



HEXHAM ABBEY

NORTHUMBERLAND

Tyrrell Window – South Wall, South Transept (4.07m x 6.07m) 2011



Helen Whittaker was selected, from over 50 entries, as one of five artists to submit a design for the South Wall, South Transept windows at Hexham Abbey, Northumberland. The theme of the window was to be 'Hospitality'.

Helen chose to use the chalice, representing the Eucharistic offering at the heart of Christian worship, to celebrate this understanding of hospitality. Three chalices are depicted, referring to each of three time frames. The chalice designs are superimposed over a circular geometric design that refers to the glazing patterns found in the architecture of the early thirteenth century.

'The past' (to the bottom left of the window) is represented by a depiction of the Anglo-Saxon chalice. This chalice emphasizes the pastoral care of the Church, as it was used to reach out beyond the walls of the church building itself.

'The present' is represented by the chalice in the right and middle windows that symbolizes the living presence of Christ, the Host at every Eucharist. The patterns on the chalice are based on surviving architectural details in the Abbey. The chalice is supported by a stem that pays homage to Bishop Acca who introduced a greater artistic tradition to Hexham, a tradition that continues today in the performance of music and the creation of new artwork.

'The future' chalice is higher than the other two as if leading towards the light of the Holy Spirit who guides and empowers the Church in every new generation.

Helen Whittaker
STAINED GLASS
& SCULPTURE