

The Church RTI Project visit to St. Winifred's church in Branscombe.

Gareth Beale, Nicole Beale, Hembo Pagi and Rose Ferraby from the Church RTI project recently visited St. Winifred's Church in Branscombe to meet with members of the Branscombe Project and trial a new photographic recording technique.

The demonstration of the technique, known as Reflectance Transformation Imaging, was highly successful and a grave stone which had previously been difficult to read became easily intelligible. The team hope to visit the church again in the near future to apply this technique elsewhere to gravestones which have proven particularly difficult to read.

The Church RTI project will also assist Branscombe Project members in producing a survey of the northern part of the church yard which has not yet been surveyed.

We really enjoyed visiting the church and meeting the Branscombe Project team, it was extremely helpful to us, allowing us to perfect the use of the technique in this context. We are very much looking forward to visiting again and helping to complete the survey of the church yard while continuing to experiment with RTI.... Gareth

What is Reflectance Transformation Imaging?

Reflectance Transformation images look like normal digital photographs but are different in that they allow the viewer to click on the picture and interactively move the light source. Reflectance Transformation Images are produced by photographing an object many times. In each of these images the camera remains still, mounted upon a tripod, while the flash is moved. The result is a series of images which are all identical, except that the light is in a slightly different position in each. The freely available software can then compile these images into a Reflectance Transformation Image within which the light can be controlled.



Hembo, Nicole and Gareth
(Photo courtesy Rose Ferraby)



Setting up the equipment



Explaining the method to us



Ready to go



John Ponsford assists Hembo in keeping the light source a fixed distance





Sid and Edwin view the results on the laptop
(Photo courtesy Rose Ferraby)



(Photo courtesy Rose Ferraby)



(Photo courtesy Rose Ferraby)



Here are three images that show how the varying direction of the light source changes the shadow and can make the inscription easier to read.

(Photos courtesy Church RTI Project)



SARAH PAYTON

WHO DIED ON THE 11th DAY OF APRIL 1833

AT THE AGE OF 37

LEAVING BEHIND HER HUSBAND JOHN

AND TWO DAUGHTERS

AND A SON

ALL OF WHOM SHE WAS VERY DEAR

ALSO JOHN PAYTON HER HUSBAND

WHO DIED ON THE 11th DAY OF APRIL 1833

AND WILLIAM PAYTON

WHO WAS DROWNED AT

THE POINT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1854

AND THE SOUND OF A VOICE THAT IS STILL



TO THE MEMORY
OF
SARAH PAYTON
WHO DIED ON THE 11th OF NOVEMBER

AT THE AGE OF
SHE WAS RESPECTFULLY REMEMBERED
A LIGHT BE SHED FOR THOSE WHO
WITNESS THE LOVE OF GOD
A PRAYER IS MADE FOR YOU
WHICH WILL BE ANSWERED

ALSO OF **JOHN PAYTON**
WHOSE DEATH CAME TO HER OVER

AND OF **WILLIAM PAYTON**

WHO WAS DEPARTED AT THE AGE OF
MELBOURNE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ON THE TOWER OF A VANDERBILT
AND THE SOUND OF A VOICE



A view of the laptop screen showing how the software makes the inscription easier to read

(All photos by Sue Dymond unless otherwise credited)



With thanks to Nicole, Rose, Hembo and Gareth
for an interesting and enjoyable morning.



(Photos courtesy Rose Ferraby)

We are grateful to St Winifred's church for their permission.