

SOUTHWELL MINSTER THE CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

There are two windows in this chapel.

The East Window

This is the work of Christopher Whitworth Whall (1906) and has two lights:

(a) The Crucifixion

Whall has shown Our Lord on the cross, surrounded by glory or mandala. Above the **cross is the mocking label "INRI" (Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews)**. Above his head both the sun and the moon can be seen, although the sun has darkened. This was a way of indicating that some great event is taking place, as although the moon can be seen in the sky at the same time as the sun, it cannot normally be seen in the middle **of the day when it is near the sun. On Christ's right hand is his mother and on his left St John**. The words recorded are those of Jesus before he died: "Woman behold your son!" and "**Behold your mother!**" when he gave his mother into the care of John, the beloved disciple

Luke 23, 44
John 19, 26-28

Below, the panel depicts the ram caught in the thicket, part of the story of Isaac. This is a reference to an Old Testament event foreshadowing the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. "**God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son**".

Genesis 22, 8-14

(b) St John on Patmos

Patmos, a sterile island in the Aegean Sea, is where the angel came to John telling him to record his vision, the vision that we can now read in the Apocalypse, the Revelation to John. John kneels on a sea-bound cliff-top to the right of the panel, and is addressed by the angel. Below is shown the lamb with the book with seven seals and at the apex is an image of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 1, 1: 1, 9: 6, 1: 21, 10

The West Window

This single light window is by Burlison and Grylls and dates from 1882.

The Ascension

The risen Lord is shown ascending into the heavens. He is clad in a rich ruby robe and is surrounded by glory and cherubs. The apostles are gathered below, although our Lady is not, as often, shown with them. The footsteps of our Lord are shown left behind on the grass around which the apostles stand. This is a device which goes back to the beginnings of medieval art, indicating that Christ had left the apostles to continue his work on earth. Across the middle of the panel are seen two angels bearing a scroll "**This same Jesus which was taken up from you into heaven shall so come again in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven**".

Acts 1, 9-11

A NOTE ON THE ARTISTS

Christopher Whitworth Whall (1849-1924) [*& see FS 139*]

Christopher Whall was the son of a clergyman and began his artistic career as a rather unsuccessful painter. He did some designs for glass, but was appalled by the way in which they were transcribed, so he set out to learn the craft.

He worked as an English stained glass artist from 1897 into the 20th century. He was an important member of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and became a distinguished designer of stained glass. His most important work is the glass for the Lady Chapel in Gloucester Cathedral and for the south transept in Canterbury Cathedral. Eight characteristic windows, conveniently accessible to the public in London, can be found at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street.

More important perhaps than the extensive series of windows which he produced until his death in 1924 was his vital role as a teacher and propagator of the Arts and Crafts Movement gospel. He took stained glass classes at the Central School of Art, and later at the Royal College of Art in London, where students were encouraged to relate design to architecture. He trained a large number of outstanding artists and craftsmen **and his book "Stained Glass Work", published in 1905, remained a standard work until late in the century.**

Some of the work of Christopher Whall can be found at the William Morris Gallery. Christopher collaborated with William Morris on many design projects.

Burlison and Grylls

Burlison and Grylls produced stained glass windows from 1868 until 1953. The company was founded at the instigation of the architects G F Bodley and Thomas Garner. Both John Burlison (1843–91) and Thomas John Grylls (1845–1913) had trained in the studios of Clayton and Bell. Good examples of the company's work can be found at St Chrysostom's Church Manchester.

Thomas Henry Grylls (1873-1953), known as Harry Grylls, took control of the company on the death of his father and became a founder Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters in 1921.