



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



**A TOUR ROUND THE
CHURCH**

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1818 the Church Building Act provided £1 million for the building of new C of E churches, often called “Waterloo Churches” Shipley was one of the last churches to be awarded a grant from the 1818 fund before it was exhausted. The Lord of the Manor of Shipley, John Wilmer Field, donated one acre of ground and the foundation stone was laid on 5th November 1823. The church, a perpendicular style building with 5-bay nave, was completed in 1826 and consecrated by the Archbishop of York on 1st November.

Inside, galleries extended on north, south and west sides of the church. In the nave and galleries there were ‘box pews’ with an original capacity of 1488 people. The window glass was plain. A Pulpit and a Reading Desk with desk for “the Clerk”, stood on the space now occupied by the Choir Stalls. There was no heating and no lighting except for a candle for the preacher.

An organ in the west gallery was purchased in 1829 and heating installed in 1850. In 1859 the East Window was erected by Francis Barnett of York: at about the same time gas lighting was installed. Other windows were filled with stained glass over 40 years. At the 1876 Jubilee, the box pews were replaced by the oak pews. 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. 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. An alabaster font was placed by the tower entrance at the west end of the church. This produced the largely Victorian interior that we see today. In 1892 a new organ by J. J. Binns of Leeds was installed.

For the Centenary of the Church (1926) electric light was installed, the organ was rebuilt, oak panelling fitted in the sanctuary and the interior and vestries re-decorated. In 1927 a screen was erected on the south side of the choir and in 1929 a side chapel (or Lady

Chapel) was created in the SE corner in memory of Rev. Arthur Cribb.

In 1970-1 to accommodate a nave altar, the front few nave pews were removed, the eagle lectern was shortened and moved behind the chancel screen. A slightly raised pavement with communion rails was installed to create a new sanctuary with an altar made from the wood recovered from the pews. The 1927 side chapel was made into a baptistery and the font was moved from the West door. At the West end of the church pews were removed and a wooden screen with glass panels was erected to form a room at the back of the church (a 'narthex'). The screen and doors were made from the wood of the removed pews and from the former side chapel screen. Kitchen and toilet facilities were provided. A wooden ceiling and some lighting was added to the main West porch.

In 2003 the wiring was replaced, additional sockets supplied and a new lighting system installed. The church was also redecorated. The area by the font was developed into a Prayer Corner, dedicated in November 2005.

A CHURCH TOUR

Follow the numbers on the plan in the centre of this guide.

Enter the Church through the West Door. On the left is the WW1 Memorial.

1. Porch and War memorial

The porch was panelled in oak in 1889, the work of Mr S Dibb of Shipley, as a memorial to Mr Richard Clairborne Dixon. The ceiling added in 1971. There is a plaque commemorating the 1935 clock.

On the left is a Memorial for members of the parish killed in the 1914-18 War. There are 207 names with all the men listed in strict alphabetic order by surname and with no rank or regiment. The memorial was designed by Messrs T.H. & F. Healey and also constructed by Mr S. Dibb. The carving was by Mr J. Heaton of Shipley. The memorial was dedicated on 11th December 1921.

Continue forward through the two sets of double doors into the parish room and on into the Church. Pause to look at the overall aspect of the inside and the changes that have been made – read history section above.

Turn to the left go over to the north side aisle. There you will see

2. The Stocks Tablet

Timothy Stocks, born in 1788, was steward to J W Field, Lord of Shipley Manor. Stocks had standing in the community and served as Overseer for the Poor Law and on a Grand Jury, he subscribed to the Bradford Hospital and gave to charity. He lived in part of a new wing at Heaton Hall. Timothy Stocks died in 1868 at the age of 80 and is buried with other members of his family in St Paul's Churchyard. The monument to Stocks was given by Mary, Countess of Rosse, the elder daughter of J W Field. Following Field's death, Stocks had remained as agent for the Countess.

