



In the beginning,
God created the heavens
and the earth...

"The stained glass windows in Great Malvern Priory are generally regarded as probably the finest collection of English 15th and early 16th century medieval glass outside York Minster."

(David O'Connor, 2001, FSA, University of Manchester)

Over half a millennium ago, between around 1470 and 1490, the stained glass we now see in the three south windows of St Anne's Chapel was created for the newly redeveloped Great Malvern Priory church. The scope of the entirely new glazing scheme, overseen by the Benedictine monks who lived and worshipped here in the 15th century, covered nothing less than the Christian story of the world from creation to the end days.



God creates the moon and stars (left) and the fish and birds (right)



The windows are known as narrative glass as they tell the stories from the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus, from creation to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness with Moses.

Today the panels form some of the most spectacular and easily accessible medieval stained glass windows within the Priory, combining fantastic detail, glorious colour and narrative charm, to create unique and irreplaceable works of art.

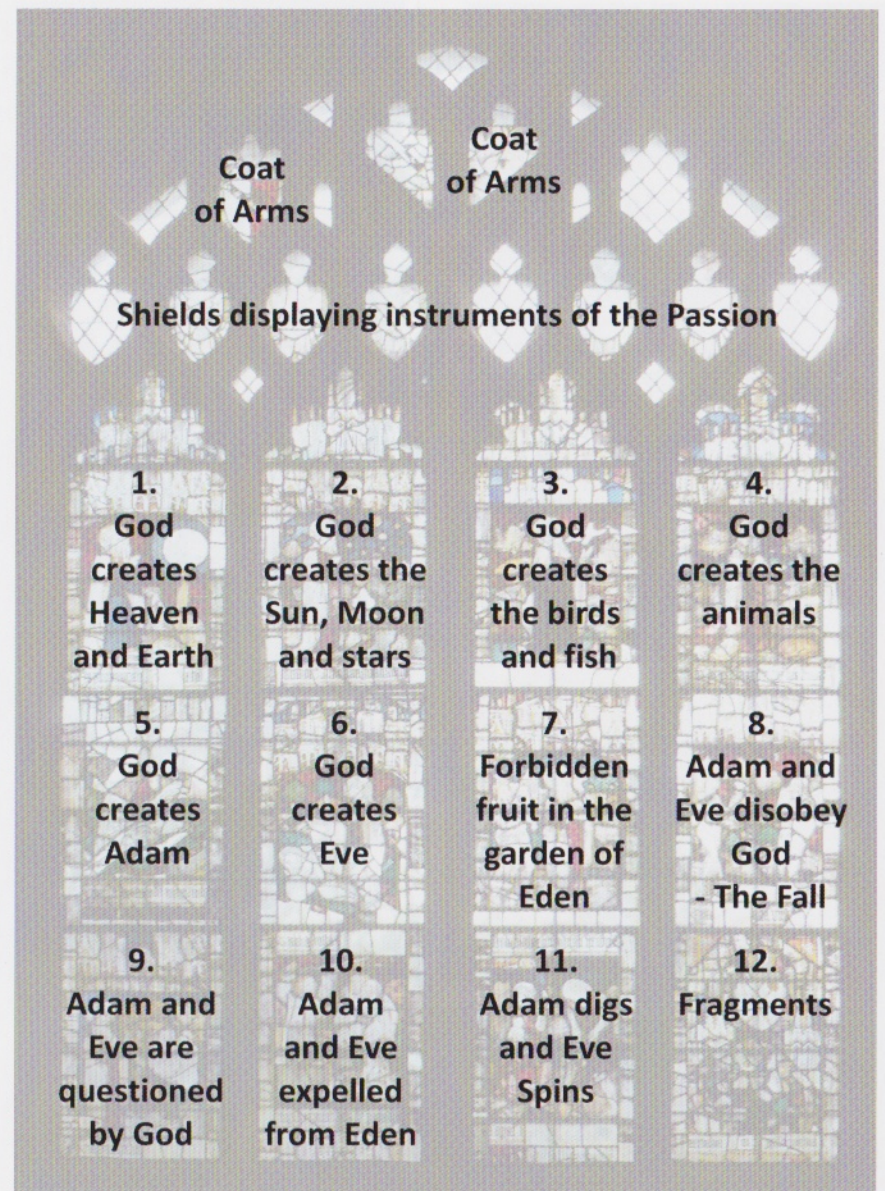


Creation of the animals.

