

Charles William, gentleman, of the Goytre, Grosmont, and his wife, Joan Baker of Abergavenny were notable figures in local life in the 17th century. They are commemorated on a Memorial in Grosmont Church. Charles is described, in a much eroded inscription, as Mayor of Grosmont and Deputy Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster; he died in 1636. His wife was a member of the Baker family of Abergavenny, her father was Steward of Abergavenny Castle. Their estate was left to Henry Gabb whose name is also carved on the memorial dated 1708. This memorial, originally a grave slab, was moved to its present position in 2011 following meticulous conservation carried out by a specialist company (McNeilage Conservation) and assisted by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As Mayor of Grosmont, Charles William was responsible for markets and fairs and for justice and order in the community. The clothing the children can see and handle was copied from their costume on the Memorial stone and made to fit children aged 8 years.

The children will also see life-sized models of Charles William and Joan previously decorated by pupils from Cross Ash School. The land around nearby White Castle was in the ownership of the Duchy of Lancaster, so it is possible that Charles William would have known the Croft Barn and had dealings with farmer William Phillips in the early 1600s.



Memorial in Grosmont Church



Detail of Joan