

**PRE-16TH
CENTURY**

**'THE
NAVE**

Cherish
the past
Embrace
the future

Until 1534, this church was part of the worldwide **Roman Catholic** Church. It then became part of the newly formed **Church of England**, with the **sovereign** at its head rather than the **pope**.



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17TH CENTURY

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A record of 1633 tells us that over the **chancel arch** were hung the **Royal coat of arms**, flanked by those of the Booths (Lords of the manors of **Staley** and **Hattersley**) and the Wilbrahams (Lords of **Longdendale**)



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18TH CENTURY

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A **chandelier** was hung high above the nave in 1755, and remains there to this day - it can now be lowered and raised by an **electric winch**, making it much easier and safer to light the candles and polish the brass!



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18TH CENTURY

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Congregations were so large at this time, that **two galleries** were built - one in 1704 along the **south** wall, and another in 1753 at the **west** end. **Seating** in the galleries was **sold** to congregation members by the joiner, Jonathon Gibson, to pay his costs.



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19TH CENTURY

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The **coats of arms** were removed in 1879, to be replaced by the **painted boards** showing the **Ten Commandments** and **Creed** that we see today. These boards had previously been attached to the east wall of the **chancel**, behind the altar.



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19TH CENTURY

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Pews were **first installed** in 1817/18 to replace the **benches** that were then the only seating for the congregation.

These first pews were **to be rented**, and a rental sale took place on 16th Sept 1818. As you can see from the plan, these were **box pews**, and presumably the seats were oriented **inwards to face the pulpit**, which was positioned by the second column on the **north side**.

These **pews were replaced** in the 1890's by the ones you see today with their **fine carved oak ends**. Wood from the old pews was **recycled** in the making of the new pew backs.



**19TH
CENTURY**

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In 1855 the church underwent a **major restoration** under the direction of local architect **E.H. Shellard**, during which the height of the nave **roof was raised**.

The whole of the **nave**, from the tower to the chancel, **was demolished**, except for the outer walls of the aisles. **New hexagonal columns** were built, supporting a much **higher roof**, above large **reproduction gothic windows**, much improving the external proportions of the building and **flooding the nave with light**.

The carved **alabaster pulpit** by the first column was given in memory of Shellard.

The **eagle lectern** was given in memory of John Chapman in 1877, by his son Edward.



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OUR PLANS FOR THE NAVE

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The **pews** in the nave of the church (and those in the Staveley Chapel), have been acknowledged by **Historic England** as being of particularly **high quality**.

Visitors remark on how the **beauty of the space** opens up as they walk through the arch from the south aisle into the **centre of the church**. We agree with them!

One of the problems that we experience on Sundays is that it is **difficult** for those seated in the **side aisles** to **see the worship leaders**, and vice-versa. The **central block of pews** is therefore considered as **‘prime seating’**.

So, apart from two rows at the front, we **do not propose to remove** any more pews from this **beautiful Victorian space**.

continued



OUR PLANS FOR THE NAVE

Cherish
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continued

Another problem for visitors is the **difficulty of access** from one side the church to the other at the front end of the nave. So we plan to make a **clear passage**, with no change in **floor level**, in front of the pulpit and the new dais, from the **north to the south aisle**. See more about this on the display board in the chancel.

You can see from the **area marked with yellow tape**, how this will work.

These minimal changes will maintain the appearance of the nave, and preserve for future generations this fine example of a Victorian pewed space.

We'd love to know what you think:



~ Fill in a paper or on-line **questionnaire** ~ Leave a **post-it** comment on one of the white boards ~

mottramparish.org.uk/heritage/bigplan



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