

The Good Samaritan tomb



The late-C18 headstone with relief carving of the Good Samaritan is situated to the north-west of the church. The inscription is largely illegible, and the name of the subject is not known; however, it enough can be read to discover that she was a married woman, and that she had a number of children who died in infancy.

The tomb is unusual for its date in being enriched by a Biblical relief sculpture; though worn, it is clear that this is an illustration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which a man, robbed and beaten on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, is tended to by a Samaritan, a priest and a Levite having passed him by. The Samaritan bandages his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, and then carries him on his donkey to an inn. Here, the victim is seen lying to the left, with the Samaritan kneeling beside him at the centre; to the right, the head of the donkey is seen tethered to a tree.