

Here lyeth the body of Mary the wife of John Daft junior she departed this life January 27<sup>th</sup> 1744/3 aged 33 years [*Photograph on page 69*]

**No.18**

Here lies the body of Thomas Hardy who departed this life January 25<sup>th</sup> 1720 aged 48 years

Here lies the body of Judith wife of Thomas Hardy aforesaid she died Mar. ye 21<sup>st</sup> 1727 aged 53

**No.19**

Here lies the body of Sarah the wife of Will<sup>m</sup> Shittlewood of Kinolton she died Jan the 20<sup>th</sup> 1724 aged 26 years

**No.20**

Here lies ye body of Eliz Hardy who departed this life May ye 15<sup>th</sup> 1728 in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of her age [*Photograph on page 70*]

**No.21**

Here lies the body of Margaret Gill she died May the 18<sup>th</sup> 1740 aged 51 years

**No.22**

Here lies the body of Hugh Gill dear child of Hugh Gill by Margaret his wife he died Feb: 13<sup>th</sup> 1720 in ye 5<sup>th</sup> year of his age

**No.23**

Here lies the body of John son of Hugh Gill by Margaret his wife was buried Feb ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1732 aged 19 years

Here lies also the body of Hugh son of Hugh & Margaret Gill he was buried March 10<sup>th</sup> 1732 aged 7 years

**No.24**

Here lies the body of George Hives he died March the 1<sup>st</sup> 1737/8 aged 38 years

**No.25**

Here lies the body of George Man he died Nov the 15<sup>th</sup> 1730 his age 45 years

**No.26**

Anne daughter of John Daft by Margaret his wife died Mar ye 22<sup>nd</sup> 1713

*Also:* Robert son of son of John Daft by Margaret his wife died May the 16<sup>th</sup> 1719 aged 3 years

*Also:* Anne daughter of John Daft by Margaret his wife died July ye 11<sup>th</sup> 1719

*Also:* Margaret daughter of John Daft by Margaret his wife died May the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1723 aged 4 years

**No.27**

Here lies the body of Elizabeth the wife of William Morley who departed this life 20<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1735 in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of her age

**Hickling (cont.)**

**No.28**

Here lyeth the body of Mary the wife of Thomas Willkinson she died January ye 17<sup>th</sup> 1749 aged 32 years

Also lyeth Ann aged 24 weeks

Also lyeth Mary Willkinson aged 2 years

**No.29**

Here lyeth the body of Joseph Daft he died April the 29<sup>th</sup> 1758 aged 68 years

**No.30**

Here lieth the body of Richard son of Joseph and Hannah Wilson he died Nov. ye 7<sup>th</sup> 1753 aged 19 years [*Size of slate 45.5 x 61 cm*]

**No.31**

Mary the daughter of Stephen & Ann Man died April the 20<sup>th</sup> 1735 her age 15 years [*Photograph on page 71*]

**No.32**

Here lyeth the body of Anne the dear child of George Man by Mary his wife who die'd Nov. the 19<sup>th</sup> day 1735 half a year old [*Photograph on page 72*]

**No.33**

Here lieth the body of William son of ...Man senior & Margaret his wife he died August the 30<sup>th</sup> 1742 in y<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> year of his age

**HOBY, Leics.** (*Recorded 26<sup>th</sup> October 1977*)

**No.1**

Here lies the body of George Henton who departed this life April the 30<sup>th</sup> 1711 aged 82 years

Here lies also the body of Eliz. wife of George Henton who died May the 12<sup>th</sup> 1682 aged 50 year

[*Size of slate 58 x 65 cm - This headstone is a variant of the Vale of Belvoir type*]

**No.2**

Here lieth the body of William Henton deceas'd Octob<sup>r</sup> ye 19<sup>th</sup> 1727 aged 66 years

[*Size of slate 6 x 82 cm - This headstone is a variant of the Vale of Belvoir type*]

**No.3**

Here lies interr'd ye body of 2 children of Thomas and Elizabeth Hickling. Thomas died April ye 9<sup>th</sup> 1727 and Elizabeth died April the 20<sup>th</sup> 1728 in the first year of their age

[*Size of slate 52 x 63 cm - This headstone is a variant of the Vale of Belvoir type*]

