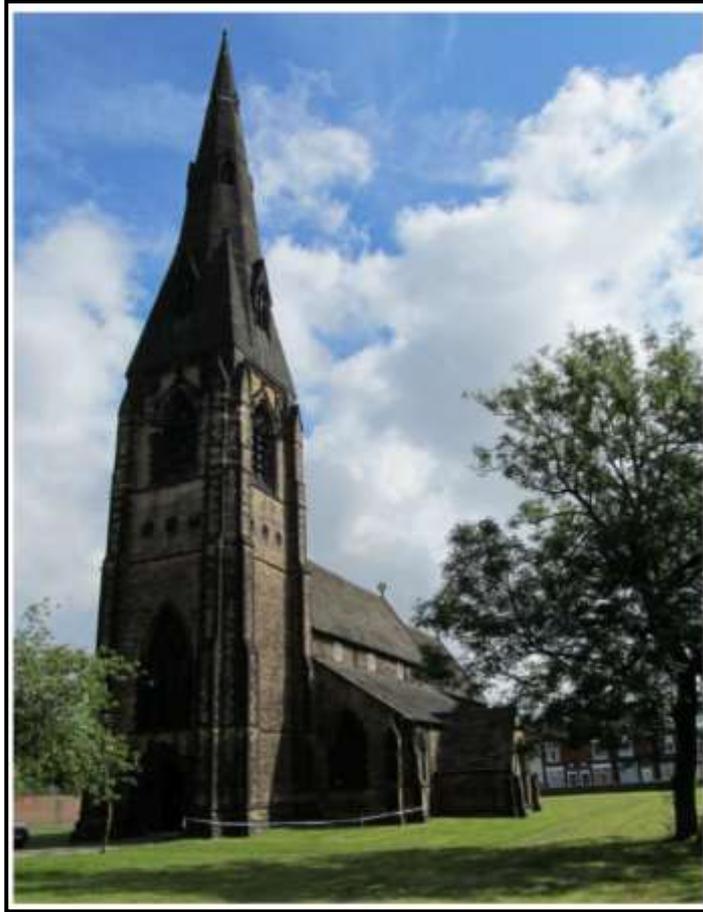


# Your Guide to St Matthew's Church



## St Matthew's Church – A Brief History



St Matthew's Church has been part of the community since 1858, with its spire being a dominant part of the Edgeley sky line since 1866. The spire is 165 feet high and is topped by a metal cross and weather vane.

The church was designed and built by the architect Joseph Street Crowther (1820 – 1893) and made of hammer dressed sandstone with stone roofing slates. The church is now a Grade II listed building. When it opened in 1858, it was known as a “free church” as you could sit pretty much wherever you liked. Before this time it had been common practice for people to rent pews as a means of the church raising income.

Once through the doors of the rather forbidding exterior, the church inside is beautiful, tranquil and welcoming. Its high vaulted ceilings add to the fine proportions.

The beautiful stained glass windows were not part of the original build but have been added through the years, thanks to the generous donations of individuals and families connected to St Matthew's.

Today, St Matthew's is the place of worship for the Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath. The Parish was formed in 2007 and originally included the churches of St Mark's in Edgeley

and St Augustine's in Cheadle Heath. On Easter Day 2011, the three congregations came together as a single worshipping community at St Matthew's.

St Matthew's is a vibrant church, offering a variety of worship styles, children's groups and community activities, both inside and outside the church. We have regular contact with all of our local schools, including Stockport Academy. Do visit our website to find out more - or better still, join us for worship; or a coffee at our Saturday Cafe!

[www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)

## Our Vision



Responding to the call of Jesus on our lives we will be...

- family not acquaintances,
- disciples not bystanders,
- servants not volunteers,
- unapologetic evangelists not apologetic believers.

In the power of the Spirit we will be whole hearted not half hearted.

## How to use this Guide

Please use this guide to direct you to places of interest around the church. We have included a simple floor plan of St Matthew's, with a guide to the numbered features.

We have highlighted key features of Christian worship, as well as describing the beautiful stained glass windows.

**Please start at the FONT**, which is the first number in the guide, and then follow the suggested numbered path.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this guide, please let us know. If we don't have the answer, we will do our best to find out.

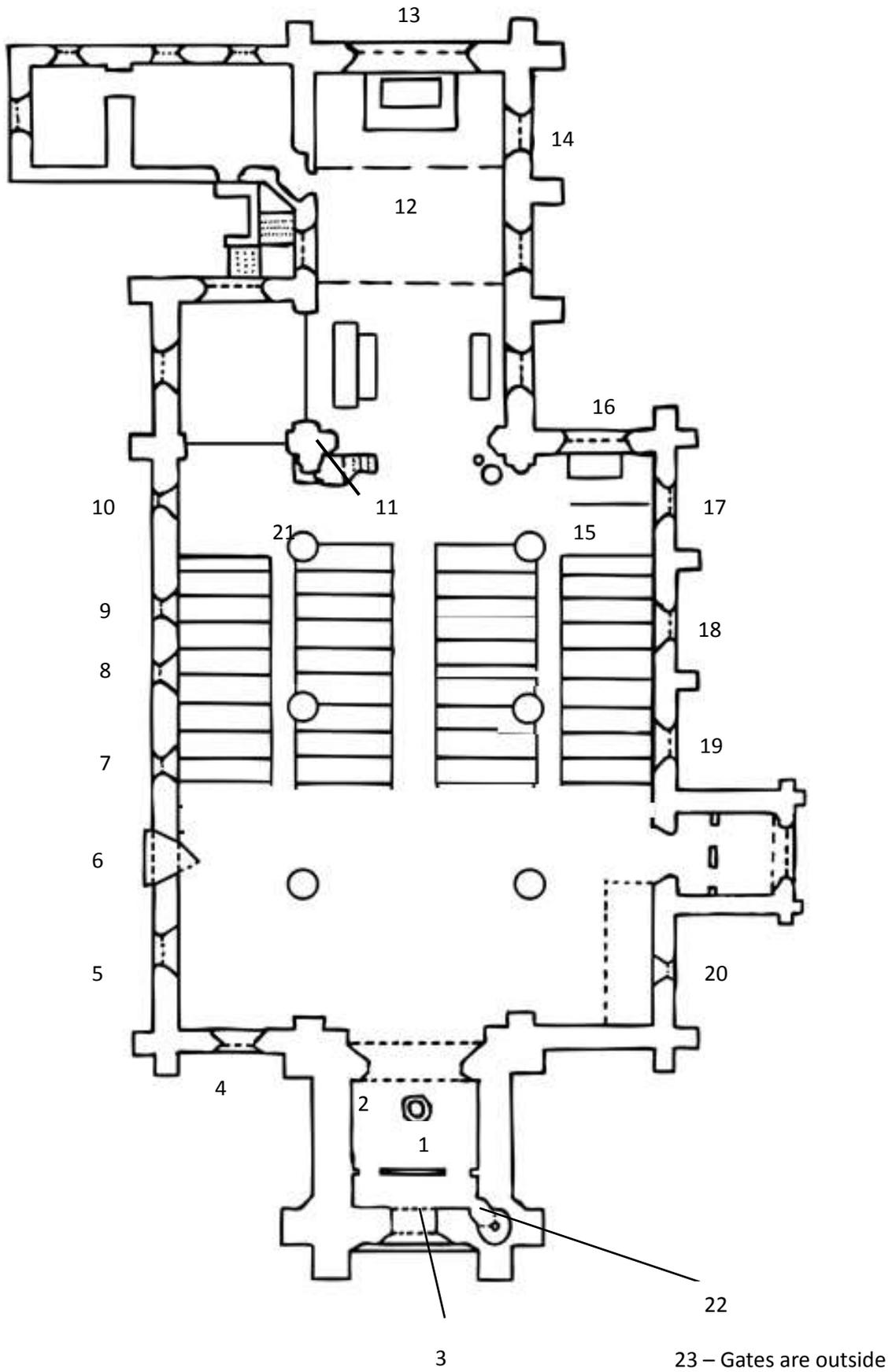
We would be very grateful if you would leave your comments in our Visitor's Book before you leave.

