



Caldecote Church

The little church with a big vision

The proposal in brief

Several of our more fragile early Victorian church windows are scheduled to be re-leaded in the early summer (2017). We would like to commission the glazier (Auravisions Ltd) to incorporate a small design into a single quarry at the top of one of the south-facing windows while the restoration work is being undertaken.

The proposed image has been designed in memory of the late Dr Colin Bibby, a former parishioner whose fundraising in the last months of his life will pay for the window restoration work.

Dr Bibby was an internationally renowned figure in the world of ornithology as well as a respected and loved member of the local community. The proposed design is based on a painting of a Dartford Warbler given by the original artist to Dr Bibby, whose PhD focused on this unassuming but delightful bird, which also adorns his gravestone in the churchyard, which the window overlooks.

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1 Introductory information

THE CHURCH BUILDING

The Church: St Michael and All Angels (also known as 'Caldecote Church')

The Parish: Caldecote and Childerley, in the Deanery of Bourn

Church Architect: Henry Freeland, BA (Hons) BArch (Hons) RIBA FSA AABC

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS PROPOSAL

Name: Dona McCullagh

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HISTORY AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

The church of St Michael and All Angels is a Grade II* listed building which dates back to the 11th century. Neither the church nor its grounds are scheduled as an ancient monument or located in a designated conservation area. There are no privately owned chapels, aisles or windows.

Records from 1092 show that villagers paid tithes to the canon appointed by William the Conqueror's knight Pycot, Lord of Bourn and Madingley to establish a chapel. By the 1300s the chapel had been developed into a church with a tower (with bells) and a nave. During Victoria's reign the tower and nave were rebuilt and a chancel added, and we understand from the proposed glazier that the windows date to this period.



Caldecote Church has a small congregation in regular attendance but is much loved by parishioners, who turn out in large numbers for special services, such as this recent Carols by Candlelight led by the Bishop of Ely.

2 The proposed timetable

In order to keep our costs low and to benefit from opportunities in July to show the design to the Bibby family and members of the public, we propose that the work is completed **ideally in May, and by the end of June at the latest.**



BACKGROUND TO THE MAY–JUNE TIMEFRAME

Our hope is that the design can be incorporated while the window in question is being re-leaded. The restoration work, which involves several windows being removed and taken to the workshop for re-leading, is scheduled to begin after Easter (April 18th onwards) and is likely to take 4-6 weeks. Auravisions are, however, willing to be as flexible as possible if flexibility makes the inclusion of the bird design feasible while they are doing the restoration work. The start date of the restoration work could therefore be delayed a little. We do however have a deadline of the end of June to have the windows back in place before two July events.

Caldecote Open Gardens – the weekend of 1st/2nd July 2017:

This is a popular local fundraising event organised by the Friends of Caldecote Church to raise money for the ongoing restoration and improvement of the church building and grounds. Local volunteers – who include the Bibby family – open their gardens to the public, and in addition a flower festival is held in the church with the windows forming a backdrop to the arrangements. We anticipate having a visitors' information folder in the church about the restoration work and the window design.

Bibby family gathering:

The extended family of the late Dr Bibby will be gathering at the family home on July 23rd, and we would like to take the opportunity to show them the restoration work completed with the funds he raised on behalf of the church. It is a rare opportunity with family travelling from as far as Australia and New Zealand to be in Caldecote. To be able to also show them a Dartford Warbler design in his memory would be a huge honour for us as a church, and a very welcome opportunity to express our gratitude not only for his life and work but for the continuing support for the church of his widow and sons.

3 Cost and funding

If the design is incorporated into the glass while the window is at the workshop being restored, there will be no cost for the removal and replacement of the glass, as this is covered by the budget for the re-leading. The cost is therefore limited to the design work and the painting, staining and enamelling onto the glass quarry, for which Auravisions Ltd have quoted a total of £200 + VAT (see quote in Fig 1). The church has the funds to cover this, and the PCC passed a unanimous resolution to set aside the funds for this purpose.



Unit 2, Goldstones Farm, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB10 2LZ Tel/Fax (01799) 584108
Stained Glass Design, Restoration & Conservation

DONA McCULLAGH
1 POWELL CLOSE
TOFT
CAMBRIDGE CB23 2RT

9.3.17

Dear Dona McCullagh,

Re: St. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' CHURCH, CALDECOTE, CAMBS

Please find below our quotation for the insertion of a stained glass quarry of a bird in window sIII and for the releading of windows sIV and nIII:-

sIII

A yellow tinted glass quarry will be inserted at the very top centre of this single light window. It will contain the image of a Dartford Warbler in full colour which would be painted, stained and enamelled to achieve as good a colour match to the bird in real life.

BLACK & WHITE DESIGN = **£50**

COLOUR DESIGN = **£50**

PAINTED GLASS QUARRY = **£100**

ALL PLUS VAT

I hope this meets with your approval.
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Susan McCarthy BA(Hons) ACR

VAT Registration Number: 752 4172 42



Ltd Registration Number: 5368688

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Fig 1: Quote from Auravisions for the design and painted quarry

4 The proposed design

The design is based on a painting of a Dartford Warbler (Fig 2) given by the original artist to the late Dr Colin Bibby. We have commissioned the designer (Susan McCarthy BA (Hons) ACR) to make a line drawing (Fig 4) and a mock-up of how the design might sit within the quarry (Fig 5).



Fig 2: Detail from the original painting



Fig 3: Photo showing the colouring of a Dartford Warbler

FINAL COLOUR VERSION OF THE DESIGN

If the DAC's advice is positive towards the project, we will be glad to commission the final colour version of the design for their review. The design will also be reviewed by Dr Bibby's widow. The designer will undertake to paint, stain and enamel the design to achieve as good a colour match as possible to the bird in real life (see Fig 3).

The colouring of the bird is understated (predominantly russet and grey) and in keeping with the rural location. The branch and area surrounding the bird itself will be largely shades of green, yellow and brown, and will blend naturally into and build on the pale straw colour of the coloured glass quarry itself (see Fig 6).



Fig 4 (left): Line drawing commissioned from Auravisions

Fig 5 (above): Black and white mock-up of the design in the quarry. The design is rotated to make best use of the available space within the irregular diagonal quarry.



Fig 6 (above): It is proposed that the design be put into the very top centre of the second south-facing window in the chancel. The quarry glass is straw coloured and lends itself very well to the proposed colours to be used in the design.



Fig 7 (above): The design will be located in the window shown here in the right-hand side of the photo. The window is in the south-facing wall of the chancel.

