

Bell Inscription

The Tenor Bell [pictured on page 2], number 8 is tuned to E and has the following dedication:

*In Memory of
Stephen Melland 1813 - 1889
of The Longlands Brampton
and in memory of
Godfrey Melland May 1857 - 1915
of Orchard Cottage Brampton
By whom and whose widow
Frances Elizabeth Smith May
The peal of bells in this tower
was given
To The Glory of God
1936*

*Hubert John Sillitoe, Hon: C.F., Rector
John Austin).
Henry Hubbuck} Churchwardens
Revelation XXII, 17.*

The number 7 bell, tuned to F# has the following dedication:

*To the Glory of God
And in Memory of
The Reverend William Melland
Born at Brampton Manor 1817
Died 1900*

Thank You for visiting St Thomas' Church.

This leaflet was commissioned as part of the church's ongoing 'Heritage Awareness Programme' developed in 2017 when a considerable grant was awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund; to help with the repair and restoration of the church tower. The Lottery Fund policy is that a proportion of the funding provided should be used to develop an ongoing, sustainable programme of events and activities to engage people's interest in Heritage – both of our church building and its significance within the wider community; along with local Industrial and Social Heritage in general.



Children's 'Explore with Henry' versions:

Look out for similar leaflets suitable for KS1 and KS2 children in the very near future - introduced by **Henry our Heritage Horse!**



Acknowledgements:

Laurie Woodgate
Pam Brimelow
Thanks are also extended to many other church members who contributed.

Resources:

The History of St Thomas Church and Parish – Pam Brimelow [church member].
<http://st-thomas-brampton.org/our-history>

St. Thomas' Church:

Chatsworth Rd, Chesterfield, S40 3AW
Tel: 01246 558461
Email: admin@st-thomas-brampton.org
www.st-thomas-brampton.org.uk

Regular Service Times:

You would be most welcome to join us on a **Sunday at 9.30am; 11am or 6pm.**

Please visit our website or get in touch to confirm Church Festival service times and summertime 'combined service' times.

Church Open for Private Prayer:

Weekdays 9.30am – 12noon

St Thomas' Coffee Shop:

Open to the public for food and cake!
Monday – Friday: 9am to 4pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10am to 2pm

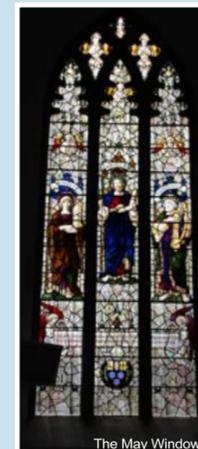
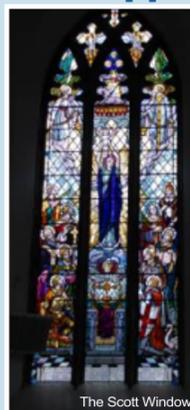
'Tower Tours':

Available occasionally by appointment.



Scott and May windows [9]

The 'Scott Window' which is set in the south east corner of the main body of the church [the Nave] was dedicated in memory of Thomas Scott, Emma Scott and Sarah Ann Scott on 30th September 1936. The window depicts the Virgin and Child surrounded by a number of Saints and Martyrs.



Further along the wall you can see the 'May Window' which was erected by the wife of Godfrey Melland May (died 1915) in his memory. May had been voluntary organist for 12 years and so it is somewhat fitting that the window depicts St. Cecilia (the patroness of musicians) and King David with musical instruments either side of the central figure of St. Thomas.

Nave Ceiling [10]

St. Thomas boasts quite a striking ceiling. The inscription on the ceiling



are the words of (doubting) Thomas, after whom the church is named. Whilst many people believed the amazing news that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples insisted that until

he saw the proof with his own eyes he could not believe. Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him the wounds on his hands and his side, at which point Thomas declared "My Lord and my God". Then follow the wonderful words of Jesus:

"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

[John 20: 24 onwards]

The three monograms you see on the ceiling have religious meanings.



The S and T monogram [left], represents St. Thomas'.

The other two monograms, surrounded by a crown of thorns, are ancient symbols for Christ.



The Chi-Rho monogram uses the first two letters from the Greek word for Christ - Christos (χριστος).



The Iota-Eta-Sigma (or IHS) monogram uses the first three letters from the Greek word for the name Jesus - ΙΗΣΟΥΣ.

