

## Conservation Records

**Location:** St Mary's Church, Stalisfield, Kent

**Panel:** 3 (inner)

**Window:** North window of the chancel, nII

**Measurements** 687 x 431  
(h x w in mm)

**Subject of Panel:** Decoratively arranged medieval glass fragments (painted with architectural imagery), set within clear glass quarries.

**Inscription:** None.

**Approximate Date of Origin:** 15<sup>th</sup> century fragments within 19<sup>th</sup> century quarries.

**Maker/Designer:** Unknown. The panel is likely to have been made up of fragments that were originally made for elsewhere within the church.

**Sources (publication, photographs, other records):** Seliger, L. ACR (2020) *St Mary's church, Stalisfield, Kent: Report on the Condition of the Medieval Glass in the north window of the chancel (CVMA nII)*, Chapter of Canterbury

**Date removed:** 23/07/2024

**Date reinstalled:** 29/08/2024

Conservator	Date began	Date finished
J.B.M.	25/07/2024	06/08/2024
F.C.P.	23/072024	29/08/2024
A.B-S.	23/072024	29/08/2024

Location: Stalisfield, St Mary's Church

Window: nII

Panel: 3 (inner)

Before Conservation

Image Information: Digital, Studio darkroom, transmitted light

Internal



Location: St Mary's Church, Stalisfield

Date: 05/09/2024

Author: J.B.M.



**Location:** St Mary's Church, Stalisfield

**Window:** nIII

Panel: 3 (inner)

**Before conservation**

**Internal**

**Image Information:** Digital, Studio darkroom, reflected light



Location: St Mary's Church, Stalisfield

Date: 05/09/2024

Author: J.B.M.



**Location:** Stalisfield, St Mary's Church

**Window:** nII

**Panel:** 3 (inner)

**Before Conservation**  
**External**

**Image Information:** Digital, Studio darkroom, reflected light



Location: St Mary's Church, Stalisfield

Date: 05/09/2024

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## **CONDITION REPORT**

### ***Condition of window***

The window nII is a single opening with a cusped head, with the cill at 2.4mm above floor level indoors. It consists of unpainted, pale green quarries, and appears to have been glazed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

An internally suspended panel (3 inner) is made from the only pieces of medieval stained glass in the church, which have been set into a background of plain quarries to form a rectangular panel. This panel was probably also constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was re-lead in 1986 by the stained glass department of Canterbury Cathedral under June Lennox, who also proposed an improved protective glazing arrangement. The PCC did not take up that proposal, so the work undertaken during the 2024 restoration recorded here remedies this omission. We are grateful to churchwarden Mrs Jenny King for this information, which she gleaned from the 1986 faculty, held at Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone.

The panel sits closely in front of the external window, which not only impedes the visual legibility of the medieval glass, but the lack of ventilation between the two layers has allowed dirt to build up and condensation to form on its surfaces, accelerating the corrosion process.

Two of the panels in this window are set into metal casements with a sliding section, now inoperable, due to rusting and build-up of dirt.

This report documents the conservation of panel 3 (inner).

### ***Condition of Panel***

**Bowing:** Very slightly inward.

**Bars (Number, Material, Section):** None.

**Ties (Number, Material):** None.

### ***Lead***

**Type and Width:** Milled. Outer: 12mm (½ inch) flat. Inner: 5-6mm (¼ inch stretched) round.

**Age of Lead:** 1980s.

**Condition:** The lead is in a very good, stable condition.

**Fractures:** None.

**Multiple leads:** None.

## *Glass*

**Type:** Mouthblown cylinder.

**Colour (Tint, Pot Metal, Flashed etc):** 15<sup>th</sup> century glass: pale blue / green tints; one piece of red flashed, one blue flashed.

19<sup>th</sup> century glass: green tint.

