

## Radcliffe Memorials

### Sir John Radcliffe and his wife, Alice

These brasses, representing Sir John Radcliffe and his wife, Alice, are inlaid in a slab of unchamfered Silurian marble, supported by a pillar at each corner. It is thought that this slab must have been originally laid on the floor. The figures are in the armour and dress of the period. Sir John Radcliffe died on 2 February 1527 on Lords Island, the home of the Derwentwaters.

Above are two shields, the one of Radcliffe the other of Dudley. Beneath are 2 more shields, (the shields but not the charges are inverted) the one of Ratcliffe, differenced with a rose for Ratcliffe of Derwentwater the other Dudley. (Alice's family name was Dudley before her marriage.) Dame Alice died at Salisbury in 1554 and is interred in the cathedral there.

Beneath is a plate inscribed:-

*Of your charitie pray for the soule of Sr John Ratcliffe, knight,  
and for the state of Dame Alice, his wife, which Sir John died on  
2nd February 1527 and on whose soule Jesus have mercie.*

### Sir Thomas Radcliffe and his wife, Margaret

Before 1915 the two alabaster effigies of a civilian and his wife, now near the font, were wedged in under this monument, their sides having actually been cut back so as to get them in. Prior to that, the effigies had been placed in the church porch for many years. These two figures, though so badly treated are among the finest things in the church. They are of the best English alabaster, quarried at Chellaston in Derbyshire or Tutbury in Staffordshire, and carved perhaps there or, possibly, at Nottingham, or even York.

The man is presented in a long loose gown with narrow sleeves fastened at the waist by a narrow, presumably, leather girdle. Round his neck is a chain but the pendant which hangs from it is hidden by his clasped hands. Over his shoulder is a cloak fastened below the neck by narrow cords, a little like the cape of an ecclesiastic. From the right side of his girdle hangs a flat purse of the usual type. The head is badly mutilated and the face worn, the hair is parted down the middle. It rests on a cushion supported by angels.

There is little doubt these effigies represent Sir Thomas Radcliffe and his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir William Thomas Parr, or Kendal and great-aunt of Queen Katharine Parr. Sir Thomas Radcliffe died in 1495. The lady's head-dress is of an un-common type found after the butterfly form of the 15th Century and before the pedimental or kennel head-dress of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The wife is in a kirtle with a long cote-hardi and a mantle fastened by a cord below her neck. She wears a necklace from which hangs a pendant. Both figures hold what appear to be hearts in their closed hands.

### Sources:

The Parish Church of St. Kentigern Crosthwaite by Francis Eeles, 1953

History of Crosthwaite Parish Church Keswick by Tom Wilson, revised 1970 by J W Kaye