

The Barnard Memorial
designed by James Gibbs
and carved by Michael Rysbrack



The major monument in the church is that to Christopher, Lord Barnard, his wife Elizabeth and infant daughter, also Elizabeth, in the Vane chapel. As noted overleaf, he died in 1723, while his wife died in 1725; their daughter predeceased them in 1688. The monument is of white, grey and mottled pink marble, probably Italian, and reaches to the roof. This is a typical example of the dynastic pride so characteristic of 18th century families, seen in its size and in the display of Barnard's arms and peer's coronet on the pediment. The monument was erected in the newly constructed church before Lord Barnard's death. As noted overleaf, Barnard had been involved in a bitter legal dispute with both his sons about their inheritances. and he probably put up the monument in his own lifetime because he calculated that his son would be unwilling to do it after his death, such was the bad blood between them. The inscription plate was left blank until the 1930s when the present inscription was added (evidently replicating what had been intended by Lord Barnard) which does not mention the sons.

Image acknowledgements:

Sir Henry Vane the elder, courtesy Bonhams;
Sir Henry Vane the younger, Lord and Lady Barnard, courtesy Lord Barnard, Raby Castle,
William Vane, courtesy Hon. Christopher Vane,
Frances Vane, courtesy Lord Inglewood, Hutton.



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Shipbourne and the Vane Family

In the south transept of the church, separated by a glass screen behind the choir stalls and opposite the organ, stands an immense monument "erected by Christopher, 1st Baron Barnard of Raby Castle in the County of Durham and of Fairlawne (in this County)".

Christopher, Lord Barnard was one of five generations of the Vane family to live at Fairlawne, a fine house lying between the villages of Shipbourne and Plaxtol.



Arms of the Vane family:
Azure, three sinister gauntlets
(appaumée) or

His grandfather, Sir Henry Vane the Elder, originally owned land in Hadlow, but acquired Fairlawne in 1614, and later Raby Castle, as he gained influence at the courts of James I and Charles I. His son, Sir Henry Vane the younger initially followed in his father's footsteps, but in the 1640s turned to Cromwell and was executed for treason in 1662. The eldest surviving son of Henry's 14 children, Christopher, Lord Barnard – or more probably his wife, Elizabeth – argued with both his surviving sons. The elder, Gilbert, inherited Raby Castle. His younger brother, William, created Viscount Vane in 1720, inherited Fairlawne. William's son, also William, had a disastrous marriage, dying childless in 1789, when Fairlawne was inherited by a distant cousin who quickly disposed of the house and much of the contents.

The present church was built in 1881, but there were at least two preceding churches on this site. Lord Barnard was a great builder both at Fairlawne and at St Giles, which he rebuilt in 1723, probably to provide a suitable setting for his own grand monument. His architect was no less than James Gibbs, architect of St Martin in the Fields, the Senate House at Cambridge and the Radcliffe Camera at Oxford.

No part of Gibbs' church, survives above ground, although a crypt under the chancel holds the remains of several members of the Vane family, including Lord Barnard, both Viscounts and Sir Henry Vane the younger in a remarkable lead anthropoid coffin.

St Giles' Shipbourne and the Vane Family



175 Years at Fairlawne



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
HERITAGE
TRAIL



*Sir Henry Vane
the Elder
1589 - 1655*



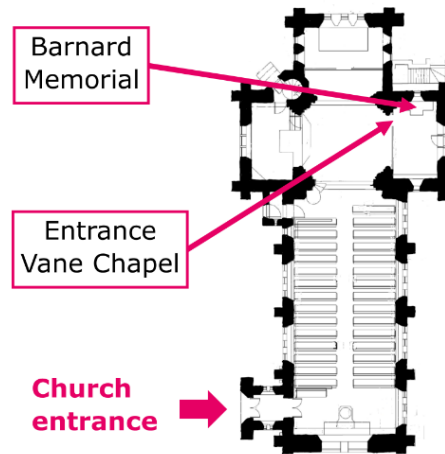
*Sir Henry Vane
the Younger
1613 - 1662*



