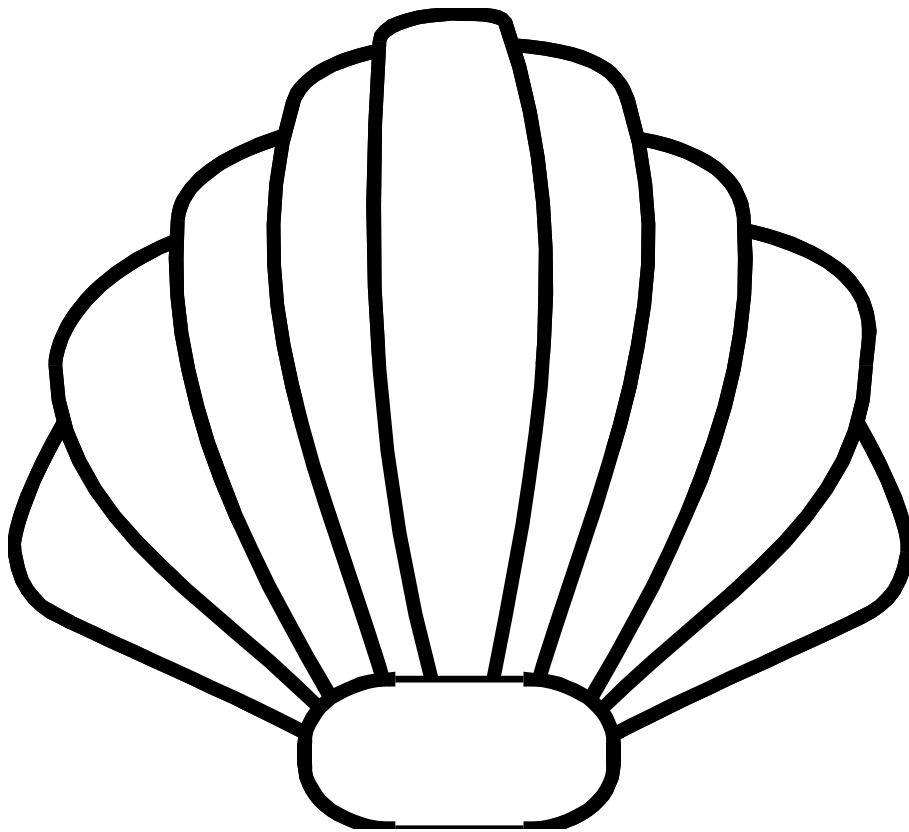


S t. James (Hope) Church



The Capronnier Windows

Plus a Description of the East Window

Revised by Fred Lloyd, January 2018



J B Capronnier

Jean Baptiste Capronnier was a Belgian, and arguably the greatest stained glass artist of his time. He was born in 1814 and died in 1891 aged 77 years

François Capronnier and his son Jean-Baptiste played a leading role in the recovery of an art neglected in Europe for more than a century.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the poor state of the art of stained glass was such that some places had to replace damaged or missing parts of windows by oil paintings.

Around 1830, François Capronnier, who was formerly attached to the Sèvres factory, settled in Brussels (Schaerbeek) where, with the help of his son, he conducted research, re-establishing the art of glass painting.

By 1838, his efforts had been rewarded by a patent about glass painting awarded by Guillaume 1st.

From 1840, Jean-Baptiste Capronnier took over control of the workshop and from then on, it expanded in Belgium, England and throughout Europe. He created a great amount of stained glass for public and private buildings. Several cathedrals and churches, are even today proudly displaying stained glass from Capronnier's workshop.

Specialists of 19th century stained glass art regard Jean-Baptiste Capronnier's as the greatest Belgian stained glass restoration workshop.

St. James (Hope) Church

North and South Aisle Windows

In both the North and South aisles there are six windows, each of them having two lights. All the original windows were created by the workshop of J B Capronnier, who is regarded as probably the greatest stained glass artist of the 19th century.

In 1941, during World War II, land mines and bombs falling heavily on Hope Hospital and the Berry Wiggins Oil Works in Eccles caused serious blast damage to all the windows on the South side and some on the North side. Whilst the pictorial parts of the South side windows could not be saved, the small lower panels which carry the inscription and dedication were. This could be because being small and sturdier because of the extensive lead channel work they were able to survive the blast. In due course the upper parts of the South side windows were replaced with plain glass ornamented with a cross or the shell of St. James.

