

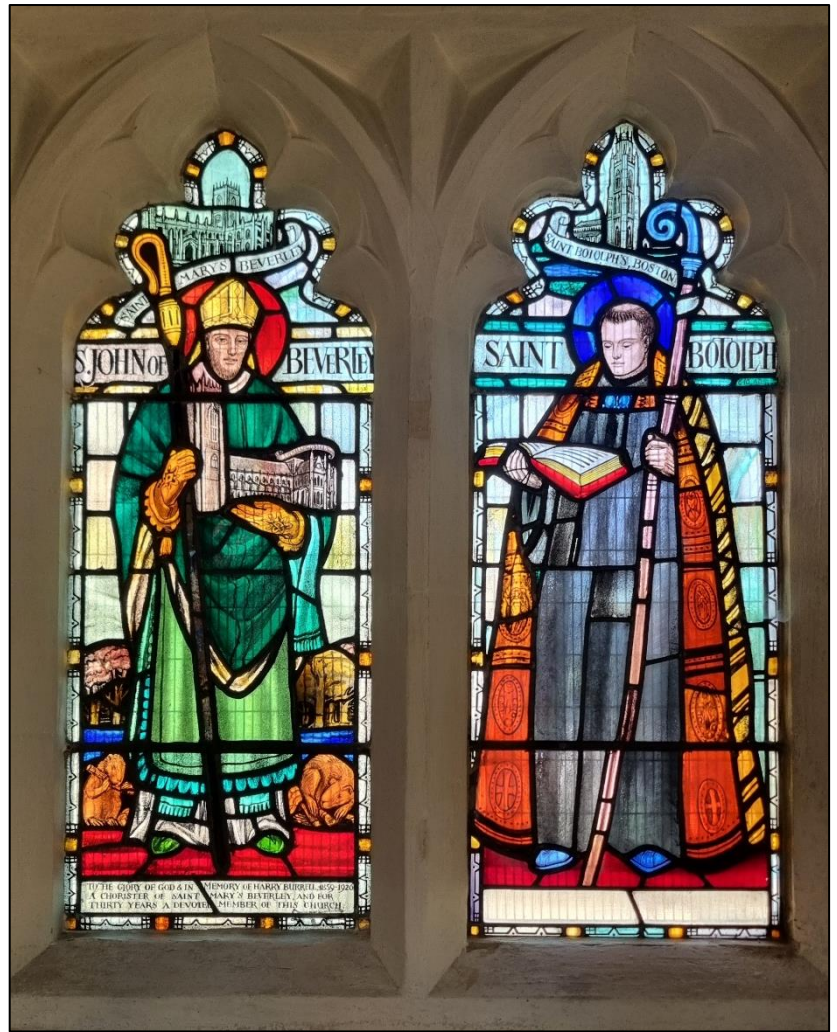
The Harry Burrell Windows

The Harry Burrell lancet windows can be seen in the east-facing wall of the south porch.

So, who was Harry Burrell?

We are delighted that, in June 2026, Harry's great-grandson Cameron has shared some information with us.

“Among the papers of my grandfather, Denys Nelthorpe Burrell of Bishop's Stortford, I discovered sketches of two memorial windows by Margaret Edith Rope (M. E. Aldrich Rope), intended for the South Porch of St Michael's Church... My understanding is that they were intended as a memorial to my great-grandfather, Harry Burrell, who sadly died in a tragic railway accident”.



“Harry trained at the Lincoln School of Art, where he won the gold medal for architectural drawing while working in the office of his uncle, the Lincoln architect James Whitton. We have to assume at this stage, given Harry's love for architecture and all things ecclesiastical, that he was very close to St Botolph's, the Anglican parish church of Boston, Lincolnshire”.

“Following Whitton's retirement, in 1886 Harry moved to Scawby, Lincolnshire where he took work helping manage the affairs of the local manor, Scawby Hall, under the baronetcy of Nelthorpe, the Nelthorpes originally of Beverley, Yorkshire from 1500s. In addition to his architectural and office work, Harry's experience and continuing involvement with equestrian pursuits put him in good stead with the Nelthorpes. Harry's experience and connections at Scawby then led directly to his subsequent appointment as estate agent to Sir Walter Gilbey, the renowned shire horse breeder and founder of the Gilbey wine and spirits business (Gilbey's Gin!). There is a connection between Robert Nassau Sutton Nelthorpe and Walter Gilbey, who were both avid breeders of shire horses though Robert eventually sold all his horses, with Gilbey and Edward Prince of Wales among the purchasers”.

The family resided at 18 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, which Harry had designed and built. Cameron offers an insight into the Yorkshire connection memorialised in glass: “The Burrell family has a long, documented history at the White Horse Inn in Hengate, Beverley, a market town in East Riding of Yorkshire. Records show the family managed the coaching inn and saddlery throughout the 19th century, with innkeeper and saddler Francis Burrell (Harry's father) holding the Corporation lease for the property in December 1862. After the Burrells, the pub was sold by St Mary's Church in 1927”.

About the windows

Margaret Edith Rope, known as M. E. Aldrich Rope (29 July 1891 – 9 March 1988) was an English stained-glass artist from a prolific artistic family, in the Arts and Crafts movement tradition, and active between 1910 and 1964.

Rope was educated at Wimbledon High School, Chelsea School of Art, and the LCC Central School of Arts and Crafts, where she specialised in stained glass under Karl Parsons and Alfred Drury.

For much of her active artistic life she lived in various houses in Deodar Road, Putney, which was something of an artists' colony in that period; during World War II, she moved to No. 81, until it was bombed.

From the sketch which the Burrell family have shared with us, it's wonderful to note that the suggested amendments (including the beavers!) were incorporated into the final design.



In February 2019 the church suffered a burglary and substantial damage. The building was entered by breaking one of the Burrell windows in the South Porch.

The children of our St Michael's School wanted to create something beautiful to replace the ugly damage which was done to our church and created some artwork which remained in place until the window could be restored.



The text below the artwork reads:

We have created sets of four images telling the story of some of our favourite tales from the Old Testament. These are the stories of The Fall, Noah's Ark, Moses leading his people from Egypt, Joseph and the heroic tale of David and Goliath. Can you work out which is which?

We were delighted that, in October 2020, Chapel Studio Stained Glass in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, were able to restore the window depicting St Botolph to its former glory.

Further information

Design artist: Margaret Edith Rope
(M.E. Aldrich Rope)

Manufacturers and installers: Unknown

Restoration: Chapel Studio Stained Glass,
Kings Langley

Date installed:

Date restored: October 2020

Church Archive Ref. tbc