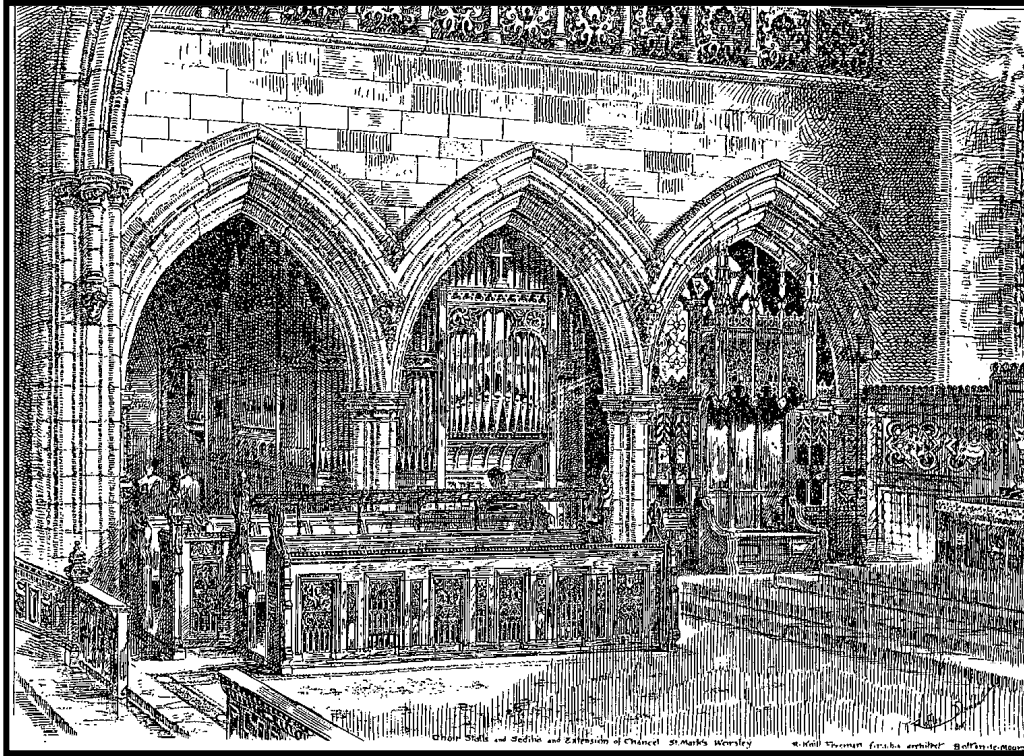


R. KNILL FREEMAN



1885 Catalogue Ref. 1823 Part of the chancel of St. Mark's, Worsley. Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts - Architectural room.

the Rev. Canon Heron, M.A., rural dean of Bowdon.

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.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS

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.)

info@tacsuk.org

Thomas Earp's practice expanded in 1864 when he went into partnership with another sculptor, Edwin Hobbs Senior (c.1841-1904). Together they opened premises in Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester on Lower Mosley Street, later moving to premises in Moss Side. While Hobbs was based in Manchester, Earp worked from the London office at 32 Canterbury Place, Lambeth Walk. In the late 1880s the business was renamed Earp, Son and Hobbs, and by 1900 it was trading as Earp and Hobbs Ltd. Thomas Earp's son, Edgar Earp worked in the practice along with Edwin Hobbs Junior.

The firm of Ludwig Oppenheimer was founded in 1865 and based at Blackburn Street, Old Trafford, Manchester (a mosque now uses the site) and operated until 1965. Its mosaics are known in Ireland, England, France and one in the United States. Bizarrely, for a Manchester based firm, most of its known work is in Ireland, so much remains to be learnt about its work in Britain.

North Side choir stall:

1. The cross, three nails, the reed with the sponge filled with vinegar and the spear with which the Roman soldier pierced the side of Our Lord.
2. The thirty pieces of silver and the cord on which they were strung.
3. Christ's seamless robe and the dice used by the Roman soldiers when they cast lots for the possession of the robe.
4. The lantern, the sword and stave associated with the arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

South Side choir stall:

1. The ladder, the pincers and hammer used in the crucifixion and afterwards in taking down the Body from the Cross.
2. The Sacred Heart, the pierced hands and feet and the Blood flowing into a chalice.
3. The Crown of Thorns.
4. The whipping post and two scourges.