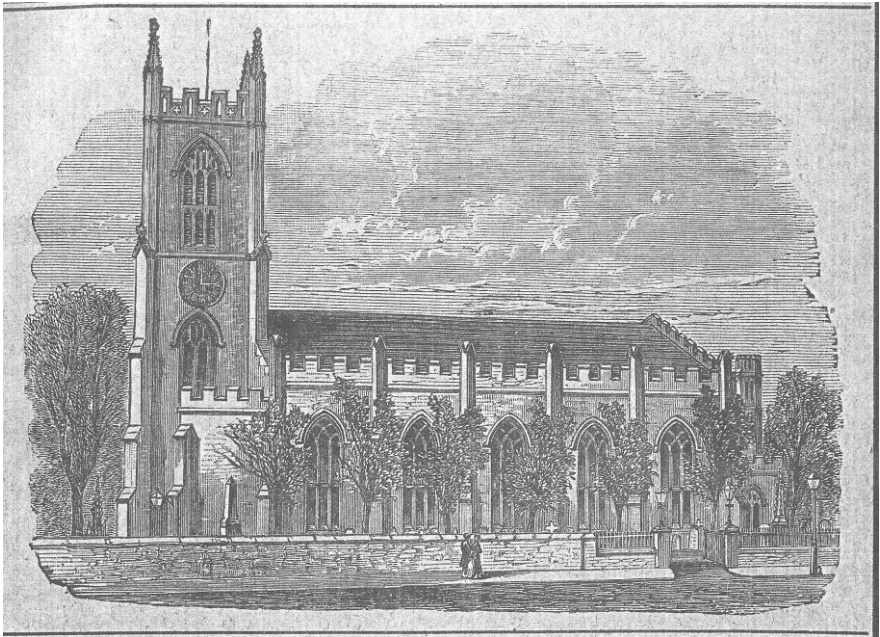


**THE PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST PAUL, SHIPLEY**



A SHORT HISTORY

2016

Shipley in 1800

The first few years of the 19th century were momentous for Britain. George II had reigned since 1760, though was now suffering mental illness (Prince George became Regent in 1811 and king in 1820). The 1801 Act of Union had joined Ireland to Great Britain. Wars with France, culminating in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and the Treaty of Vienna in 1816, left Britain in debt. The locking out of British traders from continental trade drove the finding of new markets in the rest of the world. The population had grown to about 9 million having nearly doubled in a century. There was both social upheaval and changes in work as mechanisation of production increased. Agriculture was still the largest employer but increasing employment within factories brought about moves to and growth of the cities, especially in the north of England. The growth of the cities led to problems of poor housing, overcrowding, poverty and disease. Protests at unemployment of craft workers saw riots and destruction of machinery (Luddites). At the same time there was real poverty and food riots.

In 1818 the government of Lord Liverpool passed the Church Building Act, providing £1 million for the building of new C of E churches in the expanding cities. These churches are often called “Commissioners Churches” or “Waterloo Churches”. The 1818 Act laid down that no fewer than one fifth of the seats were to be for the poor of the parish without payment (free-seats).

Shipley at the beginning of the 19th century was still only a large village. The Leeds-Liverpool and Bradford canals had been in operation for about 25 years but there were few good roads. The main road north from Bradford went up what is now Toller Lane and there was also a road over Cottingley Moor to Cottingley Bridge, Bingley and beyond. From Shipley centre there was a track to Bradford running from Market Place via Shipley Fields, Frizinghall to join Manningham Lane: and secondly the track leading to Bingley, which ran along what is now called Saltaire Road to join the Bradford/Bingley road at Moor End. Moor Lane ran from the Market place as far as Crowgill, then a quarry.

Although a village, Shipley boasted several Halls and fine houses. Shipley Old Hall, a building, in Elizabethan style; Shipley Low Hall

was situated on the high ground above the ravine down to the Bradford Beck; Shipley House, which had the appearance of having been built about 1700 and The Over Hall or Manor House at the upper corner of Hall Lane, with very large farm attached.