We hope you enjoy your visit to St Matthew's Church.

**First step – go to the Font**

# St Matthew's Church

## Key to Highlights



## Highlights of St Matthew's Church

<b>1</b>	<b>The Font</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Water Stoup</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>The Nativity window</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The Sunday School window</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>The David window</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>The Bowers' window</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>"I am the True Vine" window</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>"I am the Good Shepherd" window</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>"I am the Light of the World" window</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>"I am the Resurrection and the Life" window</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>The Pulpit</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>The Altar</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>The Ascension window</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>The Sower window</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>The Lady Chapel</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>The Lady Chapel window</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mothers' Union window</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>The Lazarus window</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Martha and Mary window</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>The Jairus window</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>The Bell Tower</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>The Gates</b>

## The Font



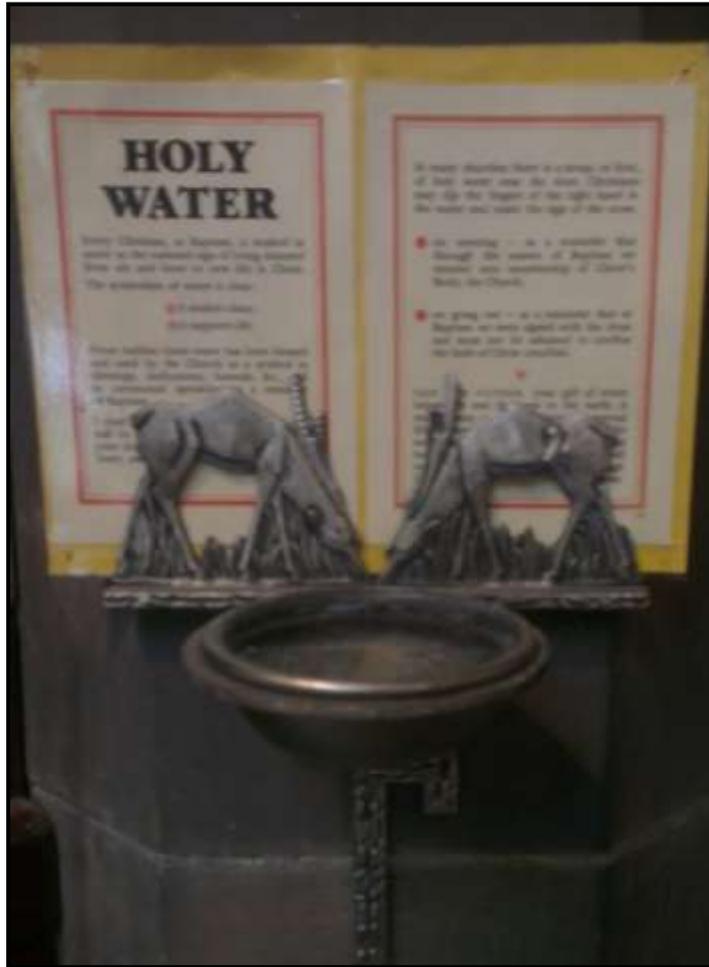
As you enter St Matthew's through the main doors, the first thing you will see is the font. This is a reminder that our Christian journey begins with baptism.

The font here is stone and is regularly used for the baptism of both children and adults.

If you have any questions about baptism, or would like to arrange a baptism for yourself or your children, please speak to a member of our clergy at any time during your visit, or during our Saturday Cafe (clergy are available every Saturday between 10.30 – 11.30).

**Look to your right - there is a Water Stoup attached to the stone pillar**

## The Water Stoup



A water stoup is a bowl designed to hold water that has been blessed (holy water). They are commonly associated with Roman Catholic churches or Church of England churches with a catholic tradition. The stoup here reminds us of the rich traditions associated with St Matthew's and the variety of worship styles that we celebrate.

They are usually found near the main door to a church and are used by some people to mark themselves with the sign of the cross to remind them of their Baptism promises.

**Now turn to face the main doors and look up at the spectacular "Nativity" Window**

## “Nativity” Window



**Location:** west wall of church, above main entrance

**Date of installation:** 1949

**Upper windows:** 1. Holy Spirit      2. Chalice and Host      3. Crown of thorns and nails

**First window:** St Matthew and arms of York

**Second window:** The nativity and arms of Canterbury

**Third window:** St Werburgh and arms of Chester

**Inscriptions:** “Glory to God in the highest”

**Dedication:** In memory of John Willington, first vicar of the Parish 1858-1893 and of his wife Emily

**Bible references:** Luke 2:6-7

### **The birth of Jesus**

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **The story behind the window:**

The windows show St Matthew (after whom this church is named), the nativity (birth of our Lord Jesus Christ) and St Werburgh (Patron Saint of Chester; she was a nun most of her life and was instrumental in convent reform across England in the 7<sup>th</sup> century)

### **Reflection:**

Does God sometimes seem distant and beyond our reach?

The nativity reminds us that God, in the person of Jesus, came to be one of us and to experience the ups and downs of human life.

Take a few moments to consider that God understands us, He cares for us, and He wants to share in the whole of our lives, both the good times and the bad.

**Turn and face away from this window and walk around the corner on your left. Look up to your left at “The Sunday School” Window**

## “The Sunday School” Window



**Location:** west wall of church

**Date of installation:** 1964

**Inscription on first window** “Learn to labour truly”

**Inscription on second window** “Suffer the little children to come to me”

**Dedication:** Given by the Sunday school and Friends of St Matthew’s Church, 1964

**Bible references:** Matthew 13:55, Matthew 19:14

## **Jesus as a child – Jesus gathers the children to Him**

<sup>55</sup> Is not this the carpenter's son?

<sup>14</sup> But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

### **The story behind the window:**

This window shows the Virgin Mary and Jesus as a boy (you can see the carpenter's tools in His hands) and Jesus holding a child in His arms, with another child at His side.