**KEYWORTH, Notts.** (*Recorded 23rd March 2009*)

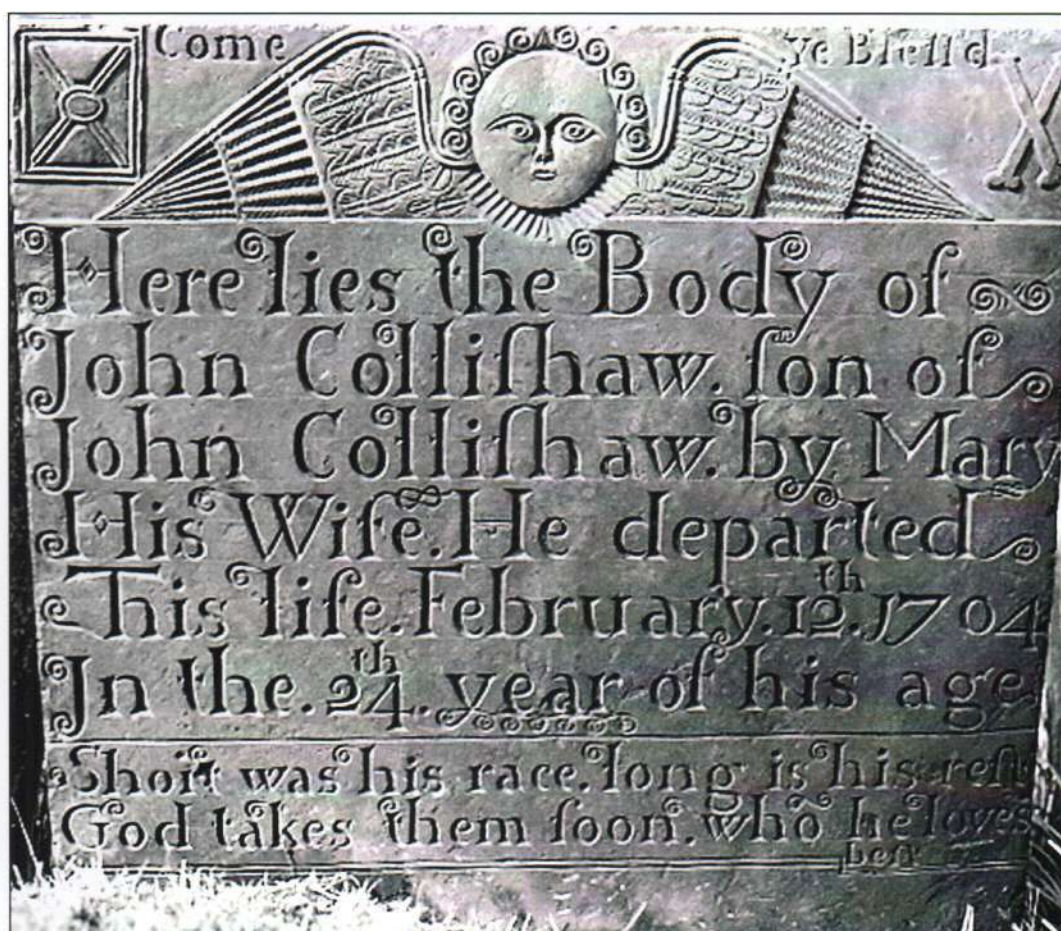
**No.1**

Here lyeth ye bodyes of Robert Coppley and Ann his wife he departed this life March ye 6<sup>th</sup> Anno Dom 1693 in ye 37<sup>th</sup> year of his age & she departed this life August ye 29<sup>th</sup>

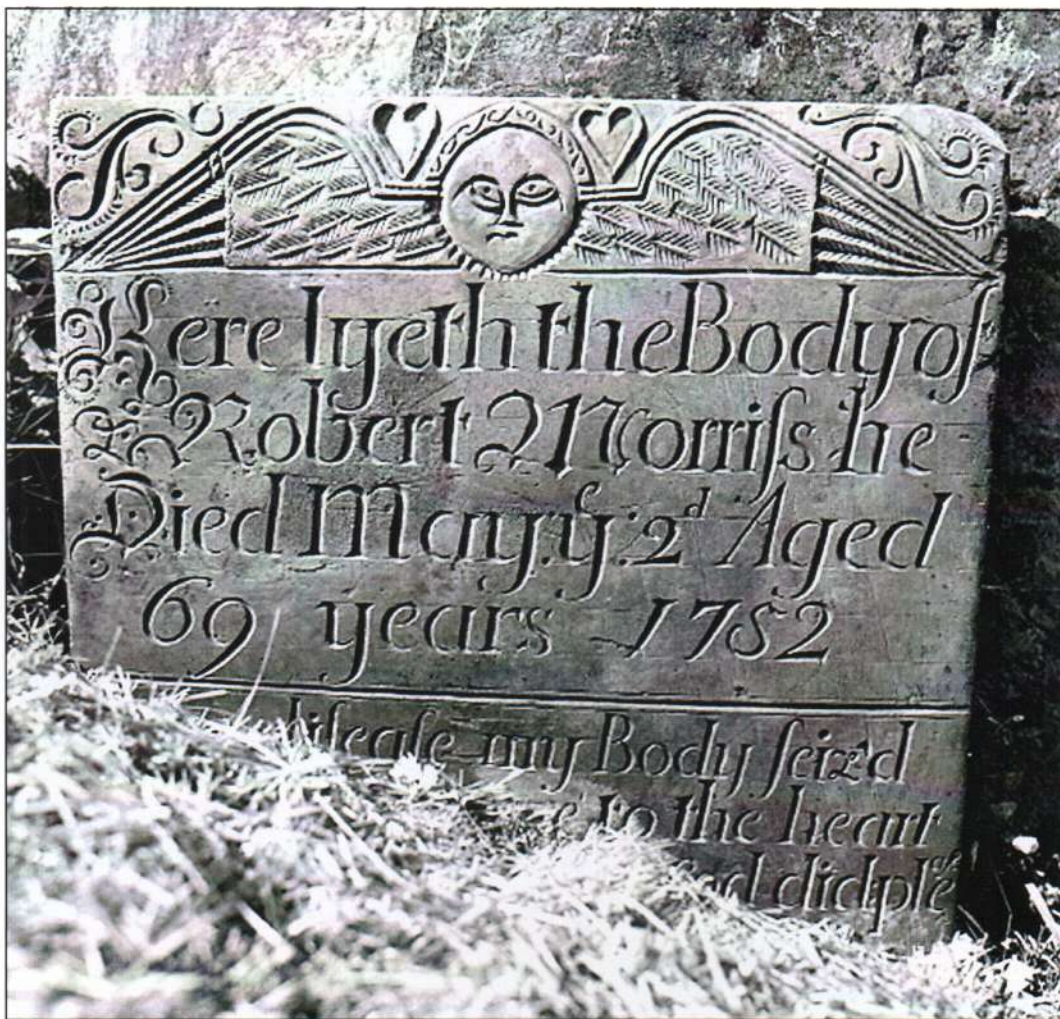
Anno Dom 1702 in ye 55<sup>th</sup> year of her age [*Size of slate 51 x 94 cm - set against the church wall, the top was slightly broken on its right-hand side*]



