

St George Window

The window - what and how?

The window is a **stained glass window**. It was made by assembling many small flat pieces of stained glass and holding them together with strips of **lead** within a lead frame.

The glass was stained using a mixture of two techniques. The first technique was to mix in metallic salts with the glass when it was created to make plain pieces of one solid colour.

The second technique was for adding more detail. Colours were **painted** on to the glass pieces with a brush and then **fused** to the surface by heating them in a **kiln**. Examples of this are the scaly detail on the dragon, and the details of St George's face and his armour.

Making a stained glass window requires a lot of **skill**. The window has to be able to stand up and not fall apart, and be weatherproof. This requires an understanding of **structure** and **materials**. It has to have beautiful **design**. This requires **artistry**. Lastly, if the window tells a story, the **narrative** has to be clear to the person looking at it. This requires skill in **storytelling**.

Who made it, when and why?

The window is not part of the original 15th century build, but was added by the 4th Earl of Rosslyn in 1887 at the end of 19th century restoration of the Chapel. Before this, there was no glass in the windows and the interior of the Chapel was vulnerable to the damaging effects of the weather.



The window was also a memorial to Andrew Kerr who was the architect in charge of the restoration.

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The story

St George was a warrior saint, who rode a white horse, wore a red cloak and fought battles for good causes. One day, St George met an evil dragon who was stealing people, keeping them captive and eating them. The latest victim of the dragon was a princess. St George fought hard with the dragon and killed it with his lance. He rescued the princess from captivity and went on to his next quest.

This is the most common version of the St George story, but it is not the only one. It has been told by many different people around the world, and each telling is slightly different. Sometimes he has a sword, not a lance. Sometimes there is no princess, and sometimes he actually marries her! In all versions the dragon is very evil, and this is because in olden times dragons were always feared as evil beings. It is only in modern stories that we have good dragons as well as bad ones.

What is it really about?

The story of St George and the Dragon as we know it is about 1,000 years old. But it is actually much older than that! Versions of the same plot with different heroes and different monsters existed long before. This is because the story is actually about the triumph of good over evil, which is a universal plot that has meaning to everyone who has ever lived, no matter where or when. The dragon represents the bad in the world that can swallow people up, and St George represents the good that can free them.

