

Domestic Stained Glass in Moseley

Moseley is fortunate in having many fine examples of domestic glass, which was very much in fashion at the time of Moseley's major expansion during the latter half of the 19th and early 20th century.

In 2019, the Moseley History Group invited Moseley Society members and residents to submit photographs of domestic stained glass in their own homes and these have been categorised and reproduced here. A deliberate decision was made not to disclose the addresses or owners of particular windows to preserve anonymity and respect owners' privacy. However, to provide an approximate location, the table on the following page cross-references houses to roads. With one exception in St Agnes Road, multiple examples of stained glass from the same house have been kept together in the listings even if styles differ.

Any attempt to categorise windows is not straightforward and is inevitably subjective. Towards the end of the 19th Century, the age of the house was not a determinant. Different styles were often used within the same house and were sometimes combined in the same window. In practice there was no clear cut-off between one style and the next. Geometric patterns continued throughout; gothic windows could be influenced by Arts and Crafts and Arts and Crafts itself developed and merged into Art Nouveau. Clients may often have opted for a combination of styles.

Nevertheless, subject to these provisos, windows have been classified here into the following broad categories, with any style variations and deviations noted in the text:

Geometric – Earlier designs used simple rectangular (sometimes circular) shapes of either clear or subdued coloured glass arranged in a simple grid pattern, usually with a simple motif or none at all. Later designs were enhanced by the addition of borders (one or more) and more complex central motifs in stronger colours

Gothic – This style introduced small ornate gothic decorative patterns in a more complex framework structure, often including one or more panels of painted glass depicting plants, animals or birds.

Arts and Crafts – Many fine examples of the Arts and Crafts style exist in Moseley. Typical features were large, bold designs in brightly coloured stained glass, featuring plants (particularly roses), birds, animals or rural scenes, often set into an otherwise plain window. Smaller windows might contain similar motifs on a smaller scale. Adjacent windows often displayed a series of pictorial designs on a related theme and sometimes the design filled the entire window.

Art Nouveau – Later developments used Art Nouveau designs, characterised by long sinuous organic lines derived from plant shapes, with bright colours, flowing lines and floral motifs.

Art Deco – This style abandoned the design features of Art Nouveau in favour of strong geometric designs. In a simplified form, stained glass continued to be used in domestic windows up until the Second World War.

Approximate location of windows, by road

The numbers refer to the sections in the following listings. All the windows belonging to the same house are included in the same section - with the exception of one house which is split between sections 2.1 and 3.6.

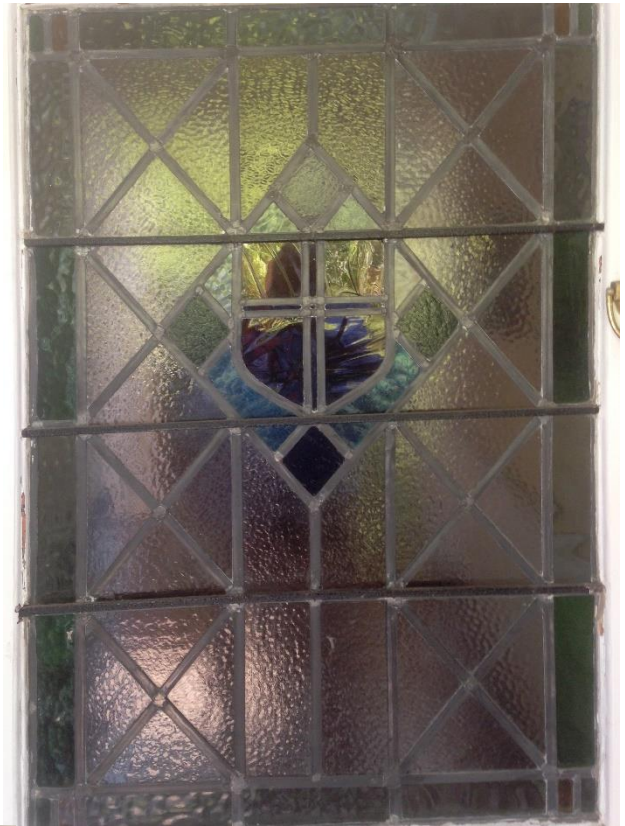
Ascot Road	1.1							
Chantry Road	1.8							
College Road	2.4							
Grove Avenue	3.11							
Mackenzie Road	3.15							
Oxford Road	1.4	4.1	4.2					
<i>The Prince of Wales</i>	1.3							
Queenswood Road	3.16							
Reddings Road	1.5	1.6	3.10					
St. Agnes Road	2.1 and 3.6 (same house)			2.2	2.3	3.7	3.8	
Salisbury Road	1.2	2.5	3.3	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.1
School Road	5.2							
The Hurst	5.3							
Valentine Road	3.1							
Wake Green Road	3.13	3.17						
Woodfield Road	3.12							
Unknown	1.7	2.6	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.14	

1. GEOMETRIC DESIGNS

1.1. These windows follow a geometric design and complement each other.

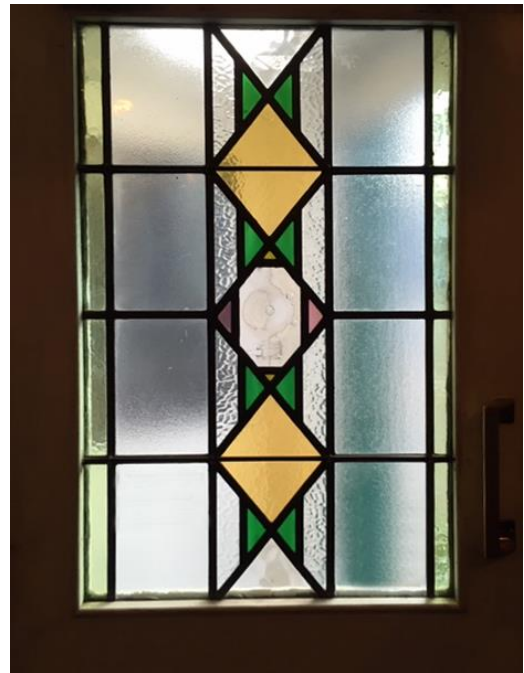
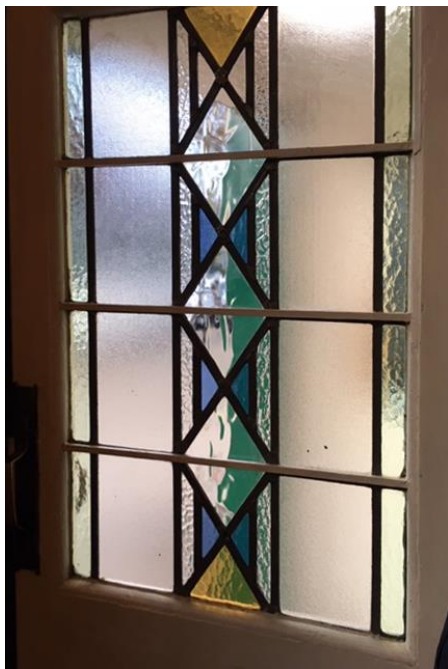
The matching pair of windows below have a vertical grid structure and a diagonal shaped cross on the central shield. The window on the right has a diagonal grid pattern and an upright cross on the shield surrounded by its own border.

Both windows contain frosted glass and have a coloured border (top and bottom only in the small windows below)





1.2. This pair of windows feature panes of frosted glass in subdued colours without borders but with a more complex fluid motif which suggests early Arts and Crafts influence.



1.3. These four examples from *The Prince of Wales* pub (rebuilt sometime before 1888) exhibit strongly coloured geometric patterns with borders (on the left and right only), using different types of glass texture.





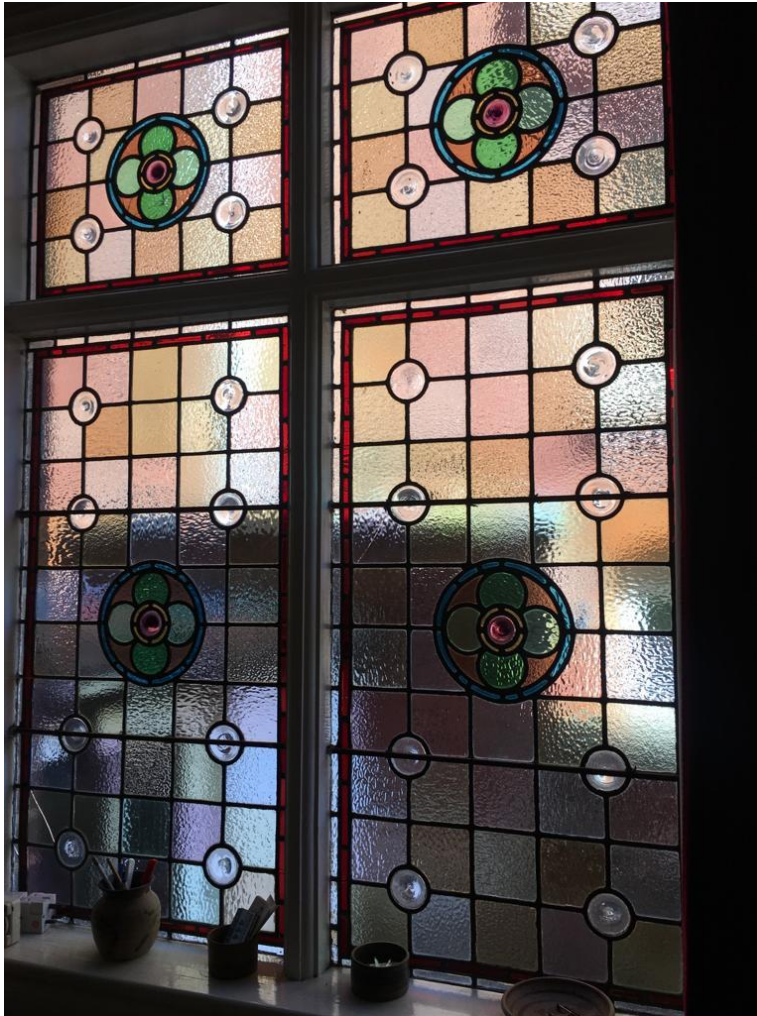
This window, also from *The Prince of Wales* pub, features similar geometric patterns with the addition of a central motif (enlarged below) using painted glass to depict the Price of Wales's feathers, the emblem of the pub.





This is a further window from *The Prince of Wales* (enlarged below) featuring a strong central shield design in multiple colours with pebble glass for the shield, flanked by vertical columns in different colours, shapes and textures.

