



Heritage Crafts & Conservation Workshops for London Secondary Schools

experience | make | learn | be inspired

The Workshops

Choose from six workshop dates taking place across May and June. Each church venue will host two dates, with a different selection of activities offered at each location. Participants will rotate between each of the four activities across the day.

Workshop 1: 15 May

Workshop 2: 16 May

§ **Making Impressions:** Clay – Plaster – Cast

§ **Carving Out a Career in Wood:** The Craft of Historical Ornamental Woodcarving

§ **The Timeless Craftsmanship of Gilding:** Decorating with Gold Leaf Gilding

§ **Crafting with Light:** The Art and Conservation of Stained-Glass

Location: **St Katherine Cree** 86 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3A 3BP

Workshop 3: 22 May

Workshop 4: 23 May

§ **Lime Crafting and Conservation:** Building the Future with Ancient Techniques

§ **Illuminating History:** The Art of Handcrafted Illuminated Manuscripts

§ **Past Meets Present:** Clay Modelling Inspired by William Morris

§ **Making the Cut:** Learn to carve your initials into stone

Location: **St Mary at Hill** Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB

Workshop 5: 12 June

Workshop 6: 13 June

§ **Leaf Impressions:** Carving Nature in Stone

§ **Carving out a career in wood:** The Craft of Historical Ornamental Woodcarving

§ **The Timeless Craftsmanship of Gilding:** Decorating with Gold Leaf

§ **Forth activity** TBC

Location: **St Botolph's Aldgate** Aldgate High Street, London EC3N 1AB

For more details about each hands-on activity see below for [Activities in focus](#) and [Meet the makers](#) to discover more about our talented tutors.

Workshop Programme

From 9.30	Arrival and registration
10.00	Welcome and introduction
10.00	'Conversation in conservation'
10.30-11.15	Session 1.
11.15-11.25	Break
11.25-12.10	Session 2.
12.10-12.50	Lunch <i>Over lunch students will have chance to chat with tutors about conservation, crafts and career pathways.</i>
12.50-1.35	Session 3.
1.35-2.25	Session 4.
2.30	Wrap-up and departure

Activities in focus

Lime Crafting and Conservation: Building the Future with Ancient Techniques *with Ana Logreira (22 and 23 May)*

Explore the world of lime through a hands-on activity that connects ancient craft with modern conservation. Learn what lime is, how it's made, and its role in preserving historic buildings and artworks. Working in pairs, you'll mix lime-based mortar and prepare a panel before using spatulas and modelling tools to create a high-relief design.

Making Impressions: Clay – Plaster – Cast *with Helen Johannessen (15 and 16 May)*

Discover the tactile nature of clay by creating impressions and patterns to form a unique relief plaque. Drawing inspiration from the architecture of St Katherine Cree Church—whether it's the geometric ceiling or stunning stained-glass windows—you'll use everyday objects and simple tools to add texture to the clay. Once your design is complete, you'll mix and pour plaster over the clay, then peel it away to reveal your finished piece.

Leaf Impressions: Carving Nature in Stone *with Rob Postle (12 and 13 June)*

Get hands-on with nature in this beginner-friendly stone carving session. Using soft Maltese limestone and simple hand tools, you'll trace and carve the form of a real leaf into stone—creating your own small relief sculpture to take home. Inspired by the textures and patterns of the natural world, this workshop encourages participants to slow down, observe closely, and engage in a tactile, meditative process.

Illuminating History: The Art of Handcrafted Illuminated Manuscripts *with Sarah Davis (22 and 23 May)*

Explore the ancient craft of illumination—the art of applying gold to paper or parchment. Traditionally used in decorated manuscripts, these gilded creations can also stand alone as beautiful artworks. You'll learn how to gild an illuminated letter with real gold leaf and add intricate floral motifs to the border, bringing history to life with your own hands!

Carving Out a Career in Wood: The Craft of Historical Ornamental Woodcarving *with Takako Jin (15 and 16 May, 12 and 13 June)*

Get a glimpse into the world of historical woodcarving and what it's like to be a professional woodcarver. We'll look at examples of different kinds of ornamental woodcarving and how it can be used in different contexts, such as architecture, interiors, furniture, and sculpture. You'll learn about the tools used by woodcarvers and also get a chance to have a go at carving some wood with a traditional wooden mallet and a razor-sharp chisel.

Past Meets Present: Clay Modelling Inspired by William Morris

with Jo Grogan (22 and 23 May)

Get hands-on with heritage design in this clay workshop inspired by the timeless patterns of William Morris. You'll create your own relief tile—cutting, shaping, and building up a floral motif in low relief using traditional techniques and simple tools. Learn how clay's flexibility allows for experimentation and refinement, just as sculptors have done for centuries. By the end, you'll have a beautifully crafted tile—and a new appreciation for how historic design meets modern creativity.

