

STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIRS

Damage to stained glass windows is increasing and applications are frequently made to the DAC for the repair of important glass. This has highlighted the need for repairers to be knowledgeable about different glass types (dependent on age) and differing period and artistic styles. In many cases, skills are required in the field of emulating an artist's work, and repairers with appropriate experience (i.e. mediaeval or Victorian) should be approached. Conservation skills are also needed on many occasions.

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) runs an accreditation scheme for the conservation, restoration and repair of stained glass. Details of Accredited Conservator-Restorers (ACR) in a wide variety of specialisms can be found on the Conservation Register website: <http://www.conservationregister.com/>

Note: the Register does not include those accredited conservators who elect **not** to pay a fee.

The following information will need to be submitted before the DAC can consider a proposal for window repairs:

1. Details of window(s) concerned:-

- a) Sketch plan of the church showing position of all window(s), with a note of which window needs repair. The CVMA numbering system is gradually being adopted in the UK and, like Latin names for plants, enables individual windows and their separate sections to be immediately identified;
- b) Type and size of window(s);
- c) Period or approximate date of window(s) and name of artist/manufacturer (if known). The date provides a key guide to type, and the artist to quality;
- d) Subject, i.e. figure work; heraldry; ornamental lead glazing;
- e) Condition of window(s) - extent of damage, wear and tear etc;
- f) Photographs.

2. Work details.

Please supply:-

- a) A detailed specification indicating method of repair and extent of artwork to be carried out, dimension of lead cames (if applicable) and fixing medium.
- b) Details of artist/contractor and qualifications, together with information concerning previous work in the diocese (if any). It is particularly important for the DAC to know that the individual craftsman doing the work is appropriately skilled, especially when an artistic style is to be copied in the event of reconstruction.

3. Insurance claims.

The DAC will need to approve the specification and/or repairer, and a faculty may need to be obtained before work is carried out. Craftsman should be identified. Obtain estimates from appropriately qualified and recognised firms or craftsmen, and submit one to the DAC for approval before submission to the insurance firm - adding a note of which other firms were approached.

If damage has been caused by vandalism, the PCC may wish to consider installing window guards. The preferred window protection is black powder-coated stainless steel window guards. Your contractor will be able to advise on suitable providers, or the PCC can contact Fabco Sanctuary, who manufacture them - <http://www.fabcosanctuary.com/> (telephone 01903 718803). A faculty will be needed for the introduction of window guards, but we may be able to arrange this on an emergency basis.