

John Ray Window

December 2025 Update

Latest update from the New Stained Glass Window group.

As previously reported a faculty from the Diocese of Chelmsford is necessary for our plans to proceed with the new stained glass window to celebrate the life and work of John Ray. A faculty is the equivalent of planning permission. We worked on this weighty document during August and it was put before the PCC in September. The PCC approved the application and it was considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee in November. The group were delighted to hear, when we met on November 13th, that the DAC approved the faculty with one small suggestion to be considered. The faculty still has to be officially approved by the Chancellor of the Diocese but we feel we are nearly there!

When considering the faculty the DAC sought the opinion of various interested bodies. We were delighted to hear that Historic England commended 'this community initiative which celebrates the outstanding contribution to science and faith of a remarkable parishioner'. Historic Buildings and Places said 'This is a delightful proposal and we support it'.

Following the successful application for a grant from Essex Heritage Trust we have prepared and submitted another application to the Cottam Will Trust. We are awaiting their decision. At our meeting on November 13th we discussed other fund raising and publicity ideas. We even felt able to start discussions about the installation and celebration events in 2027. With this in mind we plan to invite other interested bodies such as the John Ray Trust, the John Ray Society and Braintree Museum to join us at our next meeting in January 2026.

We stay in close touch with Juliet Forrest, our stained glass artist, and we are keeping to our planned timeline for the window to be installed as hoped in 2027.