

A Guide to the Parish Church of St Margaret's Swinton



Welcome to the church of St Margaret.

The first place of worship in Swinton was a Norman chapel-of-ease to Wath church, dedicated to St Mary Magdalene. It was built around 1150-1200AD on the site of the present church hall. It was a small building without aisles and a tiny chancel although it did have two fine stone arches. This building was pulled down in 1815 and unfortunately the arches were not preserved for the new church but were re-built in the vicarage field and can still be seen there today.

A new church, dedicated to St Margaret was opened in 1817 on the present site. Sadly, however, this church was destroyed by fire in 1897 and only the tower remained. The present church of St Margaret, incorporating the tower, was consecrated by the Archbishop of York in October 1899.

Although built in the reign of Queen Victoria, the church is in Early English style. Local stone from quarries at Darfield, Mexborough and Hooton Roberts was used in its construction. The hammer beam roof is of Kauri Pine from New Zealand. St Margaret's is a Grade II listed building. We hope this leaflet will help you with your visit.

The North Doorway (1)

Inside the newly refurbished entrance is the Holy Water stoop. People remind themselves of their baptism by making a sign of the cross using the water. There is a plaque on the wall reminding us of the history of the church. A ramp is available for wheelchair access.

The Nave (2)

The nave is the central part of church where people sit for the services. The pews on both sides of the centre aisle are made of oak and can be moved to accommodate wheelchairs.

The Font (3)

The font is used to hold the water for baptisms, it is made of stone and marble. The candle on a stand in this area is called the Paschal candle. It stands near the font and is lit at Easter but also at baptisms and funerals.

Stained Glass Windows (4)

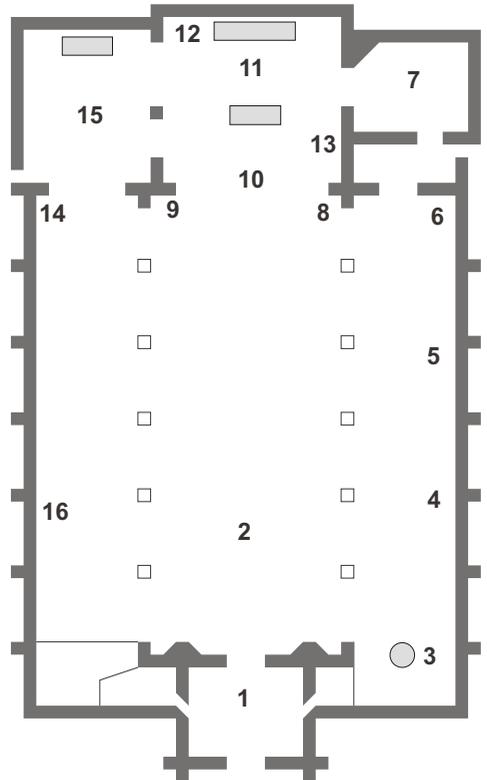
All along this south aisle are windows depicting scenes from the Bible. Some were given in memory of former vicars of Swinton - Revd John Levett, vicar for 45 years and Revd William Peacey and family who oversaw the building of the present church. The others were given in memory of the Blythman and Turgoose families.

Stations of the Cross (5)

There are 14 pictures around the walls of the north and south aisles of the church. They show scenes of Jesus' journey from being condemned to die, to his crucifixion and death. The sequence starts near the Lady Chapel door and ends near the vestry.

Our Lady of Walsingham (6)

This statue shows Mary and the infant Jesus. People can light a candle here and say a prayer.



The Vestry (7)

Near the door to the vestry is the memorial book which contains names of loved ones who have died. The page is turned daily. The vestry is a room where the priest and servers prepare for services. The registers and robes are kept here. Above is the choir vestry and access to the organ.

The Lectern (8)

This lectern is a tall stand made of brass. The Bible is read from here. The eagle standing on the orb signifies God's word being carried around the world.

The Pulpit (9)

The pulpit is opposite the lectern. It is made of oak with a nicely carved surround. Here is where sermons are delivered to the congregation.

The Sanctuary (10)

The floor in this part of the church has recently been relaid using stone from Cadeby Quarry. People come here to receive Holy Communion. Marriages and Confirmations also take place here. In the stonework above you can see the Archbishop of York and Queen Victoria as they were in 1899.

The Altars (11)

An altar is a large wooden table where the priest consecrates the bread and wine during the Eucharist. The altar nearest to you can be easily moved. The High Altar usually stays where it is under the East Window.

The East Window (12)

This is the largest of the stained glass windows and has five sections. From the left, the first window shows Mary Magdalene. The next one depicts people from the Old Testament. The middle and largest section shows the risen Christ, then come the disciples and apostles of the New Testament. The right hand window shows St Margaret, our patron saint.

The Organ (13)

The organ is played from a lofty position by the organist who can see all around. The prestigious organ builders, Harrison & Harrison of Durham, installed the instrument in 1903. The organ has two complete manuals of 58 keys each, 30 foot pedals and 22 stops.

St Joseph (14)

As you approach the Lady Chapel notice the small statue of St Joseph the carpenter, appropriately made of wood.

The Lady Chapel (15)

The Chapel is used for quiet prayer and midweek services. It has stained glass windows, memorials to those killed in two world wars and a statue of Mary cradling baby Jesus. The sacrament is reserved here.

Children's Play Area (16)

If you visit our church at Christmas time you will see a Nativity Scene or at Easter, an Easter Garden that the children help to build.

Goodbye

We do hope you have enjoyed your visit and will come again.

Regular Services

Sundays	8am	Holy Eucharist (<i>1st Sunday</i>)
	9.30am	Holy Eucharist (<i>Children's group meets during part of this service</i>)
	4.30pm	Evensong (<i>3rd Sunday</i>)
Tuesdays	7pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays	10am	Holy Eucharist

For other services see notices.

The Vicar is

Father Christopher Barley

50 Golden Smithies Lane, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8DL

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