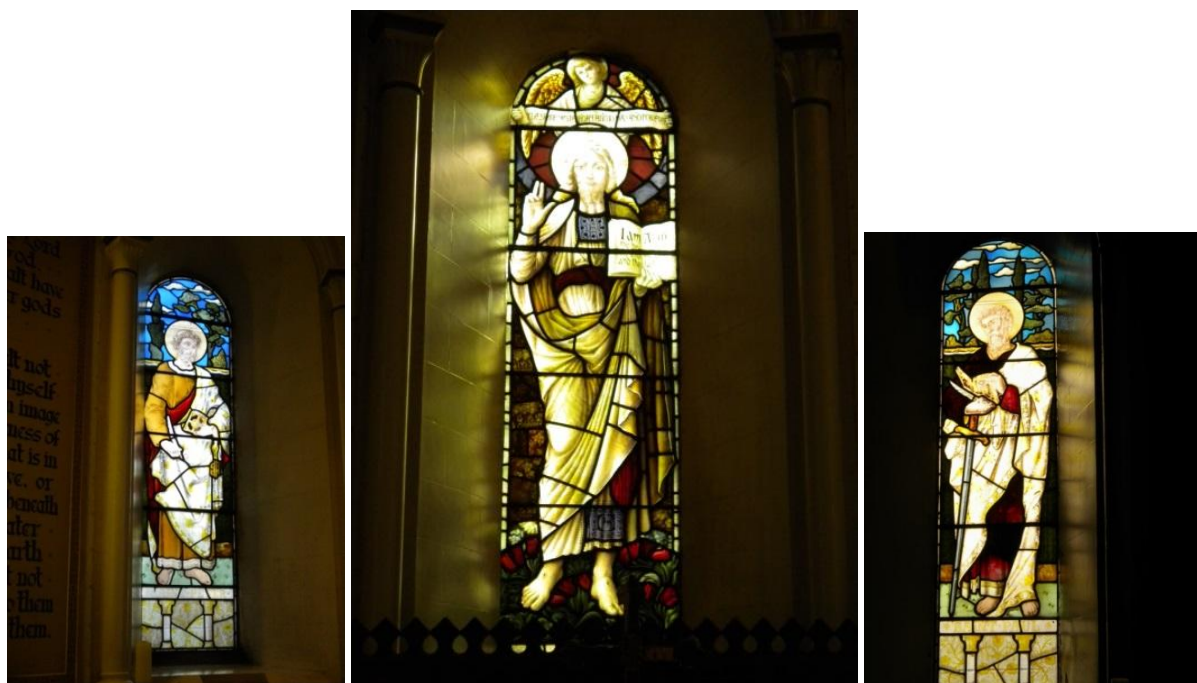


THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT ST PAULS CHURCH SCOTFORTH

In the Victorian period and the time between the two World Wars there was a growing popularity for the art of stained glass. The earliest glass in Lancaster was produced by William Wailes from Newcastle upon Tyne but the first known stained glass made in Lancaster was the East Window for St. Peter's Church in Preston. It made by the local plumber and glazier William Abbott in 1826. By 1860 Lancaster had become a centre for stained glass production with eventually seven different manufacturers and eleven principal glassmakers. St Pauls had a wide variety to choose from and four firms gained commissions at the church, the most well-known being Shrigley & Hunt. Joseph Shrigley was a painter and decorator and after his death James Williamson joined in a partnership with his widow. She sold the business to Arthur William Hunt and he concentrated on making much more stained glass and encaustic decorated tiles. As the business became a major glass maker Hunt employed Paley & Austin to erect the Castle Gate Studio on Castle Hill. The East Window was made in the studio of Shrigley & Hunt, It was created from a cartoon of Christ by Carl Almquist who was trained by Henry Holiday and was copied from the painting by Holiday's friend William Holman Hunt, the subject of the painting was "The Light of the World" (at Keble College, Oxford) and this was adapted by Almquist (and later by others using other Christian symbols). His adapted cartoon at St Paul's shows a banner above Christ's head and the book held in His left hand which makes the statement "I AM" and on the banner is written "THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER"



