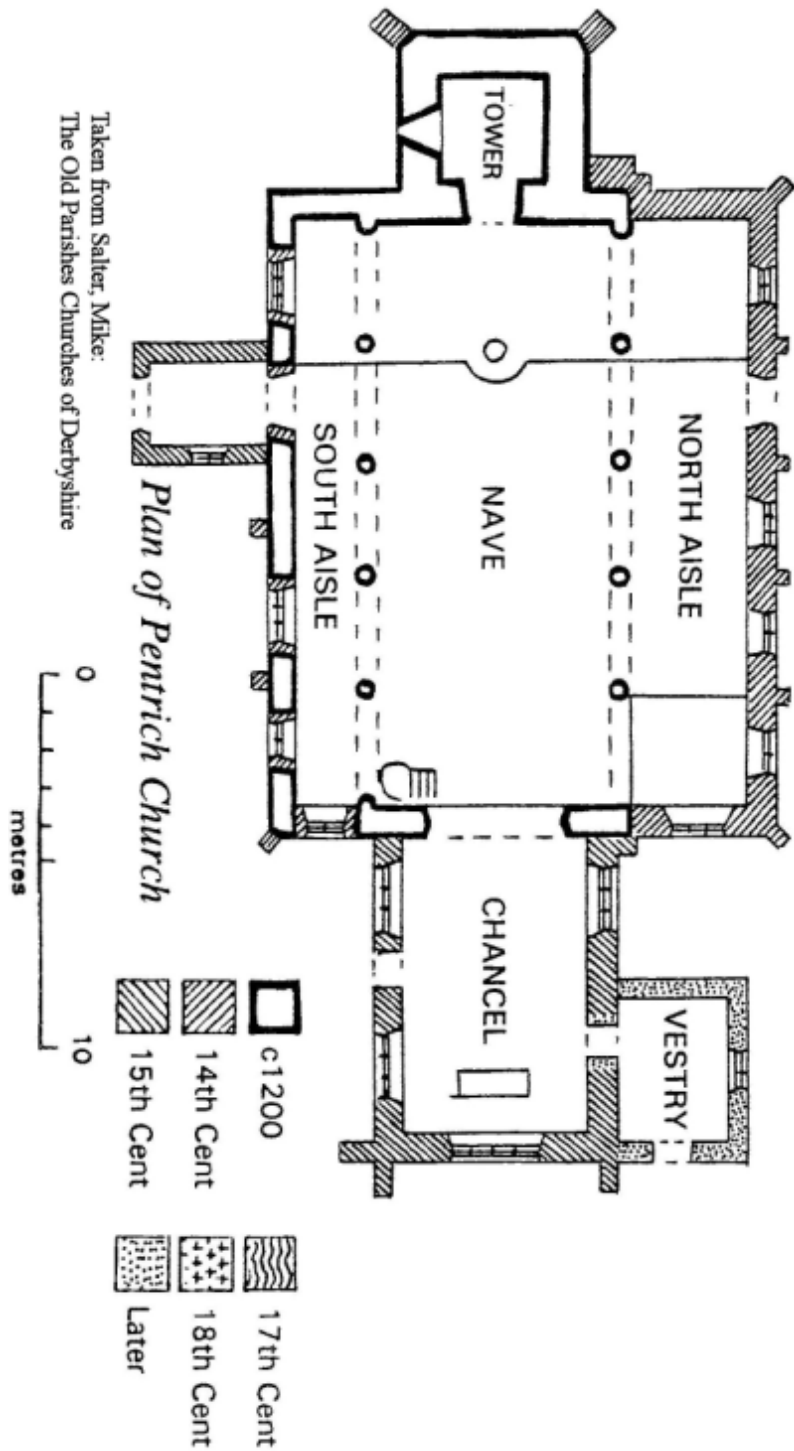


St Matthew, Pentrich



*The story of a Parish
Church
1175 to date*



St Matthew's Church Pentrich

The church, now dedicated to St Matthew was, at one time, dedicated to St Helen. The building consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a chancel, porch and tower at the west of the nave. With the exception of the chancel and battlements which are of gritstone, the church is built of local sandstone with better quality stone being reserved for the windows, door jambs and buttresses etc.