Nave Wall Angels [11]

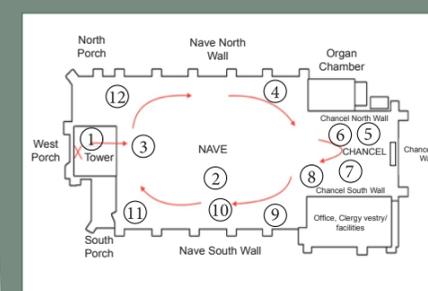
Along the north and south walls of the Nave you can observe a series of angels bearing shields. Each shield depicts one of eight items associated with the crucifixion of Christ.

Pinnacle Damage in the Nave Roof [12]

As you walk back towards the West End of church, where you first came in, look up at the North West Corner of the ceiling, to the right-hand side of the George V Memorial Window. In February 1962 a severe gale blew down most of the stone pinnacles from the church tower. One came through the roof at the west end causing a great deal of damage to the fabric and furnishings. Over five years, most of the damage was repaired although some remnants can still be seen in the corner of the ceiling which has grey patches. This is thought to be due to an unsealed leak created during the incident. The vital restoration work carried out in 2017 was to further reinforce the pinnacles before another such mishap!



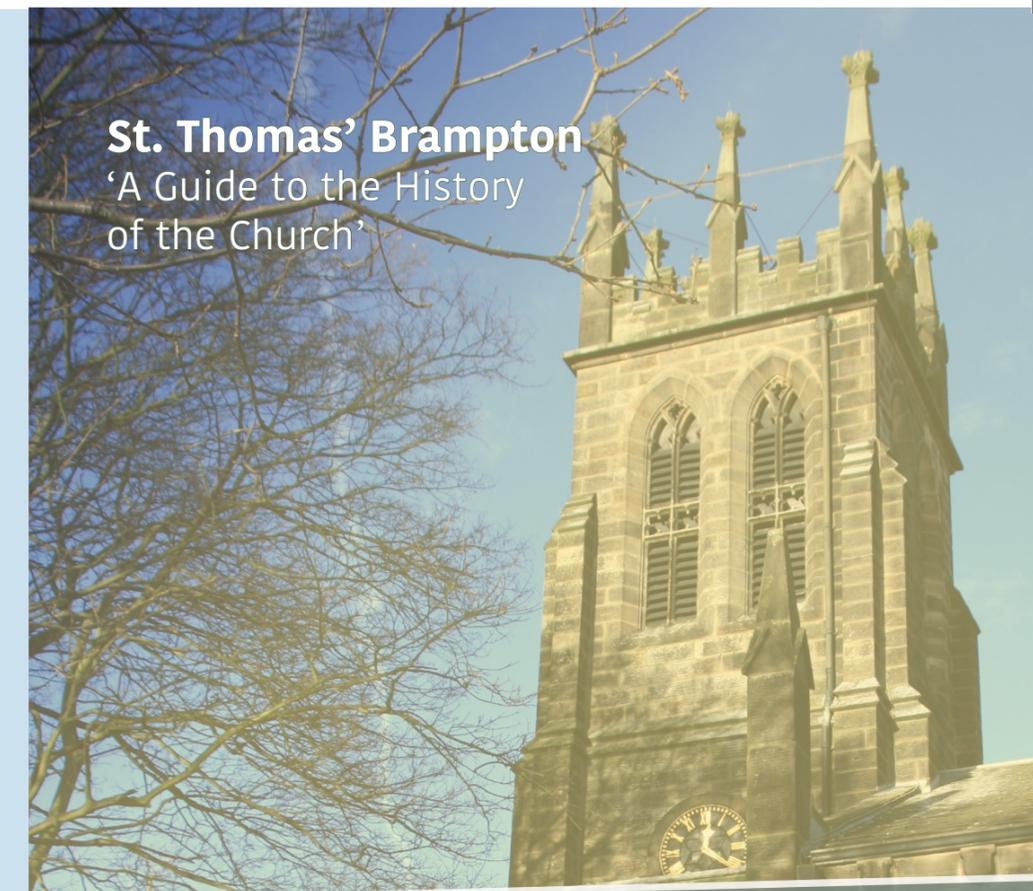
Angel on the nave wall with a cross on the shield



We hope you have enjoyed finding out more about St Thomas' church – both its building and people; and that this 'self-guide' information has enhanced your experience.

Thank You for visiting!

St. Thomas' Brampton 'A Guide to the History of the Church'



St Thomas' Church, commissioned in 1830 was built in a gothic style, which as you can see has remained largely untouched, preserving the original architectural design. Before you walk through the West Doors at the base of the Tower, take a moment to look up at the tower, repaired and restored in 2017.

