



## Ecclesiastical Architects & Surveyors Association

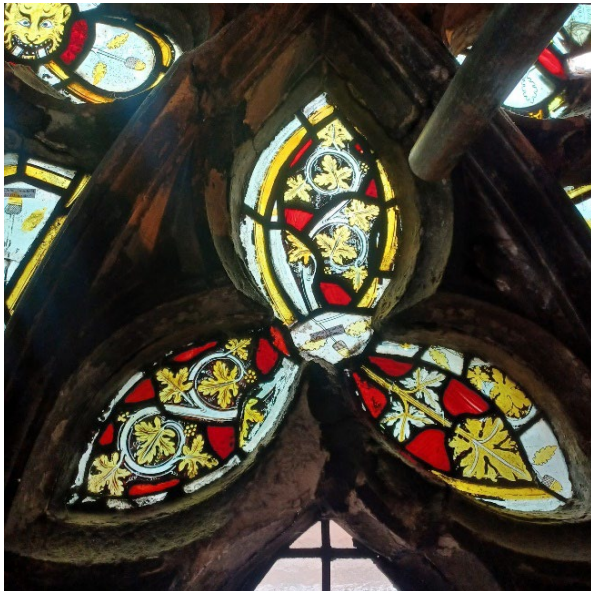
# Conservation of the Chancel Windows.

At St. John the Baptist Church, Dronfield

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### Introduction:

The Grade I listed Church of St. John the Baptist, Dronfield is currently undertaking a project of conservation and repair of the Chancel windows, to safeguard the medieval glass and affect a project of stone conservation repairs to the tracery. The church includes late 13<sup>th</sup> Century, 14<sup>th</sup> Century and mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century phases of construction, and was repaired and altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The church retains many features of historic interest, and the interior is highly significant with important internal views of the West and East ends, and important medieval, and post-medieval, windows.



The Chancel Window Project has presented considerable challenges, not least the unusual use of limestone in the tracery (the rest of the church being sandstone) and finding a compatible material for replacement, conserving and repairing a tracery design that never quite aligned and how best to safeguard the Medieval glass without compromising the aesthetic, internally and externally. The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As the first of three regional visits for this project, this is an opportunity to see the stone tracery repairs being undertaken on site. The glass has already been removed and taken away for conservation and the new stone tracery elements has been templated and selected stone worked off site in preparation for finishing and installation within the windows, as well as carrying out mortar repairs to the heavily damaged limestone.

The visit will be led by the church architect, Mr Tom Crooks (EASA's Membership Secretary).

## Event Details:

Date: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Start Time: 2.30pm

Anticipated length of visit: 1.5 – 2 hours.

Location: St. John the Baptist Church, Church Street, Dronfield, Derbyshire, S18 1QB.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/c9aoUuATmTuL2iE8A>

**Tickets:** £20 per person. Non-refundable. Bookable via EASA's website (using Ticket Tailor booking system). <https://easa.org.uk/the-association/meetings-and-events/>

The booking deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

For all enquiries and to join a reserve list if places are full please contact EASA's Administrator – [easa.info@btinternet.com](mailto:easa.info@btinternet.com)

## Getting to Dronfield:

**By car:** There are several public car parks in Dronfield, albeit small, with some on-street car parking. Car parks can be found here:

Church Street: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/nAogPhDzasT7kTHLA> (Max 3hrs - free)

Soaper Lane: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PKsoyVooUaYkBkLh6> (Max 3hrs - free)

Dronfield Station: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/vWYwdztoh6GTpVg58> (up to 2 hours - free)

Sainsbury's: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1FhK6rvaNRirUMko6> (unknown time res. - free)

**By Train:** The Church is only a 4 minute walk from Dronfield Station. The station falls between Chesterfield and Sheffield with regular trains from both. Trains from Dronfield also run via the Nottingham-Leeds line and the Norwich-Liverpool limited service train. The express service from Leeds to Nottingham calling at Dronfield runs approximately once an hour. Peak East Midlands Trains between Liverpool and Norwich also call. Several high-speed Main Line services pass through but do not stop at the station.

## Other Details:

There will be an opportunity to climb the scaffolding, view the repairs at close-quarters and discuss the repair strategy with the stonemasons and Conservation Architect and meet members of the Church and their Grant/Fundraising Consultant.

All attendees must be confident in their ability to climb scaffolding and be familiar with working at height.

Refreshments will be provided by the Church.

Please bring your own PPE – boots, hi-vis vests, etc. Hard hats will be provided, for the ease of those using public transport.

Visit restricted to 20 attendees, ascending the scaffolding in groups of 5 at a time.

*Subsequent visits will include a visit to the stained-glass specialist's (Holywell) workshop in Wells to see the Medieval glass being conserved (later this year), and then a further visit to the church to see that being reinstalled (late spring 2025).*