**Thickness:** Varying. 2-3mm.

**Damage (Cause, if known):** A few fractures in the medieval glass. All stable. See diagram.

### **Dirt and Deposits:**

**Internal:** Light atmospheric dirt and dust; cobwebs.

**External:** Dust and cobwebs; several dead bees, a light smattering of mortar drops.

### **Corrosion and Corrosion Deposits:**

**Internal:** 15<sup>th</sup> century glass: Much fine pitting over the whole surface. Areas of creamy-brown corrosion that leave the glass almost opaque and the painted imagery illegible in places.

19<sup>th</sup> century quarries: None.

**External:** 15<sup>th</sup> century glass: Much fine pitting over the whole surface. Creamy-white and brown corrosion products within the pits.

19<sup>th</sup> century quarries: None.

## *Paint, Stain and Enamel*

### **Description:**

**Internal:** Brown trace and shading.

**External:** Some brown paint. Yellow silver stain, varying in tone.

### **Condition of Surface Decoration:**

**Internal:** The glass has suffered much paint loss. Remaining paint is mostly stable with a few very small areas of loose paint. See diagram.

**External:** Very little back paint remains. Remaining paint and stain are stable.

## **PREVIOUS RESTORATION**

Research by the churchwarden has revealed that the medieval stained glass in this window was cleaned and re-leaded in 1986 by the stained glass studio at Canterbury Cathedral under June Lennox (now The Cathedral Studios). No changes were made to the other glazing panels in the window.

**Repairs:** Most of the glass fractures have been bonded with a silicone-based adhesive, probably at the time of re-leading in 1986. Excess adhesive has been left on the surface in places. See diagram.

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**Releading:** This panel was reled in 1986, although the lead in which the rest of the panels in the window have been glazed appears to be older, probably from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Later Additions:** The panel is made up of 15<sup>th</sup> century glass that may have come from the same window originally. The pieces have been arranged in a decorative way that looks cohesive, though probably not in their original positions in relation to each other. They have been set into a rectangular panel by the addition of clear quarries. See diagram.

**Coatings:** None

**Over- painting:** None.

## **CURRENT CONSERVATION**

### ***Glass***

#### **Cleaning, tools and materials used:**

**Internal:** 15<sup>th</sup> century glass: A small, dry sable brush was used to clean the glass under magnification, avoiding unstable paint. Excess silicone adhesive from the previous restoration was removed under magnification with a scalpel where it was safe for the paint to do so. Vacuum cleaned.

Quarries: Cotton wool swabs moistened with deionised water were used to clean the glass and leads.

**External:** 15<sup>th</sup> century glass: A stiffer, dry paint brush was used to clean the surface, gently removing loose corrosion products and dust from the pits; vacuum cleaned.

Quarries: As for front.

**Adhesives used for Edgebonding:** Paraloid® B72 acrylic resin dissolved in acetone was dropped from the reverse side into one crack that did not appear to have been previously silicone bonded. See diagram.

**Other Edge joining methods:** None.

**Plating:** None.

**Copper wire supports:** None.

**Insertion ( Glass, Artificial Fillings):** None.

**Others:** None.

### ***Paint***

**Consolidation Method:** Paraloid® B72 acrylic resin in acetone was applied with a tiny brush under magnification to a few small areas of flaking paint. See diagram.

**New Paint on Plating:** N/A.

**Retouching/cold paint:** None.

### ***Lead***

(Releading/ New lead leaves/ Repairs to lead)

None.

### ***Cementing Material and Method***

None.

### ***Additions to the panel***

None.

## **INSTALLATION**

The panel was framed with 12mm wide bronze channelling and suspended from two 12mm diameter, round horizontal bronze bars set into the surrounding stonework. It was hung in front of the window nll again with a gap for air flow, which will prevent condensation forming on the medieval glass, thus significantly reducing the rate of further corrosion.

The part of the window that is situated directly behind the medieval glass (panel 3 outer) has been replaced by a sheet of clear laminate glass edged in lead came, which will improve the visual legibility of the medieval glass in front of it, as well as protecting it from outside impact damage.

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

The interior surface of the window is not accessible without fixed scaffolding. Do not attempt to clean or dust the interior surface of the medieval glass.

The exterior surface of the glass should not require cleaning as it will be rain-washed.

