

DORNOCH CATHEDRAL WINDOWS

These notes are for the many people who not only comment on the beauty of the Cathedral windows, but who may like to learn, briefly, their background, and those commemorated in them.

The Cathedral was extensively altered and rebuilt by Elizabeth, Duchess Countess of Sutherland from 1835 - 1837. Those windows remaining before work were all restored or replaced in the design of Alexander Coupar.

THE CHANCEL

North Wall of the Chancel

Three windows by *Percy C. Bacon*, of London, 1926, erected in memory of **Andrew Carnegie** (1898-1919 owner of Skibo Castle, and benefactor of this Cathedral). The subjects [from left to right] represent Carnegie's interests in Literature, Peace and Music. Literature is represented by a woman holding a book with two crossed torches of learning at her feet. At the apex is an angel also holding a book "A Light unto my Faith". Peace is depicted by Christ with the words "Blessed are the Peacemakers" below which the Angel appears to the shepherds proclaiming "On Earth Peace, Goodwill to men". Music is represented by a female figure holding a musical instrument with crossed instruments at her feet and an angel holding a sheet of music over her head.

The inscriptions read:-

A Light unto my faith	Blessed are the peacemakers	Praise be the Lord
Let there be Light	On earth peace, goodwill toward men	
To the Glory of God	loving memory	of Skibo
and in	of Andrew Carnegie	1835 - 1919

East Gable of the Chancel

These are by *Christopher Whall (1849-1924)* of London, and commemorate **Cromartie, 4th Duke of Sutherland** (1851-1913). The top light represents the Trinity and the life to come. The three main lights show Faith, Love and Hope. Faith, on the left, is holding a lighted lamp, in a lush green landscape based on Western Canada (a favourite part of the Duke's lands). Love, in the centre, is Christ holding the world. Hope, on the right, stands by the anchor, and looks past a boat setting sail.

The inscription reads:-

To the Glory of God in loving memory of Cromartie. 4th Duke and 20th Earl of Sutherland.
Born 20 July 1851 - Died 27 June 1913
This window was erected by his widow Millicent
and his children, George Granville William, Alastair St Clair, and Rosemary Millicent

South Wall of the Chancel

The window on the left, by *Miss Haston* (or *C.C. Townsend & J.Howson*) of London, 1953, is to the memory of **Eric, 2nd Viscount Chaplin** (1897-1949) and features his armorial achievement, surmounted by the rising sun and resting on a celtic cross between two stags. **It also has roundels of a sailing ship and a country house.**

The inscription reads:

May God's Love overshadow you
His Power protect you
His Spirit guide you, and His Peace enfold you
To the Glory of God and in memory of Eric,
Viscount Chaplin, Sept 27, 1897 - Sept 12, 1949

The centre light, by *William Wilson*, RSA (1905-72) of Edinburgh 1958, is in memory of Millicent Fanny St Clair, Duchess of Sutherland (wife of the 4th Duke). She was an active supporter of many good causes, including lifeboats, the Cripples Guild, and the founder of the Scottish Home Industries (Harris Tweed) and the Golspie Technical School. She was awarded the French Crois de Guerre and the Belgian Royal Red Cross for her founding and running of ambulance and hospital stations in northern Europe during the First World War. She lived most of her later years in France (the Duke having died in 1913), although she frequently returned to visit Sutherland. The design of 'Womanly Courage' was prepared by the Duchess and based on the 17th Century Rohan Tapestry at Angers (close to her French home). At the top is the Sutherland motto "Sans Peur" [Without Fear] and Coat of Arms, over a view of Dunrobin Castle. A pet Pekinese, her companion in old age, lies at her feet. Her own Rosslyn family coat of arms appears at the bottom.

The inscription reads: -

To the Glory of God and in memory of Millicent Fanny St.Clair Erskine,
Duchess of Sutherland, Croix de Guerre, Belgian Red Cross.
Born at Dysart, 20 October 1867 and Died in France 20th August 1955

The right hand window in this wall, by *Crear McCartney* of Lamington 1989, to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the founding of the Cathedral by St Gilbert de Moravia. This window was paid for by donations from visitors and the town's people, and dedicated in the presence of Prince Charles

This is Crear McCartney's description of the window:

Of the four ancient elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water, Water symbolised Cleansing and Re-birth. This leads me to choose that moment when St. Gilbert crossed the waters of the Moray Firth to build his cathedral at Dornoch.

The blues and greens of water predominate. With sunshine the window will flood the choir with pure cool colour. The single large figure, and the heraldry, relates this window to the other lancets.

St Gilbert's seal is lost, but Bishop William's seal of 1250 depicting a Bishop on a ship, may refer to St. Gilbert and a miracle concerning salmon: this leads me to re-interpret this seal and show St Gilbert on the deck of a ship. The Cross at the prow signifies the metaphor of Ship as Church, and the Anchor symbolises Hope — the second Christian Virtue.