As well as the halls, there were in the lower parts down to the Leeds – Liverpool canal (1774) clusters of other dwellings. Low Lane (Briggate) and Chapel Lane contained a few cottages. There were some stocks in the area by the now Sun Inn, handy for the nearby house of Mr Justice Myers. There were a few public houses; Shops were opening and there were several mills. Bethel Baptist church had been built in 1758 and the Wesleyan Providence chapel in the early 1800s. However, at the start of the 19th century Shipley had no Church of England building. It was part of the Parish of Bradford and worshippers had to travel on horseback or on foot to the Church of St. Peter in Bradford.

Building St Pauls'

Shipley Parish Church owes its origin to the 1818 fund, but it was one of the last churches to be awarded a grant. Under the guidance of Rev Henry Heap, a petition was signed on 20th September 1818 by a number of Shipley men requesting a church. A site was also required and John Wilmer Field of Heaton, the Lord of the Manor, donated one acre of ground for the purpose on Shipley Low Moor. The Commissioners appointed Mr. J. Oates of Halifax, as architect to draw up plans for a Gothic style church. The foundation stone was laid on 5th November 1823 by the Rev, Henry Heap, Vicar of Bradford. The trowel used in this is still in the possession of the church.

Three years in building, St Paul's was completed in 1826, at a total cost of £7,687.19s.3d. It was a perpendicular style building with 5-bay nave and aisle under one roof, a small chancel, and a tall, square west tower with main west door. Much of the stone for the church came from the Gaisby Quarries. There was no clock. There were doors into 2-storey porches at either side of the tower from which stairs led up to the gallery level. Inside, the galleries extended on north, south and west sides of the church. Downstairs in the nave there were 'box pews', having high sides and a door into the aisle. The fixings for these pews

can still be seen on some of the pillars. There were aisles in the centre and at the sides and plain painted wood. The original capacity of seating was for 1488 people. There was no chancel and all the windows were of plain glass. There was no heating in the church and no lighting except for a candle for the preacher to see his notes. There were a Pulpit and a Reading Desk and beneath the Reading Desk was a desk for “the Clerk.” These stood on the space now occupied by the Choir Stalls. There was no organ and music was provided in a ‘singing pew’ in the West gallery by a small choral society and “an odd admixture of instrumentalists.” An organ was purchased in 1829, made by Ward of York and installed at the west end of the church. The first six bells were installed in the tower in 1826. The Rev Henry Heap presented the church with a communion set (paten and chalice) and service books.

On 30th May 1828 King George IV signed an Order in Council and the parish was now legally established as the Parish of Shipley-cum-Heaton. A few months later the Rev. Thomas Newberry, M.A. was appointed as the first vicar on £50/yr and lived in Low Lane Rev. Newberry, a bachelor, served the parish for 16 years, until 1845. He was responsible for the planting of the trees in the churchyard. It is also said that Mr. Newberry first drew the attention of the public to the beauties of Shipley Glen.

The first 50 years

Various changes were made. In December 1850, it was agreed to provide heating for the church as damp was appearing in the more exposed parts of the building. In 1867 the original peel of 6 bells received the addition of Tenor and Treble Bells. In the same year, a clock was installed in the tower at a cost of £300, raised by subscription. The clock had three faces about 10ft (3.0m) in diameter and the fourth, on the east side facing Crowgill Park and down the Aire valley, was 12 ft (3.7m).

In January 1865 an Order in Council separated Heaton from Shipley and the Parish Church of Heaton St. Barnabas was erected.

