

Droxford Church East Window

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The Lady Chapel

In the top left corner St Francis of Assisi, who founded the Franciscan order, and adopted a life of extreme poverty, is preaching to a varied collection of birds, including two very attentive owls.



In the lower left corner St Wilfrid is seen with the builders of St Mary & All Saints, with the present church behind. Wilfrid may have founded a church at Droxford during his mission to the Meon Valley in 681 to 686, but no Anglo-Saxon remains have been found.



The stone tracery of the east window is from the decorated period, probably dating from the early 14th century, with cusps, and intersecting stone tracery.



The hand of God is shown at the top of the window. Below it a dove represents the Holy Spirit. On either side are the crests of the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth.



The Virgin and Child are depicted at the centre of the window. Mary is clothed in the blue with which she became associated in the Middle Ages, since this pigment, derived from lapis lazuli, was the most precious in an artist's palette.

East Window



The upper right corner shows St Stephen, who was stoned to death as the first Christian martyr because of his teachings. The window depicts the scene in Jerusalem when Stephen made a speech in his defence and, looking upwards, saw a vision of Jesus.



In the lower right corner St George is slaying a dragon, with a rescued princess in the background. Little is known of the real St George. He may have been Greek, and an officer in the army of the Roman emperor Diocletian. He was martyred in 303 when he refused to give up his Christian beliefs.



The stained glass of the window is a memorial to Stephen Bridge. A shield in the bottom right hand corner has his initials either side of a bridge over a river, presumably the Meon.

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The Lady Chapel - South Windows



The stained glass of the two windows in the south wall of the Lady Chapel dates from about 1900. In the left hand window Mary Magdalene is shown with the risen Christ, whom she encountered near the tomb of Golgotha in the presence of two angels.

Mary Magdalene is dressed in red, which is a sign both of her love for Jesus, and of her past as a 'scarlet woman'. In her left hand is a jar of perfume with which she intended to anoint the body of Jesus, and a reminder of when she wiped his feet with perfume shortly before he entered Jerusalem.



The right hand window shows St Peter with the risen Christ. Peter was the first apostle to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection.

Jesus asked him three times if he loved him, despite having been denied by him three times after his arrest, and before the cock crew.



When Peter answered that he did love him, Jesus told him to 'feed my sheep', two of which can be seen gathered around the cloak of Jesus.

