



SACRED HEART, FLITWICK

A SHORT HISTORY & ORINATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Our Parish was originally founded in 1936 by the Sacred Heart Fathers, an order dating back to 1878 originating in France. The orders founder Leo Dehon was born in La Capelle in the north of France on 14 March 1843. He based his life on the Heart of Christ, on compassion, love of truth and concern for all who suffer, no matter what the causes of their oppression.

In 1999 the parish was given back to the Diocese as the Sacred Heart Fathers were no longer able to support it. This church in Pope Close was built by local builder Hillsons. It was consecrated in 1983.

The Stained Glass Windows originated from a Chapel at the Sacred Heart College in Woodcote, Shropshire. The college was the Sacred Heart Fathers junior seminary until the late sixties and then a residential youth centre until 1980. When this building was sold the church at Flitwick was in the planning stage and the windows were incorporated into the finished building.

In addition to the depiction of four saints, Joseph, Willibrord, George and John the Evangelist look out for small panel which commemorates the Second Vatican Council. The Council took place between 1963 and 1965. It was called by Pope John XXII, who was canonised in 2015 by Pope Francis

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David.

We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to protect and provide for them. Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph had probably died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, and the dying and social justice. St. Joseph has two feast days in the liturgical calendar. The first, March 19 Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second, May 1 Joseph, the Worker.



Pope John Paul II had once said. "Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God."

ST WILLIBRORD



Apostle of Frisia, Netherlands, a missionary archbishop. Born in Northumbria, England, circa 658, he studied at Ripon monastery under St. Wilfrid and spent twelve years studying in Ireland under Sts. Egbert and Wigbert.

After being ordained he set out about 690 with a dozen companions for Frisia. In 693, he went to Rome to seek papal approval for his labours and, during Willibrord's second Roman visit, the pontiff consecrated him archbishop to the Frisians, in 696, with his see at Utrecht. He faced chronic dangers from outraged pagans, including one who nearly murdered him after he tore down a pagan idol. In 714, Duke Radbod reclaimed the extensive territories acquired by Pepin, and Willibrord watched all of the progress he had made be virtually undone.

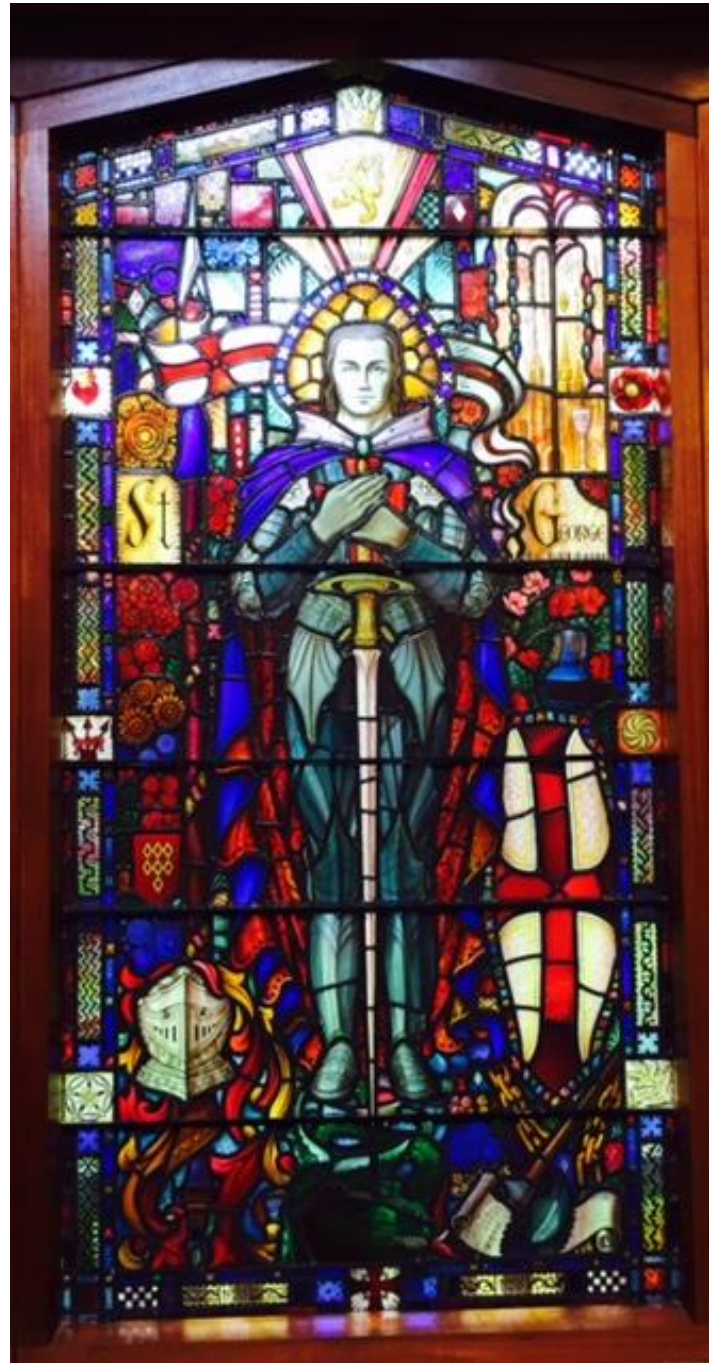
Following Radbod's death, Willibrord started over with great enthusiasm, receiving invaluable assistance, from St. Boniface. Willibrord died on retreat at Echternach on 7 November, 739. For his efforts, he is called the Apostle of the Frisians.

