

EXTRACTS FROM "STAINED GLASS IN SOUTHWELL MINSTER" BY JOHN BEAUMONT (1988)

East Window - Lower Lights

- Glass from France. Early 16th century  
ex Temple Church Paris  
Given to the Minster in 1818 by Henry Gally Knight  
Restored and adapted by Miller
- (a) Baptism of Christ
  - (b) Raising of Lazarus
  - (c) Entry into Jerusalem
  - (d) The Passion: The Mocking

See booklet

These four lights contain the most important glass in the Minster, although this is not its original home. It came from France and was part of the scheme of glazing of the Temple Church in Paris, demolished in 1795 at the time of the French Revolution. The panels were bought by Henry Gally Knight, a local gentleman whose armorial bearings are to be found, amongst others, in windows s2 and n2, and given to the Minster in 1818. They were restored and adapted for their present position by Miller of London. It is possible to see that the original windows were round headed and after the lapse of well over a century and a half, the slight mismatch of the apex can be detected, particularly in the middle two panels. The architecture, as one would expect, is of 16th century continental style.

There is much 16th century French glass in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol, and it is thought that some of it, though very badly assembled, may also have come from the Temple Church, Paris.

The subjects here depicted are

(a) The Baptism of Christ

Here our Lord is portrayed standing in the River Jordan whilst St John the Baptist on his left pours water from an ewer. On Christ's right an angel holds his garments, whilst in the clouds of heaven, God the Father looks down. The Trinity is completed by the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending from above. (Luke 3.22)

(b) Raising of Lazarus

Our Lord in a murrey gown in the centre of the panel looks down on Lazarus who is rising, arms outstretched, towards him. His grave clothes are falling from him. Amongst the by-standers can be distinguished Mary and Martha of Bethany, the sisters of Lazarus. (John 11.44)

(c) Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Christ, clad in the same coloured robe as in the preceding panel rides on an ass towards the gates of Jerusalem. In front of him a man spreads a garment in the way, whilst a man dressed in red is cutting branches from a tree to spread on the road. (Matthew 21.1-11)

(d) The Mocking of Christ

Here our Lord, clad as before, is shown in the hall of the high priest, who has condemned him as deserving death for blasphemy. He is blindfolded, and those around jeer at him and strike him, calling upon him to prophesy. It has been said that one of the evil looking faces is a portrait of Luther but there is little foundation for this supposition. (Mark 14.65)

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CONSERVATION WORK

In 1991 very costly conservation work was carried out on these four panels of glass. Variations in temperature and humidity had caused some of the paint to begin lifting from the glass. The window is now isothermically double-glazed. The original glass was taken out and was replaced by textured clear glass, which was leaded to exactly match the original. The original glass was then cleaned, repaired and re-leaded, then it was put into a frame and hung inside the window. As well as giving some protection against vandalism, the all-round ventilation, with both sides of the glass at the Minster's internal temperature prevents condensation. This work was carried out by the Keith Barley Studios in York. (In 1996 Keith

Barley made and installed the Patrick Reyntiens glass for the Great West Window, and in 1998/9 has re-glazed the transept windows)

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In the 1930s, the then Provost of Southwell, Provost Conybeare, wrote a guidebook that included the following paragraph about the east window:

*"The glass in the lower lights has an astonishing story. These were made, probably in Belgium, for the Kings of France, and were in a Royal Chapel in Paris for over 200 years. At the French Revolution they were taken out. In 1818 an Englishman, Mr Gally Knight, found them in Paris in a pawnbroker's shop! He bought them for Southwell. In the scene of the Raising of Lazarus, King Francis I is there with a red cap and red beard. Looking on at the Triumphal Entry is Louis XI with a blue helmet. With hand raised to smite our Lord at the mocking is Martin Luther, probably."*

Although the dates of these persons make them a possibility we have not been able to find the source of Provost Conybeare's theory. I can only report that the French experts are said to have dismissed these suggestions as "rubbish,"

## THE TRANSEPTS

The roundels in the windows at ground level and triforium level in the north and south transepts were designed by Martin Stancliffe and were made in the Keith Barley Studio in York; they were installed during December 1998 and March 1999. At the time of the Southwell 2000 Appeal £30,000 was given by the Headley Trust to be used on glazing for the Minster; that money paid for the roundels. The roundels, which reflect the plain roundels in the clerestory bulls eye windows, are in pastel shades of green and gold with a "Celtic" flavour to them.

## WINDOWS IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE PASSAGE

Similar in design and conception to the Great West Window, these small panels which fit into the arcading on the east side of the Chapter House passage develop an idea of the Cathedral Architect, Martin Stancliffe. [Patrick Reyntiens](#) was commissioned to paint them and his signature can be read on each of them.

The angels each carry a roundel in which is depicted one of the Bible stories which records the intervention of an angel in the lives of people. Some of the stories are the same as those illustrated at the bottom of the west window; others are different. Starting with the one nearest to the north quire aisle they show:

1. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). An angel on the left brandishes a flaming sword towards the departing Adam and Eve.
2. Jacob wrestling with the angel (Genesis 32).
3. The Annunciation (Luke 1). The angel appears to the Virgin Mary. The lily, her emblem, is behind her.
4. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2). The Holy Family are seen on their journey; the angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream is above them.
5. Jesus in the Wilderness (Matthew 4). Ministering angels bring comfort to a tired Jesus after his temptation by the devil.
6. The Ascension (Acts 1). The disciples stand gazing upwards. Only the feet of Jesus are still visible beneath the cloud which receives him from their sight. The angels, the "two men in white raiment," stand beside the disciples to tell them what is happening.

Each of the angels is different, though there are similarities with those in the west window, and the colours are deeper. Patrick Reyntiens, the artist, has said that he hopes that children will like these scenes and will be accurately told the truth of the stories which are illustrated.