



St Peter's Church
Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon
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St Peter's Church

Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon



Church of England



A Brief Guide to St Peter's Church Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

The present church, which can seat almost 150 people, was consecrated on 12th December 1849, replacing an earlier building which stood near to what is now Leighton Hospital.

The church and churchyard are very pleasing to the eye. The style is Anglo-Gothic, which means that it resembles the church designs of pre-Reformation times. It is based on a design by the esteemed architect, Sir Gilbert Scott, who was closely associated with the Gothic revival. Features which are representative of the style are the handsome stone arch between chancel and nave, and the sedilia (recessed stone seating) in the chancel. This is where the Book of Remembrance is kept, which was given by Jenny Powell in memory of her husband Philip.



Typically, the church has a certain solemnity and dignity, though its relatively small size ensures that it also has warmth and intimacy.

All the furnishings and fittings of the church are typical of the Victorian period. The carved wooden eagle on the lectern is a particularly fine example, as is the carved stone font. This stands impressively near the main door to remind all that Baptism is the way we enter the Church.

In short, the church is a Victorian gem set in the glorious Cheshire countryside.



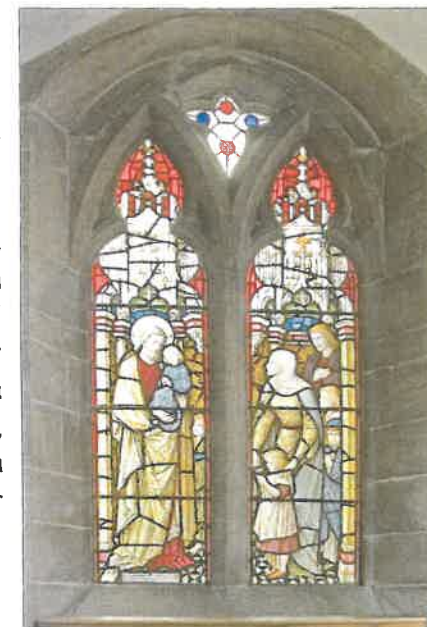
Over the years various additions have been made. A few highlights are noted here.

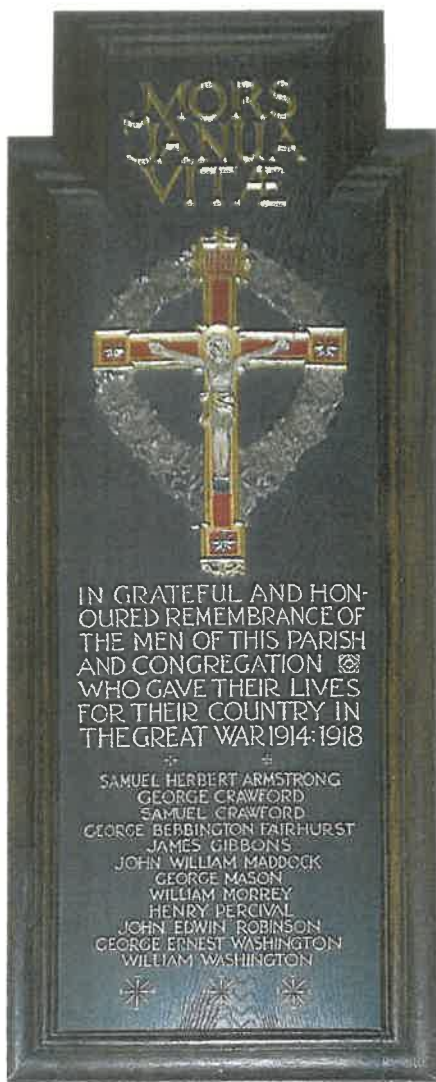
The east window depicts Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. It was placed in 1879 in memory of Lewis Loyd, whose family were associated with the original purchase of the church.

In 1913 the organ was repositioned in a newly created north transept.

A new choir vestry at the west end of the church was dedicated by the Bishop of Stockport in 1966.

The stained glass window in the north side of the chancel is in memory of Peter Malcolm Riley and was donated by his mother. It originally came from a Congregational church in Cheadle, Cheshire, and was installed in St Peter's Church in 1974. It depicts Jesus welcoming children.





A memorial plaque near the lectern commemorates twelve men from the area who fell in the Great War 1914-1918.



Of the twelve only John Edwin Robinson is buried in this graveyard - in a family grave between the church and the main road.



There is no memorial for the Second World War because no serviceman from the parish lost his life.

The small window set high above the chancel step was given by Celia Mackle to symbolise the Christian significance of the Millennium. It shows a simple Cross on the Star of David.

You will note the two attractive banners flanking the altar:

The banner representing the parish was made by Freda Broad in 1991. The fish and net represent our patron, St Peter, traditionally pictured as a fisherman. The serpent on the pole symbolises the healing associated with the hospital at Leighton, Crewe, while the corn and the rushes represent the farming community and the River Weaver.



The Sunday school banner was donated by Tom Darlington and Enid Treweek (who actually made it) in 1995.

The bright new hassocks (kneelers), the first of which were dedicated in 1995, were woven and donated by members of the congregation of St Peter's and were in part inspired by a bequest from Bob Broad. The frontals were made by the ladies of St Peter's.

We have a loop sound system given by his widow in memory of Kenneth Crabtree who died in 1997.

In the pretty and well maintained churchyard a number of unusual inscriptions may catch the eye, such as:

"He stumbled on the path of life and the Good Lord took his hand"

*"Death found him without grandeur or beauty,
just a plain man doing his duty"*

"Though death divides, fond memory clings"

"Earth not all, Heaven shall make perfect our imperfect life"

This church continues as a place of peace, fellowship and worship. We reach out in mission to the 8000 people who live in the parish. There are three services here on a normal Sunday – Prayer Book Holy Communion at 09.00, Sung Eucharist at 10.45, Evensong at 19.00. There are additional seasonal services. Numerous couples choose to marry here. We have two or three Baptisms each month. We maintain a full programme of social and fundraising activities supported by people of all ages across the parish. Many families come regularly to the churchyard to tend graves of loved ones. Some simply stroll in the beauty and tranquillity of the gardens.



A late September afternoon in the 'old grave yard'

If you can support us by prayer or donation, please do so. Better still, join us for a service. You will be made most welcome. If you would like us to pray for you or help you in some other way leave a note or contact us by phone or email.

We thank God for all our benefactors, only a few of whom have been mentioned above, and for all those who have contributed to the life of this church over the years. We also thank God for the parishioners who remain faithful servants of Christ in this place today.

The church is often open. If you find it closed, please ask at the vicarage (behind the car park) for access.



View towards the chancel

Acknowledgements

Stained glass windows photographed by Tony Riley
Sedilia photographed by Elizabeth Blayney
Other photographs by Kerris Fairclough

Advent 2007