

## 2443 : ST. LEONARD THE LESS SAMLESBURY

WEST WINDOW REPAIR : ANCIENT GLASS INSERTS



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**INTRODUCTION**

The ancient glass inserts form part of the west end window to St. Leonard the Less Church in Samlesbury which is a Grade II listed church south of Preston.

**HISTORY**

It is written that in 1892 all pieces of old glass had been collected from the aisle windows and relocated into the west window. The glass inserts consists of three monograms on shields with circular borders and a figure of the Virgin which is in fragments. See photographs below. The monograms could date from the restoration of the church in 1558 as the coronets could be recognising the Earl of Derby and his sponsorship of the church's rebuilding.

**THE REPAIR**

The window is in need of stone tracery repair with some stone replacement and it was envisaged that the ancient glass inserts could be retained in their current state and condition in their current positions within the west window. On further inspection by our glazing specialists, Pendle Stained Glass, they realised the ancient glass was in a worse state than anticipated and recommended the advice of a specialist glass conservator. Jonathan and Ruth Cooke Ltd of Ilkley, West Yorkshire were approached and they have forwarded their recommendations which is included within this document.

**INTERIM RESOLUTION**

In order to move forward with masonry repairs already started at the church we sought emergency advice from the DAC. Jonathan and Ruth Cooke recommended the introduction of a plain glazed section into the existing glazing to enable the project to move forward and not be further delayed. This would enable the ancient glass to be re-introduced at a later date into the west end window once adequately repaired as set out in the recommendations by Jonathan and Ruth Cooke.

