



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

LONDON

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MILTON
MAUSOLEUM

MARKHAM CLINTON
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE





THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION
TRUST WELCOMES YOU TO
MILTON MAUSOLEUM
MARKHAM CLINTON
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Many years ago Christians built and set apart this place for prayer. They made their church beautiful with their skill and craftsmanship. Here they have met for worship, for children to be baptised, for couples to be married and for the dead to be brought for burial. If you have time, enjoy the history, the peace and the holiness here. Please use the prayer card and, if you like it, you are welcome to take a folded copy with you.

Although services are no longer regularly held here, this church remains consecrated; inspiring, teaching and ministering through its beauty and atmosphere. It is one of more than 325 churches throughout England cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1969 and was, until 1994, known as the Redundant Churches Fund. Its object is to ensure that all these churches are kept in repair and cared for, in the interests of the Church and Nation, for present and future generations.

Please help us to care for this church. There is a box for donations or, if you prefer to send a gift, it will be gratefully received at the Trust's headquarters at 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH until 30 September 2002. We will be moving to new offices in the autumn of 2002, so please look out for announcements in our churches or visit our website www.visitchurches.org.uk for details of our new address.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit and be encouraged to see our other churches. Some are in towns; some in remote country districts. Some are easy and others hard to find but all are worth the effort.

Nearby are the Trust churches of:

FLEDBOROUGH, ST GREGORY
5 miles E of Tuxford off A57

LOW MARNHAM, ST WILFRID
4 miles E of Tuxford off B1164

LITTLEBOROUGH, ST NICHOLAS
8 miles E of East Retford off A620

SAUNDBY, ST MARTIN OF TOURS
7 miles NE of East Retford on A620

MILTON MAUSOLEUM

MARKHAM CLINTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

by JANET ROBERTS

For most people their first glimpse of this fine building with its green copper roof is from the A1 Great North Road roundabout at Markham Moor, but probably few realise its historic importance. Nottinghamshire only had two of these special buildings for housing the dead, and the one at Ossington was demolished in 1838. Milton is of highly characteristic of this type of building inasmuch as it reflects the owner's wealth and status, his close association with a nationally recognised architect and his classical intellect. It is also very unusual that a parish church is incorporated into the design.

The building is the direct result of the death of the 4th Duke of Newcastle's wife, his beloved Georgiana. She died on 26 September 1822 after giving birth to twins, the girl being stillborn and the little boy surviving just ten days. Earlier that same year the Duke's eldest daughter, Anna-Marie, had died and had been buried temporarily in Marylebone Church, London.

Initially the Duke planned to extend the family vault at Bothamsall, and by the spring of 1823 was asking Robert Smirke, the architect of the British Museum, Somerset House and The Royal Mint, to mark out the site. Smirke was a pupil of Sir John Soane and later worked alongside Nash. He was a favoured architect of the Tory Establishment, and had carried out work for Sir Robert Peel.

By the following year the plan had changed, perhaps on the advice of the architect, and the Duke had decided to erect a new building at Markham. He wrote in his diary

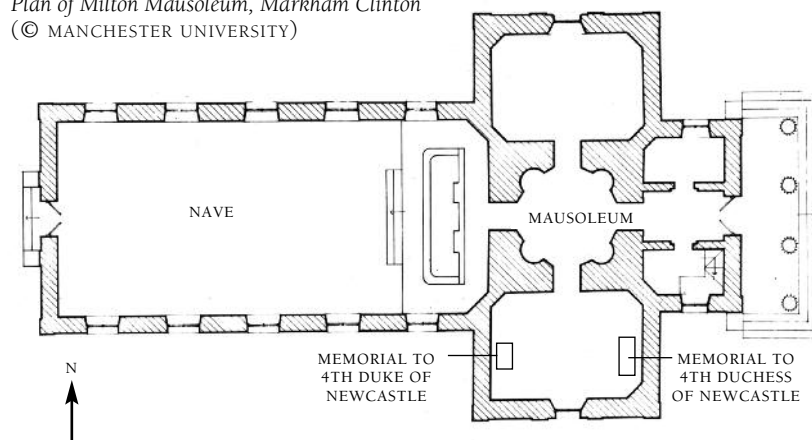
28th February 1823 – I took Mr Smirke to West Markham where there is a very bad church and I mean to move it to a central position between West Markham, Milton (currently known as Milton) and Bevercotes. Afterwards I shall remove the parsonage house and place it near the church. Mr Smirke approves much of my plan and of the change from Bothamsall to this place.

