## The windows of the South Wall

The two windows at the east end of the south wall at All Saints' were installed in memory of important figures in local history.



Top panels, Fellows window: 'The Presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple'.



Bottom panels, Fellows window: 'The Finding of Jesus in the Temple'.

The first, next to the Lady Chapel altar, illustrates Jesus' early life as related in **Luke 2**: the top panels depict the <u>presentation of the infant Jesus at the Temple</u>, and the bottom panels the <u>Finding in the Temple</u>, at the time of the Passover, when Jesus, at the age of 12, went missing from Mary and Joseph and was found in the Temple debating with the elders.

The inscription on the top panels says that they were given by the children of Eliza Fellows in her memory; she was born on 20 February 1811 and died on 20 September 1875. The lower pair are in memory of 'James Fellows, who was born in this parish March 6th, 1805, and died at Horseley House, Tipton, May 17th, 1854'.

James Fellows founded a railway and canal transportation company active in the Black Country from 1837 onwards – <u>Click here</u>.

The company went on to become a large undertaking in the late Victorian age. Their canal business was based in Horseley, Tipton (near Dudley Port). Eliza took on the business after James's death, until their son was old enough to run it. As Fellows, Morton and Clayton, the firm later built the steam-powered narrow boat The President, recently seen in the Diamond Jubilee pageant on the Thames, and among the attractions at the Black Country Living Museum.

Careful inspection of these window panels shows that the upper pair were made at a different date from the lower pair. Stained glass experts believe that both sets are the work of the Camm workshop, but from different phases of that firm.

Before 1882, the side windows would have been divided by the church's galleries. Comparison with windows on the north side suggests that the lower pair of Fellows panels were installed before 1882, and the upper pair added to complete the window as part of, or after the major refurbishment of that date, when the galleries were removed.

The couple are buried near the centre of the church's Vicar Street cemetery. Recent removal of a vandalized tomb revealed fragments of their gravestone, only partly recorded before the creation of a garden on the cemetery site, about 30 years ago.

Other surnames recorded on their tombstone are Roberts, Howarth and Eggilton (probably a variant of Eagleton).



Top panels, Lewis window - angels look down on scenes from Jesus' life depicted in the lower panels.



Lower panels of the Lewis window, probably depicting 'Suffer the Little Children' and the 'Feeding of the Multitude'.

The next window has not worn well over the years. It was given by his parishioners in memory of the Revd William Lewis, who served in the parish as curate for six years, 1831–7, and then as vicar from 1837 until his death on 10 January 1870 at the age of 73.

He also acted as Rural Dean (possibly the origin of Dean Street, changed from Church Street?), and as a JP. He is buried outside the church next to the east end of the south aisle, and a memorial tablet for him and his wife Jane Matilda (d. 1867) is placed on the wall above the Lady Chapel altar.

In the top panels of this window, angels in heaven observe events from Jesus' life depicted in the lower panels. **The Iower left-hand panel** seems to depict Matthew 19:14, 'But Jesus said "Suffer little children and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The lower right panel shows Jesus with his disciples (given haloes, because they were later regarded as saints), one of whom seems to be handing out food.

The subject is most likely to be the Feeding of the Multitude, as related in John 6: 5–15 and elsewhere. In the later 19th century, churches were still heavily involved in providing children's education, and, through charities and the poor law system, in supporting those who fell on hard times. Clergy might also be seen as providing intellectual and spiritual 'food', as well as a more literal interpretation of the second narrative.

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If you have any knowledge about these windows, or if you think the information above is incorrect, please contact **mmjones29@blueyonder.co.uk** 

## Article by Martin Jones

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