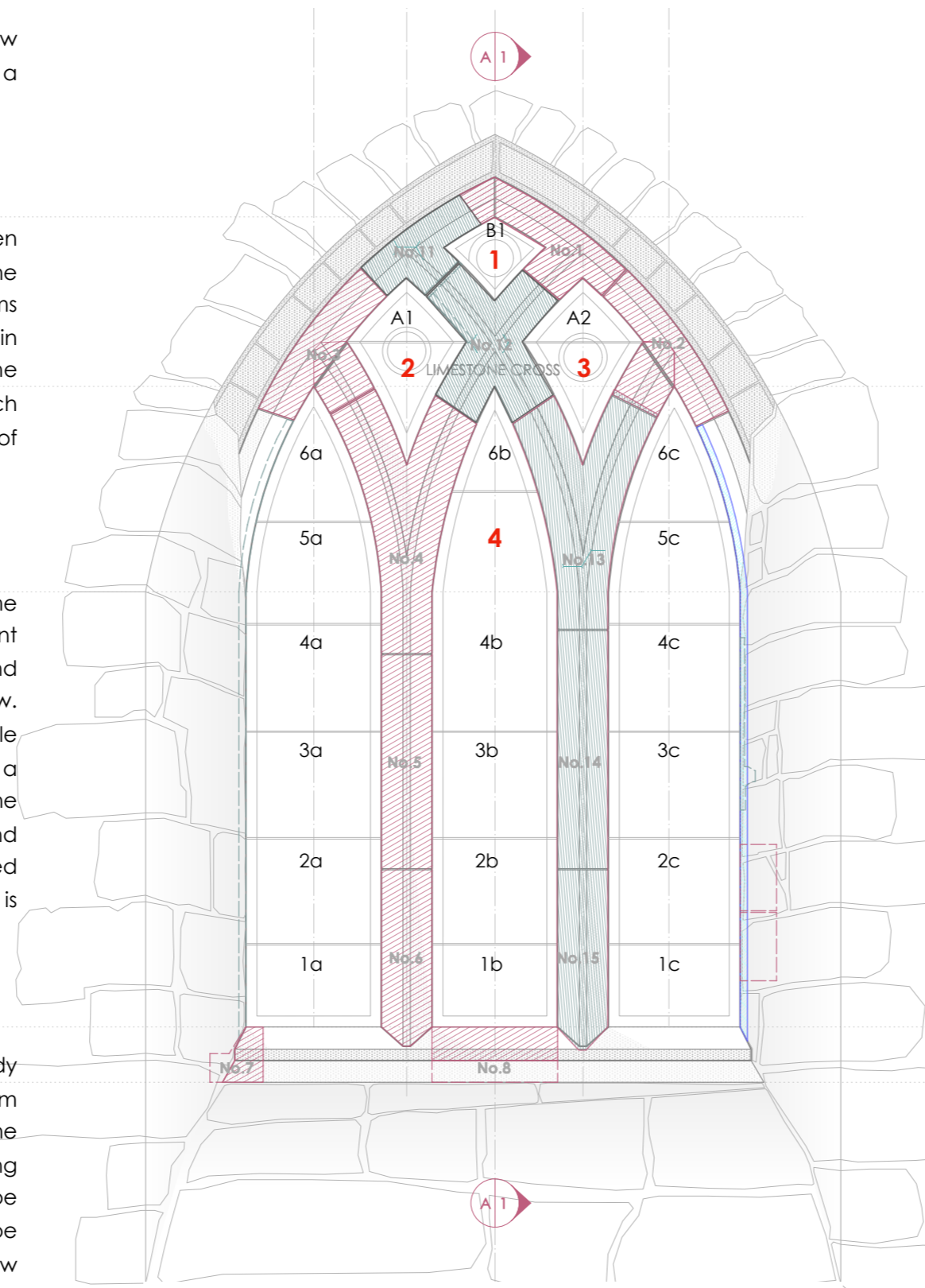
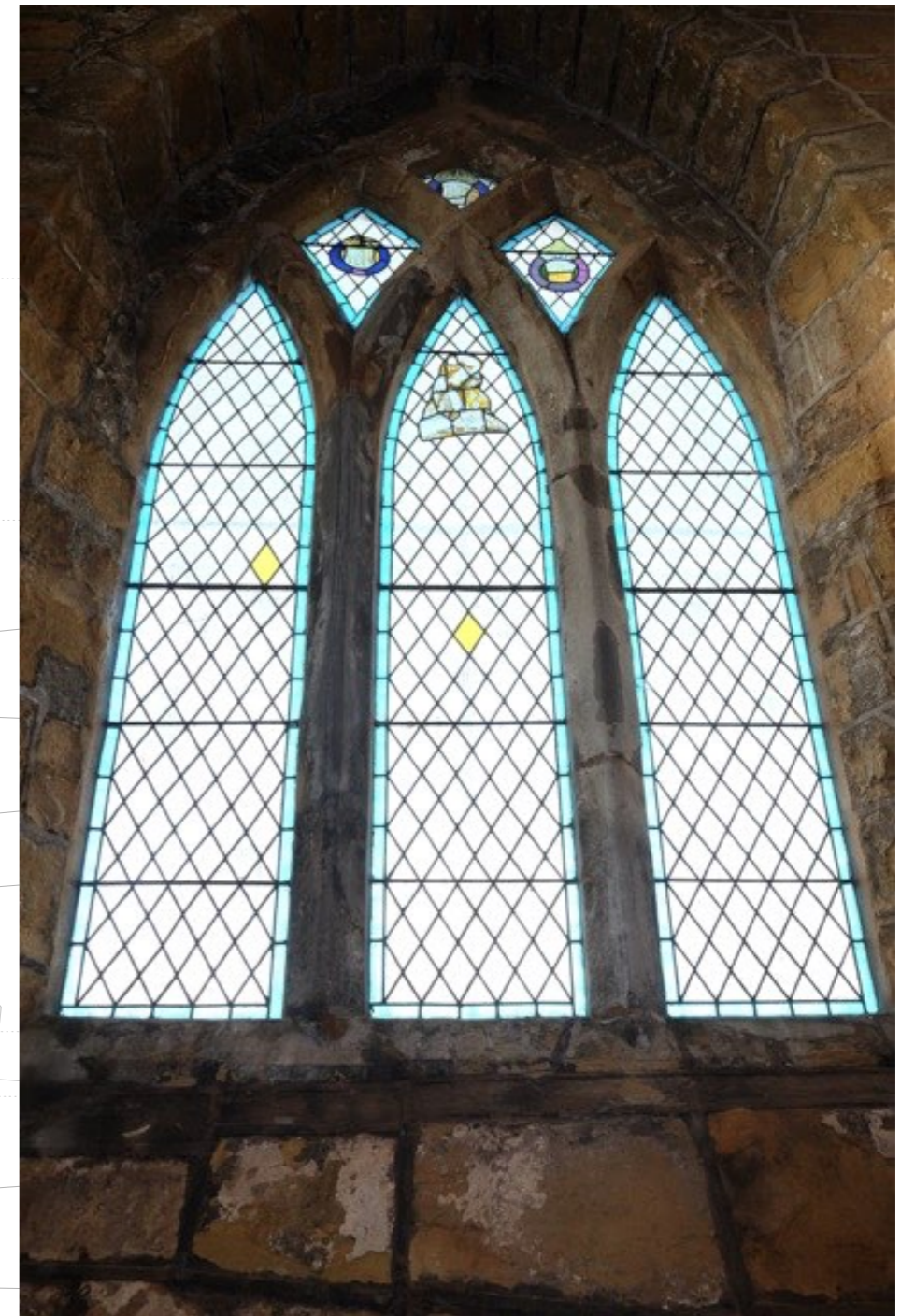


Diagram of the west window internal view with 4no. glass inserts numbered in red



Photograph of the west window internal view showing 4no. glass inserts



**MEDIEVAL GLASS INSERT NO. 1**

Window tracery B1



"MONOGRAM 'IHS' set on a ruby ground enclosed within a blue circular border unsigned with a crown. White, blue and ruby glass with black paint and yellow stain c1530-60. Monogram incomplete, with leaded and unleaded breaks; portions of border and ground replaced by stopgaps, including drapery and hand holding a book (late 15th/early 16th c) slight paint loss from monogram and crown. Leading decayed."

H 0.32m approx. W 0.26m approx.

**MEDIEVAL GLASS INSERT NO. 2**

Window tracery A1



"MONOGRAM 'IHS' set on a yellow ground enclosed within a blue circular border unsigned with a crown. White, yellow and blue glass, with black paint and yellow stain. c1530-60 Crown cut down, with leaded breaks; stop gap in border."

d. 0.26m approx.



**MEDIEVAL GLASS INSERT NO. 3**

Window tracery A2



"MONOGRAM 'IHS' set on a green ground enclosed within a mauve circular border unsigned with a crown. White, green and mauve glass, with black paint and yellow stain. c 1530-60. Unleaded break across the monogram, the lower part of which is missing and patched; border partly restored; heavy paint loss."

H. 0.32m approx. W 0.26m approx.



**MEDIEVAL GLASS INSERT NO. 4**

Window tracery 4b



"Fragments of a broken up figure of the Virgin holding a closed book and sceptre on a chequered base. The hand holding the book and other fragments are used to patch the topmost roundel. "

"Fragments of a figure of the Virgin, including a crowned head facing to sinister, a hand holding a sceptre, an ermine gown on a white floor diapered with annulets, drapery fragments, and chequered floor. Stain splashed on Virgin's face. White glass, with black paint and yellow stain. Late 15th/early 16th c. Leaded break across head, slight paint loss, pitting. Leading decayed, with panel buckling inwards. "

H 0.38m approx. W 0.38m approx.

Text taken from CVMA Lancashire Volume 2009 pp308-9  
Catalogued by Penny Hebgin Barnes



**RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION OF MEDIEVAL GLASS BY  
JONATHAN AND RUTH COOKE LTD.**

JONATHAN & RUTH COOKE LTD  
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**Salmesbury St Leonard  
(Diocese of Blackburn)**

**Proposal for conservation of ancient glass in w1**

**Executive summary**

Window w1, cathedral quarry glazing of c1867, incorporates late C15 - early C16 stained glass in the central light and all three traceries, photographed by the National Monuments Record (NMR) in 2002 and catalogued by Penny Hebgin Barnes for CVMA Lancashire volume 2009 pp308 -9, *q.v.* (attached PDF)

The proposal is for the conservation of this glass by means of an internally ventilated system; the current restoration project to the window did not include for any work to the historically significant stained and painted glass.

**Preliminary comments**

We were invited by David Moore of Pendle Stained Glass (PSG) to advise on the ancient glass during their restoration of this window; we attended their workshop on 1st February. We saw the glass, and discussed the best means of conserving it, while allowing the window to be reinstated in the more immediate term for practical reasons; we also gave an informal indication of likely costs. We were invited on 5th March by the inspecting architect, Jill Cowgill of IWA, to submit a costed proposal for consideration by the DAC. Due to the circumstances, we have not undertaken a full assessment of the glass and are unable to provide images to support the proposal; these can be provided by PSG who have images of the window prior to removal and on their bench.

JONATHAN COOKE ACR  
RUTH COOKE BA (ECON)  
THOMAS COOKE MA HISTORY OF ART  
VAT REGISTRATION NUMBER 780 3194 28  
REGISTERED NUMBER 4463255

**Notes on the glass and outline recommendations**

A roughly triangular fragment of green glass - approximating to a square inch of material forming the top section of the sacred monogram in A2, showing on the 2002 image as fractured but secure within the leads has been lost. This loss is of recent date; PSG have an image of the window *in situ*, still complete, and one prior to removal showing its loss. We understand that a search for the missing piece on site proved unsuccessful.

There are numerous other fractured pieces throughout the four panels, some of which are visible in the NMR photographs.

Given the significance of the building and the glazing, its present condition and environment, an internally ventilated environmental protection system (isothermal glazing) is indicated as the best available means for conservation of the medieval stained and painted glass.

As noted above, this glass occupies four small areas within the window; three small lights of a "Y" tracery and a fragmentary figure in the upper part of *b* light:

for the main light figure we have recommended consideration be given to creation of an isothermal panel for the conserved glass within the main light, rather than a system for the entire light, as being a more cost effective option and for ease of maintenance. It would also permit removal of a single panel if required for exhibition purposes.<sup>1</sup>

for the three tracery panels, we have recommended kiln-distorted sheet glazing with a perimeter lead as the outer envelope<sup>2</sup>, releading and framing the historic glass

The fragmentary figure has been removed from its leads by PSG; at present the traceries remain in their c1860 leads, which are oxidised and at the point of structural collapse. Although an environmental protection system would prolong the effective life of the lead, given that it would no longer be exposed and have to fulfil the function of keeping out the weather, its role being limited to support of the glass, the condition of these panels is so poor that our recommendation is for complete releading.

A digital photographic, diagrammatic and written record of conservation, created and deposited with appropriate authorities (by We Transfer or DVD as preferred) has been included in the cost of recommended work but we have not allowed for any additional expenses which could be incurred due to additional requirements attaching to grants which might be obtained.

<sup>1</sup> We have adopted this method at Malpas (Diocese of Chester), Boughton Aluph (Diocese of Canterbury) Coates by Stow (Diocese of Lincoln) and Wath (near Ripon: now Anglican Diocese of Leeds)

<sup>2</sup> we understand that the project includes for polycarbonate externally, so the visual impact of sheet glazing is not a consideration

## Outline specification and provisional method statement

### a) treatment of outer glazing (PSG)

This is already nearly complete; carried out by PSG. We understand that re-leading of the cathedral quarry glazing to all three main lights has been carried out with kiln distorted glass occupying the position of the stained and painted glass in *b* light in anticipation of conservation of the stained glass. Kiln-distorted sheet glazing with perimeter leads has been prepared for installation to the three tracery lights for the same reason.

This glazing will be installed w/c/ 11th March in the existing glazing groove, leaving the external appearance effectively unchanged, and incorporating new internal bronze saddle bars throughout as previously specified by PGS, and above and below the figure in *b* light ½" or ¾" square section (tbc). On installation of the glazing, these two bars will not be mortared, to allow for adjustments at the time of the return of the stained glass.

### b) proposed treatment of stained and painted glass (J&RC)<sup>3</sup>

following conservation work to these panels, making up into isothermal panels using internal frame of U section CZ114 manganese bronze attached to new bronze saddle bars.

Crating and delivery by PSG to our workshop  
 Photographs prior to work and full assessment of condition of glass and pigment  
 Following a full assessment a range of conservation measures would include some or all of following:

Cleaning: any wet cleaning under controlled conditions using deionised water/dry cleaning with squirrel hair brushes, and fine fibre brushes under controlled conditions  
 Replacement of intrusive mending leads with Araldite 20:20 infill.

Copper foiling or bespoke string leads. Otherwise, possibility of reduction of mending lead sizes to improve clarity of main lead matrix

Edge bonding of cracked pieces with Araldite 20:20 or other appropriate conservation grade epoxy resin/silicone.

<sup>3</sup> It is PSG's preferred option for work to be carried out by us at our premises. Installation would be joint with PGS, who would also arrange interior close working access

Treatment of *lacuna*: our preference would be for a piece painted to blend with original, initialled and dated above lead flange

Photographs following work prior to reinstatement in the window  
 Reinstatement in frames within recess of window - with PSG  
 Completion of conservation record in format agreed prior to start of project

We are willing to carry out all works for the fixed sum of

£3000 + VAT

Valid 12 months from date

Ruth Cooke  
 7th March 2019