



NATHALIE HILDEGARDE LIEGE
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St James Design Proposal

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St Jame's Church

The Windows were commissioned by a parishioner in memory of his wife.

North Window, Our Lady of Walsingham

Richeldis de Faverches, a Saxon noble woman, Lady of the Manor, in Walsingham, had a vision, "the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her and carried her in spirit to Nazareth. There, Our Lady showed her the little house where the annunciation took place, and directed her to construct an exact copy." "The materials given to Richeldis were finally constructed miraculously one night into the Holy house, while she kept a vigil of prayers" "In confirmation of this vision, a spring of water suddenly appeared at Richeldis feet."

This was the information Nathalie worked from. She chose to depict Richeldis de Faverches to suggest she may either be in her sleep or in prayers. Behind the Virgin Mary we view the landscape divided into day (on the left) and night (on the right).

The 'little house' where the annunciation took place is on the left hand side. It is presented following the shape of the house as on site in Walsingham as it is depicted in the first seal of Walsingham.

The blue labyrinth on the right hand side is in the night a symbol of the enlightening experience a pilgrimage may give. The day/night landscape and the labyrinth in the background are in this North and South window, as both windows refer to a site of pilgrimage.

For the Virgin Mary's feet, only the sole of her feet are reflected in the water of the Holy well and it is a reference to the healing power of the water. (The Virgin Mary is presented bare foot in the Annunciation window in the Slipper Chapel, windows made by Alfred Fisher, who was Nathalie's mentor). The sole of the feet represents the kneeling of the pilgrims. The bare feet are a reference to the Slipper Chapel or Christ.

The design of this window is to present to the viewer the spiritual scale of the vision; the windows semi-abstract layout is chosen to depict how living

such vision may be very true to the one who experiences it and semi-abstract too in the measure of our daily life.

The design of the upper window refers to stars or angelic powers, the Mystery, and The Holy Trinity.

South window, St James, Son of Zebedee, the Great

To refer to the theme of Compostella's pilgrimage, Nathalie has chosen to present St James as he is humbly depicted in iconography with modest vestments and posture.

His body is positioned and shaped in order to suggest the journey of his corpse in the boat that landed in Compostella (as the tradition explains).

He carries some of the pilgrim's items: the gourd, the bag (decorated with some of the stamps of the journey to Compostella), the hat with a scallop shell and the walking stick. His face is turned towards the people attending services.

In the background, we find a landscape which portrays the variety of experiences pilgrims will have of nature in their challenging journey also leading to live along holy waters, wells, rivers.

The design of the upper window refers to Crosses one finds along the pilgrimage's paths and to the scallop shell shape.

