

YORK MINSTER AND THE ST WILLIAM WINDOW

In 1996 the Province started a Millennium project to raise a substantial contribution towards the refurbishment of the St William Window in York Minster. Freemasonry has many connections with the Minster, beginning with the stone masons who built it and over the years major contributions have been made to maintain the Minster in good condition.

Under the patronage of the late RW Bro Gerald Coles, then the Provincial Grand Master, a sum which ultimately totalled £440,000 was raised towards the substantial cost of repairing the lead and damaged glass. Lodges were able to subscribe for one or more panes and those who did, have a "quarry" placed in the refurbished window to mark their contribution.

On 8th June 2007 the Minster opened its doors to a special Evensong when several hundred Freemasons and their families joined the congregation to give thanks for the project and for the Dean of York Minster to dedicate the window afresh. The Provincial Grand Master read a lesson and he and his fellow Rulers were very pleased to see a large contingent of Brethren supporting them.

After the service some 230 gathered at York Race Course to enjoy a buffet supper. The Dean and Precentor of the Minster were invited as our guests at what turned out to be a very happy and special occasion in the life of the Province.