



St. Mary Magdalene Geddington



GEDDINGTON'S STAINED GLASS

A Descriptive Guide

Our Church Building

The Nave: The present Nave dates from c970AD (possibly earlier). Triangle-headed arcading can still be seen in the North Aisle on what was originally an exterior wall, as can a splayed window pierced in this wall. Roof scars on the Nave's east wall indicate ancient roof lines. The clerestory windows are later Perpendicular style additions.

The North Aisle: The north wall of the Nave was pierced for an arcade of 2½ bays when the North Aisle was added in the late 12th century. A timber door in the north wall of the North Aisle, known as the 'King's Door' once led to/from the former Royal palace (the steps were removed in 1855). The North Chapel was re-built in 1855-7 and the present vestry added to its eastern end.

The South Aisle was added in the 13th century, with Perpendicular arches forming 3 complete bays. One small piece of Saxon arcading remains. A Tudor porch was added in the late 16th century, but this was demolished and replaced by the present porch in 1856-57. The blocked-up doorway to the room above can still be seen to the right of the south door.

The Chancel: there is evidence in roof scars and in the 5 splayed lower clerestory windows of earlier structures. Stylistically, the present Chancel dates from circa 1300-20. However, a Latin inscription dates it to 1369, eleven years after the church (previously in Royal patronage) was granted to the monks of Pipewell Abbey, who "*... shall in the first place construct and build the Chancel of the same Church and the windows of the same competently...*" The upper clerestory windows are later additions. The screen dates from 1908, and the choir stalls from 1912.

The South (Lady) Chapel: Of 13th Century construction with complex alterations this chapel is linked to the Chancel by two bays, the western one of which holds a 14th Century screen that originally filled the Chancel arch. The eastern arch holds a replica screen (1907). The chapel is separated from the South Aisle by a screen given by Maurice Tresham and dating from 1618. This stood in the Chancel arch until 1855, when that arch was raised. A 14th Century effigy of a priest lies near the Altar – quite possibly the William Glover named in the Chancel's 1369 inscription. William Glover died at the Feast of Corpus Christi - hence the local tradition that he died whilst celebrating mass.

The Tower dates from c1380 (possibly springing from a 12th Century tower). The clock mechanism (1766) is by Bailey of Stanton. Of the 6 bells, the two oldest were cast in 1550 and 1580. The heaviest weighs 11 ¾ cwt and was given in 1630 by Sir Robert Dallington. The newest was cast at Whitechapel in 2004, when a new bell frame was also installed.

The South Aisle

West Window

On entering the church via the South Door, this window is on your immediate left hand. Made in 1857 in the laboratory of the Rev. J.S.H. Horner of Mells Rectory*, near Frome in Somerset, it was the gift of parishioners in memory of the then Vicar's son-in-law, John Stevenson. It comprises 3 lights representing: (a) The Nativity; (b) the Salutation of Saints Mary and Elizabeth (The Visitation); and (c) The Annunciation.

South Window (1)

To the immediate east (right) of the South Door is another window from the Mells Rectory studios*. This was the gift in 1882 of a former Vicar, the Rev. W.M.H. Church, in which the middle light depicts the Adoration of the Magi. Below this are two brass plaques with the inscriptions:-

*Harriet Elizabeth Church
Aged 41 years
"Safe Home" 19 Oct. 1892*

and the other:-

*Basil Church
Born at Geddington, 19th Oct. 1849
Died at Melbourne, 30th Jan. 1881
"It is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good".*

* **NOTE:** Markham (1899) attributes both the above windows to Mells Rectory Studios, but Sharpling (2014) says they are by Clayton & Bell.

South Window (2)

Further east is a modern window that re-used two lights by Hubert Blandford (1925). Originally from the Rowe Family Congregational Church, Exeter, and adapted by Saunders of Northampton, they were installed in their present position in October 2001, and dedicated:

"To the memory of Edward Michael Alloway, died 25th July 1992 aged 66 years and his mother Constance Ada died 21st March 1977 aged 81 years".

The **left-hand light** depicts Samuel; the centre one gives the above Dedication; and the **right hand** one shows David holding a crook, a sling and a harp.

