



THE STAINED
GLASS MUSEUM



2025
IMPACT REPORT

1 Nov 2024 - 31 Oct 2025



THE STAINED GLASS MUSEUM

Inventing stories in glass, light and colour



Registered Charity Number: 1169842

Arts Council Accredited Museum Number: 574

PATRON

His Majesty King Charles III

TRUSTEES

Mark Hosea (Chair from November 2025)

Dr Lloyd de Beer (Secretary)

Sarah Brown (until November 2025)

Lara Clements

Tom Gannagé-Stewart (from January 2025)

Malcolm Leith (Treasurer)

Dr Adrian Murphy

Suzanne Phillips (Vice Chair)

Michael Sheppard

Pippa Wainwright (from November 2025)

Dr Jeffrey West FSA (Chair until November 2025)

DIRECTOR

Dr Jasmine Allen

CONSERVATION ADVISOR

Sarah Brown (until November 2025)

VISION

The national centre for enjoying and understanding stained glass through storytelling, creativity and research.

MISSION

To share the cultural and artistic importance of stained glass.

The Stained Glass Museum

South Triforium, Ely Cathedral, Ely, CB7 4DL

www.stainedglassmuseum.com

Front cover: Design for the transom over the main entrance door at the H E Qais Zawawis residence, Oman, by John Lawson (1984)





55 glass making workshops



Two loans to international exhibitions



827 school children visited



1,908 attended outreach events

2025 Highlights

MUSEUM • THE STAINED GLASS



Leicestershire Study Tour



Redisplay of the gallery



213 new acquisitions



21,801 visitors

GOVERNANCE

CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr Jeffrey West remained Chair of the Board of Trustees during 2024-25. Following recruitment, shortlisting and informal interviews, new Trustee Tom Gannagé-Stewart joined the Board in January 2025, bringing expertise in corporate fundraising and development.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Trustees benefitted throughout the year from the advice of several specialist members of the Collections Committee who act as advisors. The Board would like to express its thanks to Prof. Tim Ayers (History of Art Department, University of York), Dr Michaela Zöschg (Curator of Medieval Art & Design, V&A Museum) and Dr Martin Crampin (Research Fellow, UWTSD).

STAFF TEAM

In October 2025 Ho Huang completed her part-time fixed-term contract as Digital Producer, a role generously funded by the Headley Trust. Autumn also saw the retirement of Malcolm Mitchell, Office & Finance Manager, after almost twenty years' overseeing the day-to-day financial records and bookkeeping, as well as the IT infrastructure and many unique odd jobs. His financial role has been taken on by Melanie Brown, who brings a wealth of experience from the private education and charitable sector.

STRATEGIC PLANS - RELOCATION

The Board remain committed to exploring options for relocating the museum. Towards the end of the year, the museum prepared a joint funding bid for a grant from the new combined mayoral authority for York and North Yorkshire in partnership with The Stained Glass Trust, York, and Barley Studios for a feasibility study to explore creating York: City of Stained Glass. The team were awarded a Business Innovation Fund grant in the autumn and began work on this project to investigate the feasibility of developing York as the national city of stained glass. The SGM is a key partner, and this is an opportunity to consider relocation, to consolidate excellence, develop partnerships and promote growth in the city.



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Panel from the museum's collection on display at The Clark Art Institute, Massachusetts, for the 'A Room of her Own' exhibition

OVERVIEW

VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

VISITORS

We welcomed a total of 21,801 visitors to the Stained Glass Museum during 2024-25, of which 13,358 were paying visitors and 1,990 were children. 3,063 people attended an event or workshop, and 796 school children visited on a school visit. Repeat visits from Friends of the museum or Art Fund members accounted for a further 921 visits. Overall visitor numbers were slightly up on the previous year, however a greater portion of these were repeat visits.

In January the museum's standard admission price increased to £6.50 for adults, and a new combined cross-attraction ticketing venture Ely Passport was introduced in conjunction with Ely Cathedral, Ely Museum and Oliver Cromwell's House.

