The Creation Window

Notes by the artist, Nicholas Mynheer

The design tries to represent God's creation of Heaven and His subsequent creation of the world culminating in the creation of Man.

In Genesis we are told that God separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse and named the expanse Heaven.

The Garden of Eden is formed like a rain drop from Heaven. There is a sense of Heaven giving birth to the garden.

It reminds me of Julian of Norwich's vision of God holding the whole world in his hand which appears as a small nut.

'To see a whole world in a grain of sand,

And Heaven in a wild flower,

Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,

And Eternity in an hour' William Blake 'The Auguries of Innocence'

We see shapes recurring in creation because they come from one source. The stars are echoed in the starfish and the snowflakes. The leaf shape of Heaven is reflected in the fish shapes. The Flying fish resonates with the swallows in the sky.

God, Father, Son and Spirit breathe life into Adam; after all, 'Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?' *Rom 9 v 21*

Regent's Park College is referenced in the script at the top of the design:

Collegium de Principis cum Regentis Paradiso

We see the college community gathered around the Tree of Knowledge which, by working together, they endeavour to climb. I see this also as Man's natural inclination to look to and work towards God.

All our endeavours are as play to God. We glorify God through our creativity as children do through their re-creation, inadvertently echoing God's creation.

The Fallen Apple – is the apple that leads to the Fall of Man.

The Lily - a symbol of purity

The Whale – the great sea beast of creation, the whale also refers to Jonah who is swallowed and disgorged three days later (like Christ rising from the tomb on the third day). The whale's spout is depicted as a flowering lily (Jonah's rebirth).

The Stag - symbol of piety and religious aspiration. For me the stag, or hart, represents the mystery of God with its magical , otherworldly presence.

'As the hart panteth after the waters brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God'. Psalm 42:1

As the stag seeks freedom and refuge in the mountains it also symbolises solitude and purity of life.

Letters, numbers, musical symbols and words in various languages run through the waters.
Swallows – symbols of the Incarnation of Christ and of the Resurrection (because it was thought that the swallow hibernated in mud over winter until the Spring). For me they represent joyous life and the summer.

Moon and Sun – The sun is a symbol of Christ *'The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings ' - (Malachi 4 :2)*

The sun and moon together are often represented in scenes of the crucifixion to indicate the sorrow of all creation at the death of Christ.

One of the fish (lower left) is tinted gold referring to the fish in the college crest.

The Tortoise – Emmanuelle the college tortoise!