A third panel of a set of three from Exeter went to St. John's, Orsumoghu, Nigeria – it depicted the risen Christ with Mary Magdalene.

The Chancel

The Great East Window

Dedicated on 17th December 1892, this window comprises five lights with a circular head. The glass was designed and executed by Sir Ninian Comper of Bucknall & Comper (Architects) in their London office. It illustrates *'the power of Divine Love shown in overcoming evil'*.

The **left hand light** shows St Peter holding keys: "*Sanctu[s] Petrus*". Above him is Isaiah: "*Dicite filiae Sion: Ecce Salvator tuus venit*" (Say daughters of Sion Behold your Saviour approaches). Below him is an angel, the emblem of St Matthew with text: "*Recordatus est Petrus verba Jesu*" (Peter remembered Jesus' words).

The **central left light** shows Mary Magdalene holding an ointment jar: "*S Maria Magdalena*". Above her is Zachariah: "*Exsulta satis filia Sion, Jubila. Ecce rex tuus veniet*" (Rejoice greatly, daughter of Sion, Rejoice. Behold your king is coming"). Below her is a lion, the emblem of St Mark.

The **central light** depicts The Virgin and Child: "*Maria Mater Jesu*" (Mary Mother of Jesus). Below them are Adam and Eve with apples and the letters A and E in shields: "*Seme mulieris steret caput serpentis*" (The heel of the woman shall crush the head of the serpent).

The **central right light** shows St John the Baptist: "*S Johannes Bapt.*" Above him is Micah: "*Ex te* (an abbreviation of "Out of thee shall he come forth unto me one who is to be the ruler in Israel"). Below him an ox, the emblem of St Luke.

The **right-hand light** shows St George killing the dragon: "*S Georgius*". Above him is Jeremiah: "*Ecce dicit Dominus suscitabo David germen iustum et sapiens erit et regnabit rex*" (Thus says the Lord, I will raise up a seed of David, he will be just and wise and will reign as king). Below him is an eagle, the emblem of St John. Each figure has a crowned initial in gold in the backcloth.

The top row contains Rows of red and blue clad angels alternating with **IS** (from Latin meaning *Jesus Saviour of Mankind*) and **M** (for Mary) in gold on red background. Then a small Annunciation, angels with "*Dans gloriam Deo*" (Giving glory to God) and roses.

The South Window of the Chancel

Dedicated 1860 by members of the Family of Rev. James Hogg (Vicar from 1814 to 1844), this window is by Clayton and Bell and is inscribed: *To . live . is . Christ . and . to . die . is . gain*

The window consists of three lights each with figures illustrating Faith, Hope, and Charity. The first shows St. Stephen bearing a palm in his left hand and a scroll in his right with the words: *+ Stand . fast . in . the . faith* and underneath the words:- *Be . thou . faithful . unto . death*

The centre light shows St. Paul carrying a sword in his right hand and a scroll in his left with the words:- *Hope . to . the . end*. And below:- *Which . hope . we . have . as . an . anchor . of . the . Soul*

The third light shows St. John carrying a closed book in his left hand and a scroll in his right with the words:- *+ follow after Charity* and below:- *he . that . loveth . his . brother . abideth . in . the . light*

In the tracery above are the Cross, Anchor and Heart – the emblems of Faith, Hope and Charity – and two angels with immortal crowns and the Christogram above.

The Rev. James Hogg is also commemorated in the Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul, Kettering, as he was Headmaster of the Grammar School.

The North Window of the Chancel

Also by Clayton and Bell, this two-light window represents the Crucifixion - in type and antitype*. The left light shows Moses with the stinging serpents and a brazen serpent on a cross, and Elias representing the Law and the Prophets; whilst the right light shows St. Paul and St. Peter, Apostles to the Gentiles and Jews respectively. The *type* is Moses lifting up the serpent, and the *antitype* is Christ on the Cross attended by angels and flanked by the Virgin and St John, with the text: *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*. Above Moses are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel; whilst above Christ are the four Evangelists. Above the four Prophets is a woman blindfolded representing Judaism - the crown falling from her head, the Tables of the Law in her right hand, and the sceptre broken in her left. Above the Evangelists is a woman representing Christianity - crowned, bearing a sceptre in her right hand and the Gospel in her left. This denotes the passing of authority from the Jewish to the Christian Church. At the apex is the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).

