

## **The Ministry Window**

*Notes by the artist, Nicholas Mynheer*

Central to the design is the ministry of Christ and his calling to us to minister to others. We see Christ ministering to the crowd in front of a boat, recalling both the miracles of the feeding of the five thousand (St Matt. 14 v.13-21), the feeding of the four thousand (St Matt. 15 v.29-39) as well as the miracle of Jesus walking on the water (St Matt. 14 v.22-35).

Jesus' hand (placed centrally in the design) holds a piece of broken bread, which is offered to us, recalling the words, 'I am the bread of Life' (St John. 6 v. 35) and 'I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever' (St John 6 v.51). But as we are handed the bread we are commissioned to share it for as St Catherine tells us, 'Christ has no hands but yours'.

The boat is a symbol of mission and the mast behind Jesus is a cross.

Beneath the crowd we see another act of ministry. This is a combination of the stories of the woman anointing Jesus at Bethany (St Matt. 26 v.6-13) and the account of the woman washing Jesus' feet and drying them with her hair (St Luke 7 v.37-38)

'I tell you the truth'

Wherever this gospel is preached

throughout the world,

what she has done will

also be told, in memory of her' (St Matt. 26 v.13)

As Jesus is ministered to by her he blesses her, in turn, ministering to her.

At the top of the design we see reference to the abolition of slavery; the breaking of chains. We cannot tell which the master, which the slave for slavery chains the master as well as the slave. It is only when the chain is broken that both are truly free.