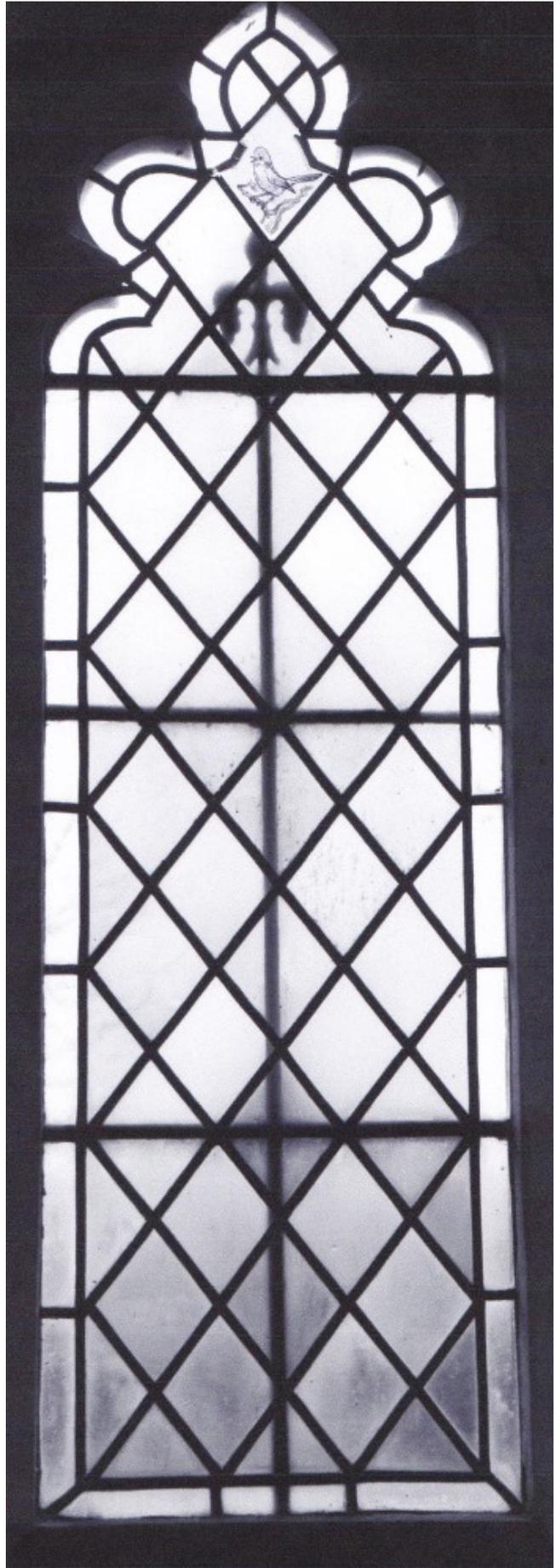


Fig 8 (right): Black and white mock-up of the design in the context of the whole window, which is one of the windows due to be re-leaded.

5 The proposed stained glass designer

We propose to use the same company that is already approved by the Archdeacon for the re-leading restoration work. Auravisions Ltd are well respected in their field and have undertaken similar stained glass work in both domestic and ecclesiastical settings. We have high confidence in their creative and technical ability and their professionalism.

Examples of their work may be viewed on their website at www.auravisions.co.uk.

We recommend in particular the page entitled 'New from Old', which is most relevant.

6 Dr Colin Bibby's local and international significance

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Dr Bibby moved with his family in 1987 into Clare Farm, situated on the same road as the church in Caldecote. In February 2004, aged 55, he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour, and passed away in August of the same year. Both he and his wife had a keen interest in our built heritage and the conservation of the environment, and in the final months of his life he made it his goal to raise money for the church of St Michael and All Angels. He raised around £7,000 in total, and with the blessing of his widow and the donors this money is now making possible much-needed restoration of the church windows.

The proposed quarry design is in part a result of our wish to pay tribute to Dr Bibby's generosity in what was an extraordinarily difficult time for him and his family. But in addition we would like to honour a man whose influence extended far beyond the parish of Caldecote and Childerley. Dr Bibby was an ornithologist and conservationist held in extremely high regard both nationally and internationally.



Dr Colin Bibby

WORKING LIFE

Dr Bibby was a research staff member for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds from 1971 to 1986, and the head of Conservation Science from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, he moved to BirdLife International, where he led their research team and a major research program, with projects in over 70 countries. In 2001 he became a self-employed environmental consultant. He was also a member of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, and the founding editor of the British Trust for Ornithology journal *Ringing and Migration*.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND CONTINUING INFLUENCE

Dr Bibby's major contributions were in the development of quantitative approaches to the study of birds for research leading to conservation – approaches that are today underpinning vital research in the field. In an obituary in *The Guardian*, Brian Unwin describes how his work's impact extended not only beyond his birth country but beyond his own time:

In 1992, his influence went worldwide – he became the International Council for Bird Preservation’s research director, aiding its transformation into BirdLife International, and playing a major role in its strategy and regional programmes.

Researchers, fired by his inspiration, studied threatened wildlife and habitat in more than 70 countries. He globalised BirdLife’s bird area programme, established a world bird database and helped to develop plans for extremely endangered species.

With Cambridge University’s Dr Rhys Green, he pioneered studies of migratory birds at staging areas – crucial locations providing vital feeding, in effect refuelling before the next stages of their journeys. Hundreds of researchers now work on ‘stopover ecology’.

The depth of the value placed on his contributions and of the respect for his personal qualities are evident in the many glowing and heartfelt obituaries penned by colleagues and peppered with words like ‘phenomenal’, ‘incredible’ and ‘pioneering’.

A special supplement published with *Bird Conservation International* (Vol 18 No 3, September 2008) was dedicated to him. In it, Mike Rands, BirdLife’s Chief Executive, wrote:



Colin Bibby was a truly remarkable man. He had a life-long interest in almost all things biological, and applied scientific thinking and rigour to a vast array of situations, be they the study of a particular conservation problem, or matters concerning the management of an organisation. [He] leaves a great legacy of knowledge and ideas, and this publication pays tribute to his innovative approach to the application of ornithology to conservation.

AWARDS

In 1994, Bibby was awarded the Dr A.H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences for his work with BirdLife International. The Heineken Prize is a prestigious award bestowed by Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences every two years through a selection process comparable to that of the Nobel Prizes.

In June 2004, he received the RSPB Medal in recognition of his contribution to ornithology. The RSPB Medal is the Society’s most prestigious award, presented annually to an individual in recognition of wild bird protection and countryside conservation.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DARTFORD WARBLER

At age 20, Colin Bibby undertook a now classic study of the Dartford warbler, “The Ecology and Conservation of the Dartford Warbler”. His work, for which he obtained a PhD, looked carefully at the status and habitat needs of the bird, and translated them into a plan for its conservation. He showed that Dartford Warblers are dependent on dry, open heathland, and need the right management to thrive.

Britain’s Dartford Warbler population was down to just 12 pairs after the severe 1962–63 winter. The fact there has been a 100-fold increase is partly due to recent mild weather but also a result of better management of their lowland heath habitat following Bibby’s research.

Following his death in 2004, a gravestone was erected in the south side of the churchyard (Fig 9) at Caldecote Church, featuring an engraving of the Dartford Warbler (Fig 10). The proposed stained glass design in one of the south-facing windows overlooking the churchyard will help tell the story of a remarkable man who dedicated his life to the conservation of our natural environment – an environment which is very close to the heart of this rural church.



Fig 9: The gravestone is situated in the south side of the churchyard, overlooked by the windows scheduled to be re-leaded using the funds raised by Dr Bibby.



Fig 10: The gravestone in the churchyard pays tribute to “Colin Joseph Bibby of Clare Farm, Ornithologist” and incorporates an engraving of a Dartford Warbler.

7 Aims of the Project

Beyond the immediate aims of marking the restoration of the windows and paying tribute to Dr Colin Bibby, we see this small project as a stepping stone to wider aims within our vision for Caldecote Church.

A LIVING CHURCH

While we value our built heritage, we feel a responsibility to hand down to future generations not a church building that has been fossilised in the Victorian era, but one that continues to add to the richness of its historical tapestry. Our priority is to develop the building in ways that are congruent with and respectful of its history while adding to that history with the best of the current day.

A CATALYST FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH STEWARDSHIP

One of the key issues that the world faces in the modern age is the nexus between conservation, biodiversity and climate change, a subject of growing interest among individuals in our congregation and in the wider parish. This project will provide a focus to enable us to articulate that interest in our capacity as stewards of creation by telling the story of a parishioner whose work had such a significant impact not just on the specific species of bird illustrated (at last count there were 3,208 pairs) but on the work of hundreds of conservationists across the world whose influence will itself extend far into the future.

RAISING AWARENESS WITHIN THE PARISH

The window design will provide the catalyst to begin telling and retelling this story — in person, through printed information and online via our website and social media platforms — and in doing so generate a community-wide conversation about how we can play our part in the future of our environment, as we seek to integrate our faith and life from Monday to Sunday.

To encourage visitors and local villagers to explore the church and understand more about its history and the significance of its features (which include a chamber organ with a colourful past and rare ‘Royal Heads’ bells), we are putting together a visitors’ exhibition folder of which the stained glass feature would be a part. There will also be a corresponding page on our recently redesigned website with a gallery of photos and related information. We are keen to share this local historical gem with audiences near and far, and in doing so model our values which include an appreciation of our heritage, an ambition to always aim for high quality and authenticity in our work and ministry, despite the limitations of our human and financial resources, and to move forward in a way that is respectful of our history and environment.

