

This alabaster tomb was erected by the first Sir Thomas Lucy, in memory of his wife Joyce, the daughter of Thomas Acton of Worcestershire, who died in 1595. Later it was enlarged to take Sir Thomas's own effigy when he died in 1600. Sir Thomas, a Member of Parliament for Warwick, was knighted in 1565, and it was he who rebuilt the house at Charlecote. Kneeling figures of a son and daughter occupy the front panel. The monument, which was originally on the south side of the chancel in the old church, is probably the work of Gerard Johnson the elder. This Sir Thomas is thought to be caricatured as 'Justice Shallow' in Shakespeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor'.



In the old church, this monument was on the north side of the chancel. It is in alabaster, marble and oolite. The second Sir Thomas Lucy was knighted by Queen Elizabeth during his father's lifetime. He married, first, Dorothy, the daughter of Sir Nicolas Arnold of Gloucestershire, and, secondly, Constance, the daughter and heir of Richard Kingsmill. He died in 1605, and is depicted lying in armour with his crest at his feet. His second wife, Constance, is kneeling in prayer, and is in deep mourning attire, while the fourteen children of the two marriages, six sons and eight daughters, are depicted on the front panel. The monument is undoubtedly of Southwark workmanship.

This monument - the most impressive - is in black and white Carrara marble, and is in memory of the third Sir Thomas Lucy, who died in 1640. It was erected by his wife Alice, daughter of Thomas Spencer of Claverdon. The two panels either side of the Latin inscription probably represent the favourite interests of Sir Thomas, namely literature and riding. It is said that his death was the result of a fall from his horse. The monument has been attributed to Bernini, the celebrated Italian sculptor; however, it is now known that Schurman, who assisted the well-known sculptor Nicholas Stone, was responsible for the greater part of the monument, including the effigy of Sir Thomas. This tomb was originally on the south wall of the old church.



The memorials of the three Thomas Lucys in Charlecote Church.

Photographed by Frank Storr