It stands an impressive 85 feet tall and features 8 tall pinnacles. Look also at the clock on the outside of the tower, facing the main Chatsworth Road; as the Tower, Pinnacles and Clock will all be referred to as you walk through church and explore its heritage.

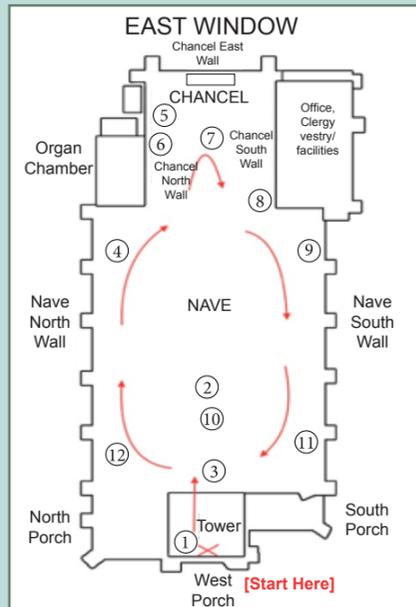


FREE GUIDE

Introduction

The history of St. Thomas' church is firmly underpinned by the desire to serve the local community. The church was commissioned in 1830 as a consequence of Parliaments' "million pound act" which aimed to equip and unify expanding industrial areas such as Brampton, with new churches. The building of St. Thomas' was considered monumental for west Chesterfield and the growing hamlets of Walton and Holymoorside.

Thousands of people formed a procession from the Town Hall to the site on which St. Thomas' would be built to witness William Spencer Cavendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire, lay the foundation stone. As the features of this 'walk through church' will showcase, crucial to St. Thomas' ongoing contribution to the community has been the remarkable ingenuity and resourcefulness of St. Thomas' supporters and members, in continually restoring and maintaining a church fit for purpose.



Plan of St Thomas' Church

- X/1 West Porch & Tower
- 2 The Nave Transformation
- 3 George V Memorial Window
- 4 Frank Bradbury Robinson Plaque
- 5 The Organ
- 6 James Walter Hardy Plaque
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- 8 List of Vicars & Rectors
- 9 Scott & May Windows
- 10 Nave Ceiling
- 11 Nave Wall Angels
- 12 Pinnacle damage

To begin your tour of St Thomas' Church you will have entered through the two large wooden doors at the foot of the Tower. These lead you into the West Porch and our first point of interest [1]. As you proceed to number [2], entering the main body of the church [called the 'nave'], stop for a moment and have a look round. When you are ready, walk in a clockwise direction; to see the main features in the list above.

West Porch and Tower [1]

Making your way into the west porch you will have noticed the church tower directly above, repaired and restored in 2017. Hopefully you also saw the clock on the outside of the tower which was installed 1920 by Joseph Haslam as a thank-offering for the safe return of his two sons from World War One. A plaque in the porch commemorates his generous contribution. At the time, clocks were not very common in domestic residences and the major public clock in Chesterfield was on the outside of the Market Hall. This clock therefore, still wound by hand [correct in 2017], provided the growing local community with a vital and much closer public clock.



Clock donated by Joseph Haslam, who's granddaughter still attends St Thomas' Church

Originally one bell was hung in the tower serving the purpose of calling people to worship. Often called the 'Passing Bell', this would also be tolled (rung) at funerals. This is still rung occasionally by pulling the rope [called the sally] in the West Porch. In

The Nave Transformation [2]

As you enter the main body of the church [the Nave] you will notice that the church interior contrasts with the exterior gothic style. Having gone through multiple creative restorations, the interior offers a unique blend of different styles. Originally the Nave contained high-backed box pews before having pitch-pine pews [below] installed in approximately 1890; which were subsequently replaced by the chairs seen today; in the 1999 refurbishment. The 1999 development included an extension to the Garden of Remembrance, re-ordering other parts of the church interior, and ongoing work towards the provision of a long awaited Church Centre; opened in 2011 by Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Interior of the church before the 1999 re-ordering



The Bell Keyboard, complete with bell-ringers' signatures!

1936 a peal of eight stationery (rather than swinging) bells was installed, called a carillon of bells. These are played from a keyboard, sometimes referred to as a clavier. This allows one person to ring all the bells and is typically used for weddings and other services.

Pictured below is the heaviest of the 8 bells installed in 1936.



Read the bell inscription on the back page.