The only window on the South side for which we have a detailed description is the one at the Southwest corner, all the other descriptions are suggestions. We are not able to tell whether the lower panels were replaced in their original positions, although this seems to be very likely.

On the North side the upper tabernacle work of some windows was lost, but the pictorial parts were saved. Based on the dates of creation shown on the lower panels it is likely that the first five of the South aisle windows (counting from the Vestry end) were installed first; in 1863. Following this, four windows were installed in the North aisle in 1866; the first being next to where the present Lady Chapel altar stands. The sixth window on the South side, at the Southwest corner, was also installed in 1866 and completed the South aisle suite. The last window, at the Northwest corner, where the Font was originally located, was installed in 1868.

During the window restoration two stained glass windows were rescued from a badly damaged Church and installed, one on each side. This suggests that one Capronnier window was lost on each side, and that the 4th and 5th windows on the North side (counting from the Lady Chapel altar) are not in their original places. This is supported by a detailed description of the original first four windows on the North side that appeared in the Salford Weekly News, dated September 22nd 1866.

Arising out of this it seems possible that there was another window installed in 1868 along with the one in the Northwest corner to complete the North aisle suite. This could have been the 5th window, but has been lost.



From North Chancel Window

Descriptions of the Windows

NORTH AISLE (numbered from the Northeast corner).



WINDOW 1



WINDOW 2

WINDOW 1

Left light:

Quotation: Matthew, chapter 20, verse 23, “Ye shall indeed drink the cup.”

Picture: Salome requesting pre-eminence for her sons, and one of these sons about to attain the eminence of which he is worthy.

Right light:

Quotation: Acts, chapter 12, verse 2, “He killed James the brother of John with the sword.”

Picture: St. James (who is the patron saint of the church) is kneeling, an executioner with vigorous action prepares to raise his sword, and in the background a judge and lictor (a kind of bodyguard – see Wikipedia) are the very types of severe, but supposed-to-be-righteous law.

Dedication: “Henry Sayers, first incumbent of this Church is permitted to dedicate this window to the Glory of God – 1864.”

WINDOW 2

Left light:

Quotation: Matthew, chapter 22, verse 21, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.”

Picture: The Jews show Christ a Caesarean coin, and nothing can be finer than the heads of the Pharisees.

Right light:

Quotation: Mark, chapter 12, verse 44, “She of her want did cast in all that she had.”

Picture: The widow, whose face bears token of her grief, drops her mite, while rich men in the background give of their abundance.

Dedication: Give unto the Lord the Glory due to his name. Bring an offering and come into his courts. Psalm 96 – 1864.”



WINDOW 4



WINDOW 5

WINDOW 3. This window was brought from another Church (not Capronnier).

WINDOW 4

Left light:

Quotation: John, chapter 4, verse 14, "Whosoever drinketh from the water I shall give him shall never thirst."

Picture: Jesus and the woman of Samaria; he seated, resting his arm on the well, beneath the shelter of a palm tree, with a look of loving reproof; she with her water pots, suddenly stayed by the strange questioning.

Right light:

Quotation: Matthew, chapter 14, verse 30, "Beginning to sink he cried Lord save me."

Picture: St. Peter sinking as he walks from the ship, in which the flow and fold of the waves are depicted with wonderful truth.

Dedication: "An affectionate memorial from Rachel Holden to her parents John and Joan Holden late of Over Darwen."

WINDOW 5

Left light:

Quotation: Luke, chapter 10, verse 42, "Mary hath chosen the good part."

Picture: Mary, in a rich brocaded silk dress (indicating the artist's belief in the comparative wealth of the family of Bethany), in a reverent attitude at Jesus' feet, while the busy sister, passing on the way to the kitchen, pauses to put the well known question.

Right light:

Quotation: Mark, chapter 14, verse 8, "She hath done what she could."

Picture: Mary, with timid hesitation, pouring the ointment on her Lord's head, indignant Judas scowling opposite.

Dedication: "In loving remembrance of Eleanor Anne Huntington. At rest in Christ, March 27th 1858 aged 57 years."



