

# Lochranza St Bride's Church

## A Story in Glass

*This is an extract from an article by Evie Robson, first published in "The West Side Story" Parish Magazine of January 1991*

In November 1977 The Free Church in Lochranza (now Castlekirk B & B) closed upon expiry of the feu charter and the then Interim Moderator of the congregation was anxious that the exceptionally beautiful stained glass window, incorporated in the building, should be preserved in the Parish Church to remain on view there.

In due course, the window was set within the inner walls, in two separate panels, lit from behind, as they are seen now at the pulpit end of The Church. At that time, the history of the window was perhaps largely unknown to a number in the congregation, as it was to visitors. The amount of interest shown in the work and the many ideas propounded regarding the subject, have prompted me to place the following history on record.

(sic) The window was the gift of a lady, Mrs Kerr, in commemoration of the good deeds of her husband, who, in his time had been a man of wide sympathies, which found expression in the many deeds of unostentatious benevolence.

The dominant idea of the picture is found in the words *"In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me"*, which words are to be found in the parable of the Talents (Matthew C25/V40)

The chief figure to the spectator's right, the "faithful servant", holds the scroll of authority and is handing over the keys of trust. Behind him are a woman and child, representing the poor.

The picture thus visualises, in a reverent spirit, an incident of the parable, and may be looked upon as adequately commemorating the kindly deeds of a warm-hearted man.

The stained glass, as it is today, was executed in 1917 by Messrs. J & W Guthrie and Andrew Wells Ltd., a well known Glass staining firm in Glasgow, from a design by James Gordon Guthrie, one of the foremost designers of decorative Glass-staining work in America, at the time.