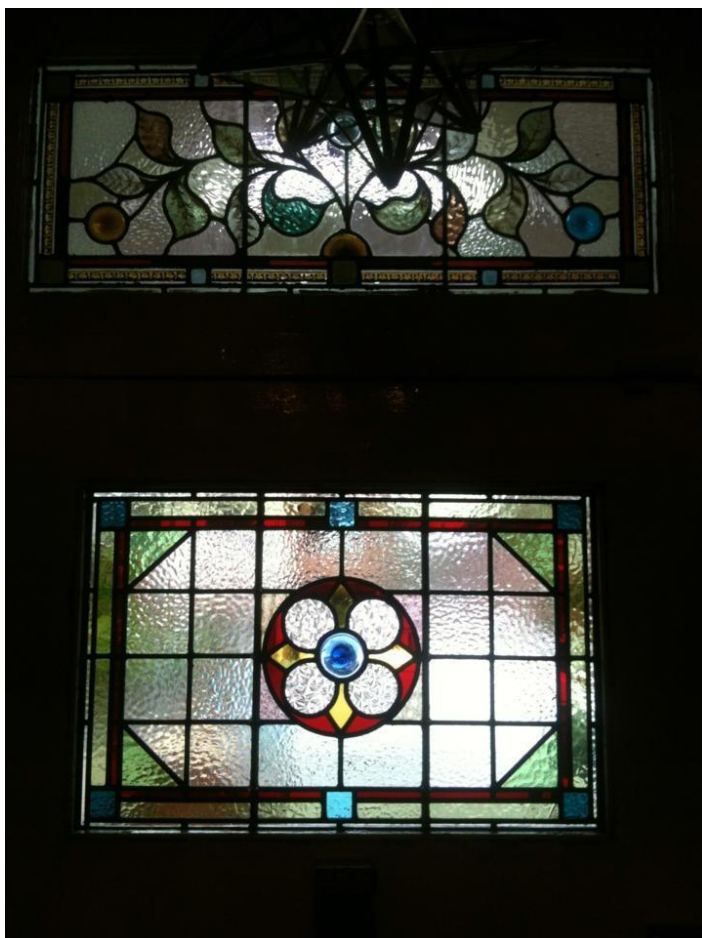




1.4. Circular patterns are used in this window both in the central motifs and at intersections, using pebble glass. Panes are frosted and multi-coloured and the window is surrounded by a border.

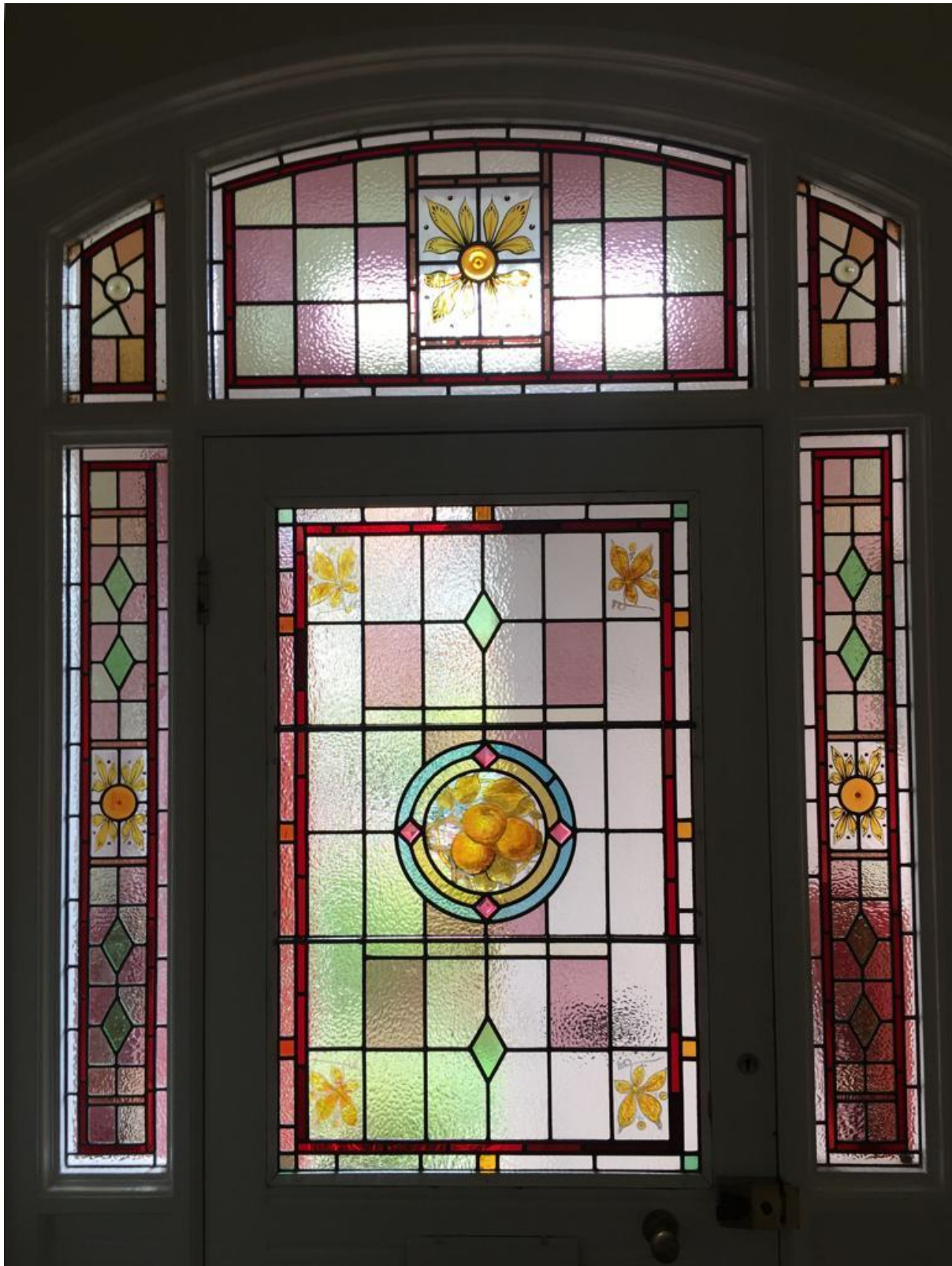


1.5. This window in a door uses a variety of circular and curved shapes in multiple colours.



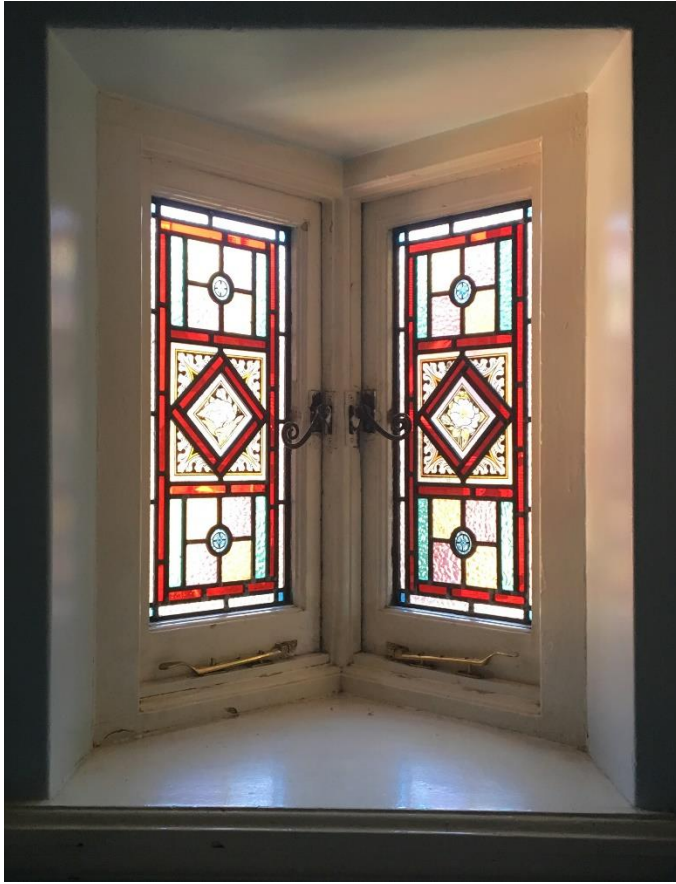
1.6. (*above*) Simple geometric shapes are used here in different colours with borders and a large central motif incorporating a pebble glass 'bullseye'. The small leaf decorations are suggestive of Arts and Crafts.

1.7. (*left*) A simple geometric design is used for the window in the door with an elaborate border and central motif, again with a pebble glass 'bullseye'. The fanlight has a leaf pattern that is suggestive of Arts and Crafts

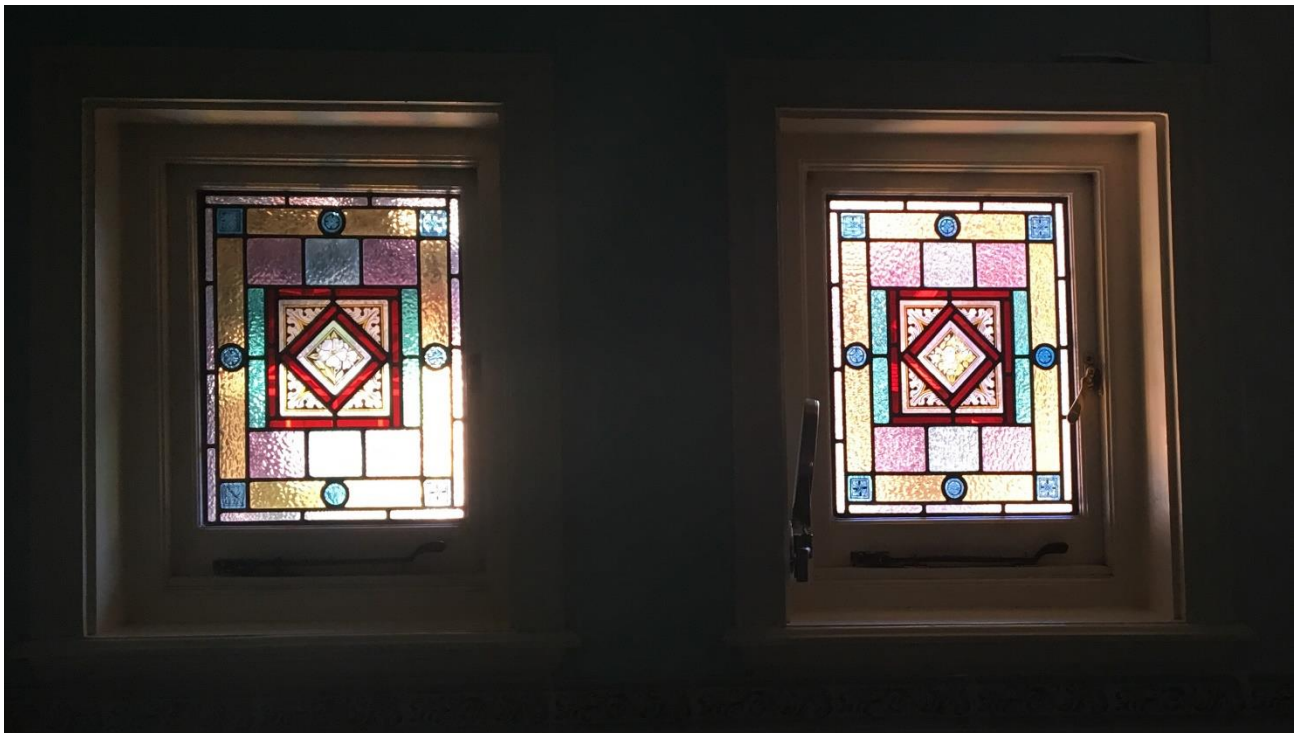


1.8. These vestibule windows are mainly geometric in style with frosted glass in multiple colours and borders, to which have been added painted glass motifs both in the centre and in the corners, which are suggestive of Gothic influence

