

welcome to st mary's church Barnsley



St Mary's is the civic church of Barnsley and provides a place of worship, peace and quiet in the town centre.

The first historical reference to Barnsley is in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is recorded as 'Berneslai'. The lands were owned by the Norman Lord, Ilbert de Lacy. In the 1150s it was given to the Priory of St John in Pontefract and the monks erected a chapel of ease to Silkstone church. Barnsley was originally in the ancient parish of Silkstone but as trade routes developed, the settlement in Barnsley became the main commercial centre, whilst Silkstone remained agricultural. It is thought that the original dedication of the church may have been to St Helen.

The basis of the present church structure dates from 1822, although the tower is thought to have been built in the early 15th century. The eight bells in the tower are also 15th century. The building is Grade II* listed and the nave and chancel are English Gothic revival in style.

Repairs took place in 1849 and significant alterations were made in 1863. In 1870, extensive restorations to the church were made by George Frederick Bodley. The twenty fine stained glass windows date from the 19th to the early 20th century. The war memorial chapel was added in 1919.

West Wall Windows (1)

The stained glass window at the end of the south aisle depicts the Parable of the Widow's Mite and was donated in memory of James and Elizabeth Parker. The north aisle west window shows the Annunciation to the Shepherds. On the right, below the scroll, is a portrait of Queen Victoria. The window was installed to commemorate her Diamond Jubilee.

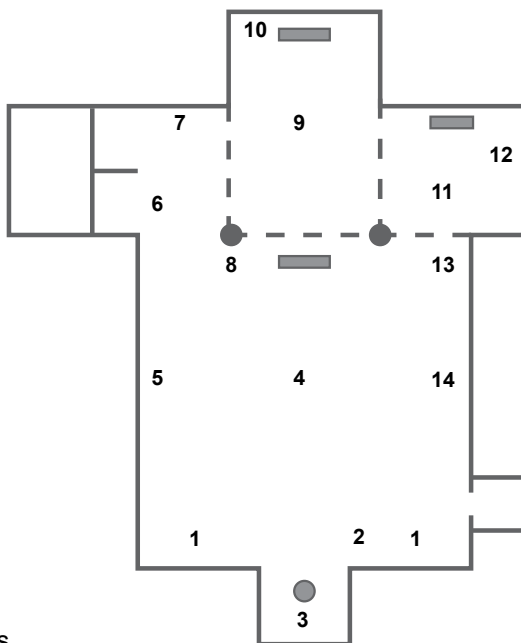
War Memorial Tablet (2)

This tablet was placed here in memory of those from this town who lost their lives in the war with the South African Republics (1899-1902). Also notice the decorated benches at each side of the tower. These are the churchwardens' seats.

The Tower (3)

The octagonal stone font is where baptisms take place. Baptism marks the start of the Christian journey. On the walls of the tower are two benefactors' boards. These large painted panels list gifts of money made to local charities.

The window in the tower shows the four doctors of the Latin church: St Augustine, St Gregory, St Jerome and St Ambrose. It also features St John the Baptist and St George slaying the Dragon.



The Nave (4)

There are many memorials on the walls of the nave. They are all to local townspeople, landowners, doctors, merchants and bankers.

The statue on one of the north side pillars is St Barnabas, the one on the south pillar is St Mary with the infant Jesus.

North Aisle Windows (5)

Walking down the north aisle, there are five beautiful stained glass windows. The first has three lights and depicts part of St Luke's gospel from the Bible. The next window tells part of the Passion story. It also features the Royal Coat of Arms and the Barnsley Coat of Arms. The window was dedicated in memory of Joseph Shirliffe Parkinson, a former mayor of Barnsley. The third window depicts the Ascension of Jesus and was erected in memory of Frederick William Thomas Vernon Wentworth of Wentworth Castle. The fourth window tells the story of the empty tomb and the final window shows Jesus with Mary and Martha.

North Transept (6)

The north transept was opened out and new vestries added in 1885-86. The stained glass window here contains glass of different dates. The figures of the four Evangelists in the four corners were originally in the old east window and moved here in 1893.

The Organ (7)

The instrument has a 17th century case, thought to be from the school of "Father" Bernard Smith. He was appointed royal organ builder by King Charles II. The organ is thought to date from the late 18th or early 19th century. It was rebuilt by Brindley & Foster in 1885.

The Pulpit (8)

The pulpit is where the priest stands to address the congregation. Our pulpit was given in memory of Joseph Canter.

The Chancel (9)

The chancel screen was designed by George Frederick Bodley and added during the 1870 restoration. Notice the fine carved choir stalls, particularly one featuring a pelican. There is a legend that in a time of famine a mother pelican would draw blood from her own chest to feed her young. This symbol is sometimes seen in churches and represents the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

The window to the left of the altar shows the Miracle at Cana and the one to the right depicts the Supper at Emmaus. The painted reredos features two shields, both with the monogram 'IHC'. These are common in churches and are the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus.

The East Window (10)

The four doctors of the Latin church, St Gregory, St Augustine, St Jerome and St Ambrose, are shown in the four corners of the window. The Crucifixion of Jesus is shown in the upper central section with the figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John at either side.

The South Chapel (11)

The chapel was renovated and redecorated in October 2010. It is dedicated to all soldiers past, present and future. The finely painted column in the centre of the chapel was installed in memory of those from the parish who lost their lives in the First World War. The piece of wood on the wall has Latin script and was donated to the church before the 1822 restoration.

The war memorial on the south wall of the chapel commemorates the 8,814 men of the York & Lancaster Regiment who died during the First World War. To the left of the altar is an aumbry, a small lockable cupboard where the communion vessels are kept. Also in this area is the old parish chest. It was used for storing registers, accounts and other important records.

Chapel Stained Glass (12)

The stained glass window to the right of the altar was installed in memory of the soldier Jack Normansell who died during the First World War, aged 27. It shows three of the great warrior saints, St George, St Michael the Archangel and St Martin. The window to the left of the altar was given in memory of Dorothy Fox, a young lady who died after serving as a nurse in the First World War. It shows St Elizabeth of Hungary, the Blessed Virgin and St Helena.

The first window on the south wall of the chapel was installed in memory of a former Rector, William Walter Kirby and his wife and son. The window shows St Barnabas, Faith and Phoebe. The next window depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Christchild and the Bishops St Athanasius and St Ambrose.

Prayer Corner (13)

The statue of Mary was given in memory of William and Mabel Wallis who loved this church. Please feel free to light a candle.

South Aisle Windows (14)

Walking back up to the west end of the nave, the first stained glass window depicts three Old Testament Kings and was given in memory of Thomas James Mallinson. The next window shows St Paul with the sword, St Cecilia the patron saint of music and St Mary Magdalene. The third window shows St James the Great, St Peter and St John the Evangelist, all with their traditional symbols. The fourth window is devoted to children and has the 'suffer little children' quote from St Mark's Gospel. In the lower lights of all the south aisle windows are the figures of the twelve sons of Jacob and their symbols.

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit.

Please do sign the Visitors' Book before you leave.

Services

Sundays	11:00am	Sung Mass & Junior Church
Wednesdays	7:00pm	Said Mass

For further information contact:

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