

Submission of Casework to the Church Buildings Council – Church of St Mary the Virgin, Holyrood St (or sometimes listed as Church St), Chard, Somerset TA20 2DN

1. Target Date: submission for consideration by the CBC at 24th July meeting, submission deadline 15th July.
2. Submitted by: Ian Jones, Church Member on behalf of St Mary the Virgin, PCC, Chard, Somerset in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Address: Holyrood St., Chard TA20 2DN. Historic England Listing 1297140.
3. Contact details: Ian Jones, Hornsbury Hill Farm, Hornsbury Hill, Chard, Somerset. TA20 3DB Tel: 07801 627156. Email: hackston.jones87@gmail.com
4. Authorisation to approach CBC: See Annex A attached.
5. Draft Statement of Significance (Taken from a previous Faculty submission 2018): see Annex B attached.
6. Brief Description of Circumstances generating this Submission.

We arrived at our 31st Dec 2023 Sunday Service to find that a number of our church windows had suffered petty vandalism in the post-Christmas period, part of a pattern of vandalism to other churches and properties in our town of Chard. I reported the vandalism to the police obtaining a Crime Reference number; thereafter there was no contact from the police.

Two windows suffered damage –

The First Window - Window 711 from the 1987 NADFAS Report, the West Window on the South Aisle

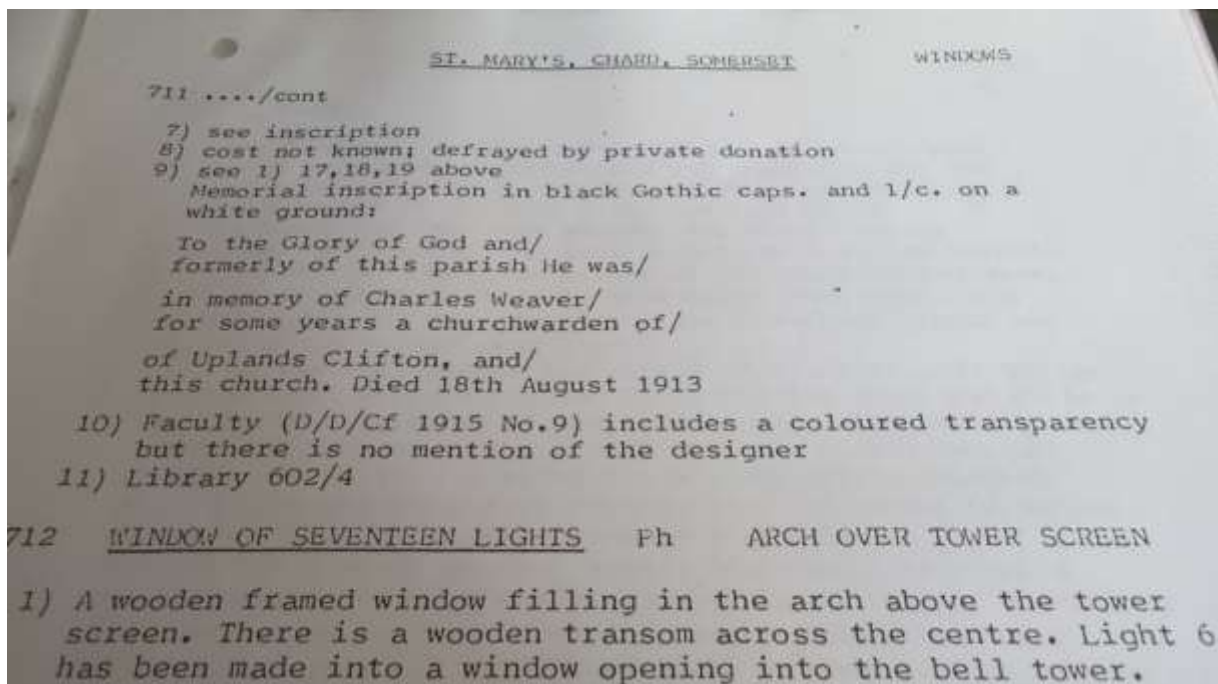




Image shown is pre-vandalism which occurred to the lower right-hand panel.



Post-vandalism



Retrieved Panel



Other Sections of Broken Glass retrieved from surrounding Area

The Second Window is on the South elevation, seen from the South Aisle:



Vandalised Window showing entire lower left panel destroyed and a triangular section of the hopper missing.



Second window seen from the exterior, but not showing the hopper, nor one or two individual panes of clear diamond glass showing damage which may be attributable to this incident.

7. Actions following the Report of the Crime: Following the advice of clergy, I immediately reported this vandalism to the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) Bath and Wells, Secretary, Jacqui Careira-White and to Alison Cruickshank Archdeaconry Assistant to the Taunton Archdeaconry and early indications were that the repairs might be carried out under an emergency faculty. In parallel to my report and awaiting replies and advice, I reported the vandalism to the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company and sought 3 quotations for repair. After 6 weeks, in response to the costings, an insurance settlement was agreed upon. About that time, I was then advised by the DAC Sec that the work contrary to earlier thoughts, would have to be covered by a full faculty for the stained glass window and a Schedule B application for the clear glazed window, and that it would have been beneficial to have included an architect at the earliest stages. I then sought advice from architect Annie Evans and she has produced a report which I include at Annex C.

Of the 3 contractors approached for repairs, following visits by all, one pulled out early in the costing process, and one was significantly higher in cost and also employed a glass painter “with no apparent conservation skills” according to the DAC assessor. The final contractor, J M Glass was both the cheapest and approved by the DAC and his quotation is at Annex D. One or two minor queries were raised by the architect and put to JM Glass regarding his procedures and his replies have satisfied her. I can provide these on request.

The stained glass window repair is a straight repair, however, the clear glass window with damage in 2 main areas and some individual panes was showing an overall weakness of structure when examined by J M Glass. It was determined that to repair the section you see in

the above image, the whole light would have to be removed. It was therefore considered an opportunity to remove all 3 main lights and tracery lights as per the second part of his quote and have them re-constructed using the existing glass and new lead came, which is what we will be applying to do. Currently each main light flexes significantly when compared to the lights in an adjacent window. Furthermore, and in accordance with architect, Annie Evans' and J M Glass' recommendations, stone mullions will be protected by tipping horizontal support bars with stainless steel and I have also discussed with her, and had 2 inspections by conservation contractors to carry out minor repairs to stonework on the mullions comprising micro-pointing with lime although the preferred contractor for this, Corbel Conservation wished to examine the mullions further once the window lights have been removed. Any such work would be described, notified to, and done with the full knowledge of our architect and the DAC.

8. My Request: I seek consultation regarding this repair and your valued advice for presenting to the DAC Assessor. I am further required to consult with the Victorian Society regarding this repair which I will do.

Ian Jones

For St Mary's PCC, Chard

6th July 2024

Annexes:

A: Submission of Casework to the Church Buildings Council (CBC) – Authorisation to Consult the CBC.

B: Draft Statement of Significance.

C: Note of Advice following Vandalism at Chard St Mary (Architect's Report).

D: Quotation for repairs by J M Glass.