



FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

Sarah Glover Monument

The monument to **Sarah Glover, née Owfield**, is one of the most historically significant memorials in St Nicholas Church.

Sarah died on **10 July 1628**, aged about **30**. She was the first wife of **Jose, or Josse, Glover**, Rector of Sutton in the 1620s and 1630s. The monument was erected by her husband in **1629**.

What the monument shows

Sarah is shown as a kneeling figure in prayer, accompanied by representations of her children. The monument presents her as a woman of faith, family and social standing.

The inscription describes her as a:

“vertuous and religious gentlewoman and servant of God”

and praises her **truth, love, zeal, piety and sacred knowledge**.

No separate authenticated portrait of Sarah or Jose Glover is known. The monument is therefore the only known contemporary visual representation associated directly with either of them, although the figure should not necessarily be regarded as an exact portrait likeness.

Sarah Owfield

Sarah was born around **1597–98** into a wealthy London merchant family.

Her father, **Roger Owfield**, was a prominent member of the Fishmongers’ Company and a strong supporter of reform-minded Protestant religion. His charitable bequests supported:

- poor Protestant ministers
- preaching
- Emmanuel College, Cambridge
- Sidney Sussex College
- the Puritan theologian Walter Travers

Sarah therefore grew up in a household closely associated with the religious culture often described as **Puritan** or “**godly**” **Protestantism**.

Her brother, **Sir Samuel Owfield**, became an MP and acquired property at Gatton in Surrey.

Sarah and Jose Glover

Sarah married Jose Glover in the early 1620s and probably came to Sutton when he became rector around **1624–25**.

They had three children:

- Roger
- Elizabeth
- Sarah

Sarah died after only a few years of marriage.

Jose later became involved in disputes over religious conformity. He refused to publish the **Book of Sports** and was suspended. When he eventually left Sutton, the parish register recorded that he had been:

“much beloved of the most, if not of all”

and that his departure was widely lamented.

Why the monument matters

After Sarah’s death, Jose became involved in the Puritan migration to Massachusetts and acquired the press that became the **first printing press in English North America**.

Sarah’s children later became connected by marriage with the **Winthrop family**, while Jose’s second wife married **Henry Dunster, first President of Harvard**.

The monument therefore links Sutton with:

Puritanism, London merchant wealth, early American settlement, Harvard, printing, and the wider Atlantic world.

It is a remarkable example of how a local church monument can open a window onto global history.