

THE WEST WINDOW



From *The Manchester Guardian* - 10 March 1891.

STAINED GLASS:

"The unveiling of the stained-glass window, which contains representations of Faith, Hope and Charity, erected in the west end of Worsley Church in commemoration of the 18 years' ministerial labours in the parish of the Rev. the Marquis of Normanby, took place [on 8 March], with Masonic honours. Monies were raised by public subscription. The window was unveiled by the Hon. Algernon Egerton, vicar's warden, and beneath it is the inscription:

"To the glory of God, and as a record of the 18 years, 1872-1890, during which Constantine Charles Henry, third Marquis of Normanby, was vicar of this parish. This window was placed in the church by his parishioners and friends, 1890."

The Marquis of Normanby having been Chaplain of the Worsley Lodge of Freemasons (1814), several members of that lodge were present and a sermon was preached by the Rev. C. H. Knowlys, rector of Southport, and provincial grand chaplain. A collection was made on behalf of the fund now being raised to provide a new lectern. There was a large congregation. "

Each of the three panels is inscribed (from left to right): *Fides (Faith)*, *Caritas (Charity)*, *Spes (Hope)* - an unusual order for these three theological virtues. For in 1Corinthians 13:13, St. Paul writes: *So faith, hope, love abide, these three: but the greatest of these is love.*

However, Charity appears in the middle – the greatest of the three.

Christopher Parkinson of the CVMA is of the opinion that the glass was by Hardman & Co.

If one looks closely at the bottom three panels, it will be seen that they represent three events from the bible: The Good Samaritan; Abraham and Isaac; The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each one represents the theological virtues of Faith, Charity and Hope - in that order! Underneath each panel, there are three long narrow panels, each one bearing an inscription. They read:

FAITH

A certain Samaritan as he journeyed
Came where he was and when he saw
Him he had compassion on him

CHARITY

Lay not thine hand upon the lad neither do
Anything unto him for now I know
Thou fearest God

HOPE

Blessed be God according to his abundant mercy
Hath begotten us again unto a lively hope of
The resurrection of Jesus Christ

It would appear that the more likely order would have Faith represented in the glass by the story of Abraham and Isaac, with Charity in the centre represented by the Good Samaritan.

Sadly, the inscriptions are beginning to fade and are not visible from the ground.

Beneath the point of the arch, in a cinquefoil, are the letters - IHC (more commonly IHS) - a Christogram, being the first letters of the name Jesus in the Greek alphabet. The letter C was a latinised version of the Greek letter Σ. In the two trefoils are the Greek letters Α and Ω - Alpha and Omega.

Of the three panels showing women, the one representing Faith shows a woman carrying a cross. She is also holding palm leaves. The panel representing Charity shows a woman holding a child, with another at her feet. The third panel shows a woman holding a sword with a dragon's tail beneath her feet. She is also holding palm leaves.

Masonic Rituals lay considerable stress on "Faith, Hope and Charity", which are said to be the three Principal Moral Virtues.

In 2026, all the glass in the church was restored. The panels of the West Window were removed and the artist at Pendle Glass repainted the inscriptions as seen below, with the transcription alongside.



FAITH

A certain Samaritan as he journeyed
Came where he was and when he saw
Him he had compassion on him



CHARITY

Lay not thine hand upon the lad
neither do
Thou anything unto him for now I
know
Thou fearest God



HOPE

Blessed be God according to his
abundant mercy
Hath begotton us again unto a lively
hope by
The resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead