

## *St Stephen's Church, South Dulwich*

### **Joan Greenwood OBE Memorial Window Project**

#### **BRIEF**

##### *Scope of Brief*

The Committee is seeking a talented stained-glass artist to create and install a series of three related windows on the themes of the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Nativity, with upper trefoil windows dedicated to the Hebrew Midwives (Exodus 1:15–21). The windows are to be placed in an area dedicated to daily prayer in the South transept of St. Stephens South Dulwich, a Church of England parish. The windows are to be funded out of a legacy left to St Stephen's by its former longtime Church Warden, Joan Greenwood OBE, who in her professional life was a leading midwife. The windows are intended as a lasting legacy to Joan Greenwood, while contributing to the spiritual atmosphere of St Stephens.

##### *Location of Proposed Windows*

The three windows proposed as the site of the commission are located in the South transept of St Stephens. Each window is 142 cm high and 48 cm wide. Each is surmounted by a trefoil that is 45 cm x 48 cm. We set out below as **Fig. 1** a photo of a representative example of the windows (which are each of identical dimensions) and as **Fig. 2** a photo of the three windows seen as a whole. Inset into the upper corners of each of the three windows are small panels of foliated Victorian stained glass, which the Committee proposes to retain and which therefore should be incorporated into any design proposal.



Figure 2: The three windows shown together

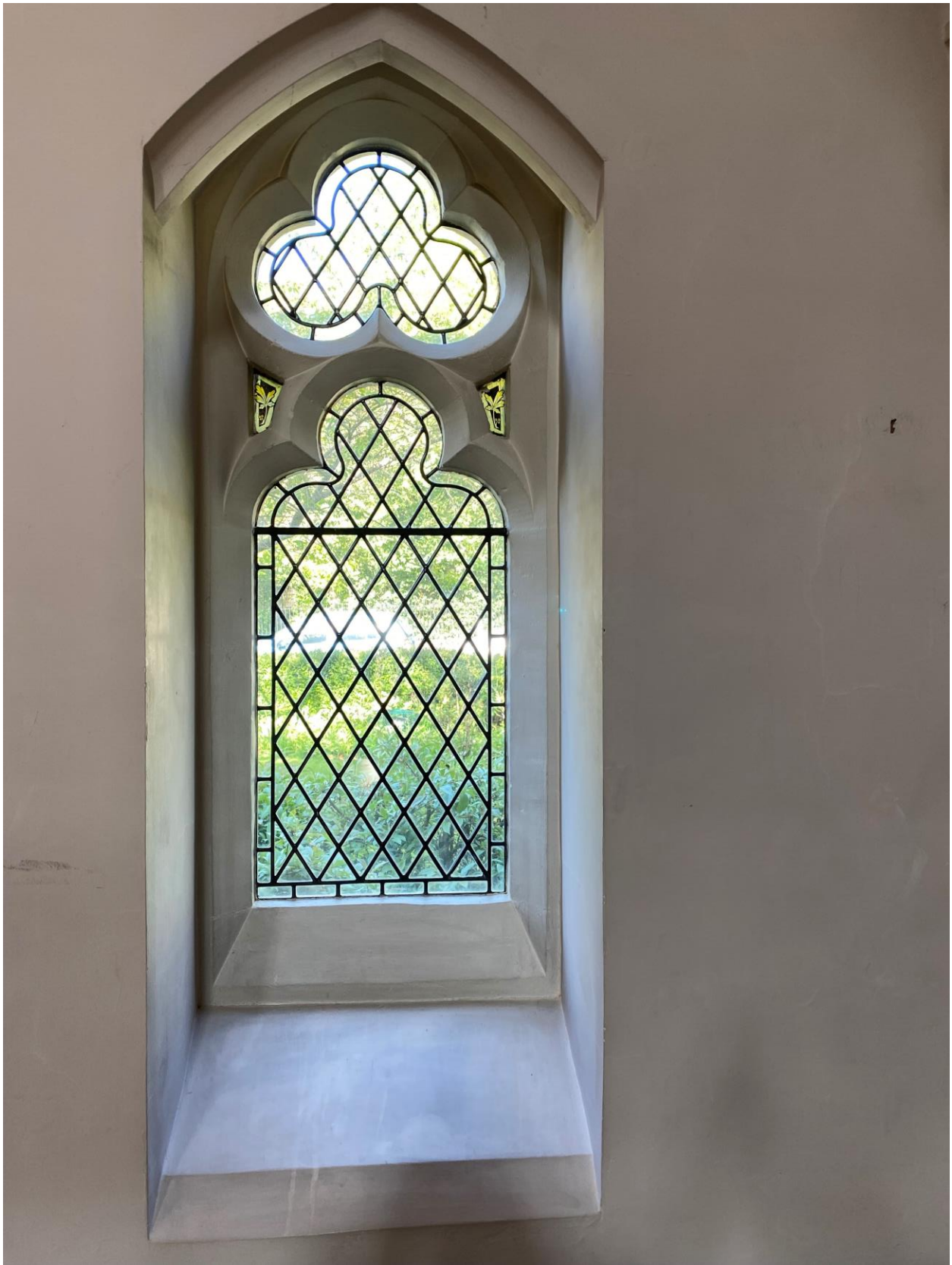


Figure I : Representative photograph of one of the three windows

The three windows overlook an area of the South Transept of St Stephens that has been specifically reserved for daily prayer. The windows look onto a side altar where Morning Prayer is held most mornings each week. They are adjacent the South Central exit to St Stephens. As such attendees at St Stephens services regularly pass directly in front of the proposed window site as they exit the church. While of relatively modest dimensions, the windows in question are at eye level and can be seen from very close up.

