

# Jacob Verzelini

## Memorial Brasses

The brasses are in total approximately 200 cm by 90 cm.

In 1606, Giacomo Verzelini (born 1522), a glass maker from Murano, near Venice, paid £20 to have a brass memorial of himself, his wife Elizabeth (daughter of a glass maker in Antwerp) and their children put in the chancel to cover the family grave in the crypt below. The brasses were damaged during World War II and after repair, they were mounted on the North West wall in 1978.

Jacob (Giacomo) Verzelini came to England in about 1571 and took over a glass-making factory at the Hall of the Crutched Friars in Aldgate, London. In 1574 he obtained a 21 year licence from Queen Elizabeth I, provided he taught his skills to Englishmen and imported no glasses. Despite the glasshouse being destroyed by fire in 1575, his business was very successful and he bought property in Downe (including Downe Court) as well as a great number of estates in the area. Only a few of his drinking glasses remain - examples can be found in the Victoria and Albert, and British Museums.

