

A PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE OF STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS BY A. SEWARD & CO. OF LANCASTER

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This report is a photographic catalogue of some of the stained glass, mostly in churches, produced by A Seward & Co of Lancaster, one the town's seven stained-glass firms.

My interest began when I discovered a Seward window in St Mary's Church in Penwortham on joining the congregation there. This led to a two-year search (1988–9) for information about the studio with visits to churches around Preston, photographing most of the windows and the signatures of the stained-glass artists. Other churches were visited after information had been found concerning Seward, and the evidence given on the windows was recorded (1). In 2009 I moved back to Lancaster and made the acquaintance of Len Shorrock (a noted stained-glass worker) and of Margaret Edwards (2) and we discussed Lancaster's stained-glass studios.

A Seward & Company

The Seward family owned property in Market St (Nos 54–56) (Figure 1), Sun St and China St including the 'Music Room' where the principal floor became a glass-maker's studio (Figures 3 and 4). The "Italian plasterwork" was deteriorating while it was being used as a studio and a meeting room for the Freemasons – Charles Seward (1787–1825) was a Freemason in 1822 (3). When the author of *Time Honoured Lancaster* met Abram Seward (1815–1904) (Figure 2) (4) he "was a little disheartened on hearing of the owner's intension to scrape the walls as soon as he was able to do so" (5). Fortunately the plasterwork was restored along with the building in the 1970s by the Landmark Trust and is now used as a holiday let (6). The firm's founder was Abraham Seward (1757–1823). His son, Charles Seward (1787–1825), continued the business, handing it to his sons, Abraham (called Abram) (1815–1904) and Charles (1818–1889). The latter moved with his family to Preston in 1855, starting a separate heating and engineering business. One of his sons, John who was born in Lancaster in 1853, became an architect, which may have helped the Lancaster firm gain contracts for stained glass in the Preston area. The Lancaster firm were never solely suppliers of stained glass. They were also plumbers, glaziers, and gas and heating engineers. The family played a part in Lancaster politics, Charles Frederick Seward (1844–1930) being Mayor in 1912/13.



Figure (1) The site of Seward's premises at 54–56 Market Street, Lancaster.
Figure (2) Abram Seward.



Figures 3 and 4 Their Sun Street premises, exterior and interior (the Muses / Music Room).

The Photographic Catalogue

This Catalogue combines three sources of information. First, there are the previously published publications that attribute specific windows to A. Seward & Co. There is a reference for each window these sources have identified, where appropriate. Second, some windows have been identified by the author, often using a Seward signature on the window. Third, there are photographs of nearly all of these windows that have been taken from the author's photographic collection built up since 1988. Most of the windows, including the earliest, are in churches and most are in Lancashire (7). The items in the catalogue are arranged alphabetically by county. Some of the windows, and particularly the Seward signatures, were difficult to photograph from ground level.

Bedfordshire



Figure 5. Caddington, All Saints. Little 2002 p109 (formerly attributed to Seward, now attributed to Arthur Louis Moore of London) (8)

Cumbria



Figures 6–11. Burgh-by-Sands, St Michael: 1897: signed windows. Smith 1994 pp15–6 (9); Hyde & Pevsner 2010 p202 (10); Edwards 2020 p123 (i) (2).



Figures 12-14. Cotehill, St John Evangelist: 1868: signed windows. Smith 1994 p33 (9); Hyde & Pevsner 2010 p303 (10); Edwards 2020 p124 (vi) (2).



Figure 15–17. Millom, St George. Nave, south easternmost. “The Empty Tomb”: signed window 1877. A further window also on the south wall is dated 1906. Smith 1994 p136 (9); Hyde & Pevsner 2010 p525 (10); Edwards 2020 p124 (vi) (2).



Figure 18–20. Millom, Our Lady and St James (RC) Church. “The Holy Family Window 1888”, attributed to Seward by Copeland Tourist Group (11); Edwards 2020 p124 (xi) (2).