* NOTE: *For Christians, Jesus came to fulfil key prophesies and sayings of the Jewish Old Testament. The types are of the Old Testament, whilst the antitypes are their fulfilment as described in the Gospels of the New Testament.*

The Chancel (contd.)

Small Lower Clerestory Windows

Three small windows above the arches came to light in 1875, when they were discovered by workman taking down the old roof from part of the South Aisle. Previously hidden by timbers and plasterwork, they correspond with 2 similar windows with patterned trefoils on the north side, all of which probably date from a mid-13th Century re-building of the Chancel.

The North Aisle

The Triangular Window

Located above the Vestry door, this was the gift of Mrs. S.S. Sutton in memory of her former husband, the Rev. John Lucas Sutton, who gave the present pulpit.

The Tower

Window above the West Door

This two-light window is by Joseph Freestone of Geddington. The left light represents the Baptism of Christ and is inscribed:-

“He that believeth, and is baptised shall be saved.”

The right-hand light shows Christ receiving little children with the inscription:-

“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not.”

The Ark, and Dove and the Holy Spirit are shown above.

Only accessible via the bell-ringing floor, this window may be viewed by special arrangement.

The South (Lady) Chapel

The East Window

The glass in this 4-light window is all by Sir Ninian Comper. The inner two lights date from 1933. The outer two lights were completed and installed in 1957. His trademark 'strawberry' signatures can be seen for both years.

In the **upper part of the window** the left hand light depicts the Virgin Mary with Jesus and St. John the Baptist as children. The central lights show The Annunciation; and the right hand light shows Mary with St. James the Less (carrying a cudgel), St. Simon (carrying a saw) and St. Jude (carrying a boat) as children. In the **lower part of the window**, the left hand light shows Mary learning to read with her mother, St. Anne. The central lights depict The Nativity, with the shepherds and the magi; while the right hand shows Mary with the Risen Christ. The top lights depict the sun, moon and stars.

The Southeast Window

This single light sits above a former door opening. It dates from 1921 and is by Arthur Louis Moore. It depicts St. Paul holding a sword and a book. The dedication reads:

"To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harry Arthur Patrick who passed to higher service Jan 20th 1920 after returning from India and Egypt."

The Southwest Window

This 3-light window by Joseph Freestone* of Geddington is inscribed:-

To the glory of God and in memory of E.R and L.M.S 1882

The centre light shows Christ seated, speaking to Mary Magdalene, and in the background three men feasting at a table. The left-hand light shows Christ driving the money-changers from the Temple; and the right-hand one depicts Christ standing by the sea shore with three apostles.

* NOTE: Markham (1899) attributes this window to Joseph Freestone, but Sharpling (2014) says it is by ES Horwood of Mells, Somerset.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Who We Are

St Mary Magdalene, Geddington is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of Peterborough.



We worship God in both modern and ancient Anglican tradition; and every week offer a wide range of services and social events for all ages and preferences, We extend a special welcome to all who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, rich or poor; and children of all ages are always welcome.

Our main Sunday services are at 9.45am; there is a vibrant Sunday School, and midweek services are usually at 10am on Tuesdays and Fridays. There are also plenty of events and activities throughout the year. Visitors are welcome, and guided tours of the church can be arranged via the contacts below.

Further Reading

The History and Antiquities of Geddington by C.A. Markham (1899)

Fragile Images: Post-medieval Stained Glass in Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough by Paul Sharpling (2014)

Contact Us

Parish Priest: The Revd. Gillian Gamble

Days off usually Mondays and Tuesdays

Vicarage: Tel.: 01536 742200

email: vicar@geddingtonweekleychurch.org.uk

Web: <http://geddingtonchurch.org.uk/>

Email: geddingtonweekley@gmail.com

Facebook: St-Mary-Magdalene-Geddington.

Cover: Lady Chapel East Window by Sir Ninian Comper



St. Mary Magdalene
Geddington

Church Hill, Geddington, NN14 1AH

Made possible with



Heritage
Fund