Smirke agreed on a fee of 1,000 guineas payable when the building was complete.



4th Duke of Newcastle (DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM)

Plan of Milton Mausoleum, Markham Clinton
(© MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY)



The Duke had also contacted Richard Westmacott, who had made the death mask of young Anna-Marie, as he wanted to commission a marble memorial to his wife.

The plans Smirke drew up were, he claimed, inspired by a little temple he had seen on the banks of the Ilyus at Athens when he was on his travels. From the exterior it appears a traditional cruciform church, but in fact it was designed in quite an original way. The nave, with its plain unadorned entrance, was in fact the parish church, and this is divided from the transepts and the eastern end of the building by a wall containing a small door. The whole of the 'chancel' end of the building is the mausoleum, the area being lit by a lantern in the cupola of the tower above. Originally the two areas to the right and left were to be fitted out with catacombs and as a depository for the deceased members of the Duke's family, but as can be seen from the Duke's diary of 10 September 1826 the plans were changed.

Went with Mr Westmacott to Markham Church ... all plans changed regarding the Vaults... remove the present catacombs in the aisles of the transept and placing them under the floor of the body of the church, then to leave the aisles and that part of the building clear as a depository for monuments – the idea is excellent and precisely accordant with my feelings on such a subject – I shall adopt it.

Digging of the foundations began on 24 May 1824, with the foundation stones being laid in June. Construction was of local Roche Abbey stone from the recently demolished public baths on Lincoln Road, Tuxford. Red

brick came from Tuxford's own brick kilns, with additional stone coming from Worksop Manor, which the Duke of Newcastle had purchased from the Duke of Norfolk. The roof is clad in copper sheeting.

The Milton Mausoleum entry in White's Directory for 1844 states

The length of the fabric from east to west is 105 feet, its width in the chancel 32 feet, and in the transept 57 feet.

Robert Smirke prepared an official description of the Mausoleum for the consecration. This was reproduced in the Doncaster, Nottingham & Lincoln Gazette of January 1834 part of which reads..

This classical edifice is built of Roche Abbey Stone, in the Grecian Doric style of architecture and is composed of a tetrastyle portico at the east end. The columns are fluted and detached the entire wide of the intercolumnation from the cell or body of the building. They support a lofty entablature,... which is crowned by a pediment and in a perpendicular line with the back of the portico is a parrallelogrammetic pedestal occupying the width of the four centre columns. From this arises an octagonal tower with eight isolated columns on a stylobate which is finally surmounted by a semi-elliptical cross and cupola. The grand entrance is found under the portico.



The nave in 1950 (REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION BY ENGLISH HERITAGE. NMR)



Font (REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION BY ENGLISH HERITAGE. NMR)

Present-day visitors enter the Mausoleum from the road, which is lined by an avenue of Lombardy poplars. The Duke had intended this to be a linking feature going all the way to Clumber, but the plan was never realised. The cast-iron railings and gate are original and on the right is the burial ground. The path leads to a simple, unadorned west entrance, which was to be used by the local parishioners. Immediately above the entrance, and reached by a narrow wooden staircase, is a small gallery for singers.

It is hard to imagine the parish church as it was originally. In front of the screen, which has panels painted with the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, there was then an altar covered with rich crimson damask. Just below the steps was an octagonal font of mahogany, with an enclosed white marble basin. There were also a pulpit and reading desk, and the private family pews of the Newcastle family. In addition there were eight private pews, the remainder of the sittings being free and unappropriated forever.