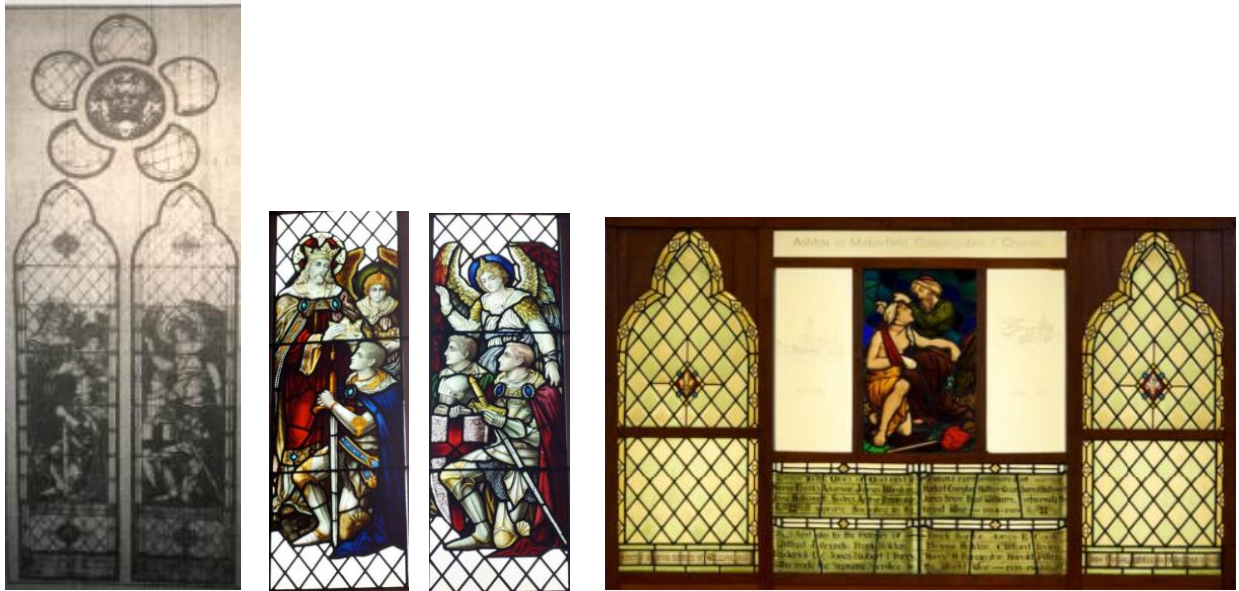


21–22. Seascale, St Cuthbert: early 20th century: signed window. Smith 1994 p120 (9); Hyde & Pevsner 2010 p609 (10); Edwards 2020 p124 (xii) (2).

