

Piecing it together

St Michael and St John Window (Window 8)

The window of St Michael and St John was put together in the 1960s. Some features in it give clues to the date of the glass it is made from.

It is actually made up of stained glass from different windows around the church.

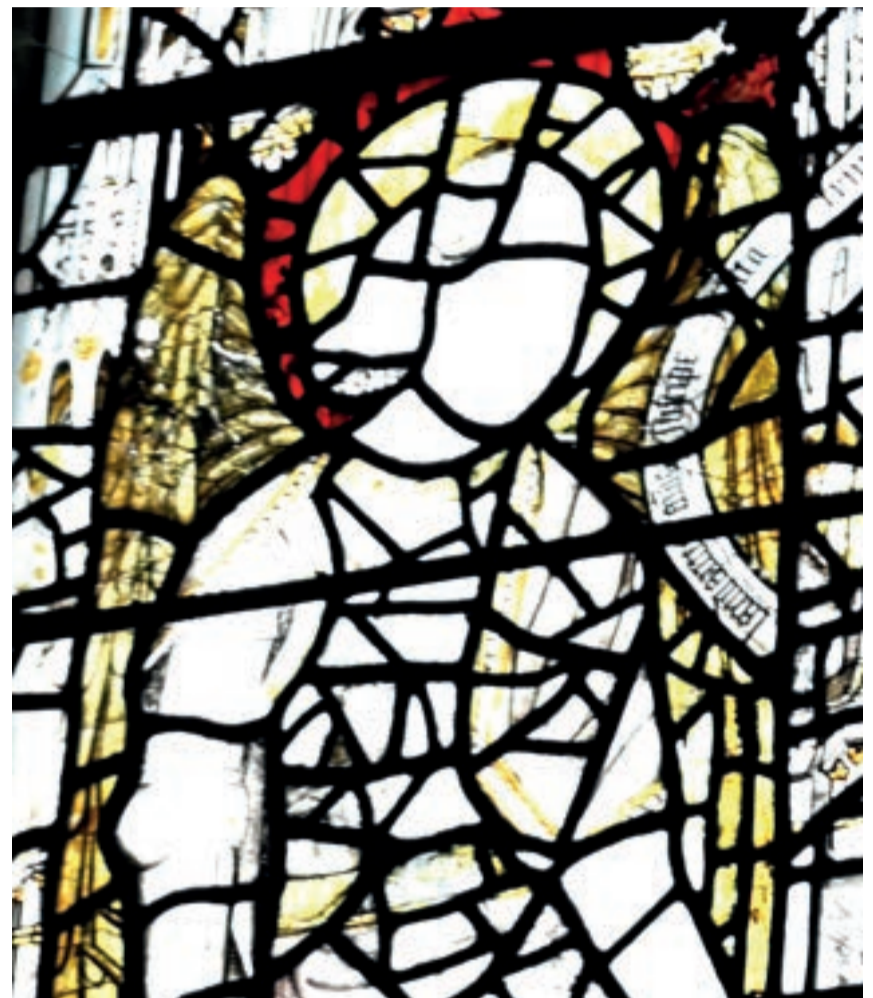
Where's St Michael's face?

The face of St Michael was stolen in 1842. It was replaced in clear glass. You can still see the shape of his helmet as an outline. It tells us that the original glass dates from between 1440 and 1460, when this shape of helmet was fashionable.