Norman origins

The first record of a church in Pentrich occurs in the Norman period in a cartulary (monastery manuscript) of 1175 when Ralph Fitz Stephen bestowed the lands of Pentrich and Ripley to the canons of Darley Abbey, this including the church of Pentrich.

When the monasteries were dissolved the lands held by Darley Abbey at Pentrich and Ripley were granted to Zouch of Codnor by the crown. In 1634 Sir John Zouch sold his Derbyshire lands to the Cavendishes and the patronage of the Parish is still held by the Duke of Devonshire jointly with the Wright Trustees (the Wright family being former owners of the Butterley Company).

A significant amount of the Norman building still remains. This can be seen in the arches which separate the aisles from the nave, in the stonework of parts of the west nave and south aisle walls and in the lower section of the tower. The circular piers, simple round capitals and the single chamfered round arches are characteristic of the late Norman style. The piers and capitals of the later chancel arch are probably of the same date as those of the arcades and suggest that the plan of the Norman church was similar to that of the present church. The small round-arched door into the tower is also from the Norman period.

The Fourteenth Century

The Norman church probably remained unaltered until the latter part of the 14th Century, the perpendicular period, when the tower was heightened with the addition of angle buttresses and the two aisles were also rebuilt. Evidence of the steeply pitched roof added following these alterations is visible on the external east face of the tower.

Into the 21st Century

The church building has changed over the years to reflect the needs of contemporary worshippers and we, at Pentrich Church are seeking to bring our building into the modern era by installing a toilet and a tea point.

It is hoped that the alterations we propose will make the church an even more inviting place to visit and to worship in.

The mission of the church continues and we aim to reach a new generation with the good news of Jesus Christ through our witness in this place.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit and will come again in the near future. You would be very welcome to join us at any of our services:

Sunday 9.30 am	Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays	Evening Worship

Reference:

Cox, J. C.. The churches of Derbyshire. 4 volumes. 1879.

Pevsner, N. The Buildings of England, Derbyshire. 1978.

The three who were named as leaders were hanged, another 14 were transported and 6 were jailed.

If you would like to find out more you may want to follow the Pentrich Trail, for which a leaflet is available.

Vicars of Pentrich

1349	Thomas de Pentrich	1670	William Licet
	John le Warde	1713	Samuel Milward
	William le Bolton	1755	Miles Halton
1363	William de	1774	Thomas Carr
1391	John Dand	1797	Joseph Milward
	Thomas Morley	1818	John Wood
1424	John Raynar	1855	GHJ Pocock
1427	John de Bowre	1874	W J Ledward
	John Altoft	1912	W A Wright
1470	John Loughborow	1922	E J Dallen
1487	Nicholas Key	1940	F T Blackburn
1497	Henry Proctor	1946	F J Boston
1564	George Howe	1956	E J Lewis
1576	John Lawson	1975	A T Redman
1577	Paul Hearon	1980	P A B Vessey
	John Chapman	1995	D W Ashton
1650	Robert Porter	2003	T B Johnson
1663	John Potter	2011	C B Lloyd

There have been 36 Vicars of Pentrich recorded since 1349 as follows. 2011 saw the installation of The Revd Carole Lloyd, the first female priest to become Vicar of Pentrich.

In about 1430 the church was further modified by the building of a new chancel arch, replacing the lower round Norman chancel arch with the present pointed arch, but retaining the Norman capitals and piers. The East Window was probably modified around this time. This gave a building we would recognise today.

Around the same time the walls of the nave were heightened to accommodate the clerestory using a number of inscribed grave slabs as lintels for the new clerestory windows. Battlements were added to the nave and tower and the nave roof lowered to something like its present pitch.

The Fifteenth Century

Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned at Wingfield Manor on three occasions in the years of 1569, 1584 and 1585 and it is said that she attended Pentrich Church, tethering her horse to the ring on the porch (sadly the ring has been removed). It was at Wingfield Manor that the romanticised plot to free Mary and overthrow Elizabeth I was hatched with Anthony Babington as one of the main conspirators.

The Nineteenth Century

The parish of Pentrich was quite important and extended across Ripley, Codnor, Waingroves, Marehay and Heage. After the Pentrich Revolution in 1817 it was considered that moral guidance was need in the area and so other churches were built in local centres.