Lancashire

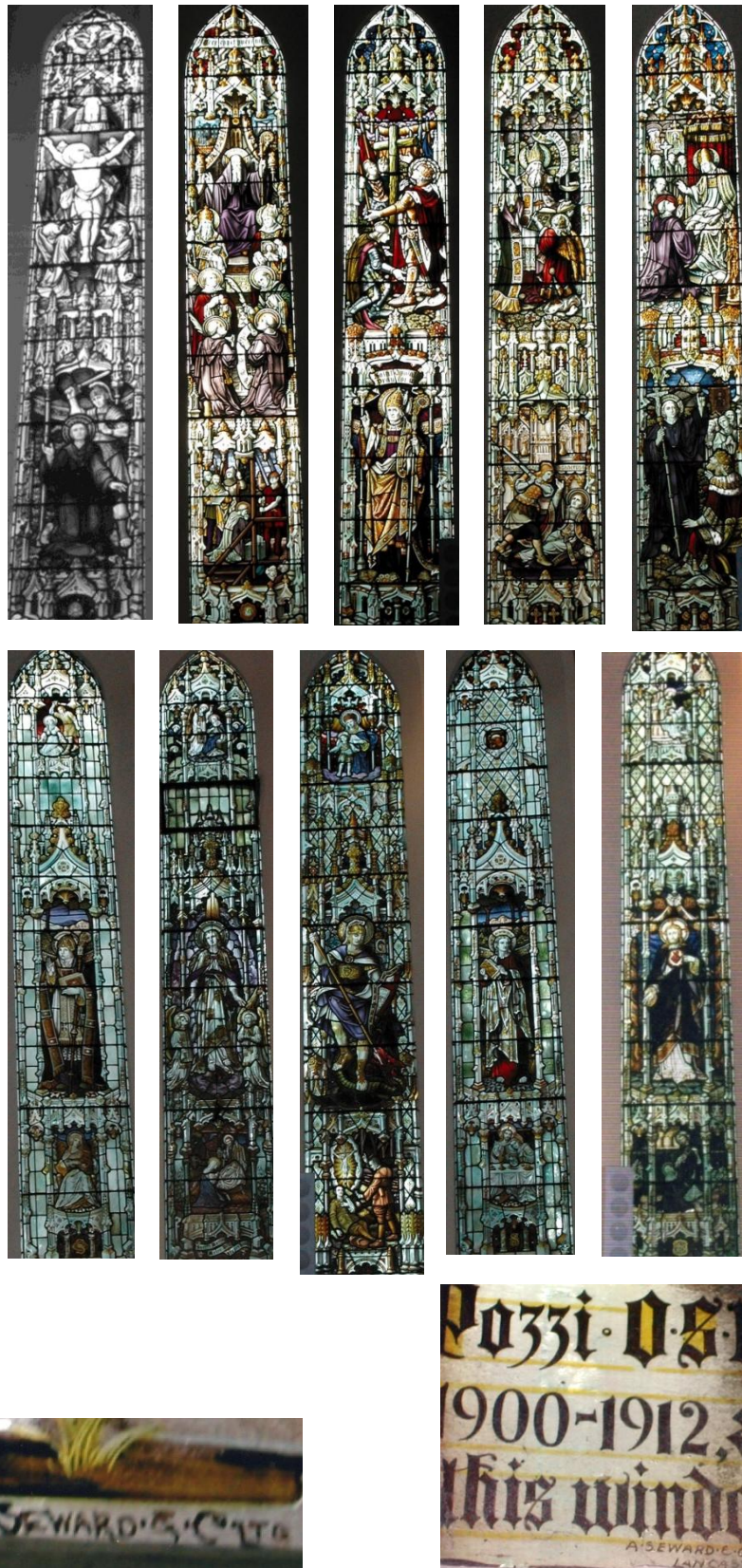


Figure 23. Seward & Co, undated catalogue of leaded lights. This displayed plain diamond leads with coloured variations, prices attached to each design (12).



Figures 24–27. Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Congregational Church, Gerard Street.

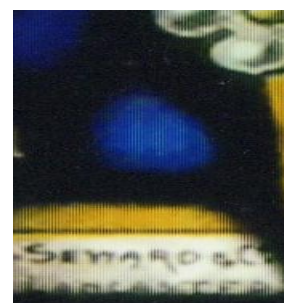
Unveiled on 8 July 1923. The existing memorial is a back-lit amalgam of sections of windows removed from the former church, which was closed and subsequently demolished in 1973. Figure 27 shows the Good Samaritan tending the wounds of the traveller set upon by thieves. “The memorial window is designed to represent the text, ‘Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life’, and shows our Lord presenting the crown of victory to two returned warriors who are depicted as Crusaders, symbolic of chivalry and the nation's ideal when entering the war” (Figures 25–26). A three-light stained glass window (Figure 24) consists of a five-petal rose at the centre of which, surrounded by a laurel wreath, is the crown of pain and victory, above two vertical lights. The left-hand light shows our Lord presenting a crown to the returned warrior, with an angel to his left representing womanhood, and her appreciation of the great sacrifices made, while angels hover in the background represent Mercy and Charity. In the right-hand light two kneeling knights, one holding a Crusader's shield, await their crowns, with an angel behind” (From the newspaper report of its dedication: source *Imperial War Museum* ref 86710 quoting the *Wigan Observer* 21/07/1923. Photograph and description of the window and account of the unveiling (picture credits David Long).



Figures 28–39. Bamber Bridge, St Mary RC Church, scheme for nave stained glass: 1918: signed windows. Hartwell & Pevsner 2009 p96 (13); Edwards 2020 p124 (xiii) (2).



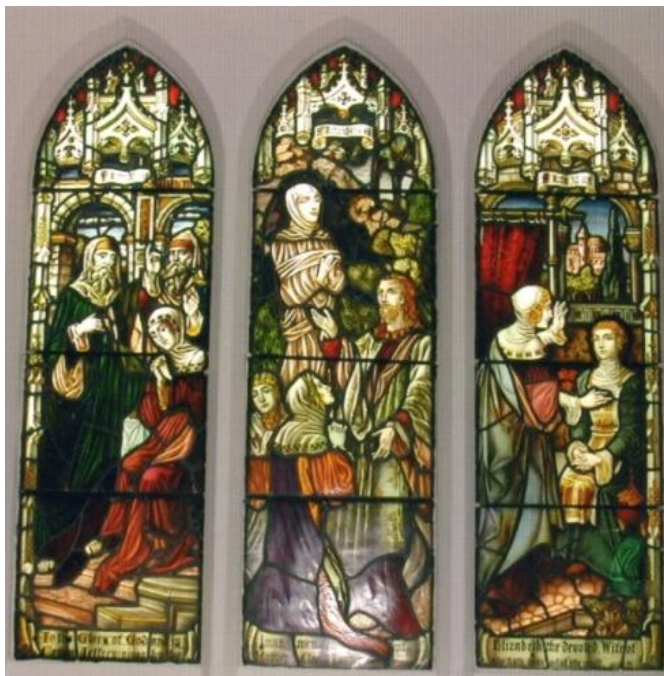
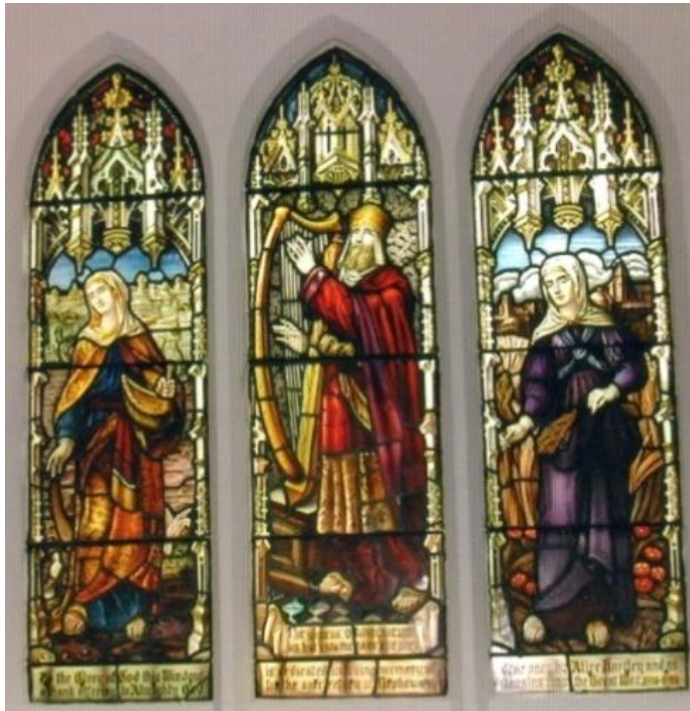
Figures 40–41, Barton near Preston, St Lawrence: n.d.: signed window.



