

Stained Glass at
All Saints' Church Halifax

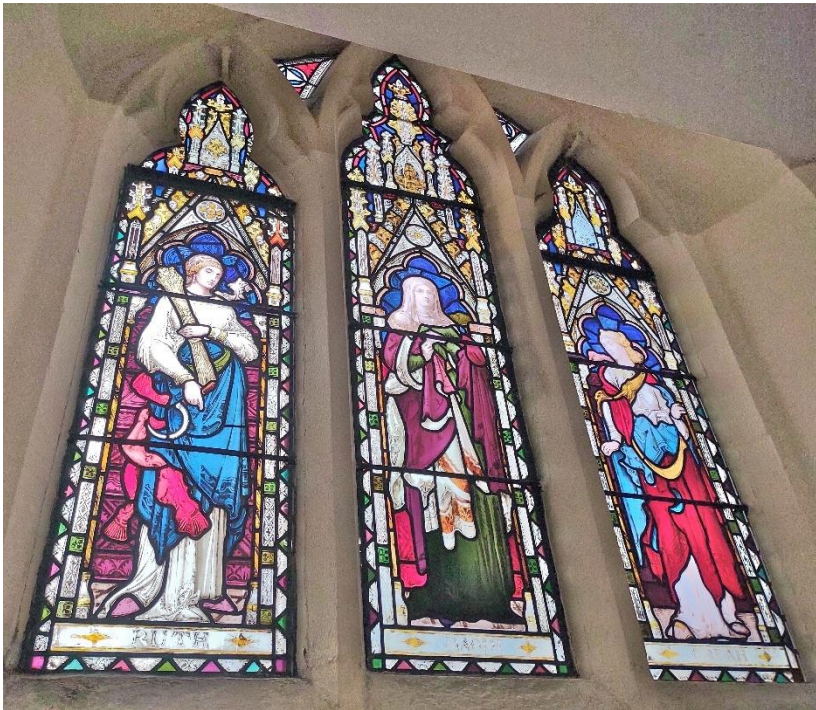


We often get asked about the stained glass within All Saints, so we hope this booklet gives you some information about the glass within the building.

Stained glass was first made in France, and the oldest example in England is found in St Paul's Church, in Jarrow, where the Venerable Bede lived as part of the monastery that used to be on that site.

Stained glass continued to be used throughout history to tell stories from the Bible and to help beautify church buildings. It's important to remember that until very recently most people didn't have access to their own Bible, or the ability to read. Stained glass provided an opportunity for many to discover these important stories from scripture.

All of the main windows in All Saints were made by Messers Ward and Co of Soho London.



Starting in the church office.

This window depicts Naomi and her daughters in laws Ruth and Orpah. After the death of all their husbands, Naomi decides to head back to her homeland, and releases the girls to stay, but Ruth chooses to follow Naomi. Here, after an exciting series of events, Ruth marries Boaz, and becomes part of Jesus' family tree. You will see Ruth carrying wheat, which she was collecting when meeting Boaz.

This window is dedicated "To the glory of God: and in memory of Harriet Euphemia Norris (nee Priestley) who died Feb 17th, 1866, aged 44, this window near where she is interred is erected by her husband Charles Wallis Norris of Wood Hall near Halifax"

The Norris' were a family of chemists



In the church kitchen

Job, Noah and Daniel . “To the Glory of God: This window is erected by Tom Holdsworth esq. of Spring Hall in this Parish 1865”

Despite having a full compliment of colours available, we’re not sure why the rainbow above Noah’s shoulder is not in the correct colour order for a rainbow.

Daniel is pictured with lions, as a reminder of him surviving a night trapped with lions, being placed there by the king after continuing to worship God.