At the base of the central of the three windows is a Book of Remembrance in a glass-fronted wooden box, commemorating deceased members of the parish.

As a result of current revision of the lighting scheme at St Stephens, it is anticipated that the exterior of the church will be illuminated at night only selectively and that priority will be placed on lighting existing stained glass within the church from within. As such, the commissioned windows are expected to be seen by passers-by in the evening given that the nave of St Stephens is aligned with College Road, and the windows are at eye-level.

### *Dedicatee of the Windows*

Joan Greenwood OBE was a principled and practical woman. She was born in Yorkshire and remained proud of her origins throughout her life. Initially a nurse at the Sheffield Royal, she trained as a midwife in Newcastle and York and was for a time the Midwife Treasurer of the Royal College of Midwives. She ended her career as Midwifery Officer in the Department of Health from 1984 to 1994.

Following Joan's death in 2019 at age 86, the Chair of Trustees of the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust, Jacque Gerrard MBE wrote the following testimonial:

*"Joan was known to the midwifery profession as a 'woman's midwife' and a 'midwife's midwife'. We remember her for her leadership skills where she used her talents, knowledge and leverage to change and improve midwifery care for mothers and their babies.*

*Joan had insight into the future for midwifery as she had an impact which helped change the profession to become a more respected and attractive occupation for both men and women. It continued to grow to become today's graduate workforce where midwives and future midwives use the evidence base to deliver safe and high-quality maternity care. It is thanks to Joan and the people she worked with that midwives across the country today are now working with safe midwifery standards in today's NHS."*

One of Joan's lasting legacies was to entrench the shift in thinking away from conceiving of pregnancy as an "illness". Joan was also instrumental in creating a new training pathway for midwives, ensuring that midwives could train for their professional qualifications directly, rather than undergoing prior training as nurses.

Joan was a strong Christian and a devout Anglican as well as a devoted parishioner of St Stephens. She held the position of Church Warden for 9 years in addition to being treasurer for many years. Among her accomplishments as Church Warden were the maintenance of the fabric of St Stephen's church building to a very high standard; assisting in situating St Stephens' mission vis-à-vis the neighbouring high-density council estate of Kingswood; taking responsibility of St Stephens parish during a vicarial interregnum, for which she earned the respect of our Bishops; and representing the parish in the complex process leading to the appointment of a new Vicar.

Joan was also a feminist who believed in the need to mentor younger women to help them advance in their careers and achieve their goals.

She was a great lover of nature, enjoying safari trips and travel to the Hebrides for annual birdwatching holidays. While she had no children of her own, her house was peopled by generations of rescue cats and she was a loyal supporter of the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. While her life partner Anne (herself a distinguished midwife) predeceased her by many years, Joan left behind an array of friends, relatives and neighbours who are deeply loyal to her memory.

### *Audience*

St Stephens aims to be a broad and inclusive church valuing formal liturgy, challenging preaching, and fine music while aiming also to serve its community and parish with many services and concerts live-streamed. We are striving to make Christ's presence real in our community.

The audience for the work will therefore primarily be parishioners of St Stephens. However, St Stephens regularly welcomes non-parishioners from the local and wider community, for special concerts, weddings, and other external events.

St Stephens encompasses both high net worth residential areas, and a substantial social housing development with a highly diverse population. As such, the commission should reflect the diversity of background, experience and circumstances of St Stephen's neighbouring surroundings.

### *Judging Criteria and Panel*

Proposals will be judged on suitability for the specific location in St Stephens, demonstration of artistic merit and strength of response to the brief including quality of design, use of colour, legibility, storytelling power, and overall arrangement including between the different window elements of the overall design, as well as feasibility and how the proposal works in the context of the site.

The selection will be made by a Committee comprised of the Vicar of St Stephens, three members of the congregation of St Stephens, and a personal acquaintance of Joan Greenwood. The current Director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, Dr. Jennifer Scott, will serve as external advisor to the Committee.

The winning entry will also be required to meet any practical considerations as stipulated by St Stephens Parish Council.

The winning entry will also be subject to a faculty process (i.e. the planning permission process for use in Anglican parish churches). Once the faculty has been granted and the installation work has been completed, the windows may only be either removed or altered (if at all) through the conduct of another faculty.