



John Ray Window

January 2026 Update

At the beginning of December we were delighted to hear that the Cottam Will Trust have generously agreed to give us a grant of £10,000 towards our project. The main aim of this Trust is to fund 'the purchase of objects of beauty to be placed in ancient Gothic churches for the furtherance of religion'. We hoped our project met this criterion and are delighted with the grant. One of the considerations that helped the Trust in their decision was the fact that our church is open every day which will enable the new window to be seen and enjoyed by the wider community. This is very encouraging to the small team of people who open and lock the church each day.

This grant brings the money raised towards the cost of the window to £23,000 – well on the way to the predicted cost of £30,000.

Our work continues! During 2026 we hope to have fund raising activities. Member of our group Abbie Hutchinson has designed a leaflet to have available alongside the samples of the window design in church to inform visitors of the project. After the Barn Crib service on Christmas Eve, Caroline and Louise Ratcliff who are keen supporters of the window plans served tea and coffee. They had a display of material about the life of John Ray and spoke about his work. This was well timed as there were 180 people at the service, many of whom do not regularly come to our church. So it was the perfect time to spread the word of our plans.

Our stained glass artist, Juliet Forrest, continues to work on the window and keeps us in close touch with her work. You can find Juliet on Facebook and Instagram to see examples of her work. We are keeping to our planned timeline for the window to be installed in 2027, the 400th anniversary of John Ray's birth.