

Stained Glass at Armadale Uniting Church Kooyong Road Armadale Victoria

Windows are numbered clockwise from the western end of the north nave, finishing with the west window facing Kooyong Road.

A number of windows were formerly installed in Denbigh Road Uniting (formerly Presbyterian) Church that was sold in the 1990s and the congregations came together at the Kooyong Road (formerly Methodist) building. These windows are identified by * after the subject.

North nave

Diamond quarries

Two-light

Maker: unknown

Date: unknown

This pair of lights and the pair on the opposite wall of the nave possibly date from the building of the church in 1881. Soft pastel colours of the quarries contrast with the bold red border that was interspersed with lemon squares. It was common to set ventilators into the body of the window, as seen in the left hand light. Possibly another in the right hand light was removed at some stage although the fact that both pairs show the same arrangement, it may be as originally intended.

*Burning Bush**

LH of two-light

Designer/Maker: unknown

Date: 1965

Text: *Nec Tamen Consumeatur*

Inscription: *In commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of this Church and in memory of David and Annie Cunningham Shedden. Presented by G. and M. Shedden.*

The *Burning Bush* with the surrounding motto 'Nec Tamen Consumeatur' ('Yet it was not consumed') was formerly in Denbigh Road church. A small roundel of *Pelican Feeding her Young* filled the base panel.

*The Child Samuel**

RH of two-light

Designer/Maker: Derek Pearse (attributed)

Date: 1970

Text: *Speak Lord for Thy Servant Heareth*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God In Commemoration of the Eightieth Anniversary of this Church, and in memory of Those Who Served this Congregation in Their Day and Generation 15-3-1970.*

Windows could be the work of a former Brooks, Robinson & Co. employee (the firm closed in the mid-1960s), possibly Derek Pearse, who was the designer/maker of *The*

Good Samaritan, another window in the Denbigh Road church. Each light has a predominantly red border, added to fill the larger opening than its original setting and in colours chosen to approximately match the adjacent windows in the Kooyong Road church.

Follow Me

LH of two-light

Designer/Maker: Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: c.1957

Text: n/a

Inscription: *To the Glory of God and in Honoured Memory of the Pioneers of this Church*

In August 1957 the Reverend A.E. Waite ordered a single light, measuring approximately 97 x 24 inches, from Brooks, Robinson & Co. The window was made up from a cartoon previously used for an unnamed church at Yea, most likely drawn by William Kerr-Morgan who was head of the stained glass studio after 1923 until the early 1960s. The canopy and base were clearly designed to match the adjacent light, *Christ and the Children*.

Christ and the Children

RH of two- light

Designer/Maker: Mathieson & Gibson

Date: unknown [post 1935]

Text: n/a

Inscription: *In loving memory of Ann Graham beloved sister of Stanley Elliott and loving mother of Sidney and Stanley who passed away 11th Oct. 1935*

William Mathieson and David Gibson set up in business in about 1929. Mathieson was formerly employed at Brooks, Robinson & Co. and Gibson had trained in England as a glass-painter before coming to Australia in 1912 to work for William Montgomery, Melbourne's leading stained glass artist until his death in 1927. The clean painting style was typical of their earlier work.

Christ the Teacher

Two-light

Designer/Maker: Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: 1958

Text: n/a:

Inscription: *To the Glory of God and in honoured memory of Charles Frederick Hawkins, 1872 -1941 And of his wife Georgina Gertrude Hawkins, 1880-1958. Faithful Servants of Jesus Christ.*

The Reverend Waite ordered this window of two lights each measuring approximately 97 x 24 inches in December 1958, therefore it was likely installed in the following year. The figure of Christ was focus of the left hand light with some of those who gathered to hear Him speak filled the right hand light. It was taken from a design by Clayton & Bell of London, which can be seen in *The Sermon on the Mount* at the Chapel of St. Peter at Melbourne Grammar, South Yarra. Brooks, Robinson adapted it for other settings on many occasions from the 1890s.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the fourth of the five-light window in the north transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Christ the Teacher*, *Charity of Dorcas*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary*. The fifth window was a diamond quarry leadlight.

North Transept

*Charity of Dorcas**

LH of three-light

Designer/Maker: Derek Pearse (attributed)

Date: unknown [post-1967]

Text: *She filled her days with acts of kindness and charity Acts 9:36*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Sarah Ann Gough a devoted and loved member of the church at Armadale and Branxholme. Died 24th August 1967.*

The three lights in the north transept were all reinstalled from the Denbigh Road church after a predominately purple border was added to fill the wider window openings at Kooyong Road. The window is attributed to Derek Pearse on stylistic grounds.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the second of the five-light window in the north transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Christ the Teacher*, *Charity of Dorcas*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary*. The fifth window was a diamond quarry leadlight.