OUTREACH

The Stained Glass Museum's learning and engagement team participated in several local community and outreach events, providing free to access learning and engagement opportunities within the local community. We welcomed 447 people to the museum for free during Heritage Open Weekend in September. The museum also participated in a Meet the Makers event at Two Temple Place in London, attended by more than 1,000 people.

INTERNATIONAL LOANS

The Stained Glass Museum was delighted to lend works from its collection to two international exhibitions at prestigious venues during the year. Mary Lowndes' *The Finding of the Saviour* window travelled across the Atlantic to be displayed as part of the 'A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875–1945' exhibition at the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA. The exhibition was curated by Alexis Goodin and ran 14 June - 14 September 2025 in which time it was visited by 34,932 people.

A stained glass panel by Evie Hone, known as *Christ meeting his mother*, was displayed at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, as part of a major retrospective on Irish artists 'Mainie Jellett/Evie Hone: The Art of Friendship', 1 April - 10 August 2025. In its four month duration the exhibition received 28,402 visitors.



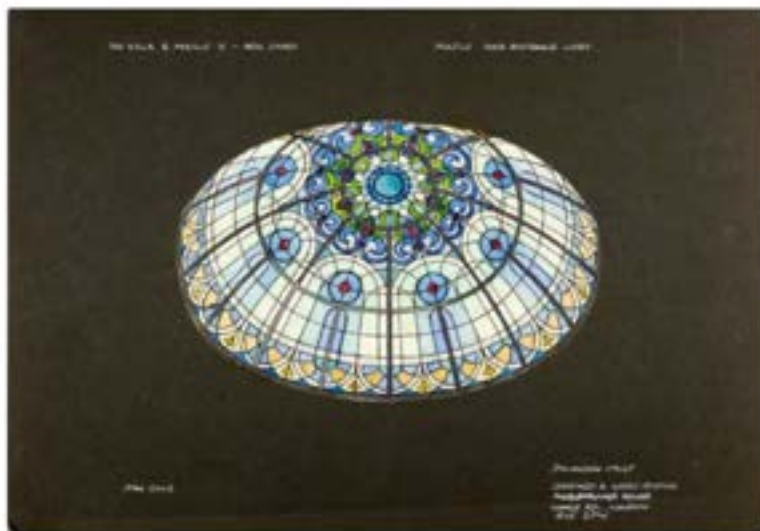
Late 19th Century porcelain
lithophane plate. ELYGM:2025.2.3

COLLECTIONS

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The year saw several new acquisitions, mostly to the museum's growing archival and works on paper collections. The Board of Trustees remain grateful to the Director and Collections Committee for their expertise and proactive sustained approach to enhancing the museum's collections.

Amongst the new objects that entered the museum's collection during the year were a small collection of preparatory designs from the studio of Goddard & Gibbs gifted by Charles Hind; four porcelain lithophanes made by the 19th century German company Plauische Porzellanmanufaktur (PPM) of Berlin, purchased from the collection of the late George Wigley; a small collection of historical items relating to John Richard Clayton (1827-1913), founding member of Clayton & Bell, gifted by Dr Dennis Lanigan; a collection of documents and designs from the collection of Simon Ratcliffe, glass painter and restorer at Goddard and Gibbs Studios (gifted by Sarah Ratcliffe), and seven cartoons for stained glass windows by Arthur Anselm Orr (1868-1949), gifted by David Holden.