The Jubilee (50 years) of St Paul's was in 1876 and a scheme of re-ordering and improvement was undertaken before that date which produced largely the Victorian interior that we see today. The old box pews were removed and replaced by the present oak pews in four blocks, creating aisles in the centre and between the blocks at the sides. The West Gallery and the East end of the North Gallery were removed, this latter to accommodate the organ, which was moved from the West Gallery and re-erected. The present carved oak facings were placed on both the North and the South Galleries and the side walls of the church were boarded to sill-level with pitch pine. Additional gas brackets were installed to increase the lighting. The chancel was extended to make way for the choir and its floor was raised and covered with encaustic tiles. The present pulpit and the carved Caen stone chancel screen were erected. The 7ft high eagle lectern was given by Mrs. Mason. The space which was formerly the old baptistery was converted into a robing room for the choir (the choir started to wear white surplices at this time). At the same time an alabaster font given by Mr. Fox was placed by the tower entrance at the west end of the church. A new heating apparatus was installed.

In 1836 the Diocese of Ripon was created with parts from the dioceses of Chester and from York. Shipley became a part of this new diocese. In 1911 it was suggested that Ripon should be divided into 5 new dioceses. Whilst this did not happen, the diocese of Bradford was created in 1919 and the Parish Church of St Peter became Bradford Cathedral. Shipley was in its third diocese in 85 years.

The parish ran two Mission premises in addition to the church. There was a "Mission Room" in George Street, Saltaire, and a Mission House in Hargreaves Square, an area of densely packed back-to-back houses in the centre of Shipley.

Progress to the Century

St Peter's parish hall in Moorhead. had been opened in 1894 to meet the needs of housing being erected in the Moorhead and Nab Wood areas. With the still increasing population of Shipley it became obvious that

more needed to be done, so the foundation stone of a new church was laid in 1907, the church consecrated in 1909 and St Peter's parish came into being in 1910.

In 1907 the Edwin and Sarah Ann Lee charity was established for the relief of the poor with a grant of £1000. As a memorial to the two, the West end of the church was panelled with new doors screening off the church from the porch and two church wardens seats provided.

It was decided to erect a War Memorial in the porch to honour those of the parish who had died in the war. It was dedicated on 11th December 1922, along with the reredos in memory of Lt. C G F Sutcliffe..

The Centenary of the Church was in 1926 and it was decided to embark on a scheme of renovation and enhancement. The following was done:

- Electric light installed, the gift of Mr M Akam,
- New heating system with a 'Robin Hood' boiler,
- The organ was rebuilt and an electric blower installed,
- The roof was stripped and reslated
- Some leaded light windows were repaired
- A new Choir Vestry
- Church interior and vestries re-decorated
- Oak panelling fitted in the sanctuary

In addition (1927) a screen was erected on the south side of the choir in memory of Mr Morgan and Lt. Morgan.

Then in 1929 a side chapel (or Lady Chapel) was created in the SE corner in memory of Rev. Arthur Cribb and subscribed for by members of St Paul's and St Peter's churches.

Moving on

There was little immediate effect or comment on the outbreak of war in 1939, however in 1940 it was agreed not to ring the church bells on Sunday mornings and to reduce the Tuesday practice time in case "people not hear the air-raid siren." There was a black-out of the church so that evening services on Sundays could continue to be held at 6.30pm . If bombs started to fall the service would be suspended to allow people "to take shelter in good places under the tower." In

addition the Church clock chimes were suspended as they “may be confused under certain circumstances with the invasion alarm and this might cause difficulties”.

In the late 1950s gravestones in the top (original) graveyard were cleared by the Council and the area grassed. The headstones were placed round the edge of the churchyard or laid flat at the east and west ends and as a path. Graves in the lower churchyard had the inscriptions logged and were felled and the area grassed. The parish keeps the log.

An important change was made in 1970/1 to install a nave altar. The front few pews were removed, the eagle lectern was shortened and moved behind the chancel screen. 24 brass lamps in the form of candlesticks with red shades were added to the choir pews. A slightly raised pavement with communion rails was installed to create a new sanctuary. A new altar was made from the wood recovered from discarded pews. The side chapel was made into a baptistery with the font brought from by the West door. At the West end of the church rows of pews were removed and a wooden screen with glass panels was erected, forming a room at the back of the church (a ‘narthex’). The framework of the screen and its doors were made from the wood of the pews removed and from the screen transferred from the former side chapel. A false ceiling was added with the floor above being strong enough to make another room if required in the future. A kitchen was made in the North West side porch and new toilet facilities were provided on the South West side. A wooden ceiling was added to the main West porch.