During the major re-ordering of 1859 the present pews were placed in the flat area of the nave. It is probably that the stained glass of the East Window was also installed at this time

In 1875 the chancel was re-ordered with old gravestones being covered over with encaustic tiles of an old ecclesiastical pattern and the chancel step was replaced by one of red veined alabaster. The sanctuary was also tiled with a more elaborate pattern and a new white marble step added. An ancient piscina in the south wall was replaced with a new one of Caen stone and a credence table placed in the north wall. The choir stalls were reduced and re-arranged.



The Twentieth Century

New choir stalls were installed and dedicated In Memory of Richard and Alice Frances Atkinson in 1958. At the same time the pulpit was lowered and the organ moved from the west end of the nave to the east end of the north aisle where it is still located.

The stepped area at the back was an early 20th Century addition and the pews were rescued from the Methodist chapel at Buckland Hollow and were adapted to fit the space.

An ornate reredos designed by Gilbert White was removed during the 1970s to facilitate the new style Eucharist and was rehoused in a Matlock church.

Until 1967 the church was lit by gaslight. These lights were replaced by electric lighting as part of the marking of the 150th anniversary of the Pentrich Revolution . This was then updated in 20?? to meet modern standards.

A new heating system was also installed in 20?? , making a much welcomed increase in the comfort of the congregation.

two Taylor's bells together on the higher level and the oldest 3 bells at a lower level accompanied by a new treble (highest tone) bell. This new bell was cast by Whitechapel Bell Founders in December 1993 in London and bears the inscription - SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG. (Several members of the congregation went to Whitechapel to see the bell being cast.)

The bells were dedicated by Cyril Bowles Bishop of Derby at a special evening service on the 1st May 1994

In all there is now over one and a half tons of bell metal in the tower plus at least 4½ of structural metalwork!

Outside

Scratch Dial

On the outer side of the chancel south wall, immediately east of the priest's door is a scratch dial, or mass clock as they are more commonly called. The style-hole held a peg, the shadow of which when crossing the vertical radial "scratch" below the style-hole, would indicate 12 noon (approximately), and when crossing the second radial "scratch" 30 degrees west of the moon line would register 10 a.m. (approximately).

Carving above porch door

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Pentrich Revolution a carving of St Matthew, the apostle, was commissioned and placed in the niche above the porch door.

Pentrich Revolution

Of course Pentrich is famous as the site of the last 'revolution' in England which took place on 9th June 1817. 'Revolution' is probably a rather grand name for an uprising of about 2-300 local men who marched towards Nottingham where they expected to meet up with a larger number and head to London.

A small number made it across the Nottinghamshire border where they were faced with a detachment of the Kings Hussars. After a brief scuffle some were arrested and more disappeared into the night.

Treble 29 and 1/2 "diameter 5-1-18lb by John Taylor & Co 1869
 Second 28 and 1/8" diameter 3-1-24lb Henry Dand of Nottingham undated but he was working c 1580
 Third 30 and 3/4" diameter 5-1-14lb Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove 1715. This bell came from Inkberrow Worcs.
 Forth 32 and 7/8" diameter 6-1-24lb Selicks of Nottingham c1520
 Tenor 39 and 3/4" diameter 11-0-14lb John Taylor and Co. 1869
 The Sixth bell was cast in December 1993 by Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd and is inscribed "Sing a new song to the Lord"

As part of the restoration work in 1995 the 5 older bells were retuned, partly to bring them better in tune with each other but mainly to improve the harmonics, including the returning of the tenor bell to G.

Two of the bells, the 3rd and the 5th, are mediaeval and subject to a preservation order. The 5th is the oldest, being made by Richard Seliok of Nottingham and therefore can be dated to the early 16th century - between 1500 and 1530. It carries the inscription - AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA (Hail, Mary, Full of Grace).

The 3rd was made by Henry Dand also of Nottingham and therefore can be dated between 1550 and 1593). It bears the simple inscription - JESUS - plus the founders initials HD.

One further bell was added sometime in the late 18th century or early 19th century. This bell, 30 and 3/4" diameter 5-1-14lb, previously at Inkberrow in Worcestershire, was made in 1715 and bears only the date and the mark of the founder (Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove).

It was in 1869 that these three bells were augmented to five by the addition of the treble 29 and 1/2 "diameter 5-1-18lb and the tenor, 39 and 3/4" diameter 11-0-14lb by John Taylor & Co 1869.