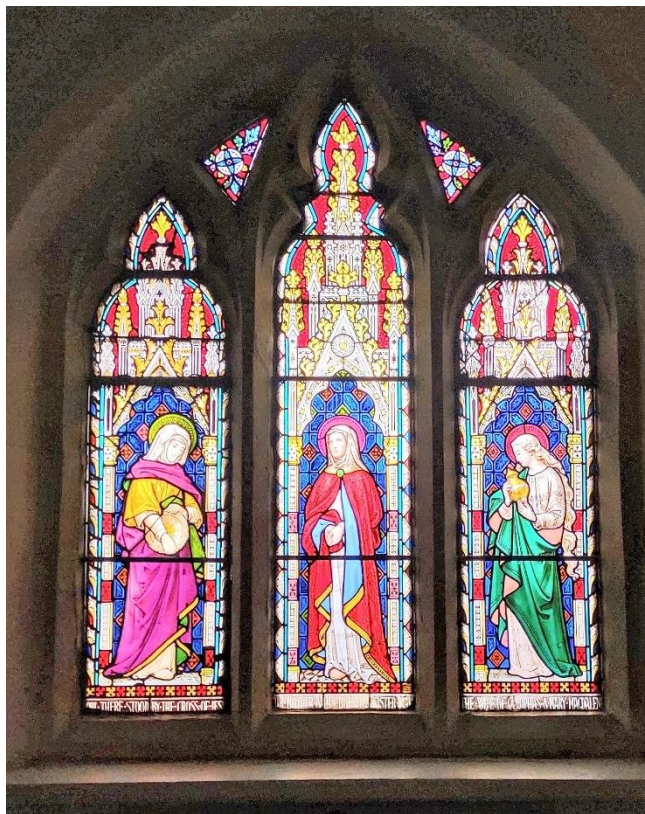
Job is an unusual character for stained glass. Job is the oldest book in the Bible, and his story is one filled with doubt.



Next to the sound desk

This window is recorded in our records as Jesus receiving the little children. There is some question about this, as Jesus is traditionally shown in stained glass with a cross in his halo and this image has neither. In addition, we have another window with this story included. Do you think it might be some other scene? The image on the left holds an anchor, often a symbol of martyrdom and often connected to St Philomena, but the image does not contain other imagery we would expect to find with her.

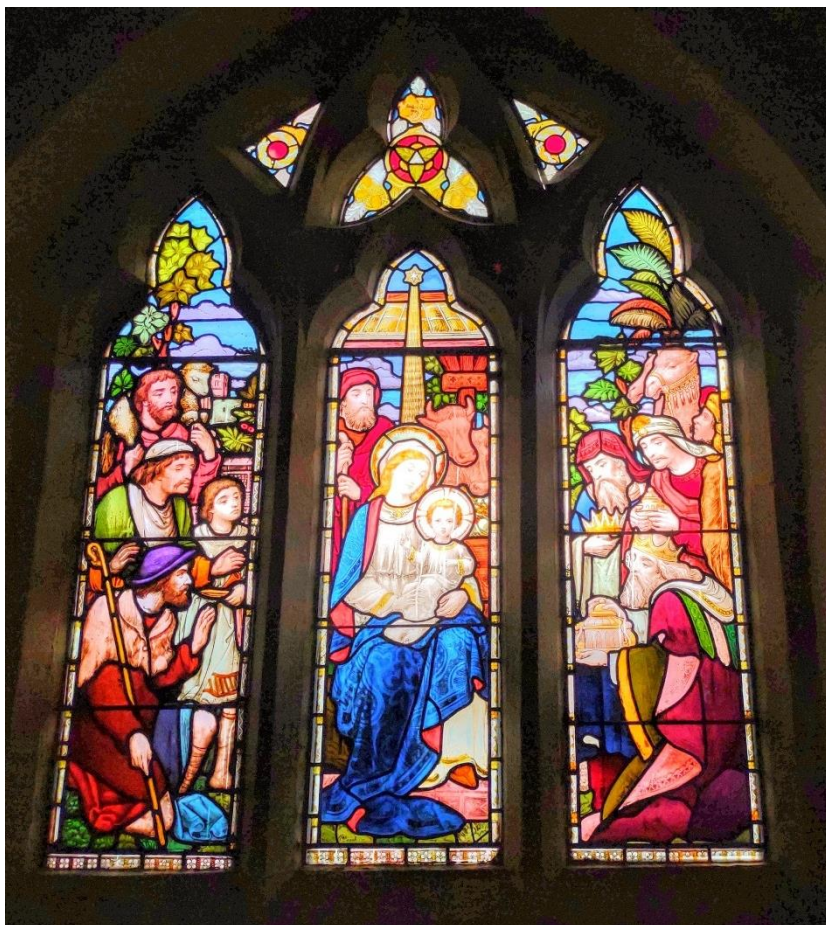
“This window was erected by William Irving Holdsworth esq 1858 whose munificence in otherwise beautifying adorning the church this tablet is placed by the incumbent most gratefully to record Oct 1861”



