

HISTORY OF ST MARY'S

Historians believe the oldest part of the church dates from 1450 - 1550 | nearly 500 years ago!

Many changes have taken place since then. Parts of the church have been rebuilt and the church was extended by 12 metres in 1889. St Mary's is built of sandstone.

ST MARY'S | A PLACE OF PRAYER

The church building is an ancient holy place where Christian worship has been offered for hundreds of years.

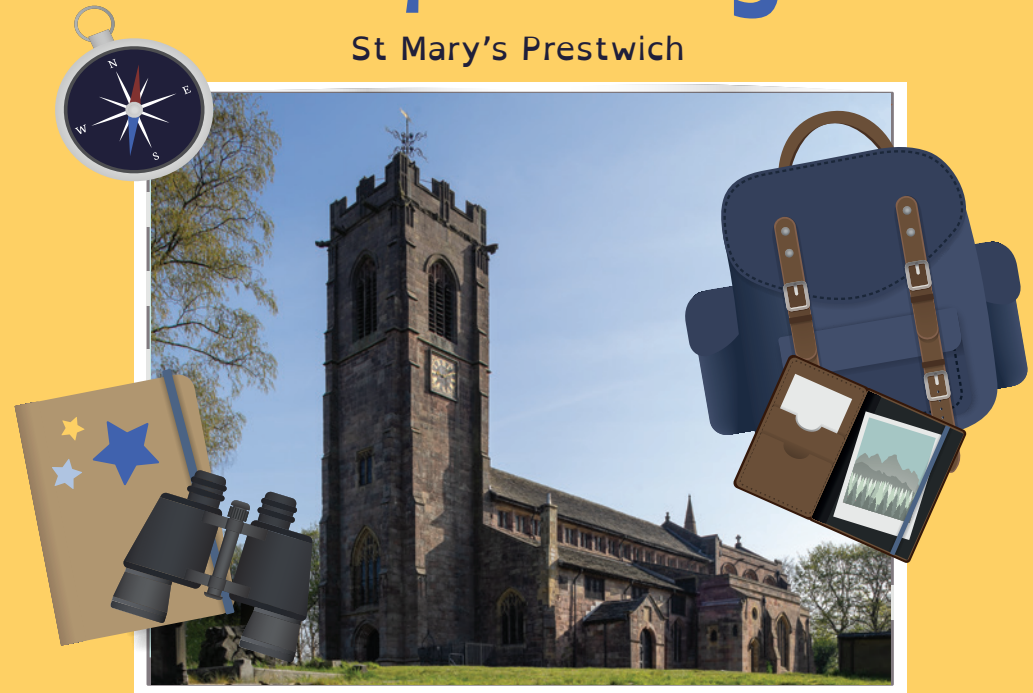
Today St Mary's is an active church. During your visit, we invite you to leave a prayer on the prayer tree in the Wilton Chapel.

God of life, help us to meet you today and every day. Bring us closer to Jesus, so that he may be our friend. Help us to love one another and to serve the world.

Amen

Exploring

St Mary's Prestwich



A Guide for Younger Visitors

Welcome to
**St. Mary's
Prestwich!**
We are delighted
you are here



This explorer's trail will help you to find out more about the church as you look around.

Follow the trail inside -
use a pen or pencil
to complete the activities.

An additional information sheet for parents | carers | teachers is available on request.

3

The Wilton Chapel is named after the Wilton family who lived in Heaton Hall. Find the memorial plaque (known as a 'hatchment') commemorating the Countess of Wilton. It dates from 1858 and shows the family crest. Hint – look high up on the wall above the pillars.

What shape is the hatchment? Draw it here:



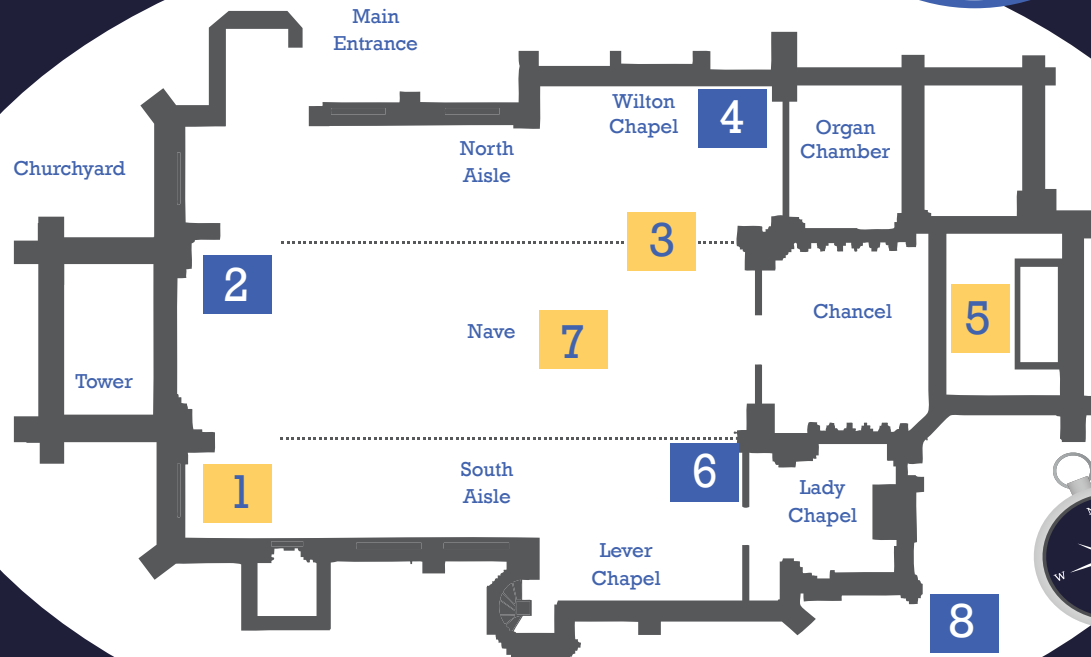
4

Find the war memorial altar in the Wilton Chapel. Which two wars are remembered in our rolls of honour?



2

St Mary's church tower is 28 metres high and contains eight bells. Find the wall plaque commemorating the worldwide radio broadcast of the bells in November 1942. Which battle is mentioned?



5

This part of the church is known as the chancel and sanctuary. It was built in 1889. Stand facing the altar and look up to the right. You will see a window showing four saints. Can you name two of them?

1

Find the list of Rectors (priests) of St Mary's on the wall near the porch door. Who was the first priest at this church?



8

St Mary's churchyard is one of the largest in the country, covering nearly 3 hectares. The oldest gravestone dates from 1641. Find it on the ground outside the Lady Chapel. What are the names of the four children carved on the stone?

7

The candelabra in the middle of the church dates from 1701. It was given to St Mary's by the Earl of Derby. What figures can you see on the top?

6

Between the Lever Chapel & the Lady Chapel you will find brass plaques to the Levers, a wealthy family who lived in Alkington near Middleton. In what year did Lady Frances Lever die?

★ Start here