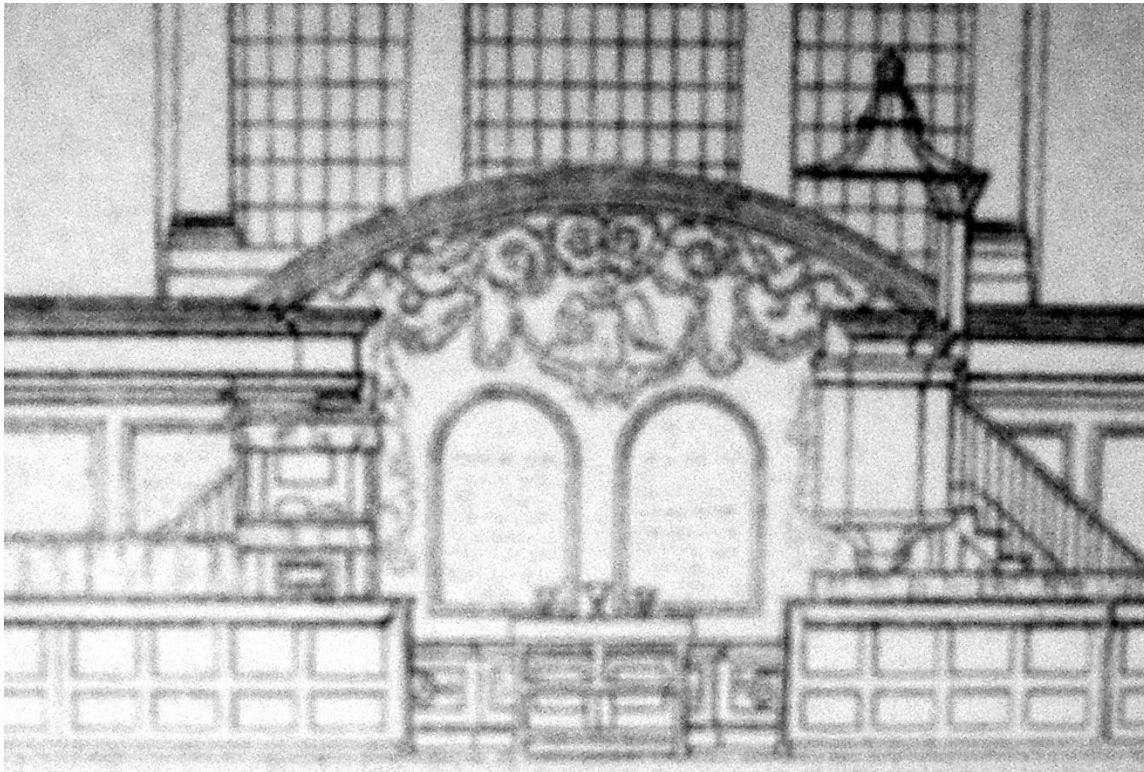


## 12. THE KNOLLYS CHEST

At the end of the pews along the north wall is a chest made possibly in the early 20th century from much older panels. A plaque says 'In memory of Erskine William Knollys priest died 23 November 1923'. He lived at Charlton in Goodrich, and had been the well-loved vicar of Folkestone for 16 years, and his obituary, with a photograph, appeared in the Folkestone newspaper in December 1923. It says that many people attended his burial at Goodrich. He had numerous children but only Rachel (1918) is buried at Goodrich, along with his wife Caroline (1931) and his bachelor brother Major Louis Frederic (1922) of the Graig, Ross. There is a strong ecclesiastical connection in the family. Erskine's maternal great-grandfather was Brownlow North, son of the 1st Earl of Guilford, and successively bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, Worcester and Winchester.



The carved panels are 17th-century in style and are reputedly from the old pulpit of St James, Piccadilly. St James, a new church, was consecrated in 1684, and it originally had a three-decker pulpit. In 1803-4 the rector's pews in the chancel were taken down to make way for a new pulpit. An earlier drawing by Hulsbergh of the old interior of St James (above) shows the canopied pulpit on the right and the reading desks on the left. It is these latter which appear to have panels.

The old pulpit and reading desks were perhaps among the 'old Fittings' ordered to be given to Berwick Street Chapel or sold in January 1822. Two of the three carved panels on the east side of the chest appear to have an appropriate theme of preaching. That on the north is derived from Raphael's cartoon of St Paul preaching at Athens. The somewhat amateur carver has helpfully completed the roof of the rotunda in the background - not a Raphael invention. That on the south is derived from Raphael's fresco of Moses presenting the Ten Commandments, at St Peter's in Rome. There are two matching panels on the top of the chest, of foliage and ribbons, and another facing south. This has had a shield-shaped cartouche removed from the centre of the panel.