### **Reflection:**

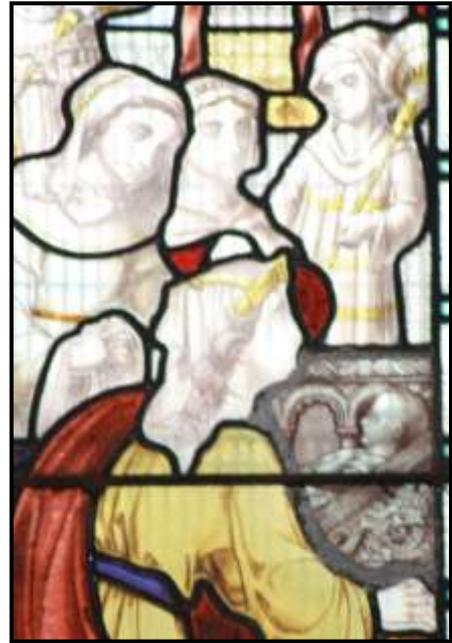
We are called to set a good example as parents.

As Christians, we are called to have faith that is “like that of a child”

May our homes and our church be places of learning and growth, for children and adults alike.

**Turn to your right and look up at “The David” Window**

## “The David” Window



**Location:** north wall of church

**Inscriptions:** “Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come to me.” “Behold, when the child was yet alive, we spake unto him and he would not hearken unto our voice. How then will he vex himself if we tell him that the child is dead. But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead, therefore David said to his servants ‘Is the child dead?’ And the servants said ‘the child is dead.’”

**Dedication:** In loving remembrance of Hettie Lees, the beloved child of Robert Bowker and Hannah Tatton, of Mersey View, Cheadle Heath, who died March 6, 1879, aged 3 years and 9 months, and was interred Mar 10 at Mellor church

**Bible references:** 2 Samuel 12:15-23

## **David laments the death of his son**

<sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died.

### **The story behind the window:**

David was a man who did great things, but he made mistakes, too. From slaying Goliath to writing psalms that we still love today, David started the line of kings which would bring Jesus into the world. He rose to great heights and suffered terrible loss. He also committed adultery and murder yet he turned back to God and was forgiven.

The Bible says that “God testified concerning him [David]: ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart.’”

### **Reflection:**

The story of David reminds us that life is full of joy and grief, of temptations and turning away from God. Yet God still loved David, and forgave him his sins.

Do you have things you want to say sorry for, things that you have done on purpose or things that you should have done but didn't? Reflect on them now and turn to the God who longs to forgive you.

Also take some moments to pray for people who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one, particularly the loss of a child.

**Continue walking down the north aisle, pausing at the door and looking up at  
“The Bowers” Window**

## “The Bowers” Window



**Location:** north wall of church (above side door)

**Date of installation:** 1957

**Dedication:** “The gift of Mr and Mrs E Bowers, the above window is a thanks offering for 25 years of happy married life” (1955)

**Inscriptions:** None

## **Description of the window:**

This window shows five key elements:

- A cradle, representing family
- A ring, representing marriage
- Hands touching, representing partnership
- A loaf of bread, representing material provisions
- An ark, representing the Church

## **The story behind the window:**

This window was a gift of Mr and Mrs E Bowers as a celebration of 25 years of happy married life.

## **Reflection:**

Pray for all those who are preparing for marriage at this time

Pray for those whose marriages are going through difficult times, that they will work through their problems together, with the help of God.

**Continue walking down the north aisle, looking to your left at “The True Vine”  
Window**

## "I am the True Vine" Window



**Location:** north wall of church

**Date of installation:** 1959

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Dedication:** In treasured memory of Harold Alfred King M.B.E., Churchwarden of this Parish died Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1955 "Semper Fidelio"

**Inscription:** None

(Given by his wife)

**Bible references:** John 15

## **Jesus the True Vine**

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”

<sup>7</sup> “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.”

### **The story behind the window:**

“I am the True Vine” is the last of seven “I am” declarations of Jesus recorded only in John’s gospel. These “I am” proclamations point to His unique divine identity and purpose. Jesus said these words to His closest friends who were gathered around Him at a table in Jerusalem. Just a few hours later, Judas would betray Him.

Jesus was preparing his closest friends for His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus had just told them that He would be leaving them and, knowing how disturbed they would feel, He gave them this lovely metaphor of the True Vine as one of His encouragements, that whilst He would not be physically present, His Spirit (yet to come) would fill them and keep them nourished by Him.

### **Reflection:**

Jesus reminds us all that we need to keep close to Him, through worship and prayer, so that we can continue to grow as Christians, to stay “rooted” in His love throughout our day to day lives. There is no part of our lives that Jesus does not touch – He longs to be part of all that we do.

Is there any part of your life that you do not share with Jesus? Your finances? Your job? Pray about these things and invite Jesus to be part of all that you do.

**Continue along the north aisle to the next window, “I am the Good Shepherd”**

## "I am the Good Shepherd" Window



**Location:** north wall of church

**Date of installation:** 1967

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Dedication:** In loving memory of Fred Hopkinson, Churchwarden of this Parish, died Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1963. *A devoted servant*

**Inscription:** None

(Given by his family)

**Bible references:** John 10: 11-18

## **Jesus the Good Shepherd**

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep

### **The story behind the window:**

“I am the good shepherd” is the fourth of the seven “I am” declarations of Jesus recorded only in John’s gospel. These proclamations point to the unique identity and purpose of Jesus.

It is helpful here to remember that the purpose of the shepherd was to protect and defend the sheep, not just from the weather but from robbers and wolves, the true shepherd being one who cares so much for his flock that he would lay down his life for them. Through His willing sacrifice on the cross, Jesus did just that for us.

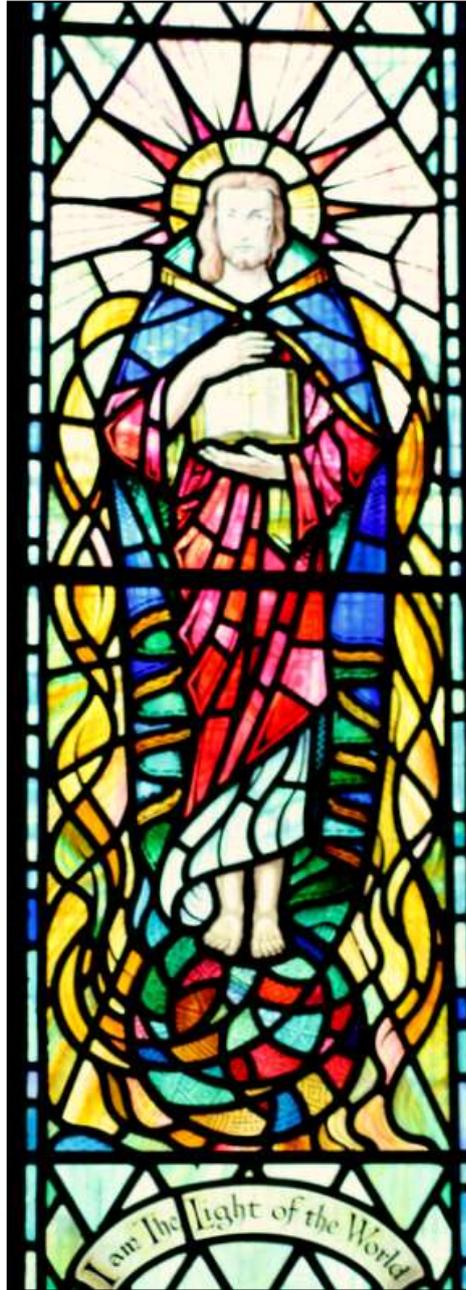
### **Reflection:**

Whatever dangers and worries you may face in your life, Jesus is your protection and your salvation. He has promised to always be with you and to never leave you.