The other windows in the apse and flanking the East window are the work of Lambert & Moore. William Lambert worked for Shrigley & Hunt from 1875 to 1888, and with his partner Moore, he set up his own tile and glass painting business in 1891. They provided the windows depicting St Peter with his book, quill and the keys to the gates of heaven and St Paul with his book and quill (mightier than the sword which he also holds). The colours are not as vivid as Shrigley & Hunt's East Window and the figures are set in pastoral scenes. Brass strips on the sills below each window give details of the donors and the imprint of the makers can just be detected on the lower left base of the strips.

At the eastern end of the North aisle are the later Statham memorial windows of 1926 and 1927 and the last of the church windows made by Shrigley & Hunt. They are biblical scenes from the Old Testament with the headings telling what they represent – St Dunstan; King David; Gamaliel teaching Saul; and Eunice instructing Timothy. A beaded shoulder garland on the cartoons of St Dunstan and King David is one of the trademarks of Shrigley & Hunt. Their other windows can be signed or simply have their initials entwined on one of the upright borders of the window.



The West wall of the church was nearer to the chancel when first built, then in 1891 it was moved further west when the extension by Paley & Austin was made creating a narthex. The large West Window is a pictorial one created over the three lancets. Each window has a female figure giving alms to the needy with appropriate texts over each figure, these figures obviously represent the benevolent Mrs Ripley and through Scriptures they represent the kindness shown by her to the pupils and staff of the Ripley Orphanage which she erected in memory of her husband. It was presented to the church by the staff and past and present pupils of the School to honour Mrs Ripley

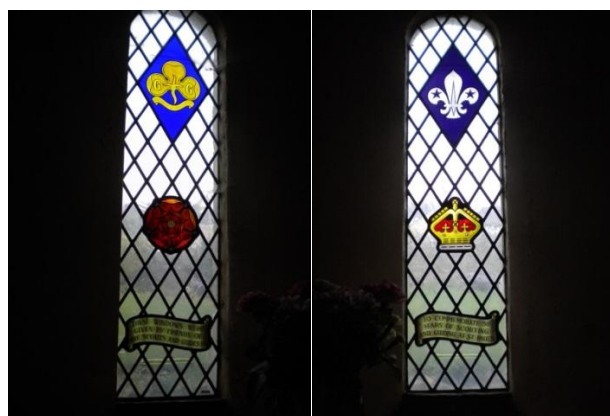


The stained glass makers were Messrs Abraham Seward & Co of Market St and Sun St Lancaster (a signature can be seen on the lower right of the northernmost window, the usual place for these marks). Charles Seward was one of the sons of Charles Seward who had a large engineering works behind China St running along Sun St. The offices were in Market St. His brother was the Diocesan Architect and practiced in Preston. The Glass Studio was based in the Music (Muses) Room, Sun St.

The Circular window in the gable above is the second work produced by Shrigley & Hunt before they later provided the four Statham windows. Called an “angel” window it depicts the heavenly Host.



The most recent window is the first one you see as you enter the south porch and come in through the door of the church. On the west wall to your left is the window presented to the church by the scouts and guides. It features their emblems which are surrounded clear cathedral glass. It was made by Robert Ashmead, of Abbotts the last glass designer to continue what was the very first firm of stained glass makers in Lancaster. The firm was the last one in Lancaster when it was bought out by Cobalt of Fleetwood (though they retained name - as Abbott & Co of Fleetwood).



Scotforth had another firm of stained glass makers in Grove Court off Brunton road. They were called Barraclough & Sanders and the premises were known as Loyne Studios. They produced the East window at the Greaves Methodist Church and a large War Memorial window for Preston Grammar School. There are other windows by them around the Lancaster area. Colin Stansfield