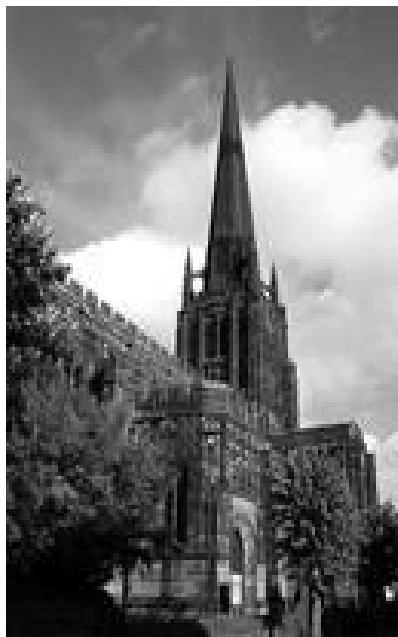


VISITORS' GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, HEAVILEY, STOCKPORT IN THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER

**'The finest church built in England since the Reformation'
(Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury)**



CHURCH SERVICE TIMES:

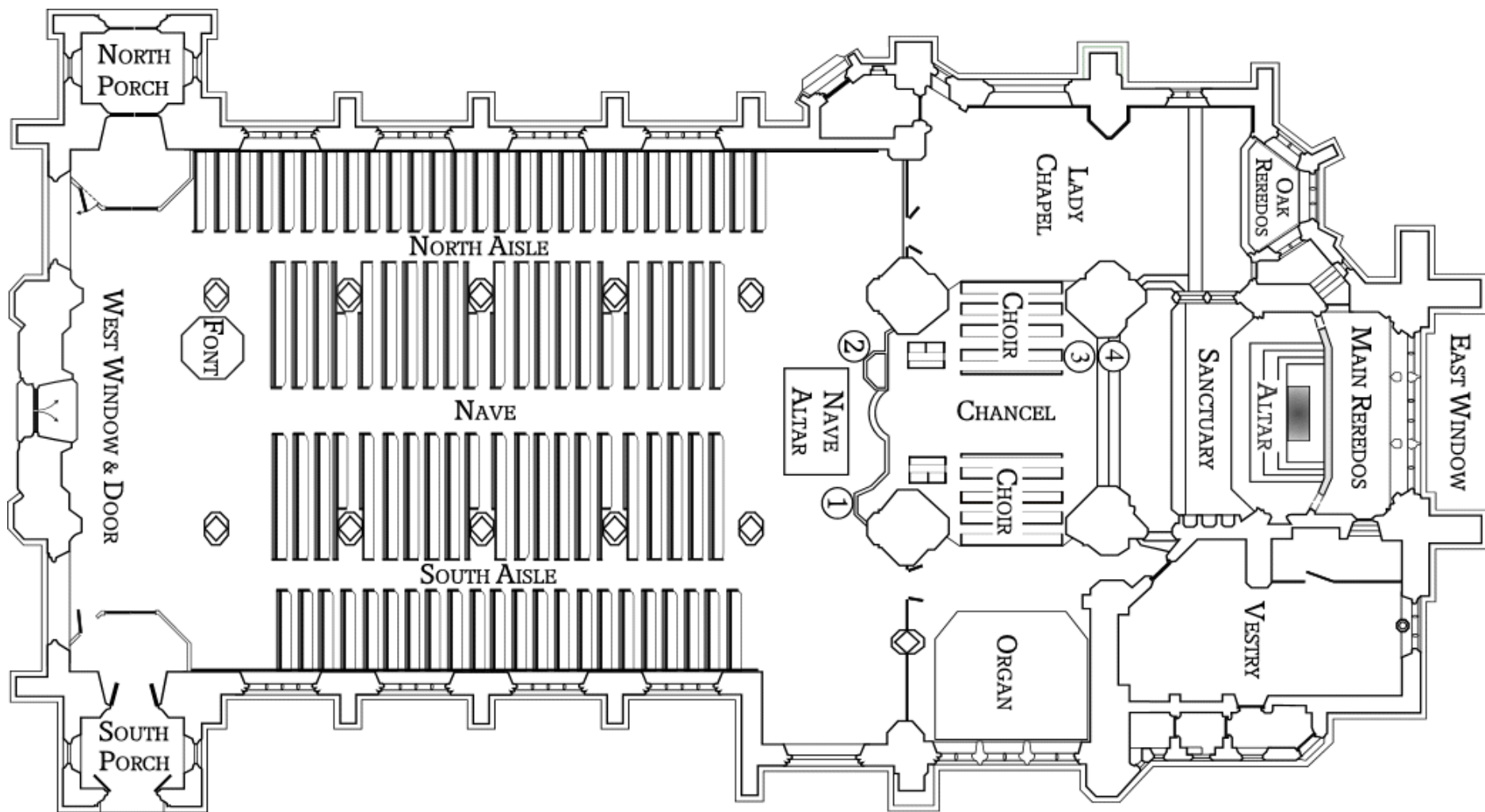
Sunday

8 am Holy Communion (BCP).
10.15 am Family Communion
(Common Worship) with
Crèche and Sunday Clubs.
6.30 pm. Evensong (BCP).