And if you feel you are a “wayward sheep”, separated from the flock, remember also the story of the lost sheep. The Shepherd would leave the 99 sheep to find the one that was lost, and all of heaven would rejoice when the one was found! (Read Luke 15 for the full story).

**Continue along the north aisle to the next window, “I am the Light of the World”**

## “I am the Light of the World” Window



**Location:** north wall of church

**Date of installation:** 1963

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Dedication:** In loving memory of William Whittaker, died 29<sup>th</sup> May 1916, age 54. Sarah Jane Whittaker, died Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 1929, age 65. Dora Whittaker, died June 12<sup>th</sup> 1955, age 65

(Given by their daughters)

Brass plaque underneath *In loving memory of Gladys Whittaker*

**Bible references:** John 8:12

## **Jesus the Light of the World**

<sup>12</sup> Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

### **The story behind the window:**

“I am the Light of the World” is the second of the seven “I am” declarations of Jesus, recorded only in John’s gospel. These declarations point to the unique identity and purpose of Jesus.

Jesus is declaring here that He is the single source of spiritual light. Those who perceive this light will never walk in spiritual darkness. And those of us who perceive this light must shine it onto others, as a source of witness and hope.

### **Reflection:**

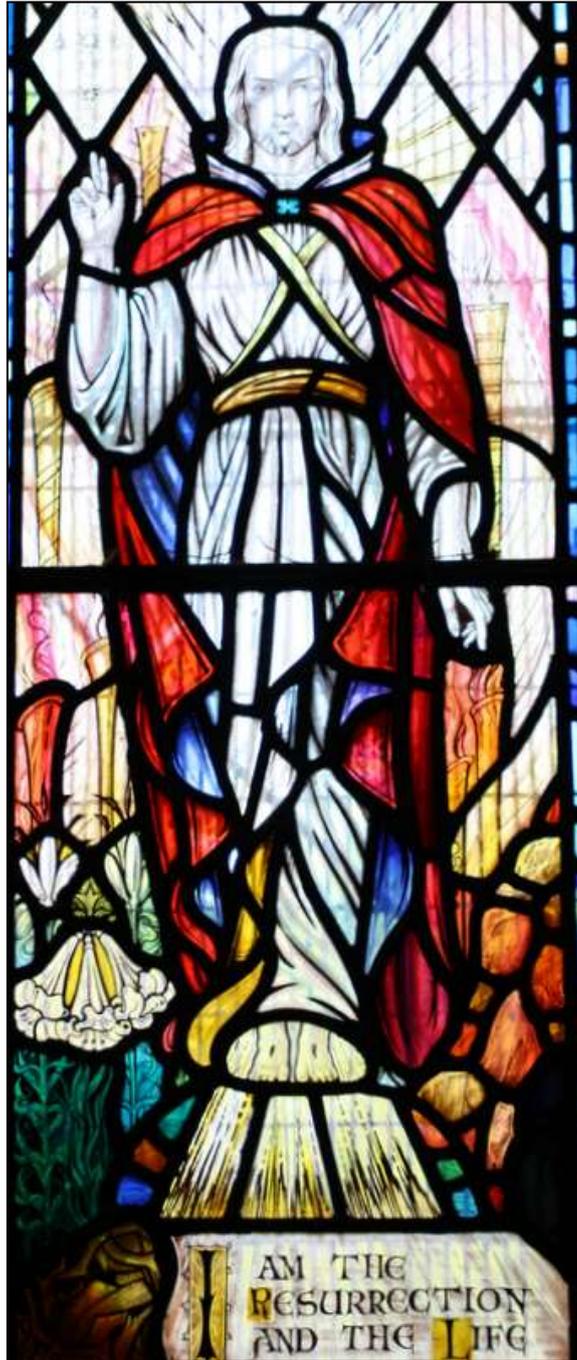
Do you sometimes feel there is darkness in your life?

Through prayer, invite Jesus to shine His light into your life.

As Christians, we are called to be witnesses through lives of example and hope. Give thanks for the people who have been a source of light to you, and ask God that you may be a living example of Christ’s love and compassion to your family, friends and neighbours.

**Continue along the north aisle to the next window, “I am the Resurrection and the Life”**

**“I am the Resurrection and the Life” window**



**Location:** north wall of church

**Date of installation:** 1960

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Dedication:** In memory of Joseph Brown, died 20<sup>th</sup> 1955

(Given by his wife)

**Bible references:** John 11:25

## **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

### **John 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

### **The story behind the window:**

Jesus said these words when He raised Lazarus from the dead. He reminds us that death is defeated and eternal life is ours if we believe in Him.

### **Reflection:**

For many people death is a subject best avoided. Some see it as the end of everything. For others it is a terrifying step into the unknown.

Jesus reassures us that if we trust Him it is the gateway to something much better than we can imagine. Our life with Jesus begins now, and continues for all eternity.

Take some moments to contemplate the subject of death with the calmness and assurance that comes from faith in Jesus.

**Turn to your right and walk towards the Pulpit**

## The Pulpit



**The Pulpit** stands at the east end of the Nave (the big central area of church) before you move past the organ to the altar (the area known as the chancel).

Traditionally, this is where the sermon is given during the worship service. During Sunday worship here at St Matthew's, the sermon is delivered from the pulpit during the 9.30am formal service. During the later informal service at 11.15am, the sermon is often delivered from the centre of the chancel step, at floor level with the congregation.

During the Wednesday said communion, the whole service is led from the Lady Chapel.

**Walk up the step into the chancel, and stand in front of the Altar**

# The Altar



For Christians, Holy Communion (also known as *the Lords' Supper* or *the Eucharist*, a word meaning Thanksgiving) takes a very important part in our worship. The Altar (also known as a *communion table*) is a focal point in our worship. It reminds us both of Jesus' sacrifice when He died on the cross, and the table at which He shared his final meal with His friends and told them to share bread and wine with each other to remember His death.

