



Winterbourne Earls St. Michael's Burial Stone 1304

This burial stone represents a priest holding a human heart. The stone was originally in the floor of Winterbourne Dauntsey church which was pulled down in 1867 and the materials used for building the present church. When the stone was brought from Dauntsey it was built into the outside west wall of the new vestry where it remained until 1952 when it was removed to its present position.

It is probably that the stone commemorates the burial of the heart of Cardinal Walter Winterbourne, who it is claimed, lived on the site of what is now The Grange, Winterbourne Dauntsey. The Cardinal went to Rome on the death of Pope Benedict XI to take part in the election of Clement V and died at Genoa on his return journey in the year 1304 in the 80th year of his age.