

This was a strong argument for the extension, and there is now a large area available for building purposes within the borough boundaries. Within recent years fine churches, chapels, and other buildings have been erected, adding to the architectural appearance of the town. There is a growing demand for houses within the Borough area, especially in the newer portions.

Places of Worship.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

ST. MARY'S.—Without doubt the Parish Church of Stockport (St. Mary's) must have had a very ancient foundation, and it is said that a church and an extensive parish existed here prior to the Conquest. No records or remains of the earlier churches are to be found, but the building which preceded the one we now have, and of which the existing chancel formed a part, was erected in the fourteenth century. The tower, which was not so ancient as the nave and chancel, in 1805 was dangerously weakened by reason of the severe shaking it received from the continuous ringing of the bells in celebration of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. The last occasion on which the bells pealed from the ancient tower was on October 13th, 1809, the occasion being the jubilee of King George III. Great dissatisfaction was caused by the whole of the old church (save the chancel) being taken down. Battering rams and gunpowder had to be used to destroy the massive walls of the nave. The foundation-stone of the modern building was laid on July 5th, 1813, and the work of re-building occupied nearly four years, the consecration sermon being preached on July 4th, 1817, by the Rev. Charles Prescott, B.D., Rector of Stockport. The total cost of the church was £42,886. The building is a most interesting one, and contains many ancient monuments. The Rev. Canon W. Symonds, M.A., is the present Rector, he having been appointed in 1875, in succession to the late Rev. C. K. Prescott, who died at the age of 88 years, he and his father having held the living of Stockport for a period of 92 years. On the death of Mr. Prescott the parish of Stockport was divided into two rectories, St. Mary and St. Thomas.

St Mary's Parish Church—Rev Canon Symonds, M.A., rector and surrogate; Rev A R R Hutton, B.A., and Rev H Felix, B.A., curates. Mr C Swain, organist; A Davies, 64, Churchgate, apparitor. Services: Sundays, 7-30 (Holy Communion), 10-30 a.m. and 6-30 p.m.; Men's service, 2-30 p.m.;—*St Stephen's*, Hillgate: Services: Sunday, Holy Communion 7-30 a.m.; Matins and Sermon 10-30 a.m.; afternoon service, 3; Evensong and Sermon, 6-30 p.m.—*St Andrew's*, Newbridge Lane: Rev A R R Hutton, B.A. Services: Sundays, Morning 10-30, Evening 6-30.

ST. THOMAS'S.—The history of this church is told on three tablets affixed to the wall under the west gallery. The church was erected by the Commissioners for the building of additional churches, and the first stone was laid by Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., on the 7th October, 1822. The Viscountess Bulkeley, the patroness of the Parish

Church of Stockport, presented the site for the church and the burial ground. The consecration took place on September 26th, 1825, by the Right Rev. Charles James, Lord Bishop of Chester, the first incumbent being the Rev. Martin Gilpin. The famous Wren, of Manchester, built the organ in 1834, and it has since been enlarged. Great improvements have been made in the appearance of the church. The Rev. H. Sewell, M.A., is the rector.

St Thomas' Parish Church—Rector, Rev H Sewell, M.A., Surrogate, St Thomas' Rectory; curates, Rev J Fleming Jones, B.A., Rev M H Ridgway, B.A., and Rev S H Jones, B.A.; clerk, Mr W W Wilson, Marriott Street. Services, Sundays, Holy Communion 7-30 every Sunday, 10-30 a.m. first and third Sundays; Matins and Sermon 10-30 a.m.; Litany, first and third Sundays, 3-45 p.m.—*Mission Church of St John the Divine*, Mottram Street: Sunday, Holy Communion second Sunday at 7-30 a.m.; Evensong, 6-30 p.m.; Thursdays, Evensong 7-30 p.m.—*Mission Church of St Michael and All Angels*, Bramall: Curate-in-Charge, Rev J Fleming Jones, B.A. Sundays, Holy Communion 8 a.m. and on the first and third Sundays in the month at 10-30 a.m.; Matins and Litany, 10-30 a.m.; Afternoon Service (first Sunday in month), 3; Evensong, 6-30 p.m.; Sunday School, 2-45 p.m.—*St Thomas' Mission Room*, Higher Hillgate: Sunday, Mission Service, 6-30 p.m.; Men's Meeting, 2-30 p.m.; curate-in-charge, Rev M H Ridgway, B.A. Stockport Union Work-house; service and address, Sunday 9 a.m., and Wednesday 6 p.m.

ST. MATTHEW'S.—A Church of England place of worship for Edgeley was first suggested in 1837, when several handsome subscriptions were promised, but owing to local circumstances the project fell through until 1843, when it was revived. The old "Beefsteak Chapel" in Brinksway was purchased by the Church Building Society, and used until 1853 as a mission church. St. Matthew's Church at first consisted of the nave and chancel, the tower and spire being added in 1866. Lord Egerton of Tatton laid the foundation-stone, and Dr. Graham, Bishop of Chester, consecrated the church on May 20th, 1858. There is no gallery, and there is seating accommodation for 642 persons. The tower is 165 feet high, and owing to the elevated position of the church can be seen for miles around. The schools, standing close to the church, were built in 1871, at a cost of £3,000, but additions have since been made. The Rev. E. P. Alexander, M.A., is the vicar.

St. Matthew's Church, Edgeley.—Rev. E. P. Alexander, M.A., vicar; Revs. J. P. Richmond, M.A., and Eustace Lee, M.A., curates. Services daily, morning 10, evening 7-30 p.m.; Sundays, Morning 10-30, Evening 6-30.

CHRIST CHURCH.—Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, of Tatton Park, laid the first stone of Christ Church, Wellington Road North, on July 29th, 1844. The foundation-stones of the Parish Church, St. Thomas' Church, St. Matthew's Church, and St. George's Church were all laid by members of the Tatton family. Mr. Wilbraham Egerton gave the site and endowed the Church with £1,000, the funds for building being raised by voluntary collection, and by £3,400 in grants. Dr. J. Bird Sumner, the then Bishop of Chester, consecrated the church on October 22nd, 1846. Various alterations and additions have been made to the church. The present rector is the Rev. G. C. Little,