



Christ Church

UNLOCKING CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: FAMILY/SCHOOL RESOURCES

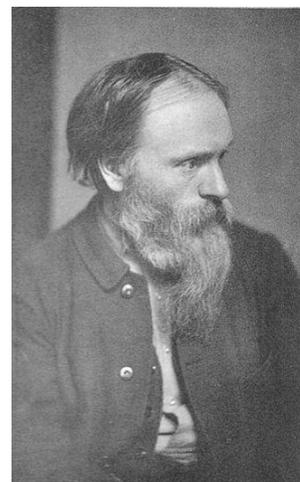
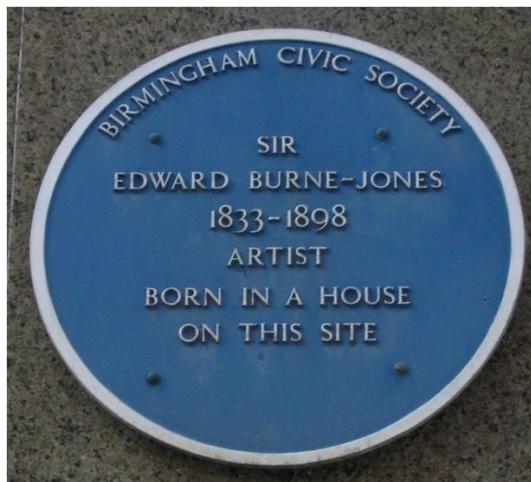
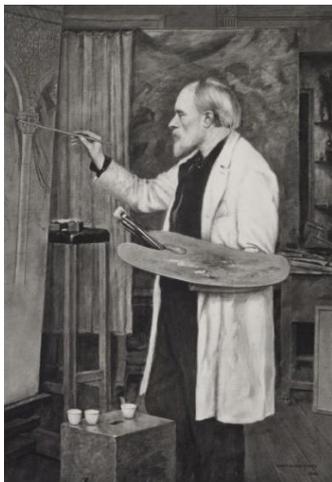
A VIRTUAL VISIT ONLINE

The Stained Glass window: Spes, Caritas, Fides



Introduction:

This is the last of five windows which were created for Christ Church by Edward Burne-Jones, the Victorian Pre-Raphaelite artist who had been born in Birmingham. His first window was made when he was just 26 years old, but this window was made much later, when Burne -Jones was widely famed for his art and much older.



Background:

The figures represent three key virtues of Christianity: **HOPE, CHARITY, FAITH**. But Burne-Jones has written those words in Latin- SPES, CARITAS, FIDES. Latin used to be the language of worship before the Reformation and Tudor times but, by the time Queen Victoria was on the throne, Latin was very rarely used for worship. We are not sure why Burne-Jones decided to use the Latin but perhaps the person who commissioned the window specially requested that Latin should be used.

SPES/HOPE: Notice that the figure is looking up, towards Heaven. Christians believe that, no matter how hopeless a situation appears, God always offers us HOPE. The figure is carrying a palm which is a symbol of a pilgrim's journey towards Heaven. This is another reason the figure is looking upwards to Heaven: because Christians believe that they are journeying back to God and will enjoy living in His kingdom after they die. Thanks to the sacrifice that Jesus made, giving up his life on the cross, Christians can HOPE to meet him again in Heaven.

CARITAS/LOVE: You may be able to think of a word in English that has its origin in the Latin word CARITAS? Yes, it is CHARITY or LOVE. In the window, the figure of Caritas is surrounded by children. The red flame represents the Holy Spirit, which inspires us to be kind, loving, gentle and compassionate. In Latin, Caritas means COMPASSION, KINDNESS and CARE FOR OTHERS. This is what CHARITY means. A charity can be an organization which looks after people who need help. You can probably list at least ten different charities that look after people near you, or overseas.

FIDES/FAITH: Faith is not just about belief. You can believe in things you can see. Faith means believing in things that may not be visible, including God. By FAITH, one dedicates one's life to God's purpose and places one's trust in Him alone. Jesus' followers have total FAITH in his promise of forgiveness and salvation. They try to be full of faith and are sometimes known as the FAITHFUL followers of Christ. Even when things become difficult and challenging, their faith burns brightly, like the flame in the lamp which Fides is holding.

Things to do at home- a few ideas

- Look up the story of the **Good Samaritan**, one of the many parables which Jesus told when he wanted to teach his friends about CARITAS, love for one another, for what really matters in life.
Although the Samaritans were somewhat despised by Jesus' people, the Jews, it was the Good Samaritan who loved his neighbour and who showed charity towards the poor man, a stranger, who had been robbed and beaten.
- Find some words we use today which have **Latin** origins that go all the way back to ancient Rome. FORUM is an obvious one.
- Many plants and other forms of the natural world have two names- a **Latin** name and a common name. They might have a common name, such as FOXGLOVE, but also a Latin name, such as DIGITALIS. BLUEBELL is CAMPANULA, which is in fact Latin for BELL.

- Look carefully at the rich and vibrant **colours** in the window. Using watercolour paints and water, can you successfully mix the colours to make exact matches for those which Edward Burne-Jones used in the figures' flowing robes?
- Find some images of **Roman oil lamps** via the internet. Can you find one that is similar to the lamp held by the figure of FAITH or FIDES? How did these lamps work? If you have access to clay, or plasticene, you may like to make a model lamp but please do not try to light it unless you have an adult to supervise you and keep you safe!
- The figures all have **halos** around their head, like saints or angels, Jesus, Mary his mother and his disciples. Look up some images of Christian icons and find out how artists have tried to paint halos. You might like to compare these with stained glass window halos.
- **Faith, Hope, Love.** Draw three circles that overlap as in the diagram below. This is called a **Venn diagram**. Now add in words, or pictures, or people's names that occur you when you think deeply about these ideas. Are there any that could belong to two of the circles e.g. HOPE and LOVE? Or any that might go in the very centre because they belong to all three?
Where would the word GOD go?

