

All Saints, Birchington

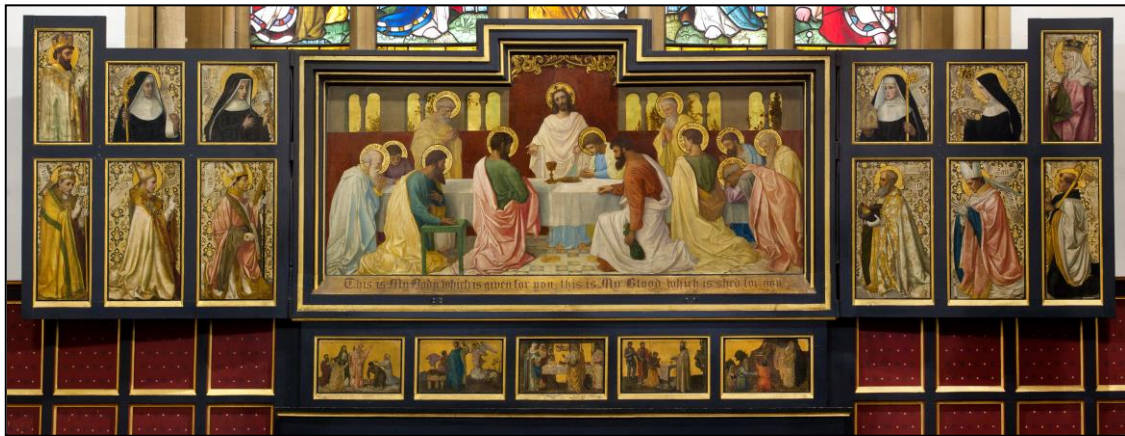
The Reredos

Extract from the Isle of Thanet Gazette
11.11.1882

The offertories during the day were given to the fund for the completion of the painting of the reredos and brought the amount now in hand up to £80. The total required was £100 for painting the inside of the panels of the wings and we are pleased to hear that the deficiency has since been very kindly made up by a parishioner, so that this portion of the work can now be taken in hand and will be a great addition to the beauty of the church.

Some time ago a "friend" promised to bear the expense of painting the small panels of the predella (at the base of the main central panel) as soon as the money was raised for painting the wings. This having now been done, £25, the amount required, has been sent to the Vicar so that the whole of the work may now be taken in hand and will greatly add to the beauty of the church.

We are informed that the artist is at present fully occupied with previous commissions but as soon as they are completed he will commence the work.



The work was undertaken by Nathaniel Herbert John Westlake (1833-1921), to the design by C. N. Beazley and completed in 1883 at a final cost of £257. The central panel represents the Last Supper, the study for which was exhibited at the Royal Academy, where it was much admired. Christ stands in the centre with outstretched hands in the act of giving thanks and blessing the sacred elements. Each of the Apostles has a halo which holds his name, except for Judas who holds the bag of coins in hand and no halo and no name. The Chalice and Paten depicted on the Holy Table are exact copies of those in use in the Church today.