WINDOW 6

WINDOW 6

Left light:

Quotation: Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 4, "They drank of that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was Christ."

Picture: Moses with his staff in his hand strikes the rock from which water flows. Some of the elders of Israel stand with him.

Right light:

Quotation: Acts, chapter 8, verse 38, "They went down both to the water both Philip and the eunuch and he baptised him."

Picture: The Eunuch in a patterned red cloak is kneeling at the edge of the water as Philip prepares to baptise him.

Dedication: "To the cherished memory of Charles and Margaret Fletcher of Belmont in this Parish by their surviving son A. Fletcher – 1868."

Descriptions of the Windows

SOUTH AISLE (numbered from the southeast corner)



Window 6 is the only one for which we have detailed descriptions of the picture. Because the other windows were destroyed, the picture suggestions can only be suggestions of what they could be showing.

WINDOW 1

Left light:

Quotation: Revelation, chapter 1, verse 18, "Behold I am alive for evermore."

Possible illustration: Jesus sitting in glory with 7 lampstands representing the 7 Churches; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Right Light:

Quotation: Luke, chapter 24, verse 31, "And their eyes were opened and they knew him."

Possible illustration: Jesus teaching Cleophas and another disciple on the road to, or at, Emmaus.

Dedication: "This window is dedicated by James Heelis in memory of Mary Anne Heelis who died April 4th 1858 aged 53 years." (translated from the Latin)

WINDOW 2

Left light:

Quotation: John, chapter 11, verse 25, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, shall he live."

Possible illustration: Martha telling Jesus about the death of Lazarus and how Jesus could have saved him.

Right light:

Quotation: John, chapter 11, verse 43, "He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus come forth."

Possible illustration: Lazarus coming from the tomb with the bystanders (probably) holding their noses because of the smell.

Dedication: This window is dedicated by Arthur Heelis to his sister Maria Heelis who died January 12th 1856 aged 15 years." (translated from the Latin)

SOUTH AISLE WINDOWS CONTINUED

WINDOW 3. This window was brought from another Church (not Capronnier).

WINDOW 4

Left light:

Quotation: Luke, chapter 15, verse 21, "I am no more worthy to be called thy son."

Possible illustration: The return of the prodigal son – his father embracing him.

Right light:

Quotation: Luke, chapter 10, verse 37, "Go and do thou likewise."

Possible illustration: The Good Samaritan – probably helping the attacked man by the roadside.

Dedication: "James Green Holden to the Glory of God has dedicated this window as a thank offering – 1863."

WINDOW 5

Left light:

Quotation: Luke, chapter 2, verse 47, "They were astonished at his understanding and answers,"

Possible illustration: Jesus in the Temple sitting and discussing matters with the teachers.

Right Light:

Quotation: Mark, chapter 10, verse 14, "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Possible illustration: Jesus surrounded by and blessing the children.

Dedication: This window has been dedicated by Charles and Mary Anna Cole in memory of their son Arthur Morgan Cole who died 4th August 1862 Aged 7 years."

WINDOW 6

Left light:

Quotation: Acts, chapter 3, verse 6, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise."

Picture: Peter and John are healing the lame man at the Beautiful Gate. There is healing energy in the grasp of the two hands, while the Apostle indicates by his up-stretched left arm the source of power. The lame man partly rises even as he takes the offered hand, and his hold of his crutches relaxes.

Right light:

Quotation: Acts, chapter 16, verse 31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Picture: The incident with Paul and Silas and the Macedonian gaoler. The Roman, partly armed with massive keys and a short sword at his girdle, kneels before the prisoners by whose help he seeks to escape the earthquake. Paul, with surpassing dignity, bends his head towards him as he speaks of a higher salvation. The background is a stained glass window set in a thick stone wall, and heavily barred.

Dedication: "To the Glory of God and the beauty of his house, James (the remainder of the dedication was destroyed when the bottom of the window was broken by vandalism.)"