The Virgin Mary, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene. The women who waited at the cross as Jesus died, recorded in John's Gospel.

“To the Glory of God: This window was erected by Emma Sophia Rawson, Christiania Rawson and Louisa Inglis in remembrance of their beloved Father Jeremiah Rawson of Green Royde who died Sept 6th 1839, aged 52 years and in remembrance of their beloved mother, Hannah Rawson of Green Royd who died April 6th 1861 aged 74 years”

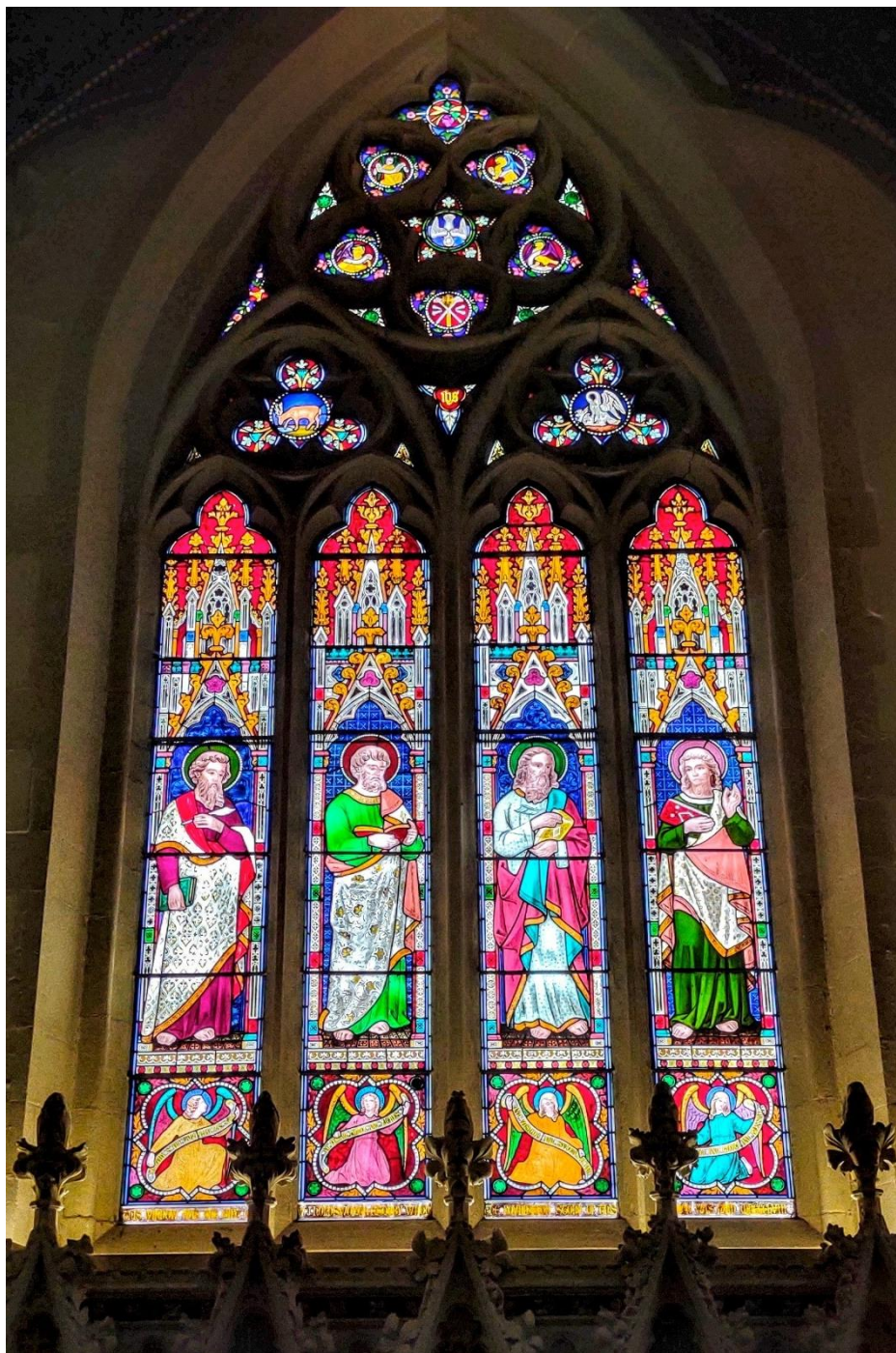
The family had begun in copperas production but became cloth merchants.



