

## St. Michael's Church, Highgate.

### Design description.

This design takes as its starting point the abstract design sketch provided by the clients, with a pattern of interconnected circles exemplifying the unity of hope, faith and the created world demonstrated in the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

This idea has its foundation in the passage of scripture from Colossians 1:27, *'To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory'* [English Standard Version]. Prompted by thoughts of 'the hope of glory' and salvation, and of entering the Kingdom of Heaven through the Love of Christ and our Faith in Him, I began to explore ideas of the Trinity; from abstract ideas of three interconnecting circles, to the Trinity of Graces [Faith, Hope and Love, as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13:13], to the Holy Trinity itself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

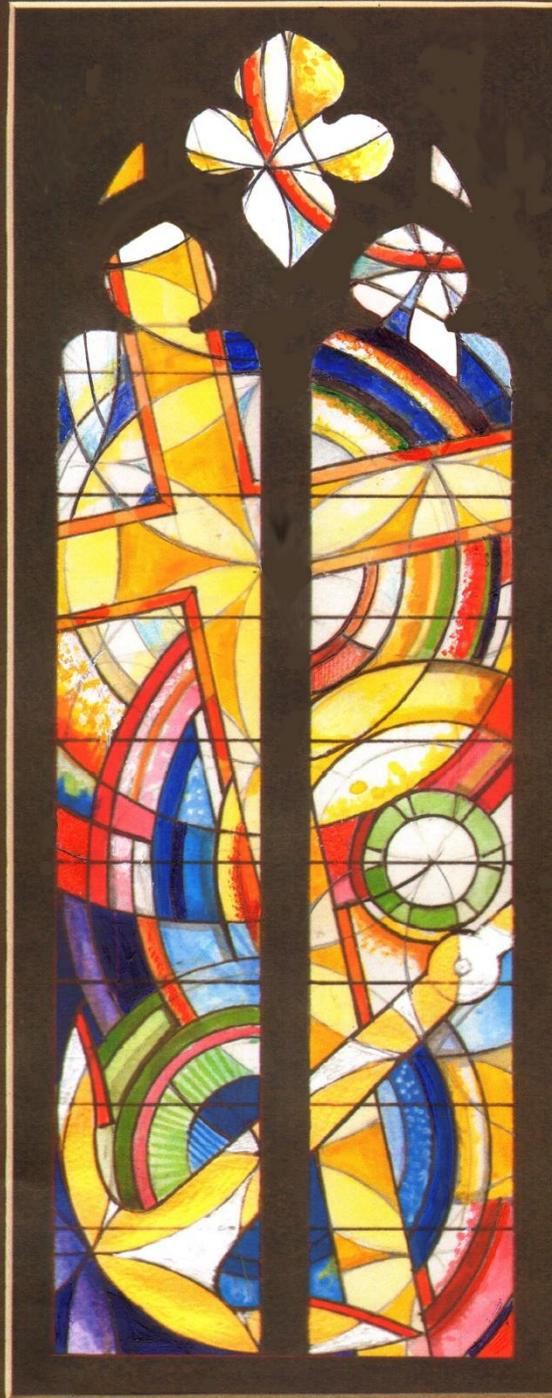
Central to the design is the cross, representing our **Faith** in the redeeming sacrifice of Christ and the promise of eternal redemption. At the base of the window is an anchor, the oldest of all Christian symbols and the traditional symbol of **Hope**. The anchor holds us fast and in safe harbour for the duration of this life, giving us rooted-ness and security, which is the promise of the Father. Creating the backdrop of the design are three prominent overlapping circles, their interconnectedness and continuity emphasising the **Love** of the Divine Trinity in Unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The position of the various elements are underpinned by the ancient geometrical pattern of the 6-fold 'flower of life' – an aspect of 'sacred geometry' seen fleetingly within the cross and the anchor, and extending upwards towards the top of the window. Lower light levels and strong colours at the base of the window are tempered by the use of surface gilding (gold and silver) on the anchor. Strong diagonals within the composition lead the eye upwards to the gleaming light of heaven at the top of the window.

The bold and playful use of colour, and the strong pattern-making, is intended to appeal to children and adults alike and to echo the simplicity of design and rich colouring of Evie Hone's East window. I have followed her lead in creating an individual and modern interpretation of this biblical passage.

Helen Whittaker, March 2019.

St. Michael's Church, Highgate  
Proposed Stained Glass - North Aisle



*The 'Hope' Window*