Monitor condition of the window during quinquennial inspection.

The condition of the medieval stained glass should be assessed at least once per decade by an ICON accredited conservator (ACR), using this condition report and the photographs provided by The Cathedral Studios as a benchmark.



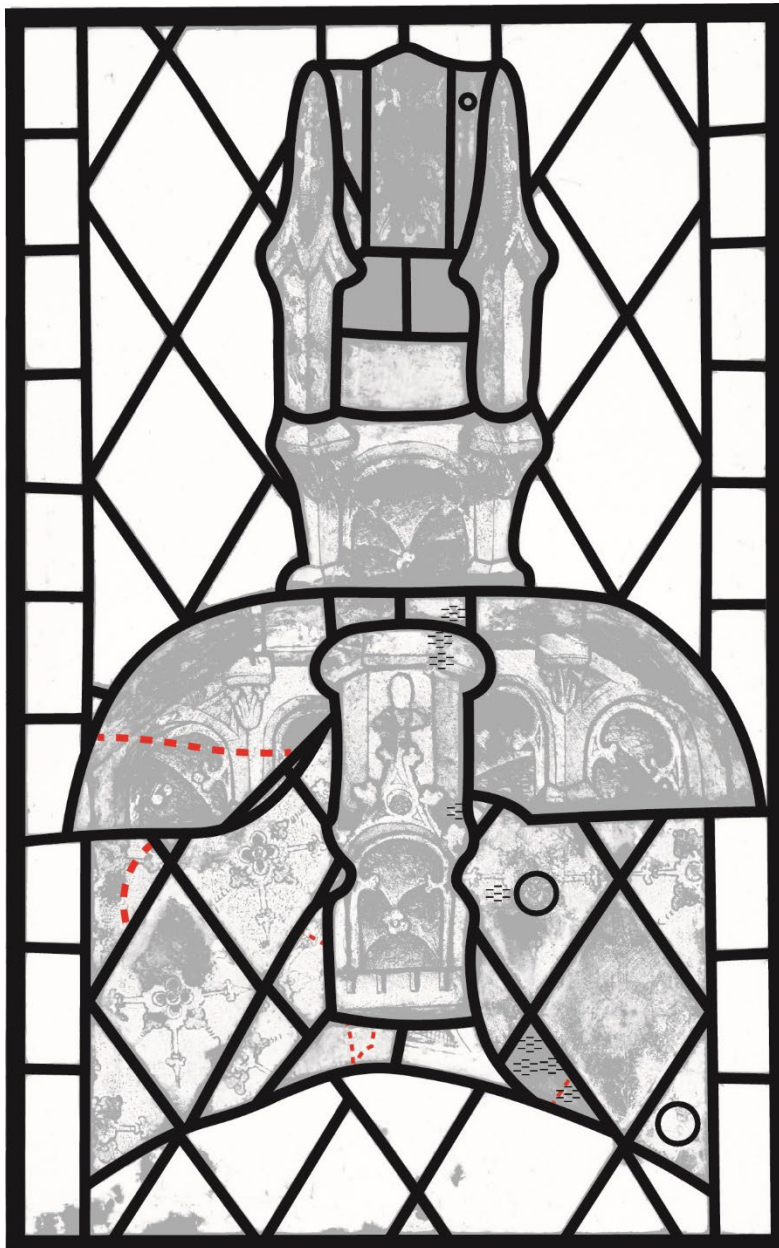
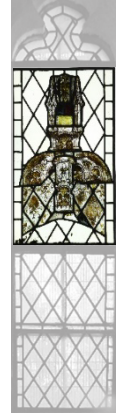
**Location:** Stalisfield, St Mary's Church

**Window number:** nII 3 (inner)

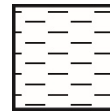
**Dimensions:** 687mm (h) x 431mm (w)