In the music corner

Perhaps the most familiar of our windows, a nativity scene. Although the Magi (or wisemen) appear alongside the shepherds, they did not greet Jesus until significantly later.

“To the Glory of God: and in memory of the Rev Daniel Haigh MA vicar of Bucken and formerly incumbent of the Holy Trinity church Halifax. This window is erected by his loving brother “thy brother shall rise again””



East window

The four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

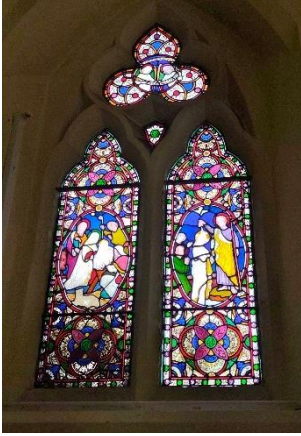
“This window was a gift of William Irving Holdsworth, by whom the foundation stone of this church was laid in 1857”

The Holdsworth family were significant in the history of Halifax, and many are buried in the mausoleum found in the churchyard.

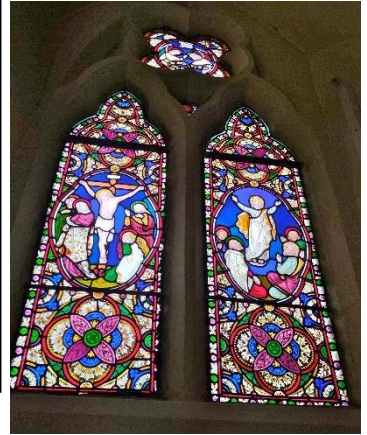
Not only do you see a suggested image of the 4 evangelists, you also see their symbols at the top of the window - an angel for Matthew, a lion for Mark, an ox for Luke and an eagle for John. Alongside these four images is one of nails, reminding us of Jesus' crucifixion; and the other, grapes and wheat as symbols of the meal that Christians share, Holy Communion.

Between these portraits and symbols are two more images: a pelican feeding her young and a deer drinking water. Until recently, pelicans were thought to peck at their breast to feed their young. This was used in Christian symbolism as a symbol of the sacrifice Christ made for all God's children. The deer in this image drinks water as a reference to Psalm 42, “as the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs for you”.

The angels at the bottom of the window are holding the verse from Revelation 5v12 “Worthy is the lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing” (yes, they use the American spelling of honor!)

