

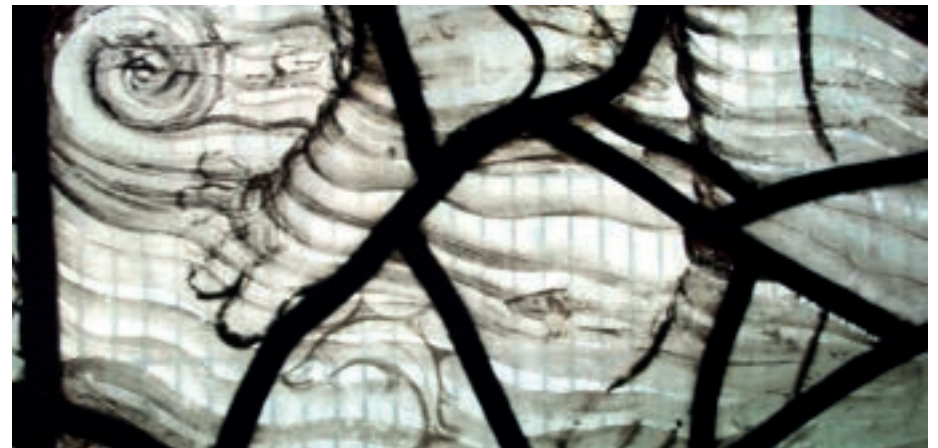
In detail

The Great East Window (6)



The painters' artistic skills are obvious in the level of detail in this window. It was originally in the north wall of the church. People could walk right up to it there and see it up close.

Take a closer look... what do you notice?



Close up of St Christopher's feet

Whoever painted this glass thought very carefully about how to show St Christopher walking in the river. The water has fish in it and looks like it is flowing. It is painted on both sides of the glass to give it a 3D effect.

Look at St Christopher's strangely large toes. The artist is showing how moving water distorts things when we look into it.



Nicholas Blackburn Senior (left) and his son (right)

Notice how much younger Nicholas Blackburn Senior is shown as compared to his own son. Why do you think the artist made him look younger?

Nicholas Blackburn Senior is wearing armour. He bought a military title, Admiral of the Northern Fleet, from King Henry IV. One way to show that he was going up in the world!

What's the message?

The Great East Window (6)

There are many layers of meaning in this window. The images tell us more than the Christian stories of saints. The window's donors, the Blackburn family, wanted those who saw it to appreciate their importance in York society.

Why are all the women reading?

The window honours St Anne and features women strongly. The Blackburn women (kneeling in the bottom of the window), St Anne and Our Lady (middle panel) are all shown reading. Women in the early 1400s were less likely to be educated, but things were changing in the merchant classes. This shows the Blackburn women were educated.

Why choose St Anne and St Christopher?

The Blackburns followed the trend, which started in the 1300s, for devotion to St Anne. They also paid for a priest at St Anne's Chapel on Foss Bridge, built around the same time as this window. Both Nicholas Blackburn senior and his son were Lord Mayors of York. They were members of the Guild of St Christopher and chose St Christopher for the right hand panel.



Close up from the Great East window