The Chancel Windows



NORTH WINDOW

SOUTH WINDOW

The Capronnier windows in the North and South walls of the sanctuary in the chancel were donated by the same Elkanah Armitage Esq who gave the West window. There is no indication when they were installed, but it will have been before the West window; possibly in the 1870s. The dedication, which runs across both windows, reads: "This window and the South chancel one are donated by Elkanah Armitage to the memory of his mother: Mary Lomax Armitage: first wife of Sir Elkanah Armitage Bt of Hope Hall, died December 9th 1836 aged 42 years."

NORTH WINDOW

Left light

Quotation: Mark, chapter 5, verse 41. "He took her by the hand and said Damsel I say unto thee arise."

Picture: Jesus is holding the hand of Jairus' daughter whom he restores to life. The grieving family is in the background fearing all is lost.

Right light

Quotation: John, chapter 20, verse 28. "Thomas answered and said unto him my LORD and my GOD."

Picture: Thomas has his hand on Jesus' breast as he accepts that Christ has in fact risen, whilst six disciples look on with various expressions.

SOUTH WINDOW

Left light

Quotation: John, chapter 19 verse 27. "And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home."

Picture: The disciple, referred as the one "whom Jesus loved" leads a distraught Virgin Mary to his home. The weeping woman in the rear helps to keep the tragic atmosphere.

Right light

Quotation: John, chapter 20, verse 16. "Jesus saith unto her Mary, she turned and saith unto him Rabbouni."

Picture: Mary kneeling before the risen Jesus who holds a spade in his hand. This creates the idea that she mistook him for a gardener.

The West Window

FOR MANY years people looking at our superb West Window have wondered whether it is just a collection of well known scenes and people from the Bible, or whether there was a theme to it.

Now, because of some work at the Local History Library by Mr. John Cook, we know, and it is fascinating.

The window was created by J B Capronnier of Brussels, and was unveiled on 21st June 1884. It is interesting to note the white lights and low tones which were important because the structure of the Church was such that it relied on this huge window for its light.

There are four central lights in the window with two side lancets.

The lancets show representations of Old Testament Patriarchs and Kings. Noah is shown holding the ark with a dove resting on it, Abraham has a knife in his hand and carries a censer containing fire for burnt offering and Joseph hold a sheaf of corn illustrating the humble obedience of his brothers and his own exaltation in Egypt. Moses is shown holding the tablets of stone with the rays of glory after his descent from the mount, David appears as King and Psalmist and Hezekiah's extermination of idolatry is represented by the brazen serpent broken and the destruction of idols.

The overall theme of the central part of the window is to depict verses from the **TE DEUM**.

In the apex of the arch "Thou art the King of Glory. Oh Christ" is represented as the Lamb of God and is flanked by Hope (the anchor of the soul) and Charity (a pelican feeding her young from her own breast). Below that is a row of angels showing "To Thee all the angels cry aloud".

The verse covered by the light on the left is "The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee". Here, St. Peter is shown using miraculous power, raising Dorcas to life. Below that St. Paul after the shipwreck is shaking off the viper from his hand in Malta; then we have St. John drinking the Eucharistic cup, with the poisoned serpent, in the presence of the High Priest, Aristodemus. This was a tradition prevalent among the early Christians.

The next light covers the verse "The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee". At the top is Elijah ascending into Heaven in a chariot of fire, then, Isaiah's vision in the temple of the Divine glory with Cherubim and Seraphim, each having six wings and then we see Daniel in the den of lions.

"The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee" is the verse for the next light. It starts with the martyrdom of St John the Baptist in the prison of Machaerus, then St. James the Less is martyred (according to tradition) by the blow from a club. Lastly, there is St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, stoned to death.

The last light illustrates "The Holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee". Firstly, St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch who was sent to Rome for judgement and sentenced to death by Trajan is shown putting on his own chains prior the martyrdom by the lions. St. John Chrysostom. Archbishop of Constantinople, is then shown saving the life of a Christian deacon, Entropius, by calming the fury of the soldiers clamouring for his death. Lastly, St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (Africa), is surrounded by unbelieving disputants whom he overcomes by argument.

Monsieur Capronnier had clearly studied scripture closely in order to show persons and events. Even though there is some idealism, it is clear that he had accumulated a large amount of information about the personal appearances, social customs and architecture of the Jewish and Roman peoples; as far as was known at the time.



