

## A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 19

### MIKE DEEMING WRITES:

Philip Ottaway (1825-1909) was born and brought up in Salisbury, became a barrister and was appointed an Attorney on the Queen's Bench in the High Court of Chancery in 1848. He was a friend of George Arney, the lawyer who became Chief Justice in New Zealand during the Maori Wars and whose commemorative window is in the St Thomas Chapel. According to their correspondence, Arney's was a reluctant appointment, but that's another story. Ottaway lived in Hemingsby, 56 The Close, till his death in 1909, and his unmarried daughter Louisa lived there till she died in 1923. There are ledger stones in the cloister garth to Philip and his wife Elizabeth, to Louisa and to her sister Rosamund. Louisa was also a close friend of Mrs Elizabeth Webb, the widow of Bishop Allan Becher Webb, whom we looked at in Jot&Tittle 70; she moved to the house with Louisa and the ladies made extensive repairs and alterations there in 1919.

The house (right), formerly a Canonry, is one of the most beautiful in the Close, being of two completely different styles. Indeed, it was split into two houses in 1950. After Mrs Webb's death in 1932, the contents of the house were sold at auction – 520 lots over 2 days – basically all the property of the Ottaway family from a century of accumulation.



When you enter the Morning Chapel, you are confronted with a whole panorama of stained glass windows.

But prior to 1886, this chapel was glazed with clear quarries and possibly a few panels of grisaille glass. A window in the St Martin's Chapel, dedicated to Isabel Kerr Hamilton, wife of Bishop Walter Kerr Hamilton and designed in C15 Germanic style by Burlison and Grylls, changed all this. After Bishop Webb died, the Heavenly Jerusalem window was glazed in 1908 as his memorial by James Powell & Sons of Whitefriars. And this set in train a series of commissions from Powell's which between 1909 and 1913, filled all the Morning Chapel windows with historiated glass - firstly the St Martin and the St Catherine Chapels and the clerestory, and lastly the West windows of the Morning Chapel, those above the Whistler memorial glass prism.

These west windows were commissioned by Louisa and Mrs Webb in 1913. The James Powell & Sons' cashbook shows a charge of £650 in 1913, but this may be only a part-payment. Unusually they are not dedicated to any person, but rather were installed with the grateful thanks of these two ladies for the weekly services of intercessions held in the Morning Chapel. At the top of the left window, you can see the Hand of God (page 1), a very rare depiction of this.



All these windows are superb examples of Powell's 'Whitefriars' glass – indeed I have met visitors who have come to the Cathedral specifically to see them. There may be Whitefriars' fanatics enthusing behind any pillar!