

**Memories of St Marks' Church  
Berlin Road  
Edgeley**



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# Memories of St Mark's Church

## History of St Mark's

St Mark's Church was built in 1921. The land was gifted by the Sykes family, with voluntary contributions paying for the construction of the building. The foundation stone was laid by the Hon. Mrs Herbert Sykes (see later note about what we found behind this stone in 2014!)

St Mark's was created to meet the needs of a group of members from St Matthew's Church, Grenville Street, who wanted a more evangelical style of worship. The Bishop of Chester gave permission for the church to be built and after an initial "tin church" was built next to the Edgeley Institute in Castle Street, the church moved to the new building on Berlin Road.

For 90 years, St Mark's provided not only a place of worship but also a centre for the community. It had scouts and guides, dancing and drama, Rose Fetes, Easter parades, Whit Walks, shows and social gatherings, an active Mothers' Union and a banner group that created beautiful church banners (see later section for photographs).

If you would like to share your memories of St Mark's, in words or photos, please email them to [info@edgeleyandchadleheath.org.uk](mailto:info@edgeleyandchadleheath.org.uk) and we will share as many as we can through our website and Facebook pages. Please note that by sending us your stories, you are giving us permission to publish in this way.

## Closure of St Mark's

It is very sad to see a church building close and be removed to make way for housing. For ninety years, St Mark's was a significant place for many people, but it was in desperate need of renovation. Following extensive deliberation it was decided that the best way to serve our local community was to concentrate the parish's activities on one site at St Matthew's. There was a final celebratory service at St Mark's on Sunday 17 April 2011, with the congregations of St Mark's, St Augustine's and St Matthew's churches coming together as one on Easter Day 2011.

# Memories of St Mark's Church

## A heart for the community

We are now a thriving worshipping community at St Matthew's on Grenville Street, just a short walk from St Mark's. Now that we are all together on one site we have been able to have a much bigger impact on our local community. We are building partnerships with lots of organisations to offer toddler groups, an exercise class, social groups for those who are isolated, support to families with twins or multiples, parents who want to carry their baby in a sling, as well as our holiday activities for children and families.

We also host regular surgeries with our local police team during our Saturday Cafe, as well as monthly drop-ins to meet community support groups. That's in addition to our table top sales, craft fairs, heritage and fun day, summer and Christmas fairs. We have big plans for the future

We are a very friendly church and welcome everyone to our services. We offer both a formal and a less formal service (with children's groups), signed services for our friends in the deaf community and a regular prayer event.

## Parish Records

All records of baptisms and marriages for St Mark's are retained at the [Chester Archives](#) (add link).

## The Foundation Stone

When demolition of the church began, a page of a very old newspaper was uncovered from behind the foundation stone. Here are photographs of the newspaper, The Cheshire Daily Echo, dated Monday 25 July 1921:

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## Photo Gallery

The photo gallery includes details of the inscriptions found on furniture and memorials around the church building. Some of these items have been retained at St Matthew's Church, Grenville Street, Edgeley.

### External views





External View	Photo
Entrance South facing	 A photograph showing the south-facing entrance of St Mark's Church. The building is constructed of red brick with a steep gable roof. The entrance features a dark wooden door centered between two arched windows. To the left and right of the door are two more arched windows. A green metal fence with white posts runs across the foreground, partially obscuring the lower part of the building. A large tree is visible on the left side of the frame.
West facing	 A photograph showing a west-facing view of the church. The building is made of red brick and has a long, low profile with a steep gable roof. A series of arched windows runs along the side of the building. A small cross is visible on the roofline. The sky is overcast and grey.

## Memories of St Mark's Church

External View	Photo
East facing	 A photograph of the east-facing exterior of St Mark's Church. The building is constructed of red brick with a grey slate roof. The wall features several arched windows with white frames. The roof is covered in moss, and there are green bushes in the foreground.



## Memories of St Mark's Church

### Internal memorials, fixtures and fittings




Item	Inscription?	Photo
Memorial to John Gresty	Yes, as shown	
Dedication	Yes, as shown	
Memorial	Yes, as shown	
Stained glass window	Yes "Dedicated to the loving memory of WW Jones who died in his 69 <sup>th</sup> year 1922. This window is erected by his widow. Whit Sunday 1923"	





## Memories of St Mark's Church

Item	Inscription?	Photo
Vicar's board	Yes, as shown	
Memorial to Robert Beresford Hind	Yes, as shown	
St Mark's Church Roll of Honour Great European War 1914 –1918	No	

## Memories of St Mark's Church





Item	Inscription?	Photo
Stained glass window	<p>Yes</p> <p>“To the glory of God &amp; in ever loving memory of Martha Ann Dawson who entered into rest June 30<sup>th</sup> 1924 aged 72 yrs. This window is erected by her sons. Easter 1925”</p>	
Stained glass window	<p>Yes</p> <p>“To the glory of God and in loving memory of Julia Edith Booth who entered into rest March 1<sup>st</sup> 1924”</p>	
Small reredos	<p>Yes</p> <p>“The Gift of Mr &amp; Mrs F R Walker, Nov 5th 1932”</p>	

## Memories of St Mark's Church





Item	Inscription?	Photo
<p>Stained glass window</p>	<p>Yes            "Dedicated to the loving memory of Annie Clayton who died in her 18<sup>th</sup> year 1920. This window is dedicated by her parents. Easter 1923"</p>	
<p>Reredos</p>	<p>Yes            "The oak work of this reredos is the gift of the Rev E V Dawson in memory of his mother 1927"</p>	







