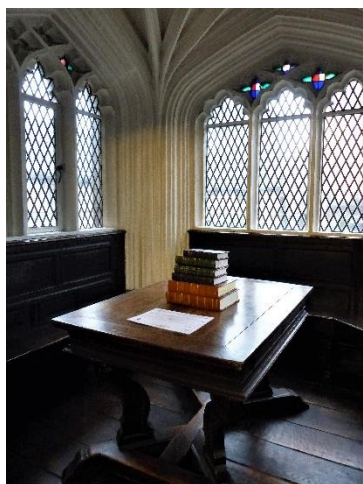


HALE & DISTRICT U3A PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 2 VISITS CHETHAM'S LIBRARY ON 13TH FEBRUARY



The famous Reading Room desk

Nine members of Photography 2 boarded the tram, on the Bury line, from Altrincham to Victoria to visit Chetham's Library and Manchester Cathedral. Our first stop was Chetham's where we filed in via the main gate and were met by Lucretia, who escorted us to the foot of the staircase, explained how small the library was and outlined the rules on photography. The library is really very beautiful. We sat at the famous desk in the alcove window of the Reading Room where Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels studied the early English economists and saw the London printing press, the sign advising us 'not to touch' and where we 'must careful be'. Chetham's Library is definitely well worth a visit and maybe a lunchtime concert at Chetham's School of Music while you're there.

After lunch we went on to Manchester Cathedral for our tour. We were met by Catherine Critchley, who has been a tour guide for four years and knows her cathedral very well. We found out that there has been a stone church on the site for nearly 600 hundred years. Previously there was one made of wood mentioned in the Domesday Book going back to 1086. The leading merchants of the town, grown prosperous from the wool trade, endowed the church with a number of chantry chapels. Each chapel had a priest paid to say regular prayers for the souls of the dead. After this practice was banned during the Reformation, the walls dividing the chapels were demolished. Manchester Cathedral now has the widest nave of any church in England.



Group members in the nave with our guide



The magnificent Stoller organ

On 28th October 1787 this church hosted the first mass meeting of the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The great speaker Thomas Clarkson addressed a packed congregation. On 22th December 1940 the Cathedral suffered the worst wartime damage of any UK cathedral other than Coventry and the Fire Window marks where the bomb fell. In 2017 the mighty Stoller Organ was installed; it can be played from either of two consoles: a mechanical action screen console on the north side of the case or the mobile electric action console in the nave.

There is so much to see you could spend days looking around the whole building. However, we only stayed a couple of hours, took lots of photographs and finally thanked Catherine for telling us about this splendid building. We had also been advised to take a look at the 15th century Hanging Bridge and a few of us did. The two remaining members decided to stop at the nearby *propertea* café for a welcome cuppa and a delicious scone, jam and cream, the perfect ending to our day out.