

## The Church

### 'The Parish Church of Charles, King and Martyr, Peak Forest.'

The Church is one of four churches within the Church of England Parish of Wormhill and Peak Forest with Peak Dale and Dove Holes. The building is a fine example of late Victorian neo-Gothic architecture, standing close to the site of an earlier building erected in 1657, now demolished. The building is Grade II listed.



With its history of 'Gretna Green' weddings, and its unusual dedication to King Charles I, the Church enjoys considerable tourist potential. Future plans might, therefore, include creating an exhibition area in the south aisle.

Plans are well advanced to reorder the interior of the building as follows

- To install a toilet for the disabled in the area adjoining the porch
- To reorder the Needham Chapel with modern seating, electric storage heaters and a coffee point
- To improve access for the disabled

Funding will need to be sought to realise these plans.

The prevailing state of the Church grounds has a significant visual impact as seen from the main A623 which passes alongside it. The grounds are currently maintained on a voluntary basis and during the summer of 2003 dramatic improvements to the condition of the churchyard have been achieved. This improvement has encouraged more people to visit the church and graveyard and we are aware of people visiting from as far afield as Leek and Saddleworth. It is acknowledged that much effort will be needed in future to try and maintain the improvements that have been made in the upkeep of the grounds.