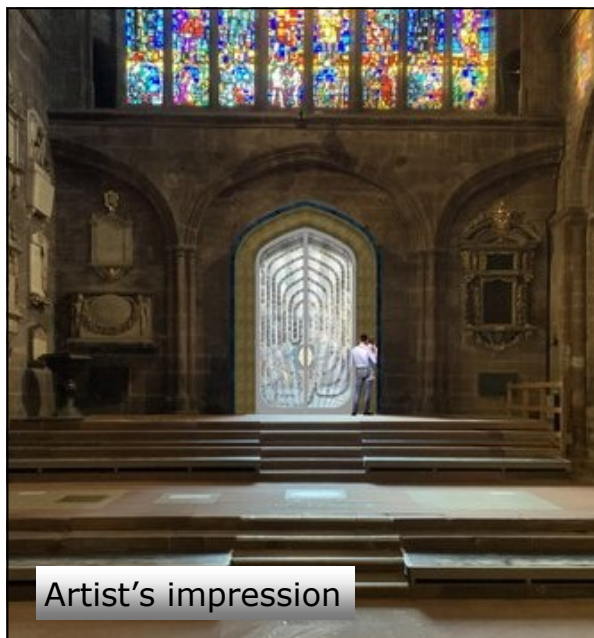


## The Pilgrim Porch

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### **Chester Cathedral's new Pilgrim Porch**

is a story of Christian beginnings and Christian journeys which will be unveiled later this year as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Led by Chester Cathedral and esteemed Cheshire-based artist, Stephen Broadbent, Pilgrim Porch aims to capture a snapshot of worshipping life in Cheshire.

Every parish church in the diocese has been invited to participate in this exciting and historic commission by contributing a photographic submission which will be permanently encapsulated into the design of the glass doors.

Bishop Mark says: "It is relatively rare that an artist is commissioned to create a new permanent fixture for the interior of a medieval Cathedral.

"Once it is completed our medieval west doors will be open and passers-by will be able to glimpse through the beautiful glass doors into the Cathedral and down the nave to the quire at the heart of the Cathedral. The porch will open the Cathedral to the city, inviting those outside to explore further our beautiful Cathedral and discover the community that can be found inside."

More online at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/every-church-invited-to-contribute-to-new-jubilee-artwork.php>

## The Pilgrim Porch (continued)

### St. Michael and All Angels, Mottram-in-Longdendale

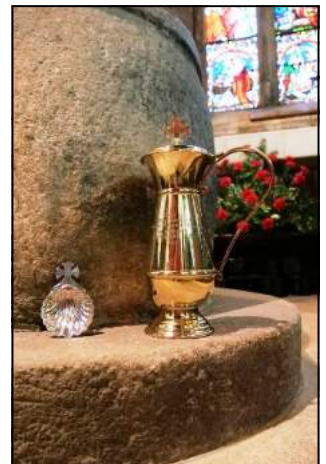
For our submission to the Pilgrim Porch we have chosen the **Stone barrel font**

The font is the oldest item in the church, pre-dating the present medieval building by perhaps 300 years. It is a 'barrel' font, hewn out of a single block of stone, dating back to the 12th century or even

earlier. It has been in at least one other position in this building - in the base of the tower - and was moved to its present spot by the entrance in 1895, mounted on an old millstone from the now demolished Brightomley Mill.

For many years it was missing from its rightful place, put outside possibly by the Puritans in the 17th Century who disliked the Papal associations of the ancient font. It served for many years as a water butt under one of the down-spouts on the south side of the church and it was reported that "the boys attending the old grammar school had been in the habit of washing their slates therein"!

It was brought back into the church in 1855. We've chosen the font due to its role in baptising new Christians into the family of the church, its witness to past generations for almost a thousand years, and its link to the community in surrounding area through its local stone and the millstone from old Hattersley, both probably quarried from nearby Tintwistle Knarr.



## The Pilgrim Porch (continued)

### **Magdalene Centre Broadbottom**

For our submission, we've chosen the bell gable, with its single bell, an iconic part of the building, visible up and down the main road in the village of Broadbottom.

Older residents will recall its role in calling the faithful to worship over its 120 year history.

In the late 1870s, the vicar of Mottram and local landowners and worthies gave money and land for a daughter church in Broadbottom, and St. Mary Magdalene was built in 1890.

Between 2008 and 2012, planning and fundraising saw the re-development of the church building as 'The Magdalene Centre', our new Parish Hall and Worship Space. The children of the local school chose to name the first phase of that work - The Chapman Room, funded by Tameside MBC - in memory of Edward Chapman who had contributed so much to the church and school.

Since then the building has continued to be used occasionally for worship, but has also fulfilled an important outreach role as a resource for many community groups and local people.

It is in use by regular daily users - before and after school clubs, scouting groups, a theatre club, exercise and fitness classes, our church youth group - and also for events such as parties, concerts and charity fundraisers.

