

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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Stained glass has been with us for over a thousand years, traditionally used in windows of places of worship. The Hundred Parishes has some beautiful memorial windows, mostly from the 19th and early-20th centuries, but I would like to briefly describe a few examples that are more recent.

The Parish Church of St. Andrew in Much Hadham has a window on the west wall of the tower based on an etching by the renowned sculptor, Henry Moore. The window, depicting the Tree of Life, was created by Patrick Reyntiens and celebrates the joint use of the church by Church of England and Roman Catholic congregations.

In Little Easton, the parish church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and has two stained glass windows in the north chapel that honour the American air crews of 386th Bomb Group (known as the Crusaders) who lost their lives in WWII. The windows are the Crusaders Window and the Window of Friendship and Peace.

Another window dedicated to American airmen can be found in St. Georges, Anstey. The Millennium Window records the names of all the men of 398th Bomb Group who died in WWII, etched onto butterflies.

In Broxton, 13th-century St. Mary's church has two modern stained-glass windows, the Hostage Windows. They were installed following the release in 1991 of three men: Terry Waite, Brian Keenan and local man John McCarthy. All had been held hostage in Lebanon for five years. One window is called the Window of Captivity and the other the Window of Freedom. They were designed by John Clarke and replaced two Victorian windows.

When you are out and about, I hope you will pause to look in our churches at the wonderful range of craftsmanship, some old and some not so old.

Ken McDonald, Secretary