ILLUSTRATIONS OF VERSES FROM THE TE DEUM

“Thou art the King of Glory, Oh Christ”

Hope “To Thee all the angels cry aloud” Charity

1. Noah	“The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee”	“The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee”	“The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee”	“The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee”	1. Moses
2. Abraham	1. St. Peter	1. Elijah	1. St. John the Baptist	1. St. Ignatius of Antioch	2. David
3. Joseph	2. St. Paul	2. Isaiah	2. St. James the less	2. St. John Chrysostom	3. Hezekiah
	3. St. John	3. Daniel	3. St. Stephen	3. St. Augustine	

Discussion of the East Window

THE EAST window was presented by Wright Turner in remembrance of his wife Annie who died in 1873. Whilst it is fine work, it is unlikely to be by Capronnier; it does not bear his cartouche and the style is not quite right. Wright Turner was mayor of Salford; holding office in 1864/65 and 1965/66.

We have very little information about the window, not even when it was installed. Annie died in 1873 so it seems likely that this window may pre-date slightly the West window which was unveiled in 1884.

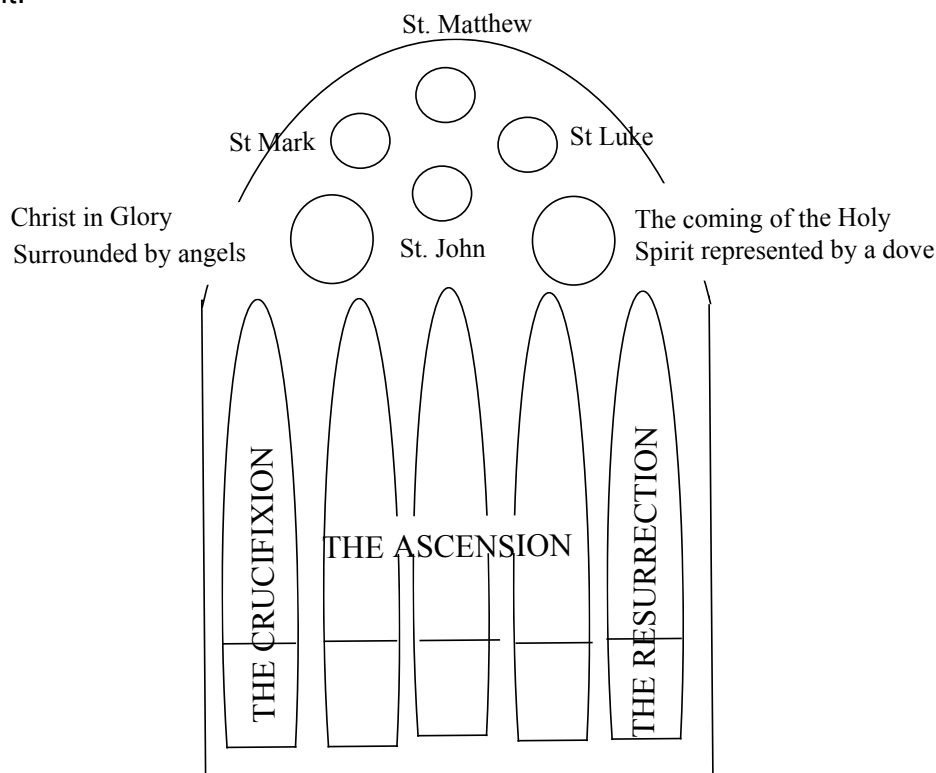
The window, in effect, follows the Jesus story from the crucifixion to the writing of the Gospels. Starting at the bottom the **Left Light** shows Christ fallen as he carries the cross to Golgotha. In the background are Roman soldiers and some of Jesus' followers; notably two women in blue, one of whom was probably Mary. The **Right Light** represents the resurrection and shows Christ risen and elevated above terrified soldiers who have fallen to the ground. The stone from the tomb can be seen in the background.