Figures 42–44, Blackburn, St Silas Church: n.d.: signed window.



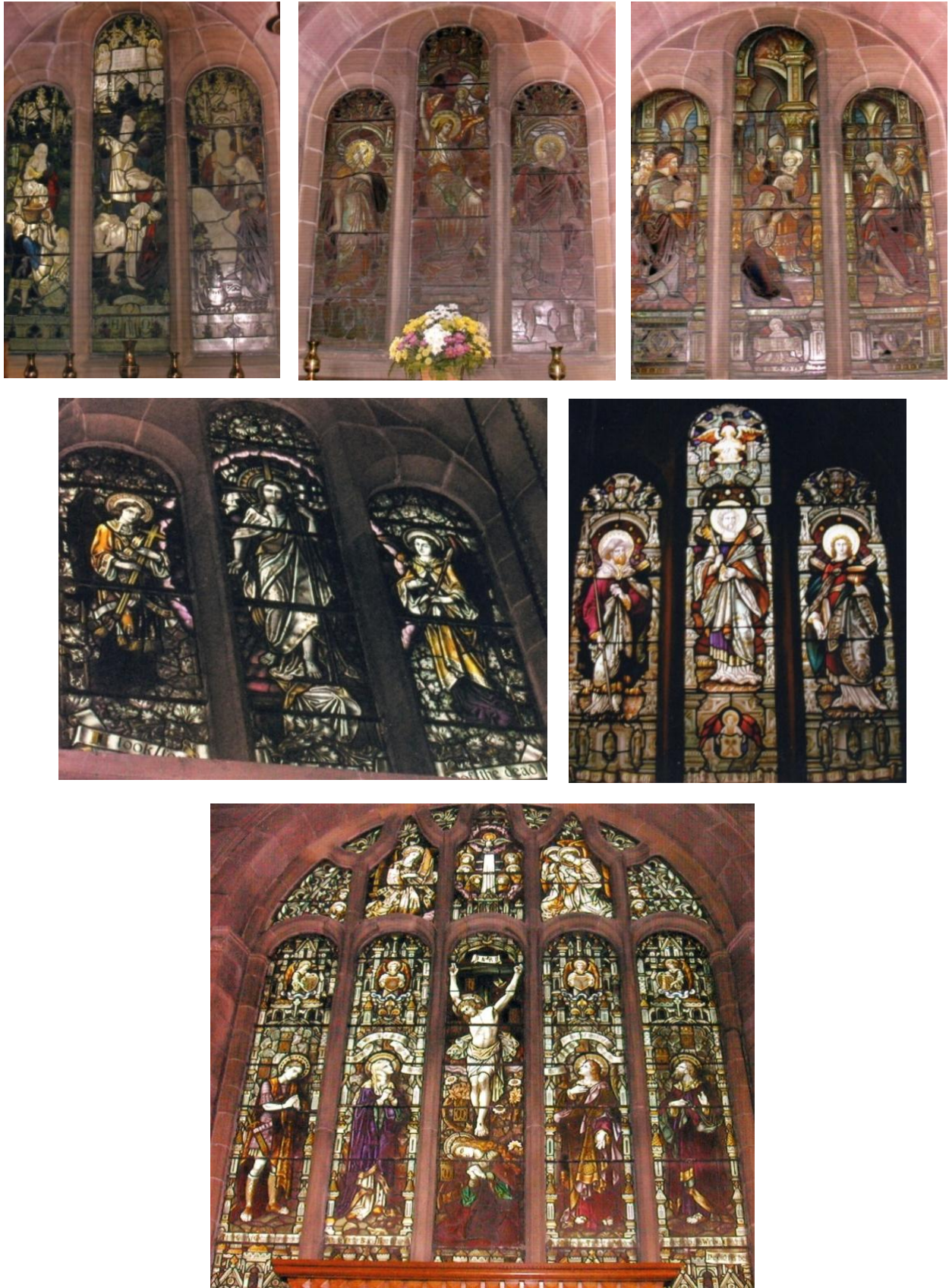
Figures 45–47, Blackpool, Christ Church with All Saints: n.d.: signed windows.