An Angel Fish guides the ship across the Moray Firth, and its bow-wave forms the Fleur-de-Lys, symbol of Mary to whom the church was first dedicated.

St. Gilbert presents to us a model of his cathedral and carries a crozier, the knob is decorated with the Cross of St. Andrew, and the curve is decorated with the small White Rose of Scotland "which smells sharp and sweet, and breaks the Heart." The Seven Roses symbolise the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, their red thorns pointing inwards, reminding us of the Passion of Our Lord.

The Dove, - symbol of the Holy Spirit - alights on Gilbert's shoulder - an allusion also to that other Dove, St. Columba, who brought the Church across another Scottish sea to Iona.

King Alexander II took an active part in founding the cathedral at Dornoch. His role is commemorated at the foot of the window,

The Unicorn, supporter of the Royal Arms of Scotland, symbolises Inspiration and Imagination. It points with its Golden Horn to the Angel Fish among the 'Silver Darlings'.

Legend states that the Golden Horn purified murky water. The Unicorn here therefore symbolises King Alexander's vision that he would, through the good works of Gilbert, bring the North under the King's Peace –
*Two Unicorns support the Royal Arms. Only one plays that role here, and it also supports the other arms depicted. The shields are all related to the long history of Dornoch Cathedral. At the foot the arms of the Church of Scotland, with its motto *Net Tamen onsumebatur*, bears witness to the permanence of The Church of Christ.*
In tribute to the long line of distinguished successors from St. Gilbert to the present day I have placed the present incumbent's monogram in the bottom left corner.
Around the head of St. Gilbert is the quotation about the Building of The Temple in I Chronicles, 22: v 2; fitting words chosen by the Rev. James A. Simpson to mark the 750th Anniversary of the building of this beautiful cathedral.

The inscription reads: -

He set masons to hew wrought stones to build the House of God
 Nec Tamen Consumeatur
 On Sunday 1st October 1989 in the presence of HRH the Prince of Wales
 this window was dedicated to the memory of Bishop Gilbert
 who built this Cathedral 1224 - 1239 A.D.

THE SOUTH TRANSEPT

The East Wall of the South Transept:

The light on the left, by *James Ballantine II* of Edinburgh (1878-1920), is a memorial to those members of the Congregation who fell in the Great War 1914-1918. An armoured soldier rests on his spear with a broken sword at his feet.

The inscription reads: -

They rest from their labours
 To the Glory of God and in
 memory of
 David Cowie
 William Dingwall
 James C Giffen
 Thomas Grant
 Donald Grant
 John A Gillespie
 James A Herd
 John B Herd
 William Herd
 Thomas McCulloch
 George McCulloch
 Alexander Macleod
 Davis Ross
 Thomas P Ross
 George Ross
 John Ross
 Who fell in the Great War
 1914 - 1918
 They loved not their
 Lives unto the death

The window on the right, dedicated to Christina Annat Mackay, is by *Percy Bacon* of

London, has Christ with a mother and child as the main figures “Suffer the little children to come unto Me” while at the apex is an angel with a blessing ‘Benedicite’.

The inscription reads:

To the glory of God and in memory of
my mother Christina Annat Mackay,
erected by C.A.Dalgleish.

The West Wall of the South Transept

The light on the left is a memorial to W S Fraser. For 50 years, he was Procurator Fiscal for Sutherland. He was a banker in the town, a member of Dornoch Town Council for 67 years and Provost of the Burgh for the last 21 years of his life. The window was erected by his niece, Mrs Taylor

The inscription reads: -

Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest
In memory of William Sutherland Fraser
Born at Dornoch 18 June 1801
Died 18th October 1889

The light on the right, by *Percy Bacon & Bros* 1904, was erected in memory of Jane Gilchrist of Ospisdale and dedicated by her daughter Katherine Witherby. The theme of this window is ‘God is Love’ and depicts the figures of the Madonna and Child. The style of the architectural setting is very similar to the window opposite on the east wall – by the same company of craftsmen.

The inscription reads: -

God is love
In remembrance of Jane Gilchrist
Born August 12, 1818
Died September 22nd 1902

The South Gable of the South Transept

The window on the left, by *Crear McCartney* of Lamington, is in memory of Mrs Pamela Lovell, a highly respected member of our community, golf club and cathedral congregation, who died 11 May 1988. The theme of this light is Christian Joy. The main figures are Jesus speaking to Simon, Mary and Thomas who reacted typically - with wonder, acceptance and doubt - just as today. The winding path symbolises the path of righteousness we are to tread, leading to the lighthouse at Tarbat Ness, the Light of the World. The vase of roses, lower left, signifies the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The heraldry at the top marks events in the life of Pamela and her husband Denis, the topmost arms being their own Scottish Coat of Arms. The vine binds Mary, the disciples, the Lovells and all of us to Christ Himself - “ I am the Vine and you are the branches.”