At the top left, a monkey sits among the branches of a tree appearing to be clapping in appreciation of its new world. On the right, a golden maned lion lies at God's feet; a hedgehog, an antlered deer and other big cats look towards him.

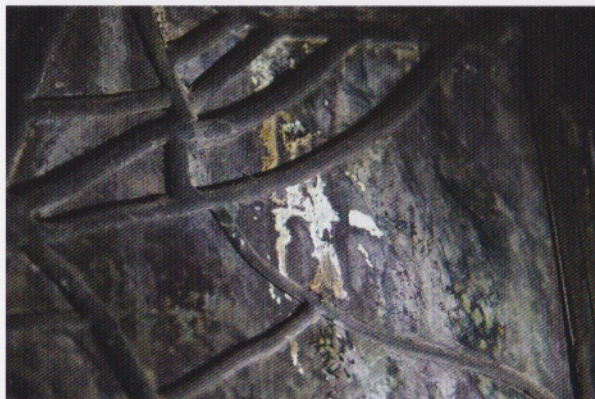


The Creation window



*Guide to the panels of the Creation window
from "A tour of The Stained Glass at Malvern Priory"
by Katherine Little (née Wells)*

Now, these windows are in desperate need of cleaning, restoration and protection from further decay, as well as to ensure that they are there for future generations to enjoy. Moisture (rain and internal condensation) attacks medieval glass because it is rich in potash and other soluble salts, to cause pitting which damages the painted surface. The continued attack of moisture causes the products of this corrosion to stream down the glass and mix with dirt forming a crust which further undermines the painted imagery.



The effect of corrosion, water damage and accumulated dirt.

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Internal and external views of pitting corrosion on the face of an angel.

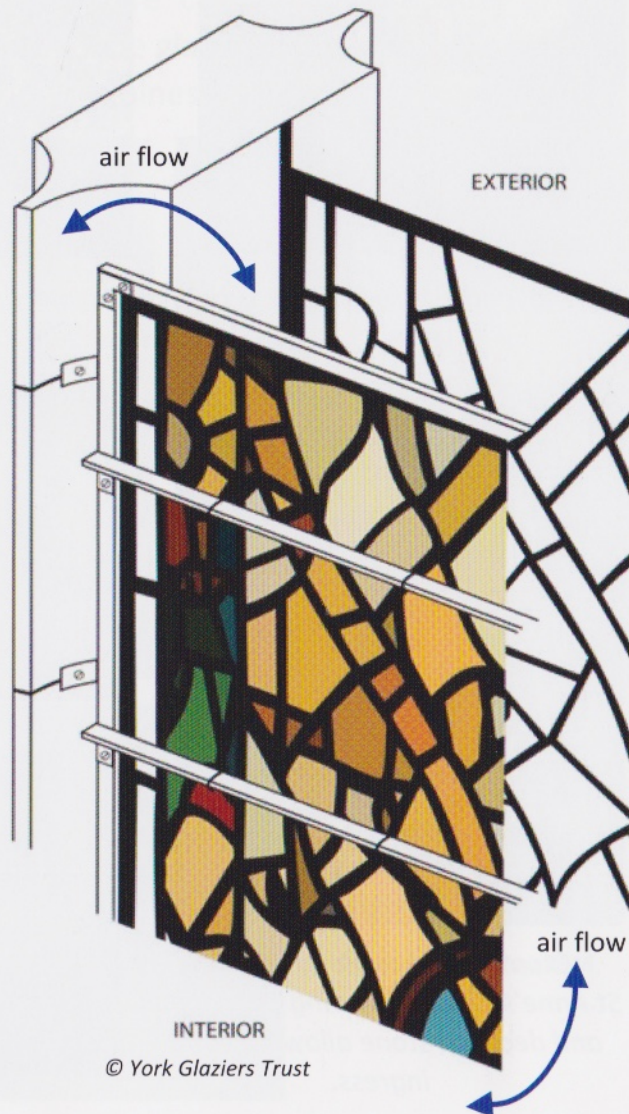
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Examples from the exterior of St Anne's Chapel showing open joints and decayed stone allowing water ingress.