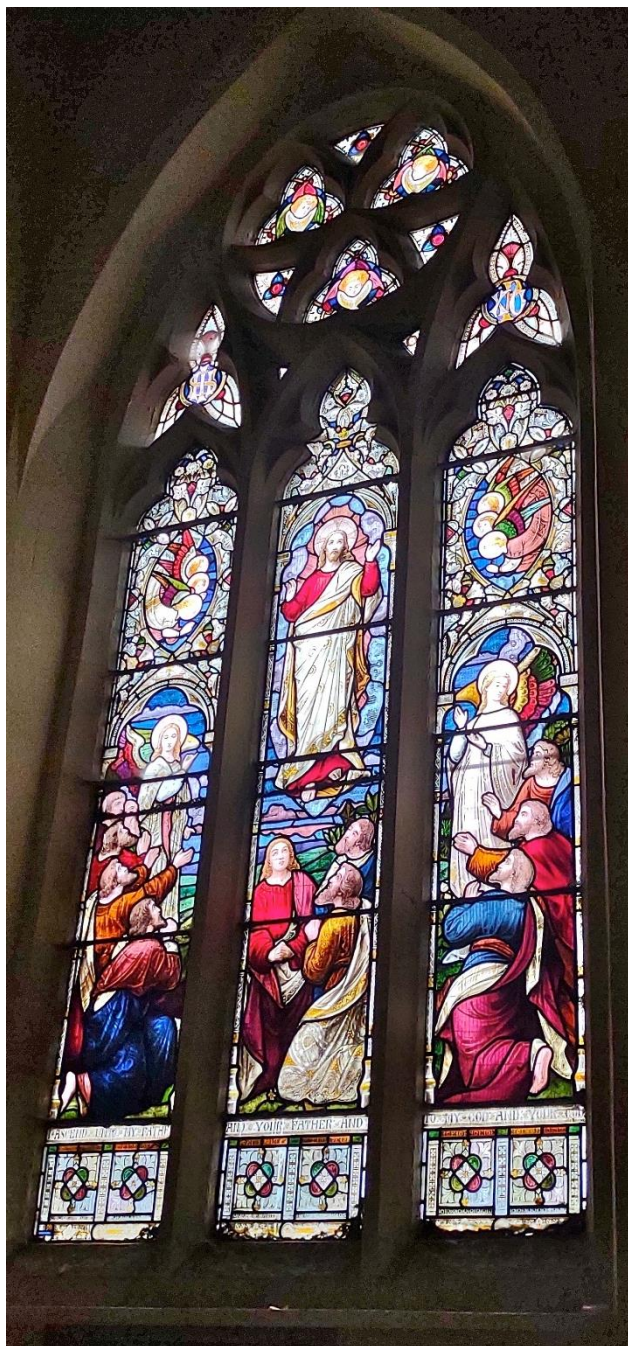


In the chancel we have 2 windows either side of the East window, depicting the nativity, baptism, crucifixion and ascension of Jesus.



The Good Shepherd, the Sower and the Reaper. This window was originally in the South Transept vestry until 1874 (currently where the organ sits), and now in the back vestry.

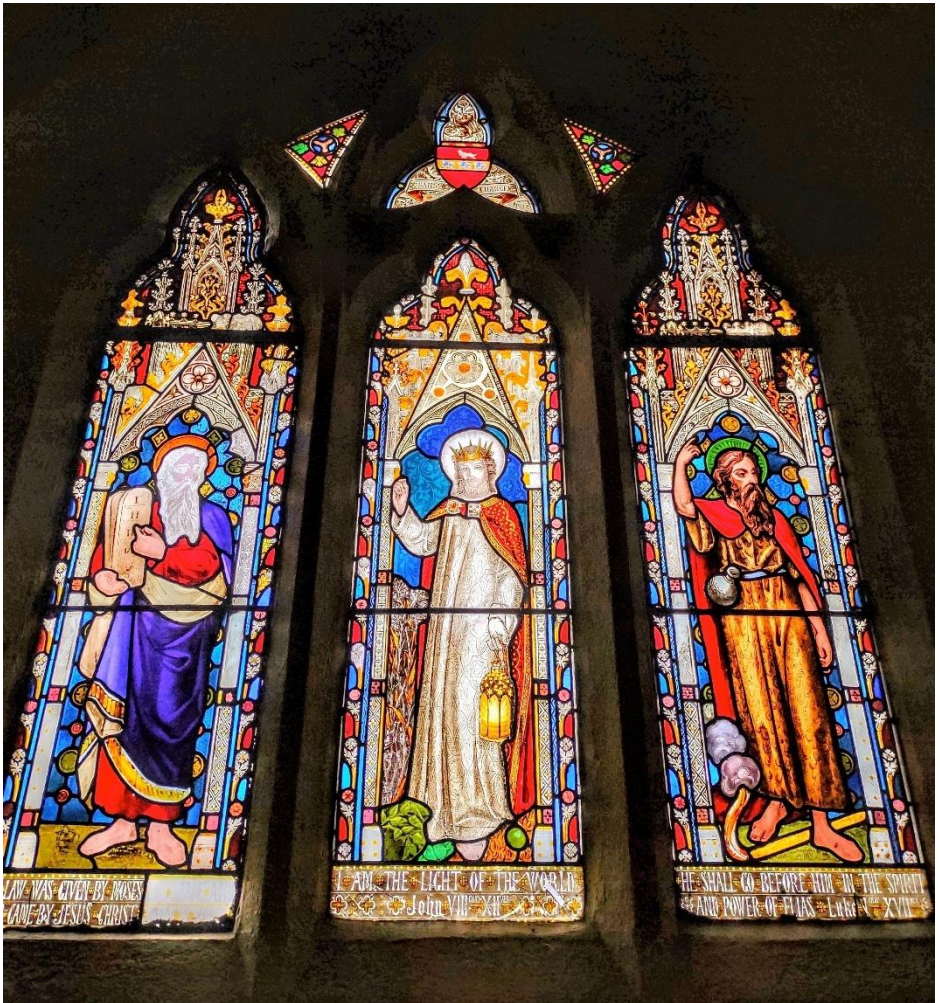
“To the Glory of God: This window was erected as a Eucharistic offering by the Rev John Warneford MA, incumbent October 1861