Carry on up the aisle and look at the nave altar. It was made in 1970/1 after removing some pews. Go behind the altar and look at the Pulpit and Chancel Screen

3. The Pulpit

A pulpit is a place from where a sermon (talk or address) may be given during a church service. The first St Paul's pulpit was of wood, probably located alongside the pillar at the left side. The pulpit one can see today was put in at the time of the 1876 renovations. The pulpit is supported on a pedestal of Caen stone, having niches containing figures of the Four Evangelists in the same material. The body of the pulpit, however, is of oak, carved in panels, the lower portions being worked in the "linen" pattern which you can see generally throughout the building. The pulpit is of its height so that the people in the galleries may hear the sermon.

Look up at the Organ. What you can see are dummy pipes; the real ones are behind.

4. The Organ

The original organ was at the east end of the north gallery, moved to here as part of the renovations in 1876. The organ builder J J Binns of Leeds built this instrument in 1892. The organ has been described as "one of the best examples of Binn's earlier period". It is "a romantic instrument firmly within the classical European tradition." The organ is a 3-keyboard instrument with Pedal, Choir, Great and Swell. Originally hand-pumped, the organ was later provided with two water-engines to power the blower which "did their work somewhat noisily for many years." They were replaced by a 3-hp electric motor when electricity was available in 1926

Move to the communion rails in front of the East Window and sanctuary. On the left is the Bishop's Chair.

5. The Bishop's Chair

Many Anglican churches keep a specific seat for the Bishop when he (and now she) visits the church. It is often used at a service of confirmation. Note the crest on the chair: a shield with St Peter's keys with a woolsack above (a symbol of the former Bradford Diocese: 1911-2015) surmounted by a mitre – the bishop's hat. A plaque on the pillar at the north-east corner of the chancel records that the Chair and Prayer desk were given by Mr J J Ambler, a former sidesman, in memory of JULIA ANN AMBLER (d. 1937)

6. The East Altar, Reredos and Panelling

The East end of the church within the sanctuary is wholly panelled and with an altar, or “communion table”, against the east wall. Before the nave altar and sanctuary were created, communion was celebrated at this east end altar.

A Reredos is a wooden (or stone) panel behind an altar. It was a gift from Mrs Jesse Sutcliffe of Spring Royd in memory of her son Geoffrey who died in 1919, aged 22. The work was done by a Nottingham firm, Messrs Foster and erected in 1921.

The wooden panelling of the east wall was installed in 1927 in memory of THOMAS RUTHERFORD ASHENHURST 1849-1902

(See inscription in the left (north) side panel)

Thomas R Ashenhurst was a lecturer in weaving at Bradford Technical College and later became Head. He published several books on weaving and an influential book of 7,000 textile designs.

The four shields on the panelling are from L to R: Keys (St Peter), a wool sack (Bradford Diocese), a sword (St Paul) and a sheep (Shipley = Sheep Lea).

The panelling in the north and south side recesses were given in memory of her parents by Margaret Hodgson.

Turn to the right and look up. There are three memorial tablets on the wall. William Brumfit, surgeon; Margaret Anne the wife of Henry Smith. And one to J W Field erected by his two daughters.

7. J W Field Tablet

John Wilmer Field (1775 -1832) was Lord of the Manors of Heaton, Shipley and others. John took an BA at Oxford and was an Officer in the Royal Horse Guards, the Blues. He was resident at Heaton Hall. He married Anne Wharton-Myddleton in 1812 and they had two daughters Mary, born 1813 and Delia born 1814. When a church for Shipley was granted by the Commissioners, J W Field gave the 1 acre of land for the building. He died in London and is buried in a vault under the chancel of St Paul's, Shipley – the only person to be buried within the church.

Walk back alongside the choir benches The screen behind was erected in 1927 – see inscription above. At the end of the choir is the Vicar's Stall. (stall = a church-seat with arms)

8. Vicar's Stall

The Reading Desk or Stall was also done as part of the refurbishment in 1876. It is in oak and noted particularly for the carvings. These represent the four evangelists, an identification which is generally credited to St Jerome (347-420AD) though others have also ascribed them . They are based on the picture of the four living creatures of Ezekiel and in the Book of the Revelation of St John .

