

The Hawstead Hatchments: 2

Frances Metcalfe



Frances Jane Metcalfe was the daughter of one **Martin Whish** and was the first wife of **Henry Metcalfe** of Hawstead House. She lived between 1794 – 1830 and was 36 years old when she died on 29th April 1830. There is also a wall-mounted memorial to Frances in the nave of the church with this inscription: “This tablet is erected by her affectionate, afflicted husband”.

We can tell from the hatchment that she is a married woman and that she has been survived by her husband because the background is split between black on the right-hand side (her side) and white on the left (black for death and white to indicate that the spouse is still alive).

The Metcalfe arms, depicted on the left side of the central shield, are very simple: three black calves walking (‘passant’ in heraldic terminology) across a silver background. The Whish one is much more complicated: the main part is in blue with a golden chevron and three gold coloured lion heads looking to the left. Above this, in a separate section (called the ‘chief’) there’s a red rose with a griffon’s head on each side.

As this is a hatchment for a woman there’s no helmet or crest at the top as there would be for a man (see Francis Hammond, HJ Sept/Oct). Instead, there’s considerable golden swirling decoration surmounted by a cherub. “Resurgam” at the bottom is Latin for “I shall arise again”.

Andy Parrett