The inscription reads:

I have told you that your joy be complete. John XV
To the Glory of God
And in memory of Pamela Lovell
A gracious lady

The centre window, by *Morris & Co* 1931, commemorates Rosemary Millicent, (daughter of the Cromartie, 4th Duke of Sutherland and Duchess Millicent) and her young son, Jeremy, both of whom died in accidents (she in an air crash and her son in a street accident while riding his cycle). The theme is 'Samuel and the Angel' and the faces are likenesses of those commemorated. The figures are seen against a background of Dunrobib and Ben Braggie, in the memorial garden Rosemary created for her son.

The inscription reads:

And their souls shall be as a watered garden
And they shall not sorrow anymore at all.
To the blessed memory of Rosemary Millicent
Daughter of 4th Duke of Sutherland, KG and wife of Viscount Ednam, MC
Also her young son Jeremy John aged 7
Both passed over to God by disasters December 1929 - 1930

The window on the right, 'Charity' by *G.Maile & Son* of London 1947, is in memory of Duchess Eileen, 1891-1943, wife of the 5th Duke (elder daughter of the 7th Earl of Lanesborough). Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Sutherlands can be seen in the background near the top. The face of the woman is a likeness of the Duchess.

The inscription reads: -

Faith, Hope and Charity. The greatest of these is Charity.
This window is erected to the Glory of God
And in memory of Eileen Gwladys, Duchess of Sutherland
At rest 24 August 1943
Her name is in the hearts of those who have been blessed to call her friend
To blossom like a fragrant rose until their world shall end

The PORCH

Both windows here, by *Crear McCartney* of Lamington, 1988, are in memory of James Lorne Campbell (1955-1985), Balblair, who died in a farming accident. They celebrate God in nature, and the wonder of His creation, to be seen in the flora and fauna around the Dornoch area, and include (at the request of his children) the family dog.

THE NAVE

When the Nave was rebuilt, in the 1830's, four pointed windows were placed in each wall.

The South Wall of the Nave

The left hand window, by *Francis H.Spear* of London 1952, is in memory of Brigadier General Sir George Paynter, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland. At the top is the Lamb of God surmounting the main subject - St.George, patron saint of soldiers - and the legendary dragon. St.Andrew (for Scotland), St.Peter (for fishermen). St.Hubert (for huntsmen) and St.Gilbert (for Dornoch) are also shown. The arms at the bottom are for Eton College and the Scots Guards.

The inscription reads: -

This window dedicated to the Glory of God and given
For the adornment of God's House and in memory of the life and service of
Brigadier General Sir George Paynter, KCVO,
CMG, DSO, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland.
He had a heart that was always young

Next is a light, by Kempe of London, 1905, erected in memory of John Barrow of the Castle, and later, Burghfield [both now hotels]. He was closely involved in the early days of the Royal Dornoch Golf Club. This window depicts St. Peter, the Apostle, holding the keys of heaven and receiving the charge of the flock.

The inscription reads: -

To the Glory of God and in honour of the Apostle St Peter
And in loving memory of John James Jerome Barrow
who died 18th July 1903
His widow dedicated this window 1905

The third window, erected in 1972 in memory of Hector Munro of Dornoch, who spent many years as a railway engineer in Nigeria, The window shows Christ with His right hand pointing upwards towards the Lamb of God and His left hand stretched downwards towards a kneeling pilgrim at His feet, and includes references to Hector Munro's life in Africa.

The inscription reads: -

To the Glory of God in memory of Hector A C Munro
Born 2nd August 1890 and died 17th December 1968
This window is erected by his widow Helen Munro

The West Gable of the Nave

The shape of the west window was copied from the old design, but shortened to accommodate the doorway below.

This great window was erected by Mrs Taylor in memory of the Hoyes family, including William, Mary, Janet and Lewis (her father, mother, brothers and sister. The five figures are those of Peter, Mary, Christ, Martha and John. In the smaller lights formed by the basket tracery, are the nine "fruits of the Spirit" (Gal.5:v 22 and above is the Holy Spirit as a dove and the window was designed by Messrs James Ballantine of Edinburgh

The North Wall of the Nave

The left hand window, by Crear McCartney of Lamington, is in memory of Elizabeth Mackay, first woman elder of the Cathedral and the main theme is the role of Woman in the Life and Work of the Church. The two figures are Queen Margaret teaching King Malcolm to read. Queen Margaret spent her life dedicated to the work of the Church and supporting her husband. The sub-theme of the window is taken from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Mackay [father of Elizabeth and a native of Dornoch]. "Toward the Sun-rising". This text and the symbols of the Holy Trinity occupy the apex of the window. The mountain at the top is Ben Loyal - in the heart of 'Mackay country'. Both Ben Loyal and the Scottish Lion point the eye upward to the sun-rising - the empty cross affirming our belief in the Son Rising. (Greater detailed explanation can be read from the plaque below the window.)