*The Good Shepherd**

Centre of three-light

Designer/Maker: Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: 1928

Text: *I Am the Good Shepherd*

Inscription: *In Memory of John Glass Cramond, for many years an Elder and Session Clerk of this Church. Presented by J. and A.T. 1928.*

The memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Cramond was ordered on 6 January 1928 from Brooks, Robinson & Co. by 'Mr. Tallant', no doubt the same indicated by his initials in the inscription. It measured approximately 207 x 24 inches. The cartoon was a very popular version of the subject that had been originally prepared by John Hughes in the late 1880s and reused by Brooks, Robinson & Co. over many years.

(A Dr. Gordon Murray Tallent had a transom window dedicated to his memory at the Denbigh Road church in 1961; *Christ Washing the Feet of Peter*, now resides in the meeting room of Trinity Uniting Church, Brighton.)

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the central light of the five-light window in the north transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Christ the teacher*, *Charity of Dorcas*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary*. The fifth window was a diamond quarry leadlight.

*Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary**

RH of three-light

Designer/Maker: unknown

Date: unknown

Text: *Now Jesus Loved Martha and Mary*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in memory of Agnes Deborah Thom a lifelong member of the congregation and her loved husband Francis Edward Thom from their loving children*

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the fourth of the five-light window in the north transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Christ the Teacher, Charity of Dorcas, The Good Shepherd, and Jesus in the House of Martha and Mary*. The fifth window was a diamond quarry leadlight.

East wall

Leadlights were installed in the transom lights above doors at the east end; each depicted simple cross in a diamond quarry matrix.

South transept

*Parable of the Talents**

LH of three-light

Designer/Maker: Phoenix Studios (attributed)

Date: 1967

Text: *Well done, thou good and faithful servant*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in affectionate memory of Robert Hugh Cornwell. A lifelong member of this church Treasurer of the Board of Management for twenty six years. Died March 13th 1966.*

The window was designed in the style of Brooks, Robinson & Co. and, as the firm had closed by 1967, it is probably the work of Joseph Stansfield, the firm's last designer and head of the stained glass studio. After the closure he teamed up with Jim Lynch, foreman of the leadlight studio, to form Phoenix Studios.

The window was unveiled and dedicated at an 11 am service in the Denbigh Road church on Sunday 4 June 1967.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the second of the five-light window in the south transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Light of the World, Parable of the Talents, King David, Parable of the Loaves and Fishes, and The Good Samaritan*. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

*King David**

Centre of three-light

Designer/Maker: Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: 1936

Text: *We Praise Thee God* [on scroll]

Serve the Lord with gladness Come before His presence with singing. Ps.100: V2.

Inscription: *In affectionate remembrance of Andrew Winton Jack. For thirty years Choir Master at this Church, he was leader of the young men's Bible Class and for many years a Faithful Elder.*

The Reverend D. Miller ordered the window, *David Playing his Harp* from Brooks, Robinson & Co. on 17 January 1936; size and ornament to match the earlier window of *The Good Shepherd*. It was another popular stock cartoon, enlarged by Mr. McCartney in the draughting office. The selection of the subject was highly suitable for a former Choir Master.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the central light of the five-light window in the south transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Light of the World*, *Parable of the Talents*, *King David*, *Parable of the Loaves and Fishes*, and *The Good Samaritan*. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

Parable of the Loaves and Fishes*

RH of three-light

Designer/Maker: Phoenix Studios (attributed)

Date: unknown [post-1968]

Text: *There is a Lad Here*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in loving memory of Amy Best died 5th July, 1958 the gift of her lifelong friend Rose Elliott died 1st August, 1968.*

See notes for *Parable of the Talents*. No date has been found for the unveiling and dedication.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the fourth of the five-light window in the south transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Light of the World*, *Parable of the Talents*, *King David*, *Parable of the Loaves and Fishes*, and *The Good Samaritan*. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

South Nave

Faith in Armour (Crown of Life)

Two-light

Designer/Maker: William Wheildon/Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: 1921

Text: *Be thou Faithful unto death & I will give thee a Crown of Life*

Inscription: n/a

The *Crown of Life* was considered an appropriate text for memorials to men who lost their lives in the First World War. The window was designed by William Wheildon, artist and head of the stained glass department at Brooks, Robinson & Co. and the cartoon was almost certainly the work of George H. Dancey, well-known artist and muralist. The cartoon was used again for a single light First World War memorial at White Hills, Bendigo and also at Lancefield after the Second World War. The badge of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces was included next to the text in the

base panel. The heads of each window were filled with the Achor, symbol of Hope on the left and the Crown and Crown, symbols of Victory on the right.

The window was unveiled by the Reverend F.J. Nance at a service conducted by the Reverend Brian Wibberley on 11 December 1921. A report in the *Argus* noted the large number of soldiers, nurses and relatives of the servicemen who attended the ceremony.

Names of the men who enlisted and lost their lives were commemorated on two Rolls of Honour, placed at each side of the west end.

Zechariah and Elizabeth

Two-light

Designer/Maker: William Wheildon/Brooks, Robinson & Co.

Date: 1925

Text: *And they were both righteous before God, walking in a all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God and in sacred memory of, Samuel Mitchell and also his wife Elizabeth Jane Mitchell. For 32 years Faithful Members of this Church.*

Entered into Life 23rd May 1923. Entered into Life 22nd Nov. 1924.