2. GOTHIC STYLE



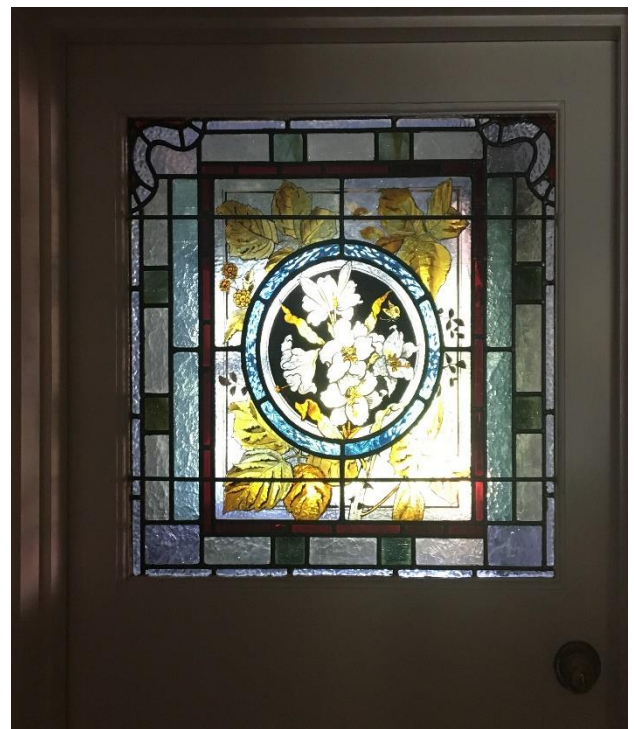
2.1. These windows *from the same house as featured in 3.6* have central painted glass motifs of flowers surrounded by multiple complex borders with geometric designs





The central features of these windows are painted glass motifs depicting birds (above) and flowers (below), again surrounded by complex multi-coloured geometric patterns and borders.

(The window bottom left is from the door adjacent to the peacock window in 3.6)

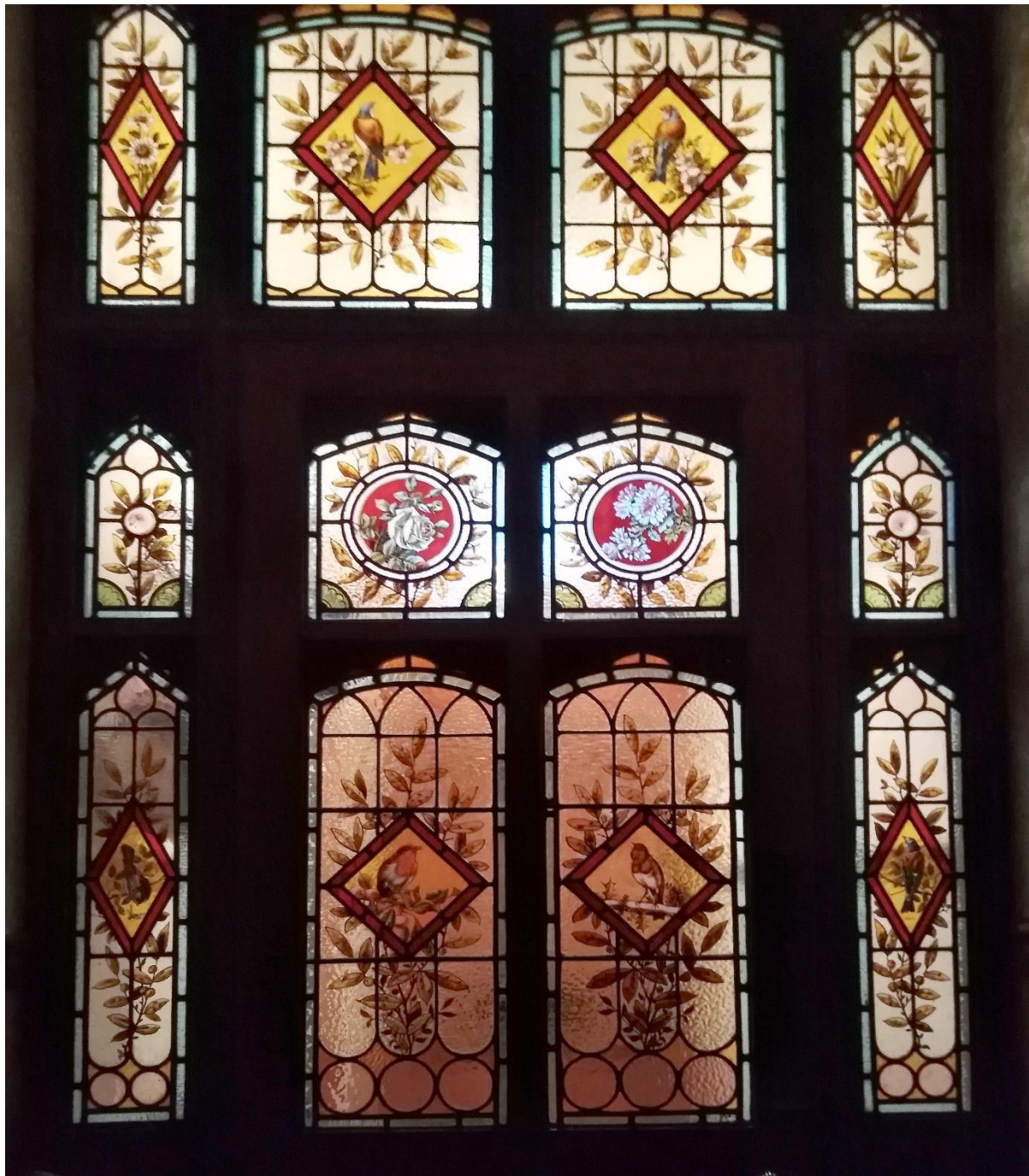




2.2. This is an example of a painted glass window where painted glass is used not only the central motifs (of cottages and historical characters) but also in the surrounding highly ornate decorative spaces.



2.3. Like the previous window, extensive use is made of painted glass both for the river scene in the central motif and for the surrounds. The borders are enhanced by an added scallop design.



2.4. This is another highly complex window where extensive use is made of painted glass not only for the central motifs of birds and flowers but also for the highly decorated surrounds. The top of each window is pointed like a gothic arch.



In this front door from the same house, painted glass is again used both for the central motifs and the surrounding decorative features. Again, the top of each window is pointed like a gothic arch.



2.5. This elaborate example of painted glass consists of a large central motif comprising multiple painted glass panes, surrounded by complex multi-coloured borders





The windows pictured on this page may represent a transition between Gothic and Arts and Crafts. They both feature gothic style central painted glass motifs, surrounded by multi-coloured fruit and berries designs, but the painted designs are larger, more realistic and natural, which may suggest an Arts and Crafts influence.

