

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

CARTMEL FELL, CUMBRIA

'I have called you by your name' -
Baptistry window (1.2m x 0.8m) and Font cover 2017

The inspiration for this design comes from various sources suggested by the donor; particularly from the font at Salisbury Cathedral, which is inscribed with words taken from Isaiah chapter 43. These speak of a father's reassuring love, and are an invitation to follow him. We have been individually chosen. Here at Cartmel Fell, the donor wished to use the text of Gerald Markland's Hymn 'Do not be afraid', based on the opening verses of the same chapter of Isaiah.

The chorus of the hymn – *Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine* – is inscribed within the stained-glass window, and the final lines – *You are mine, O my child; I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love* – shimmer in reflected light in the glass of the new Font cover.

In illustrating the text of the hymn, the window adopts the traditional imagery of the Holy Spirit in the form of a White Dove. The Dove is shown rising in flight from its nest, inviting us to follow through the window into the light of the world beyond. The use of clear glass allows us to connect with our surroundings, bringing the outside into our lives and joining with the natural beauty of creation. The textures of reamy and seedy glasses, in combination with ethereal white and gradations of yellow stain, emphasise the luminous beauty and mystery of the Holy Spirit. The lightness of the window and abundant use of pale yellow link the new window with the ancient glass elsewhere in the church, created in the 'golden age' of the fifteenth century.

The new font cover, made by Houghtons of York to a design by Jonathon Prichard (LAGP Architects), is a simple ring of European oak with an inserted disc of laminated glass. The lettering is sandblasted into the underside of the glass, contrasting elegantly with the oak beneath. The laminated drawn sheet glass has an undulating surface, reminiscent of the reflective qualities of water as it flows over the rim and into the bowl, encouraging us to reflect on the course of our own lives and to contemplate the Baptismal water of new life.

Both artworks are rooted within the church by their relationship to the medieval stone font, and are linked together by the reflection of the window in the glass cover. The overarching message is of new life, new hope, and the perfect love of a Father who has chosen us by name to follow Him beyond this precious place into the wider world, and to return refreshed by the Holy Spirit.



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