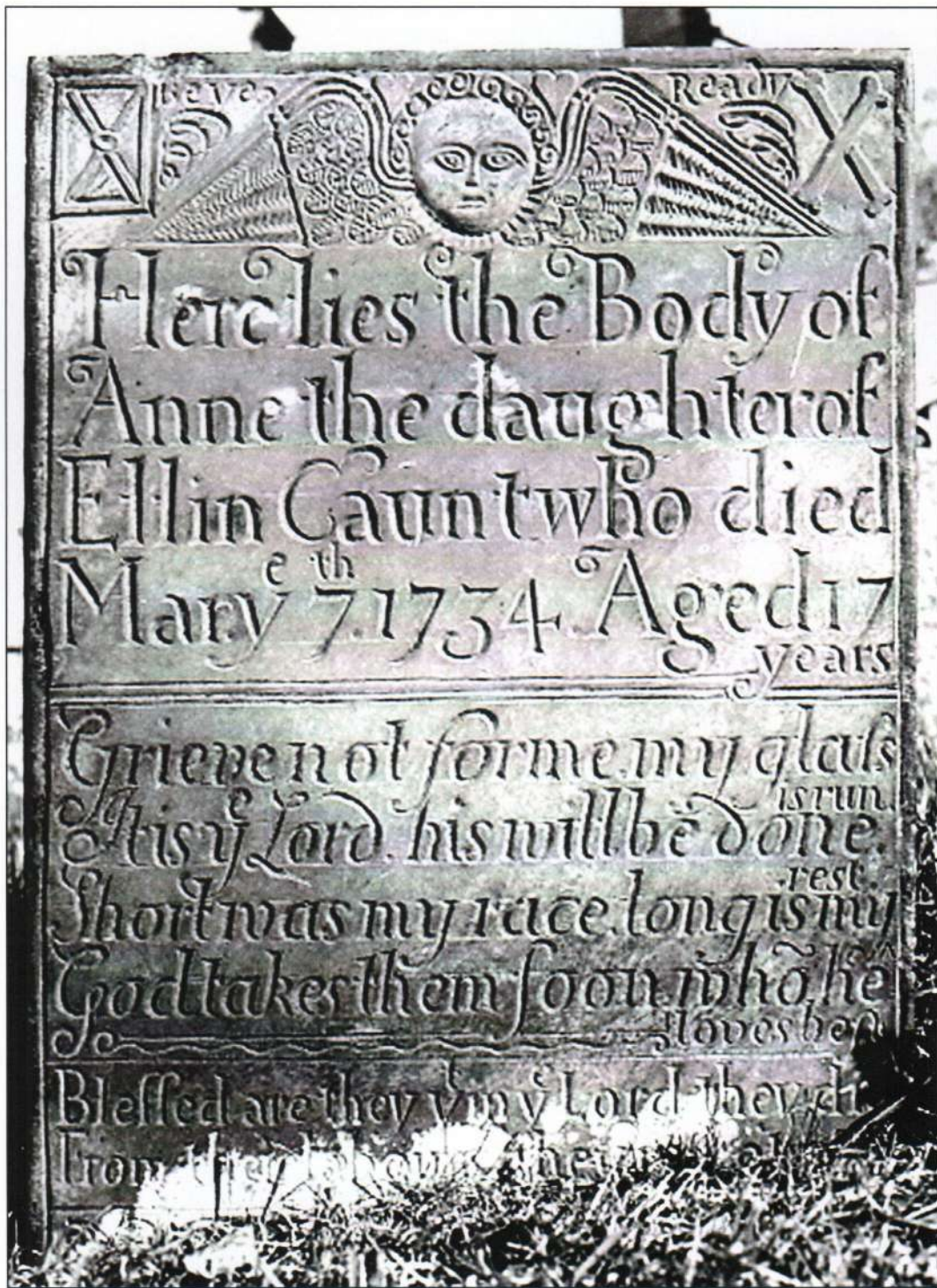
**Hickling No. 1**



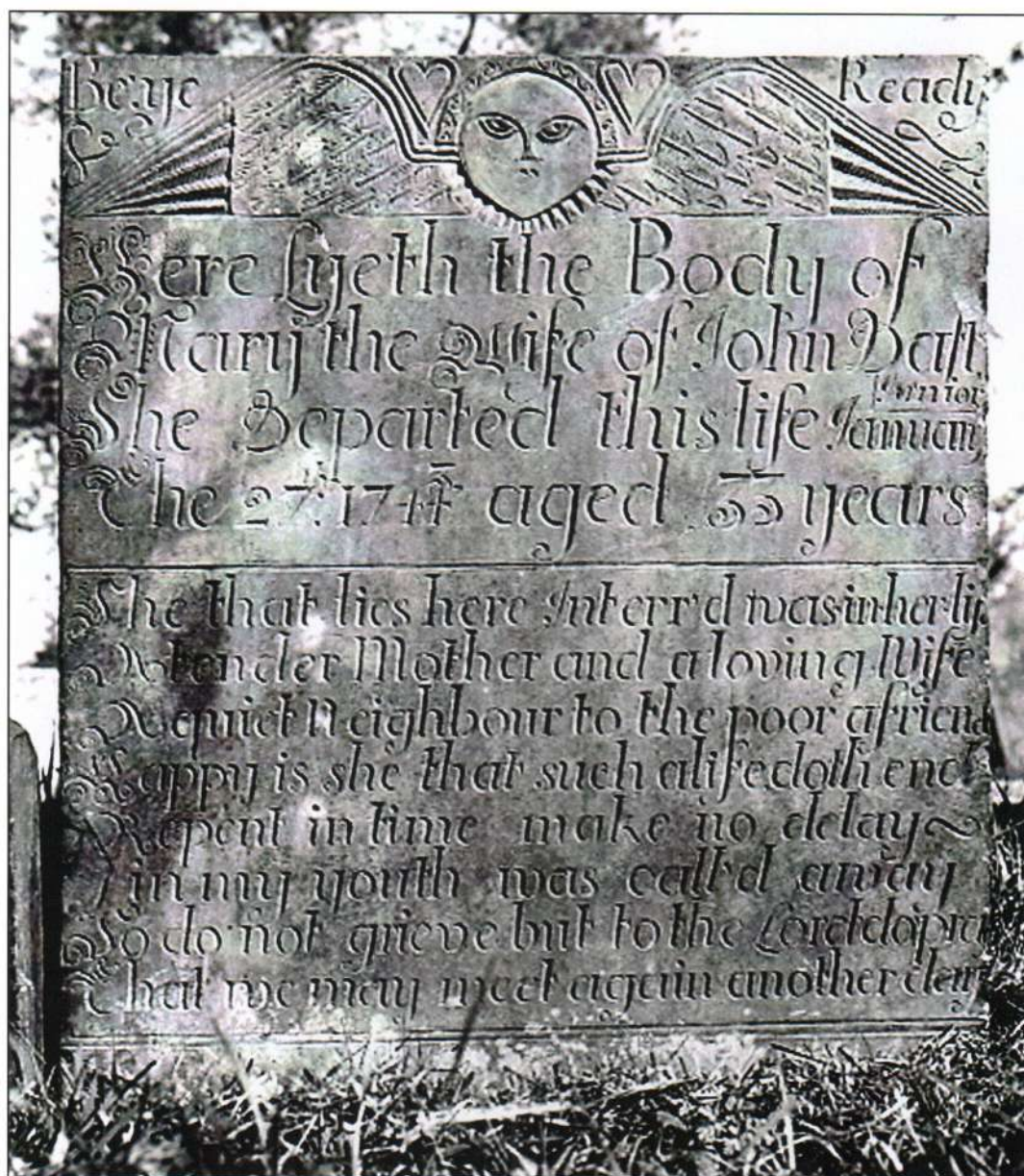
Hickling No. 3



Hickling No. 4



Hickling No. 7



Hickling No. 17



Hickling No. 20



Hickling No. 31



Hickling No. 32

#### 4. MISCELLANY

##### List of churchyards visited with the number of Vale of Belvoir headstones recorded

Ab Kettleby, Leics. [10]	Harby, Leics. [6]	Saltby, Leics. [0]
Asfordby, Leics. [0]	Harlaxton, Lincs. [0]	Saxby, Leics. [0]
Ashwell, Rutland [1]	Harston, Leics. [1]	Saxelby, Leics. [4]
Barkestone, Leics. [0]	Hawthorn, Notts. [0]	Scalford, Leics. [1]
Barkston, Lincs. [0]	Hickling, Notts. [33]	Scarrington, Notts. [0]
Barrow-upon-Soar, Leics. [1]	Hoby, Leics. [3]	Scraptoft, Leics. [1]
Barton-in-Fabis, Notts. [0]	Holme Pierrepont, Notts. [0]	Seagrave, Leics. [2]
Bingham, Notts. [3]	Hose, Leics. [0]	Sedgebrook, Lincs. [1]
Bottesford, Leics. [1]	Houghton, Lincs. [0]	Shelford, Notts. [0]
Branston, Leics. [3]	Keyworth, Notts. [1]	Shelton, Notts. [0]
Brentingby, Leics. [0]	Kilvington, Notts. [0]	Sibthorpe, Notts. [0]
Brooksby, Leics. [1]	Kingston-on-Soar, Notts. [0]	Sproxtun, Leics. [0]
Buckminster, Leics. [0]	Kinoulton old Churchyard, Notts. [13]	Stainby, Lincs. [1]
Bunny, Notts. [2]	Kirby Bellars, Leics. [1]	Stanford-on-Soar, Notts. [0]
Burton Lazars, Leics. [4]	Kneeton, Notts. [0]	Stathern, Leics. [0]
Car Colston, Notts. [0]	Knipton, Leics. [0]	Staunton-in-the-Vale, Notts. [5]
Chadwell, Leics. [0]	Langar, Notts. [9]	Stonesby, Leics. [0]
Clifton, Notts. [1]	Little Dalby, Leics. [1]	Sutton Bonington, Notts. [0]
Colston Bassett, Notts. [7]	Long Clawson, Leics. [12]	Swayfield, Lincs. [0]
Costock, Notts. [0]	Marston, Lincs. [0]	Swithland, Leics. [0]
Coston, Leics. [1]	Melton Mowbray, Leics. [2]	Syerston, Notts. [0]
Cotgrave, Notts. [0]	Muston, Leics. [1]	Syston, Leics. [2]
Cropwell Bishop, Notts. [0]	Nether Broughton, Leics. [34]	Syston, Lincs. [0]
Cropwell Butler, Notts. [0]	Normanton-on-Soar, Notts. [0]	Thoroton, Notts. [1]
Croxton Kerrial, Leics. [1]	Nottingham, St. Mary's [1]	Thrumpton, Notts. [0]
Denton, Lincs. [3]	Nottingham, St. Nicholas [1]	Twynford, Leics. [1]
East Bridgford, Notts. [2]	Old Dalby, Leics. [12]	Tythby, Notts. [2]
East Stoke, Notts. [0]	Orston, Notts. [0]	Upper Broughton, Notts. [25]
Eastwell, Leics. [1]	Owthorpe, Notts. [6]	Waltham-on-the-Wolds, Leics. [1]
Eaton, Leics. [5]	Plumtree, Notts. [2]	Wartnaby, Leics. [5]
Edwalton, Notts. [1]	Plungar, Leics. [1]	Welby, Leics. [0]
Elston, Notts. [0]	Prestwold, Leics. [3]	Westborough, Lincs. [1]
Elton-on-the-Hill, Notts. [1]	Queniborough, Leics. [1]	West Bridgford, Notts. [1]
Flawborough, Notts. [10]	Quorn, Leics. [4]	Whatton, Notts. [10]
Flintham, Notts. [0]	Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts. [0]	Whitwick, Leics. [1]
Freeby, Leics. [0]	Ragdale, Leics. [1]	Widmerpool, Notts. [0]
Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Leics. [0]	Ratcliffe-on-the Wreake, Leics. [1]	Wilford, Notts. [0]
Gaddesby, Leics. [5]	Rearsby, Leics. [2]	Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Notts. [0]
Garthorpe, Leics. [0]	Redmile, Leics. [3]	Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir, Lincs. [2]
Goadby Marwood, Leics. [1]	Rempstone, Notts. [0]	Wyfordby, Leics. [0]
Granby, Notts. [22]	Ropsley, Lincs. [1]	Wymeswold, Leics. [7]
Grantham, Lincs. [3]	Rotherby, Leics. [0]	Wysall, Notts. [3]
Great Gonerby, Lincs. [1]	Rothley, Leics. [0]	
Grimston, Leics. [4]	Ruddington, Notts. [0]	