2.6. The door panel on the left has ornate coloured borders.

2.7. The central motif in the window below has a similar intricate design with complex surrounding pattern.



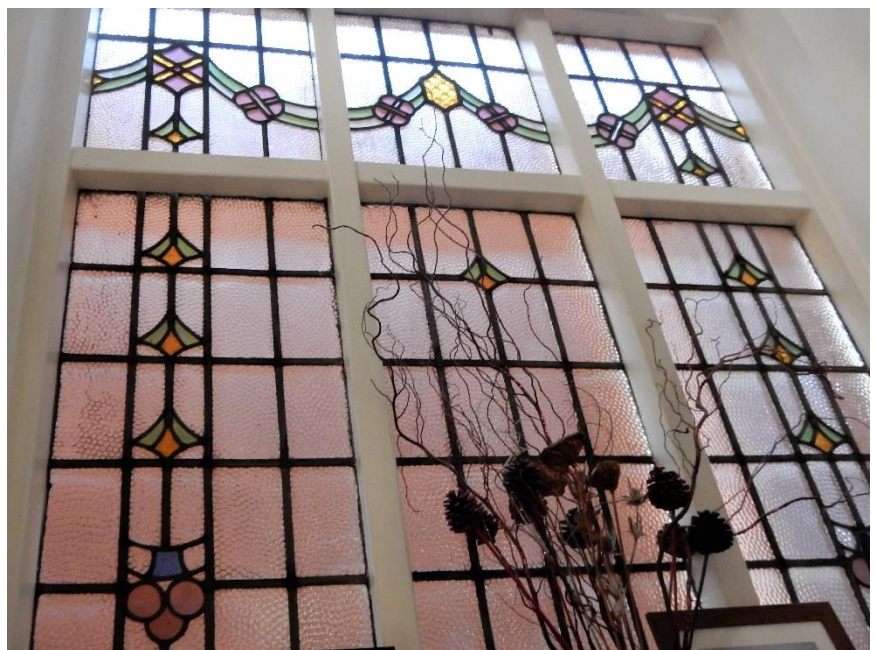
3. ARTS AND CRAFTS STYLE

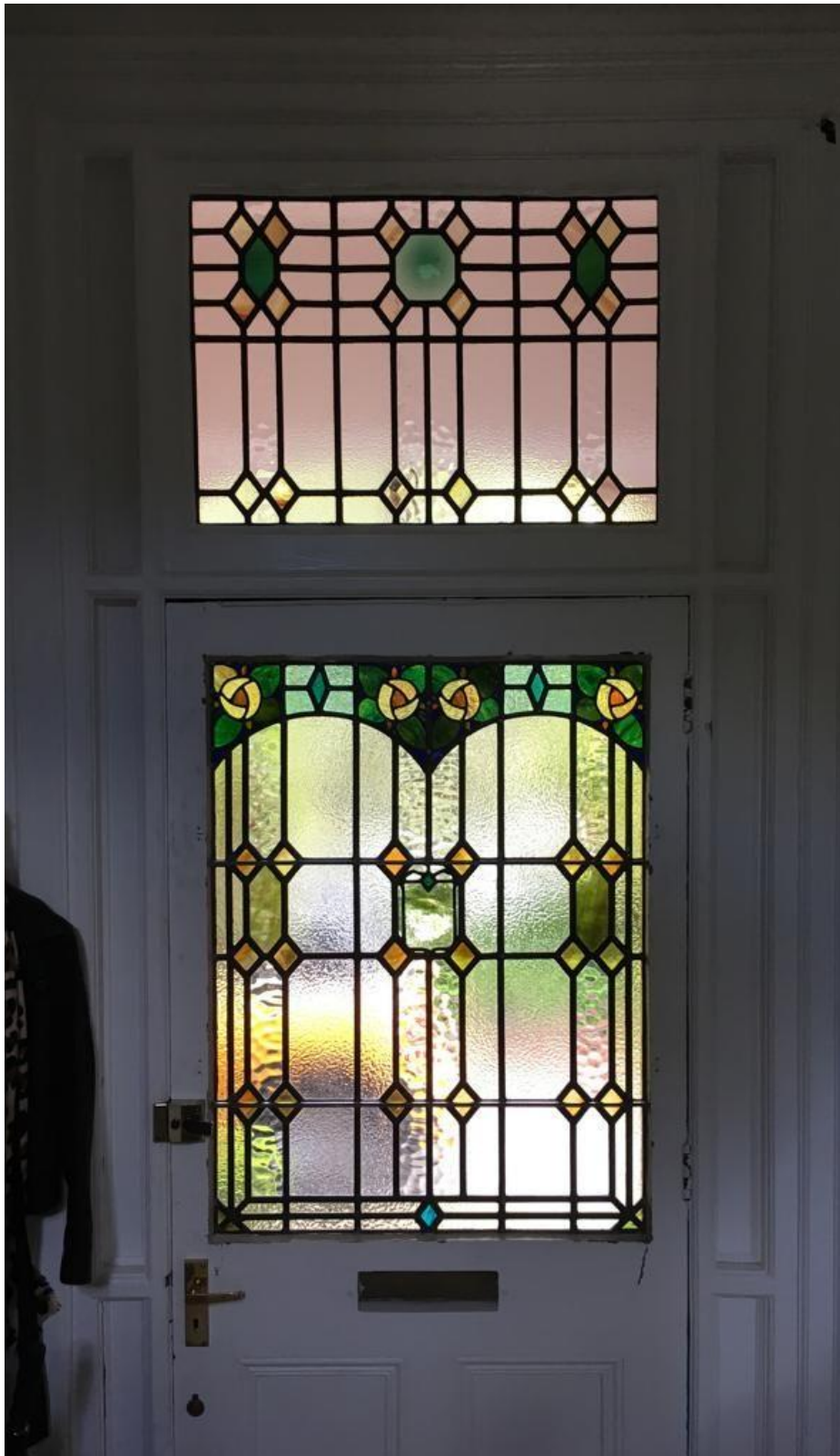


3.1. These windows from the same house seem to mark a transition from the geometric to the Arts and Crafts style.

The window on the far left has a complex geometric pattern whilst that on the near left has a motif suggestive of early Arts and Crafts. Each of these is one of a pair.

The windows below with small brightly coloured flower motifs and a garland (in the larger window) follow a simple Arts and Crafts style.

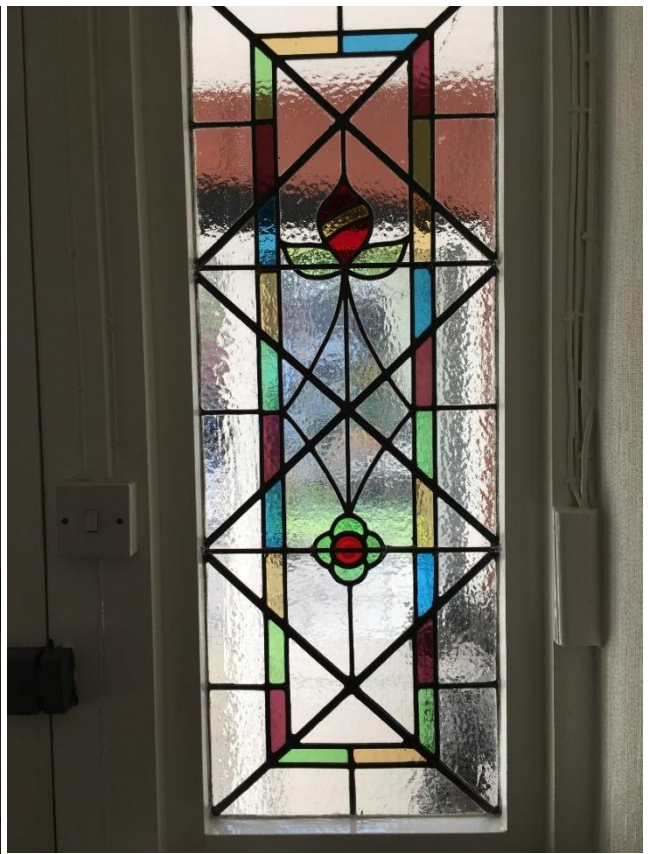




3.2. This window has similar bold geometric patterns with diamond decoration at the major junction points and a complex leaded framework. The bottom window has a brightly coloured top border with Arts and Crafts flower motifs flanked by simple borders on the other three edges.



3.3. This pair of front doorway windows (enlarged separately below) contain simple flower and leaf patterns joined by a diamond shape and surrounded by a multi-coloured border. The whole is overlaid by a diamond shaped latticed pattern made of lead in the side window and of wood in the door window.

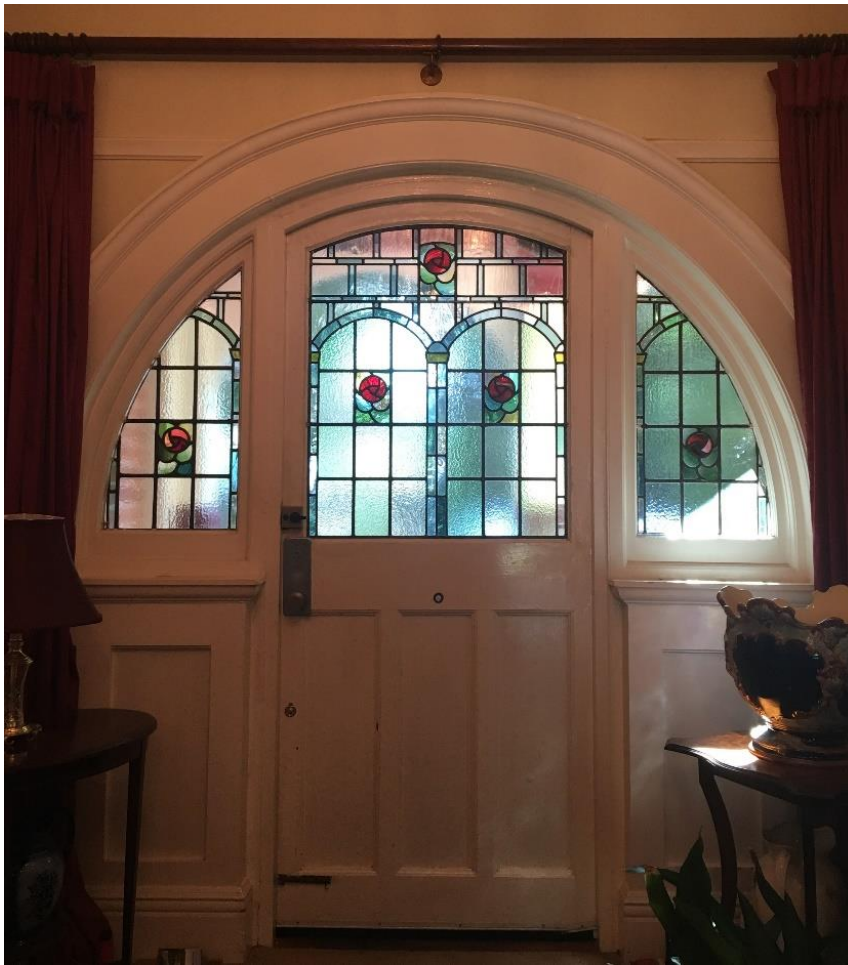




3.4. The window above is an example of classic Arts and Crafts design with boldly coloured roses and leaves joined by a sweeping curved linear pattern that is somewhat suggestive of Art Nouveau.

3.5. The window on the right is probably earlier and incorporates a simple brightly coloured rose and leaf pattern in an otherwise plain window.





3.6. The windows on the following six *pages together with the gothic style windows featured in 2.1.* all come from the same remarkable house, demonstrating how a variety of different styles can be incorporated into the same Arts and Crafts building.

These matching doorway windows feature a brightly coloured stained glass rose feature in the centre with a multi-coloured curved arch surround. The columns of the arches in the matching window below have a diagonal stripe decoration which is echoed in the window on the next page.



The window below contains simple geometric patterns in the top corners with a pebble-glass coloured shield in the centre. The diagonal stripes in the borders echo the diagonal stripes on the columns of the previous window.

