



### **The Howard Chapel**

The statue can be viewed through the glazed screen between the chapel and the chancel.

If you wish to see it more closely, it is easily accessible on Sundays before or after our 11.15am service when the door can be opened for you.

### **Thoughts for further exploration**

The sculpture is called 'Faith', reflecting the hope and certainty that death is not the end of life.



More information about the statue can be seen on this QR code



[www.edenchurches.co.uk](http://www.edenchurches.co.uk)

Tab 'About us'

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**Holy Trinity and St Constantine**  
The church is part of Eden Churches with St Paul's Holme Eden.  
[www.edenchurches.co.uk](http://www.edenchurches.co.uk)



We are also part of Eden Wild Goose which is an initiative of the local churches. Our purpose is to explore different ways of celebrating and enjoying life in all its fullness.

## *Leaflet 2*

# *'Faith'*

## *A sculpture by Joseph Nollekens*



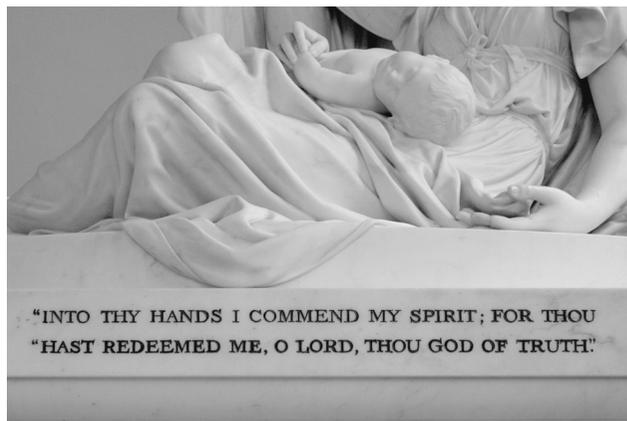
**In the Howard Chapel**

## The Howard Chapel and the Memorial Statue to Maria Howard. 'Faith'

Henry Howard and Maria, daughter of Lord Archer of Umberslade, married in November 1788. Tragically Maria died just 12 months later in childbirth, together with her baby daughter. She was 22 years old.

Henry was heartbroken and commissioned one of the greatest sculptors of the day, Joseph Nollekens RA, to create a memorial monument. The statue shows a draped female figure, 'Faith', pointing upwards with one hand, whilst with the other she supports the head of the dying mother, who holds her baby on her lap.

The inscription reads: 'This tribute of sorrow is paid to the memory of her who approached near to perfection by the afflicted husband and sisters'.



**Faith points to the source of comfort...  
Wordsworth wrote that the hand points  
'heavenward to luminous faith'.**

Henry paid £1,500 for the work, a vast sum in those days, and it is considered to be Nollekens' greatest work. Certainly, he was very proud of it, and it's said he burst into tears when he discovered where it would be housed as he felt so few people would see it. There is an image of him working on the statue on his tomb in St. Mary's Church, Paddington Green, London.

One famous visitor to Wetheral, William Wordsworth, was so moved by the statue that he felt it worthy of a sonnet:  
*'Stretched on the dying Mother's lap...'*

A link to a webpage on 'Faith' can be found on the back of this leaflet with the full words of the poem and good quality photos of the statue.



**A gentle hand on her back.  
Wordsworth called this, 'A touch so tender'.**

The Howard Chapel is built above the mausoleum of the Howard family of Corby Castle just across the River Eden. The vault holds 25 members of the Howard family and was used from 1663 to 1882, when it was finally sealed. The chapel, built of red sandstone, dates from 1791 and is of Gothic revival style. It has a battlemented parapet and gables with decorative stone spires, and the low pitched roof is covered with Westmorland slate.

**A Bible lies next to Faith's feet.**

