

The ELLESMERE CHAPEL

This was originally the family's **private chapel**, with its own small entrance door in the south wall (with a path leading to the New Hall) with pews facing inwards. The family left Worsley in 1923 - the fourth Earl sold all his interests in the area to the Bridgewater Estates Ltd for £1m and in 1928 the chapel was reordered to form a weekday chapel.

It contains many monuments, including some good quality Victorian brasses, to the four Earls of **Ellesmere** and their families. The first three Earls and their wives are interred in the vault below (accessed from the outside of the church), which was originally equipped with gas lighting whilst the rest of the church remained lit by candlelight. The granite tomb in the corner of the Chapel is a memorial to the second Earl of Ellesmere. 6 members of the extended family are also interred there, together with the ashes of 2 other family members.



Between the Chapel and Chancel are two supporting pillars, one with the initials **FE** (Francis Egerton), the founder of the Church. The arches on either side were originally open, leading from the Chancel to the private chapel. The second pillar was added in 1862 when the Chapel was extended and bears the initials **HE** (Harriet Egerton), the Dowager Countess of Ellesmere.



The chapel today is separated from the chancel by a fine wrought iron screen and gate, decorated with coronets and other Ellesmere insignia. It was probably the work of J.B. Skidmore.

It is believed that the **screen** was originally erected as part of the Memorial to the First Earl of Ellesmere, though in 1862 it stood in the position now occupied by the chapel communion rails.