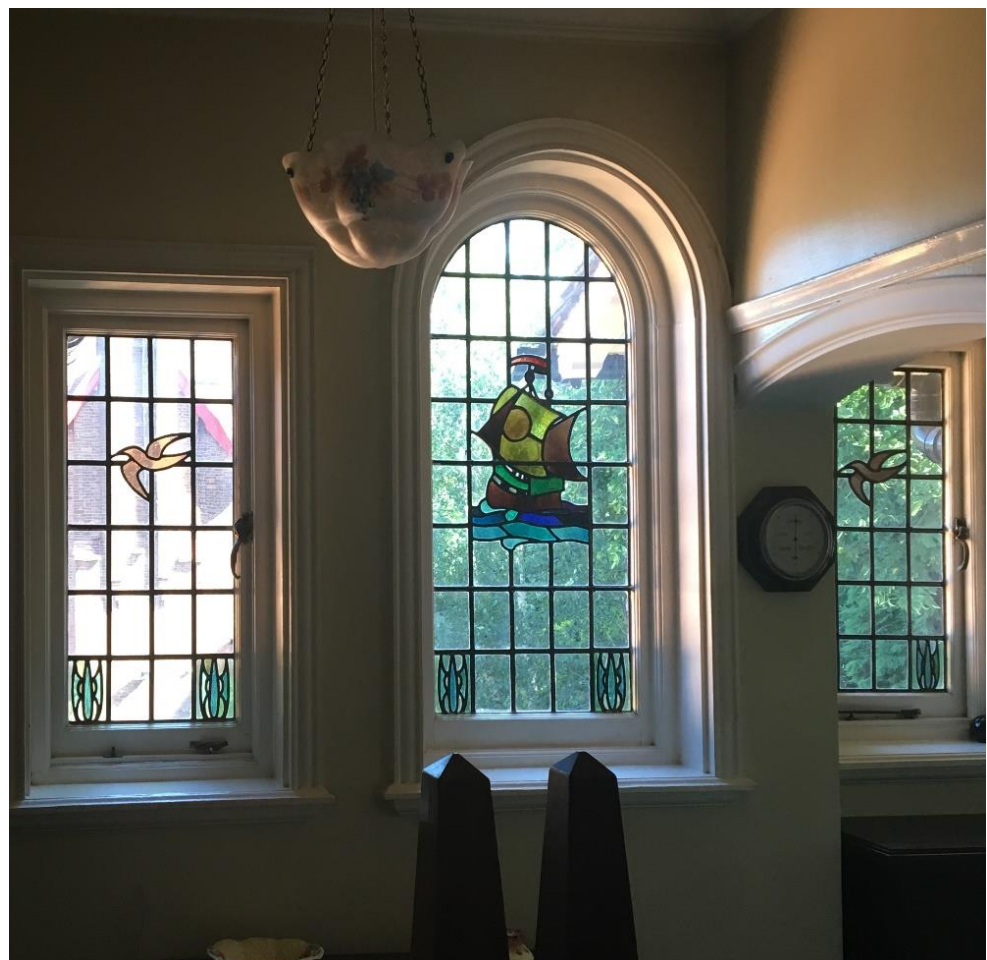


Next page:

The window at the top of the next page has complex motifs in two colours with a ribbon decoration above. The borders once again feature diagonal stripes.



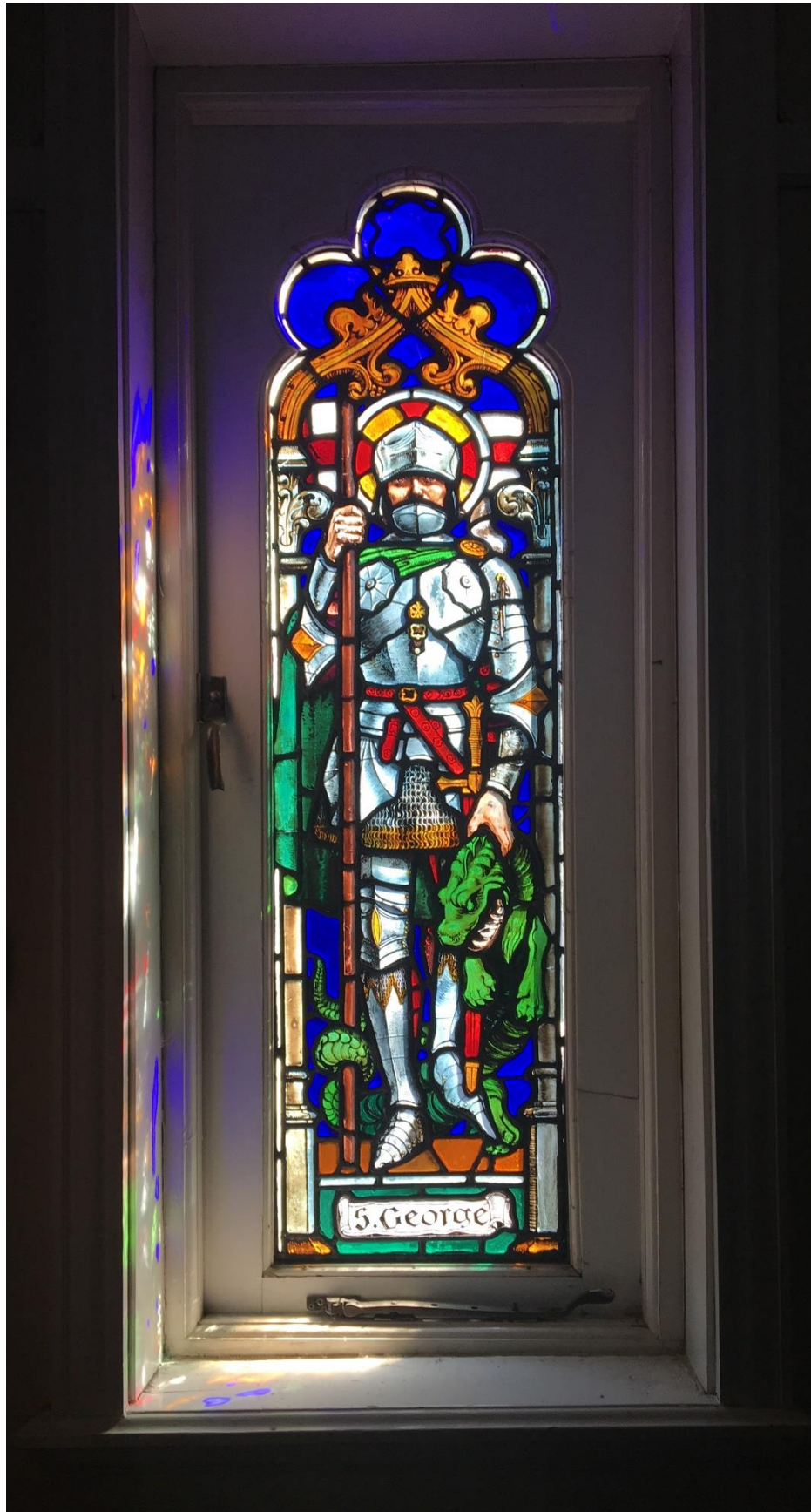
The window on the right is typically Arts and Crafts with bold brightly coloured central motifs of a ship (in the central window) and birds (in the flanking windows), decorated with motifs of rush type plants in the lower corners.



This fine window incorporates painted glass for the peacock and the vegetation in a variety of bright colours and includes a variety of shapes and pebble glass. The sweeping curving lines of the peacock's tail is somewhat suggestive of Art Nouveau.

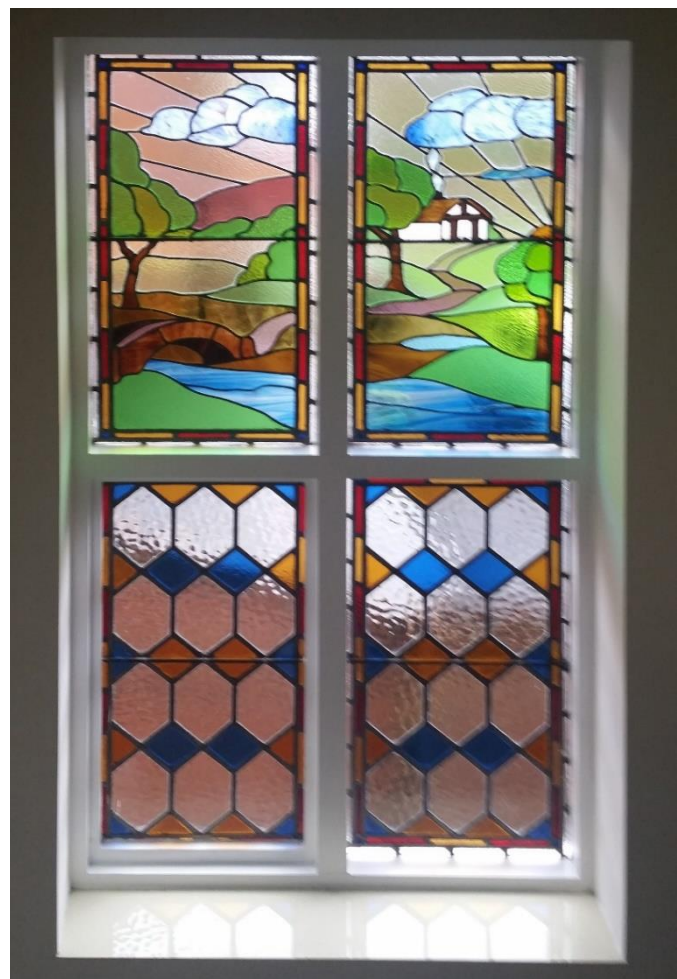


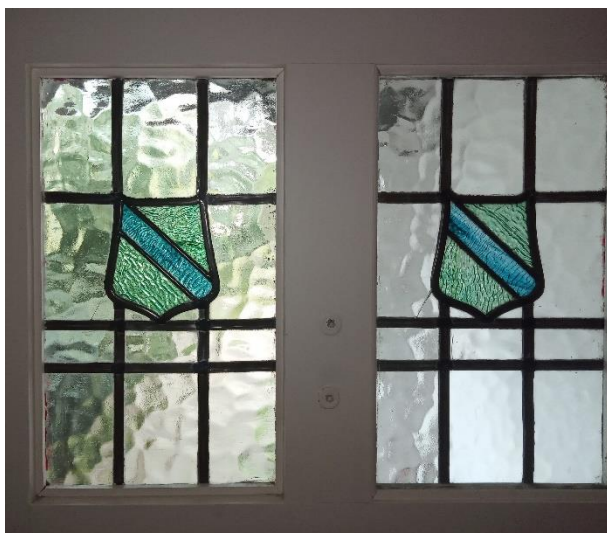
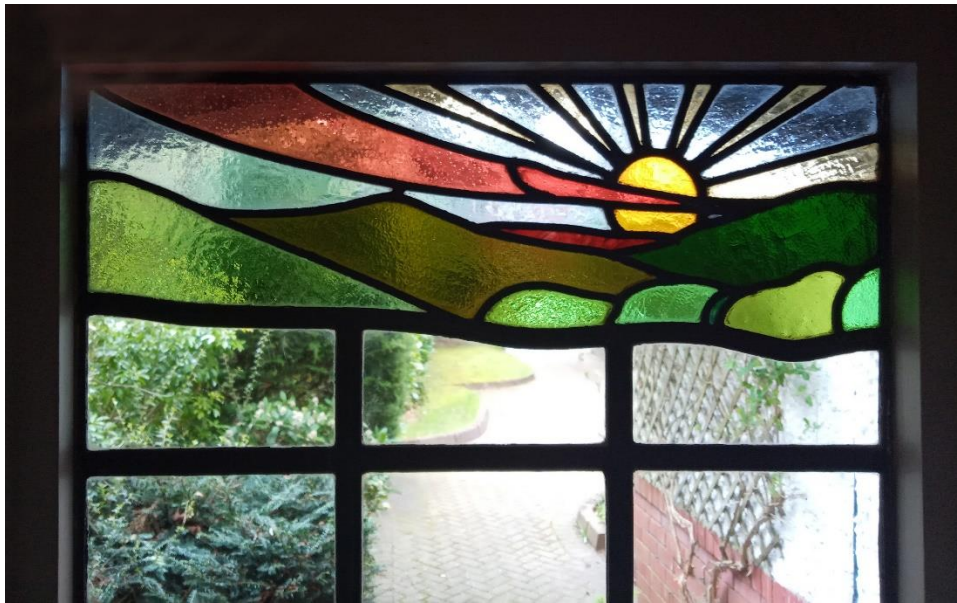
This is another fine richly coloured window with painted glass elements in a style often found in church architecture and possibly pre-Raphaelite in concept.