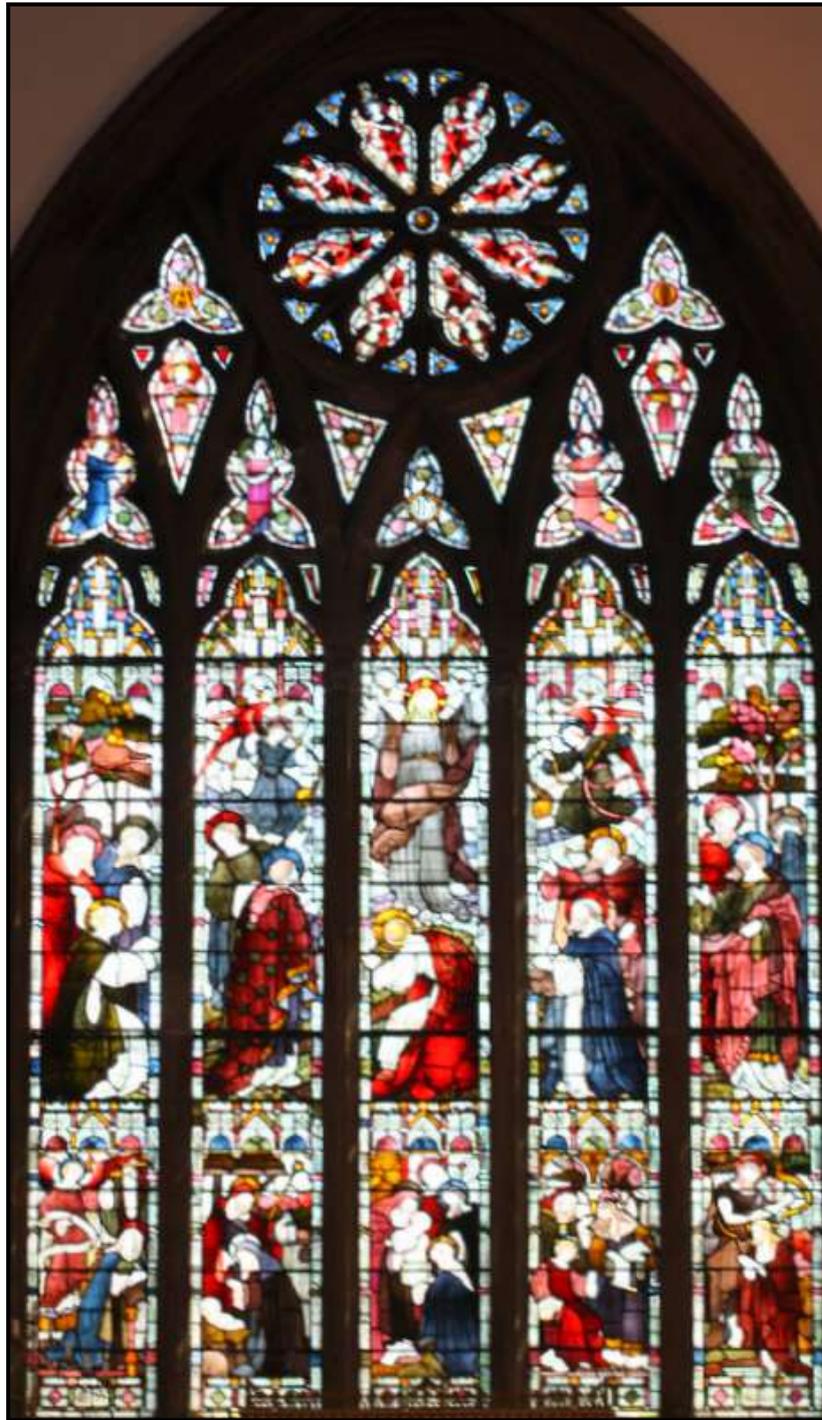
At St. Matthew's we have three altars: the High Altar situated under the East Window in the chancel, the Nave Altar which is movable but is usually situated at the chancel step, and the Lady Chapel Altar.

In our formal services we share the bread and the wine at the High Altar. During our informal services, the bread and wine is shared from in front of the Nave Altar at floor level with the congregation.

When you walk up to the High Altar, you will pass the choir stalls (situated on each side of the chancel). St Matthew's Choir is a regular feature of our formal service.

**Remain at the Altar and look up at the wonderful "Ascension" Window**

## “The Ascension” Window



**Location:** east wall of church (behind the altar)

**Date of installation:** not known

**Installed by:** Messrs Dixon of London

**Work of:** Heaton, Butler and Bayne

**Dedication:** “To the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Sykes: Born 1793, Died 1876”

(Given by the Sykes family)

**Bible references:** The Gospels

## **The life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ**

This window tells the story of the life of Jesus, from His birth to His glorious ascension.

**Note:** in order to appreciate the window more fully, please turn over to see the different “lights” (individual windows) with their descriptions.

### **The story behind the window:**

From His humble birth to His ascension into Heaven, the life of Jesus is told through the four gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

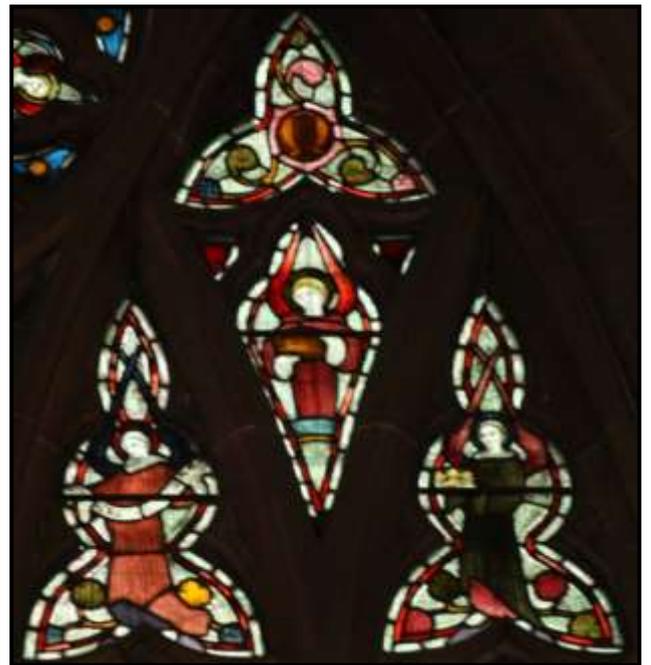
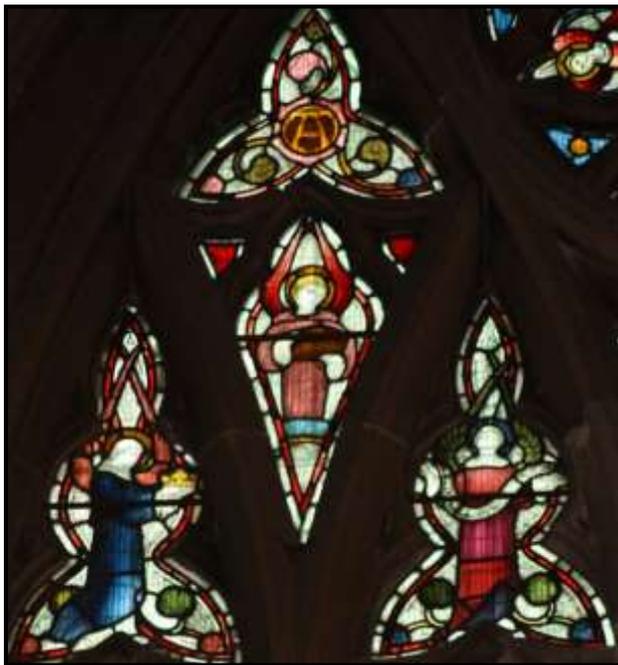
### **Reflection:**

The window shows us that Jesus was a human being like us, but that He is also the living God. No tomb could hold Him. He longs to be part of our lives today and always.