*A design by John
Lawson for a private
home in Abu Dhabi,
2002*

(ELYGM2025.1.23)

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*A cartoon by the
Goddard and Gibbs
Studio for a window at
Westminster United
Church, Canada
(ELYGM2025.4.128)*

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RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

The museum remains committed to developing the use of its collection for research, and during the year the museum's staff team engaged with new research activity, some of which was disseminated in print or at conferences. The museum's Director and Curator Dr Jasmine Allen published an article 'In search of artistic freedom: British stained glass in the nineteenth century' in *Stained Glass Revivals*, the Proceedings of the Ecclesiological Society's 2023 conference (Ecclesiological Society, July 2025). She also contributed to the development of *Divine Light: The Stained Glass of England's Cathedrals* (published by Kulturalis, October 2025) featuring stained glass from every Church of England cathedral, edited by Janet Gough.

The museum's Deputy Curator Emily Allen wrote an article on 'Trailblazing Women Stained Glass Artists' for online magazine *Europeana* which was published on international women's day in March 2025.

CONFERENCES

The Museum's Director presented research papers at several conferences both within the UK and further afield during the year, including at the "What Light Through Yonder Window Breaks?": The Window as Protagonist in British Architecture and Visual Culture', event held at the Paul Mellon Centre in London, 22-23 November 2024, and a conference entitled 'Collecting the Art of Light', in Geneva, Switzerland, 7-8 March 2025.

In September she travelled to the USA to speak at a symposium at the Clark Art Institute to accompany the *A Room of Her Own: Women Artist-Activists in Britain, 1875–1945* exhibition. Her research paper entitled "'Making space for women:" Mary Lowndes, pioneering stained glass artist and suffragist' presented new research on Lowndes and her importance in paving the way for women artists working in stained glass. The same month she also travelled to Münster, Germany, to participate in an event 'Modern Stained Glass.Metadata.AI' where she spoke about the physical threats to stained glass in the UK and the work of recording stained glass in databases in the British Isles..



Dr Jasmine Allen, Director and Curator of the Museum speaks at a symposium at the Clark Art Institute, Massachusetts

A YEAR

November



A major rehang in the gallery saw over 50% rehung and 14 new pieces displayed.

December



We celebrated the gallery redevelopment with Friends and supporters.

January



Our SGMinis continued to have fun in the gallery with stories, songs and crafts.

May



We've had a bumper year for 4 legged visitors! Here, Snoopy, feels very regal!

June



Our stall at Ely Cathedral's Home and Garden Fair was a big success.

July



Conservation cleaning takes place at the museum.

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IN REVIEW



Pupils work towards their Arts Award qualification at the museum.



The workshop programme began for the year, and continues to be popular.



Our sold out Leicestershire Study Tour enjoyed this vibrant county.



We enjoyed a busy summer of children's craft events and activities.



A panel from the museums collection goes on loan to the USA.



Malcolm Mitchell retired as Finance & Office Manager after almost 20 years.

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INTERPRETATION

COLLECTIONS CARE

Funding was sought for a conservation project to adapt museum cases to reduce the impact of bats in the museum gallery and to undertake conservation work on the museum's collections in the coming year.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We established a new partnership with York Art History Collaborations (YAHCS) at the History of Art Department, University of York, and advertised both a BA Curatorial and MA Internship opportunity for students which we hope to have on placement in 2026. During the year, our Learning Officer also supported several work experience students on placement from local secondary schools and colleges.

ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Our Deputy Curator worked closely with our Digital Producer to create a series of video shorts for social media which explain stained glass terms such as 'Grisaille', 'Tracery' and 'Quarry' in an accessible, engaging and interesting way, as well as traditional stained glass techniques including methods of painting, staining, glass cutting, and leading.

These short videos have been well received by a wide audience, increasing our digital engagement whilst also sharing our collections online in new ways.

Physical access to stored collections was made possible for several visiting groups via prior arrangement. The museum continues to provide a high-quality free enquiry service and responds to around 300 enquiries from members of the public and wider architectural and heritage sector per year. Donations for this service are encouraged but rarely received.



A work experience pupil assists with the documentation of some recently acquired cartoons.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

SCHOOLS

Our Learning Officer had a busy year, and our schools programme engaged with 796 pupils on 26 school visits. As an accredited Arts Award provider, we delivered Arts Award sessions, as well as learning visits which explore history, introductions to the illuminating art of stained glass, world religions, the science of light and colour, representation in portraiture, power and pride.

