



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

# REREDOS PAINTING



Photo :Lois Rainee

The St Teilo Reredos Painting of the Five Wounds

## *Description*

The painting of the five wounds of Christ was made as a reredos to stand on a block of timber placed on the Jesus altar at St Teilo's. It is encased in a simple wooden frame, painted black. Brown wood tones are employed for the cross, flesh colours for hands, feet and heart (with blood-coloured wounds, where holes are shown on the original), and metal grey/white for the three nails, against a very dark red background.

## *Measurements*

Height: 700 mm; Width: 500 mm; wooden frame c. 75mm wide. The painting echoes the proportions of the Beaton Panel described below, but is scaled to the Jesus chapel and window sill at St Teilo's.

## *Model*

Various late medieval depictions of the five wounds were analysed, including representations on roof bosses, bench ends, late fifteenth-century painted woodblocks, and the banner carried at the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536). These variously informed the colour scheme of the St Teilo reredos, although the principal model is one of a series of eight carved oak 'Beaton Panels', now in the National Museum of Scotland. These were made c. 1530 for Cardinal David Beaton (1494–1546), Abbot of Arbroath and later Archbishop of St Andrews, and feature two-dimensional woodwork with open tracery; the panel in question depicts the Arma Christi, where two angels support the shield depicting the coat of arms devised for Christ. The St Teilo reredos takes only the central section, where the pierced heart is placed centrally against the upright of the cross, surmounted by the letters INRI, with hands and feet projecting corner-wise, flanked by the three nails.

## *Craftsperson*

Lois Raine, specialist painter, Exeter, Devon (<http://www.loisraine.co.uk/>)

## *Bibliography*

Reproduction of the Beaton Panels at [nms.scran.ac.uk/000-100-000-727-C](http://nms.scran.ac.uk/000-100-000-727-C).

*Late Medieval Liturgies Enacted: The Experience of Worship in Cathedral and Parish Church*, ed. Sally Harper, Paul Barnwell and Magnus Williamson (forthcoming, 2014).

*Note compiled by Sally Harper*