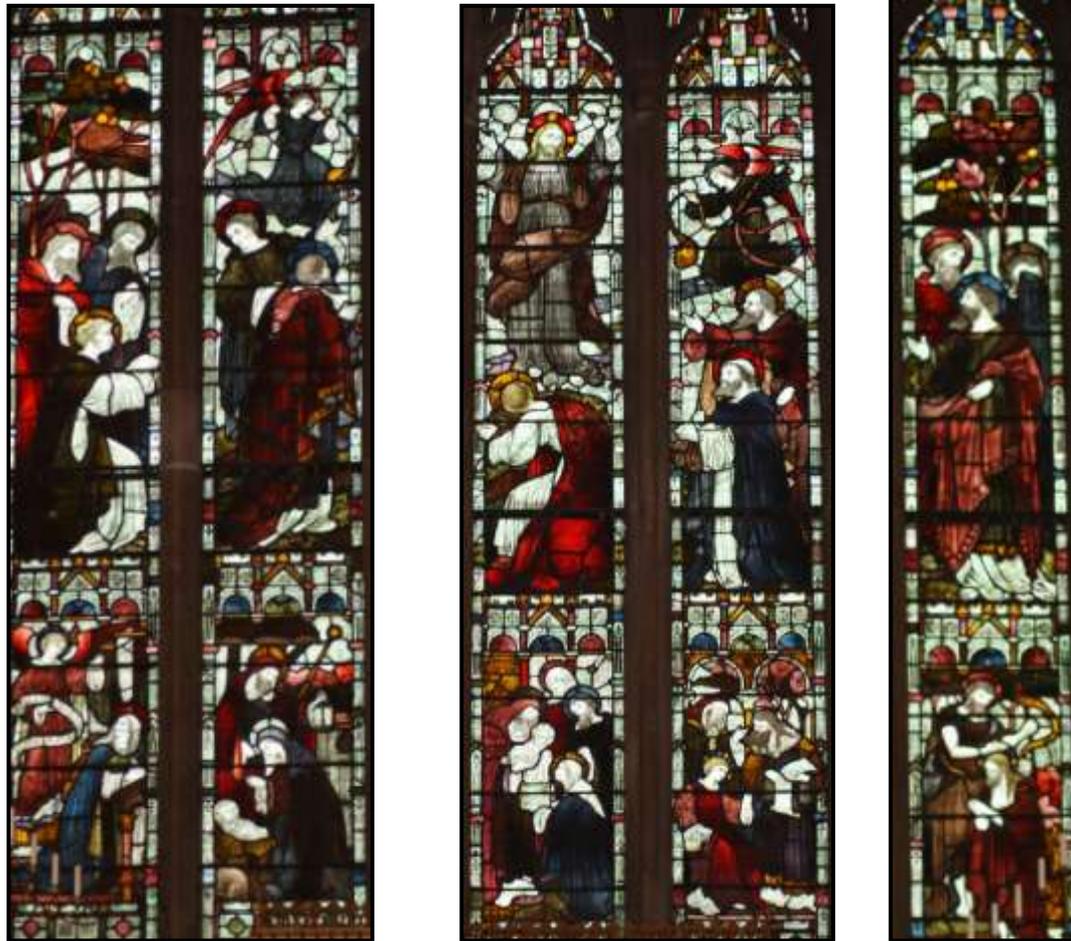
Through His sacrifice on the cross He offers us forgiveness, and He opens the way to Heaven. Where He goes we can follow, if we trust Him.



Eight Angels



Six Angels



The **top parts** of these windows show the apostles and angels watching the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

On the lower parts of these windows:

**First window:** the birth of Jesus

**Second window:** the Presentation at the Temple and Jesus as a child in the temple with the Doctors of the Law

**Third window:** the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist

**Now turn to your right and look up to “The Sower” Window**

## “The Sower” Window



**Location:** south wall of church (in the chancel, to the right of the altar)

**Date of installation:** 1980

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Inscriptions:** “A good and faithful servant”

**Dedication:** In treasured memory of George Ogden, Churchwarden of the Parish; Died Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1977.

(Given by his wife)

**Bible references:** Matthew 13: 3-8

## **Jesus tells the story of the Sower**

<sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

## **The story behind the window:**

Lots of people hear the word of God but do not take it into their hearts. Through this story, Jesus was explaining to His disciples that those who not only hear but understand God’s word will have the words in their heart, “in good soil”.

## **Reflection:**

God’s words, told through the Bible, are still relevant today.

Consider how you might use the Bible to let God speak to you in your life.

For help in reading the Bible, please see our website for resources, or have a chat to any of our clergy.

**Return to the main church, turning immediate left as you step down from the chancel. You are now in The Lady Chapel**

## The Lady Chapel



A Lady Chapel is a traditional English term for a chapel, inside a church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Our chapel is used for smaller services (including the service at 10am on Wednesday mornings).

The Lady Chapel was created as a memorial to the members of the St Mathew's Church Lads Brigade who died in the First World War. It was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Chester, Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Fisher, D.D., on July 31<sup>st</sup> 1933. You can see the dedication on a stone tablet to the left of the Altar, which also includes the names of the fallen.

# The Lady Chapel

Please feel free to take advantage of the quiet in the Lady Chapel to sit and rest.

There is a description of the beautiful window above the altar on the next page but do feel free to spend some time in quiet reflection or prayer.

You are welcome to light a candle for a loved one or write out a prayer request card and place it in the box provided (cards and prayer box can be found in the social area, near where you entered the church). A member of our Prayer Team will pray for your situation in the week ahead.

Note – if you are reading this online, you can leave your prayer requests electronically on our [website](#).

**When you are ready, please continue the tour by looking up at the window above the altar at “The Lady Chapel” window**

## “The Lady Chapel” Window



**Location:** north wall of church

**Inscriptions:** “I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father” “Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not”

**Dedication (hidden by panel):** In gloriam Dei et in memoriam. Carole 1793 – 1867.  
MDCCXCIII Obt. MDCCCLXVII

**Bible references:** Matthew 19:13-15

## **The Kingdom of Heaven**

<sup>13-15</sup> One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: “Let the children alone, don’t prevent them from coming to me. God’s kingdom is made up of people like these.”

## **The story behind the window:**

When the people brought children to Jesus for Him to bless, the disciples tried to send them away. Jesus, however, called the children to Him and prayed for them. Jesus reminds us that our faith must be like that of a child if we are to enter the Kingdom. In Jesus’ time, children were not highly regarded.

## **Reflection:**

For us here at St Matthew’s, children are not just the **future** of the church, they are our **present** as well. They are a vital and wonderful part of our church family. They have their own special time in Sunday clubs, as well as being part of our worship life. We have a Church Lads and Girls Brigade who meet on Monday evenings during term time and a Friday morning toddler group for parents and carers (*Toddle Time*). We also offer a wide range of activities for children and families in the whole community throughout the school holidays. Why not find out more and get involved? Everyone is welcome!

Please pray for the children's work in this church.

Pray too that, however old we are, we will have the kind of childlike faith which Jesus spoke of.

**Look up to your right to the “Mothers’ Union” Window**

## “Mothers’ Union” Window



**Location:** south wall of church (Lady Chapel)

**Date of installation:** 1959

**Installed by:** Abbott and Co. Lancaster

**Inscriptions:** “God with us” “Deo Optimo Maximo” “Ave Maria”

*“Donated by the MU to mark the centenary of this Church – May 20<sup>th</sup> 1958”*

## **Description of window**

**First window:** Virgin Mary, Baby Jesus as a child

**Second window:** Women of various lands, representing the world-wide Mothers' Union

### **The story behind the window:**

The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. In 83 countries, members share one heartfelt vision - to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Their members are not all mothers, or even all women. They include single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience.

