

## How Interesting!

During 2011, Magna will publish notes about twelve notable and interesting graves and headstones, in and around Holy Cross Church and environs, written by Neil Richardson.

For May, we look at Rector Michael Gardiner and his wife Margaret



The Gardiner Memorial

In the sanctuary there is an excellent memorial to Michael Gardiner (Rector 1584-1623) and his wife Margaret, kneeling. Michael is the longest serving rector, lasting for 46 years, 4 months and six days. In those days, clergy tended to die in office as there was no arrangement for any pensions or old-age retirement. In the present era, nobody is likely to exceed Michael Gardiner's total years of service. He was in office 40 years after the reformation produced the Church of England, as the public presence of Margaret, his lawful wedded wife indicates.

The Gardiners had several sons including one who travelled to the American Colony and created an American link which is alive to this day. Every summer, I pick up the phone and hear an American drawl on the other end. I know what to expect. They want to come and see the effigy of their ancestor. One summer Sunday, I asked if there was anyone visiting us in the congregation and an American woman stood up and announced that she was the great, great, great, great, etc., granddaughter of Michael and Margaret Gardiner.

The memorial is rather good, showing Michael and Margaret at a prayer desk reading the daily offices of Morning and Evening prayer together.

Such is the bliss of clergy family life!