

The Glass Association

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**St. Nicholas Church, Moreton, DT2 8RH, &
nearby Athelhampton House & Gardens, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7LG.
Sunday 13th September 2015 (*please book by 31 August*)**

Rebuilt in 1733 on medieval foundations, Moreton Church is renowned for being the only church in the world with amazing entirely engraved glass windows, by Sir Laurence Whistler. The grave of Lawrence of Arabia is in the churchyard.

On entering the church there is an immediate sense of unexpected light. In 1940 a bomb blew out the Church's north walls and windows: restoration took 10 years. Laurence Whistler was commissioned to design the apse windows. He completed 30 years' work in 1990. The apse windows were engraved in London to Whistler's design, on one side of the glass only. Each outer panel shows lit candle flames bearing towards the central dove, & the middle panel has emblems of the passion. He himself engraved on both sides of the glass to create the three dimensional effect - see the Four Seasons Window (1974); the Trinity Chapel Window (1982) in memory of an RAF pilot; and the Galaxy Window above the west door (1984) with a spiral galaxy between Alpha and Omega containing stars turning into flowers, space walkers, chromosomes & sheaves of corn. A final window was installed in 2014, 14 years after Whistler's death. The window, depicting Judas, is visible only from the outside, as the space is blocked on the inside by a wall monument. We hope to enjoy late afternoon sun to be able to see the glass at its best. For those who wish to stay, evensong will be at 6pm.

The day will start at Athelhampton House, a spectacular early Tudor manor house. The house has fascinating interiors with heraldic glass, linenfold panelling and antique furnishings. The Grade 1 listed gardens surround the main house. The formal Gardens were built in 1891 with Elizabethan style ham stone courts. The famous 30 foot high pyramids dominate the Great Court. Water forms a recurring theme, with pools, fountains and the River Piddle running through the grounds. A 15th century dovecote still houses dozens of white doves. The property is associated with Thomas Hardy.

11-11.30 Arrival at Athelhampton House

12.15 Lunch [choice of sandwiches, ploughman's, savoury crêpes, main courses £9.95-£12.50; or bring your own]

13.30 An hour's guided tour of the house and gardens

15.30 Short drive to Moreton

15.45 for 16.00. A guided visit of Moreton Church and its stunning Whistler windows

18.00 Evensong for those who wish to stay.

The cost is £16 per person visiting Athelhampton, with guided tour but excluding lunch, & Moreton Church, or £6 for the visit to Moreton Church only.

Payment Choice. Online or by PayPal * - please e-mail pay@glassassociation.org.uk for full details & your invoice

Cheque by post payable to "The Glass Association" (using the slip below)

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Please return this Booking Slip **before 31 August 2015** to

Bob and Ruth Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5ES.

Or e-mail bob@towlard.freemove.co.uk

I am paying by cheque (enclosed) / direct bank transfer / PayPal

No. of people..... @ £16/ £6 per person. Total = £

Title/name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

Email

*The PayPal account is a business account operated by The Glass Association.

****Further information overleaf****

There are tearooms in Moreton [<http://www.moreontearooms.co.uk>] for those who do not wish to visit Athelhampton. The area boasts many places of interest & members may wish to use Dorchester as a convenient base [hotel & B&B list, click on Stay Here - local accommodation on <http://www.athelhampton.co.uk/>; see also Tripadvisor]. The excellent Dorset County Museum, with displays on Hardy, the Jurassic Coast etc is in Dorchester. Near to Moreton is Cloud's Hill, Lawrence of Arabia's tiny isolated brick and tile cottage, a peaceful retreat from his nearby posting at Bovington Camp [National Trust 11am -5pm, King George V Road, Bovington, near Wareham, BH20 7NQ. 1929 405616] At Bovington itself, the Tank Museum, BH20 6JG, 01929 405096 is open daily 10.00 - 17.00; over 300 vehicles. <http://www.tankmuseum.org/home>.

Just a couple of miles north of Moreton is <http://www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk/>.

Some 45 minutes drive from Moreton, near Yeovil, is Sherborne Abbey. The Lady Chapel has a fine engraved glass reredos by Lawrence Whistler. Also, the Great West Window is by the eminent stained-glass artist, the late John Hayward; this was dedicated in 1998 at a service attended by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The abbey may be visited throughout the week, but the shop is not open Sundays <http://sherborneabbey.com/visit/about-sherborne-abbey/>

In Devon, there is Whistler glass at St Peter & St Paul Church, Uplyme (two memorial panels in a wall cabinet, 1970), and in Somerset at the Church of St Peter, Ilton – Memorial window to Henry Cecil Graham, 1967

Further ideas of places to visit http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g186261-Activities-Dorset_England.html.

For glassblowing demos head to Stuart Wiltshire Glass, 18 Saint Nicholas Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8AA. 01305 766037. Mon-Fri: 9.30 - 16.30, Sat: 10 – 15.00, Sun : closed. In Bridport <http://florajamieson.co.uk> has traditional and contemporary stained glass and Bridport Stained Glass have much to offer - <http://www.stainedglassdorset.co.uk/>.

Further afield in Wiltshire is more Whistler work in Salisbury Cathedral - a revolving crystal prism from Steuben by Laurence Whistler in memory of his brother Rex; "The Sidney Evans Bowl" (1986) in the Chapter House was given to Dean Evans on his retirement, and the commemorative panels (1985) to two sisters who died young, are on display in the north choir aisle. At Alton Barnes Church, Alton Prior, near Whistler's home, is a small diamond pane engraved with a view of Wiltshire farm and downland, in memory of Gary Stratton. A pane of glass engraved by Whistler at Hinton Parva Church a few miles east of Swindon shows the village, church & surrounding countryside from the Downs above.