

HELP AT HAND TO PROTECT FABULOUS GLASS

black-coated wire guards are both easy on the eye and long-lasting

CAIANO & Son is a company that the Stained Glass Department at Salisbury Cathedral has a long-standing relationship with. While most of our work is the restoration and conservation of stained glass and leaded lights of all periods, the erection of appropriate window protection is also part of our brief. For some 30 years they have been supplying us with a woven wire guard that is a 'step up' from others that are available. We have fitted these to many churches around our area in the South of England, and as far afield as Edinburgh. It is unfortunate that it has become necessary these days to protect church windows in this way, but churches are so often subjected to repeated vandalism. Where window protection is required, the wire guard is the most cost effective and probably the least intrusive way to provide this, writes SAM KELLY.

We have always liked to provide our clients with a choice, so we carry a number of sample pieces of wire guards. Most people will choose the Aiano guard, and this is usually because they find it "not too uniform and modern in appearance", "not flat and uninteresting". This may seem trivial, but when you are fixing guards to the outside of an ancient building (and in many cases to most windows), it is important to have as pleasant and unobtru-



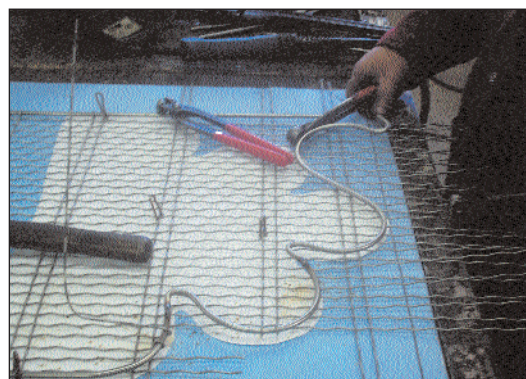
St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis, Dorset

sive an object as possible.

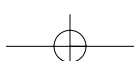
In the past many guards have been made in copper, steel, galvanised steel and stainless steel, all being unpainted. Copper guards are long lasting, and will darken in appearance to become less obtrusive. However, they are very expensive (if you can get them made), and will often make the stonework green. A steel or galvanised guard has a limited lifespan and will eventually rust and disintegrate, staining the stonework in the process. An unpainted stainless steel guard will be long

lasting, but will always be very obvious.

Now that stainless steel guards can be black powder coated, they are both long lasting and extremely unobtrusive. In fact, when you step back a few feet from the building they become scarcely visible. We have had nothing but praise for the guards we source from Aiano's, but one instance in particular highlights this. A client telephoned me to complain that he had received our invoice for the work, but on driving past the church had noted that the guards had not yet been erected, which



A spate of vandalism at St John's dictated the necessity to utilise window guards





You've got to look pretty closely to realise that guards have been installed

he considered to be rather impertinent. I was pleased to be able to inform him that they had in fact been in place for over a week.

The recent work that we undertook with Aiano guards at St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis, Dorset was required due to a spate of vandalism at the church. It is unfortunate that the erection of guards is necessary but the result has been very well received by the church. •



ABOVE and BELOW: C Aiano craftsmen aim for an unobtrusive solution



C. AIANO – EP