In the creche

The ascension of
Jesus.

“To the Glory of
God this window
was erected in
memory of
Charles Norris,
esq, who died Dec
1st 1867, aged 67
years: also of Jane
Norris his wife
who died Oct 26th
1862 aged 65
years by their son
Henry A Norris of
Rockcliffe in this
parish. “



Moving back to the north aisle.

The Light of the World (centre), Moses (left) and John the Baptist.

“to the Glory of God: This window was erected by Tom Holdsworth esq, of Spring Hall in this parish, Oct 1865”



The window is entitled “Christ is risen from the dead and becomes the first fruits of them that slept”. Christ is seen, in the central panel, as conquering hero, flanked on either side by angels with wonderfully coloured wings.

“to the Glory of God this window was erected by Sophia Rawson, Christiania Rawson and Louisa Ingles in remembrance of their dear Aunt Elizabeth Rawson, widow of John Rawson of Ash Grove and eldest daughter of Thomas Preston of Green Royd who died July 1st

1862”



The Archangels: Gabriel, Michael and Raphael.

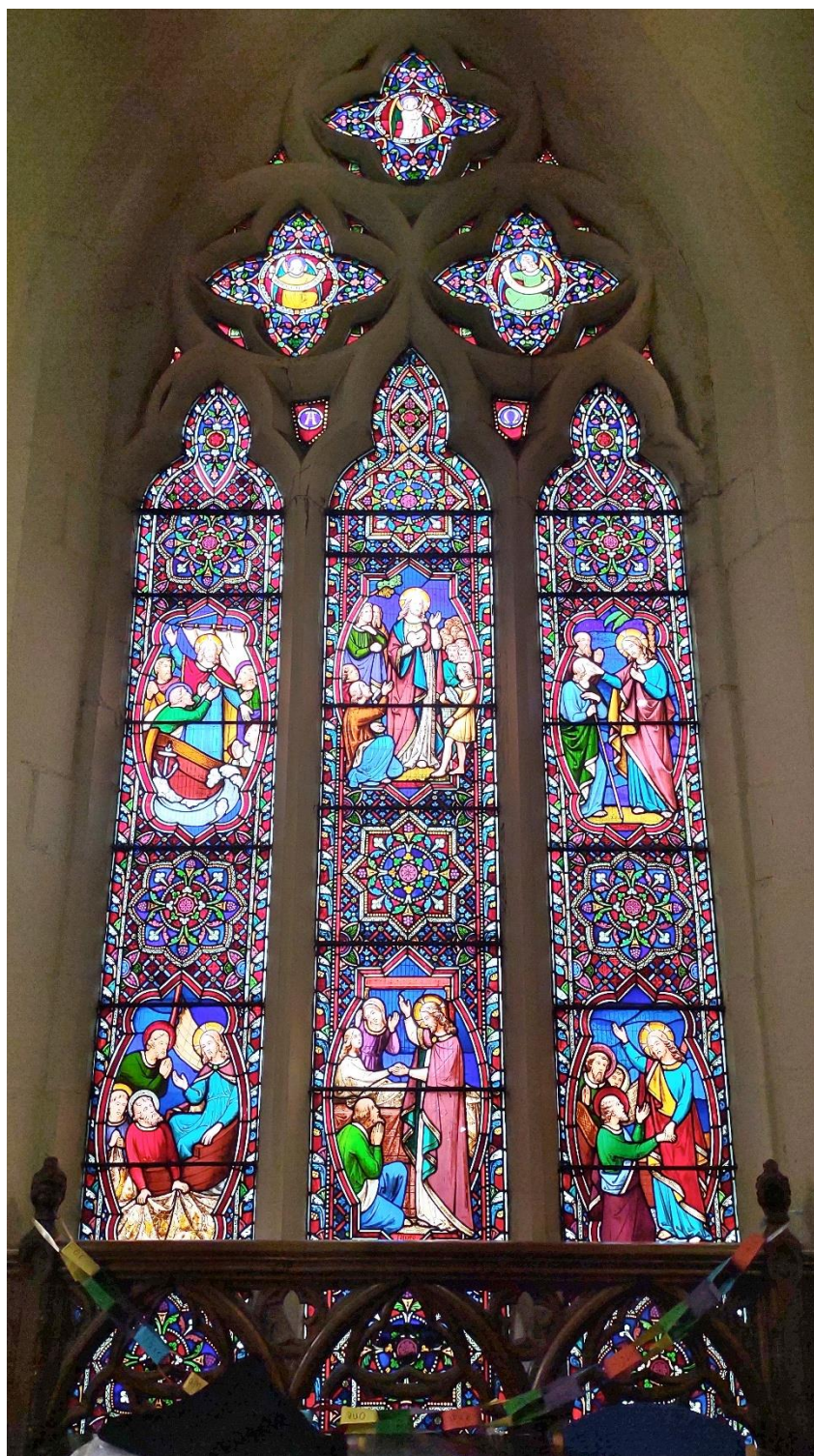
“to the Glory of God, this window was erected by Sydney Perfect Norris and Jane his wife of Wood House, Halifax, in affectionate remembrance of her beloved brother Alfred Foster MA of Spring Head, Halifax who died July 10th 1873”

Sydney was another local chemist, and he and his wife Jane are buried in the churchyard.



Toilet corridor

