

Statement of Significance High Legh: St John



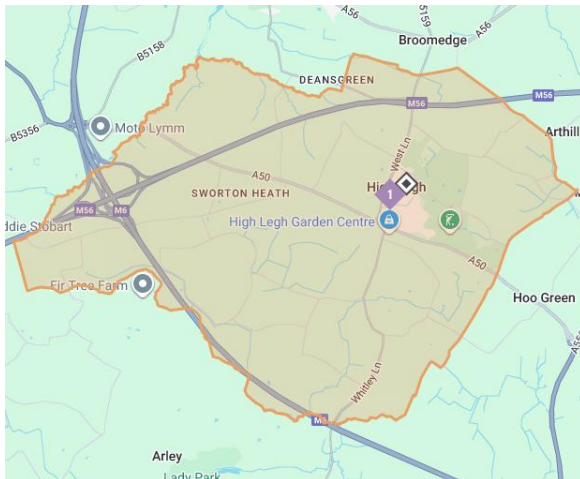
Setting of Church

The church is set on The Avenue, a minor road running parallel to West Lane, High Legh, grid reference SJ 70030 84119.

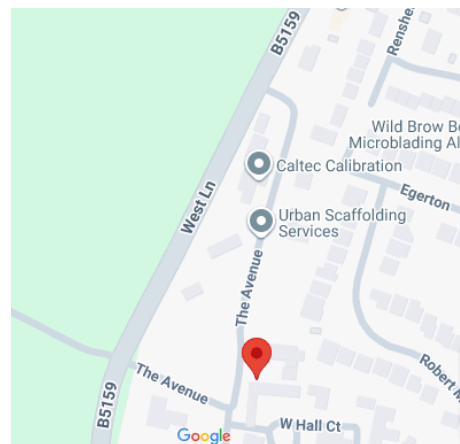
High Legh is a rural parish. The church is on the edge of the more built-up area of the village which comprises an area of three housing estates and associated properties. This area is surrounded by scattered rural properties and farms. The population of the village is 1653 (2021 Census) in 682 households.

The Church is surrounded by a garden.

Map showing the parish location. The motorways shown are the M6 and M56.



Map showing detail of church location



Description

The church is the third on the site and was built in 1893. It is ashlar, with red Flemish bond brick and timber framing with rendered infill. The lower stone walls to the whole body of the church are a retention of the lower walls of the former church destroyed by fire in 1891. The church is a Grade 2 Listed building.



Pictures showing the inside of the church looking east

The interior of the church is red brick. There is a central nave aisle and no side chapels or transepts. The organ is on the south side behind the choir stalls. The font and a small children's area are at the back on the church on the north side. At the west end of the church a narthex is screened from the main church.

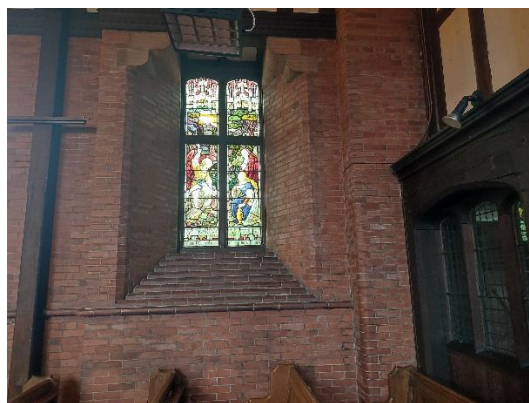


View of the rear of the interior of the church looking west

North side, west end font and children's area



South side, west end area proposed for flag and roll of honour



Items of special significance

Stained glass windows

The main East window shows the Nativity and adoration of the Shepherds and Magi (1896). It is unusual in that the Virgin Mary is seated on a wellhead, with the water clearly visible.

The rear South window shows the resurrection – He is risen (1900)

The North window near the pulpit depicts Christ blessing the Little Children (1918)

The front South window near the lectern depicts ‘I will make you fishers of men’ (2008)

The pews and choir stall are oak and are expertly carved, some are marked ‘West Hall’ (the church was originally the chapel for the West Hall estate).

The font was donated by the Mothers Union is inscribed ‘The Gift of Grateful Mothers’.

The organ is a single manual pipe organ built by Abbott and Smith in 1894.

In the porch there is an inscription stone from the previous church on this site which burnt down. The stone is inscribed in Latin, the translation reads:

‘To God the best and greatest. On this very site in the year of our Lord 1408 the piety of our Ancestors placed a small chapel which in our time has fallen into decay. This little sanctuary Egerton Leigh made it his care to renew, when in Anno Domini 1815 peace was restored.’

