

# HAGLEY CHURCHES

**MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY!**

**THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST, WITH ST. SAVIOUR'S, HAGLEY**



The Diocese of Worcester was founded in 680, based on the kingdom of the Hwicce. Thus the Parish of Hagley would have been formed in Saxon times. After the Norman Conquest the manor of Hageleia makes its appearance in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when a priest is listed amongst its inhabitants.

There may have been a wooden church building, on a site occupied since by successive Parish Churches dedicated to St. John, Baptist: probably Norman, certainly Medieval and Victorian. The present church, a re-building of the 1850's, contains remnants from the 12th and 13th centuries. 16th century descriptions exist of ancient stained glass and of the removal of an altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The small Medieval nave was enlarged in the 18th century by the first Lord Lyttelton, builder of the present Hagley Hall. A north aisle was added in 1827. Testimonial subscriptions by the people of Worcester to the fourth Lord Lyttelton enabled him to pay for the further enlarged Victorian re-building, designed by G. E. Street in 13th century Gothic style.

The Parish became smaller in 1888 when Blakedown left to be joined with Churchill Parish, but the gradual growth of Lower Hagley following the arrival of the railway in 1852, created a need there for a Mission Room in 1882, then a new Church, St. Saviour's in 1908. The Mission Room/Church Hall closed in 1972 and a Hall was added to St. Saviour's.

With growing populations in the 20th century both churches have continued to flourish, in spite of a threat of redundancy to St. John's when substantial repairs were necessary in the early 1980's. Each church has a distinct identity and ambience. St. Saviour's in West Hagley, has the advantage of ease of access whilst St. John's has an incomparable site near Hagley Hall.

The ecclesiastical Parish of Hagley has endured for well over a thousand years through Conquest and Reformation. Here's to the next 1000 years!

Jean Pritchard