Before Conservation Internal

**Date:** 25/07/2024



Paint to the outside



Unstable paint



Previously bonded break

100 mm

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 THE CATHEDRAL STUDIOS

  
CANTERBURY  
*cathedral*

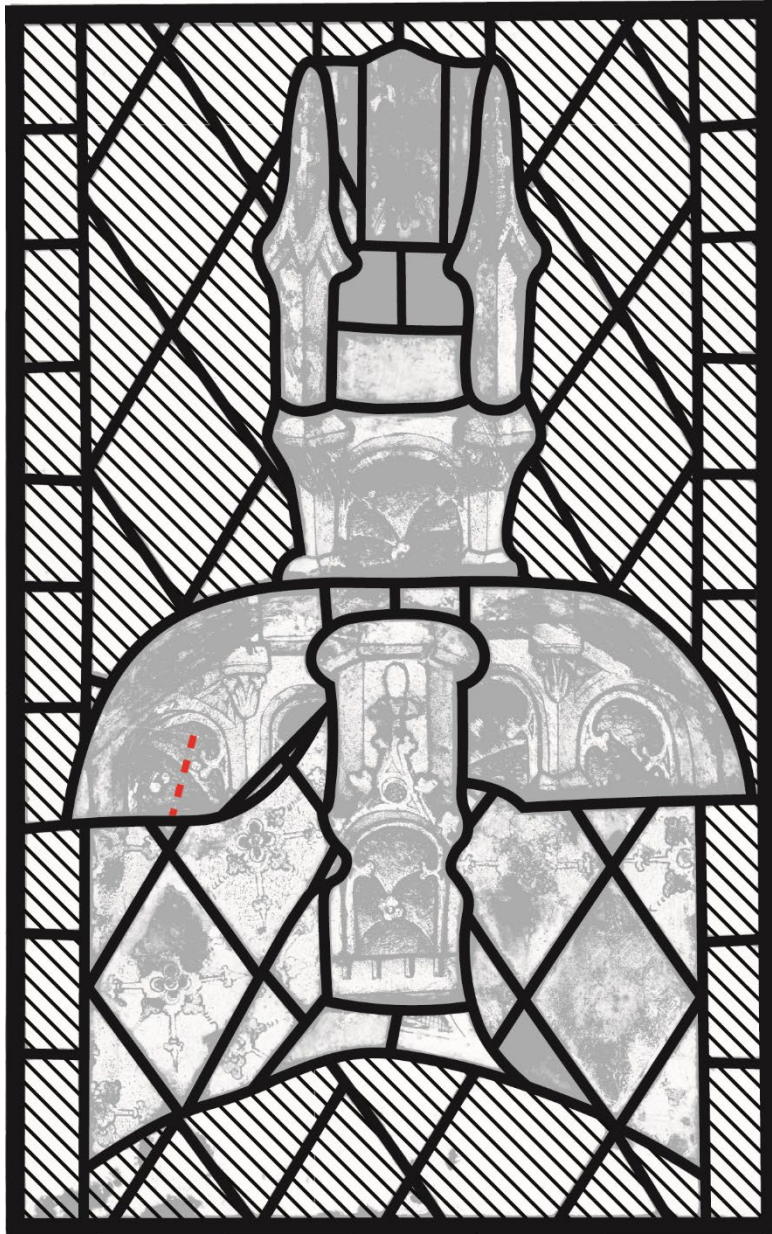
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Before Conservation Internal