As a small museum we are pleased to work hard to make our learning visits accessible for people with diverse needs. During the year our Learning Officer worked closely with teachers from schools to devise tailored visits for children who have difficulty accessing mainstream education. We also devised learning session for Growth Activities in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, a group that supports members with their mental health, organising trips and activities that promote friendship, community and wellbeing. A new group 'Illuminated' was established for home-educated children who completed their Arts Award over 6 weeks, developing both their art, communication and social skills along the way.

The museum's learning team were also busy with outreach offsite, participating in RAF Lakenheath's UK Day engaging with over 120 7th grade students over the course of the day, as well as delivering sessions for local WI groups and care home residents with dementia.

FAMILIES

A further 998 children engaged with the museum during the school holidays during our family workshops, holiday drop-ins, and monthly SGMinis sessions for under 5s. These sessions provided a range of activities for varying prices, with some free drop-ins. Engagement with drop-ins was significantly higher than previous year showing the importance of the museum's family learning sessions for the local community.

GLASS WORKSHOPS

The Board of Trustees wish to thank our specialist glass workshop tutors Tracey Chamberlain, James Cockerill, Claire Hart, Louise Haselgrove, Derek Hunt ACR, and Katie Lynn for sharing their expertise and teaching workshops at the museum during the year. 172 adults developed their creative glass skills on one of the museum's workshops in painting on glass, leading and glazing, copper foiling, glass fusing and screenprinting on glass.



Dressing up as Mark Shavers, model for Kehinde Wiley's panel on a school visit

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

TOURS

The museum's 2025 annual Study Tour took place in Leicestershire in April and was fully booked with 46 delegates.

Highlights included seeing the rare survival of medieval stained glass scheme in Stanford-on-Avon parish church, a variety of work by stained glass artists working under the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, including Christopher Whall, Veronica Whall, Theodora Salusbury and Edward Woore, as well as contemporary works by Derek Hunt and Tom Denny.

Thanks to the generosity of museum Friends we were able to host two student places.

TALKS

We enjoyed two programmes of online lectures, one in the spring and one in the autumn which attracted a combined audience of over 220 people. Our 2025 spring series of talks followed a screening of the award-winning documentary 'Holy Frit', documenting glass artist Tim Carey and studio manager David Judson of Judson Studios' race against time to complete a stained glass commission using a technique that had never been attempted on this scale before.

Another was led by artist Surinder Warboys and focused on her works created for the 'Whispers of Nature' exhibition. In the autumn, three talks focused on different women artists working in stained glass in the 19th and 20th centuries, shining a light on these under-researched figures. The series commenced with a talk on pioneering artist and businesswoman Mary Lowndes by Sarah Sexton and the museum's Curator Dr Jasmine Allen, followed by a talk on Joan Fulleylove by Dr Caroline Barron and finally Dr Joseph McBrinn discussed 'Abstraction and Empathy: The Life and Art of Evie Hone'.

EXHIBITIONS

During the year the museum hosted an exhibition by contemporary glass artist. The exhibition 'Whispers From Nature: Glass Painting by Surinder Warboys was on display from April to November 2025 and featured works created using her unique muller technique. The exhibition also inspired print making workshops for children during the year and we enjoyed a talk by the artist focused on her creative practice during our spring lecture series.



