



St Helen's Heritage



In celebration of Harvest Festival we've been researching some of the beautiful carvings that adorn St Helen' Church

Did you know we have a monument by the most celebrated British woodcarver of the 17th century ?



This stunning memorial to **Theophilus Hastings, 7th Earl of Huntingdon (1656-1701)**, was carved by Grinling Gibbons around 1698. The family monument took

over a year to complete and contains a floral border, winged putti, coats of arms and a cornice and corbels carved with leaf forms. The columns, now faded with time, were painted black which once created a bold contrast with the white background.



Grinling Gibbons 1648-1721



Gibbons was widely regarded as one of the finest wood carvers of his time, creating magnificent works at Windsor Castle, Hampton Court Palace, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Most of his work is in lime wood, composed of decorative Baroque garlands of natural elements. They

were commissioned to frame mirrors and decorate the walls of churches and palaces, but he also produced furniture and small relief plaques with figurative scenes. Although his work was predominantly in wood he created some stone monuments for several English churches. including St. Helen's in Ashby de la Zouch..... Lucky us!



4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE651AA



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