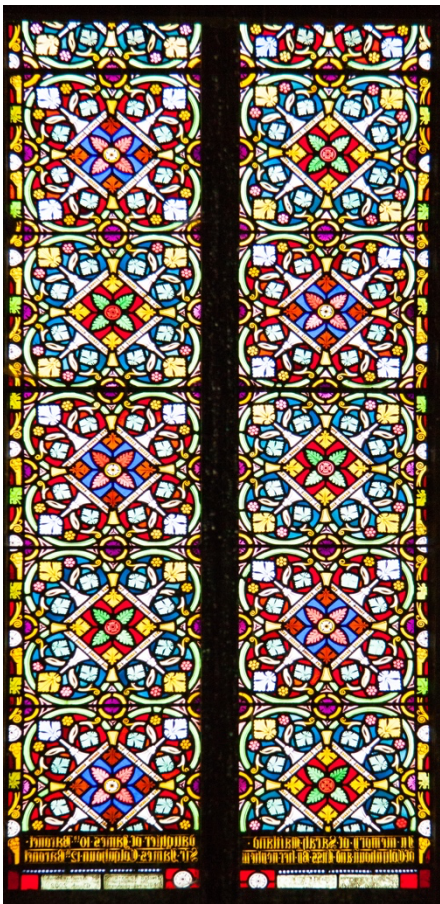


Arrochar Church Stained Glass Windows

Stained-glass windows were, historically a didactic tool to bring the word of God to the illiterate masses.

In medieval times only those from well to do families, or those who entered the church would have been able to read and write or understand Latin, and to make things doubly difficult the Bible was not translated into Gaelic until the mid -18th century although English translations had appeared much earlier. Stained-glass, therefore, was an important teaching medium.



Lack of wealth means that Scotland does not have a rich heritage of medieval stained-glass like that to be found in England or other parts of Europe.

Any stained-glass that did exist was banished by the dictates of the Reformation churchmen in the 16th Century.

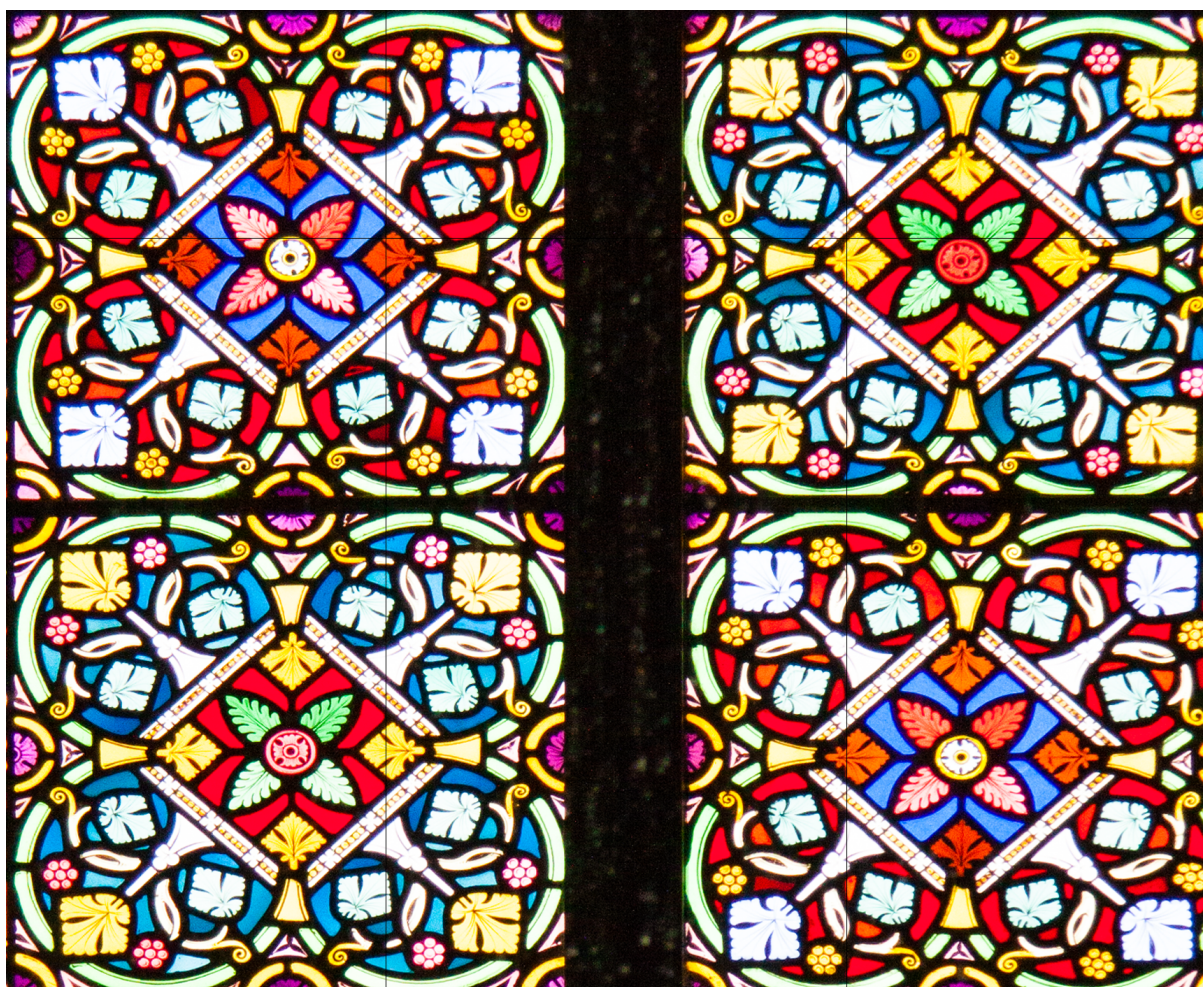
For almost 300 years there was little, if any, stained-glass to be found in Scottish churches.

Towards the middle of the 19th Century stained-glass windows began to reappear in churches, but not in the form previously seen. The church decreed exactly what could, and could not, be depicted. There was to be no figurative drawing, there was to be no doctrinal content, geometric patterns only were permitted.

Towards the end of the 19th Century reforms allowed more illustrative windows to be installed again.

The window above the door is a fine example of a very intricate geometric style of permitted decoration.

See more detail overleaf.



This window is a memorial to Sarah Maitland, daughter of James Colquhoun, 10th Baronet and Janet Sinclair.

Sarah was born on 8th August 1802 and died at Rosdhu House on 28th January 1865.

The window was donated by her nephew Sir James Colquhoun, 12th Baronet. The window, originally in Luss Church was erected in Arrochar Church in 2002 to mark the refurbishment of our church.

In memory of Sarah Maitland
of Colquhoun and Luss Bn her nephew

daughter of James 10th Baronet
Sir James Colquhoun 12th Baronet