



A touch of glass

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A NEW stained glass window in Dunnington featuring actual children from the village has been unveiled.

The East Window, in St Nicholas Church, had to be replaced because experts said that to protect the glass, which dates from the 19th century, it should be moved to the south window of the gable where it would have more protection from the elements.

The south window itself was glazed but only with plain glass. The church approached Helen Whittaker, of Barley Studio, in Dunnington, to design the new window and she came up with a vision of the Crucifixion but in a completely different style.

The new window will now be celebrated at a service on Sunday June 21, at 9.30am.

The curate of St Nicholas Church, the Rev Linda Ludkin, said: "We're delighted to have the new window in place and to have Helen's work in the church - she's a wonderful artist. The window depicts the Crucifixion, as the old one did, but in a very different style.

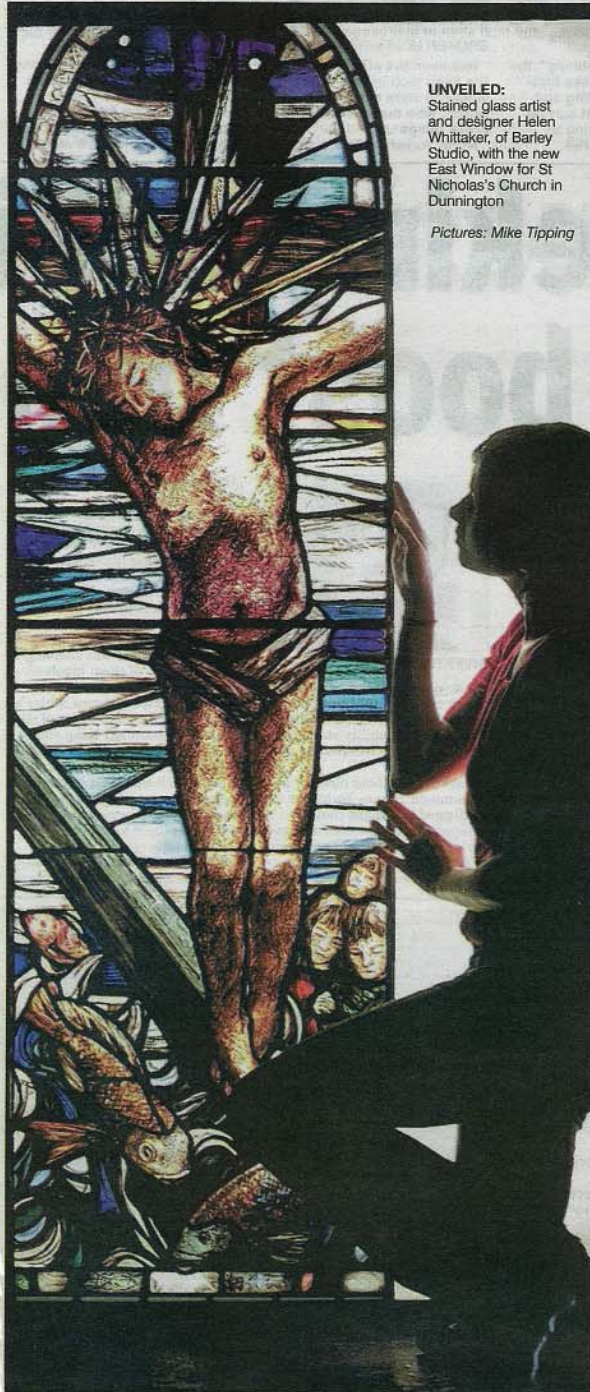
"The village is a very strong community and the church is an important part of it, and the window has always been a source of comfort. Many of the congregation have said how they have missed having an East Window, as the images helped them pray when words failed."

Rev Ludkin said the new window was paid for through a bequest by Beatrice Burniston, who died in 2005.

She said: "She and her husband Jim lived in the village, and had previously donated money to several places in the village including the Reading Room and the Sports Club, to keep them up and running. We'd long wanted a new East Window, and her generous legacy has enabled us to do so."

Artist Helen, of Barley Studio, said: "It's great to be working on this project - it's not often that parish churches are able to put in new East Windows. I've harmonised the colours of the new window with the other glass in the church, using sparkling colours. The cross is shown juxtaposed with an anchor, showing the relationship between salvation and hope.

"The church is represented in the window by a boat, and the children in the boat are portraits of real children in Dunnington School. The children from the school also designed features for the window, which have been used in the borders. I've also included some eggs in the window as a tribute to Mrs Burniston, who was well known for delivering eggs around the village."