In 1869 in order to fit all 5 bells into the tower, the old oak frame was considerably modified (needing iron supports and wedging into place). As the bells were used over the next 80 years or so, it was the deterioration of this frame that became one of main reasons for the ringing of Pentrich bells to be declared unsafe.

Today the 5 older bells are housed in a new two tier metal frame. The



The Font

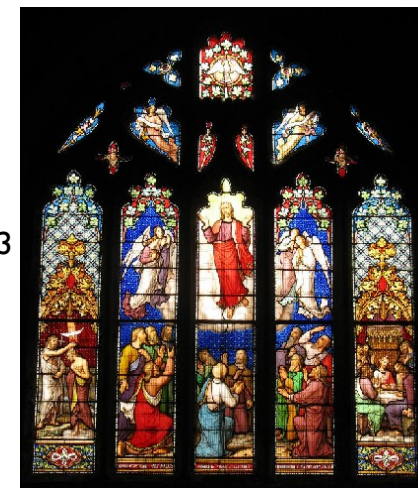
The font is a hybrid, it consists of large bowl ornamented with the circular arched moulding, typical of the Norman period set on a stone pedestal dated 1662. The bowl shows signs of misuse possibly acquired during its absence from the church in the 18th Century, being found in the cellar of a former churchwarden's house in Ripley around 1850 where it had allegedly been used as a receptacle for the salting of beef. When reinstated the once cylindrical Norman font was redressed to its present shape.

Fresco

The fresco on the west wall of the nave was painted in the late 19th Century by the Vicar, Revd. William Jellicorse Ledward, incumbent of the parish from 1874-1912; it depicts the call of Matthew by Jesus.

Stained Glass

The obtusely arched east window has unusual perpendicular tracery, pointing to a date of around 1420 to 1450. It was made by the firm of Capronnier of Brussels and depicts the ascension in its 3 centre lights, the baptism of Jesus in the north light and the Last Supper in the south light and was installed in memory of The Revd. G H J Pocock who died in 1855.



The window in the south wall of the chancel was dedicated to George Cressey Hall who died in April 1892. It is also by Capronnier and was made in 1905. It depicts the transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17 vs 1-13) depicting Jesus in the centre, Moses on Jesus' left and Elijah on his right and the disciples Peter, James and John waking from sleep at the bottom.

The inscription 'he hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me' on the window in the north wall is from Psalm 55 verse 18. It is dedicated to Bernard Winthrop Smith Who died at Ypres in the First World War. This window is in the Art and Crafts style and is by Christopher Wall, one of the foremost glass painters of the early 20th Century. Whall was heavily influenced by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. The window shows St Michael vanquishing the dragon flanked by St George on the left and St Louis of France on the right.



Christopher Whall's original watercolour sketch for the Pentrich window

A third window by Capronnier is the Dorcas window located in the South wall. It is dedicated to Mary Pocock, the wife of Rev Pocock (East Window). The window has three panels showing Dorcas (also known as Tabitha) distributing clothes to the poor (Acts 9:36–42).

In the north wall of the nave is the Good Shepherd (John 10 vs 11) window of late Victorian origin given in memory of James, Ann and Sarah Walters.

Finally, at the eastern end of the nave is the Mary and Martha window (Luke 10 vs 38-42), which pictures the two women with Jesus. It was made around 1950 by William Morris and Co. Of Westminster.

Monuments

Of interest are the sills of several of the clerestory and north aisle windows, being composed of early grave slabs which date from the early Norman period.

Perhaps the most interesting memorial monument is to Madam Mawer who dies on the 25th February 1776. It tells us that she was a 'very religious, beautiful, virtuous, dutiful, loving and affectionate wife' but more interesting is the fact that preceding this wonderful testimony of her wifely attributes we are told that she was 'as great a linguist as this Nation ever produced.'

Other dedicated gifts

- Processional Cross in Memory of Mary Leah 1935 – 1975
- Altar Cross in Memory of Cyril Towlson Died in the great war 7th September 1918
- Organ Screen in Memory of Arthur John and Eliza Ann Towlson 1945
- Church Wardens Staves presented by David and Mary Walker 1979
- Memorial Book Case in Memory of Bertram Clarke 1991
- Altar Frontal Cabinet in Memory of Ivy Glossop (nee Sulley) 1918 1985

Bells

Pentrich Church has a unique ring of bells, which are full of history and interest. Today Pentrich Church has 6 bells as follows: