

**The Prankerds** – We are very interested in the inscriptions on the plaques, gravestones and chest tombs in St John’s church and in the churchyard. This set of inscriptions on a chest tomb on the south side of the church is of particular interest because of the picture that it paints of the generosity of these men – Thomas Prankerd, who was buried in 1609, and his descendant James Prankerd, buried in 1699. These sums of £40 and £60 are equivalent to about £7700 and £8600 now; these sums, and the fact that the family could afford a chest tomb, reflect the wealth, status and charitable inclinations of the Prankerd family – and the inclusion of these details on the tomb also shows that the family wanted other people to know about them! Why not go and have a look for yourself? The Prankerd Charity is still in existence!

***Chest Tomb – part of inscription recut c1876*** Original inscriptions transcribed – even the confusing bits which might have been misreadings of the originals...!

***East panel***

*Here lyeth ye bodie  
of Thomas Prankerd  
bachelor, Interred  
ye 3 of Januarie 1609  
which gave by his*



***North panel***

*Will to the Poore of MP 40  
pounds to be and remaine to them  
for ever and I will appoynt and by thes  
pntes doe ordaine and make my kin  
smen Robert, Thomas, John and William*



### **West panel**

*Prankerds joynt  
overseers to rule  
& governe ye stock  
to ye benefit of ye  
Poore & the profit  
quarterlie to be*



### **South panel**

*distributed to ye said poore &c*

*Here resteth ye body of James Prankerd batcheler who dyed ye 21st  
January 1699*

*aged ...(flaked, but previously recorded as 35) years, who was ye son of  
Edward Prankerd who dyed ye 29th April 99, aged 75 years (Year 1699)  
and ye said James Prankerd to his everlasting remembrance gave unto  
the Poor of Mil*

*borne Port the interest of 60 pounds to be paid unto them in Christmas  
week yearly*

*for ever at ye discretion of Edward, John and Thomas brothers of ye sd  
James Prankerd*

*and Edward Prankerd their kinsman in whose hands ye sd 60 pounds is  
to remain so long as*

*they shall live and when it shall please God that either of them shall dy  
the survivors*

*of him so dying shall proceed to choose another of ye sm name in his  
stead*

*as further appears by James Prankerd's Will*



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