In the centre of the floor is a stone with two iron rings embedded in it. This leads down into the mortuary vaults below. As labour and machinery were required for raising the stone a scale of fees was decided upon, whereby the vicar was to receive 15 shillings and the church wardens 5 shillings each. The machinery consisted of two large screw jacks made of cast iron with brass bearings and large-diameter wheels at the lower end of each jack to screw them up and down. A large board made of oak lay across the top of the jacks to support the coffin.

The vault in which the coffins were placed was 66 ft 8 in (20.3 m) long, and 17 ft 4 in (5.3 m) wide. This divided into six compartments long and three in height thus giving 36 recesses with two coffins in each. Red brick was used throughout the vault. Heavy slate slabs were installed to rest the coffins on. Each compartment was numbered so that a record could be kept, but unfortunately this was never done. After vandals broke into this area in the 1980s, under the mistaken belief that Georgina had been buried in her jewels, the area was permanently sealed.

Behind the wooden screen with its fluted columns is a small door, which leads through to the circular vestibule under the cupola. Here it is possible to look up into the octagonal tower, above which is the cupola containing two bells dated 1832 by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel. The monuments are contained in the south transept, including Westmacott's memorial marble to Georgiana, 4th Duchess of Newcastle, with Anna-Marie's death mask incorporated in the relief on the wall. On the opposite wall is a high Gothic arch containing the memorial plaque to the 4th Duke, guarded by two life-size page boys in Roman dress. Along the wall are all the brass coffin plates removed at the time of the vandalism of the vaults.

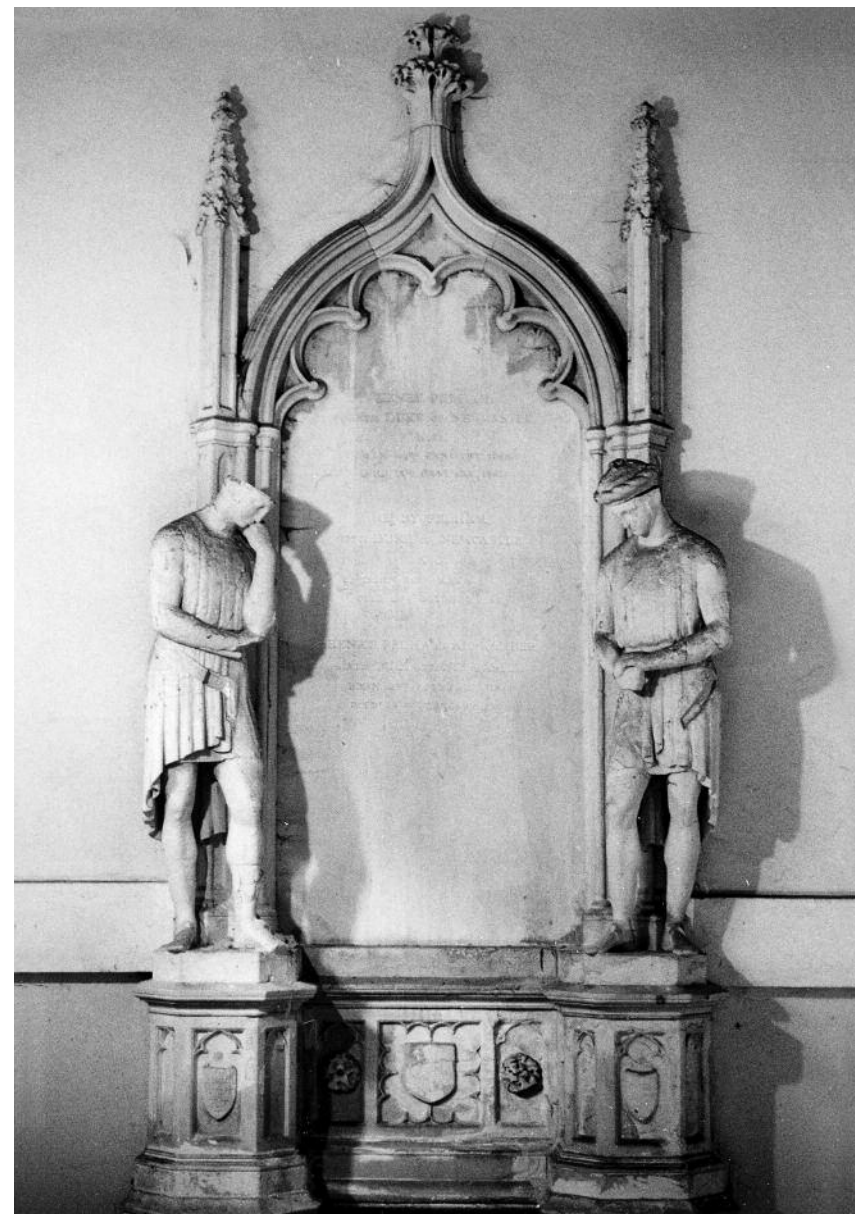
The east entrance to the mausoleum no longer even has a path leading to it, but originally this was the way the aristocrats entered the building. With its four ashlar steps, imposing classical portico with four fluted columns and triangular pediment above, it is in stark contrast to the plain entrance for the parishioners.