*The number of headstones recorded in each parish is given in parentheses [ ]*

**Total 328**

**List of persons commemorated on the recorded headstones known as Vale of Belvoir Angels**

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
-	Eliz.	33	1720	Kinoulton	13
Aley	Hester	35 weeks 2 days	1726	Prestwold	2
Allott	Ann	-	1717	Ab Kettleby	1
Archer	William	41	1721	Bunny	2
Attonbrow	George	6	1720	Clifton	1
Attonbrow	Joshua	Infant	1728	Clifton	1
Attonbrow	Richard	56	1728	Clifton	1
Baley	Thomas	47	1733	Upper Broughton	23
Baly	Sarah	19	1744	Upper Broughton	24
Baly	Thomas	76	1723	Upper Broughton	22
Barlow	John	25	1710	Hickling	10
Barlow	John	65	1741	Upper Broughton	18
Barlow	William	25	1709	Upper Broughton	17
Barnes	Robert	67	1743/44	Eastwell	1
Barnet	Rebecca	62	1728	Nether Broughton	1
Barsby	Anne	Not readable	1733	Gaddesby	4
Beeston	John	26	1729	Langar	8
Bell	Robert	38	1728/29	Langar	9
Bird	Elizabeth	5	1724	Owthorpe	1
Bird	Ellin	20	1730	Owthorpe	1
Bird	Ellin	41	1729	Owthorpe	1
Bird	Garvis	5	1724	Owthorpe	1
Bird	John	35	1724	Owthorpe	1
Bird	Richard	47	1726	Saxelby	1
Bishop	Elizabeth	38	1718	Old Dalby	4
Blagg	Thomas	52	1707	East Bridgford	1
Blankley	Thomas	71	1712	Eaton	4
Boley	Thomas	46	1711	Quorn	3
Bool	Francis	2	1728	Elton-on-the-Hill	1
Booly	Mary	2	1702	Quorn	2
Bracebridge	Elizabeth	15	1697	Ab Kettleby	10
Brown	William	49	1725	Staunton-in-the-Vale	1
Browne	Elizabeth	49	1746	Nether Broughton	9
Browne	George	70	1720	Nether Broughton	19
Browne	Henry	4	1722	Nether Broughton	14
Browne	John	3	1722	Nether Broughton	14
Browne	Mary	11	-	Nether Broughton	9
Browne	Mary	68	172-	Nether Broughton	18
Browne	Mickel	47	1737	Nether Broughton	20
Browne	Rebecca	62	1726	Nether Broughton	6
Browne	William senior	77	1720	Nether Broughton	17
Burbidge	George	75	1749	Gaddesby	5
Burgess	William	-	1707	Grimston	4
Burton	Ema	47	1695	Grimston	1
Burton	Mary	31	1724	Whitwick	1
Callcraft	Elizabeth	-	1690	Redmile	3
Callcraft	Francis	-	1691	Redmile	3
Cam	John	-	1756	Colston Bassett	7
Cam	John senior	47?	1750	Colston Bassett	7
Carlile	Ann	39	1706	Whatton	1
Carlile	George	8	1733	Whatton	2
Carlile	Hannah	6	1732	Whatton	2
Carlile	Mary	Infant	-	Whatton	2
Carpendale	Anne	1	1719	Whatton	5
Carpendale	John junior	26	1725	Whatton	7
Carpendale	John senior	59	1721	Whatton	6
Carpendale	Mary	41	1710	Whatton	3
Carpendale	Thomas	58	1718	Whatton	4
Caunt	Anne	17	1734	Hickling	7
Caunt	John	30	1702	Hickling	8
Chamberlin	John	85	1698	Muston	1
Chamberlin	Mary	26	1704	Sedgebrook	1
Chettle	Elizabeth	33	1721	Granby	1
Church	Charles junior	34	1736	Colston Bassett	5

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
Church	Mary	38	1757	Colston Bassett	6
Clark	Robert	69	1705	West Bridgford	1
Clarke	Anne	36	1692	Kinoulton	6
Clarke	Elizabeth	32	1719	Kinoulton	5
Clarke	Mary	-	1721	Kinoulton	4
Collishaw	Anne	20	1729	Hickling	3
Collishaw	Edward	51?	1732?	Hickling	2
Collishaw	Edward senior	70	1729	Hickling	5
Collishaw	John	23	1704	Hickling	3
Collishaw	Rebekah	65	1749	Hickling	2
Cooke	Hannah	48	1728	Flawborough	1
Coppley	Ann	54	1702	Keyworth	1
Coppley	Robert	36	1693	Keyworth	1
Cross	Alice	59	1749	Upper Broughton	3
Cross	Elizabeth	-	1704	Upper Broughton	5
Cross	Elizabeth	35	1748	Upper Broughton	2
Cross	Richard	66	1744	Upper Broughton	4
Cumberland	Mary	40	1724	Wysall	1
Dafft	Elizabeth	51	1720	Nether Broughton	34
Daft	Anne	-	1713	Hickling	26
Daft	Joseph	68	1758	Hickling	29
Daft	Margaret	4	1723	Hickling	26
Daft	Mary	33	1744/3	Hickling	17
Daft	Robert	3	1719	Hickling	26
Davies	Anne	7 weeks	1725	Old Dalby	9
Davies	Mary	35	1725	Old Dalby	9
Davis	William	14	1727	Nether Broughton	25
Dee	Sarah	20	1703	Kinoulton	1
Devrill	John	32	1717	Edwalton	1
Dexter	Richard	37	1727	Owthorpe	2
Dexter	Sarah	48	1732	Owthorpe	3
Doubleday	Mary	35	1737	Scalford	1
Doughty	John	78	1764	Quorn	1
Doughty	Mary	73	1747	Quorn	1
Doughty	Sarah	41	1726	Wymeswold	6
Dracott	Ann	78	1757	Kirby Bellars	1
Dracott	William junior	43	1717	Kirby Bellars	1
Draper	James	19	1718	Ab Kettleby	2
Draper	William	64	1722	Branston	1
Dubleday	Thomas	55	1738	Long Clawson	1
Duick	James	72	1727	Brooksy	1
Eite	John	79	1730	Old Dalby	10
Eite	Margaret	6	1721	Old Dalby	8
Eite	Sarah	17	1728	Old Dalby	8
Eite	Sarah	52	1731	Old Dalby	7
Fawkes	Dosie	51	1727	Hickling	1
Fawkes	Elizabeth	26	1724	Granby	5
Fawkes	Elizabeth	61	1725	Long Clawson	10
Fawkes	Ellin	61	1728	Granby	7
Fawkes	Mary	Infancy	1727	Granby	6
Fawkes	Richard	22	1724	Granby	4
Fawkes	Richard	54	1721	Granby	2
Fawkes	Robert	Infancy	1726	Granby	6
Fawkes	Thomas	26	1722	Granby	3
Fawkes	William	28	1732	Long Clawson	2
Flower	Elizabeth	-	1727	Granby	9
Flower	Mary	38	1722	Burton Lazars	1
Flower	Not readable	75	1721	Long Clawson	11
Flower	William junior	51	1718	Granby	8
Fox	Samuel	28	1728	Wymeswold	3
Fox	Thomas	36	1722	Wymeswold	3
Fox	William	40	1719	Bottesford	1
Francis	Thomas	22	1716	Harby	5
Frank	Joseph	47	1721	Wysall	2
Franke	Thomas	3	1702	Gaddesby	3
Franks	William	<1	1726	Wymeswold	
Franks	William	71	1744	Upper Broughton	19
Freeman	Rachel	34	None given	Burton Lazars	4
Gascoigne	Mary	86	1707	Melton Mowbray	1

