

# All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead

## GOTHIC ARCHES

All Saints was built in 1857 by one of the foremost architects of the Victorian era – George Edmund Street. It is an outstanding example of a neo-gothic church built as part of the Oxford Movement and the work of the Ecclesiological Society in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



The Oxford Movement, known as the Tractarians, followed John Keble's Assize sermon of July 1833 which protested against Parliament deciding to suppress several Irish Bishops rather than the Church making its own decision. Following this Keble, Newman, Pusey and others began to write Tracts in the Times against national Apostasy. Through the Tractarian rediscovery of the holiness of the sacraments, worship and the Priesthood, as well as a strong focus on social responsibility, a spiritual revival led not only to the reform and renewal of the Church of England but an enormous amount of church building both urban and rural.

The Cambridge and Campden Society, also known as the Ecclesiologists, promoted excellence in church building, furnishings, music and liturgy, and encouraged the relationship between the Tractarian theology and Gothic architecture.

**A prominent feature of a gothic building is the use of pointed arches, as in the above picture, and the stone and brickwork of All Saints includes a proliferation of such arches, inside and out.**

The following two pictures are further examples, of which there are many throughout the church



**But the building itself is not the only place where the pointed arches occur; they are also in the stand-alone stonework.**

By the South (quadrangle) entrance the font is embellished with arches (first picture)  
 And to the front of the church on the left there are arches incorporated in the pulpit (second picture).



In the chancel the mediaeval-style wall decoration contains arches



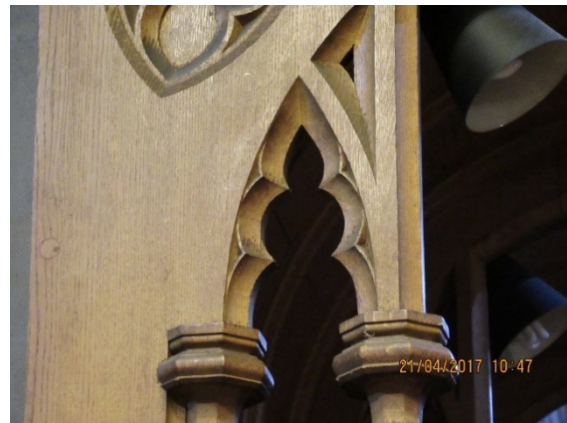
Arches are prominent in the shape of the sedilia (seats) In the



Sanctuary to the right of the High Altar

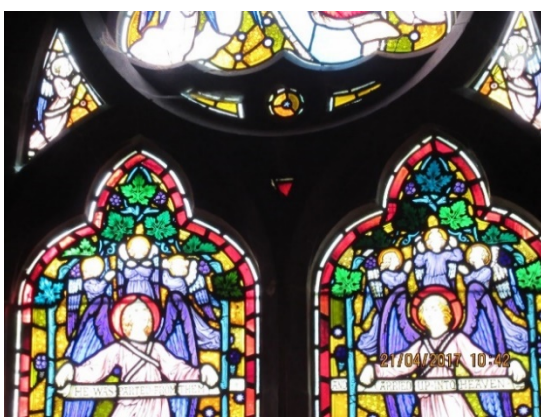
**The woodwork also often reflects the gothic arch**

This is a detail from the canopy over the curate's stall on the left of the chancel, and is replicated in the vicar's stall across the aisle.



Every bench has a pointed arch at each end.

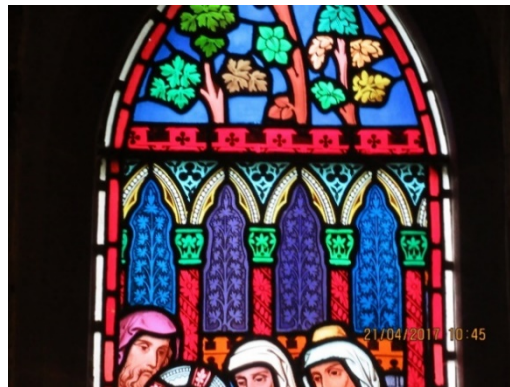
Also look above the South porch.



Now turn your attention to the stained glass windows, which are set in

pointed arches and each light is set in arched tracery

Look very carefully within the stained-glass imagery itself and yet more examples can be seen



And finally study the great east window depicting scenes from Our Lord's Passion and look at a single panel.

This arch is repeated many times in the window, as is the stone tracery and the large arch framing the whole, altogether some fifteen arches.



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