The solution - Environmental Protective Glazing

It involves removing the window and installing a new clear glass window which is lightly leaded with the main outlines of the medieval window. Then, the medieval window is installed - after it has been cleaned and repaired - on a bronze frame 30/40 mm inside the protective glass. Air can then circulate between the two glass surfaces. This protects the medieval glass from condensation on the interior surface, and from rain, wind and vandalism from the outside. York Glaziers Trust has been installing this system at York Minster as well as elsewhere.



Below: God shows Adam and Eve the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as they walk in the Garden of Eden

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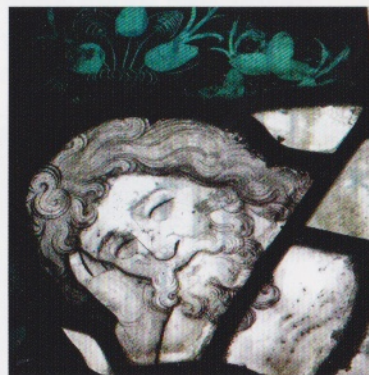


The total cost of repairing breaks and lead-work, cleaning and restoring the Creation window and surrounding stonework is estimated to be £150,000. We expect that the work will be undertaken by York Glaziers Trust, who are experts in this delicate and skilled work. This project will pave the way for undertaking restoration of other windows as part of the Priory Development Plan.

For a video presentation by Katherine Little and more information, see www.friendsofmalvernpriory.uk

Please can you help us?

- Sponsor the whole of one of the 12 panels for £4,000
- Sponsor part of a panel for £1,000 or £2,000
- Give whatever you can.... £10, £20, £50, £100.....
- You can donate in memory of a loved one.
- The good news is that for every £1 you give, an anonymous donor has agreed to give a matching £1.
- Names of donors who give £50 or more will be recorded on The Friends' website, (unless you wish to remain anonymous).



"It cannot be overstated that the medieval glazing scheme at Great Malvern Priory is of exceptional historical, religious and cultural significance. The completeness of so many medieval windows in such a large church is rare and the preservation of this is a testament to the people of Great Malvern over the centuries"

York Glaziers Trust 2016

Now it's our turn. We have a responsibility. But, what an opportunity! For the Friends, this is the first fund-raising appeal of real significance in living memory and we are grateful for whatever you are able to give. Those who share a love for the Priory building and its heritage will want to grasp this opportunity to play their part in preserving these magnificent windows for future generations.

DONATION FORM

Name:.....

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I wish to make a donation of £.....

☐ I want to gift aid my donation. I am a UK tax-payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

☐ I have made a bank transfer to The Friends of Malvern Priory, 20-98-61, 40 00 09 73 **quoting my surname as reference**; or

☐ I enclose a cheque, payable to "The Friends of Malvern Priory"; or

☐ I have made a donation via Just-Giving using the QR code overleaf.

☐ I have arranged to donate by regular instalments (please give details of how much and when)

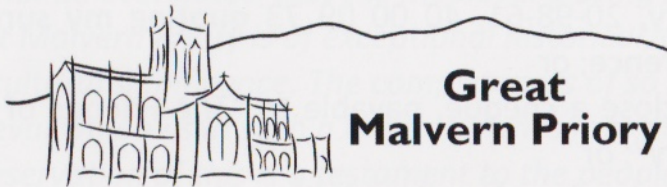
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I do / do not want my name displayed on the website.

I do / do not want the name in whose memory I am making this donation displayed.....



**The Friends of
Malvern Priory**



**Great
Malvern Priory**

Registered Charity Numbers 503383 & 1128064

Please return this form to The Friends of Malvern Priory,
Church House, Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY.

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