

9. This is the door to the tower and spire. Unfortunately access is currently restricted as there are significant problems with the stonework which needs extensive (and expensive) repairs. The tower contains a single bell from 1734 which was re-used at St Matthew's after being decommissioned from a church in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Also we have an increasingly rare example of a playable set of eight chimes which are rung every Sunday.

10. Conclude your tour by stepping outside and taking in the totality of the building. The top of the spire is 53m high (Nelson's Column is 52m!) The donor wanted a monumental statement for his money, and got one.

Today, we continue a long-standing tradition of worship here in our much-loved but slightly crumbling Church building. Over the years God has richly blessed this place and we pray that God will bless you on your visit and beyond.

More detailed information sheets are available on some aspects of our church; please do ask for copies.

Our Sunday services are usually held at 9.15am and 11.00am; you'll be very welcome.

We have other activities across the week and are keen to share God's grace and his unconditional love for each one of us by reaching out into our community.

St Matthew's Church, Surbiton:

- consecrated in 1875;
- paid for by one man - William Coulthurst, senior partner of Coutts Bank;
- includes unique items;
- Grade II listed for "special architectural or historic interest";
- currently on Historic England's 'at risk' Register.

The main building is 40m long, 25m wide and 19m high.

We hope you enjoy your tour.



St Matthew's Surbiton

A brief guide

St Matthew's Church
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Surbiton KT6 6JQ

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 StMatthewsChurchSurbiton

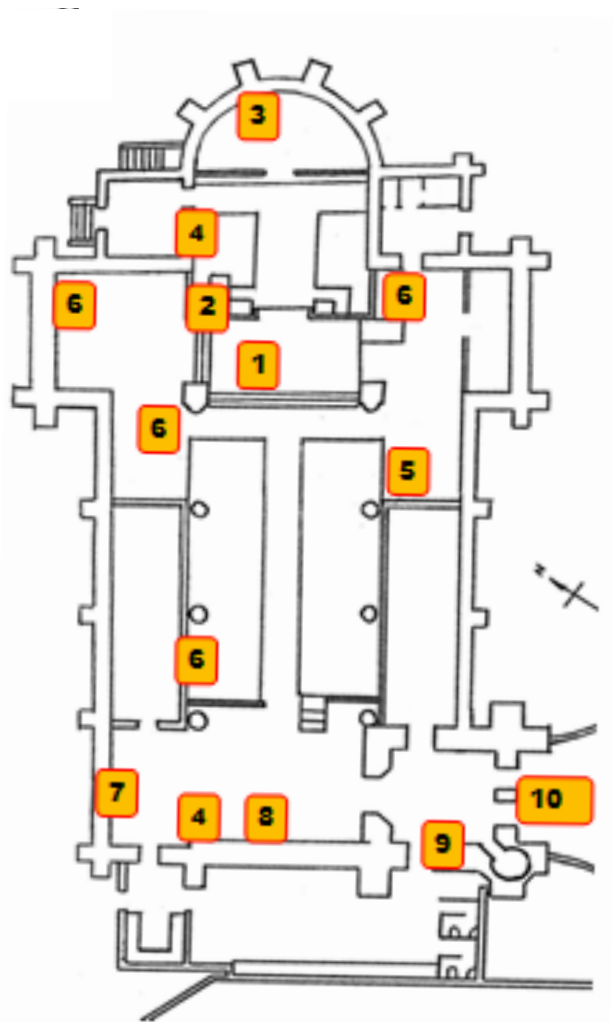
Your tour guide

1. As you look around (and up) you may find it surprising to think that in 1873 you would have been standing in a field with only one house anywhere near. Two years later this magnificent building was being used to worship God. Imagine the effort, dedication and devotion it would have taken to complete this work.

2. In 1976 the organ console was moved from its original position under the pipes to where we see it now on the opposite side of the Chancel to allow for better communication between the organist and choir. The instrument still contains much of the original Victorian installation but later additions have extended its range and power, including new wind-chests to supply the air to several thousand pipes. The organ was built by William Hedgeland, a little-known London manufacturer, but was upgraded in 1906-7 by the more famous J.J. Binns of Leeds and again in 1962 by Walkers.

3. The windows here show a selection of Jesus' apostles with many religious symbols. The glass is from 1953 and replaces the Victorian windows blown out when a V1 flying bomb exploded nearby. You can still see some cracks in the stonework below the windows which were also caused by WW2 enemy action.

4. These Victorian wall-paintings are easily overlooked. High up in the Chancel are the texts of The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. These fundamentals of the Christian faith would only be routinely seen by the choir and clergy; perhaps they needed reminders! Similar designs by the same artist can be found next to the War Memorial—imagine how fresh they would have looked when they were first painted. We hope to restore them in the future.



5. This beautiful window is the most modern in the building. Installed in 1970, it is in memory of 'Bobs' and Marjorie Caporn who were committed members of St Matthew's, he as 'Vicar's Warden'. The design of the window, by W.T. Carter Shapland, is well worth a close viewing and includes a nurse in the uniform of the old Surbiton Hospital.

6. Throughout the building you'll see many examples of banners and textile art made by our in-house embroidery group. Smarties was set up in 1996, meets weekly and has made many wall hangings, banners and other pieces of textile art. The collection grows year-by-year and forms 'new heritage' within our listed building..

7. Another stunning stained glass window, in memory of the Clayton family who regularly worshipped here. It was installed in 1921; note that one of the sons mentioned died in action at Ypres, although he does not appear on the war memorial. Designed by Louis Davis, an important figure in the Arts and Crafts movement, the window was made by local craftsman Thomas Cowell. A variant of the window can be found in the Stained Glass Museum at Ely.

8. This memorial to local men who died in the First World War is a monumental work by local sculptor Thomas Tarran, a sidesman at St Matthew's. This has been a moving reminder of the impact of war in our parish, and a fitting focus for our Remembrance Service each November. However recent research has revealed more information about the individuals named, where they lived, what they did for a living and so on. They are now more than just names carved in stone, but have become our late neighbours from the last century. We give thanks for their individual sacrifice.

You can give to St Matthew's in many different ways:

- The Offering envelopes in church or by electronic banking
- CAF Donate- 'St Matthew's Church Surbiton'
- Texting 'SJYP£[xx]' to 70070 or
- By using Give As You Live

