

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS & THE ROPES

Margaret Agnes Rope (Marga) was born in Shrewsbury in 1882 and lived in the town most of her public life/ She created beautifully jewelled stained-glass windows for churches all over the world; being heavily influenced by the later Arts & Crafts Movement. Her achievements have been under-valued down the years, possibly because she was fiercely independent, eschewing patronage. As a young woman, she defied convention, riding motor-bikes and smoking cheroots. In her late teens, after the death of her strictly Anglican Father, she converted to Catholicism, as did one of her brothers, who later became a Catholic priest and while in the seminary in Rome, met John Hawes. They remained life-long friends and this obviously explains Hawes connection with the artist. At the age of forty, Marga entered the Carmelite order of nuns where, with the permission of the prioress, she continued to produce great stained-glass works.

In 2016 an exhibition devoted totally to her works was held in Shrewsbury Museum. It included artefacts never publicly seen before. Fr Robert Cross visited the exhibition and the Pilgrimage 'In the Steps of John Hawes' visited Shrewsbury Cathedral to see some of her works in 2018.

Marga had a cousin **Margaret Edith Aldrich Rope (Tor)** who was also a stained-glass artist and she produced 2 of the Cathedral's windows as well as 1 in collaboration with Marga.

Margaret Agnes Rope (Marga) Windows are:

***The LeCaille** window donated by Mr W Bennett (Narthex)

***The Sacred Heart of the Risen Christ** window donated by Mrs Thomas of Mullewa (Narthex)

The **Bishop Kelly** window donated by the priests of the Diocese (North Aisle)

The **Mystical Rose/Tower of David** window donated by Mrs M Morrissey & her children (South Aisle)

*The **Gate of Heaven/Morning Star** window donated by the parents of Louis Rebbechi (South Aisle)

* Designed by Hawes

Margaret Enid Aldrich Rope (Tor) Windows are:

St Christopher (South Aisle)

St Peter donated by the members of the Cathedral Working Bee (South Aisle)

Joint Production – Marga and Tor

Mary of the Apocolypse/St Michael window donated by Mrs Williams (South Aisle)