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
Georg	Jonathan	8	1734	Nether Broughton	10
Giles	Joseph	Not given	1724	Wymeswold	4
Gill	Hugh	4	1720	Hickling	22
Gill	Hugh	7	1732	Hickling	23
Gill	John	19	1732	Hickling	23
Gill	Margaret	51	1740	Hickling	21
Glean	John	68	1728	Eaton	2
Glen	Elizabeth	57	1722	Eaton	3
Goodbourn	Elizabeth	34	1729	Nether Broughton	22
Goodicary	Eliz	15	1722	Ab Kettleby	5
Goodicary	John	19	1721	Ab Kettleby	4
Goodicary	Luce	7	1722	Ab Kettleby	5
Goodicary	Mary	20	1720	Ab Kettleby	3
Goodicary	Sarah	2	1718	Ab Kettleby	3
Green	Anne	Child	-	Melton Mowbray	2
Green	John	40	1689	Melton Mowbray	2
Green	John	Child	-	Melton Mowbray	2
Green	Mary	Child	-	Melton Mowbray	2
Green	Thomas	Child	-	Melton Mowbray	2
Gunnill	John	54	1727	Owthorpe	4
Guy	Anne	53	1729	Plungar	1
Guy	Edward	81	1727	Woolsthorpe by Belvoir	1
Guy	Jane	73	1726	Woolsthorpe by Belvoir	1
Hall	Stephen	59	1722	Long Clawson	3
Hallam	Margrett	75	1719	Croxtan Kerrial	1
Hallam	William	75	1719	Croxtan Kerrial	1
Hand	John	30	1727	Harby	4
Hand	Katherine	40	1719	Harby	2
Handly	Elizabeth	-	1699	Redmile	1
Handly	James	-	1694	Redmile	1
Handly	James	-	1710	Redmile	1
Hardy	Eliza	17	1728	Hickling	20
Hardy	Mary	Not given	1705	Gaddesby	1
Hardy	Thomas	48	1720	Hickling	18
Hardy	William	77	1702	Gaddesby	2
Harris	Eliz.	18	1722	Old Dalby	12
Harrison	Sarah	24	1728	Granby	10
Harrison	Sarah	61	1728	Granby	10
Hart	William	-	1730	Upper Broughton	16
Hebb	Henry	58	1718	Bunny	1
Hemsley	Ann	15	1744/5	Upper Broughton	13
Hemsley	Anne	35	1731	Upper Broughton	15
Hemsley	Elizabeth	21	1725	Upper Broughton	10
Hemsley	Isabel	70	1738	Upper Broughton	11
Hemsley	Peter	69	1727	Upper Broughton	12
Hemsley	Thomas	56	1747	Upper Broughton	14
Hemsley	William	17	1725	Nottm. St. Mary's	1
Henly	Christopher	-	1702	Redmile	2
Henly	William	-	1699	Redmile	2
Henson	Mary	39	1733	Wymeswold	5
Henson	Mary	63	1735	Grimston	3
Henton	Elizabeth	50	1682	Hoby	1
Henton	George	82	1711	Hoby	1
Henton	William	66	1727	Hoby	2
Hick	Robert	-	-	Long Clawson	4
Hickling	Elizabeth	<1	1728	Hoby	3
Hickling	Thomas	<1	1727	Hoby	3
Hill	Ann	28	1740	Old Dalby	11
Hives	George	38	1737/8	Hickling	24
Holling	Anne	70	1720	Old Dalby	5
Holling	Thomas	79	1721	Old Dalby	3
Holwell	William	20	1759	Old Dalby	3
House	Henry	15	1720	Wartnaby	5
Hubber	Edward	22	1712	Rearsby	1
Hytch	Arnold	55	1681	Melton Mowbray	2
Hytch	Mogdelen	62	1696	Melton Mowbray	2
Jackson	Rebekah	-	1711	Ab Kettleby	6
James	Anne	41	1720	Langar	6
James	Henry senior	58	1730	Langar	3

