

York's Finest Medieval Church

The Nine Orders of Angels

If one were to look on the internet in general, and *Wikipedia* in particular, everything one would learn about the Nine Orders of Angels would be taken from Pseudo-Dionysius. Pseudo-Dionysius was a Syrian monk of the late 5th / early 6th century, and wrote extensively on theology - his books are still available on *Amazon*. However, our window does not follow exactly his order of Angels. Pseudo-Dionysius wrote in Greek, a language not used in early 15th century York. Our window follows the order suggested by St Gregory the Great, in which *Principalities* and *Virtues* are interchanged. The orders are arranged in three Quires, or ranks, just as in the window: **Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, - Dominations, Principalities, Powers - Virtues, Archangels, and Angels.** In the window, the bottom rank has a pair of wings, the middle rank has two pairs of wings, and the top rank has three pairs of wings (cf. Isaiah with twain they flew, with twain they covered their feet, and with twain they covered their faces.) The highest order of Angel - the Seraphim are described as "on Fire" - thus in the window they are shown red, unlike the others. The Third order - top right are the *Thrones*, so called because they move the throne of God - thus (low down, almost hidden) either side of the Rood, they are

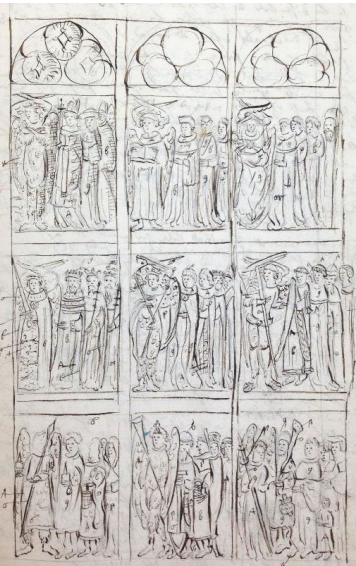
shown on top of wheels—the wheels of the throne of God.

The window was at some point destroyed, presumably in a great storm. Fortunately the pieces had been gathered together and placed back,



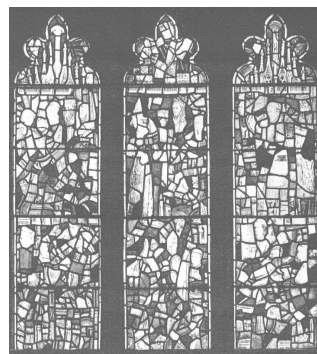
ALL SAINTS NORTH STREET—YORK'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

though all jumbled up. Fortunately Henry Johnson sketched the window in 1670, and his sketch books were found in the Bodleian Library in the 1970's, and an attempt



was made to re-create the window from the existing pieces. Where pieces were missing, blank glass was placed. The left-over pieces were placed at the bottom of the adjacent St James Window. Presumably other windows must have also been damaged, since while we can identify pieces that should have been put back, other pieces have no place in the Nine Orders Window. In the recent restoration there were real debates about this window - should the blank faces be

painted, what about the missing text ...? The faces, although we have Henry Johnson's sketch, together with annotations, it was felt that there was insufficient evidence to accurately reproduce the faces. The wings, some appearing as white horns above the middle rank of angels, have been re-painted in the original style. This improves the balance of light through the window, and makes it clear what the picture is. The missing text was the subject of heated debate. (The text of the *Pricke of Conscience* Window had already been restored.) Comparison with what was there in Henry Johnson's time, the lost beams of Old Coventry Cathedral, which contained similar text, and with St Gregory's Sermon lead to a reasonable argument as to the original text. However, at the height of the debate it was found that the Victorian restorers of 1867 had narrowed the window opening, and there was no longer space to fit the *original* words. As a compromise, where missing, the names of the nine orders have been included in the restored window.



The Shrine and Parish Church of All Saints North Street, York

Free Quarterly NEWSLETTER

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August - All Saints Day 2026



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Contact:

The Rt. Rev'd
Glyn Webster

☎ 07944 688 992

glynwebster74@gmail.com

For Bookings and questions about Heritage -
contact: Dr Robert Richards 0771 874 9959

birkhillfarm@btinternet.com



The Feast of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast, known in medieval England as 'Lady Day in harvest', is traditionally the year's main feast of Our Lady. Just as all saints' days normally commemorate their death (heavenly birthday), so Our Lady's main feast commemorates her entry into heaven.

In the east window of the Lady Chapel (c. 1330) she is shown, (crowned Queen of Heaven) *left*, being greeted by her Son, *right*.

1330) she is shown, (crowned Queen of Heaven) *left*, being greeted by her Son, *right*.