Crafting with Light: The Art and Conservation of Stained Glass

with York Glaziers Trust and Sophie Gwynn and Rachel Thomas (15 and 16 May)

You'll be introduced to the wondrous medieval craft of stained glass. What is glass exactly? How and why did medieval people make stained-glass windows? We'll explore the history and science behind glass-making and how conservators care for our precious heritage of 700-year-old windows today. Compare historic methods of repair to modern techniques using resin adhesives and protective sunscreen. Try cutting glass with a tungsten glass cutter, painting on glass with natural hair brushes, and bending lead with your hands. Could this be the career for you?

Making the Cut: Learn to Carve Your Initials into Stone

with Rob Postle (22 and 23 May)

Explore the art of traditional letter-cutting in this hands-on workshop. Using classic hand tools and working with limestone, you'll discover the techniques behind this centuries-old craft. You'll be guided through the process of shaping letterforms with care and precision—no experience needed, just a steady hand and a bit of curiosity. If time allows, you'll carve your own initials to take home.

The Timeless Craftsmanship of Gilding: Decorating with Gold Leaf

with Jo Grogan (15 and 16 May and 12 and 13 June)

For thousands of years, gold leaf has been used to decorate objects across cultures—prized for its rich colour, luminous shine, and lasting beauty. Gilding demands both precision and a creative eye. In this hands-on session, you'll gild a small decorative object using traditional techniques. After applying a mordant adhesive and allowing it to set, you'll learn how to handle gold leaf, before carefully laying it down to achieve a beautiful finish.

Meet the makers



Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis is a multimedia artist based in London. She uses traditional approaches with a deep historical resonance to explore the cyclical nature of recovery and renewal. Sarah has been practicing the endangered craft of illumination since 2020 and teaches widely on the subject. She was the Kelmscott Manor Maker in Residence for 2024 and spent the time focusing on the Art of Illumination. As well as illumination Sarah also teaches woodcarving at the City & Guilds of London art school. www.sarahgdavis.co.uk



Jo Grogan

Jo Grogan is a London-based multidisciplinary artist, woodcarver, and sculptor. She graduated with first-class honours in Historic Woodcarving & Gilding from City & Guilds of London Art School in 2023 and is currently in residence at the Sarabande Foundation. Her work has been shown at the Saatchi Gallery, Selfridges, and the Oxo Gallery, and featured in *The Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Hole & Corner*. Jo has appeared on BBC *Countryfile* and Sky Arts' *The Prince's Master Crafters*. She has received the Grinling Gibbons Emerging Carvers Award, a Wood Award, and a QEST scholarship. Jo also supports social and community initiatives. www.jogrogan.com [@jogrogan_sculpture](https://www.instagram.com/jogrogan_sculpture)



Takako Jin

Takako Jin is a professional woodcarver, gilder, and antique restorer with over a decade of experience. She trained in historic ornamental woodcarving at City & Guilds of London Art School, where she now teaches on the undergraduate course. She also spent six years at Carvers & Gilders Ltd, a Royal Warrant-holding workshop specialising in 18th-century giltwood furniture. In 2025, she was awarded the Master Certificate for Woodcarving by The Worshipful Company of Joiners & Ceilers, and won the 2024 BADA Art Prize for contemporary makers. From her south London studio, Takako undertakes commissions, restorations, and creates her own sculptural works. www.takakojin.com [@takakojin.carving](https://www.instagram.com/takakojin.carving)



Helen Johannessen

Helen Johannessen is a ceramic artist, designer, and mould maker with over 25 years of experience in the industry. Working from her central London studio, she creates contemporary porcelain pieces with subtle textures inspired by changing light and seasonal shifts. Helen combines traditional plaster mould-making techniques with innovative approaches to form and material. A dedicated educator, she teaches across all ages and skill levels, valuing the creativity shared through making. Her accolades include the Franz Rising Star Award (2019), finalist for the HRH Presidential Award for Endangered Crafts (2020), and she is the first female Plaisterer representing ceramics.



Ana Logreira

Ana Logreira is a specialist conservator of wall paintings, stone, and architectural decorative surfaces. She holds a Master's in Architecture with a focus on Monument Conservation from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and a Bachelor's in Cultural Heritage Conservation from Externado University, Colombia. Ana has a particular interest in the use of lime across construction, decoration, and conservation. Her work is primarily site-based, involving historic buildings, churches, museums, and archaeological sites. She is currently Senior Conservator of Decorative Arts at Cliveden Conservation and also teaches at the City & Guilds of London Art School.



