Exhibition on the Conservation of the St Cuthbert Window

The Exhibition
The St Cuthbert Window in the South Quire Aisle (S5) will be removed in Spring 2021 for a programme of conservation lasting 3-5 years. An exhibition ‘Light, Glass & Stone: Conserving the St Cuthbert Window’ will open in June 2021 and run for the duration of the project. Situated in the South Quire Aisle, it will explore three main themes: the creation of the window in the mid-15th century (east end); the life of St Cuthbert (central area) and the conservation of the window (west end).

The removed of Window S5 requires both internal and external scaffolding, approved by FAC in December 2019. The exhibition will be housed within this scaffolding.

Themes
The ‘creation’ section will include the sub-themes of St Cuthbert’s role as the pre-eminent northern saint in the medieval period; pilgrimage; the commissioning of the window by Bishop Langley; the Lancastrian royal dynasty depicted in the window; and the influence of manuscript narrative cycles of the life of St Cuthbert on the design of the window. The central area will explore the life and legend of St Cuthbert: his childhood, life as a hermit on Farne, deeds as a bishop, influence in the church and as an advisor to kings, good works and charity, healing of the sick and poor, his death, and the miracles
associated with him. The conservation section will engage visitors with the important project to conserve and protect the window, and the research work in assessing how the window has been changed over the centuries through earlier interventions. It will highlight the addition of tracery panels in the late 19th century by J.W. Knowles under the direction of Rev. J.T. Fowler: Knowles also took rubbings of the 15th century panels which record important information now otherwise lost. It will showcase the skills of the specialist masons and glaziers of the Stoneyard and York Glaziers Trust.

Content
The exhibition will feature original stained glass panels and reproductions; stonework; illustrations of manuscript cycles of the life of St Cuthbert; animations of stained glass; reproductions of 19th century rubbings by Knowles; a soundscape; and footage of the glaziers and masons at work. Foreign language interpretation will be provided through leaflets and / or digital access via QR codes. Visitors will be able to explore individual panels of the St Cuthbert window and other windows in York Minster through digital access points to the online Stained Glass Navigator. 
https://stainedglass-navigator.yorkglazierstrust.org/
Donation points will encourage support for the work of York Minster.

Audiences
The exhibition will be open to all the Minster’s diverse audiences, from those participating in worship and prayer to locals, tourists, families, those with a specialist interest in history and architecture, etc. It will support different learning styles.

Concept Design
The concept design (attached) provides the broad visual design concept, including colour, font, and panels to be featured. Please note: text is under development, so text sections are indicative only, and text size not to scale. Copyright requests for permission to feature external manuscript and Knowles rubbings material are underway but not yet confirmed.