

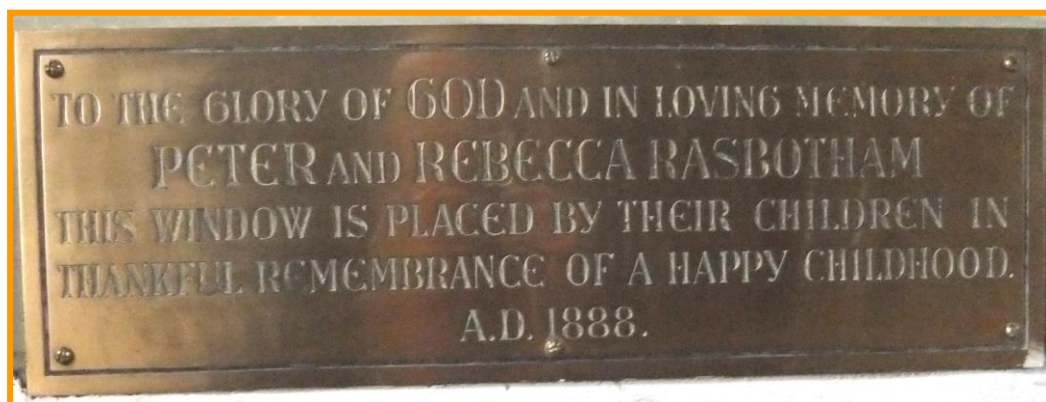
## The Peter RASBOTHAM Window

*(This window stands in the south-west corner of the church, facing westwards. The brass plaque can be seen on the wall beneath the window, bearing the surname Rasbotham, although the reference in the magazine refers to the family as Ramsbottom.)*

From the Parish Magazine: May 1888

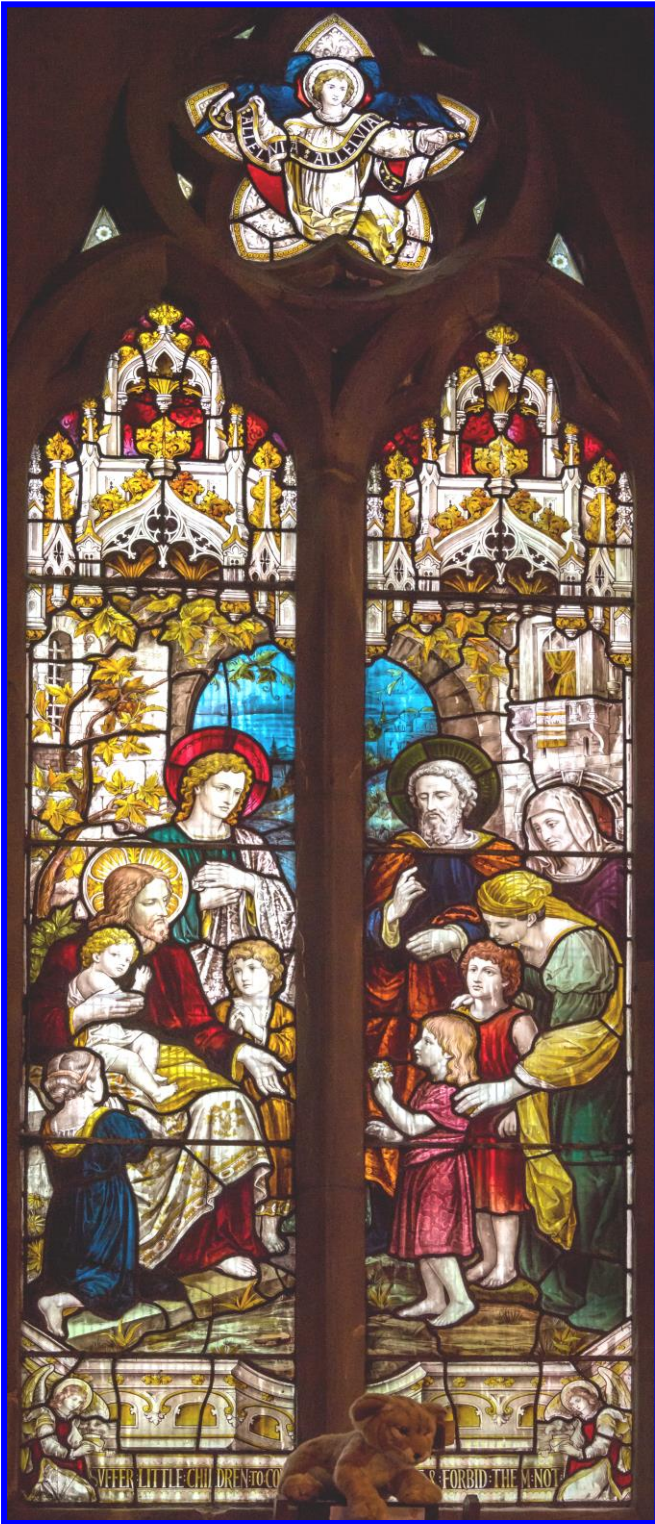
“The new stained glass window has been as a happy coincidence put into its place, and will thus be remembered in connection with the Dedication Festival of 1888. We cannot speak too highly of the window. At first sight it is a great contrast to the rich deep colour of the east window; but the clearness of the figures, and the chaste effect of it as a whole, makes it a beautiful addition to a beautiful House of God. The brass at the base bears the inscription:- ‘To the glory of God and in loving memory of Peter and Rebecca Rasbotham, this window is placed by their children in thankful remembrance of a happy childhood. A.D. 1888’. The subject of the window is of Christ blessing little children”.

*(Peter Rasbotham died on 8 March 1871, aged 62, and was buried at St. Mark's on 11 March. He was formerly of Brompton Square, London. His wife, Rebecca Tate, died on 31 July 1887 at Birkdale, and was buried at St. Mark's on 3 August 1887, aged 75 yrs. They married on 18 August 1836 at St. John's, Manchester. They had 5 children. He was private secretary and comptroller to the Earls of Ellesmere).*



Peter and Rebecca had six children, four of whom were baptised at St. Mark's. Sadly, three of them died at a young age, with the eldest Peter accidentally drowning near the Queen's landing stage, aged 23, in 1864. Their son, Lever, was also buried at St. Mark's, aged 16.

The father, Peter, welcomed and helped the young artist Frederick Shields in November 1849, when Frederick went to visit him at his home in Mill Brow, earnestly looking for work. He gave him half a sovereign for a picture of Shakespeare. Frederick Shields drew two sketches of the Hall for Lord Ellesmere and offered him a sketch he had done of the Church. Frederick Shields, an impoverished youngster of 16 at this time, living far away from his family, later became a member of the Pre-Raphaelite group of artists.



The angel in the cinquefoil holds a scroll, which reads:

*Alleluia : Alleluia*

The inscription at the bottom of the window reads:

*Suffer little children to come unto me & forbid them not.*

[For further information about **Peter Rasbotham**, please visit the section entitled Private Graves on this website and search for his name].