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100 mm



Unhatched areas  
15<sup>th</sup> century glass



Unbonded break



19<sup>th</sup> century glass

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THE CATHEDRAL STUDIOS



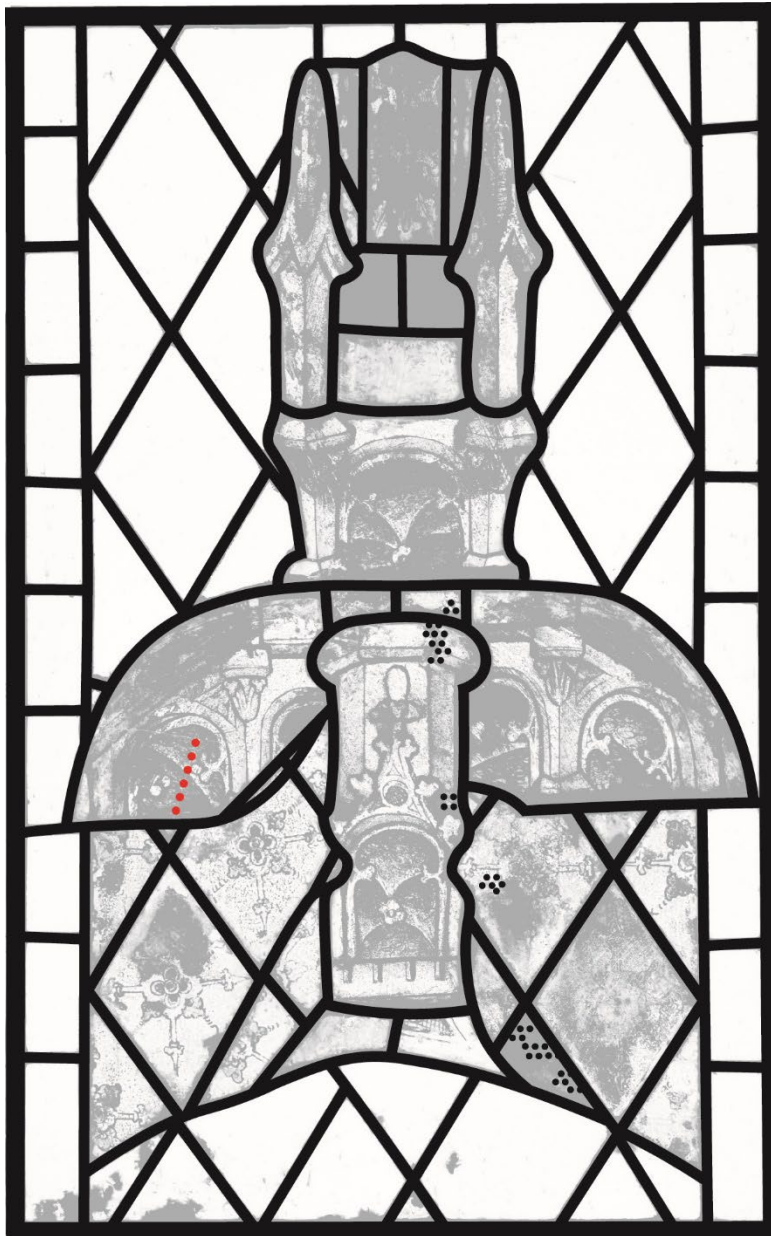
**Location:** Stalisfield, St Mary's Church

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After Conservation Internal

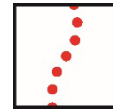
**Date:** 06/08/2024



100 mm



Paint consolidated with Paraloid® B72



Break bonded with Paraloid® B72

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Author: J.B.M.

 THE CATHEDRAL STUDIOS

  
CANTERBURY  
cathedral

**Location:** Stalisfield, St. Mary's Church

**Window:** nll

**Panel:** 3 (inner)

**After conservation**

**Image information:** Digital, studio darkroom, transmitted light

**Internal**



Location: St Mary's Church, Stalisfield

Date: 05/09/2024

Author: J.B.M.



**Location:** Stalisfield, St. Mary's Church

**Window:** nll

**Panel:** 3 (inner)

**After conservation**

**Internal**

**Image Information:** Digital, studio darkroom, reflected light



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**Location:** Stalisfield, St. Mary's Church

**Window:** nIII

**Panel:** 3 (inner)

**After conservation**  
**External**

Image information: Digital, studio darkroom, reflected light



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Before conservation, showing previous glazing arrangement



After conservation, showing new glazing arrangement





Above: the outer layer of glazing, with 19<sup>th</sup> century diamond quarries in head and bottom panel, and a new laminate sheet of glass in the middle; the inner layer of glazing containing the medieval stained glass is now framed with a bronze U-channel and suspended with steel hoops on bronze bars set into the jambs. A strip of lead flashing prevents light creeping around the edges of the frame.