

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF ST GILES' CHURCH

This leaflet starts at the Great West Window and takes you on a clockwise tour of all the windows.

The **Great West Window** portrays the resurrection in the garden. Above is Christ, crowned, accompanied by angels. At the sides are St Peter and St Paul.

The westernmost window on the **North Wall** is by local artist, Jenny Bell. The splitting of the **waterfall** into three symbolises the three daughter churches of St Giles', now parishes in their own right at Gamston, Wilford Hill and Lady Bay. Look closely and you will find words from the psalms.

Caedmon cared for the animals at the monastery of Whitby Abbey when **St Hilda** was abbot. According to Bede, Caedmon learned to compose songs as a result of a vision.

The water flowing in the next window, also by Jenny Bell, is the **River of the water of life**. The theme of the window is restoration and new life for those who grieve, and the promise of eternal life for those who believe.

Further along, in the George Chapel, the last window on the north wall shows **Melchisedek and Jesus**, the good shepherd. In the Bible, Melchisedek was a priest and king, perhaps even superior to Abraham, and Jesus is identified as a high priest of the order of Melchisedek.

The northernmost of the east windows in the George Chapel was given by Mr Simons to commemorate his sixty years as member of the **church choir**. Appropriately, the six scenes depicted in the window are on the theme of singing. For example, the centre right features the song of Mary, recounted in the gospel of Luke when Mary visited Elizabeth. At the top of the window is the shield of Southwell Cathedral.

The central window is a **WWII memorial** presented by the British Legion. At the very top is a shield with the Royal Arms and below are St George and St Martin. St Martin was a Roman soldier who, as a young man, had a vision after cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar. He is credited with becoming an early conscientious objector. Below these figures are scenes depicting the four branches of the armed services and, at the bottom, the badges of each service.

The final window in the George Chapel celebrates the **jubilee of St Giles' extension**, portraying how it looked before and after the work was carried out. When St Giles' was first built, Nottinghamshire was an archdeaconry of York. Hence the presence of Paulinus, first Bishop of York, and York Minster itself. In more recent years, St Giles' has been part of the Diocese of Southwell (now Southwell and Nottingham), hence the presence of Southwell Minster in the window. At the very top of the window are the arms of Canterbury Cathedral. At bottom right, the shield represents the county of Nottinghamshire. To its left, the shield recalls the story that one day a hind, pursued by hunters, took refuge in the cave of St Giles, who was a hermit. An arrow intended for the hind struck the hermit in the leg.

Moving through the door into the main chancel, is the **Great East Window**, in memory of those who died in the Great War. At the centre is Jesus on the cross; to the left is Saint Mary and to the right is Saint George. Flanking them are the Four Fathers of the Church: St Jerome, St Ambrose, St Augustine and St Gregory. Below the figures of the Four Fathers are the four Evangelists, seated, with words in Latin, taken from the opening sentences of their writings, on scrolls above them. Below the centre figure of Christ is the Pelican in Piety, a symbol of Christ upon the Cross, and on either side is an angel adoring, with words on scrolls above "Jesus Christus Noster Pelicanus". At the very top is an angel holding a shield bearing the Holy Name, and below is the Lamb – the Agnus Dei – standing on a green mound from which emanate the four rivers of paradise. Elsewhere are symbols of the four Evangelists: the man or angel (St Matthew), lion (St Mark), ox (St Luke) and eagle (St John).

On the south wall of the chancel, the window depicts **St Giles and Simeon**. As with the window in the George Chapel, the arrow is shown piercing the hind. Simeon is shown holding the baby Jesus, when he was presented in the temple. Words from the Song of Simeon cascade over his shoulder.

In the chancel of the ancient church, there is a mosaic **triangular window**.

The northernmost window in the chancel features **St Giles** at its centre, surrounded by four stories from the birth of Jesus. At the top of the window is Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary.

The window beside it features **St Hugh** of Lincoln, holding Lincoln Cathedral. He is surrounded by four stories from the childhood of Jesus. At the top of the window, the Virgin Mary is seen holding the young Jesus.

The window on the south wall of the chancel is of the **Annunciation**, where the angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary and tells her that she will conceive and become the mother of Jesus.

Next we come to the first stained glass window installed in the restored church, depicting **Faith, Hope and Charity**.

On the east window of the side chapel is the **Transfiguration** with Christ in the centre, Moses (carrying the tablets with the ten commandments) and Elijah.

Nearby, on the south wall, Christ is shown blessing the disciples as he commissions them to **go into the world and preach the gospel**.

On the other side of the porch entrance, the window shows **Jesus blessing children**.

Then, closest to the font, the window on the west wall continues the baptismal theme, showing **John the Baptist** with the lamb of God.

Finally, above, the **windows of the clerestory** depict the twelve apostles: Peter, James the Great, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the Less, Simon, Thaddeus and Matthias.