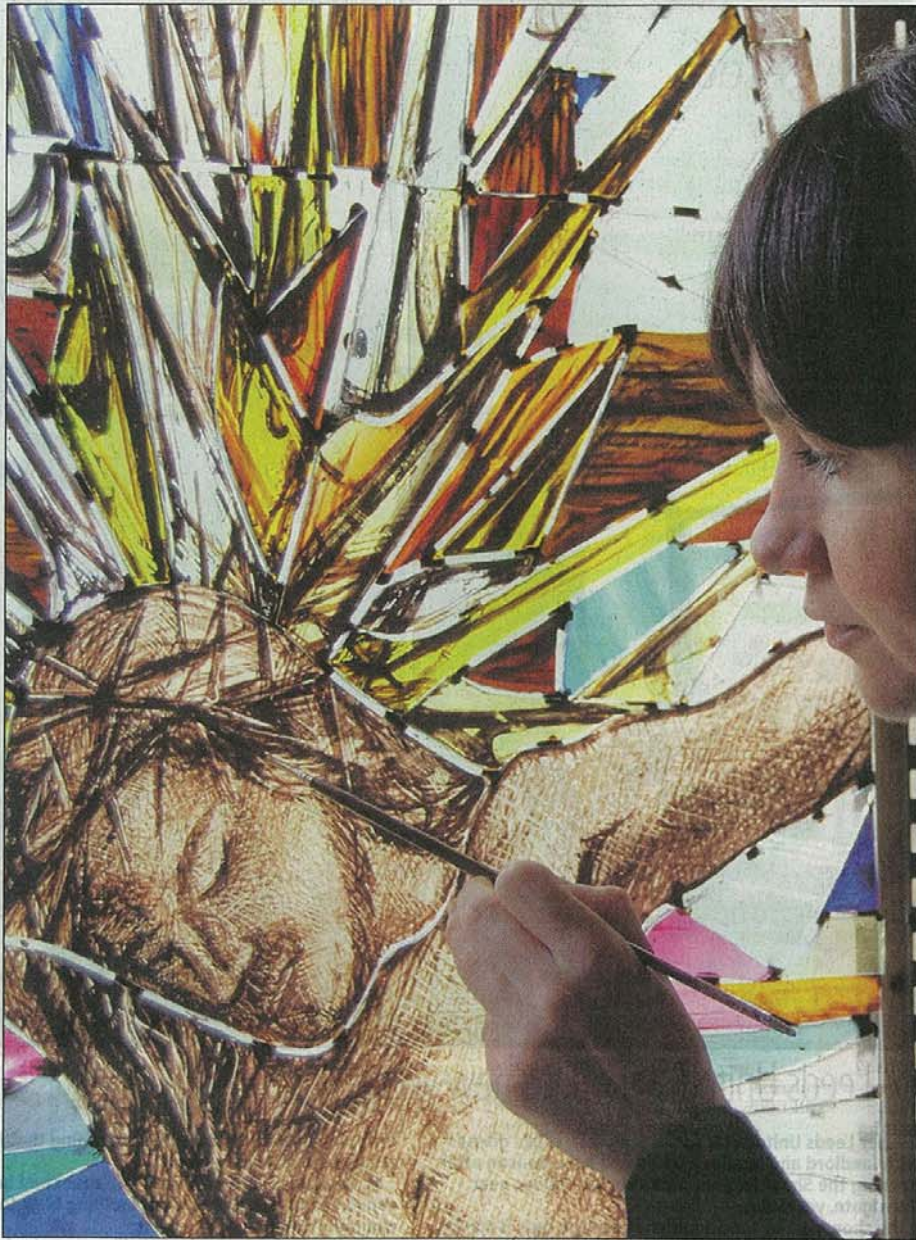
UNVEILED:
Stained glass artist and designer Helen Whittaker, of Barley Studio, with the new East Window for St Nicholas's Church in Dunnington

Pictures: Mike Tipping



TALENTED: Helen Whittaker who has created a new stained glass window for St Nicholas Church, Dunnington, York, below





CREATIVE: Helen Whittaker works on the new East Window for St Nicholas Church, Dunnington, near York.

Artist honoured to design local church's stained-glass window

Paul Jeeves

AN ARTIST responsible for a series of stunning stained-glass designs across Britain has created a new East Window for a village church – just 500 yards from her studio.

Helen Whittaker, who works at Barley Studio in Dunnington, near York, has completed the new 10ft by 6ft window that will be put in place this week above the altar at St Nicholas Church, which dates from the Norman era.

Miss Whittaker, 34, has worked

on more than 50 commissions in a 10-year career including Beverley Minster and St Mary's Church in Sheffield's Bramall Lane.

She said: "It has been a huge honour because the church is so close by and means so much to so many people.

"It has been a real luxury to wander just down the road for the work and we have involved local schoolchildren and other villagers, so it has become a real community project."

The new £25,000 window, which

took 18 months to finish, has been paid for through a bequest by Beatrice Burniston, who ran a farm in the village with her husband, Jim, but died in 2005.

The window which has been replaced after the elements took their toll dates from the Victorian era. However, the stained glass has been used in an extension window.

Assistant curate Linda Ludkin said: "The church has always been at the heart of the village, and this work is helping secure its future."