

Beeston St Lawrence Interior.

In September 2006 edition of the Round Tower, Richard Barham discussed the interior of the church and its close association with the Preston family.

'The Preston family acquired the estate in 1640 (from the Hobarts of Blickling Hall) and whatever village may have existed seems to have been cleared to create the park that surrounds the Hall. So, we have a church with hardly any local parishioners, a fairly meagre living for the Rector and a very powerful local family who looked after the building for about three hundred years. Reference to Kelly's Directory of 1925 tells us that the church had 120 sittings and the population of the parish was 16!! In the chancel, the presence of the Preston family is all around. There are at least thirteen ledger slabs in the floor, with more hidden in the choir stalls, and, I think, some twenty five memorials around the walls, two of which are hidden behind the organ. Thomasine Preston acquired the Estate in 1640 and her small memorial is just to the west of the window in the north wall. Below the window is table tomb to her son Jacob who died in 1683. On the tomb may be seen the Preston's arms which are three crescents above a field of ermine. On the tomb one may see the arms of his wife which include three apples -her maiden name was Appleton. On the east wall of the chancel, to the south of the altar, is a memorial to Henry Hulton. He was a Commissioner for Customs and Excise at Boston, Massachusetts, at the time of the 'Boston Tea Party' which led to the Independence of the United States of America. His wife was a Preston and his eldest son, Thomas, inherited the Estate and changed his name to Preston'.

Two monuments in Beeston St Lawrence by Gary Troughton