ST GEORGE

St. George was a soldier of the Roman army who was tortured and beheaded for his Christian faith in the year 303, in Lydda. He was likely born in Cappadocia, of a Cappadocian father and a Palestinian mother of noble rank. At the death of his father he moved to Palestine with his mother where he joined the military and apparently served with some distinction, meriting several promotions in rank.

St. George is usually depicted in Christian art as a soldier on horseback killing a dragon with a lance. This image is a representation of a popular legend of St. George which first appears in 1265 in a romance titled "The Golden Legend," in which he saved a town terrorized by a dragon with one blow of his lance. The image, however, is also, and more significantly, a powerful symbol of the victory of Christian faith over evil, personified by the devil who is symbolized by the dragon according to the imagery in Revelations.

St. George is invoked as a patron of military causes, not only because he was a soldier, but also, and primarily, due to his appearance to the Christian armies before the battle of Antioch, in which they were victorious, and to King Richard the Lionheart of England during his crusade against the Saracens. St. George is the patron of soldiers and the patron of many nations, including Palestine; Lebanon; England; Georgia; Malta.





ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

John the Evangelist wrote many important works, including the fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation which is also attributed to him. Little is known of the author of these books, though he is often referred to as being the same person as the 'beloved disciple of Jesus'. John's gospel is written somewhat later than those names after Mark, Matthew and Luke – called the synoptic gospels. This later date is cited as the reasoning for the writer being someone other than John the Apostle.

John's gospel is very different from the others, written for a community coming to terms with the fact that the last days had not yet arrived. The gospel is much more contemplative. It is from this gospel we learn so much about Jesus as a servant and a great deal about the Body of Christ – in Chapter 6. Tradition also recounts how John the Evangelist was banished to the island of Pathmos for a year, where the Book of Revelation with its challenging apocryphal style.

Tradition holds that the evangelist John is the unnamed 'beloved disciple' of Jesus. In turn he is identified as John, the son of Zebedee and brother of James the Great, who were called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. As the "beloved disciple" he was the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when Christ made him the guardian of His Mother. His later life was passed chiefly in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. He founded many churches in Asia Minor. He lived to an extreme old age, surviving all his fellow apostles, and died in Ephesus about the year 100 AD.