Face of a Man: St Matthew Face of a Lion: St Mark
Face of an Ox: St Luke Face of an Eagle: St John.

From here move into the Baptistery to the left.

9. Kelly Tablet

Reverend William Kelly B.A. was born circa 1816 in Ireland. He was Vicar of St Paul's, Shipley, from 1845 – 1884, at 38

years the longest serving vicar. He died in 1884 at Llandudno, Wales, aged 68. Buried in St Paul's churchyard. The window to the east of the memorial also recalls his memory.

10. Font

In the 1970 reordering, the side chapel was removed and became a baptistry. The font, which was by the West door, was moved and placed in a central position in the area. The font is made from alabaster and was a gift in 1876 from Mr Fox, a churchwarden. The ornate wooden cover is suspended from a steel wire which, via two pulleys, is attached to a counterweight to enable it to be lifted.

11. Firth Tablet

Benjamin Firth was born in Idle. He was associated with St Paul's for all his life. Benjamin took over from his father as organist at St Paul's at the age of 18 years. He was organist for 45 years. It was said that during this time he only missed one Sunday due to illness. F.G.C.M. stands for Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. The music on the mural tablet is from The Messiah by George Frederick Handel.

Moving down the south aisle towards the back, look at the 'Faith, Hope and Charity' window dedicated to the Peel family of Windhill. Move on into the Parish Room at the back. On the back wall to the left is the Longrigg Tablet. It is above the two 'Warden's Seats' where the church wardens sat to keep an eye on proceedings during church services (before the Room was made).

12. Longrigg Tablet

Rev John Fallowfield Longrigg M.A. was Curate at St Paul's 1885 to 1887. He probably started the Mission House at 129 Hargreaves Square as well as his general duties. He instituted the poor children's annual Christmas dinner. He was appointed as vicar in Leeds in 1887 and died less than a year later.

The wood panelling and the doors are in memory of Edwin and Sarah Ann Lee, whose charity still provides money to help people in Shipley who are in need. To the left before the kitchen is a brass memorial from the Boer War.

13. Boer War Tablet

The memorial (“erected by the inhabitants of Shipley”) records the names of 3 Shipley soldiers killed in the 2nd Boer War (1899-1902):

Herbert O’Donnell lived at 2 Albert Terrace. In 1901, O’Donnell was aged 21 when killed, his death is recorded as at Nonskraal, where on Christmas Day 1901 a baggage train was attacked and captured by the Boers. Four, including the Officer and O’Donnell were killed, 5 wounded and 57 taken prisoner. He is buried nearby to the battle.

Higson Lister joined the Shipley Division of the St John’s Ambulance Brigade, and was posted to South Africa. He died of ‘Enteric’ or typhoid fever. (This was a problem in hot climates. In the Boer Wars more soldiers died of typhus than in battle). Pte Lister is buried in the Churchyard in St John the Baptist Church, Pinetown, a town in KwaZulu-Natal near to Durban.

Albert Jowett was born in 1875 and lived at 152 George Street, with his parents and three siblings. He joined the 2nd Battalion KOYLI as a private. Arthur too died of enteric and is buried at Elandsfontein where there was a hospital and where the Battalion may have been based for a while.

14. Royal Arms

In the arch in the back(west) wall of the church above the Narthex are the Royal Arms. The Royal Arms probably was given near the time of opening of the church and so is about the only piece of original church furniture left.

There are some intriguing things about the Royal Arms in St Paul's. First, St Paul's was opened in 1826, during the reign of George IV (1820-1830) but these Arms appear to be those of George III from 1801-1816. Secondly, the Arms in churches are usually rectangular but these are a lozenge shape, more normally used for funeral "hatchments".

That concludes the tour. There may be people around to ask if you have questions. There is a separate leaflet on the stained glass in church and a comprehensive Church History and Guide book.

The outside of the church is worth a look at, particularly the clock, the arms of John Wilmer Field above the window at the east end, and the gravestones arranged round the sides of the churchyard. Can you find the one with the proof of Pythagoras' theorem?

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 stpaulsshiple.org, or our Facebook page.