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5 April 2011 Last updated at 09:16

In pictures: Holy Trinity's 'link' with York Minster



The book, *The Gate of Heaven*, is also dedicated to Mr Filsell's late father who was assistant diocesan secretary at Holy Trinity Church for many years. Part of the funds from the book will go back to the church and help purchase stock.

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The creators of a new book of photographs looking in detail at Coventry's Holy Trinity Church say they have discovered a possible link between the church and York Minster. They both have the design of a bird with a spider in their stained glass windows.

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The book unveils rare views of the building and will raise funds for the church. Simon Filsell, one of the photographers, began as a choirboy and later became Head Chorister. He said: "I have known that the Medieval glass was at the back of the church but as a completely random collection of fragments, I never studied them."



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John Thornton, a well-known Coventry glazier from the 15th century, created windows at York Minster in North Yorkshire. Mr Filsell said: "Having sung in many cathedrals, I was aware of the miren at York. When I saw the image of the bird and spider at Holy Trinity, I questioned a connection. But with no records we can only speculate."



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Most of the Medieval glass at Holy Trinity Church was destroyed in the blitz, but a few fragments remain intact. Mr Filsell added: "The link would almost certainly be John Thornton. It could be that a bird was produced from his workshop in Coventry, just as the wren in York's Zouch Chapel was definitely produced in York."

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Talking about the origin of the design, Mr Filsell said: "Church craftsmen took subjects from nature to embellish their work. Holy Trinity has three representations of the Green Man, even though it's mainly a Pagan image, so a bird eating a spider would not be out of place. However, it remains fairly unique"