MEMORIAL WINDOW north wall of the Nave
in memory of Miss Elizabeth Robertson Mackay, B.A.

The window celebrates the role of Woman in the Life and Work of the Church, and marks in particular the contribution made by Elizabeth Robertson Mackay who died on 11th July 1993 - the Nine-Hundredth Anniversary of the death of Queen Margaret of Scotland.

Margaret's influence on, and support for King Malcolm is the main theme of the window. She is represented teaching him to read and learn the Lord's Prayer. This support is symbolised by Margaret's shield placed between the Unicorn and the Lion, supporters of the Royal Arms of Scotland. The Lion stands for Strength and Courage, the Unicorn for Imagination and Grace - attributes which also apply to Malcolm and Margaret.

The sub-theme of the window is taken from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Mackay [Father of Miss Mackay and a native of Dornoch] "Toward the Sun-rising" found in the Book of Numbers 21 v.11. This text and the symbols of the Holy Trinity occupy the apex of the window. Thus the Kingdom of the Spirit is mirrored by the Earthly kingdom of Margaret and Malcolm whose lives were dedicated to leading Scotland toward the sun-rising. God the Father is symbolised by the mystical Hebraic EL,

God the Son by a Celtic Cross in which the circle, in pure white becomes a sun - **CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD,**

The Holy Spirit is symbolised by the Dove.

All of the symbols are incorporated within a border derived from Celtic ornament in which intertwined lines symbolise the inter-dependence of Man and Woman, God and Creation.

The four remaining panels - three of which mark the role that woman plays in the life of our church, and the fourth a field of local interest in which Miss Mackay was extremely knowledgeable.

1. Mission Work (top left) This panel is based on the compass used by Mary Slessor while working in Calabar.

2. Education (top right) This panel shows the torch of learning to mark women's role in that field - the career of Miss Mackay.

3. Service to the Community (bottom left) is symbolised by the Badge of the Woman's Guild.

4. Archaeology (bottom right) This panel of the Standing Stone at Creich Cemetery represents Elizabeth Mackay's life-long interest in the archaeology of the area.. Here at the foot of the window it points upwards to the greatest of all symbols, the empty cross of the Resurrected Christ at the apex.

The mountain at the top of the window is Ben Loyal - situated in the heart of "Mackay Country". Both Ben Loyal and the Scottish Lion lead the eye towards the rising sun.

- the empty cross is an affirmation of our most fundamental belief in the resurrection

The whole concept is to take the eye upward by stressing perpendicular lines - a quote in Rev. Dr. Mackay's sermon from Pilgrim's Progress - "Keep that light in your eye and go up directly thereto."

The inscription reads: -

To the Glory of God and in memory of Elizabeth Robertson Mackay.
First woman Elder of Dornoch Cathedral, 1906 - 1993.

Adjacent to this is a light, by James Ballantine of Edinburgh, 1928, in memory of John Bell, his wife and daughter. The subject of this window is Simeon and the infant Christ.

The inscription reads: -

Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.
On earth Peace, Goodwill toward men.
To the glory of God and in memory of John Bell, his wife Mary
and their daughter Anne Barclay Bell, 1928

The window on the right, also by James Ballantine, of Edinburgh, 1916, is in memory of Thomas and Alexandrina Barclay of Skelbo. The main figure is Abraham receiving God's encouragement from the angel.

The inscription reads: -

I am thy shield
To the Glory of God and in memory of
Thomas and Alexandrina Barclay, 1916

THE NORTH TRANSEPT

The North Gable of the North Transept

All three lights, by *Heaton, Butler and Bayne* of London c1910, are in memory of the Rev.Dr.Donald Grant, Minister of the Cathedral for 28 years. He was involved with many facets of the life of Dornoch, including Golf Club (Captain 1903-1905) and the Curling Club. The windows show scenes from the life of Christ. On the upper left, the lover of little children, lower left, shows the Feeding of the 5000. The central light has Christ, the Light of the World, and underneath, Christ heals the sick. The right hand window depicts Christ, the Good Shepherd.

The inscription reads: -

To the Glory of God and in memory
Of the Rev Donald Grant, DD
Parish Minister of Dornoch 1878 - 1906
Erected by Parishioners and Friends

It is interesting to note that, while the older windows' designs are fairly simple, recent lights tend to be more intricate with a great deal more symbolism in them.