

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Fairford Gloucestershire
Consecrated 1497







Window 26

WINDOW 26 (*Accursed Rulers*)

- (1) Probably Maxentius with the head of St Catherine. Note the lion's head on his breast.
- (2) Possibly 'The King of the Huns' with arrow and bow.
- (3) Herod murdering an innocent babe. Note EROD 1 on the hem of his tunic.

WINDOW 27

- (1) Herod Agrippa, who 'killed James, the brother of John, with the sword'.
- (2) A two-handed sword held by the murderer of a saintly bishop
- (3) A woman-slayer. This head is not nimbed.

WINDOW 28

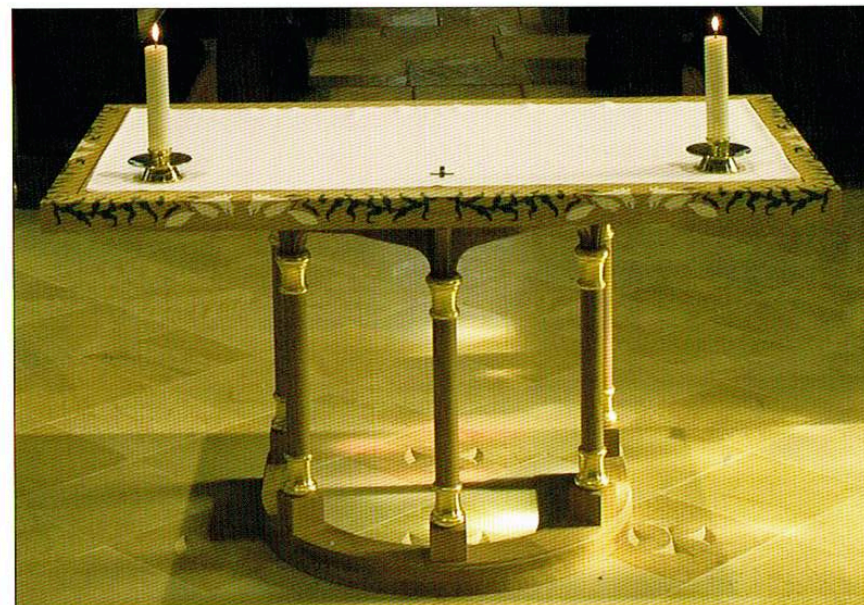
- (1) Armed figure with bow and red shoes with the letters A-AMH on his belt.
- (2) Armed figure with the head of a male saint on his pike.
- (3) The back of a murderer of a bearded saint. The murderer's belt is lettered PAL. ONERONDEP. PMOLAM a rigmarole in which the word NERO is no doubt meant to catch the eye.

Canon Edward Keble's summary of the theology illustrated by the windows

The plan of these windows illustrates the Christian faith as in the pages of a picture book. Opposite to twelve prophets, who foretold the faith, stand twelve apostles, each beneath a sentence of the Apostles' Creed, which expresses the faith. Four evangelists, who recorded the faith, are opposite four doctors of the Church, who expounded the faith. Above stand twelve martyrs, or confessors, who suffered for the faith; opposite are twelve enemies of the faith. Within the chancel screens is shown, in the Life of Christ, the foundation of our faith. In the bottom centre panel of the East window stands Our Lord being judged by Pilate. In the West window is shown Christ judging the whole world. We stand under this judgement; it is by our response to Christ that we are judged.



Window 27



The nave altar and furniture (below) consecrated in 2010

THE INTERIOR

THE NAVE

The nave altar

In 2009 the relaying of the floor at the front of the nave was completed using local limestone slabs. Incised are replicas of the painted consecration cross still visible in one or two places around the church, notably on the wall outside the vestry. A nave altar designed by Derek Elliott of Sherborne was consecrated in 2010 by the Bishop of Gloucester. Its design used an architectural motif found in windows 4,7 and 8 – slender columns with a gilded boss supporting a shallow vault. The altar echoes the vivid colours of the stained glass windows with a frieze of coloured marquetry around the top depicting Madonna lilies, a symbol of St Mary the Virgin to whom the church is dedicated.

The top also includes five consecration crosses, one at each corner and one in the middle. They represent the five wounds of Christ and they repeat the symbolic crosses in the floor on which the altar stands.

The altar is dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Peter and Rosemary Yells. Peter was churchwarden of St Mary's for 39 years, from 1970 to 2009, and the altar is his gift to the church. In 2010 additional liturgical furniture was created by Derek Elliott to complete the set.

