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CLASSIFICATION <i>HS</i> <i>J</i>	SUBJECT <i>Churches</i> <i>CE</i> <i>St. Luke's</i>	SOURCE <i>SEE</i>	DATE <i>4.7.83</i>
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Gordon windows leave St. Luke's

HERE'S HAPPY, and appropriate, news for those with fond memories of St. Luke's Church, Onslow Road, Southampton, now redundant and sold for use as a Sikh temple. The recently removed memorial windows depicting General Gordon have found a new home at the Gordon Boys School near Woking.

Under arrangements made by the diocesan committee responsible for redundant churches, the stained glass panels were collected on behalf of the headmaster who tells me they will be re-erected in the school chapel.

The windows will complement the school's own Gordon Museum, which includes items preserved by the general's sister, Miss Mary Augusta Gordon, at the family home — Rockstone Place (since 1968 the history department of La Sainte Union College).

After her death in 1893, the Gordon souvenirs passed to institutions founded in the general's name, including the Gordon Boys Brigade, which had its headquarters in Ogle Road.

When it closed down in 1937 its Gordon treasures were added to the school collection at Woking.

St. Luke's was the church where General Gordon joined his sister in worship during his brief periods of leave. There he took his last Communion in England early in 1884 before leaving on his ill-fated mission to the Sudan.

The controversial origin of the Gordon memorial windows at St. Luke's was recalled in a recent "Echo" article. They were donated in 1910 by a member of the church, Alderman Edward Wise, who had been Mayor in 1903-04.

His appearance in the original design, standing in his mayoral regalia behind the kneeling "warrior saint," provoked much criticism. His figure was quickly replaced by a generalised picture of a bishop.

'OFFENDING'

Among the St. Luke's Church papers preserved in the City Record Office is a war time note: "This is the offending piece of glass which

was removed." Evidently kept out of sight somewhere for over 30 years, the picture of the ill-advised alderman seems since to have disappeared — perhaps following bomb damage to the church in November, 1940.

The "revised" window was duly restored after the war and it's nice to know that it has been given a new lease of existence in the chapel of the school bearing its subject's name.

*Ret
Big
Gordon*