



St Andrews (Hoylake with Meols) United Reformed Church



The church in Meols was established as a Presbyterian Church in 1894 and, following the creation of the United Reformed Church in 1972, joined with the former Hoylake Congregational Church in 1987 to become “St Andrew’s (Hoylake with Meols) United Reformed Church”.

Bricks and mortar....

1889 Historically, our church is linked with the United Reformed Church in West Kirby. The earliest known evangelistic services in Meols were held in 1889 in a tin chapel which had previously been used for services in West Kirby before being dismantled and relocated to accommodate the new congregation in Fornalls Green Lane, Meols. It was here that the first Communion was celebrated in 1894, marking the establishment of the church in Meols as a Presbyterian Church.

1905 Larger premises were soon needed, land previously used for pasture was purchased and in 1905 a small church opened on the current site (in what is now the church hall).

The church today is very different from the much smaller building used by the first congregation. Despite several extensions over the years, the architects and builders have taken care to ensure that these alterations have been carried out sympathetically and are in keeping with the original brickwork.

1960 Long awaited plans for major extension work finally came to fruition in 1960. In the porch area there are two framed commemoration stones (on what was originally an outside wall). One is the foundation stone which was laid on 9th July 1960, while the second marks the opening of the new church building on 21st April 1961 and the adoption of the new name of "St. Andrew's". At this time the 1905 Church became the Church Hall.

1971 A youth room was built. Currently this is home to St. Andrew's Scout Group.

1999 A major project of internal alterations took place and a new porch area was constructed giving a much more welcoming entrance, a large lounge area and a disabled-accessible toilet.

Rev P. M Kirkland became the first Minister for the new church in Meols. Ordained in 1887, he was also Minister for West Kirby and had been instrumental in the founding of the congregation in Meols. The current Minister, Rev. Martin Truscott is the twelfth Minister and was inducted on 1st November 2008.

As a matter of interest....

The original church organ was a pipe organ, installed in 1913. For a short period between 1913-15 it was equipped with a water motor to operate the bellows, until maintenance costs proved too costly and hand-blowing was used. It wasn't until 1936 that an electric blower was installed, and in 1961 it was moved into the new Church. In 1990 the Makin organ was moved from Hoylake to Meols and remains in use today, the pipe organ being dismantled in late 1994 and passed to a church in Maily-le-Chateau in France.

Two war memorial tablets, one unveiled in 1926 and the other in 1948, list the names of the deceased from the two World Wars, although the name of one casualty from World War I was not included at the express wish of his mother.

The stained glass windows at the front of the church depict four different themes: God's covenant with mankind, the word of the prophets, the church and the life of Christ. A detailed framed interpretation of the design of these windows is on display beneath them.



At the back of the church are two stained glass windows depicting Mary and Martha. These unique windows were donated in 1990 by John Ashe and his family in memory of his wife Doris, If you look closely you will see that both faces look slightly inwards, towards the centre aisle



In passing...

1939-45 On the boundary wall fronting Birkenhead Road are the remains of a black-painted sign. It is just possible to make out the words, 'Fire Station' with an arrow pointing down Greenwood Road. We can only surmise that it dates from World War II, a time when no Ordnance Survey maps were published for obvious reasons.

1980 The telephone box on the corner of Greenwood Road and Birkenhead Road famously inspired the 1980's pop hit, "Red Frame/White Light" by local band Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark. The phone number is mentioned in the lyrics and fans would ring the number expecting to get one of the band members. The telephone number remains the same!



2000 In the church garden next to the boundary wall on Birkenhead Road, there is a brightly coloured circular marker board, designed by Richard Whately, to mark the new Millennium. This represents the boundary of Churches Together in Hoylake and Meols. There is a similar marker at Hoylake Chapel at the far end of Market Street to mark the opposite end of the boundary. All the churches in Churches Together in Hoylake and Meols have this logo on display.

The Future

At time of writing the church is working towards "eco-congregation" status.

Further Information

More detailed information about the history of the church can be found in the booklet produced for the 1994 Centenary.

Contact Us

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