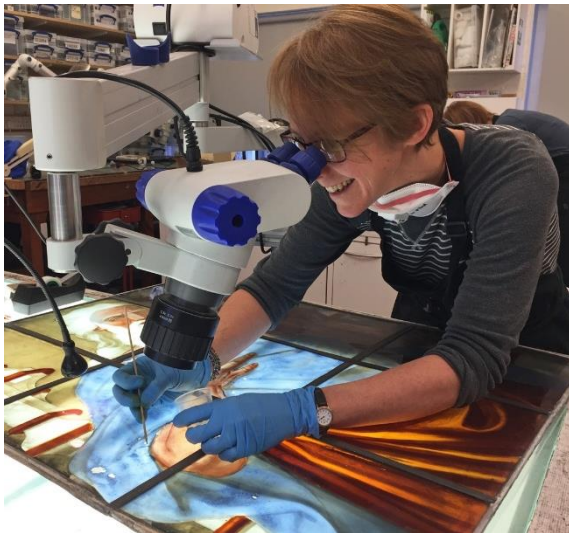
Rob Postle

Rob recently graduated from the City & Guilds of London Art School, where he specialised in sculpture. Over the past few years, he has developed a deep appreciation for the history, language, and theatrics of sculptural ornamentation. He sees sculpture not just as decoration, but as a playful and technical challenge that links us to centuries of artistic tradition. Drawing on classical references, his work is rooted in the past while staying relevant in the present—keeping these historical styles alive in contemporary practice.

www.robpostle.com

York Glaziers Trust

The York Glaziers Trust (YGT) is the oldest and largest specialist stained glass conservation studio in Britain, and one of the largest in Europe, counting amongst its staff three ICON accredited conservators (ACRs) among its 16 multinational members of staff. The YGT is a charitable trust dedicated to the care and conservation of historic stained glass in York Minster and throughout the UK, and is a centre of excellence for conservation, innovation, research, and training.



Rachel Thomas

Rachel trained as an illustrator before moving into stained glass, graduating from Brighton University in 1994. She joined York Glaziers Trust in 2005 after seven years at Holy Well Glass and is an ICON-accredited conservator. Rachel is also an acclaimed designer of new stained glass, with award-winning works including windows for New College, Oxford, and Radley College Chapel (RIBA National Award, 2023). She has served on the ICON Accreditation Committee and holds a Chemistry for Conservators qualification.



Anna Milsom

Anna graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2004 with a BA in Fine Art Textiles and Embroidery. She joined York Glaziers Trust in 2008 as a trainee on the Great East Window project at York Minster. An ICON-qualified Conservation Technician with a Chemistry for Conservators qualification, Anna is skilled in conservation glass-painting, photography, and project management. She has led major projects, including the conservation of Merton College Library windows, integrating advanced technologies with traditional techniques. Anna also designs her own stained glass.

The Locations

St Katherine Cree 86 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3A 3BP

www.stkatharinecree.org

St Katherine Cree is a historic Guild Church in the heart of London, with origins dating back to 1280. Rebuilt during the reign of Charles I, it is a rare surviving example of a Jacobean church, featuring a Tudor tower and a remarkable 17th-century rose window—thought to be a model for the one at old St Paul’s Cathedral. With architectural elements spanning Tudor to Renaissance, including Corinthian columns and Tudor brickwork, the church has largely survived the Great Fire and both World Wars. Today, it continues to serve as the Guild Church for Workers in the City of London.

Tube stations: **Tower Hill** is approximately a 5-minute walk away while **Aldgate Station** (is about a 7-minute walk – both are served by Circle and Metropolitan lines. Alternatively, **Tower Gateway Station** (Docklands Light Railway) is approximately a 4-minute walk.

St Mary at Hill Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB

www.stmaryathill.org

St Mary-at-Hill has stood in the heart of Billingsgate for over 800 years, its name reflecting the steep route from the old Anglo-Saxon harbour up to the church. Almost destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, it was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke, later absorbing neighbouring parishes. It houses one of Britain’s most important 19th-century organs, built by William Hill. The church survived another major fire and remains a place of heritage and tradition—hosting the annual Fish Harvest Festival in honour of Billingsgate’s historic market.

Tube stations: **Monument** (Circle and District lines) is located approximately 200–240 yards away. **Cannon Street** (District and Circle lines), **Bank** (Central, Northern, and Waterloo & City lines), and **Tower Hill** (Circle and District lines) are all within a 5–10 minute walk.

St Botolph’s Aldgate Aldgate High Street, London EC3N 1AB

www.stbotolphs.org.uk

St Botolph Aldgate stands at the eastern edge of the City of London, named for its position by the old Roman city gate. First recorded in 1125, the church survived the Great Fire but was rebuilt in the 18th century by George Dance the Elder, with later Victorian remodelling by John Francis Bentley, architect of Westminster Cathedral. Inside is the oldest working organ in the UK, built c.1705 by Renatus Harris. Alongside its historic churchyard, landscaped by pioneering garden designer Fanny Wilkinson, St Botolph now hosts the new Aldgate Centre—bringing community, heritage, and creativity together in one remarkable space.

Tube stations: **Aldgate Station** (Circle and Metropolitan lines) is approximately 200–250 yards away. **Aldgate East** (District and Hammersmith & City lines) and **Tower Hill** (Circle and District lines) are both within a 5–10 minute walk.

What to bring with you

Students should ideally bring a packed lunch with them. We will provide snacks and drinks for the break.

Please ask your students to wear comfortable clothing that they don't mind getting a bit dusty and **closed-toe shoes** for safety. We will provide aprons and any protective wear needed.



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