

St Mary's Church is fortunate in having some wonderful stained glass. None of the windows apart from the one in the side aisle, is older than the middle of the nineteenth century, but there is a huge range of colours and styles.

We have a number of windows manufactured by William Wailes, one of the most talented of the Victorian stained glass makers and owner of one of the largest factories in the country at that time.

The North Aisle



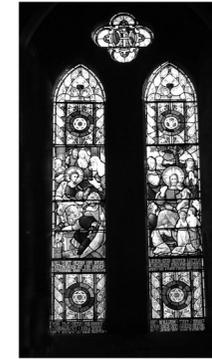
A memorial window dedicated "To the Glory of God in memory of Frederick William Murray Canon of Rochester and Rector of this parish 1859-1906." He is the longest serving rector of St Mary's and he and his wife are buried in the churchyard. It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd carrying a sheep in his arms with two others by his side, and Jesus as the Light of the World. The smaller pictures show Jesus telling Peter to cast his net in the sea after he had been fishing all night without success and Jesus with Peter after the resurrection asking Peter if he loves him. The window was made in 1915 by Robert Newbury of London.

The window at the east end of the aisle is one of those made by William Wailes, and is dedicated "In memory of Thomas Cooper of Stone Castle. Died September 5th 1659 aged 39 years." It is highly decorative, depicting four of Jesus' miracles - the feeding of the five thousand, the healing of blind Bartimaeus, the raising of Lazarus and Jesus calming the storm.



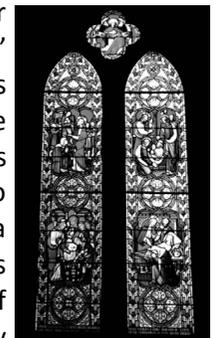
The fairly plain middle window has shields labelled King (for Walker King), Laurence (for his predecessor) and Sir John Wiltshire, who built the Chantry Chapel, in the quatrefoil.

The South Aisle



The first window in the south aisle shows two scenes from the life of Jesus. On the left, as a boy of twelve, when he visited Jerusalem with his parents to celebrate the Passover and stayed behind to talk to the teachers. The text reads, "All that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers". The right hand picture shows him blessing children and here the text reads, "Jesus said suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me." This window is dedicated "To the dear memory of William Tait and Margaret his wife who died at Greenhithe"

Also in this aisle is another window illustrating four of Jesus' miracles all showing his compassion and love for those around him. Two show Jesus bringing back to life someone who has died, one is the healing of a paralysed man and the other is Jesus' first miracle—the turning of water into wine. The lovely quatrefoil above this beautifully decorated window has a picture of Christ with a banner proclaiming 'I am the resurrection and the life.'



The third window along this wall portrays Hope and Charity and is simply labelled "A Thanksgiving—Anno Domini 1878"

The Side Chapel



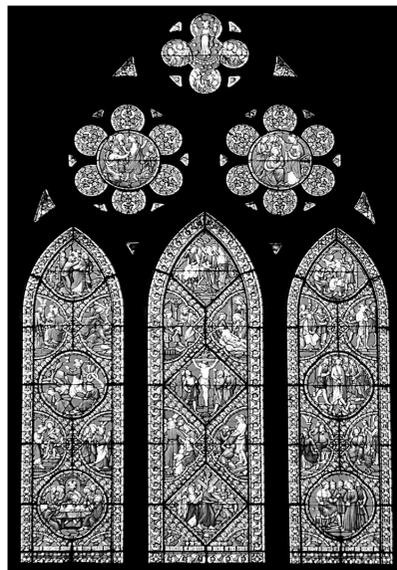
This window was installed in 2006 as a memorial window, and replaces one damaged in the Second World War. Its subject is the annunciation and it is the last window designed and made by Keith and Judy Hill of Strood, matching the colours in the quatrefoil which is all that remains from the original window.

This 21st century window is not at all out of place in this beautiful mediaeval church.

The Chancel

Both windows in the chancel were made by William Wailes. The south window illustrates some of Jesus' teaching about how we should treat others. There is an inscription at the bottom, only seen from a stepladder which states "To the glory of God and in affectionate memory of Charles White of Barnesfield in this parish this window was erected by his children 1874"

The east window



This glorious window depicts the passion of Christ. The left hand window tells of the Last Supper, the right hand window shows his suffering in the hands of the chief priests and Pilate and the larger central window is the story of the crucifixion and resurrection. The roundels at the top depict two resurrection appearances and Jesus' ascension. Note the pale blue stone right at the bottom celebrating the name of this parish.

It is dedicated by his widow and children in 1861 to the "Affectionate memory of the Venerable Walker King Archdeacon of Rochester and Rector of this Parish"



St Mary the Virgin Stone

STAINED GLASS

"For Christ's sake."