This window contains three windows relating to children in scripture. The left has the prophet Samuel praying in the temple, accompanied by Eli, the high priest of the time. Eli is wearing the breastplate of the high priest, with a different stone to represent each of the 12 tribes of Israel. The centre panel has Jesus welcoming the children. The 3rd image is of Timothy who grew in faith with the help of his mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, who are seen in the background. The Bible reference below this image is incorrect. It states it comes from 2 Titus, which doesn't exist. It comes from 2 Timothy, a reminder to proof readers everywhere!



The West Window (best seen upstairs)

The 6 miracles of Jesus.

“to the Glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of Mary Holdsworth of Shaw Lodge Halifax, this window is dedicated by her loving husband William Irving Holdsworth Anno Domini 1885”

The six miracles starting at the bottom left and going clockwise are

1. The miraculous catch of fish
2. The calming of the storm
3. The feeding of the 5000
4. The healing of the blind man
5. Jesus and Peter walking on water
6. The raising of Jairus' daughter

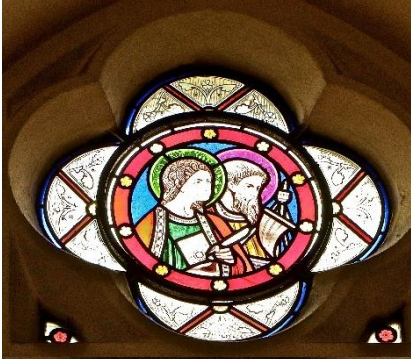
Mary and William were married at St Martin's in the Fields in London in 1874

There are small windows at the top of church (easier seen upstairs) called clerestory windows, all depicting various saints.



