

Account of Purley on Thames

St Mary's Church - Architecture and Features

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Some articles on the architectural features and windows of the church

The Mystery of St John's Head

I received the following letter from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Can anyone in the Parish, or beyond, help? And who is Miss - Williams?

David Evans

From: D.M.ARCHER, Deputy Keeper, Department of Ceramics.

About a year ago I published an article on the 17th century stained, glass at Lydiard Tregoze in Wiltshire. In the course of my research, I found that there had been an East Window at Purley given by Lord Grandison, showing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. I now write to ask if by any chance you know if any picture survives showing this window, or indeed any actual part of it? It was in a damaged state, having lost both its head in the mid-18th century and it certainly had been replaced by the early 19th century.

I asked one of my colleagues, Miss Blake Roberts, who came down recently to lecture to the Church Fellowship, to enquire if anyone had any knowledge of a picture of this window. She did so, and a Miss Williams who was present said she believed she had one done by some earlier member of her family.

I have not as yet heard from Miss Williams and, as I do not have her address, cannot write to her. I should be particularly grateful if you could send me the lady's address, or better still ask her if she has been able to find this picture.

I am sorry to bother you with all these tiresome questions,'