

THE YORK GLAZIERS TRUST

Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Thornhill

Survey of the windows which contain Medieval Glass  
made on November 12th 1970

There are eight windows in the Church that contain  
Medieval glass. These are :- The East window, The West window,  
The 2nd and 3rd window from the East in the South Aisle  
and the following windows in the Savile Chapel-

The East window

1st window from the East in the North Aisle  
2nd window from the East in the North Aisle  
3rd window from the East in the North Aisle

Report on the Above listed windows

The East window

A six light window with 12 pieces of tracery containing  
late c15th glass in a 'Tree of Jesse' design. The window  
contains much c19th restoration glass but nevertheless  
it is a very fine window and it is in sound condition. There  
is no outer protective glazing to this window

The West window

A three light window containing 4 square panels of Medieval  
fragments and five roundels all glazed upon a sheet quarry  
background. This window does not require attention.

2nd window from the East in the South Aisle

A two light window containing excellent individual pieces  
of c15th glass painting glazed upon a background of sheet  
quarries. The window is sound and does not require attention.

3rd window from the East in the South Aisle

A two light window with five tracery pieces containing  
excellent c15th glass. Various pieces indicate that the glass  
has accumulated from different windows in the church.  
Undoubtedly the glass would benefit from re-arrangement  
but as the lead work is sound this is not justified.

## Savile Chapel

### The East window

The window is known as the Doom window. The painted detail of most of the late 15th glass, which last received attention in 1953, is now becoming obscured. Also the Medieval glass is cracked in places—almost one hundred separate cracks were counted. This is an unusually high number and one is bound to speculate whether there is a certain degree of stone movement, or ground subsidence may be the cause. Concerning the hole in one of the tracery pieces; it is possible to repair this in situ (estimate enclosed). The most serious cracks can be dealt with in situ as well by using a 'strap' lead; that is a strip of lead of a comparable size to that used in the window which is used to cover the crack and sealed with Butyl Mastic. This is an effective way of dealing with the problem but it will not prevent further cracks occurring.

### 1st window from the East in the North Aisle

A three light window containing 15th glass depicting scenes from the Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In certain places the lead is separating from the glass and day-light can be seen. The cause of this separation could again be due to some movement in the stone work.

The Medieval glass would benefit from cleaning, but owing to the fact that there is exterior protective glazing the glass would only be effectively cleaned if either the outer glazing were removed or the Medieval glass was removed for restoration. It is obvious that in the past repair work has been carried out on the window in situ and sheet glass has been used to cover broken Medieval pieces.

It is therefore recommended that the window be taken out for complete re-leading and restoration. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ On the replacement of the restored glass it is recommended that the outer glazing is not replaced, provided that there is no danger from vandals in the area (estimate enclosed)

It is impossible to ascertain the condition of the outside stanchion bars of the window as they are covered by the outer glazing, but ~~judging~~ judging the stanchion from other window it would seem that they would only require anti-corrosive treatment and would not have to be replaced.

2nd window from the East in the North Aisle

A three light window with 4 tracery pieces, containing c15th glass painting of ~~excellent~~<sup>high</sup> quality, showing an excellent group of the Holy Family. This window also has daylight showing between the lead and the glass. There are some very bad breaks and the window would benefit enormously by being completely cleaned and releaded and restored. It is necessary that the window be removed for this restoration and it is recommended that the exterior glazing is not retained unless, as with the previous window, there is any danger from vandalism (estimate enclosed for the restoration)

3rd window from the East in the North Aisle.

A three light window which contains c15th glass, depicting the Crucifixion. ~~The glass is set on a background of quarries, some of which are c19th. The window is in a reasonable condition. At the base of the lights are three excellent shields.~~

There are some cracks in the window which can be repaired in situ. It is also recommended that the Medieval glass be thoroughly cleaned in situ. It should be emphasised that the cleaning of Medieval glass in position is a very specialised task and should only be done by experienced personnel

Clerestory windows.

There is one hole in one of the c19th south Chancel Clerestory windows which could also be repaired in situ.

Summary of Recommendations

Savile Chapel

East window

Repairs to the tracery and general repairs to the window, the most severe cracks being treated with strap lead. All repairs to be effected in situ.

North Aisle, 1st from East

The removal of the Medieval glass for re-leading and complete restoration

North Aisle, 2nd from East

Removal of the Medieval glass for re-leading and complete restoration

North Aisle, 3rd from East

Medieval glass ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ repaired and then cleaned ~~in situ~~ in situ.

The work recommended for the North Aisle windows would result in a transformation in the appearance of this extremely good 15th glass and the quality of the glass fully justifies the restoration procedure outlined.