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Item	Inscription?	Photo
<p>War Memorial First and Second World Wars</p>	<p>As shown</p>	
<p>Stained glass window</p>	<p>Yes "Dedicated to the loving memory of William Andrews Watts aged 69 years, Joseph Rickets aged 39 years, Sarah Jane Bullivant aged 40 years, Lily Blease aged 17 years, Hannah Josling aged 78 years. This window is erected by their relatives 1923"</p>	
<p>Stained glass window</p>	<p>Yes "In loving memory of Ellen Perry who died Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1951, aged 82 years, also her husband, Ernest Perry, who died June 19<sup>th</sup> 1957, aged 85 years"</p>	
<p>Church bell</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	

## Memories of St Mark's Church



Item	Inscription?	Photo
Altar	No	
Altar rail	No	
Pulpit	<p>Yes</p> <p>“The Gift of Mr &amp; Mrs F R Walker, Easter 1925”</p>	 

## Memories of St Mark's Church






Item	Inscription?	Photo
Eagle lectern	No	
Prayer table (1)	<p>Yes</p> <p>"In memory John Thomas Hill People's Warden 1929 to 1949 A Good and Faithful Servant"</p>	 
Font	No	






## Memories of St Mark's Church

Item	Inscription?	Photo
Font plinth	Yes "In memoriam MMM 1927"	
Mother's Union banner	No	
Sunday School banner	No	

## Memories of St Mark's Church

Item	Inscription?	Photo
Organ (not in working order)	No	
Silver jug	Yes "In Memoriam M Edwards 1938"	 
Silver patterns	One is engraved, "Easter 1923"  One is engraved, "The gift of Miss N Pownall 1916"	 

## Memories of St Mark's Church

Item	Inscription?	Photo
Silver chalice	Yes "In Memoriam ME Hill June 1 <sup>st</sup> 1914"	
Large brass altar cross	Yes "To the glory of God and in affectionate and loving memory of Mr and Mrs Walter Wheelton. This cross was given by their daughter and son-in-law Mr and Mrs J Dranfield March 1952"	
Brass baptism jug	Yes "In Memory of Jeanie Walker 1997"	 
Brass plate (large)	Yes "St Mark's Church The Emily Richmond Memorial"	



## Memories of St Mark's Church

### St Mark's Banner Group

Over the years, a dedicated group of ladies created a number of stunning banners for St Mark's Church. These banners have moved with us to St Matthew's Church where they are regularly displayed.

Here are photographs of just a few of these banners:



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# Memories of St Mark's Church


## St Mark's in the local press

This article appeared in a local paper some years ago, unfortunately we do not have a record of the date or the newspaper it appeared in. If you have these details, please send them to us at:

[info@edgeleyandchadleheath.org.uk](mailto:info@edgeleyandchadleheath.org.uk).

Know your Church No. 46

### St. Mark's, Edgeley



**ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Edgeley,** or "The Tin Church," as it was known for many years, is possibly the only church in Stockport to have had "three lives."

Life number one started when a group of members of St. Matthew's Church, Edgeley, decided there was a need for evangelical worship in the town and made the break with St. Matthew's.

Life number two began when "The Tin Church," a building composed mostly of corrugated iron, was erected next to the Edgeley Institute in Castle Street, and its third life started when bricks finally replaced iron and the church was sited in nearby Berlin Road, Edgeley.

The story really began in the year 1819 when a group of men at St. Matthew's, a high church left a quest for low church worship.

The men, who included Mr John Lee, of Edgeley Cottage, Edgeley Road, the secretary at Sykes's Bleach Works, a Mr Warburton and a Mr Ascock, contacted the Bishop of Chester, who gave permission for the group to break away from St. Matthew's.

A "second-hand church," built mainly of corrugated iron, was erected in Castle Street, and the first minister, the Rev. T. Spanton, "moved in" in the same year (1859).

He left in 1900 and was succeeded by the Rev. J. P. Richmond, who stayed until 1913. That same year, the Rev. Leonard Clifton was appointed, and in 1919 he was succeeded by the Rev. E. V. Dawson.

The "tin church" moved in 1921 to Berlin Road, its present site, and bricks replaced the iron.

All the money for building the church, and running it, was raised by voluntary payments. The ground for the church was given by the Baker family and on July 28, 1921, the foundation stone was laid by the Hon. Mrs Herbert Exton.

The church was dedicated on November 8, 1921, by the Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Rev. Henry Luke Paget, D.D. The building was to be of a temporary nature and during the 1950s there were plans to build a permanent church, which was to face on to Dale Street. These plans never materialised.

Mr Dawson left in 1931 and was succeeded by the Rev. George Pritchett, who was there until 1942. In that year, the Rev. Joseph Edwards took over, until 1948 when the Rev. Robert Irwin Jones came to the church.

He in turn was succeeded by the Rev. A. W. Bamford Jones, who was succeeded in 1958 by the Rev. T. B. Stringer. The Rev. J. W. Tabernacle replaced him in 1966 and stayed until his death last year. The present minister is the Rev. J. Hodder.

The church, which seats about 350 people, has a large school-room used as a Sunday school, two vestries and another room used between 1929 and 1968 as an ex-servicemen's room. It is probably the only church in Stockport to have had a non-denominational ex-servicemen's association.

The original vicarage stood in Dale Street, known as "The Farm House," it was demolished a few years ago and the vicarage is now in Edgeley Road.

The church is also thought to be the second in Stockport to start holding a rose fair, the first being in 1815 when Miss Ann Gooder was Rose Queen.