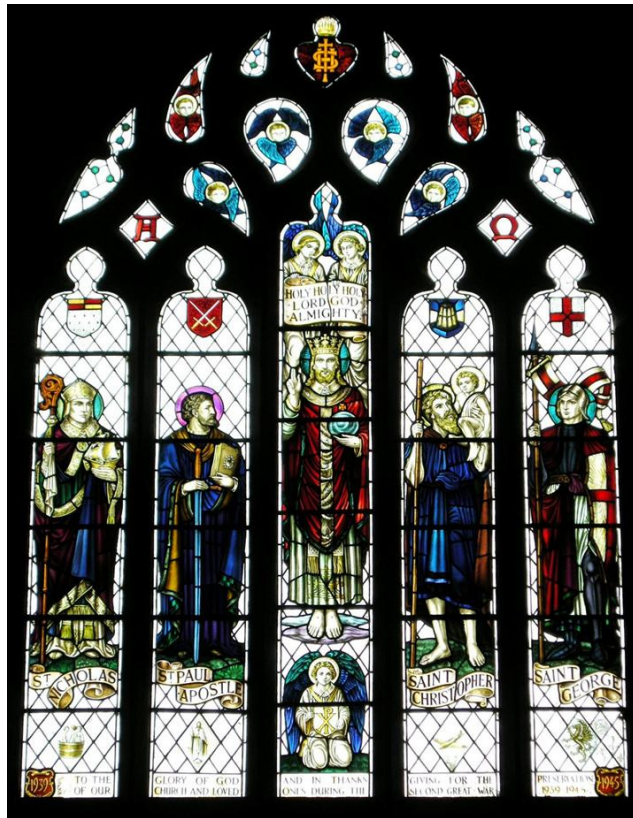


# EVERY WINDOW TELLS A STORY

## Stained Glass in our Churches

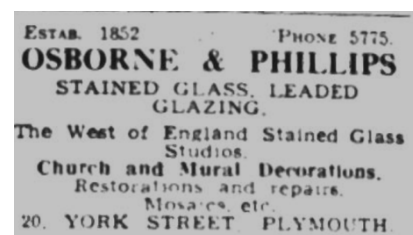
by Peter Hamilton-Leggett

### No 2 The East Window, St Paul's, Yelverton



The inscription reads *"To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the preservation of our church and loved ones during the war of 1939-1945"*.

On the right is the original drawing for the window which was done by Edwin R Phillips of Osborne & Phillips (Fouracres & Son), Plymouth. Phillips joined Fouracres in the 1920s and eventually became principal designer. In 1941 Fouracres & Son amalgamated with Osborne & Son to become Osborne & Phillips. The firm folded in the 1960s. Phillips's work can be found in Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Northumberland, Jamaica, New Zealand, & Buenos Aires. In 1939 he made three windows for Plymouth Guild Hall to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the granting of the Plymouth Charter. It was only after the war that they were installed.



The East window was purchased through the subscriptions of the people of Yelverton. It was dedicated on Sunday 16th June 1950. The service was conducted by the vicar, Rev R N de B Welchman. The Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Rev Francis Whitfield Daukes, took the window as the subject of his sermon. Living at Linkincorn, Crapstone, he did not have far to travel. The window was valued at £550 and is described as an example of modern stained glass at its best.

The five main lights are, from left to right, the figures of St Nicholas, St Paul, Christ, St Christopher, and St George



St Nicholas is the patron saint of children and sailors. Here we see him holding a ship. The choice of St Nicholas was used to represent our navy and its defence of the realm. Many local families had relatives serving in the navy, especially in Devonport. Below his effigy are three children in a barrel representing the legendary story that he brought them back to life after a butcher had cut them up and placed them in brine.



The next light shows St Paul who is the patron saint of this church. Here we see him armed and ready with a sword. He was a warrior, but not in physical battles. In his epistle to the Ephesians he famously mentions 'the armour of God' and later 'the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God'. He is also holding a book - the word of God. The sword also represents his martyrdom. Being Roman he was not allowed to be crucified but was beheaded by a sword.

The central light depicts Christ the King. Above him two angels hold a scroll with the words 'Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty'. Below him is an angel holding a christogram.



The fourth light is that of St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, seen here carrying the infant Jesus on his shoulders and with a staff in his right hand. Above his head is a lamp representing the light that he used whilst carrying this child, who got heavier and heavier, across a fast flowing river, only to discover that it was Jesus whom he bore. Most interesting is the diagonal panel below him showing what is believed to be a Fairey Battle plane with bomb doors open and smoke billowing up from the dropped bombs. This plane seems an odd choice seeing that it became obsolete at the beginning of WWII having suffered severe losses. It then became a training aircraft. However it does give the link to RAF Harrowbeer and the brave pilots who protected our lands.



Finally we have St George, our patron saint, resplendent in armour and helmet and holding a spear, here representing a soldier. Below him is the mythical dragon that he slew. Many Yelverton families had husbands & sons fighting in far off lands.



Just before Christmas 2021 a series of 6 ink wash and pencil drawings appeared on eBay. These were the original drawings by Phillips for the top part of the window. The asking price was £120.