*Christopher
Vane, 1st Lord
Barnard
1653 - 1723*



*Elizabeth Holles
Vane,
Lady Barnard
1657 - 1725*



*William Vane
2nd Viscount
1714 - 1789*



*Frances Anne,
Viscountess Vane
1713 1788*

Sir Henry Vane the Elder

Michiel Janszoon van Mierevelt (1567-1641)

The Vanes achieved national prominence in the 17th century when Sir Henry Vane the elder, knighted by James I in 1611, became Secretary of State to the latter's son Charles I. In 1614 he acquired Fairlawne and in 1628 bought a lease of Raby Castle in County in Durham. Charles sent him on missions to Sweden 1629-30, when this portrait was painted. In February 1640 Vane was appointed Secretary of State. However, his subsequent support for compromise with Parliament, alienated both his former patron, Henrietta Maria, and the King. In early December 1641 he was dismissed from all his offices at court. In due course Raby became the family's main seat, though the Vanes continued to own Fairlawne for another 150 years.

Sir Henry Vane the Younger

Sir Peter Lely, (1618 - 1680)

Sir Henry's son, Henry Vane the younger (1613-1662), was a Puritan who emigrated to the new Massachusetts Bay colony in 1635 and was elected its Governor. There he acquired a formidable reputation as a man of the highest principle, so much so that the American politician and lawyer Wendell Phillips called him 'the noblest human being who ever walked the streets of yonder city [Boston].' There is a statue of him at the Boston Public Library. But he also seems to have been a difficult, somewhat angular figure. Clarendon, Charles II's Lord Chancellor, said that he was

'above ordinances, unlimited and unrestrained by any rules or bounds prescribed to other men, by reason of his perfection.' He returned to England in 1638, served as MP in the Long Parliament and was knighted by Charles I. However, in the Civil War he was an ardent Parliamentarian and republican and during the Commonwealth one of Cromwell's key supporters in the Rump Parliament. Although he did not support the execution of Charles I, at Charles II's restoration he was considered too dangerous a figure to be at liberty and was arrested for treason and beheaded in 1662.

Christopher Vane, 1st Lord Barnard and his wife, Elizabeth

Mary Beale (1633 - 1699)

Henry Vane's younger son Christopher rebuilt the family fortunes, regaining the family estates which had been attainted at his father's death and making a spectacular marriage to Elizabeth, the sister of John Holles, Duke of Newcastle. He was knighted by Charles II and raised to the peerage as Baron Barnard by William III in 1698, as his splendid monument in the South transept of the church - usually called the Vane Chapel - proudly proclaims. After his son William's marriage in 1703, a dispute arose between his wife and his daughter-in-law. Christopher refused to pay the inheritance annuity to William, under which he was to be given the Fairlawne estate. William had to petition the House of Lords to regain his inheritance. When his son Gilbert married Elizabeth started another

quarrel with her new daughter-in-law. In 1712, Christopher ordered the steward of Raby Castle, to engage 200 workmen to strip the castle. Gilbert successfully petitioned to the House of Lords to have the destruction of Raby stopped and the castle restored. With Christopher's death, Fairlawne was occupied by the junior branch of the family while the senior branch lived at Raby - but both continued to be interred at Shipbourne in the C18th.

William Vane, 2nd Viscount Vane and his wife, Frances (Fanny), Viscountess Vane

Artists unknown

William Vane, son of William and a grandson of Christopher Vane, Lord Barnard was a British Whig politician. He is best remembered for his devotion to his openly unfaithful wife Frances, who despised him. She was the widow of Lord William Hamilton and reputed to be the finest minuet dancer in England. The marriage immediately proved to be a failure and the new Viscountess Vane tried to procure a legal separation. In 1751, she published *Memoirs of a Lady of Quality* which describe her marriage and amorous escapades. Lady Vane spent the last two decades of her life bedridden, dying in 1788. Lord Vane died the next year at his home in Downing Street, London. William and Frances were interred, side by side in the crypt at St Giles, in elaborate coffins ornamented with coronets. They had no children. The estate was inherited by David Papillon, a remote cousin. After 175 years, the Vane's link with Fairlawne came to an end.