



Donhead St. Mary St. Mary's Dunston Memorial Window

The Dunston Memorial Window has evolved from two ideas. The first has its roots in the dedication of Donhead St. Mary Church.

Accordingly the main design structure revolves around the most potent and moving symbol of all: The Cross: part hidden, part revealed.

Superimposed is a hedge-like enclosure containing seven plants dedicated to Mary by name and association. This enclosure has twelve openings to the surrounding buildings, a reference to the Holy City – Revelation 21·12 ~ the major structure suggesting the Temple wherein the Presentation of Christ (commonly called the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin) took place.

Superimposed again are three circles expressing wisdom. Power and goodness. Enclosed within the outer circles are beginning lines of the Song of Mary. The centre circle, intensely blue, the symbolic colour of Mary, contains two doves, sacrificial symbols relating to the Purification – Luke 2·24 ~. This centre circle is pierced by four sword-like shafts that form a further cross – Luke 2·35 ~.

Beneath are flames, references again to the Presentation of Christ – Malachi 3·2 ~.

The whole structure is placed upon water, a symbol of purity.

The construction of the window is of painted. Stained and acid-etched antique glass enclosed in lead calmes. This, the traditional technique of window making was chosen to compliment the traditional architecture of this beautiful church.

Source: St. Andrew's Church, author not given.