George V Memorial Window [3]

Directly above the inner doors is the George V Memorial Window. It was unveiled in 1938 by Edward William the 10th Duke of Devonshire commemorating and celebrating the rule of the popular King George during the early twentieth century. Today, behind the window are various store rooms and offices. Originally that raised section of the church was a gallery for members of the congregation to sit. Somewhat amusingly, the original gallery was a source of concern for many church leaders, due to the mischievous behavior of young children in it.



Frank Bradbury Robinson Plaque [4]

Walking clockwise from when you first walked in, on the North wall you will notice a plaque dedicated to Frank Bradbury Robinson, who died on the Somme, July 1916, in World War One. He was Captain of the 6th Sherwood Foresters Notts and Derby Regiment and the plaque remarks that 'he fell before the enemy's trenches bravely cheering and leading on his men'. St. Thomas' has a proud tradition of remembering those lost at war, marked by the War Memorial which can be seen at the front of church. The first remembrance service took place in 1921.



1916, in World War One. He was Captain of the 6th Sherwood Foresters Notts and Derby Regiment and the plaque remarks that 'he fell before the enemy's trenches bravely cheering and leading on his men'. St. Thomas' has a proud tradition of remembering those lost at war, marked by the War Memorial which can be seen at the front of church. The first remembrance service took place in 1921.

There are two war graves towards the back of the graveyard, commemorating men who fought in WW1.

The Organ [5]

As we continue walking towards the front of church, we enter what is called the Chancel, where you would traditionally find the choir stalls, altar and the sanctuary [the section behind the wooden rail, home to the altar]. This is generally found at the east end of a traditional Christian church building. Other than the altar, a dominating feature in the chancel of St Thomas' church is the organ which, much like the rest of the interior, has undergone multiple restorations. Believed to have been originally installed in the 1890s, the organ has been enlarged and overhauled on various occasions, most recently in 2002 at a cost of £35,000. St Thomas' currently boasts one of the largest and most versatile pipe organs in the county. The fact that 'people' are the very heart of St Thomas' heritage is portrayed by the number of plaques you see mounted around the organ; commemorating church organists from 1890.



The Organ & Choir Stalls.

The Edwardian choir stalls would have held a lively choir in the first half of the 20th century, and traditional services such as Matins, Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong would have been typical in that time.

James Walter Hardy Plaque [6]

During significant restoration work in 1903 tragically the decorator James Walter Hardy, aged 26, died whilst working on the church interior. It is reported that he mysteriously fell 20 feet from scaffolding. His wife received £260 compensation from his employers.



A plaque commemorating him can be found on the wall to the left of the organ housing.

The Chancel decorations [7]

Firstly, turning our attention to the stunning East Window, we see the beautiful stained glass work illustrating Jesus' crucifixion. This was a gift of Philip Henry and Ann Elizabeth Chandler in 1891, in memory of Susan Marsden a former Sunday school teacher.



The East Window

Below the East Window, you will see the Reredos [an artistic decoration behind an altar, e.g. a wood/ stone screen/ wall-hanging] above the altar. You will see words carved into the wood, dedicated to Captain Thomas Greaves who died of wounds in France in 1918, during WW1.

The glass mosaic floor you are standing on in the chancel was laid as part of the restoration work in the 1920s. The current state of this part of church is essentially unchanged since that time, when work also included the replacement of the chancel steps. [The original stone was re-used to form part of the base of the Brampton War Memorial mentioned previously].

Much of the Chancel, including the choir stalls, was planned to be stripped down and modernised at the same time as the Nave, in 1999. The proposals were challenged however, during the statutory consultation process; after which the chancel was preserved as an example of early 20th century craftsmanship. What has resulted is a unique juxtaposition of styles from different periods.

List of Vicars and Rectors [8]

Whilst still in the Chancel, on the south side [opposite the organ], you will see an engraved list of all Vicars and Rectors of the church. St. Thomas' Rectors come from a range of interesting backgrounds, but perhaps none had the array of interests of the Rev John Magens Mello [pictured], who was Perpetual Curate, then Rector 1867-1887. Mello was a geologist and noted archaeologist, linked with the historical site at Cresswell Craggs. He also authored a book entitled 'Holy Scripture and Modern Science', and pioneered the development of the Brampton Museum, which was located on Chatsworth Road; but demolished in 1932. In more recent times [Jan 2015], Libby Lane (néé Holden), a former pastoral worker at St. Thomas', is of particular significance in the modern Anglican community; as Libby become the first female Bishop in the Church of England.

