

A Safe Home for Triptych

A rare 16th century Flemish triptych from Lewtrenchard church is now in the chapel of Buckland Abbey.

The painting on three panels was offered to the National Trust on a long loan by Lewtrenchard parishioners worried about theft or damage to the antique triptych. It is one of several continental trophies acquired for the church by the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, squarson of Lewtrenchard for 43 years.

The central panel represents the deposition from the cross and the side panels depict the way to the cross and the ascension. It is reputedly by the artist Cornelis Engelbrecht (1468-1533) of Leyden in Holland. Its complex and detailed composition is crowded with animated figures.

The triptych was restored some years ago but the lower half of each panel is less easily discernible.

The National Trust says the scale of the painting and its subject matter make it ideal for Buckland's chapel which has other church paintings and furnishings. The Trust has made an exact photographic replica which has been framed and positioned to replace the original at Lew Trenchard.

(Article in local paper sent by member)

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