

Dinton Church Lamps and Three of the Stained Glass Windows

There is a brass plaque on the North wall of Dinton Church and the inscription reads:

To The Glory of God
And in loving memory of
Emma Ripley Bland
the lamps in this Church are dedicated
by her sister and three nieces
September MDCCCXC



Emma Ripley Bland (1818-1890) was the eldest daughter of Joseph and Ann Bland (nee Ripley) and was born in Middlesex. The Ripleys were a successful family of merchants who had a number of ships trading with China. Her father, Joseph who was also a successful merchant in London, moved to Liverpool in 1844 becoming one of the 'Merchant Princes of Liverpool'.

The 1871 Census shows that Emma was an Independent Lady, visiting or lodging at Upper Farm, Upton which was the farm bailiff's house with her sister Julia's daughter, Julia Bland Holmes. Lower Farm Upton, was owned by Frances Roads. In 1871 Emma commissioned George Devy, the eminent Victorian architect, to design and build 'Grassholme', now called 'Dinton Croft' and she moved in during 1872 together with her niece Julia Bland Holmes.

During 1883 The Bucks Herald records Emma helping with the flowers in the church together with her other sister, Frances Welles Bland. On the 24th May 1890 Emma died and was buried in the same grave as her brother Joseph in Dinton churchyard.

Later that year Frances, her sister, had the lamps installed and the brass plate erected. The three nieces it refers to are Julia Bland Burton, Emily Edith Seymour Holmes and Adela Anne Holmes.



The Rev. Charles Henry Burton was the vicar of Dinton from 1869 to 1879 and the 1871 Census records that he lived in the Vicarage with his wife, Lydia and their four children, Emiline, Ernest, Hilda and Basil. They had a cook, a parlour maid, a housemaid and an under housemaid.

On the 23rd July 1871 Emiline died and her father and mother had a stained glass window erected in her memory on the north wall.



In 1877 his wife Lydia Helen, aged 54, died and the Rev. Burton had a stained glass window made and dedicated to her in Dinton Church.

It is on the south wall of the Chancel and the subject is 'Three Children'

Between 1872 and 1879 Emma's brother Joseph, who had been living in Shanghai, China, stayed with her. He died in on the 3rd May 1879 and is buried in Dinton Churchyard

On 31st July 1879 the Rev. Charles Henry Burton and Emma Ripley Bland's niece, Julia Bland Holmes were married. He was 62 and she was 26. The witnesses were her brother James Piercy Holmes and her two sisters Emily Edith Seymour Holmes and Adela Anne Holmes. The couple moved to The Rectory, Huggate, Yorkshire with the Rev Burton's youngest son, Basil. Julius Henry Burton was born in 1880, Julia Caroline Burton in 1881 and Walter Holmes Burton in 1884.

On the 30th March 1885 the Rev Charles Henry Burton died aged 67 and his widow Julia Bland Burton had a stained glass window made and dedicated to him in Dinton Church.

It is in the north wall of the Chancel, in the centre, entitled 'Baptism of Christ'.