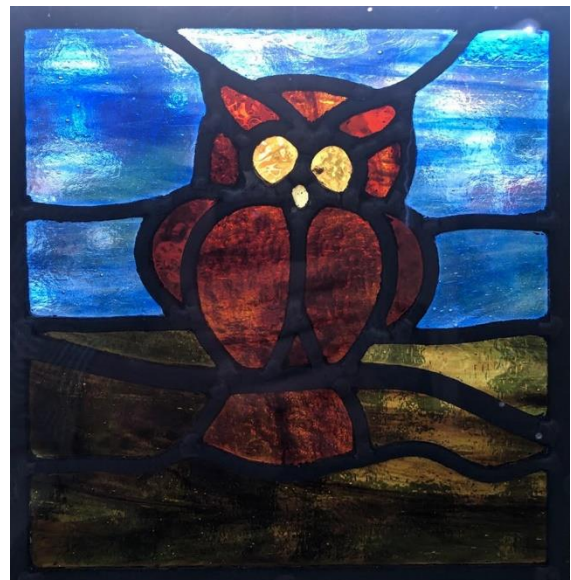
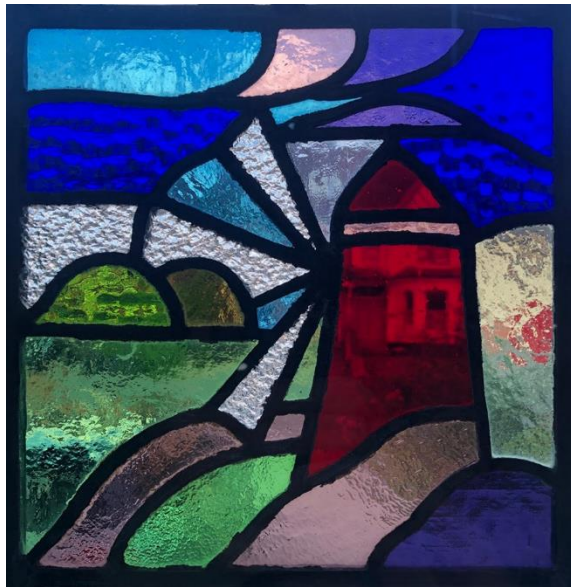
3.7. These windows represent a combination of two design styles - with large Arts and Crafts pictorial rural scenes in the main segments and traditional geometric designs in the other sections.





3.8. The windows above depict rural scenes of mountains and sunsets in Arts and Crafts style.

By contrast the smaller window at the bottom (from the same house) features a traditional simple shield motif in subdued colours.



3.9. These strongly coloured designs of birds, fish and the sea are inspired by Arts and Craft principles. The whole window is shown on the right with enlarged copies of the four motifs shown above.



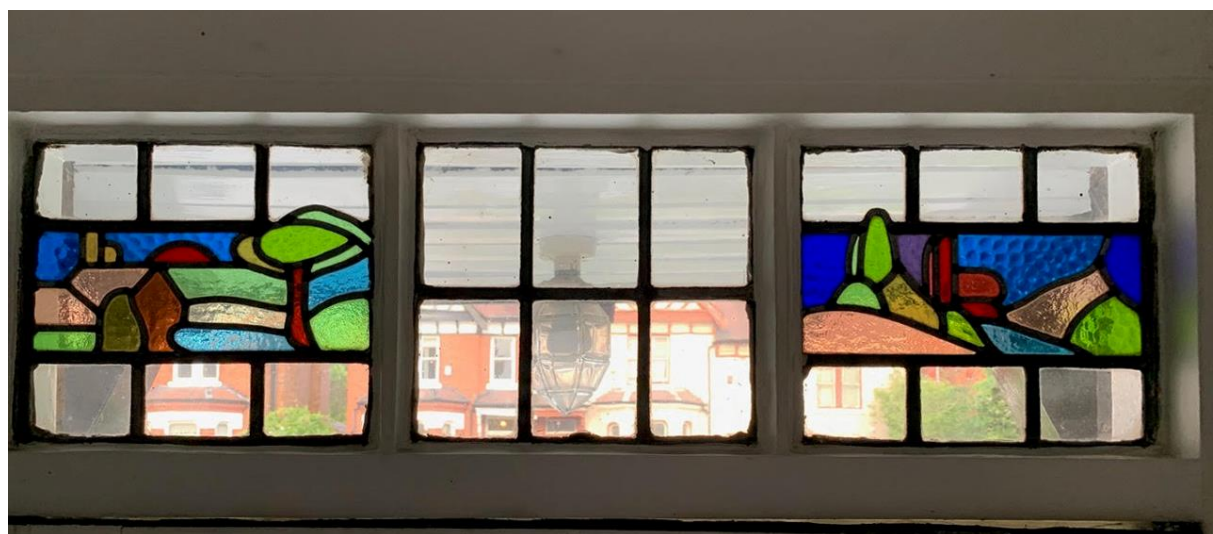


From the same house as the previous page, this window displays boldly coloured Arts and Crafts style views of the countryside, set into an otherwise plain window.

The whole window is shown on the left and enlargements of the two motifs are shown above

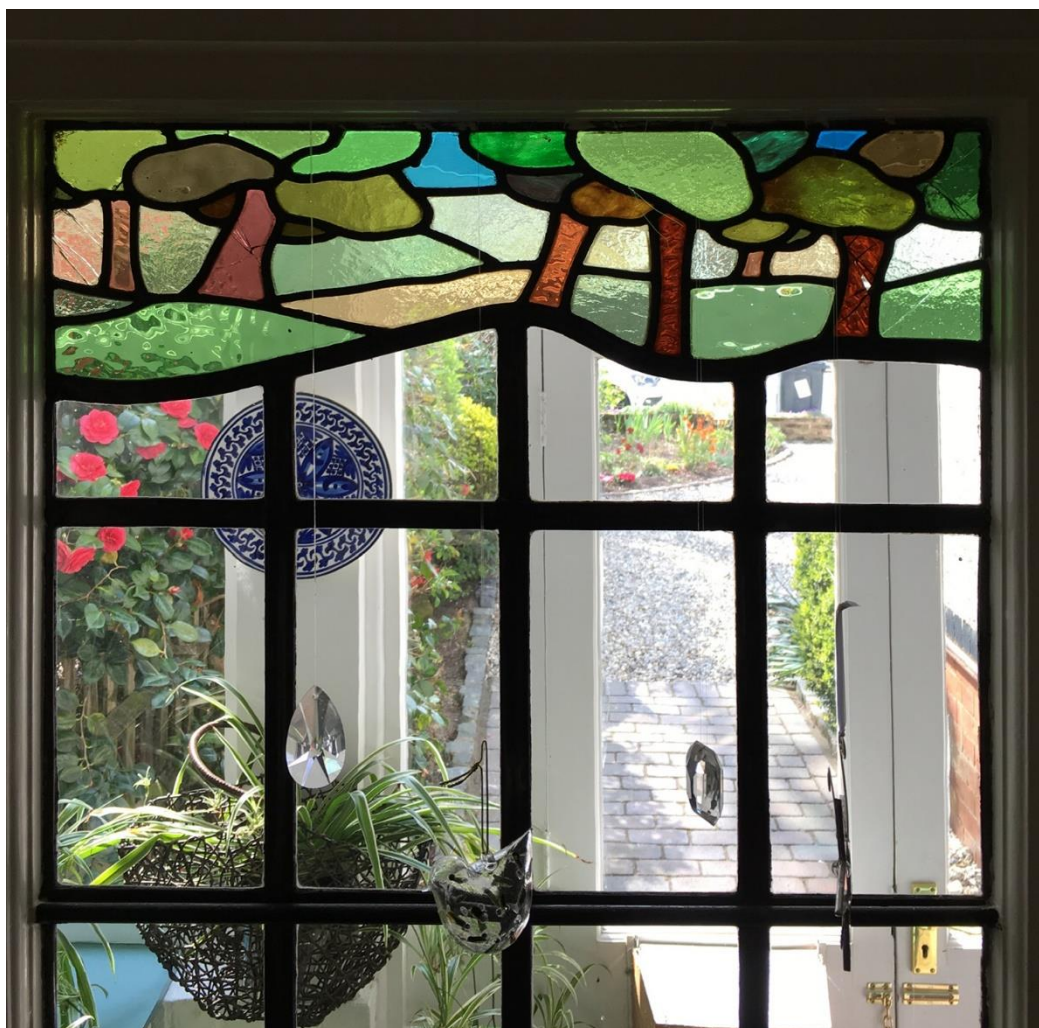


Again from the same house, another Arts and Crafts inspired rural scene is featured in an otherwise plain window. The whole window is shown below and enlargements of the two motifs are shown on the left