Diary of Services and Events August—October 2026

AUGUST 2026

Saturday 1	Lammas-tide (Yorkshire Day)	10.30	Little Paws Children's Club
Sunday 2	Trinity 9	5.30 pm	<i>Asperges</i> and Sung Mass Mass
Thursday 6	Transfiguration of the Lord	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) record that part-way through his ministry Jesus permitted his closest followers (Peter, James, and John) a glimpse of his glory on a mountain-top..			
Sunday 9	Trinity 10	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 13	Hippolytus <i>Martyr</i>	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
A martyr from third-century Italy - under the Romans. St Hippolytus was a senior priest in Rome, effectively murdered by being sent to the imperial lead mines of Sardinia.			
Sunday 16	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 20	York Attractions Week	10.00 am	Free Tour of Church Glass and Features
	St Bernard	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
Founder and abbot of the monastery of Clairvaux in twelfth-century France, reformer of monasticism, teacher of doctrine against heresy.			
Sunday 23	Trinity 12	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 27	St Monica	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
From north Africa in the fourth century, S. Monica was the mother of S. Augustine of Hippo. Upon Augustine's famous conversion to Christianity after a mis-spent youth he discovered with awe that his mother had never ceased praying for him.			
Saturday 29	Andrej Ivanovic Hurstpierpoint College	12.30 pm	Organ Recital
Sunday 30	Trinity 13	5.30 am	SungMass

SEPTEMBER 2026

Thursday 3	St Gregory The Great	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
540 - 12th March 604, initially Prefect of Rome, before becoming a monk, and elected the 64th Bishop of Rome in 590. He was a scholar and a reformer. He preached on The Nine Orders of Angels, inspiring the Window in The South Aisle, and dispatched St Augustin to Britain after seeing Angles in the slave market in Rome and saying Non Angles, sed Angelis (Not Angles, but Angels)			
Sunday 6	Trinity 14	5.30 pm	<i>Asperges</i> and Sung Mass
Tuesday 8	Nativity of the BVM At St Mary's Bishophill Junior	7.30 pm	Mass
Our Lady is 'named' <i>Mother of God</i> and <i>Ever-Virgin</i> as well as <i>Mary</i> . "A day on which the inexpressible love of the Mother of God for her Holy Child is recalled, and the eyes of the faithful are directed to the figure of the Mother of the Redeemer, for them to invoke with devotion." (<i>The Roman Martyrology</i> , 2001)			
Thursday 10		11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
Sunday 13	Trinity 15	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 17	St Hildegard	12.30 pm	Mass
Abbess, poet, mystic and composer in 12th-century Germany. She famously called herself 'a feather on the breath of God'.			
Sunday 20	Trinity 16	5.30 pm	SungMass
Thursday 24	Our Lady of Walsingham	12.30 pm	Mass
Saturday 26	Jukka Geisler Hochschule fur Musik und Theater, Munchen	12.30 pm	Organ Recital
Sunday 27	Trinity 17	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Tuesday 29	Michaelmas Day	12.30 pm	Mass
Originally the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, the day of dedication of the Roman Basilica of S. Michael. Abp Cranmer added 'and all Angels' in the BCP, and the Roman revisers of 1969 added 'and SS. Gabriel and Raphael'. On Michaelmas Day in 1999 the Consistory Court of the Diocese of York referred to the statue of Our Lady as a Shrine.			

OCTOBER 2026

Thursday 1	St Teresa of the Child Jesus	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, also known as the "Little Flower," was a French Carmelite nun whose simple acts of love and devotion inspired millions and earned her the title of Doctor of the Church			
Saturday 3	Society of Mary	12.00 noon	Sung Mass
Sunday 4	Dedication Festival	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Mass (To be Confirmed) <i>Asperges</i> , Sung Mass
Thursday 8	St Bridget	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
(c. 1303–1373) Patron of Sweden: mystic, visionary, and founder of the Bridgettines (Order of the Most Holy Saviour)			
Sunday 11	Trinity 19	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 15	St Teresa of Avila	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
St. Teresa of Avila was a 16th-century Spanish Carmelite nun, mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church, renowned for her spiritual writings and reform of the Carmelite Order.			
Saturday 17	Church of The Holy Redeemer Clerkenwell	12.00 noon	Sung Mass
Sunday 18	St Luke	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 22	St John Paul II	11.00 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
4.00 - 5.00 pm York Local History Hub Launch Meeting			
Sunday 25	Trinity 21	5.30 pm	Sung Mass
Thursday 29		11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass
NOVEMBER 2026			
Sunday 1	All Saints Day	10.30 am 5.30 pm	Mass (To be Confirmed) Sung Mass Benediction
Monday 2	All Souls Day	12.30 am	Requiem Mass
Thursday 5	<i>Feria</i>	11.00 am 12.30 pm	Coffee Mass