

## St Giles Cathedral – 26 July 2022 – Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

We stopped and explored the St. Giles Cathedral during our Royal Mile walk. The Cathedral stands out in my mind for two reasons: 1) the purpose of the Thistle Chapel and 2) the carvings within the Chapel.



Entrance doors into the Cathedral's nave. And Nancy is leading the way.

History says a church has stood on this spot since 854 but the Cathedral building mostly dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. A primary reason for very little of the first churches remains being available to view is invading English armies torched these churches twice in the 1400s. St. Giles was built as a Catholic church but today is considered the primary church of the Church of Scotland and the “Mother Church of Presbyterianism”.

The Reformation reformer John Knox (1514 – 1572) preached his sermons from St. Giles. Knox led the Scottish change from Catholicism to Protestantism. The Scottish Parliament in 1560 decreed Scotland was a Protestant country. Knox also played a role in the dethroning and eventual beheading of Mary Queen of Scots. In today's world Knox would be called a

misogynistic but in his time he held the common (male) thought that women were not capable of being leaders, etc.



A statue of John Knox.

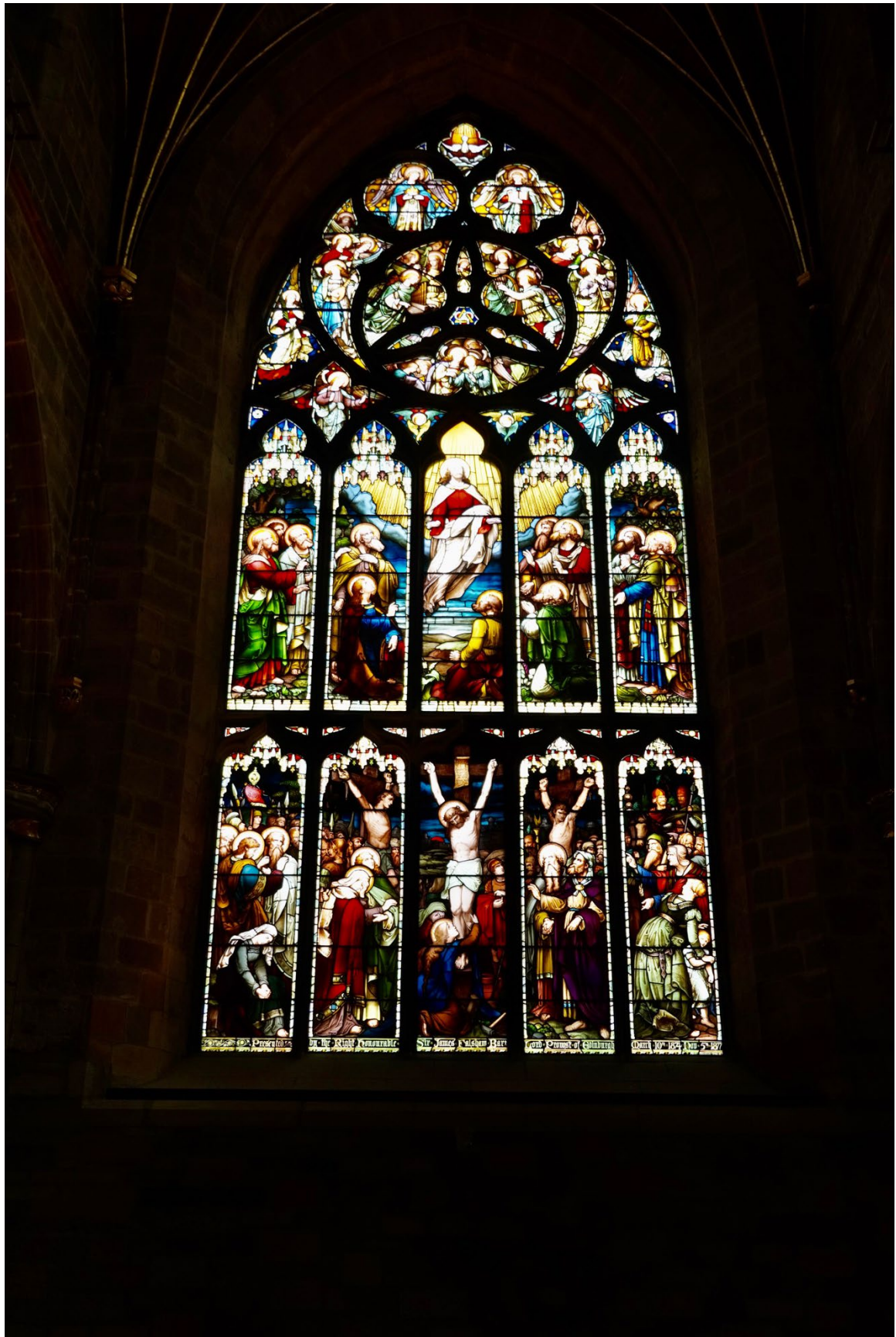


Only fragments of stain glass remain from the Middle Ages. The Reformationist removed the stain glass because they depict saints and other images – reminds me of why Islamic mosques have no art. It wasn't until the church renovations in the 1800s that stain glass was reintroduced to St. Giles Cathedral.



Looking at the central stain glass window.

Below is the Great West Window known as the Robert Burns window. This window was installed in 1985.









One of the arms of a chair in the Thistle Chapel.

The Neo-Gothic Thistle Chapel is for use by the Order of the Thistle, the only Scottish chivalric order. We spent ten minutes with the room's guide who is available to answer any question you may have concerning the Order.

The Queen of England presides over the ritual of membership.

The Order was founded in 1687. The Order consists of the Sovereign and 16 Knights and Ladies plus extra Knights from the Royal family or foreign Monarchs. The Sovereign makes the decision on who will become a member.

Each member has their own chair or stall for life.





More carvings within the Thistle Chapel.







A bagpiping angel.





To the glory of God and in memory of

James Jameson A.D. 1736 an Elder of this Church

born at Bowden 1741 DIED at Edinburgh 1805

The above window is the Saints' Window. Left to right and top to bottom:  
St. Columba, St Andrew, St. Cutbbert, St. Margaret, St. Giles, and King David I.



The ceiling.

May the pipes be played by angels as you leave this world.