

Angelic items from St John's church in Bury St Edmunds.

Gedge Window (East window in Lady Chapel)

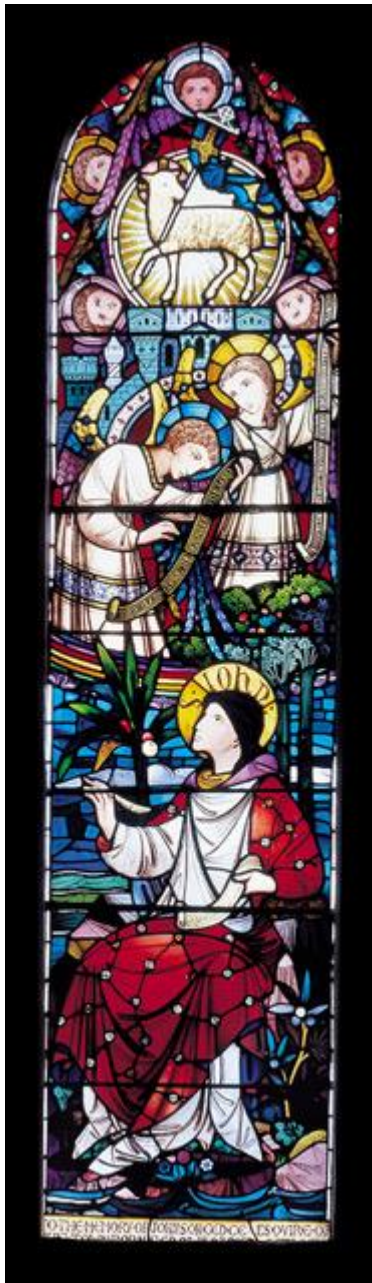
In this window, St John of Patmos is writing the final book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, on the Greek Island of Patmos.

There are three important 'St Johns' in the Bible: St John the Apostle, Jesus' Beloved Disciple; St John the Evangelist, author of the Gospel of St John; and St John of Patmos. However, the three are traditionally combined. St John, his name written in his halo, is shown in the act of writing, while interrupted by a vision of two angels, who hold a scroll showing the words of Revelation 14:13: 'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord'.

The window commemorates [Johnson Gedge](#), the editor of the *Bury & Norwich Post* for forty years, who died in 1863. His father, Peter, had helped establish the paper in 1782 and had been its editor. Gedge was also involved in the founding of St John's in 1841 and the family remained prominent members of the community for the rest of the century.

This window was designed by Heaton, Butler and Bayne in Covent Garden, London. They were one of the leading manufacturers of Gothic Revival stained glass in England, with commissions from leading architects and churches, including Westminster Abbey. The business was founded by Clement Heaton (1824-82) and James Butler (1830-1913) in 1855, changing its name in 1862 when one of their younger assistants, Robert Turnill Bayne (1837-1915), was made a partner.

Bayne became the company's sole designer, and experts note the 'clear hand of Bayne' in this particular window. Heaton, Butler and Bayne were the third largest suppliers of windows to Suffolk churches in the nineteenth century.



Wooden carving of St Michael the Archangel, German

In north aisle of St John's, it came to the church when St Michael's Convent in Northgate Street closed.



Reredos featuring St Michael the Archangel

St Michael is the left hand figure in the reredos alongside St Peter, St John and St George. The painted statues were installed on the Victorian reredos in 1947.



Peter Grieve Window in the north aisle

Designed by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, this window was installed in 1902 by Ann Grieve, the widow of [Peter Grieve](#), who had died in 1895, and of their daughter Lucy Ann who died in 1864 at the age of 12.

Peter was a well-known gardener and author, who is buried along with Ann (1822-1907) in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Culford. He was born in Berwickshire in 1811 and apprenticed at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, before becoming head gardener at the Benyon family's famous Culford Hall garden from 1847 to 1880.

In a single composition across two 'lights', this window shows the moment when St Mary Magdalene recognises Christ in the garden following his Resurrection, described in St John's Gospel. Having found the tomb where he was laid empty (along with the two angels shown to the left), she is very upset and asks a man whom she takes to be the gardener where Christ is. When he says her name, 'Mary', she realises that the gardener is in fact Christ. This mistake is represented by the spade lying by the edge of the image.



Detail showing angels



Further Angels ...

... feature as ancillary figures in the borders of other windows in the church.

Photo credits:

Gedge Window - Graham Portlock

All others - Myke Clifford