3.10. These two windows from a porch depict an Arts and Crafts inspired scene as a frieze in an otherwise plain window.





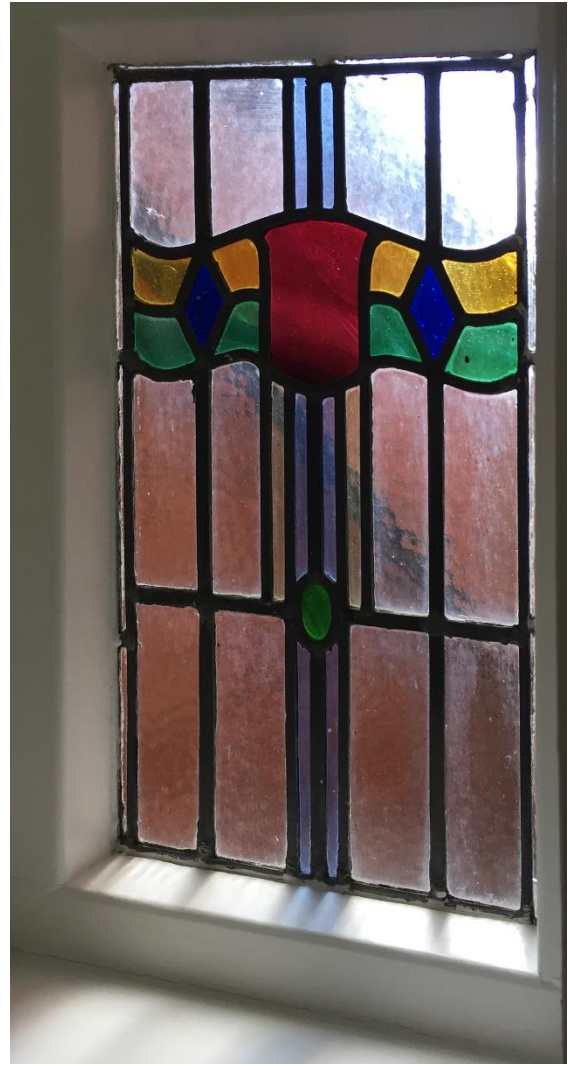
In these examples from the same house, a large Arts and Crafts style rural scene occupies the entire space of the pair of windows., to dramatic effect.





3.11. This pair of windows features a strongly coloured, broad horizontal band with embedded shields in the upper section, crossed by a vertical band in paler colours. The top picture shows the front doorway and the bottom one the landing window with additional pendant flower motifs.





These pictures from the same house show the windows on either side of the hearth. (A further picture below shows the same window in different light). These windows follow a similar pattern to the front door and landing windows on the previous page with a shield motif in a horizontal band and secondary vertical band in paler colours.





3.12. Two matching sets of windows with a bold multi-coloured shield-based design decorated with leaves and pendant roundels are shown here. The top picture is a landing window.

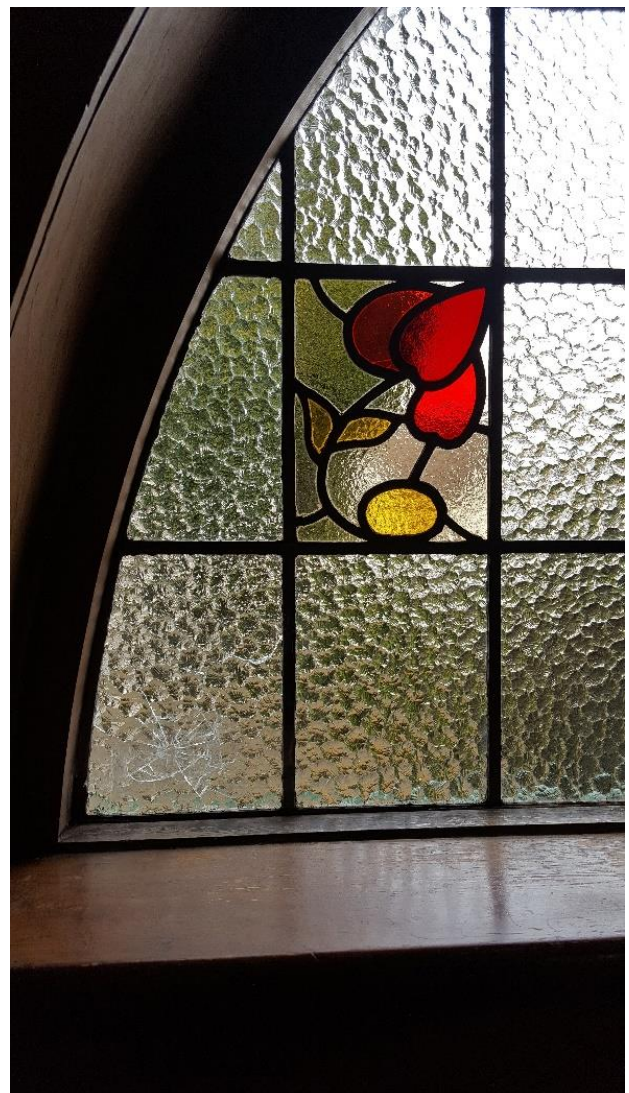


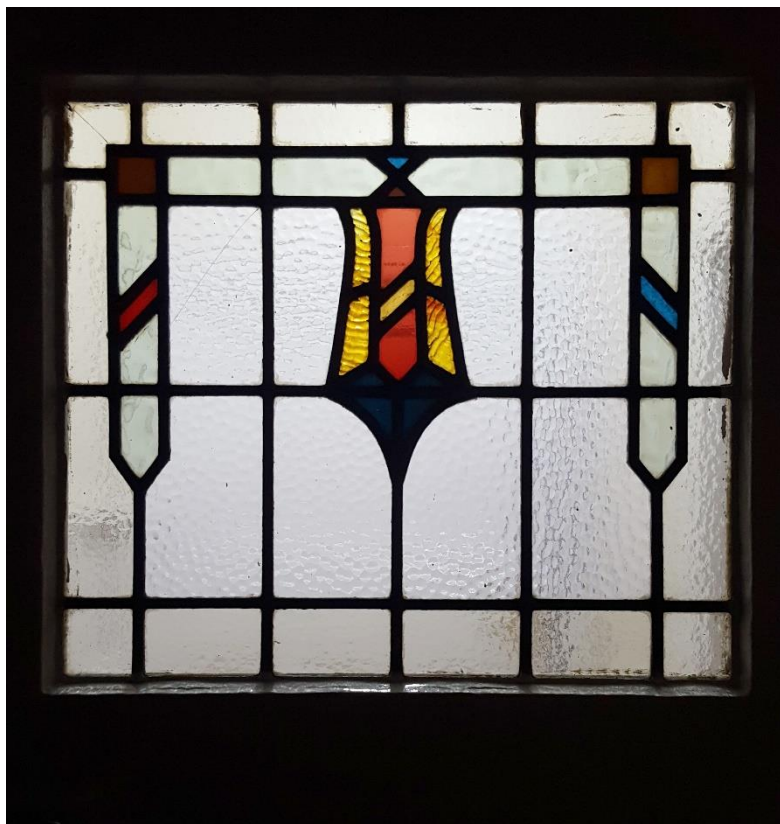
3.13. These matching windows feature bold central motifs of a shield in multi-coloured stained glass set into otherwise plain windows.





3.14 and 3.15. These windows feature brightly coloured motifs of roses or other flowers set into an otherwise plain window



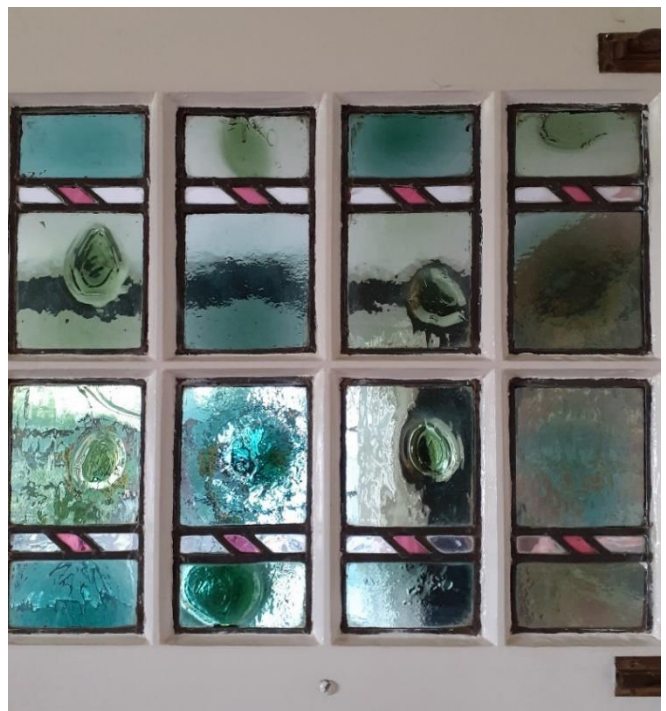


3.16 and 3.17. Each of these windows features a bold central brightly coloured motif with further decoration on either side. The one above has a border and coloured glass panes.

4. ART NOUVEAU STYLE



4.1. These windows (above and below left) exhibit the sinuous organic designs of Art Nouveau. By contrast, the widow below right, from the same house, has adopted a traditional geometric design with a diagonally striped border and pebble glass panes in multiple colours.





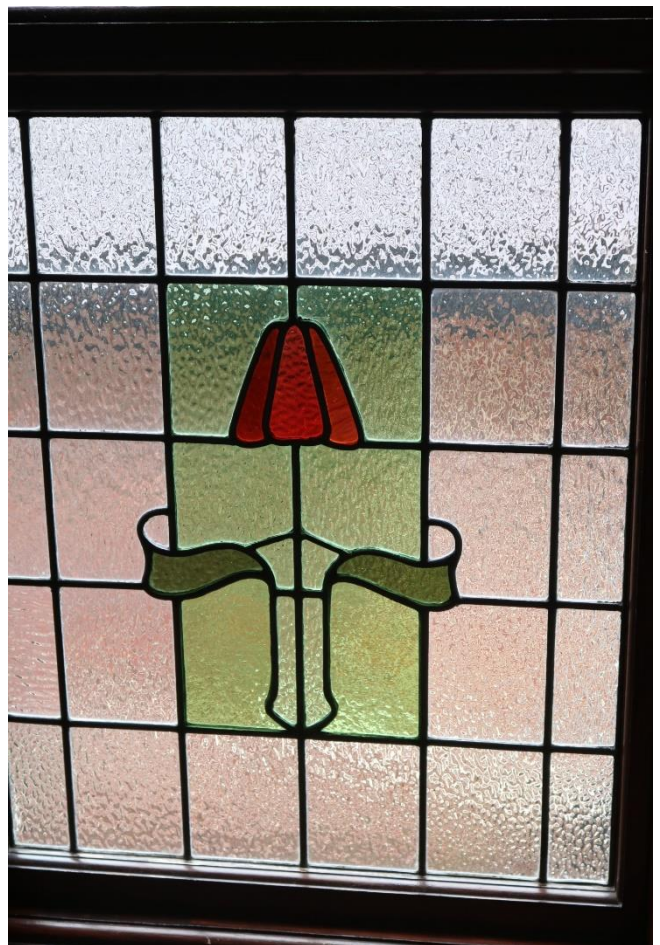
4.2. These three windows (from a neighbouring house to the previous page) exhibit similar sinuous organic Art Nouveau shapes with flowing lines that extend beyond the grid of the lead framework.