St Matthew's Mothers' Union meets monthly – details on our website.

### **Reflection:**

Your family is probably the most important thing in your life; your family members may still be thriving or you could be feeling the grief of loss.

Jesus was born as a baby and lived within a family. He understands love and joy, pain and loss.

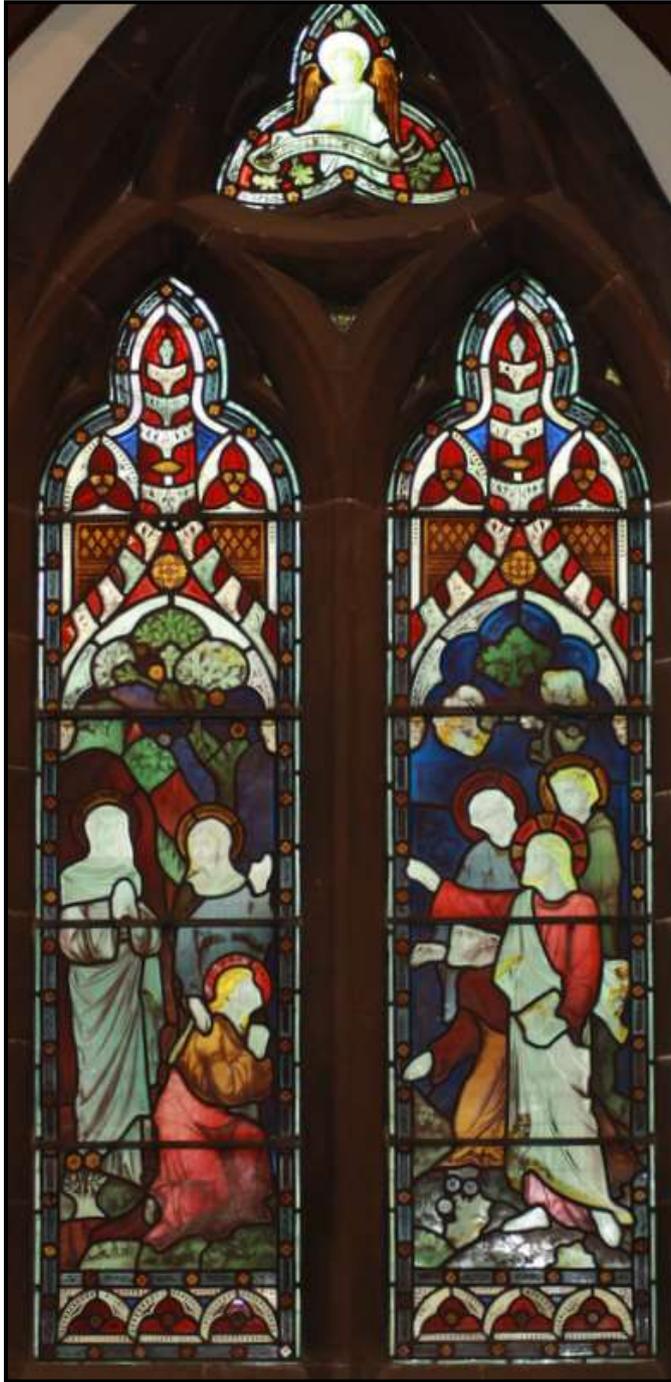
Pray for families around the world who are damaged by war, illness, abuse and suffering.

Pray for families in our community who are facing an uncertain future due to redundancy.

Pray for God's blessing on the work of the Mothers' Union and other groups which meet at St Matthew's to support families, such as *Socially Yours*, *Toddle Time*, *Church Brigade*, *Youth on the Edge* and our work with local schools (all details on our website).

**Continue along the south aisle - to your left is "The Lazarus" Window**

## “The Lazarus” Window



**Location:** south wall of church

**First window:** Lazarus, Martha and Mary

**Second window:** Jesus and three disciples

**Inscriptions:** “Lazarus come forth”

**Bible references:** John 11: 43-44

### **Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead**

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

### **The story behind the window:**

Jesus returns to the house of Martha and Mary to discover that their brother, Lazarus, died four days earlier. Jesus wept. He prayed, told the people to roll away the stone to the tomb and called Lazarus out. Lazarus came out of the tomb, fully restored.

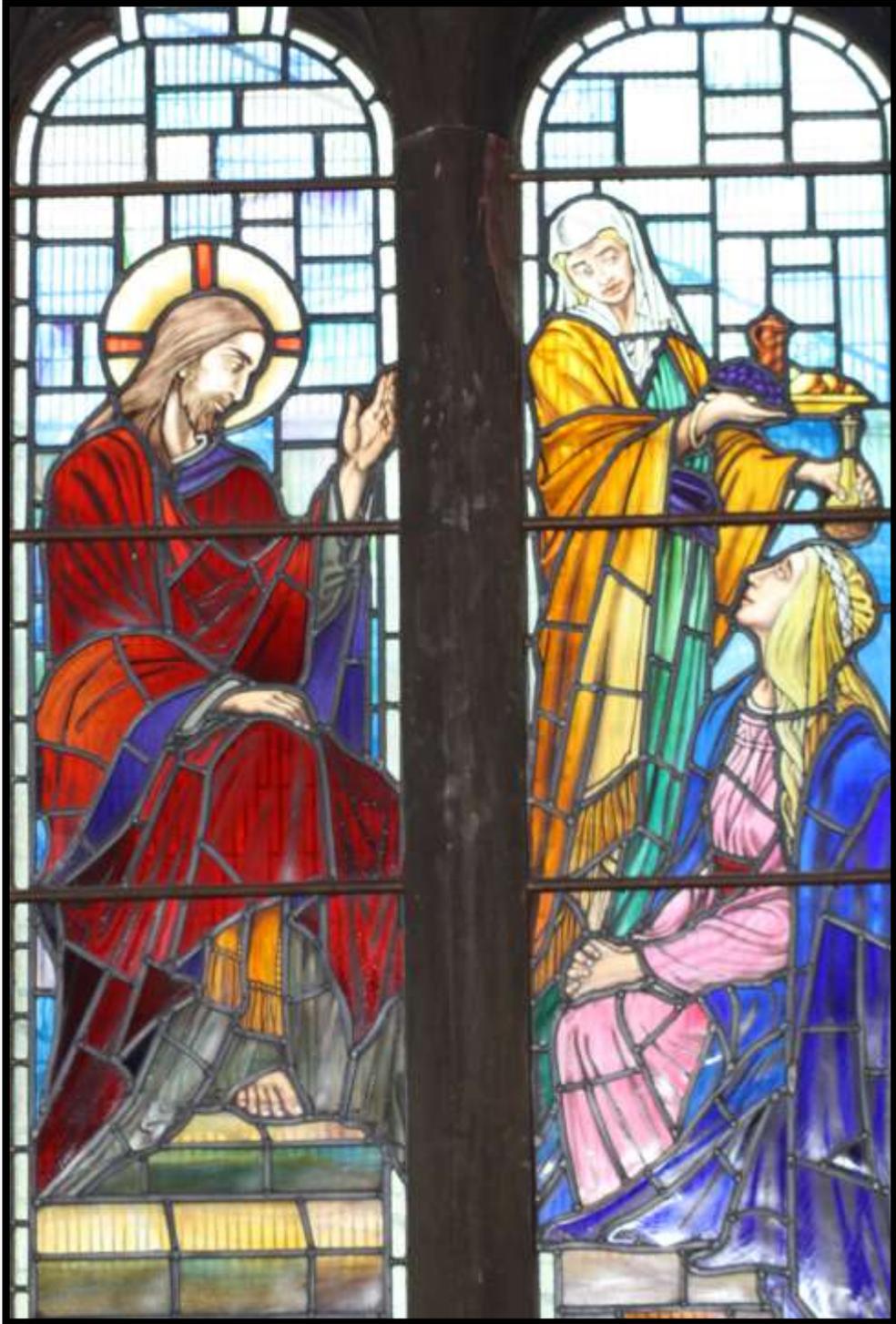
### **Reflection:**

Jesus understands our suffering and our grief and is with us at all times.

