

# SAVE YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL TREASURE

*The campaign to conserve the  
Battlefield Window in Prees*



St Chad's Church. Prees, contains medieval stained glass originally installed in Battlefield Church and possibly commissioned by King Henry IV in the mid 1400s. The glass is believed to have been designed by one of the greatest artists of the period – the glass master, John Thornton, who was responsible for the world-famous Great East window in York Minster.

This great artwork is therefore a national treasure – but in the village of Prees! (And unlike York Minster, which costs about £18 to go into and the glass is rather too high to be able to see, you can see our glass for free, at any time and close up!). The problem is that it is now in a really worrying condition and desperately needs major conservation – both the glass and the surrounding stonework need urgent attention. Condition reports make this really clear: “*The ... glass corrosion issues, paint loss issues, localised failures in the lead net, and failure of the associated metalwork and stonework are all worse than reported in 2014, and continue to pose a live threat to this heritage asset of exceptional significance.*”

**We need to act now – but the estimated cost is a total of £44,700 plus VAT, plus a contingency of 20%**

Windows from John Thornton's workshop can be recognised by the very distinctive faces: 'Thornton's treatment of faces was expressive, using relatively heavy shading, and generally features small mouths and rather elongated noses with a bulbous tip.' (*R Marks, Stained Glass in England during the Middle Ages*). And our window has wonderful examples of these faces.

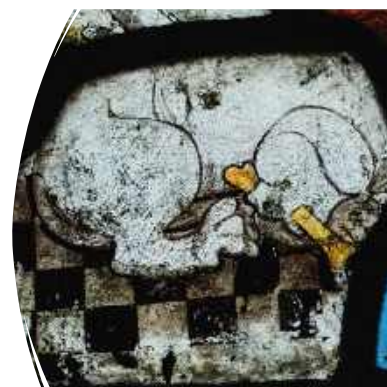


But there's so much more than faces depicted in our window:



A beautiful chalice and paten with the host shown glowing above

a dog fiercely gripping onto a bone.

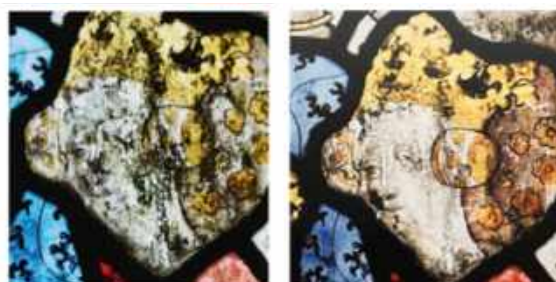


The head of John the Baptist on a platter (left) beside King Herod and his queen, Herodias, who had plotted John's death.

This should all be so much clearer after conservation!



Unfortunately you can also see the deterioration of the glass between the recent image of Queen Herodias on the left (taken November 2024) and one on the right taken just a few years ago.







In fact, our window has some fine examples of women's headwear. For the wealthy women of fashion you can see this escoffion (the horned

headdress) or these bosses (netted side buns) and the woman seen in partial face is wearing a veil.



The men have an even wider range of headwear: the bishop is easily recognized by his mitre; the man below appears to be wearing a liri pipe cap; the yellow cap above is a 'roll up'; and there are other assorted felt hats like the one with the huge brim and the one with the knotted braid.

There are several heraldic devices: the black leg of the Hussey family - Richard Hussey was the landowner who donated the land upon which Battlefield Church was built. Sir John Hussey fought at the Battle of Shrewsbury.



There are also Corbet Crows; a black lion rampant on a white ground *possibly* either the Burnell family arms or the Stapleton's; a yellow lion rampant on a red ground, the arms of Arundel.

These are just a few highlights from the window – pop in and see it for yourself!

Why are you receiving this leaflet? **We need your help!**

**There are many ways to help**

- Come along to any fundraising events, eg the quiz, a coffee morning, concerts!
- Buy a raffle ticket
- Make a donation\*
- Buy merchandise when it becomes available!
- Spread the Word
- Letters of support
- Sponsor a pane, eg in remembrance of someone, or on behalf of your business. There are hundreds of panes to sponsor with prices to suit all pockets! Contact [pewchurches@gmail.com](mailto:pewchurches@gmail.com) for more information

**\*Cheques to:** St. Chad's Church Prees, PCC (Please write Battlefield Window on the back!))

**Bank transfer:** St Chad's Church Prees, PCC, account 06061923 Sort code 80.11.00 (please add your name for reference)

**Our next fundraising events are:**

**Coffee morning Higher Heath Village Hall - SY13 2HE  
10th May 10.00-12.00**

Cost £4 for coffee and cake

Stalls: raffle, guess the sweets in the jar, bric a brac, cake stall, etc

**Concert with Claire Harrison St Chad's - SY13 2ER  
31st May Details to follow**

**Folk concert in St Chad's - SY13 2ER  
Friday 4th July Details to follow**