St Mark carrying a book with his symbolic lion on.

St Luke, whom we believe is carrying a staff, but we're not 100% sure.



St John, carrying his Gospel and pen.

St Jude, with a sailboat



St Thomas, with a set square. He was believed to have travelled to India and presented himself as an architect and went on to build the first churches there.

St Bartholomew, with a flaying knife, a reference to his death.



St Peter, carrying keys to the gates of heaven.

St James the Great, carrying a staff and a gourd bottle.

St Matthew, carrying a moneybox, referring to his life before following Jesus.

St James the Less, with a fullers club, as a symbol of his death.

St Mattias, carrying an axe, symbolising the manner of his death.

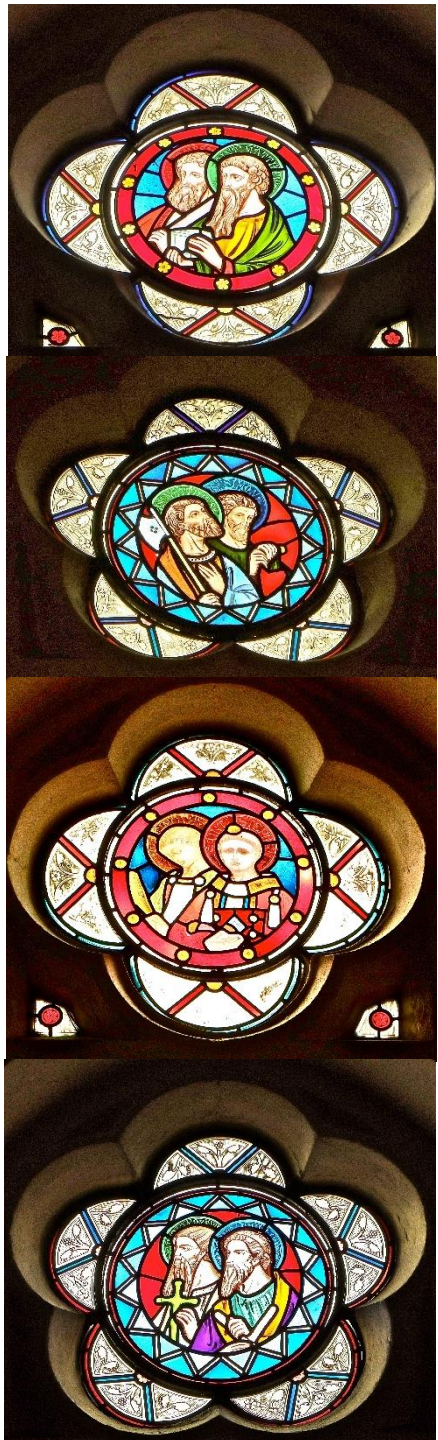
St Simon, carrying a bucksaw again referencing the manner of his death.

St Timothy, possibly carrying a scroll.

St Stephen, wearing a dalmatic, the sign of a deacon.

St Andrew, and St Philip both carrying crosses.

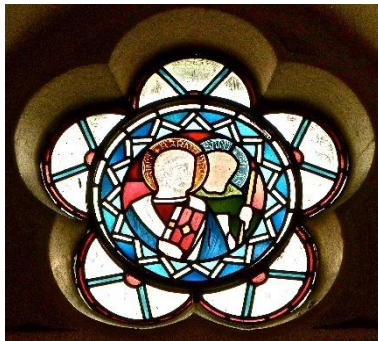
Interestingly, St Philip is carrying the cross more traditionally associated with St Andrew.





John the Baptist, carrying a silver platter (on which his head was placed after execution).

St Paul, carrying a sword.



St Barnabas carrying a book.

Legend has it, he carried a copy of Matthew's gospel to Cyprus.

St Silas, with a bishop's staff.

With special thanks to Kath McSkeane for the photography