On 18 September 1925, the Reverend Williams ordered the two-light window of *Zechariah and Elizabeth* from Brooks, Robinson & Co. The lights each measured approximately 96 x 24 inches. Wheildon designed the window, and it was probable that Dancey drew up the cartoons. Two small images in the upper section of each light were most unusual images that were taken from a German Bible.

Christ and the Children*

LH of two-light

Designer/Maker: Mathieson & Gibson

Date: 1940

Text: *Remember now thy Creator and the days of thy Youth*

Inscription: *In loving memory of Amy Paterson A life of joyous faithful service. Gift of the Choir and Friends 23.4 .1940*

This and the window of the same subject on the north nave were made from the same cartoon by Mathieson & Gibson, and around the same time. It would not have been expected that they would ultimately end up in the same building more than half a century later. To fill the wider opening in the Kooyong Road church, a predominantly red border was added.

Follow Me*

RH of two-light window

Designer/maker: Mathieson & Gibson

Date:

Text: *Follow Me and I will make you Fishers of Men*

Inscription: *In loving memory of Mrs. Robert McClelland a member of this church for 32 years A devoted wife a true friend Obit. 5.8.38*

The two lights are likely to have been made around the same time as the glass-painting and styles are very alike. The Sea of Galilee can be seen as backdrop to both scenes and help to unite the two subjects. An example of Brooks, Robinson's version

of *Follow Me* can be seen in the north nave. To fill the wider opening in the Kooyong Road church, a predominantly red border was added.

Diamond quarries

Two-light

Maker: unknown

Date: unknown

This pair of lights and the pair on the opposite wall of the nave possibly date from the building of the church in 1881. Soft pastel colours of the quarries contrast with the bold red border that was interspersed with lemon squares. It was common to set ventilators into the body of the window, as seen in the left hand light. Possibly another in the right hand light was removed at some stage although the fact that both pairs show the same arrangement, it may be as originally intended.

West wall

Resurrection*

LH of three-light

Designer/Maker: Phoenix Studios (attributed)

Date: 1973

Text: *I Know that my Redeemer Liveth*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in memory of Noel Bell Challen For 50 years a member of this Church and for 10 years Session Clerk Died September 22nd 1972. The Gift of his family & the Congregation.*

Although the designer/maker of the window remains unknown it is likely to be the work of Joseph Stansfield and his partner Jim Lynch at Phoenix Studios. The window was unveiled at the 11 am service on Sunday 4 November 1973 in the Denbigh Road church. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

Christ, the Light of the World*

Centre of three-light

Designer/Maker: Brooks, Robinson & Co. (attributed)

Date: 1963

Text: *Light of the World*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God in loving memory of David Steel, for many years Member, Elder and Session Clerk of this Church. Died 3rd. January 1961.*

The window is attributed to Brooks, Robinson & Co. on stylistic grounds, and a cartoon of this version of the *Light of the World* survives in a private collection. The window was unveiled and dedicated at the 11 am service on Sunday 7 July 1963. When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the first of the five-light window in the south transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Light of the World*, *Parable of the Talents*, *King David*, *Parable of the Loaves and Fishes*, and *The Good Samaritan*. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

The Good Samaritan*

RH of three-light

Designer/Maker: Derek Pearse

Date: unknown

Text: *Go and Do Likewise*

Inscription: *To the Glory of God.*

A grateful (sic) tribute to all from this congregation who served King and Country in the Second World War-A.D. 1939-1945.

These gave their lives

Keith Cattanach

Alan L. Malcolm

Victor Corless

Trevor E. Roberts

James W. Leitch

John H. Steel

Leonard W. Malcolm

Kedron F. Turner

Douglas Wrathall

'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'.

John 15:13

Derek Pearse adapted a traditional version of the subject to reflect its purpose as a soldier memorial by adding bandaged wounds to the injured man.

When originally installed in the Denbigh Road church it occupied the fifth of the five-light window in the south transept. The windows from left to right facing were, *Light of the World*, *Parable of the Talents*, *King David*, *Parable of the Loaves and Fishes*, and *The Good Samaritan*. To re-install the window in the larger opening at Kooyong Road, a purple border was added to the original.

[At time of writing the war records of all the men commemorated by the window have not been accessed, however it appears that at least two of them (Keith Cattanach and Douglas Wrathall) died while prisoners of war.]

Compiled by Bronwyn Hughes October 2013 ©

Sources:

Argus, 12 December 1921, p.8;

Armadales Presbyterian Church Review Vol.II, No.2, April 1903

Armadales Presbyterian Church Orders of Service for unveiling of windows:

Gordon Murray Tallent, June 1961;

David Steel, July 1963;

Robert Hugh Cornwell, 4 June 1967;

Noel Bell Challen, 4 November 1973.

Brooks, Robinson & Co. job books (1923-c.1966)

Site visits:

Denbigh Street Uniting Church, August 1999;
Trinity Uniting Church, Black Street Brighton, September 2013;
Armada Uniting Church Kooyong Road, October 2013.