

St Mary's Church,
Newton with Flowery Field

A Short Guide



Welcome to St Mary's!

Today you're seeing only part of the Church- if you want to see the whole Church you need to come on a Sunday morning at 10am to join in the weekly Eucharist, with the 22 children and 70 adults who come here every week to worship God and to be inspired to live their lives in response to his love. The Church is both the building and the people who come together inside it to worship.

St Mary's was built in 1839 on land given by John Ashton, a member of a local mill-owning family noted for keeping its mills open during the cotton famine.

In 1877 the Chancel (through the arch, where the choir sits) was added, and the Church has been barely altered since then.

The church is Grade II Listed by English Heritage, partly because so much of it remains unaltered. The listing says:

"...a thoughtful design by Hayley and Brown of Manchester of added architectural interest due to its Romanesque style, rather than the Gothic which was more commonly used for these buildings."



Three Key Features of the Church

1. The Font

The word Font comes from the Latin fons, which means both fountain and source. It is the place of Christening (or baptism) where people of all ages, often babies, are made members of God's Church. Baptism is all about saying to the person being baptised how much God loves them, and will always love them. Water is poured on their head as a sign of God's blessing, and of the fact that we can be washed clean of our sins if we say sorry. About 40 people are baptised here each year.



In addition, 10 couples are married in St Mary's each year, and 3 couples renew their vows. Weddings happen by the steps into the chancel. About 10 funerals happen in St Mary's each year as well. It is an important feature of parish life that, for over 170 years, people have come here at the best and worst moments in their lives, and found God here.

Before you move from the font, pray for those who have been baptised here, or been married here, or have come here for the funeral of a loved one who may also be buried in the Churchyard, which is still used.



2. The Windows and Memorials

The windows and the memorials in Church were almost all paid for in memory of people who lived in Newton and came to Church. They are a record of local lives, a museum of the heart. The windows are in a range of styles, and show many different aspects of the Christian faith. Look at them all, and see which you like, and why. Stand by it, and wait in silence on God.

3. The Altar



On Maundy Thursday, Jesus took bread and shared it with his disciples. He then passed a cup of wine round the table as well, and then commanded his disciples to do it in memory of him, as a way of recalling what he had done for them, and then of being inspired to live for him in the world, being generous and honest and loving.

Week by week, the people of St Mary's share bread and wine, to obey Jesus' instruction. The Priest stands behind the altar, recalls the words of Jesus, and then shares bread and wine with the congregation.

Kneel at the rail and say the Lord's Prayer, in this place where people have come to meet with God for generations:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and
the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Before you leave...

... pray while you're in this house of God.
Offer to God your hopes and your worries
and the people you love and care for.

... light a candle in the candle stand to the
west of the chancel arch.

... speak to the volunteer sitting in church
about your memories and impressions of St
Mary's. They'll also be happy to answer any
questions you have on the building or the life
of the Church.

... write your name in the Visitors Book.

... and please keep this leaflet as a reminder
of your visit, and of your time with God.

Finally, you'd be made very welcome at any
service in Church- always on a Wed and a
Sun at 10am, and with extra services at
Christmas and Easter.



Our website stmarysnewton.org.uk has all of
the details of services, events and activities.