Figures 48–51. Blackpool, Parish Church of St John Evangelist: n.d.: signed windows. Hartwell & Pevsner 2009 p136, “two windows in north aisle by A Seward & Co” (13); Edwards 2020 p124 (x) (2).



Figures 52–56. Blackpool, Town Hall. The Town Hall was built between 1895 and 1900. On the staircase half-landing the four-light window shows Queen Victoria and allegories (probably) by A Seward & Co (13) and in the Mayor's Parlour there is Heraldic Glass also by A Seward & Co. Hartwell & Pevsner 2009 p140 (13) (14).



Figures 57–62). Newchurch, Culcheth near Warrington, Holy Trinity: all before 1914: signed windows: visit arranged with churchwarden – Colin Hamer. Pollard & Pevsner 2006 p167 “much [stained glass] by A Seward & Co of Lancaster including an impressive Crucifixion in the five light East window, a memorial to Charles Crofton Black, died 1913” (15)



Figures 63–65. Farington near Leyland, St Paul's Church. Edmund Sharpe church with chancel by J A Seward: n.d. Two windows, one of the chancel widows is signed, like St Andrew's Ashton-on-Ribble, probably aided by the family connection – the soldier in the far-right predella is similar to the memorial window at Skerton.

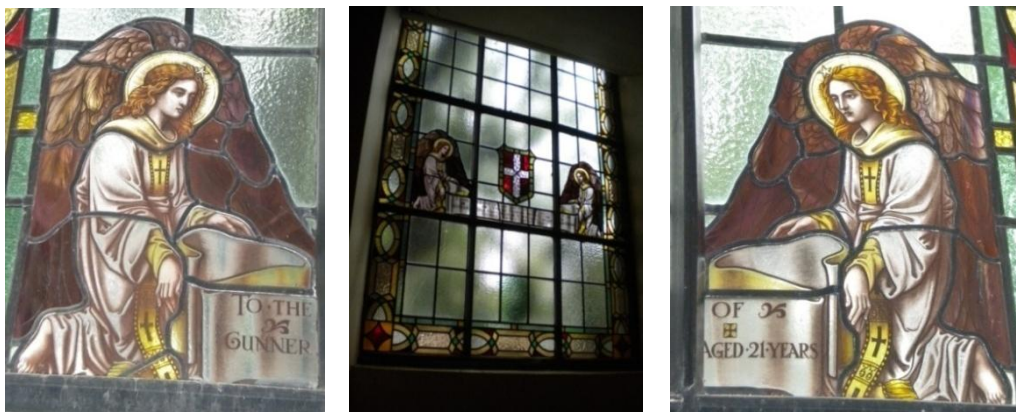


Figures 66–68. Great Harwood, St Bartholomew: 1913: signed window. Hartwell & Pevsner 2009 p309 “early C20 windows” (13); Edwards 2020 p123 (iv) (2).

Lancaster



Figures 69–71. Lancaster, Moor Lane, St Anne's. "...the firm was also responsible in making the stained-glass windows", Boutin 2002, p42 (16). If the glass referred to was put there when the church was built (1796) then this could be the earliest known Seward stained glass.



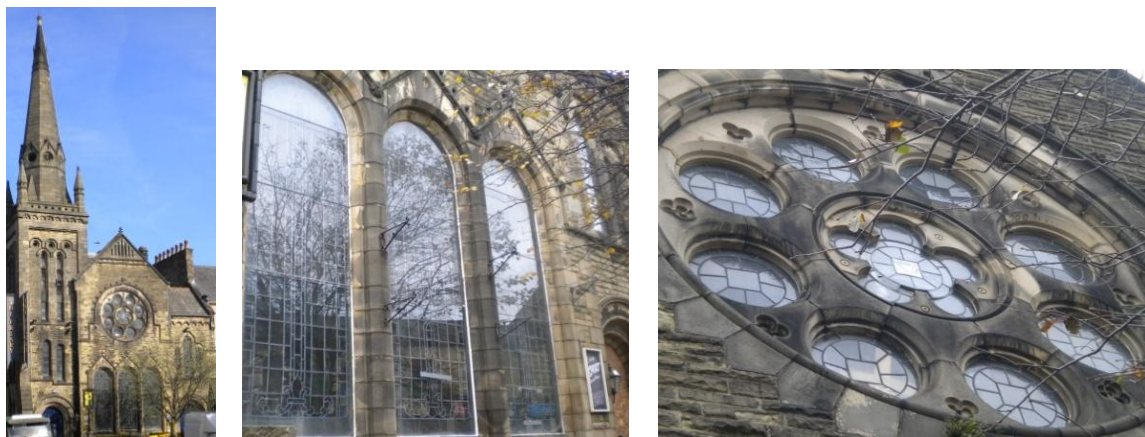
Figures 72–74. Lancaster, St John's. The large display of windows in St John's identified by the staff of the Churches Conservation Trust (17). Undated at present but could also be some of the earliest known Seward stained glass in Lancaster.