We do not need to go through despair on our own. We are deeply loved by God and He shares all that we experience.

**Continue along the south aisle - to your left is the “Martha and Mary” Window**

## “Martha and Mary” Window



**Location:** south wall of church

No other information available about this window.

**Bible references:** Luke 10:38 – 42

### **At the Home of Martha and Mary**

<sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

<sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

### **The story behind the window:**

Jesus and his disciples had stopped in a place called Bethany, near Jerusalem. Martha, her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus (whom Jesus later raised from the dead), lived in the house where they stayed. Martha was busy preparing food for her guests, whilst her sister Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. When Martha complained about all the work she had to do, Jesus reminded her of what is most important.

This story is about priorities, the busyness that can take over our lives. We can be so busy "doing" things that we forget what is most important.

### **Reflection:**

How busy are you?

What are your priorities?

What are you neglecting?

The demands of life can be very stressful and can leave us little time to ourselves. Remember that God cares for us and wants to share our burdens.

Take time to be still before God, to be refreshed and to renew your spirit.

**Continue along the south aisle and into the social area. There is a kitchen area on your left - please stop and look up at the "Jairus" Window**

## The "Jairus" Window



**Location:** south wall of church

**Installed by:** Messrs Hardman of Birmingham

**First window:** Jairus and his wife

**Second window:** Jesus raising their daughter

**Dedication (on brass plate):** This window was erected 2<sup>nd</sup> March AD 1867 by William Bailey Esquire in memory of his affectionate daughter Ellen Smith who died Mar 26<sup>th</sup> 1866, aged 24 years

**Bible references:** Luke 8:51-55

### **Jesus heals a sick child**

<sup>51</sup> When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. <sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

<sup>53</sup> They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

### **The story behind the window:**

This is one of many stories of Jesus healing people, even raising them from the dead.

### **Reflection:**

Does God still heal today?

Here at St Matthew's we offer prayers for healing during our monthly Whole Parish Worship (first Sunday of the month, 10.30am)

Give thanks for the skills of doctors and nurses and pray for God's blessing on all who work in the medical services and all who care for those who are ill.

**The tour now traces the journey that Jesus made on Good Friday, by following the Stations of the Cross**

# Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross tell the story of Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died. Start by **returning to the pulpit**, then turn and face the main doors. The first Station is located on the stone pillar in front of you. There is a Station on each side of the pillars, going around the church. Two stations are located on the west (back) wall of the church.

Here is a description of the journey:



**First Station** - Jesus is condemned to death



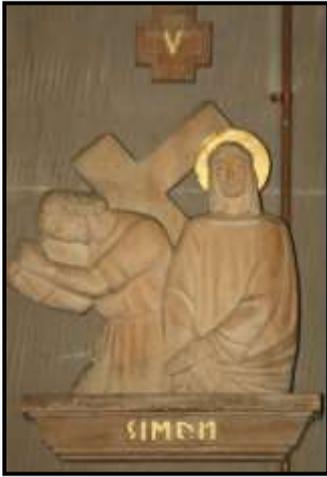
**Second Station** - Jesus carries His cross



**Third Station** - Jesus falls the first time

**Fourth Station** - Jesus meets His Blessed Mother





**Fifth Station** - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross

**Sixth Station** - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



**Seventh Station** - Jesus falls the second time

**Eighth Station** - Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem





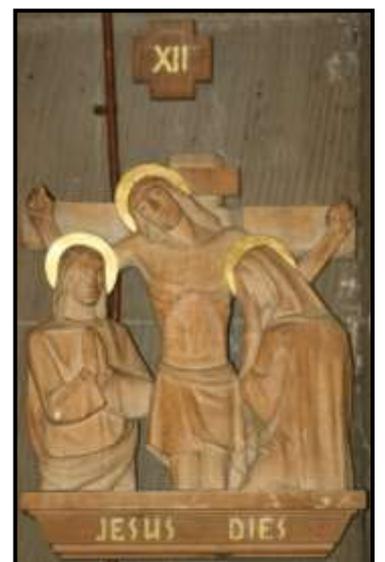
**Ninth Station** - Jesus falls the third time

**Tenth Station** - Jesus is stripped of His garments



**Eleventh Station** - Jesus is nailed to the cross

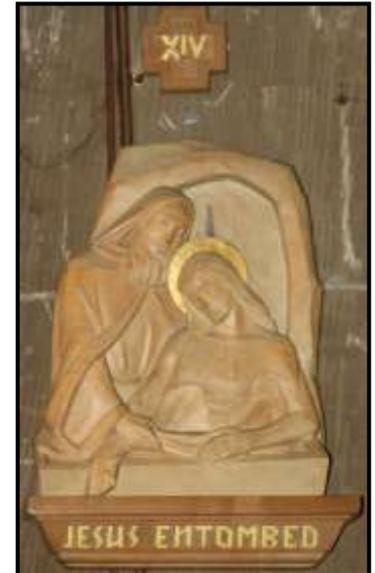
**Twelfth Station** - Jesus dies on the cross





**Thirteenth Station** - Jesus is taken down from the cross

**Fourteenth Station** - Jesus is laid in the tomb



**This completes the tour of the interior of St Matthew's Church. We hope that you have enjoyed your time in this beautiful church.**

**Please leave this guide on the table for others to enjoy – but as you leave, please make note of the Bell Tower (the door is on your left just before you leave by the main doors) and the Gates as you leave the church grounds (see over for more details)**

## The Bell Tower



St Matthew's tower and spire were added to the church in 1866. The tower houses one of the few sets of tubular bells in the world. Using a rope in the main body of the church, the bells are often rung during services of Holy Communion.

The bell tower is accessed by a small narrow door near the main entrance to the church (in the porch). There are 175 winding steps to the platform which houses the bells.

We are unable to give public access to the bell tower at the moment, due to safety reasons.

## The Gates



When you leave St Matthew's, do pause for a moment at the wrought iron gates at the entrance of the church grounds.

These gates were purchased with a legacy from the late Mr and Mrs Williams. You can see their initials, and the dates of their death, on each gate.

# Guide to St Matthew's Church Acknowledgements

<b>Content</b>	Mike Taylor, Pam Robinson, Reverend David Brewster
<b>Photographs</b>	Pam Robinson
<b>Line drawing</b>	Sam Peters
<b>Proof-reading</b>	Linda Cosgriff



**St Matthew's Church**  
**Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath**  
[www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)