

## 19TH/20TH CENTURIES

**Cherish**  
the past  
**Embrace**  
the future

We've no idea what **heating** was present in the church before the Victorian era - or if indeed there was any!

The old **cast iron radiators** most probably date to the late 1800s. If you look behind some of the radiators, you'll see that **money was saved** by not putting any patterned **carving on the woodwork** behind them!

This heating system was not sufficient however. A quotation from **Dawson & Co** of Stalybridge, dated August **1900**, details replacing the **boiler**, and relocating much of the pipework in **ducts below the floor**.



## Glossop Chronicle and Advertiser

Friday 9th September 1960

### Ill-equipped Mottram Church

Rev R. S. Koch complains

In the monthly magazine of St. Michael's Church, Mottram, the vicar, the Rev R. S. Koch, complains of the poor facilities and equipment at the church.

Many people imagine that the vicar "has a parable church which has been established as long as Mottram has been in being to be well-equipped with all the necessary ecclesiastical furnishings. This is not the case, and here is a list of some of which our church is in very real need:-

- Two sets of coloured brocade
- Two pulpits, an altar book and a lectern
- Two sets of vestments
- Two sets of surplices
- Two sets of alms boxes
- Two sets of candles
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- Two sets of alms boxes
- Two sets of candles

## 20TH CENTURY

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In the 1980s, the **old system was abandoned**, to be replaced by the present direct-fired **warm-air system**, which blows out of the **vents** just below the west window.

This has never been a good heating system, being **ineffective, expensive** and producing a great deal of **condensation**. We recently had to fit **ceiling fans** to blow the trapped heat down from the ceiling to our shivering congregation below!

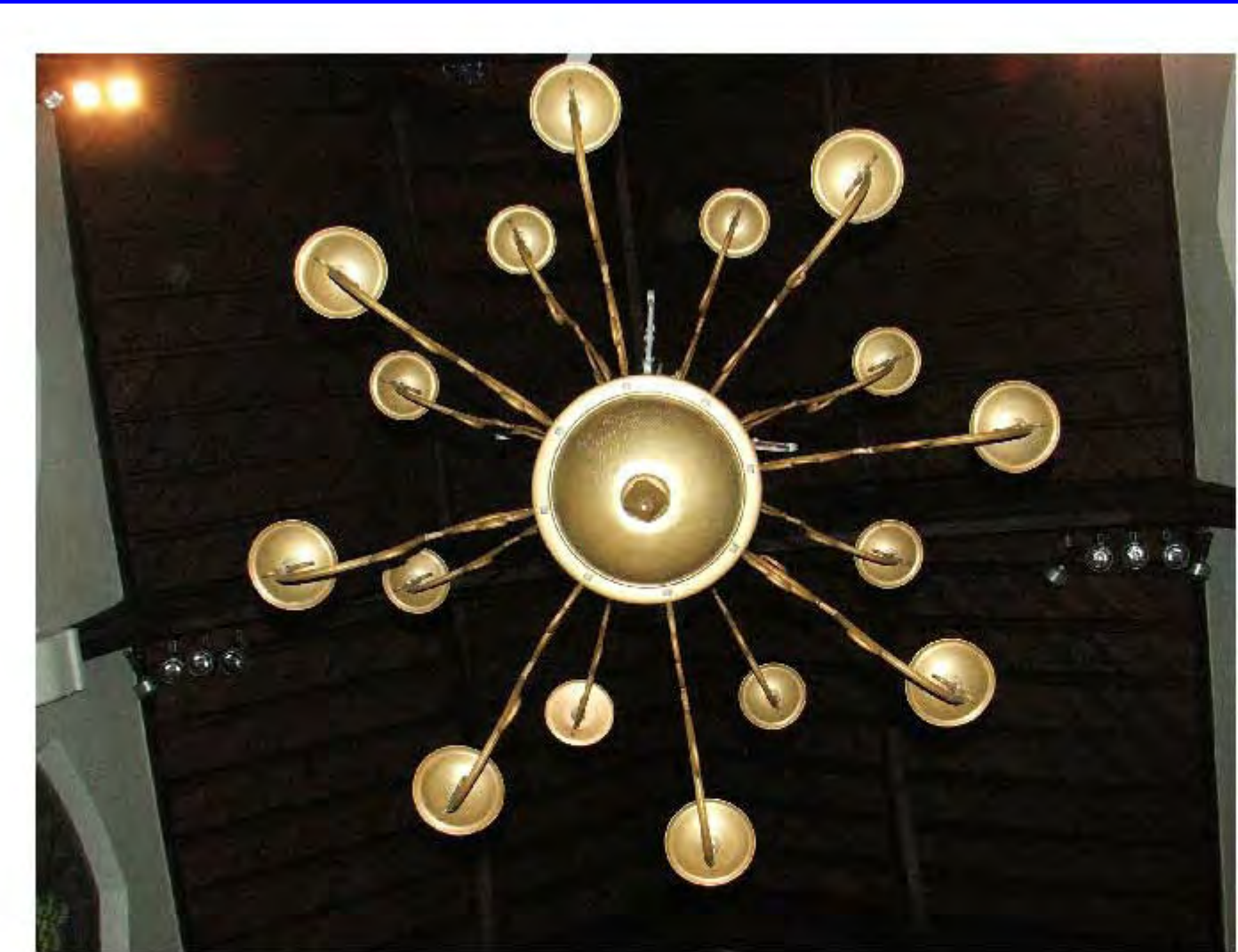
It is now at the **end of its life** - some parts are **failing** and cannot be replaced.



## 18TH CENTURY

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The **chandelier** was hung high above the nave in 1755 - we have no record of what other **lighting** was used in the church at this time, but it almost certainly involved **candles**.



## 19TH CENTURY

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In 1855, **gas lighting** was introduced into the church. In the photograph, taken sometime before 1930, you can see the fixtures above the columns.



## 20TH CENTURY

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The present **electric light** fittings from the 1970s are situated at a very high level. They are **expensive** to run and require some **daring rope and ladder work** to maintain. The fittings and bulbs are now becoming **obsolete**.



## 15TH/16TH CENTURIES

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In **medieval times**, people in the nave were separated by a **screen** from the clergy in the chancel. **Services** were said in **Latin**, and in the two chapels **masses** were read by the priest, for the souls of departed **Lords of the manor** and their families.

After the **Reformation**, the **Book of Common Prayer** and **English** translations of the **Bible** brought worship that the people could **understand and take part** in.

**Stained glass** windows reminded the congregation of **stories and characters** from the **Bible**, and brought **beauty and art** to church buildings.

All the stained glass here is Victorian or later, but it still performs the same function, as well as serving as memorials for important people.



## 16TH-20TH CENTURIES

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Over time, **preaching** became a more important part of worship, but **without** any **visual aids**. As recently as 1972, a curate was told by the vicar that to show slides of the Holy Land to illustrate his sermon would not be allowed!

Since then, we have become used to **blackboards**, pin boards, **drama** and other visual aids being used to make **teaching** more **relevant and interesting**.

As in most public places, we now have a good **sound system**, and the use of **microphones** and **recorded music** is considered normal in churches.



## 21ST CENTURY

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However, if we want to show **computer presentations** or **film**, we have to erect an **ugly screen** in the middle of the chancel.

We put the projector on a **table** in the middle of the aisle - and still **not everyone can see** the images!



## OUR PLANS FOR TECHNOLOGY

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We would like to install a **modern projector system**, with a **large bright screen** that can be **hidden when not in use**.

We would like to **move the sound desk**, to improve the sightline to the worship leaders.

We think it is very important that the **technological aids** we use **should not detract** from either the sense of **heritage** and **historical continuity**, or the **reverence** of our worship.

**The use of projection instead of service sheets will save paper, which will be better for the environment and save money. It will open up a huge range of possibilities for church, school, community and educational events.**

**It will enable us to include more modern forms of worship, and attract a wider range of people to our church.**

**A permanent installation that can be hidden most of the time would better protect the historic feel of the building than the present temporary arrangement.**

**We'd love to know what you think:**

~ Fill in a paper or on-line **questionnaire** ~ Pop a disk into one of the **voting boxes** ~ Leave a **post-it** comment on one of the white boards ~  
motttramparish.org.uk/heritage/bigplan