There are a number of churches in Lancaster with minimal stained glass and diapered leaded lights that are candidates for some A Seward & Co attributions. Research on the other stained-glass studios in Lancaster shows no details of work executed at the following three sites and this makes the Seward attributions more credible.



Figures 75–76 Chapel (Figure 75) adapted from the 'Lawson' mansion on St Leonard's Gate and Phoenix Street for Edward Bousfield Dawson by Paley & Austin. Photographed after 2010 with the permission of the King's Church Pastor (plan 1887 Paley & Austin) (18). The School, St Leonard's

Gate (Figure 76) was built in 1887 in the front garden of the 1720 Lawson mansion, which was re-designed at the same time as the school chapel (18) and was altered again in 1951. The glass in the school's casement windows and the chapel is the same as other Congregational buildings and is attributed to Seward & Co.



Figures 77–79. Lancaster, Stonewell, Centenary Chapel (1875–7). Attributed to Seward & Co by the author because of its association with the Dawson family of Aldcliffe.

Lancaster, High Street, Chapel & School. n.d. Attributed to Seward by the author because the minimal stained glass is similar in style to that in St John's Church, Lancaster (see above).

Lancaster, Ashton Road, Ripley St Thomas School (originally the Ripley Orphanage). Julia Ripley funded the establishing of Ripley Hospital which opened in 1864. After her death in 1881 funds became available for a new chapel. Plans and estimates (valued at £21,000) were accepted on the 12th November 1883 and it opened in 1888 (19). The contractors for “plumbing, glazing, gas fitting and heating [were] Messrs A Seward and Co . . .” (19). The Seward glazing was clear leaded lights only. “The New Chapel forms the completion of the scheme of addition and alteration which was commenced four years ago and which with the exception of the Chapel was completed two years ago ” (20). Ripley Chapel 1884 has plain glazing but the East and West windows were designed and installed by Shrigley & Hunt (Figure 80) (21), replacing the leaded lights originally proposed and as seen in the nave.

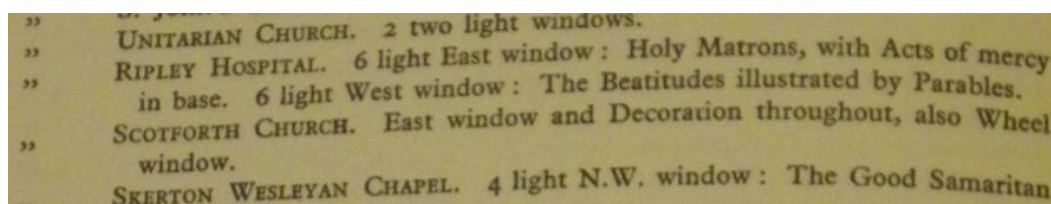


Figure 80 Notes on Stained Glass, Shrigley & Hunt, Catalogue, 1936



Figure 81

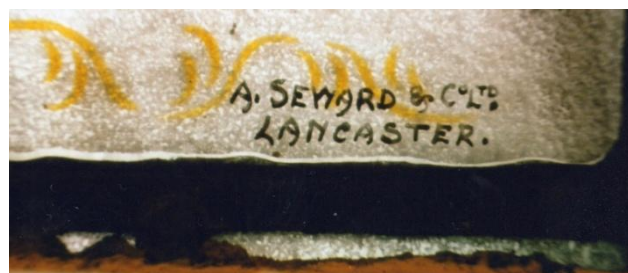


Figure 83



Figure 82

Figures 81–83. Scotforth, St Paul's. The West end of St Paul's Church was extended by in 1891, two transepts were created and a new porch created (23). The Julia Ripley Memorial window (1898) (Figure 81) was where the original west door was, beneath the original angelic "wheel window" by Shrigley and Hunt (21). The Memorial window has three lights, each showing a female biblical figure performing an act of charity similar to the work done by Julia Ripley (Figure 83). The Seward signature on the window was found after church cleaning in 2010 (Figure 82). Mrs Ripley was a patron of St Paul's Church (20). There is a Seward window in the vicarage porch.