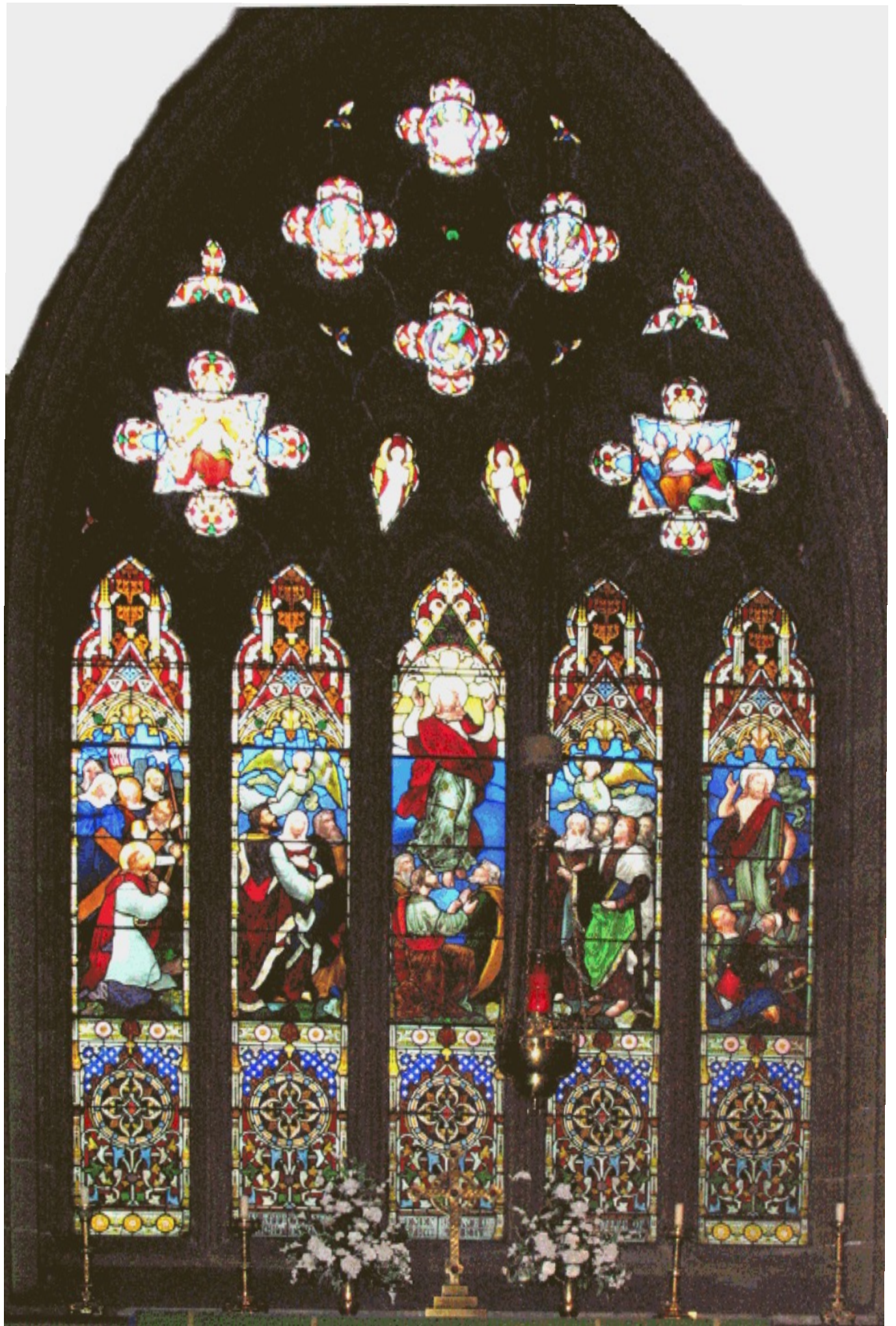
The three **Central Lights** depict the ascension with Christ rising to heaven watched, with upraised faces by his disciples and including (probably) Mary Magdalene. We also see the two angels who came and said to them (Acts, chapter 1, verse 11), "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

Above these lower lights the **Left hand medallion** shows Christ sitting in glory surrounded by his angels. The **Right hand medallion** depicts the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples in the form of a dove.

The four small discs at the top represent the Gospel writers: at the top **St. Matthew** [represented by a winged figure], to the left **St. Mark** [represented by a winged lion], to the right **St. Luke** [represented by an ox], and at the bottom **St. John** [represented by an eagle]

The window is somewhat unusual in that it is necessary to look at it from bottom to top to be able to follow it.







St. James (Hope) Church