In June 1976 the church building was listed as Grade II

Following approval by the Privy Council, the United Benefice of St Paul, Shipley and St Margaret, Frizinghall came into being on 1st March 1983. It had a Team Rector, a Team Vicar, one electoral roll and one PCC. Over the period of the United Benefice there was effort put into joint activities, but with mixed success. Interest in the two congregations was generally low. The PCC report for 1995/96 says that it had been consulted by the Bishop and that, after considering options, it was finally agreed “to request that the current United Benefice should be discontinued”. In 1998 St Paul’s again became a separate parish.

In 2003 the electric wiring was replaced, new modern lighting was installed and the church was re-decorated. The cost, over £100,000 was largely met by the congregation. The area by the font was developed into a Prayer Corner in memory of Michael Ryley, a former director of music at the church, which was dedicated in November 2005.

The 2011 Quinquennial inspection declared that the roof needed attention as a matter of urgency. A proposed scheme was drawn up by the architect and submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for consideration for funding. A survey for asbestos revealed a considerable quantity in the boiler house. This had to be removed before any work could start. It was done at the right time as in January 2015 the boilers broke down and had to be replaced. Work on the South side of the roof (facing Kirkgate) was started in June 2015 and completed at the end of October, with a grant of £145,100 from HLF. Grants from the AllChurches Trust and the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and reclaim of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme assisted the funding, completed by the churches reserves and congregational giving.

St Paul's Today (2016)

After 190 years, St Paul's is still an active church. Services are held every Sunday, sometimes as many as four. The newest is Sunday Extra, a service of informal worship at 11.30am. Worship is a mix of formal Common Worship and informal. The Remembrance Sunday Civic Service is attended by many local people and town authorities. Music is important and St Paul's has an excellent Choir, a Junior Choir, Churpies (1-6 years), a Music Group and the fine organ. Concerts are held regularly in the church (which has a fine music acoustic) and over the years various musicals have been performed. Several church groups meet on a regular basis and the church is used weekly by uniformed organisations and other secular bodies.

Note: Separate guides are available for a tour round the church and for the stained glass.

The Vicars of Shipley

1828 – 1845	Rev. Thomas Newberry
1845 – 1884	Rev. William Kelly M.A.
1884 – 1890	Rev. William Pearson
1890 – 1914	Rev. Arthur William Cribb
1914 – 1918	Rev, Bernard Herklots M.A.
1918 – 1930	Rev. Noel H Harding Jolly M.A.
1930 – 1936	Rev. Evan Basil Alban
1936 – 1954	Rev. William John Perrett
1954 – 1964	Rev. John Keys Fraser
1964 – 1977	Rev. Philip Harry Green
1978 – 1991	Rev. John Richard Henson
1992 – 1995	Rev. John R Poole
1997 – 2008	Rev. Colin R Penfold
2008 -	Rev. Canon Susan M Hope

Some information on the church today is given below.

Welcome to St Paul's

- ❖ **Toilets** are to the left as you go through into the room at the back.
- ❖ A **prayer request** book is in the porch; the area behind the font is for **quiet and prayer**; you are welcome to use either.
- ❖ Our Normal Services for a month are:
 - Sundays:** 8.00am Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)
 - 9.45am Holy Communion (not 2nd Sunday)
 - 9.45am Family Worship (2nd Sunday)
 - 11.30am Sunday Extra (informal worship)
 - Evening – see notices
- Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion
- ❖ You will find more information about special services, church life, about our links with the wider church, and about groups we support, at the back of church, on church display boards, and on our website stpaulsshibley.org, or our Facebook page.

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