Although building had begun in 1824 and in 1826 the Duke had made an application for the 'Conveyance of Land', to move the parish church from the old church to the new Mausoleum, endless delays occurred. It was not until 27 December 1833 that it was consecrated by the Archbishop of York and dedicated to All Saints, as was the old church it was to replace. The Duke was well pleased and wrote in his diary

Nothing could be more successful than all the arrangements. The ceremony is very impressive and imposing, the prayers and additional services very beautiful and in every way worthy of the admirable Church of England. I greatly rejoice that this work is finished, it has been a long while in hand.....The Church must have cost me above £10,000 and the Parsonage and grounds full and above £3,000 – more.

The following year, on 18 October 1834 the Duke's mother died and six days later the Mausoleum saw its first burial.

However there is evidence that the old parish church was still being used, at least for burials, and certainly by 1889 when Clumber church was



Memorial to the 4th Duke of Newcastle 1785–1851 (HARRISON HILL LTD)



Funeral of the 5th Duke of Newcastle – 1864 Nottinghamshire Illustrations Scrapbook
(NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY)

completed by the 7th Duke of Newcastle, the family themselves rarely visited this isolated building. The words of the Duke, written on the 30 July 1827 were becoming true

‘Went to the new church at Markham – the vaults below are above half done. It is a very good work and will make a most fit and proper cemetery. When I went below and saw the space and accommodation, which I had provided for the family – should it endure for centuries – I could not help reflecting upon the futility of all human arrangements. Nor mindful that my forecast might be useless, for families more numerous than mine have all been swept away even before manhood.’

In 1949 the Duke of Newcastle’s representative let it be known that the Duke had other responsibilities and could no longer contribute to the upkeep of the Mausoleum. A vote was taken in the parish as to whether the Mausoleum or the old church should be used as the parish church, and the

vote went to the latter. In 1972 the Redundant Churches Fund (now The Churches Conservation Trust) took on the considerable task of restoration.

Repairs have been carried out for the Trust under the supervision of Mr Robert W Read of Bond and Read of Grantham, and since 1988 by Mr Rodney Melville and Mr Tim Ratcliffe of Rodney Melville & Partners of Leamington Spa.

LIST OF SOURCES

‘Where Truth Abides – diaries of the 4th Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme (1822–1850)’, edited by John Fletcher

‘An Enchanted Palace – Clumber Park, the Newcastle Seat’, James M Clifton BA, unpublished paper, Nottingham University

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Front cover: The mausoleum from the south-east (TATE GALLERY ARCHIVE, JOHN PIPER).

Back cover: Monument to Georgiana, 4th Duchess of Newcastle 1789–1822 (HARRISON HILL LTD).

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