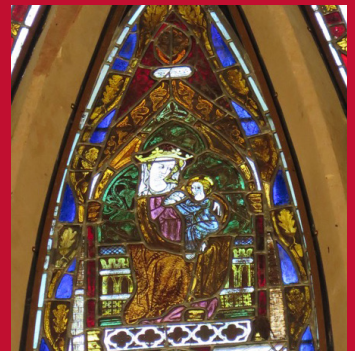


# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHURCHES INSPIRE

## STAINED GLASS TRAIL

**As with much else Northamptonshire is fortunate in having two outstanding collections of medieval stained glass and a plentitude of later works including Victorian masterpieces. There is also an unusual amount of radiant late 20th century glass in two of it's churches.**

As elsewhere much early stained glass was destroyed in the Reformation but that which remains is well listed in Richard Mark's *The medieval stained glass of Northamptonshire*, 1998. The largest, most splendid collections are to be discovered at St Nicholas, Stanford upon Avon, in the west and Lowick in the east. The former includes two particularly good groups of early 14th century glass and splendid glass from the early 16th century. It's east window is particularly fine. Unusually it does not contain a religious scene but rather the family of Henry VII derived from Holbein's lost mural in Whitehall Palace. Further heraldic glass will be encountered in the upper lights. In the nave and side aisles you will find 14th century saints, apostles and Scenes from the Life of Christ. The stained glass here is in wonderful condition having been beautifully restored at the end of the last century.



Across the county at Lowick the large sixteen figures from a Tree of Jesse depict the Kings and prophets of the old testament together with their donor, Simon de Drayton. Here the medieval world bursts into full colour like pages from a manuscript or the near contemporary verses from Chaucer. Other churches that are well worth investigating are: St Peters at Aldwinckle, St Andrews at Cranford, Great Brington, Holdenby, Rushden and Thénford.

For enthusiasts of 17th /18th century stained and painted glass there is Apethorpe. Here you will encounter the large vibrant Anglo - Flemish window executed in 1621 with scenes of the Garden of Eden, Calvary, The Resurrection of the Dead (with the naked popping out of the ground), and The Last Judgement. And not only that but also the large painted glass of the Last Supper painted by John Rowell in 1732.



**LOWICK**



**ALDWINCLE**



**APETHORPE**



# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHURCHES INSPIRE

At St Marys Fawsley there is a striking collection of mid 17th century Flemish glass. A succession of delightful scenes, like light filled prints, which were set into the church windows in the early 19th century. They were brought together by Mr Knightley of adjacent Fawsley Hall and were interposed by him with the family's early armorial glass. This is an unusually well set church on an incline in a middle of a Capability Brown park (sadly you are no longer able to see the 16th century glass from the Hall itself unless you visit the Burrell collection in Glasgow).



**FAWSLEY**

The later glass is also well recorded in Paul Sharpling's *Fragile Images - Post Medieval Stained Glass in Northamptonshire*, 2016 (copies of which are obtainable from Northamptonshire Record Office) [www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/archives-and-heritage](http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/archives-and-heritage) . Highly recommended would be visits to Easton Neston (heraldic glass), Farthingstone (installed by the editor of *Punch*), Irchester (Christopher Whall) but above all to Middleton Cheney, Wellingborough and Oundle.



**EASTON NESTON**



**IRCHESTER**

The Pre Raphaelite glass at Middleton Cheney is some of the finest in England. It was commissioned by the vicar The Rev. W C Buckley, a friend of Burne-Jones. The contributing artist who designed the windows for Morris and Co is like a roll call of the Brotherhood and their associates - Burne-Jones, Ford Maddox Brown, Simeon Solomon, Philip Webb and William Morris himself. They range in date from the 1864 east window to the tower window of 1870 with the Men in the Fiery Furness. As Bruce Bailey remarks in *Pevners Northamptonshire* "What makes Middleton Cheney a place of pilgrimage and an unforgettable enjoyment is the stained glass by Morris's firm".



**MIDDLETON CHENEY**

Two churches are well worth visiting in Wellingborough. St Marys which was designed by Sir Ninian Comper contains a succession of his beautifully designed stained glass. The parish church of All Hallows was enriched in the second half of the last century with works by John Piper (three windows), Evie Hone, and Jean Barillet. At Oundle School Chapel you can also discover more works by Piper as well as those by Hugh Easton, Paul Quail, Mark Angus and Katharina Eisch. Nor is stained glass a dead subject here. A splendid new window is currently being envisaged for Grafton Underwood where you can already see Brian Thomas's memorial window to American 84th Bombardment Group.



**WELLINGBOROUGH**



**OUNDLE SCHOOL CHAPEL**