

EVERY WINDOW TELLS A STORY

Stained Glass in our Churches

by Peter Hamilton-Leggett

No 1 The Scobel Window, St Peter's Church, Meavy



This window was placed on the north wall in 1880 by Marianne Elizabeth, wife of Edwin Charles Scobell. Edwin was baptised in Meavy church in 1838. He married in 1863 and spent most of his life in Herefordshire. His father, also Edwin, lived at the family seat, Goodameavy House, and the families are remembered by the plaques in the South Transept. He died 6 September, aged 41 years, in Herefordshire and his body was brought down to Meavy to be buried on 11 September. His father out-lived him, dying in 1884. Joseph Scobell, Edwin Charles's grandfather, had Goodameavy Bridge constructed over the ford on the River Meavy in the late 18th century to enable easy access in times of flood for the community there.

The window tells the story of the Good Samaritan. The parable, told by Jesus, is recorded in St Luke's Gospel (10: 25-37) :-

³⁰A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.



In both these pictures the man's eyes are cast down in concern. Note the bleeding wounds on his shoulder and head.

"Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

In the third pane he is giving coins to the innkeeper and looking at him saying that he will return to pay more if he will care for the sick man. Keys hang from the belt of the innkeeper.



³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

A denarius was the usual daily wage of a day labourer. Above the inn-keepers head we see the sick man lying on his bed.



³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The window was executed by Messrs Fouracre & Watson of Stonehouse.