

# Summer Thanksgivings

**A**s we approach the 80th anniversary of D-Day, I visited the lovely Church of St James, just off the main street in Grafton Underwood near Kettering, to see the memorial window for members of the United States Air Force who flew from Northamptonshire to take part in supporting the Normandy landings and helped free Europe from evil tyranny in World War II.

The very striking window, entitled "Coming Home", shows a plane returning to base from a mission, but is primarily in honour to those who never made it home. On this most recent anniversary, it's good to remember with thanksgiving those who gave their lives for others.

Since 2022, the Church has also been beautified by the installation of three new sets of remarkable windows by the leading stained-glass artist of our time, Thomas Denny.

A gift by the former Lord Lieutenant David Laing who died this year and his wife Mary, their family motto is "Let your light shine". The light truly shines

through the glass, warming the chancel with a rich depth of colour. Their themes are sun and moon, darkness and light, pilgrimage, the Sower, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus the



the light of the world. They feature butterflies and planets! I think they are absolutely stunning. It is a beautiful witness to Christ and his transforming light.

St James's is open every day and well worth a visit for a few hours of reflection. I cannot recommend it highly enough. And as a bonus, the story of the windows' creation is told in a fascinating 30 minute film available at [www.thomasdenny.co.uk](http://www.thomasdenny.co.uk)

With my love, thanks and prayers,



Bishop John Holbrook  
The Bishop of Brixworth