Wednesday

10 am. Holy Communion (BCP).
7 pm. Open Door (in Vestry for
Baptism, Banns and Marriage
bookings).
7.45 pm. Study Group.
8.30 pm. Healing Service.

Daily: 8.30 am. Matins.



INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

General information

Built between 1893-1897, St George's church was consecrated on the 25th February, 1897.

The architect was Hubert Austin, of Paley, Austin and Paley of Lancaster. It was built of Runcorn sandstone in the Gothic Revival style. Finance for the church and adjacent schools and vicarage was given by Major George Fearn J.P., a local brewer. He is buried in the cemetery on the A6 opposite the church and a miniature replica of St. George's church tower and spire is over his grave. The land for the church and associated buildings was given by Wakefield Christie-Miller J.P.

- The church was designed to seat 1,450 people. Currently it can accommodate around 1,200, space having been made to accommodate a range of present-day requirements.
- The choir stalls can seat 70 singers.
- The church is 180 feet (55m) long, 75 feet (23m) wide, the tower is 112 feet (34m) high, the tower and spire together are 236 feet (72m) high

The following features are either named or numbered on the plan facing:

The Font (named) stands at the west end of the church. It is made of Derbyshire alabaster, wreathed in architectural foliage and rests on a base of red Mansfield stone which has the shape of a Maltese Cross. The Font is placed near the church entrance to symbolise membership of the Church in the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The West Window (named) has an upper panel showing the four rivers of Paradise.

12 small figures depict the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, long-suffering, modesty and chastity.

The Nave, Aisles, Organ ambulatory and Lady Chapel (all named) have a roof of carved and perforated oak.

The Chancel (named) is paved with polished marble.

The Sanctuary (named) has steps of polished red marble.

The Choir (named) has carved oak stalls.

The Reredos (named) is built of Derbyshire alabaster. The central panel is a carved crucifixion, with the Virgin Mary on one side and St. John on the other.

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Continued from page three:

The Pulpit (No. 1) has six carved niches with figures of:

St. Paul (sword of his martyrdom), St. Matthew (winged man), St. Mark (winged lion), St. Luke (winged calf), St. John (winged eagle), and St. Peter (inverted keys).

The Lectern (No. 2) is a brass eagle with outspread wings, resting on a massive pedestal with supporting lions. The eagle is a symbol of St. John the Evangelist carrying the Gospel message to all.

The East Window (named) depicts St. George and the Dragon while the four panels below depict faith, fortitude, justice and charity. The seven figures at the bottom depict seven spirits before the throne.

The Lady Chapel (named) is divided from the Choir by a carved oak screen. It has an oak reredos whose central cross bears the figures of St. John the Divine and St. John the Baptist.

The Organ (named) has a fine case and a figure of St. Cecilia stands on a nearby pillar. The organ is played from the console (No. 3) situated by the N.E. pier at whose base the foundation stone of the church can be found marked by a carved cross.

The Tower, not shown on the plan, is not open to visitors other than by special prior arrangement. It houses a peal of 10 bells, in the key of D flat.

The total bell weight is 6.5 tons whilst that of the Tenor bell itself is 1.5 tons.

All the bells were cast and made in Whitechapel, London. Each bell carries a different inscription, e.g. No. 2 bell is inscribed 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace'.

The Union Flag over the choir (No. 4) was of the 6th Cheshire Regiment and was laid up after the Great War when the regiment was disbanded. The Regiment's action at St. Julien, near the Ypres Salient, is commemorated annually in St. George's. In 1917, out of 60 officers and 1880 men, only 2 officers and 76 other ranks survived the action

Thank you for having visited St. George's. Please do sign the visitors' book before leaving.

We hope you have been blessed by your visit and look forward to the possibility of your joining us in worship at one of our services listed on page 1.

The following publications are on sale in church:

- *Grapevine Parish Magazine* 60p.
- *The History of St. George's Church* £1.00.
- *The Foundation of St. George's Church* £1.00.

Full details of our regular and occasional activities can be found at:
www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk