



## Project supporters

IGS London Chapter

IGS New York Chapter

IGS Chicago Chapter

Orla Coleman (IGS New York)

Mary Lynn Cooney (IGS Chicago)

Thomas Cooney (IGS Chicago)

Arthur Wellesley, 9th Duke of Wellington

The Primrose Trust

Select Vestry of Rathmoylan Union of Parishes

The Heritage Council

Department of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016

Meath County Council

*Project champion and co-ordinator was Deirdre McDermott (conservation architect, planner, urbanist and IGS volunteer) to whom the Society is most grateful.*



Irish Georgian Society

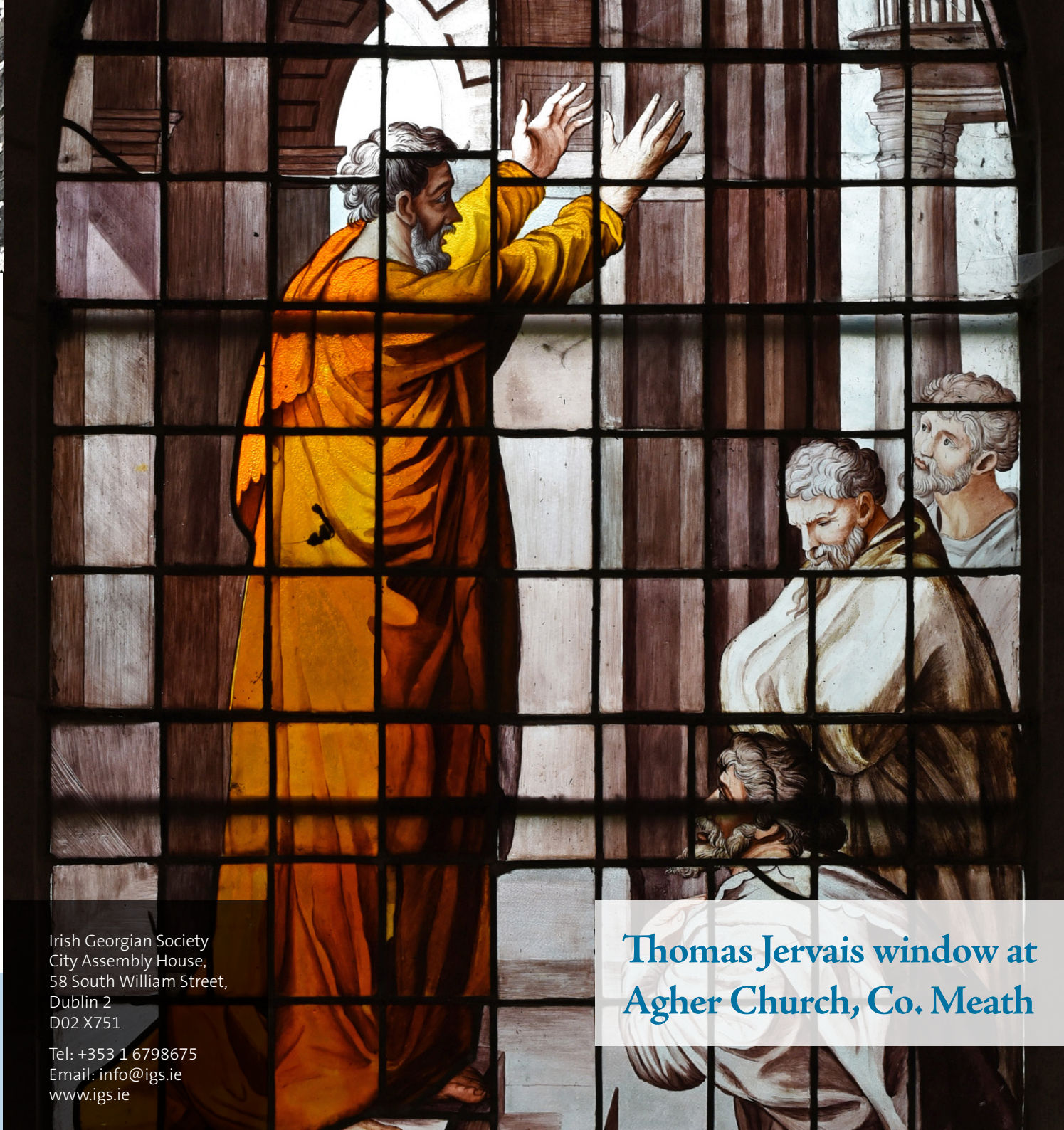
Irish Georgian Society  
City Assembly House,  
58 South William Street,  
Dublin 2  
D02 X751

Tel: +353 1 6798675  
Email: [info@igs.ie](mailto:info@igs.ie)  
[www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie)

To view the location of Agher Church, Co. Meath, use your smartphone to scan this QR code!



For more information on the Irish Georgian Society and our other conservation projects, please visit our website: [www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie)



Thomas Jervais window at  
Agher Church, Co. Meath



Agher Church, Co. Meath



Removal of window for conservation



Window being cleaned in York Glaziers Trust Studio



Thomas Jervais window

## Agher Window...

The painted glass window by Thomas Jervais' (d. 1799) in Agher Church was executed in 1770 and presents Paul preaching at Athens, from the cartoons of Raphael. It was formerly housed in the private chapel of nearby Dangan Castle, childhood home of the Duke of Wellington.

Following a fire in 1809 which devastated the house, the window was relocated to the east window of Agher parish church, which the NIAH notes was reconstructed c. 1902 and describes as being of 'a simple and modest form... [that] is enlivened by the treatment of the ashlar masonry'.

## Project background

The Irish Georgian Society (IGS) is coordinating the restoration of an important painted glass window by the artist Thomas Jervais (d. 1799) at Agher Church, Rathmoylan, Co. Meath. The project is being funded through supporters and Chapters of the IGS in Chicago, New York, London and Ireland, through grants from the Heritage Council and from the Department of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht's Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016, and through the Select Vestry of Rathmoylan Union of Parishes.

## The Irish Georgian Society

The Irish Georgian Society is a membership organisation that conserves, protects and promotes awareness of Ireland's architectural heritage and decorative arts through its Conservation Education and Scholarship Programmes, its support of conservation projects relating to buildings and places of cultural heritage interest, and through campaigning for the protection of historic structures.

## Who was Thomas Jervais?

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography notes the following in its entry on Jervais:

*'[Jervais] established a reputation for small-scale, finely detailed panels – generally copies of Italian, Dutch and Flemish masters – for the expanding domestic market... He held a number of popular exhibitions of his work in London in the 1770s and 1780s. In 1777 Jervais won the commission for which he is best remembered: the great west window of the ante-chapel of New College, Oxford, to designs provided by Sir Joshua Reynolds: a large Correggio-inspired Nativity over standing figures of the cardinal virtues and Christian graces. This work, completed in 1787, though now much deteriorated, remains a high point of naturalistic enamel glass painting of the late 18th century.'*

## Conservation of the Thomas Jervais window

The conservation works were undertaken by the York Glaziers Trust. Intrinsic to their programme of works was the engagement of an Irish conservator, Emma Newman, who would gain experience with the aim of returning to Ireland and enhancing the skills base in this country.

In 2015, the Society led a campaign to raise funds for the conservation of the Thomas Jervais window. It was first brought to the Society's attention in 2014 as part of an application put forward by the Select Vestry of Rathmoylan Union of Parishes to the Irish Georgian Society's Conservation Grants Scheme. The Society also successfully fundraised for the project in the USA.