

CHATTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL NORTHUMBERLAND

Library Window (1.1m x 1.1m) 2007

This window celebrates the 150th anniversary of the founding of Chatton school. The commission involved teaching children at the school about symbolism in stained glass and encouraging them to make drawings significant to the school and the locality. The pupils' drawings were then incorporated into the design for the window. Symbols of life, community, education, religion, regeneration and renewal were evident in the children's drawings.

The drawings now 'float' upon a blue background – symbolising the flow of the River of Life – intermingled with leaves that have fallen from the Tree of Knowledge. The symbolism continues with new leaves sprouting from an old tree trunk. The solidity of the trunk refers to the continuation of life and its support by both the school's education and the spiritual guidance of the church. The intention is that the overall theme of these windows is 'life'. The floating leaves and papers represent the visible aspects of life, while the current of the water represents the spirit of the community, which constitutes the underlying pattern of life holding everything together.