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
James	John	7	1719	Hickling	15
Johnson	Anne	About 63	1724	Seagrave	2
Johnson	James	52	1718	Eaton	1
Johnson	William	Not given	1695	Seagrave	2
Judd	Anne	73	1728	Coston	1
Kent	Thomas	66	1720	Harby	1
Killby	Margaret	-	1701	Goadby Marwood	1
Kirby	John	28	1752	Colston Bassett	1
Lacer	Mary	72	1722	Wymeswold	2
Laming	Thomas	72	1718	Harby	6
Leeson	Margart	62	1721	Denton	1
Leeson	William	54	1700	Denton	1
Lievesley	Benjamin	58	1724	Granby	12
Lievesley	James	26	1724	Granby	12
Lievesley	Sarah	50	1721	Granby	11
Line	Elenor	60	1719	Stainby	1
Line	Richard	66	1719	Stainby	1
Litelfare	Ann	85	1703	Nottm. St. Nicholas	1
Litherland	John	33	1733	Prestwold	3
Litherland	Rebecca	11	1731	Prestwold	3
Lovett	William	43	1694	Old Dalby	6
Lowe	Hannah	65	1711	Plumtree	1
Lund	William	1	1742	Upper Broughton	25
Man	Anne	26	1723	Nether Broughton	21
Man	Anne	6 months	1735	Hickling	32
Man	Dorothy	24	1727	Nether Broughton	28
Man	Elizabeth	72	1751	Nether Broughton	27
Man	George	45	1730	Hickling	25
Man	John senior	57	1730	Nether Broughton	27
Man	Margret	37	1730	Hickling	16
Man	Mary	15	1735	Hickling	31
Man	William	5	1742	Hickling	33
Marriot	Elizabeth	71	1724	Thoroton	1
Marriott	Henry	70	1733	Long Clawson	5
Marriott	John	1	1723	Granby	13
Marriott	Margaret	-	1727	Long Clawson	5
Marriott	Mary	Not given	1702	Quorn	4
Marriott	Robert	2 weeks	1723	Granby	13
Marsh	George	34	1720	Plungar	2
Mitchel	Benett	-	1720	Flawborough	4
Mitchel	Benett	Infancy	1723	Flawborough	5
Mitchel	Ellin	49	1710	Flawborough	3
Mitchel	John	-	1715	Flawborough	4
Mitchel	John senior	57	1717	Flawborough	2
Mitchel	Martha	7	1723	Flawborough	5
Moore	John	21	1711	Ab Kettleby	7
Moore	Katherine	63	1723	Granby	14
Morley	Elizabeth	39	1735	Hickling	27
Morley	Samuel	48	1738	Hickling	9
Morris	Ann	36	1753	Long Clawson	6
Morris	Margrett	-	-	Hickling	4
Morris	William	52	1721	Grimston	2
Morriss	Robert	69	1752	Hickling	4
Moss	Francis	41	1720	Staunton-in-the-Vale	2
Musson	Ann	44	1755	Hickling	11
Musson	Hannah	37	1722	Staunton-in-the-Vale	5
Musson	Martha	5	1726	Westborough	1
Musson	Mary	59	1725	Staunton-in-the-Vale	4
Musson	Mary	70	1721	Whatton	8
Musson	Thomas	66	1722	Staunton-in-the-Vale	3
Neal	Margret	48	1734	Hickling	14
Neal	Samuel	19	1713	Branston	3
Needham	Anne	18	1716	Syston	1
Oliver	John	49	1723	Whatton	9
Orson	Eliz	57	1719	Granby	15
Orson	Sarah	Infancy	-	Granby	16
Orson	William senior	81	1728	Granby	16
Oxton	John	66	1710	Twyford	1
Page	Thomas	2	1720	Kinoulton	2

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
Palin	Mary	13	1726	Nether Broughton	29
Parnham	John	73	1709	Long Clawson	7
Patchet	Mary	58	1719	Ragdale	1
Peacock	Elenor	-	-	Langar	4
Peacock	Elizabeth	-	-	Langar	4
Peacock	Margret	-	1735	Langar	4
Peet	Robert	42	1724	Granby	17
Pickwell	John	62	1730	Ropsley	1
Pilkinson	Eliz	54	1727	Upper Broughton	8
Pilkinson	John	61	1735	Upper Broughton	7
Prichet	Anne	47	1723	Granby	18
Purdey	Edward	28	1743	Old Dalby	1
Quinnbrough	Grace	50	1710	Grantham	3
Quinnbrough	Robert	71	1708	Grantham	1
Quinnbrough	Thomas	25	1714	Grantham	2
Read	Thomas	75	1720	Denton	3
Read	William	55	1732	Nether Broughton	26
Rementon	William	11	1730	Woolsthorpe by Belvoir	2
Rick	Sarah	2	1721	Granby	20
Rick	William	10	1710	Granby	19
Right	John	63	1753	Nether Broughton	16
Riley	Henry	7	1724	Granby	21
Riley	Mary	40	1724	Granby	21
Riley	Mary	5	1724	Granby	21
Roe	Ann	55	1751	Colston Bassett	1
Rowe	Mary	24	1721	Plumtree	2
Rudkin	John	62	1717/18	Barrow-upon-Soar	1
Sarson	Anthony	63	1716	Little Dalby	1
Scanton	John	40	1755	Upper Broughton	21
Sharp	Mary	-	-	Seagrave	1
Shepherd	Sarah	33	1724	Wymeswold	1
Shilcock	Elizabeth	1	1748?	Long Clawson	12
Shilcock	John	24	1748	Long Clawson	12
Shittlewood	John	30	1718	Walton-on-the-Wolds	1
Shittlewood	Sarah	26	1724	Hickling	19
Simom	Robert	36	1732	Langar	1
Simon	Robert	Infancy	-	Langar	2
Simon	Sarah	3½	1728	Langar	2
Simon	William	50	1713	Langar	7
Simpson	Elizabeth	-	1696	Saxelby	3
Simpson	Joseph	70	1732	Saxelby	2
Simson	Richard	74	1704	Upper Broughton	6
Sketh	James	Infant ?	1717	Ashwell	1
Smalley	Hannah	17	1721	Wysall	3
Smith	Ann	39	1752	Long Clawson	8
Smith	Anne	58	1720	Flawborough	7
Smith	Elizabeth	74	1734	Hickling	12
Smith	Elizabeth	Infant	-	Nether Broughton	30
Smith	Elizabeth	Infant	-	Nether Broughton	30
Smith	Henry	56	1719	Flawborough	6
Smith	John	62	1726	Nether Broughton	30
Smith	John	65	1721	Nether Broughton	5
Smith	John	73	-	Hickling	13
Smith	Page	28	1728	Flawborough	8
Smith	Richard	59	1719	Hickling	12
Smith	Richard	Infant	-	Nether Broughton	30
Sneath	Ann	-	1703	Prestwold	1
Spencer	John	40	1730	Colston Bassett	2
Spybye	Mary	39	1723	Tythby	2
Spybye	William	35	1723	Tythby	1
Stanage	Rebecca	4	1722	Rearsby	2
Steel	Robert	47	1721	Branston	2
Steell	Henry	72	1708	Ab Kettleby	8
Stevenson	Jon	22	1742	Nether Broughton	13
Stevenson	Mary	70	1721	Bingham	3
Stevenson	William	20	1704	Bingham	1
Stevenson	William	87	1709	Harston	1
Stokes	Elizabeth	75	1732	Wartnaby	4
Stokes	John	28	1737	Wartnaby	2

