

Church of St Oswald, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

Notes on the Turnbull Window from a leaflet prepared by Prebendary Derek Tinsley

Monica and Dorothea Turnbull died tragically at the ages of 22 and 20. Their father had bought an oil table lamp and, despite being warned it must not be carried alight, picked it up and as he reached the door of the dining room, the lamp burst into flames setting Dorothea's dress alight. Monica rushed to her aid and her dress also caught fire. Both died, Monica within a few days and Dorothea some eight weeks later.

On the left St Barbara is depicted with the face of Monica superimposed. To the right St. Dorothea has the face of Dorothea. St Cecilia, sleeping, is the centrepiece where angels have crept around to play the organ. The chalice above the head of Monica was copied from the chalice used at Holy Communion in the church given as a memorial to the two girls. Barbara's right hand holds a sword revealing the cloak and around her feet are daisies and crocuses. The Garden of Eden is the bottom left-hand picture.

Below St Cecilia's hand is a rose bush with three linnets, a pair of robins and a blue tit sitting on the tub. The face of the angel ascending in a ball of flame is that of the artist's daughter, Veronica. Sun shining through the lower central window with the little flecks of white glass in the yellow shows up the path above the gate that leads from the thorns of this world to the Celestial City. Dorothea is surrounded with peach bushes and a grapevine is draped around her. In her lap she holds a lap full of roses. On her dress the artist has placed a peony, a Chinese pagan flower. The bottom picture depicts the Fountain of Youth. The glass below the picture contains designs of various plant seeds; oak, ash, poppy and grass.