

**PRE 15TH
CENTURY**

**STAVELEY
CHAPEL**

Cherish
the past
Embrace
the future

A **single column** in this chapel, with a **foliage patterned capital** in what is known as the Decorated style, suggests that this could be a surviving **part of the earlier church** building.



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The two stone effigies of **Sir Ralph and Lady Elisabeth Staveley** date to around 1420, before the present church was built. We have no clues as to their original position.

Sir Ralph fought at the Battle of Agincourt, and local legend connects him to a crusade in Lithuania in 1390.

THE LEGEND OF SIR RO AND LADY ELIZABETH

Legend has it that Sir Ralph - known as Sir Ro - went to the crusades, was captured and thrown into a dungeon. Whilst he was praying, he was miraculously transported back to Staley Hall, only to find that another knight had been given his lands and property by the king, and that he had threatened to dispossess both Lady Elizabeth and her relations unless she consented to marry him. Sir Ro had arrived home just as the wedding preparations had begun.

Before leaving for the crusade, he and Lady Elizabeth had each kept half of their betrothal ring as keepsakes. So Sir Ro was able to prove who he was, rally his old men-at-arms to his support, and overcome the new knight.

Sir Ro and his lady lived a long and happy life together. At their death they were buried here at Mottram Church - which was then the parish church of a large parish stretching from Tintwistle to Stalybridge.



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**19TH
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The **effigies were once positioned** against the south wall of the chapel - the 1820 plan shows them **in the corner**, then in 1895 they are **under the window**.



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The **oak screens and pews** in here, and the **canopied seats** (now placed elsewhere around the church), date to 1858 when the chapel was bought by the **Chapman** family from the **Earl of Stamford and Warrington**. A newspaper article from that time reports that the floor was covered in '**encaustic tiles**'.

A **painting board** bearing the **coat of arms** of the Earl's family was **removed** and sold - it survives in private ownership, somewhere in Yorkshire, and was featured on the **Antiques Roadshow** a few years ago!



heritage open days

In 1932, following the death of **Harold Chapman**, the chapel was gifted to the church, and three years later, **extensively re-configured** to suit its new use:

The **three pews**, facing into the chancel, were made into **six pews** facing the window. They were completely dismantled (it was **modular** - like 19th century IKEA!), then **reassembled** into the arrangement you see here today.

In the photograph, taken sometime before 1930, you can just see the **screen**, through the archway on the right. There is now an opening there into the south aisle.

continued



Four **wooden spindles** (from the screen) were **re-cycled as an altar rail**.

This was said to have been done by Robert Thompson of Kilburn, complete with trademark **mouse** carved into the base of one of the newel posts. We now know that the work was carried out by local craftsman **Harry Buckley!**

Unfortunately, the **ancient stone effigies** ended up **half hidden** between these new pews and the new choir pews, in a cutout **underneath the oak screen**.

The **canopied seats** were **distributed** around the church.



OUR PLANS FOR THE STAVELEY CHAPEL

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We propose to keep the Staveley Chapel as a **place for quiet private prayer.**

There would be just **one bank of pews** placed centrally in the chapel. We would **re-use** as many of the high quality **historic wooden panels** and pew ends as possible.

We would like to move the stone effigies of **Sir Ralph and Lady Elizabeth Staveley** out from under the screen to a **more visible** position wholly inside the chapel.

We would **restore** some of the **canopied seats** from the chancel back to their original pre-1930 locations, inside the chapel.

We think this will preserve the chapel as a special, quiet space, and will enhance the display of some of our most important heritage.

We'd love to know what you think:



~ Fill in a paper or on-line **questionnaire** ~ Pop a disk into one of the **voting boxes** ~ Leave a **post-it** comment on one of the white boards ~

mottramparish.org.uk/heritage/bigplan



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