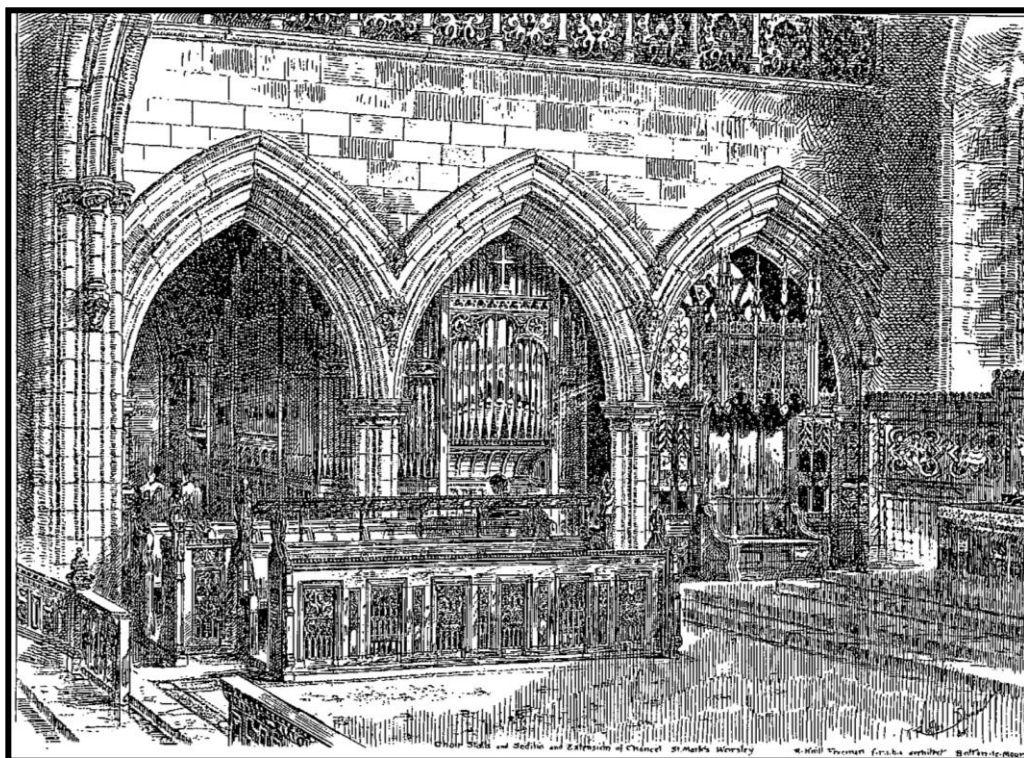


The CHOIR STALLS



[1885 Catalogue Ref. 1823: Part of the chancel of St. Mark's, Worsley. Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts - Architectural room.] Picture and articles by courtesy of David French.

CHANCEL AISLE, ORGAN CHAMBER, &C., ST. MARK'S CHURCH, WORSLEY, FOR THE REV. THE EARL OF MULGRAVE

These works, now approaching completion, have been undertaken with a view to obtaining better accommodation both for the choir and the congregation. The new aisle corresponds in detail and general treatment with the Ellesmere Chapel, on the south side of the chancel. It will be used as an organ chamber and choir vestry, and will also give a number of additional sittings. The removal of the organ from its present position at the end of the south aisle, and taking the choir into the chancel, will also add considerably to the accommodation.

The whole of the woodwork is in oak, the screen sedilia and choir stalls being elaborately carved (the latter were exhibited at the Building Trades Exhibition held in Manchester last year. The floor of the chancel is of ceramic mosaic of appropriate character, the sacrarium having the pelican. Lion, and other ecclesiastical emblems introduced. The contractors for the whole of the works are Messrs. Statham and Sons, Pendleton, the carving being executed by Messrs. Earp and Hobbs, of London and Manchester ; the mosaic floors by Mr. Ludwig Oppenheimer, of Manchester ; and the stonework by Mr. Darbyshire, of Worsley. All the works are from the designs of Mr. R Knill Freeman, FRIBA, of Bolton-le-Moors. The cost of the extension is about £2,000.

(The British Architect - 23 May 1884.)

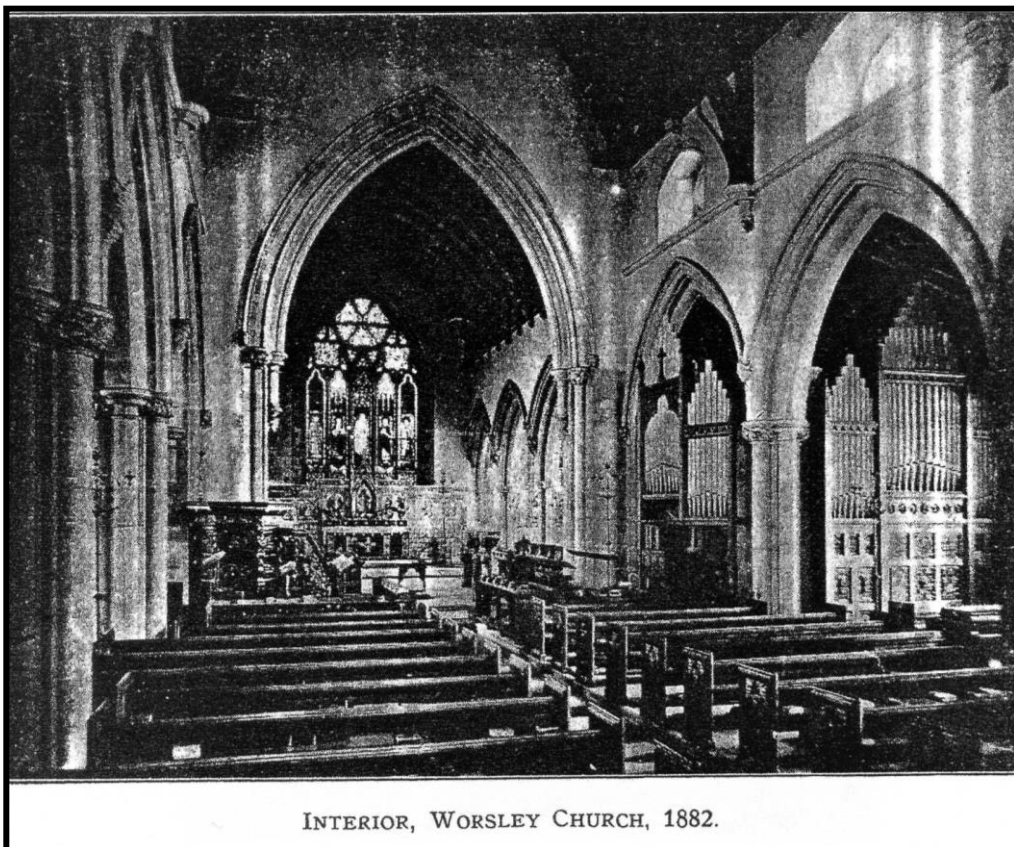
Richard Knill Freeman was a British architect who began his career at Derby and moved to Bolton, Lancashire in the late 1860s. His work, in Victorian Gothic style and typically recalling the Decorated Period of later medieval architecture, can be seen in several cities and towns across the north of England.

His office was versatile and prolific. Buildings included churches, schools, houses, pubs, piers, libraries and museums. He designed about 140 new buildings and carried out over sixty major restorations/additions. His work included new churches, restorations, vicarages, schools, homes, museums, municipal buildings and hospitals.

ST. MARK'S, WORSLEY.—Several important alterations are being carried out at the handsome church of St. Mark, Worsley, near Manchester, of which the Earl of Mulgrave is the vicar. The improvements embrace the laying down of a new floor in the chancel and sacrarium, the removal of the organ, the provision of new carved oak choir stalls, the erection of a new organ chapel, &c., which will entail an expenditure of about £2,100. Towards this sum the Earl of Ellesmere has contributed £200, and the Hon. Algernon F. Egerton, M.P. (who is one of the churchwardens), £50, the residents of the locality subscribing the balance. A local committee (consisting of Lord Mulgrave, the Hon. A. Egerton, Mr. Wm. Wilson, and Mr. Robert J. Wood) has been formed for the carrying out of the necessary arrangements; Mr. R. Knill Freeman, of Bolton, being the architect employed.

(*The Manchester Courier* - Thursday 29 May 1884)

Apart from the sketch of the 'new' choir stalls, the illustration is important since it shows the presence at that time of the Reredos. It also shows a wooden rail at the entrance to the Chancel. The most striking feature is the 'new' location of the organ, which had previously occupied a large space in the south aisle, before the Ellesmere Chapel. In 1884, it was moved across the Chancel to occupy the middle arch.



INTERIOR, WORSLEY CHURCH, 1882.