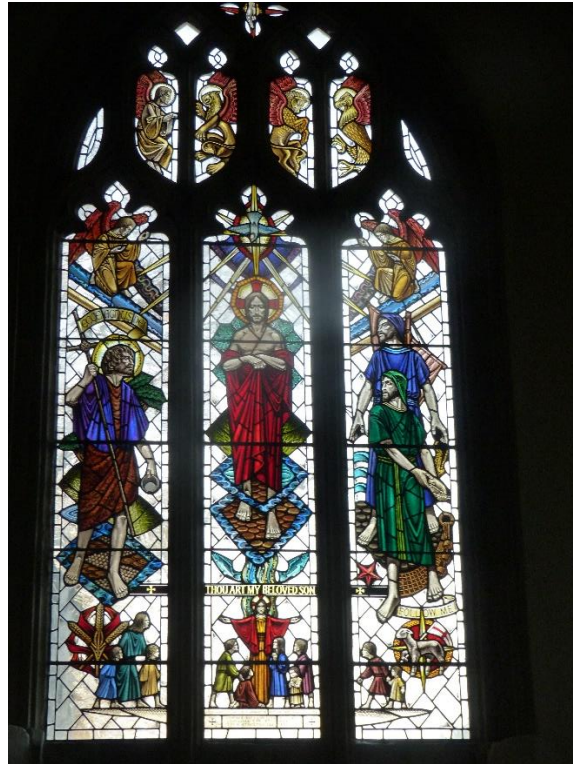


## Baptistry Stained-Glass Windows



A generous gift of fifty stunning photographs of images from the stained-glass windows in the church, has prompted the focus for the next two PEACH articles (Promoting Education About Church Heritage) to be about the windows.

The photographs were taken by a lady who lives in Shropshire who visited the church before lockdown.

The Baptistry window – near the font - was commissioned by Mrs Gladys Augusta Lee Kimble and was dedicated, in December 1973, in memory of her brother who died in America when he was 6, and her parents, William and Florence Buckton Lee.

William Lee was born at Rookery Farm, Vole Road, Brent Knoll and was one of the first pupils at Brent Knoll School. Children from the Buckton family were also at the school. William and Florence were married at Brent Knoll by Rev. Augustus Otway Fitzgerald, who commissioned the chancel windows. William was noted as a carpenter when they emigrated to New York in 1900. Florence, died in Indiana in 1922 and William died in Oregon in 1938.

Gladys Kimble was born in Canada but became a high-flying nurse in New York. She had a great interest in genealogy, which is probably why Brent Knoll is fortunate to have the beautiful Baptistry window. The artist is recorded as James Crombie, who was a stained-glass designer,

trained in Sunderland and then based in Bristol. There is an artist or company mark in one corner which resembles to m's, one inverted on top of the other and a cross.

The cartoon illustrates the baptism of Jesus and panels showing the apostles dressed in emerald-green and blue. The faces, hands and feet of the subjects in the window are exquisitely painted. Many Christian symbols are incorporated in the design. Above Jesus, is a downward pointing dove which is a symbol of baptism. There are fish, a roundel of an Agnes Dei lamb with a flag, a sheaf of wheat and even a little red starfish which is a symbol of 'spreading the word', and red-winged seraphim angels. Four evangelists are shown as winged emblems in the small tracery lights. This magnificent modern stained-glass window certainly merits close inspection.

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