

We noted in Chapter 4 that George Durant turned this into his family pew. The chapel was panelled, and, in doing this, he cut the front off the piscina and boarded in the Aumbry (for the Reserved Sacrament), which was on the east wall. At the Victorian restoration, when the panelling was removed, the Aumbry was found to contain the remains of a loaf of bread. [11] The stone altar slab, with its consecration crosses, was found on the floor, and restored to its proper place. A collection of tiles from various places were put on the altar step. [12]

5) As well as Arthur Vernon, two other of Henry's sons are buried in Tong Church. At the far side in the Lady Chapel, is an incised marble tomb to Humphrey Vernon of Hodnet (died 1542 or 45) By the pulpit is the tomb of Henry's heir, Richard Vernon and his wife Margaret Dymoke. He was very young, when he died in 1517, only two years after his father. The lower part of this tomb was removed, at one period, to provide a front for the High Altar and only put back in 1892. On the west end of the tomb is a depiction of their son, George Vernon, who lived at Haddon. Thus at Tong, there are the only depictions that exist of six generations of the Vernons (if you include the Stanley Tomb). This is only matched by the Manners family tombs at Bottesford.

Henry's son, Roger, is not buried at Tong. Roger had been involved in the forced abduction and marriage to the heiress Margaret Kebell in 1502, (for which the Vernons were heavily fined by the king); but he died in 1509, before his father. [13]

The question has been raised as to why the Vernons, who also owned Haddon Hall, used Tong as their Chantry and burial place. The answer seems to be that Bakewell Parish Church was not an option for the Vernons, because they did not take over the Manor of Bakewell until 1498. At that time, there was no chapel at Haddon Hall. The tradition of burying at Tong, with its Chantry and a College, to pray for the dead, was by then well established. [14]

6) The Stanley Tomb requires much closer consideration because of its literary connections. It originally stood on the north side of the High Altar. It was moved from there by George Durant (II) to make way for his father's memorial. This was removed at the 1892 restoration. There are drawings showing the tomb, lying parallel with the east wall of the north aisle, and barred by railings. At the Victorian restoration the tomb was realigned on an east-west axis.