To complement our studies of the development of glass as art from the nineteenth century onwards we will be visiting the Stained Glass Museum in Ely.

Founded in 1972 and open to the public since 1979, this is the only museum in the UK dedicated to stained glass as craft and art; a unique and truly fascinating collection containing over 1,000 panels and windows made any time from the 13th century to the modern period, along with designs, sketches and cartoons. Stained glass is an art-form in its own right, but the concerns and developments of the 19th and 20th centuries affected all glass artists in similar ways, and the spectacular pieces here spring from the same impulses (and in some cases use the same glass) as the works we will be exploring in the course as a whole.

The Museum is housed in the South Triforium of the Cathedral and access involves a spiral staircase of about 40 steps, although there is a touchscreen ‘virtual visit’ on the ground floor for those unable to make the climb.