



Light shines through new four seasons in church

A PARISH church has gained stunning new stained glass windows, thanks to a legacy.

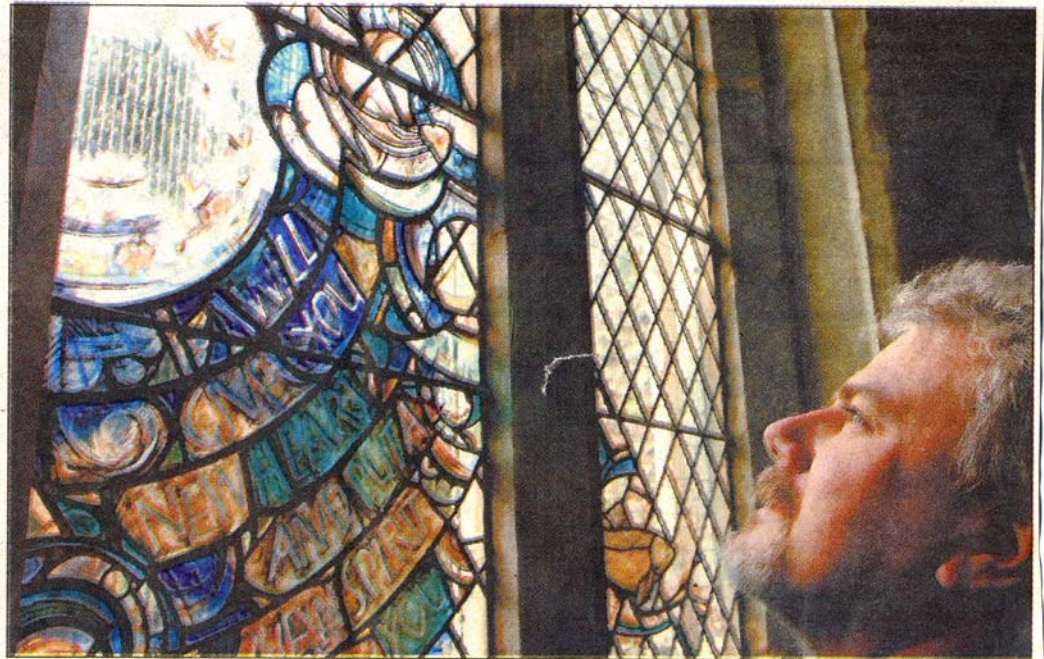
The windows are being installed at St Peter and St Mary's church, in Stowmarket town centre, and depict the four seasons in four different pictures.

The new windows also include large areas of clear glass to let more light into the church.

The Rev Michael Eden, the church's priest, said: "The project has been planned for 18 months and looks fantastic.

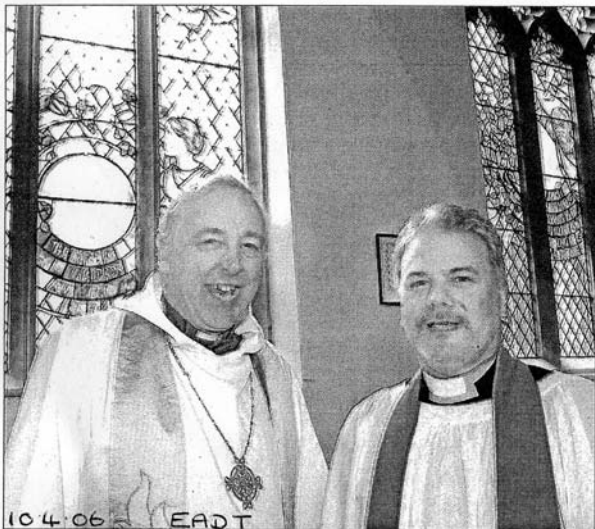
"The existing windows were green Victorian glass, and you could not see in or out. Now you can see through the windows and, when lights are on within the church, you can see the designs from outside. We are really pleased with them."

The money for the windows, which cost £100,000, came from a legacy, but the family behind the bequest wish to remain anonymous.



PLEASED: The Rev Michael Eden admires the new 'summer' stained glass window in Stowmarket Parish Church

Photograph:
 ANDY ABBOTT



DELIGHT: The Rt Rev Richard Lewis, left, and the Rev Michael Eden of St Peter and St Mary church, Stowmarket, in front of the new windows Photograph: JOHN KEAR

Shedding light on seasons

MORE than 200 people attended a special service to dedicate stunning new stained glass windows at a Suffolk church.

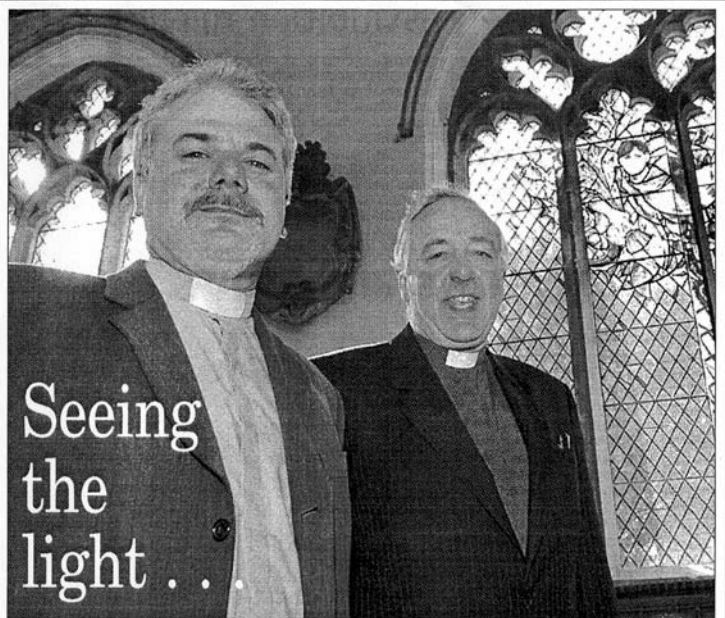
The windows, depicting the four seasons, were installed at St Peter and St Mary, in Stowmarket, after a generous legacy was left to the church.

The Rt Rev Richard Lewis, bishop of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, dedicated the windows during the service yesterday, attended by worshippers and dignitaries.

The Rev Michael Eden, parish priest, said: "They have totally transformed the church. They are

lovely to look at and are on the south side of the church, so they let in more sunlight. We are so pleased with them."

The windows are 40% clear and let in far more light than the old green Victorian windows they replaced. They include seasonal images, such as butterflies and corn.



ENLIGHTENED: The Rev Michael Eden and bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Richard Lewis with the new window at St Peter's and St Mary's Church, in Stowmarket 0604-57-1 Picture by Alex Fairfull

WORSHIPPERS are feeling enlightened this week after a service was held to mark the installation of new stained glass windows in their church. People filled St Peter's and St Mary's Church, in Stowmarket, to join in a special service of dedication by the bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Richard Lewis. The Victorian windows have been replaced with clear windows and four stained glass designs depicting

seasonal, local and spiritual ideas. Judy Eden, wife of priest in charge of the church, the Rev Michael Eden, said: "This is the latest stage in our restoration project and it is quite an exciting time as people can now really see the changes it has made to the church. The windows completely transform the south side of the church. We have got rid of the Victorian ones and the new ones now bring in a lot more light."

The windows were paid for from a legacy and the work is part of the ongoing 3Rs Project, aiming to restore, renovate and re-order the church. Project members now want to fund-raise for clerestory windows, which will cost more than £96,000 to repair. For more information or to make a donation to the project, go to www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk or call 01449 774652.