

## St Mary's, Shrewsbury

St Mary's is all that a parish church in a great medieval borough should be. It witnesses the development of Norman/Gothic styles through its expansion – tower, aisles, longer chancel, clerestory. The 'new' arcades supporting the old nave walls are very refined. The 1200 porch with its upper room is attractive.

The impressive wooden nave roof dates from the fifteenth century and is typically decorated with animals, birds and angels; one of the south doors reuses wood from the old rood screen. But the treasure of the Church is its glass: the east window, installed in 1792, houses one of the best English medieval (c. 1340) Jesse windows, originally from the dissolved Greyfriars. One benefactor bought glass from Herchen and Trier in 1801; another from Altenberg Abbey, St Aspern (Cologne) and Dutch and Flemish churches in 1845. This has created one of the most important collections of church glass in the UK.

*Jeremy Rycroft*