

The artists' world

The Lady Chapel Window (5)

The painters of the Lady Chapel Window have given us much more than the story of salvation. We can see how people lived in the 1300s and what they knew of the world.

Why is Jesus a toddler?

In the Adoration of the Magi panel, Jesus is shown as a child, not a baby. That's because the window designers knew that it would take the Three Kings a couple of years to travel to Bethlehem over the Arabian deserts. Today the Three Kings are usually shown as part of the Nativity scene with the baby Jesus.

How Roman are the soldiers?

Look closely at the soldiers at Christ's Resurrection. They are actually dressed in the latest English armor of the 1330s. Perhaps the painters had no idea what a Roman soldier would wear.

How do you think the soldiers felt when they saw Jesus rise from his tomb?

The painters of the window used their artistic skills to capture the emotion of one soldier.

In the Bible they are asleep, but one is obviously peeping. Is this the glass painter's humour?



Close up of the child Jesus in the Adoration panel



Insights into the past

The Lady Chapel Window (5)

These windows are like history books in images. The stories painted in this window help us to understand more about what people believed in the 1300s.

Who stands with Christ on the cross?

Both Our Lady (Mary) and St John are shown in the Crucifixion scene. They were often paired together like this. They were the two people who remained faithful to Jesus when he was on the cross.

Have a close look at the screen between the Nave and the Chancel when you pass it. Our Lady and St John are carved there and shown in St Michael and St John Window (8).

What do the images mean?

Look for the lily between the two figures in the Annunciation scene. This flower symbolised purity and the Virgin Mary. In another scene Mary is wearing a crown. The coronation of Our Lady (Mary, mother of Jesus) was considered an important sign. It showed that the redemption (saving from sin) of humanity was complete.



Close up of Mary and crown from the Coronation panel



Detail from the Annunciation panel