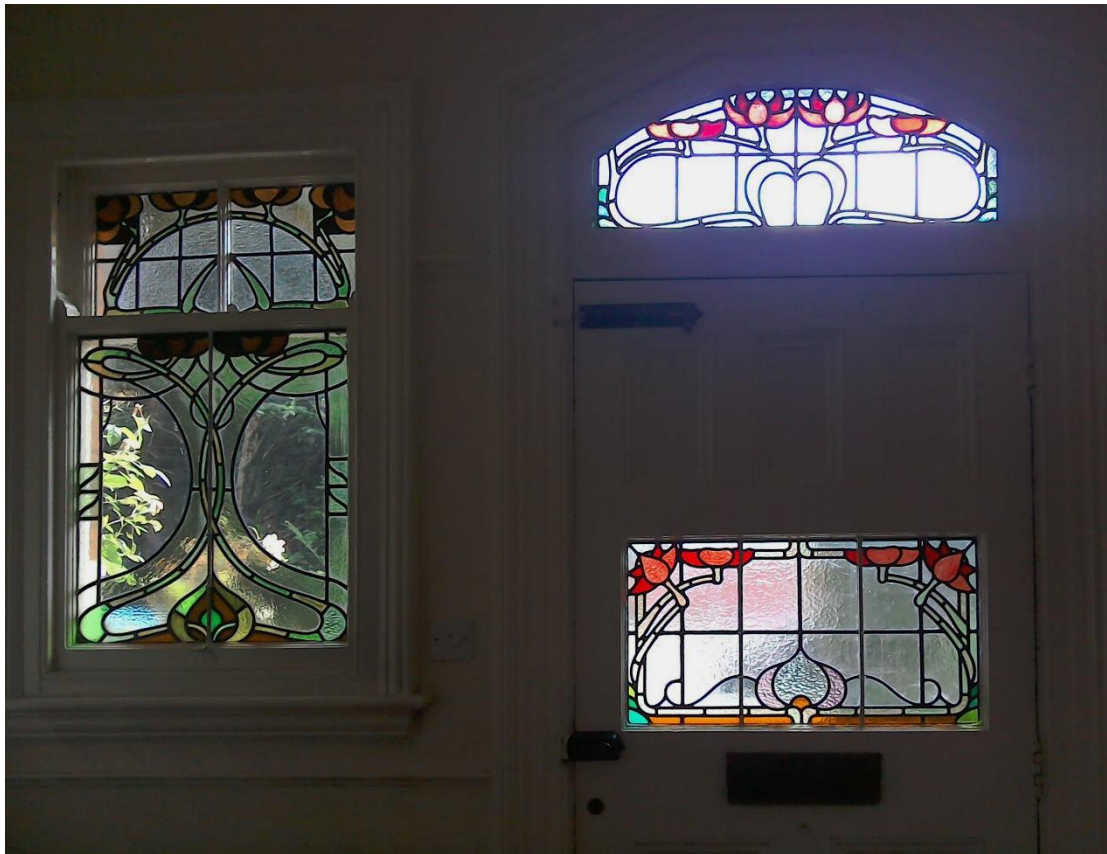
The two windows above have complementary designs with subtle differences.



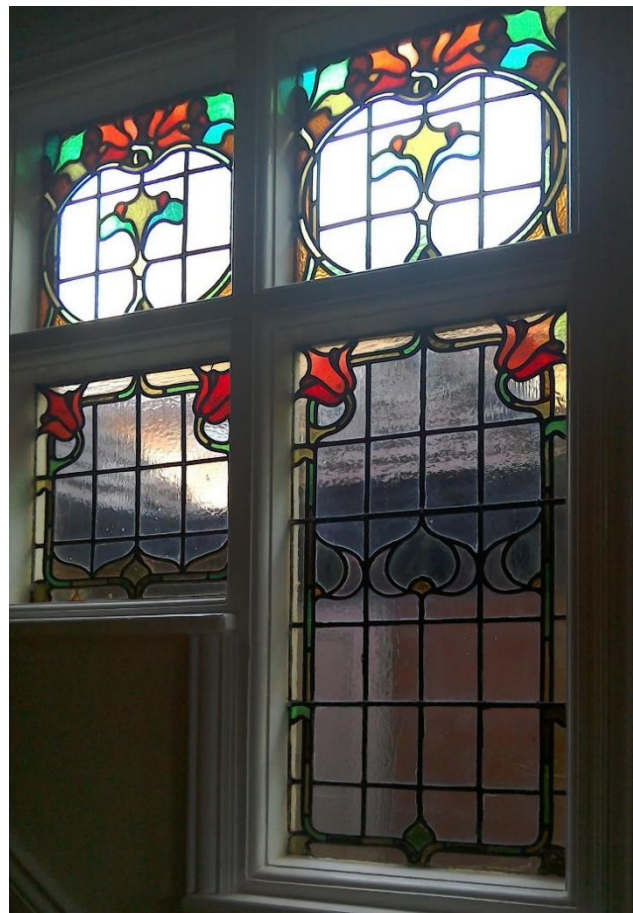
These windows from the same house also feature typically sinuous Art Nouveau designs

The window below (shown in its entirety on the left with an enlargement of the lower half on the right) incorporates a design that complements the windows on the previous page.





4.3. These windows exhibit classic sinuous, organic Art Nouveau designs in rich colours with matching borders edged with floral features





4.4. These windows also use the sinuous organic designs of Art Nouveau, but in more subdued colours with a coloured border. The top picture has a second decorated border at the bottom





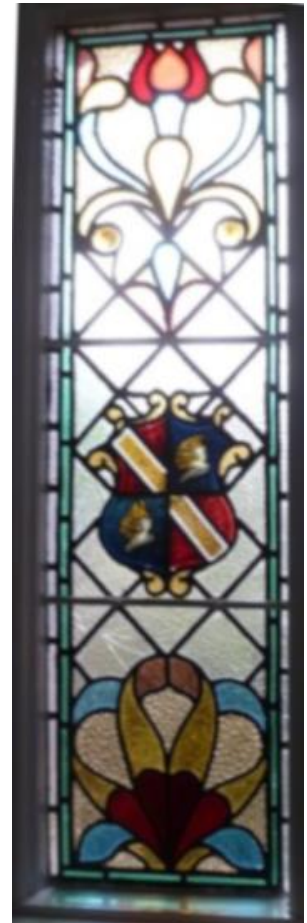
4.5. These windows display similar sinuous plant leaf designs decorating the upper and lower borders of the window





By contrast, the front door of the same house incorporates not only Art Nouveau features but also earlier geometric patterns, Arts and Crafts floral designs and, in the upper window, gothic style painted glass designed to create a fanlight effect.

The narrow window on the right is largely Art Nouveau but also embodies a traditional shield motif



5. ART DECO AND LATER

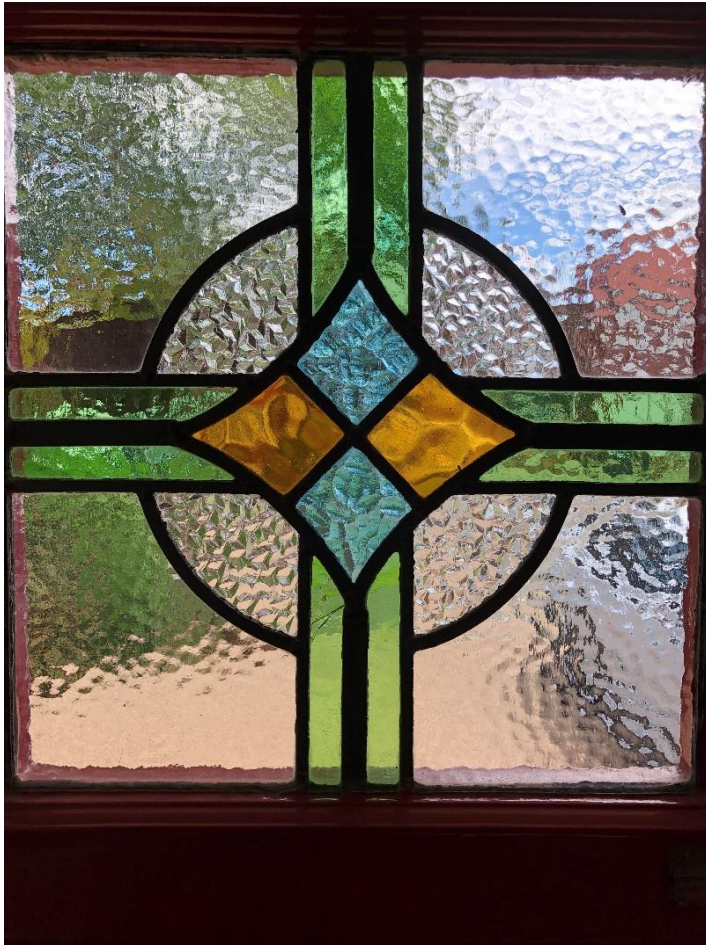


These two examples of rooflights are more Art Deco in style with no sign of Art Nouveau decoration

5.1. The top window depicts angled lines radiating out from a central diamond shape motif, with a border and multi-coloured corner patterns.



5.2. The bottom window dates from the 1920s and has outer and inner borders with a similar multi-coloured pattern in the corners.



5.3. Stained glass was used extensively in suburban housing developments up until the Second World War and many examples still survive. They are most commonly to be found in doors (such as in this example) and fanlight windows

This window is from a house built in the 1930s. The pattern is a bold multi-coloured motif with radiating horizontal and vertical lines. As is normally the case, the glass is frosted.



This article was written by Ray Tier, with assistance from Frank Gresham for the collation of the photographs, on behalf of the Moseley History Group of The Moseley Society.

Grateful thanks are extended to members of the Society and residents of Moseley who submitted photographs of their remarkable stained glass windows and likewise to:

Fine Art Glazing of 1 South Rd, King's Heath, Birmingham B14 7SE who supplied pictures of local stained glass windows from their own stock.