Figures 84–85. Skerton, St Luke's. A war memorial window to John Woods (who died in 1915): signed window: c.1919.

Morecambe, St Laurence Church. Built in 1876–8 to a design by Paley & Austin, the East window being by James Holmes. Some of the glass is attributed to Seward by the author because Julia Ripley was a patron of the church and could have suggested Seward & Co as heating, plumbing and stained-glass suppliers (19).

Preston

Seward stained glass was also installed in the Preston district. Charles Seward (born 1818) and John Bramwell Seward (born 1822) had moved there from Lancaster in 1855 and could have recommended Seward stained-glass windows locally. The son of John Bramwell Seward was John Alfred Seward, a Preston architect, whose churches often contain several Seward windows.



Figure 86. Leyland, Parish Church of St James. Three-light nave window, 1845 attributed by B J N Edwards: Edwards, 2020 pp119–22 (2).



Figure 87. Preston, St Peter's. The East window is early Seward & Co stained glass. It is not signed. It is now part of the University of Central Lancashire. Thomas Rickman repeated the East window of St Peter's, Preston, in one of his Birmingham churches (23): (Rickman study research, Harris Library 1975) (1); Baines 1825 p487 (22); Edwards 2020 pp 119, 121–24 (v) Fig. 8.2 (2).

Preston St Paul could also have Seward stained glass windows as it was one of two Rickman churches (1825–6) built with the “Waterloo Grant” for St Peter’s (1).



Figures 88–89. Preston, All Saints Church, Elizabeth Street: no date: signed window.



Figures 90–91, Preston, Emmanuel Church, Plungington. Two signed windows. Edwards 2020 p124 (vii) (2) “says three windows”. See St Andrew’s Church (Figure 92) for another “Good Samaritan” window.

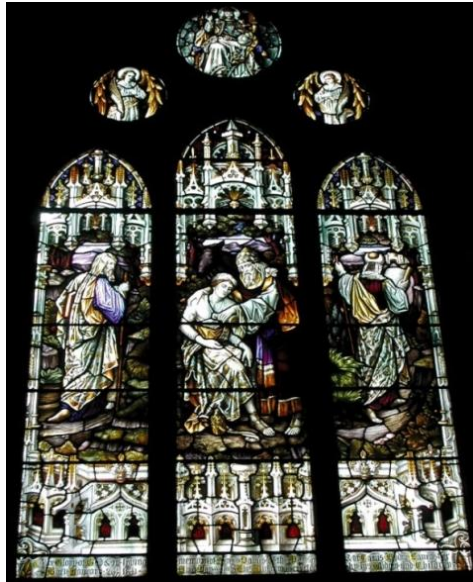
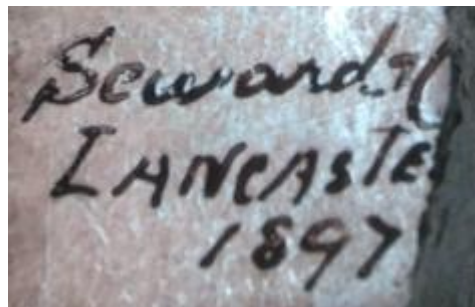


Figure 92. Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, St Andrews Church. The Henry Davies (1841–1908) window “The Good Samaritan” c.1909, signed. Another version of this window can be seen at Emmanuel Church, Preston (Figures 90–91).



Figures 93–94. Penwortham, St Mary’s Church. Signed and dated window, “Adoration of the Magi”, 1897. Hartwell & Pevsner 2009 p499 (13); Edwards 2020 p123 (ii) (2).

Shropshire

Near Shrewsbury, Berwick House Chapel, Sanctuary south, Simon & Anna, 1897 and Sanctuary east, Ascension, 1902, both by Seward. Not illustrated. Newman & Pevsner 2006 p145 (24).

Wales



Figure 95. St Maelog, Llanfaelog, Anglesey, St Paul. Single-light window at the west end of the church, with a standing figure of Paul holding a large sword and reading a book: 1902: signed window.





Figures 96–99. Llanfor, Gwynedd, St Mor and Deniol. A single lancet of a two-light window, the right-hand light being plain. A standing figure of Christ holding a lamb and a shepherd's staff. North wall of nave. Given in memory of Richard Lloyd Price of Rhiwlas, 1844–1923, c1924 (25).