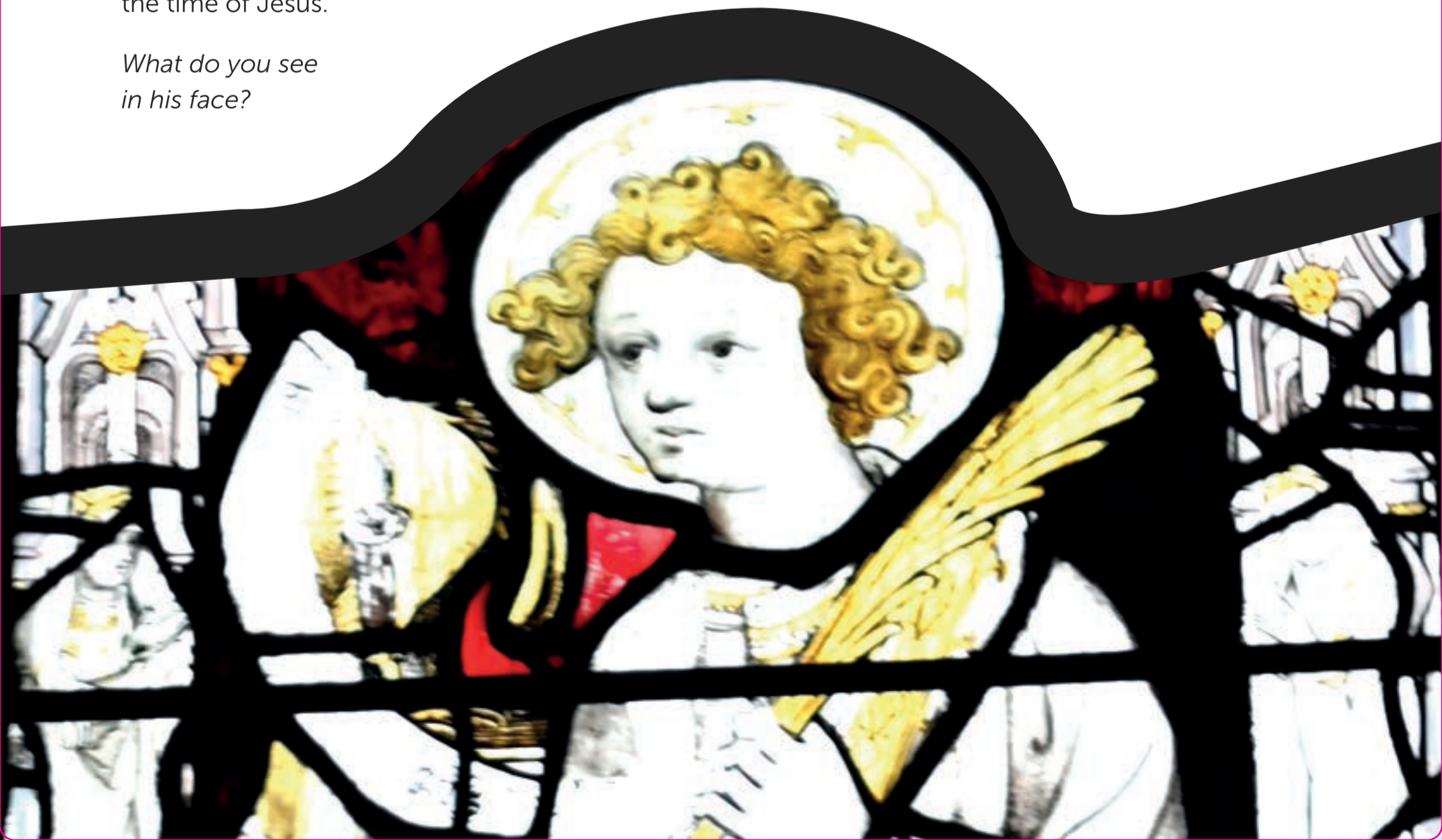
How young was St John?

Here St John has a young man's face. This is how he was often shown in Western European art in the 1400s. He is known to have lived to an old age and so was a very young man at the time of Jesus.

What do you see in his face?



Close up of St Michael's head



Saints and Symbols

St Michael and St John Window (8)

We can identify the figures in windows through the objects they are shown with. In this window they hint at stories or legends connected with these Christian saints.

How do you know which is St Michael?

The golden wings tell us this is St Michael (left) killing a dragon and not St George. Michael is an archangel and so has wings. St George was a soldier and would not be shown with wings. The blue dragon with many heads represents Satan. Blue was used instead of black as it let more light in.



St Michael and the dragon

How do you know which is St John?

We know it is St John the Evangelist (the gospel-writer) on the right because the eagle he is holding is his symbol. The clasped book and ink horn in his right hand refer to his Gospel (a book in the Bible). The palm branch in his left hand is from the legend that an angel gave him a golden palm branch to carry before Mary's coffin in her funeral procession.



Close up of objects held by St John

