

# EVERY WINDOW TELLS A STORY

## Stained Glass in our Churches

### No 3 The James Brooke Window, St Leonard's, Sheepstor

In 1868 Rajah James Brooke died and in 1872 Bertha, Lady Lopes, died. Sir Massey Lopes decided to restore the East end of the church embellishing it with encaustic tiles in her memory. This restoration gave the opportunity to also erect a new East window in memory of Rajah James Brooke. The curate, Rev William Yate Daykin lost no time in setting up a subscription fund. In one paper he wrote:- *"If any of your readers sympathise with me in trying to beautify the church where the good Rajah sleeps in peace, I would ask them to help with subscriptions for the*



purpose; it is a very small church, and is now just in the condition to be made perfect with no very large expenditure; we are trying to raise money for an organ now. I should add, any efforts I have made are quite unselfish on my part, and with no intention of drawing the public for a church of my own, as I am simply the curate, and therefore liable to removal at very short notice". (Week's News (London) 10 May 1873 p5.)

According to J C Bellamy, writing in The Plymouth Herald 1852:- "The East window contains, in top tracery, in painted glass, the arms of an ancient family called Scudamore or Skydmore, with a succession of three (originally Four) of its marriages." These were either removed in the 1861 restoration or more likely when the Brooke window was put in. In 1872 Daykin wrote a letter in the Homeward Mail from India,

China & The East that subscriptions had reached £25. The cost of the glass was £45 and a further £30 for the granite mullions and general expenses. Equivalent to a total cost today of £21,000

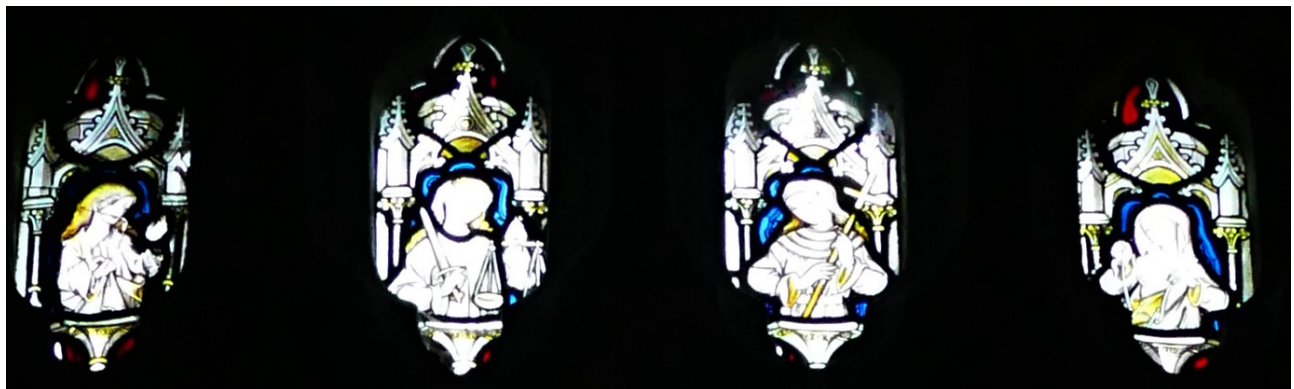
The firm of John Hardman & Co in Birmingham were commissioned. The firm began as an ecclesiastical metal works. They moved to making stained glass in 1845 after a suggestion from Augustus W N Pugin that the firm should expand. Pugin designed many windows for them until his death in 1852 when the role passed to John Hardman's nephew and Pugin's son-in-law John Hardman Powell. Under Powell the firm expanded to become a leading light in Gothic Revival. It is in this window we see much of Powell's elegance as he utilised the flowing, curving lines, the flourish of drapery, and pure colour. By now the firm had become one of the World's leading manufactures.

Powell took as his text Genesis 41 comparing the life of Brooke with that of Joseph and Necho II, the Pharaoh of Egypt. "<sup>40</sup> Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. <sup>41</sup> And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup> And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. <sup>43</sup> And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt."

Likewise, as a reward for helping the Sultanate of Brunei fight piracy and insurgency among the indigenous peoples, James Brooke was granted the province of Kuching in 1841, becoming Rajah of Sarawak. He soon set about the reform of the local government, the framing of new laws, and the improvement of the people. He became a popular figure and the population bowed before him in admiration and affection.



In the bottom of each light, from left to right we see the arms of Brooke with the motto 'Dum spiro spero' - While I breathe, I hope. The central light shows Mary with the infant Jesus and in the third light we have the flag of Sarawak.



Above the lights there are four small windows representing Temperance, Justice, Fortitude and Prudence.

The church was packed on Wednesday 4th June 1873 for the dedication of both the Brooke window - *To the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of his Highness, Sir James Brooke, KCB, DCL, Rajah of Sarawak* - and the newly tiled chancel *In memory of Honourable Bertha Lady Lopes died 1872*. The Rev W Y Daykin took the choral service, prayers were intoned by Rev C Walker (Walkhampton) and the sermon was preached by the Venerable Archdeacon Alfred Earle. The two Rural Deans read the lessons.

1873 was a busy time for the Curate. In August the Autumn Manoeuvres on Dartmoor had begun. Daykin held outdoor camp services on Ringmoor Down. The church was left open and over 2000 soldiers paid a visit. They also contributed £20 towards the organ fund. On December 7 the new Hele organ was heard for the first time when Mr Hele played it and Rev Daykin sang the solo 'I know my Redeemer liveth'. The organ is no longer in the church, having been replaced with an electronic organ.