References

- (1) Unpublished archive material collected at the Harris Library, Preston (1988–9) with much help from the reference library staff, Mr Terry Shaw and Miss Ann Dennison. The archive contains a photographic record of windows with signatures.
- (2) *Lancashire Studies: Historical Essays in Honour of Alan Crosby*. 2020. Lancashire Local History Federation. Edwards M 'The Seward stained-glass studio of Lancaster.' pp115–24. The windows in this article are marked (i)–(xiii) in the catalogue entries. Also: Edwards M 2006–7 Lancaster Stained Glass Studios Research 2003–2006: Voices Past and Present. *Contrebis* 31, 65–74
- (3) *Lodge of Fortitude entry book for 1822*. Masonic records at ancestry.co.uk
- (4) Cross Fleury (R E K Rigby) 1891 *Time-Honoured Lancaster*. Lancaster: Eaton & Bulfield p442
- (5) op. cit. p442
- (6) The Landmark Trust. <https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk>
- (7) Author's photographic collection
- (8) Little, J. 2002 *Stained Glass Marks and Monograms* NADFAS. Seward entry p109 (drawn to my attention by Edith Tyson). This window is now attributed as one of two at the church designed by Arthur Lewis Moore of London.
- (9) Smith L N S 1994 *The Stained Glass in the Churches of The Anglican Diocese of Carlisle: a Catalogue and Gazetteer*. Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society, Extra Series XXIV
- (10) Hyde M & Pevsner N 2010 *Cumbria*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press
- (11) Copeland Tourist Group 2009 *Poets Artists & Angels. Stained Glass Windows of the Churches of South Copeland* p10. Personal communication, Jonathan Powell.
- (12) Seward & Co leaded lights catalogue (undated): Lancaster Library Pamphlet Collection No. L M 631 catalogue F
- (13) Hartwell C & Pevsner N 2009 *Lancashire: North*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press
- (14) Mr & Mrs Humble (Blackpool Civic Society), with thanks.
- (15) Pollard & Pevsner 2006 *Lancashire: Liverpool and the South West*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press p167
- (16) Boutin S 2002 'The Rise and Fall of the Stained Glass Trade in Nineteenth Century Lancaster'

- Chapter 4, pp41–52 in Sue Wilson *Aspects of Lancaster*. Barnsley: Wharncliffe Books
- (17) Churches Conservation Trust. <https://www.vistchurches.org.uk>
- (18) Lancashire Archives MBLA 5167 plan 799, 1887
- (19 & 20) Pythian G 1999 *The Ripley Legacy*. Lancaster: Ripley St Thomas Church of England High School pp32 38 and 39
- (21) Notes on Stained Glass, Shrigley & Hunt, Catalogue 1936. Lancaster Library M631 SHR/Pt 8335
- (22) Baines E 1825 *History, Directory and Gazetteer of Lancashire. Lancashire*. volume 2. David & Charles reprint n.d. [1971] p487; Edwards *op. cit.* (2).
- (23) Personal communication, Aidan Turner-Bishop.
- (24) Newman J and Pevsner N 2006 *Shropshire*. New Haven and London: Yale University. p145
- (25) Imaging the Bible in Wales Database © 2008-2021 University of Wales: Stained Glass in two churches:-St Maelog Llanfaelog Anglesey and St Mor & St Deniol, Llanfor, Gwynedd. J. Knowles, Glass Painters 1750-1850 (Part III) *Journal of the British Society of Master Glass-Painters*, vol. xiii, no. 3 (1961–2), 517–18: Photographs © Martin Crampin, Friends of Friendless Churches.

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- Figure 2 and 83. redrosecollections.lancashire.gov.uk.
- Figures 3–4. Landmark Trust advertisement for the Music Room.
- Figure 5. Vicar of All Saints Church, Caddington, Bedfordshire.
- Figure 15-20. Jonathan Powell Vicar of St George's Church, Millom: Copeland Tourist Group: Poets Artists & Angels. Stained Glass Windows of the Churches of South Copeland 2009 p10.
- Figures 24–27. Imperial War Museum ref. 86710, quoting the *Wigan Observer* 21/07/1923 – photograph and description of the window and account of the unveiling (picture credits David Long).
- Figures 52–56. Mr & Mrs Paul Humble, Blackpool Civic Trust.
- Figure 75. Lancashire Archives MBLA 5167 (see Reference 18).
- Figure 80. Shrigley & Hunt catalogue 1936 p20.
- Figure 86. Edwards, 2020 p120, see Reference 2.
- Figures 88–89. Vicar of All Saints, Elizabeth Street, Preston.
- Figures 93–94. Rev. Christopher Nelson, Vicar of St Mary's Church, Penwortham.
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Acknowledgements

- Mr & Mrs Humble, Blackpool Civic Society.
- Lancaster Local History Library staff.
- Mr Tinsley, Lancashire Archives.
- The vicars and churchwardens who kindly supplied photographs and information.

Author Profile

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