

## BRASSES IN ALL SAINTS, BIRCHINGTON

There are seven brasses in the church, six of which are in Quex Chapel, while the seventh is on the south wall of the **Chancel**, beside the altar rail. This latter brass is of a **PRIEST** wearing Eucharistic vestments and holding a chalice, in the top of which is a wafer. There was originally an engraved cross on this. The translation of the inscription reads :

“Here rests Sir John Heynys  
priest sometime vicar of Monkton who  
died ninth October A.D. 1523 .....

The words “on whos soul may Jesu have mercy” were removed, as was the cross in the wafer, at the time of the Reformation, c. 1540, because they were deemed “popish”.

### QUEX CHAPEL BRASSES:

Five of these brasses are now fixed to the north wall and all have had the end of their inscriptions – “On whose soul may Jesu have mercy” – tampered with in some measure.

Viewing the brasses from east to west:

1. **RICHARD QUEK**, (son of John Quek) who died 18 March 1459. He willed 10 marks for making a window in Quex Chapel. The inscription above is unconnected.
2. **JOHN QUEK**, with his son **Richard** by his side, wears civilian dress with his anelace hanging from his girdle. The son beside him, dressed as a replica of his father, did not die until ten years later. The inscription translates:

“Here lies John Quek who died 21<sup>st</sup> day of October A.D. 1449 .....

3. **MARGARET CRISPE** with **Chrysom** below. She was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of John Crispe the Younger. She died in 1533. Her inscription reads:

“..... Margaret Cryppys late wife of John Cryppys the yonger whiche  
Margarett decessed ye XII dai of May in the yere of or lord god  
MVcXXXIII .....

4. **MARGARET CRISPE**: She was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of John Crispe the Younger and died in 1528. Her inscription reads:

“Here lyeth mistress Margaret Cryspe late wyffe of master John Cryspe the  
yonger, dowter and Ayer unto Gorge Rotherham Esquyer. Margaret  
dyed the XVIII day of Maye ye yere of or lord god MVcXXVIII .....

## Quex Brasses (cont.)

5. **ALYS CRISPE:** She was the 1<sup>st</sup> wife of John Crispe the Younger and has her daughter beside her. She died the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1518. Whether her daughter had died by then is not known. Her inclusion on the brass does not necessarily signify this, as the John Quek brass makes clear. Alys was the mother of Henry Crispe, whose figure lies on the nearby altar tomb. The remains of her inscription reads:

“ ..... the wife of John  
..... Alys decessyd the X  
..... MVcXVIII on whos .....”

Lastly, on the west wall of Quex Chapel, behind the back pew :

6. **JOHN and AGNES CRISPE** and their **CHILDREN:**

The effigies of John and Agnes have gone, but the inscription below the children reads:

“.....of John Crispe Esquyer and Agnes his wyffe the whyche John decessed the ....day of ..... in the yere of or lord god MVc ..... And the seyde agnes decessed the VI day of June ye yere of or lord god MVcXXXII who soulls Jhu have mcy.”

There are 8 sons on the left and 7 daughters on the right, all dressed exactly as their parents would have been. This style be seen clearly in the Alys Crispe brass on the north wall beside them. Agnes was the heiress of the Quek estates, which, on marriage, she passed over to the Crispe family. John's date of death was never filled in, indicating that he was still alive when he had this monument erected for himself and Agnes on her death in 1533. John's name appears first in a list of six names at the start of the new Churchwardens' Book of 1531. He was one of local men of good reputation, who were asked to make an official reckoning of the 17 pieces of Church land held by All Saints Church, Birchington in 1526.