*The 2025 Study Tour visits
St Peter's Church, Highfields, Leicester*

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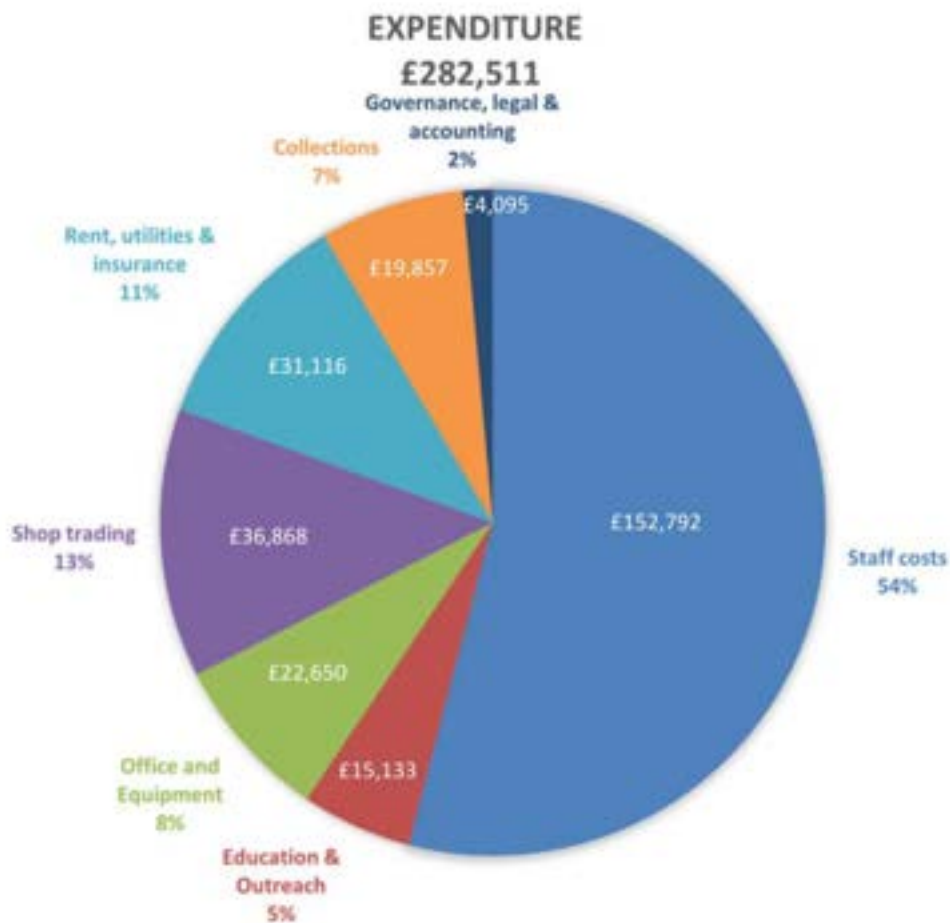
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following financial information shows the museum's unrestricted income and expenditure and is taken from independently examined financial statements for The Stained Glass Museum (registered charity no. 1169842) for the period 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. For more detail please see the full annual report available on both the museum and Charity Commission's website.



Total unrestricted income in 2023-24 (excluding specific grants in restricted income) was £259,991 (2023-24: £246,931). The majority of the museum's income came from admissions and retail (together accounting for 57% of total income). We are grateful to those trusts and foundations that have awarded unrestricted grants to the museum throughout the year (see p.23), as well as Friends and supporters who have made donations.

2023-2024



Unrestricted expenditure in 2024-25 amounted to £282,511 (2023-24: £273,676), with notable increases in operational staffing and premises costs, which combined account for 73% of total expenditure.



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SUPPORTERS

Trustees of The Stained Glass Museum would like to thank the following benefactors and funding bodies for their support during 2024-2025:

- David and Karen Park
- David Ball
- Diana Courtney
- James Lovely
- Malcolm Leith
- Oliver Kerr
- The estate of Joan Nicholls
- Friends of The Stained Glass Museum
- City of Ely Council
- The Glaziers Trust
- The Headley Trust
- The Lopylugs and Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust
- The R. E. Chadwick Charitable Trust
- The Wyss Foundation
- Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- The Royal Collection
- Friends of Friendless Churches
- Museum Development South East (MDSE)

THE
HEADLEY
TRUST





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