

More Glass in the Minster

The Airmens' Chapel and St.Thomas's Chapel

For the East Window in the Airmen's Chapel see Fact Sheet No.10

All these windows are by Kempe & Co. C.E.Kempe, the founder of the firm, was prevented by having an impediment in his speech from being ordained. He then said, "If I cannot serve in the sanctuary, I can at least beautify it." Not himself an artist, he employed others to carry out work under his overall supervision and to his design not only on windows but also on altar frontals, vestments and the like. He was a pupil of the great architect G.F. Bodley.

Some but not all of Kempe's windows are signed. His "mark" takes one of three forms

1. A wheatsheaf
2. Three wheatsheafs
3. A wheatsheaf with a tower superimposed. This variant was used after A.E.Tower joined the firm as a painter, later to become a director of the limited company formed to take over the business of the studio.

The Airmen's Chapel North Window - The Adoration of the Magi

Left panel : Two kings and their supporters

Right panel: The Holy Family, and the third king kneeling and presenting his gift. The shape of the container might indicate that this was the frankincense.

Note the jewelled clothing of the kings. The medieval tradition is followed whereby one king is old, one middle-aged, and one young, but not that whereby one was in the Later Middle Ages shown as a black man. Joseph is rather more richly dressed than in earlier depictions.

Roundels : Left shows the kings seeing the star.

Right shows the kings on their journey. A horse is seen; camels are not always the mode of transport shown.

The border of the panels carry the crowned "M" monogram of Our Lady. There is no signature on this window, which was given in memory of a member of the Maltby family (see below - The Visitation). It is some 25 years later than the East Window in this chapel, and this probably accounts for the variation in style; it may be that a different artist worked on it.

St Thomas' Chapel: West Window : The Marriage at Cana

Left panel : Our Lord, with cruciferous nimbus, his Mother, and servants filling the water jars.

Right panel: Wedding guests and the bride and bridegroom. Note the scroll lying on the small table in the foreground. Does this perhaps contain the marriage service?

Roundels : Left shows St John Baptist recognizing Christ as the Messiah. On the scroll "Ecce Agnus Dei" (Behold the Lamb of God)

Right shows the Baptism of Christ with angels holding his garments.

This window is in memory of Frances Caroline Maltby d.1904

St. Thomas's Chapel : East Window : The Visitation

Left panel : Joseph(left) and Zecariah(right) with servant unloading donkey.

Right panel : The Blessed Virgin (note monogram on cloak) is greeted by her older cousin Elizabeth. Note the prosperous home of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Roundels : Left shows the Annunciation to Our Lady

Right shows the Annunciation to Zechariah in the Temple. The scroll in the foreground may be Isaiah.

This window is signed with the sheaf and tower. It is in memory of Archdeacon Maltby who was also Vicar of Fardon and a Canon of Lincoln during the time when briefly Southwell was in the diocese of Lincoln.

St. Thomas's Chapel : North Window : The Flight into Egypt

Left panel : Our Lady on donkey with two angels

Right panel : Joseph with two angels.

Note peacocks' eyes on angels' wings and jewelled garments. All the angels carry lanterns and are variously dressed in ecclesiastical vestments. All wear amices, and reading from the left, the first wears a dalmatic, the second a cope with a morse, the third wears an alb with a crossed stole as worn by a priest in mass vestments, whilst the fourth in a cope with morse has the ends of a stole showing and it may be that that too is crossed and held by a girdle.

Roundels : Left shows the Annunciation to Joseph in a dream, the angel in a vesica or aureole.

: Right depicts a halt on the road into Egypt and includes two miracles from the apocryphal infancy narratives: one the tree which bends down to supply fruit and the other whereby corn sown when the Holy Family passed by was very shortly afterwards in full ear when Herod's pursuing soldiers enquired as to the time when the fugitives passed by.

This window in memory of Elizabeth Maltby who died 1906.