

## Other Features within the Building



The large wooden feature near the entranceway to the Centre is called the Reredos. In 1603 all churches were required to set up boards displaying the ten commandments behind the altar.

This Reredos is believed to be the work of John & William Etty and was installed in the 18th Century. At the top of the Reredos is an image of the Dove representing the Holy Spirit and an

unusually youthful figure of St Michael slaying the dragon.

Opposite the Reredos is the West Door which is also 18th Century.

The Oval panel above the door is the Coat of Arms for King George IV and the long boards to the left of the door contain the names of members of the Parish who held the office of Lord Mayor.



In the far left corner of the Centre is the mechanism which powers the clock on the outside of the building.

This was installed in 1896 by Neweys of York and still works

today. The clock is powered by a weight which is winched up to the top of the building and takes a week to fall.



Thank you for showing an interest in our ancient building and its historical features. The Centre has seen many changes through its long life and we are pleased to play a part in this current chapter.

You might be interested to know that the Centre sees well over 2500 people through its doors per week and all the profits from the commercial work are donated to St Michael's York Trust.

This charity provides listening and counselling for many people by trained members of a pastoral team. The staff pray for people on a daily basis so please feel free to leave a prayer request.

Thanks again for your visit, please come again and may God bless you during the rest of your time in York.

More information about the Centre is available on our website at [www.thespurriergatecentre.com](http://www.thespurriergatecentre.com)



St Michael's Church  
Spurriergate, York YO1 9QR  
(01904) 629393

[www.thespurriergatecentre.com](http://www.thespurriergatecentre.com)  
Charity No 519912

# windows through time

The architecture and stained glass within the Spurriergate Centre, York



### What's in a Name.....?

The Spurriergate Centre was opened in 1989 as a Christian Centre offering refreshment and a listening ear to the many people who live, work in or visit York.

It is named after the original church building it now occupies - St Michael's Spurriergate. The name Spurriergate refers to the tradesmen who occupied this street in the 15th Century - the Spurmakers.

There has been a church on this site since the time of the Norman Conquests and the building has seen many changes in its long history. The oldest parts of the building are the slender pillars holding up the roof dating from the 12th Century.

The building has seen a number of structural changes including the foreshortening of the building when the East wall was rebuilt in 1821. This work was done to widen the street and resulted in the half arch that can be seen near the main entrance to the Centre.

The tower was lowered in the 1960's and the Centre still houses a full set of bells which are rung frequently.

Please feel free to wander and have a look. You can get particularly close to some splendid stained glass if you go upstairs to the Cloisters.

### Windows through Time

The Centre has an excellent collection of 15th Century stained glass which was restored after its safe storage through the 2nd World War by Dean E. Milner-White.

There are many different scenes and characters; a brief description of some and their location is set out below.

### The Angels Window (1)

This 15th Century window shows the nine orders of Angels - identified by their various costumes on alternating red and blue backgrounds.



### Noah's Ark (2)

It is quite rare to see a form of transport in an old window.

The boat in this panel is thought to represent Noah's Ark but the true meaning is unknown.



Other features of this window are St Margaret slaying a dragon, a knight with a sword and a king & queen who appear to have no shoes on!

### St John the Baptist and The Woman Clothed with the Sun (3)

The character on the left of this window is John the Baptist. He is dressed in camel skin and is holding a book with the Lamb of God on it.

The image on the right of this window is a combination of The Woman clothed in the Sun - taken from the book of Revelation chapter 11 and the fall of Lucifer (another name for Satan). He can be seen, along side another Devil and a fallen angel.



### The Roundels (4,5 & 6)

The Centre houses many roundels within its stained glass - a detail of one is featured on the cover of this leaflet. Most of these were the work of John Barnett in 1820 -21 and one even has his signature on it.

If you've got time why not try and find it!

