



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.*

*Editor: Mark Brandon: markandsuebrandon@outlook.com*

*BLOG: jot-and-tittle.com*

## A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 2

**M**ike Deeming continues his stories behind the Cathedral windows. In the last edition there was a piece on George Herbert (1593 - 1633).



*As on a window late I cast my eye  
I saw a vine drop grapes with J and C  
Annealed on every bunch. One standing by  
Asked what it meant. I (who am never loth  
To spend my judgment) said, It seem'd to me  
To be the bodie and the letters both  
Of Joy and Charitie; Sir, you have not miss'd  
The man reply'd; It figures Jesus Christ.*

The opening lines of George Herbert's poem are pictured in his memorial window (left) at the East end of the North quire aisle. Herbert (1593-1633) was a prolific poet and author of such memorable hymns as *King of Glory*, *King of Peace*, *Teach me my God and King*, *Let all the world in every corner sing* and *The God of Love my Shepherd is*. He appears in the window, the only case in the Cathedral where the dedicatee is actually depicted.

The window was designed by Christopher Rahere Webb (1886-1966) and installed in 1946. The unusual name 'Rahere' refers to the monk who established the Priory of the Hospital of St Bartholomew in 1123, now known as Barts Hospital. Webb's father and uncle had undertaken extensive restoration work there in the nineteenth century. Webb trained at the Slade School of Fine Art and then was articled to Sir Ninian Comper. He is well-known for his windows with powerful images, often surrounded by clear or pale glass. This approach became popularised by the Arts and Crafts artists - there's another great example in the Edward Woore window nearby.

The style has been widely used to the present day, including in the Cathedral's most recent windows, the 2007 windows celebrating the Army Air Corps' fiftieth anniversary. The style is particularly valuable for north and east facing windows to allow plenty of daylight. Webb also designed the Holgate windows in the South quire aisle, with a complementary style. Elsewhere, Webb designed the outstanding Lady Chapel windows in Sherborne Abbey, and there are fine examples of his work in the Cathedrals of Chichester, St Albans, Sheffield and Southwark. As with many glaziers, his windows usually include his maker's mark – an image of St Christopher (page 1) – and you can see it here at the very bottom right of the window with the names of his glass painters Frank Pinnock and Thomas Walden. Please do go and look!

Another of Herbert's poems starts with the words 'Love bade me welcome', and, indeed, that's what this window shows.