RAISING AWARENESS BEYOND THE PARISH

A complementary part of this story is Caldecote Meadows, whose purchase by the Bibby family secured its future from the hands of developers and turned it through careful management into a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The site, which comprises rare herb-rich calcareous grassland, is managed by traditional hay cutting and grazing and now features

in the Caldecote Open Gardens annual event, which raises funds for the restoration and development of our building. The event draws people from surrounding towns and villages, allowing us an opportunity to bring Dr Bibby's work to the attention of a wider audience.

Dr Bibby's national and international standing in the field of ornithology also provides Caldecote Church with a chance to engage with individuals in that field, by drawing their attention to the design created in his memory. Through our presence on twitter in particular we have the means to reach this audience directly.

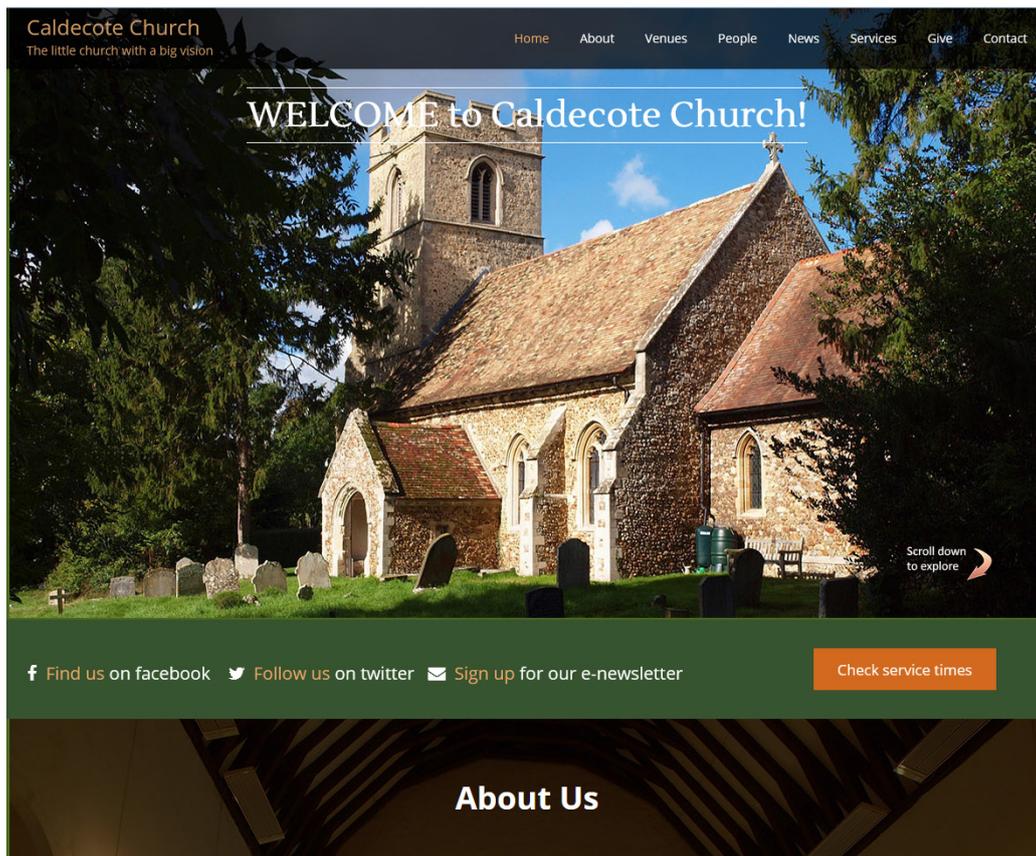


Fig 11: We have recently relaunched our church website and are widening our online footprint through twitter, facebook and weekly e-newsletters.

8 Additional comments

While our proposal is for a simple bird design, neither the PCC nor Colin Bibby's family are averse to a small inscription on another quarry within the same window, if the DAC felt that an inscription should be integral to the proposal. We would be happy to consider suggestions along these lines. As the proposal stands, however, the dedication, while not made explicitly in the window itself, is implicit in the linkage with the corresponding Dartford Warbler design on Dr Bibby's gravestone outside, and we will be encouraging visitors and parishioners to read about the connection in an exhibition folder made for the purpose.