Surname	First Name	Age (years)	Year of Death	Place	Slate Reference
Stokes	John	63	1723	Wartnaby	4
Stokes	Oswin	Child	-	Wartnaby	1
Stokes	Sarah	41	1737	Wartnaby	1
Stokes	Thomas	Child	-	Wartnaby	1
Stokes	William	70	1756	Wartnaby	3
Stokes	William	Child	-	Wartnaby	1
Stringe	Thomas	30	1717	Saxelby	4
Sumner	Ann	67	1736	Colston Bassett	3
Sumner	Mary	10	1710	Colston Bassett	4
Sumner	Thomas	61	1727	Colston Bassett	3
Upton	Elizabeth	49	1732	Whatton	10
Upton	Elizabeth	57	1712	East Bridgford	2
Upton	Thomas	35	1729	Flawborough	9
Vanners	Martha	31	1714	Langar	5
Waite	John	17	1742	Burton Lazars	
Wallis	Eliz.	-	1721	Kinoulton	8
Wallton	John	68	1720	Burton Lazars	2
Watson	James	36	1712	Owthorpe	5
Watson	--n	54	1727	Owthorpe	6
Watson	Sarah	58	1730	Owthorpe	6
Webster	Ann	21	1699	Scraptoft	1
Webster	Martha	25	1695	Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake	1
Welch	Alice	43	1703	Old Dalby	2
Welch	Joseph	71	1722	Old Dalby	2
Welch	Samuel	23	1721	Old Dalby	2
Welch	Sarah	29	1729	Nether Broughton	32
Welch	Thomas	12	1742	Nether Broughton	33
Welch	William	28	1720	Old Dalby	2
Welch Clark	Thomas	1	1747	Nether Broughton	31
Wells	Mary	64	1721	Ab Kettleby	9
Wells	Matthias	67	1719	Ab Kettleby	9
Whates	Thomas	52	1709	Bingham	2
Whattoff	John	59	1727	Syston	2
Whitby	Elizabeth	24	1717	Wymeswold	6
White	John junior	19	1745	Upper Broughton	20
White	Mary	33	1727	Long Clawson	9
White	Rich	40	1727	Long Clawson	9
White	William	55	1728	Quiniborough	1
Whitcary	Eliz	1	1729	Nether Broughton	24
Whitcary	Elizabeth	69	1739/40	Nether Broughton	23
Whitcary	Rebecca	25	1728	Nether Broughton	24
Whitcary	Robert	69	1739/40	Nether Broughton	23
Whittle	Eliza	73	1716	Harby	3
Widowson	-beth	17	1742	Nether Broughton	8
Widowson	Joseph	51	1749	Nether Broughton	7
Williamell	Joseph	32	1719	Flawborough	10
Willkinson	Ann	24 weeks	-	Hickling	28
Willkinson	Mary	2	-	Hickling	28
Willkinson	Mary	32	1749	Hickling	28
Willowmet	Robert	84	1722	Granby	22
Wills	William	42	-	Kinoulton	10
Wilson	Richard	19	1753	Hickling	30
Wilson	Siprian	23	1719	Great Gonerby	1
Wollis	Thomas	36	1710	Denton	2
Woollerton	Elizabeth	34	1707	Kinoulton	9
Woollerton	John	48	1719	Kinoulton	7
Woollerton	Margaret	19	1723	Kinoulton	11
Woollerton	Mary	12	1721	Kinoulton	12
Wright	Eliza	1	-	Eaton	5
Wright	John	6	1731	Nether Broughton	15
Wright	John	Infant	1723	Nether Broughton	2
Wright	Mary	79	1727	Nether Broughton	4
Wright	Rich	43	1728	Nether Broughton	12
Wright	William	58	1733	Nether Broughton	11
Wright	William	Infant	1722	Nether Broughton	2
Wright	William	Infant	1724	Nether Broughton	3
Wright	William senior	66	1719	Nether Broughton	4

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## Photographing the slate headstones

The photographs were taken on sunny days in late spring or early autumn in the 1970's. We chose to make the exposures around about mid-day for at this time the sun's light would cross the east-face of the headstones so best highlighting the carvings. The camera used was a medium-format Mamiyaflex with a 55 mm lens and Ilford Pan F film rated at 32 ASA. Prior to taking the photographs it was essential to clean the headstones by removing lichens, moss and bird-droppings, and to cut away the surrounding grass. We came to the churchyard prepared with a bucket of water, sponges, small brushes and towels to dry the cleaned slates, and clippers to shorten the grass. As you may well surmise, this activity frequently caused some interest to those parishioners who were walking through or passing-by the churchyard! However, we always had prior permission from the vicar.

[Perhaps today's digital techniques would make the photography somewhat easier but the preparatory work is still essential.]

## Conclusions

It is hoped that this little book will encourage others to visit some of our churchyards in the Vale of Belvoir and elsewhere and enjoy examining the slate headstones which in many instances are in pristine condition considering that some were carved over three hundred years ago. Although 328 slates have been recorded I am confident that over time more early angel faces will be found in parishes not covered in this new edition.

Bernard Heathcote



Pauline Heathcote (on the left) assisted by a friend recording headstones in the old burial ground in the former site of St. Peters Church, Rempstone. This abandoned graveyard is a little distance off the A6006 road. However no slates of the Vale of Belvoir type were found. 26<sup>th</sup> May 1975.



Pauline Heathcote recording headstones in the churchyard of All Saints Parish Church, Granby. 25<sup>th</sup> October 1975.

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Vale of Belvoir Angels



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