

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

LLANFRECHFA, MONMOUTHSHIRE

Faith, Hope and Love – North Nave Aisle
(0.9m x 1.7m) 2017

The central theme of this design for a memorial window is inspired by the text of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.*” [Corinthians 13:13]

The great gift of Love is a reflection of the Holy Spirit in the human mind. The sacrifice of Jesus is the expression of divine Love, which led to Hope for eternal life and which can be achieved through Faith in God.

The oak tree outside the window is the inspiration and starting point; the oak being a familiar symbol of strength and endurance, of fortitude and steadiness. Individual leaves from the tree, in autumnal colours representing those no longer with us on earth, are blown by the wind of the Holy Spirit:

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” [John 3:8]

The words Faith, Hope and Love are written among the oak leaves, with Faith at the base (the root of the tree), Hope a little higher (among the branches, growing upward from Faith) and finally Love, reaching heavenward (the fruits of the tree). In the tracery, stars represent the heavens and our eternal resting place.

Memorial inscriptions run across the base of both lights: to the left, Jon Abbott, and to the right, Joyce and Denis Drew, in lettering carefully related to that in the main lights.

Overall, the design is deliberately conceived to be fresh and simple in appearance, allowing the view of the oak tree outside and retaining the light coming into the building.

Lettering by Phil Thomas.

