

welcome to st lucius' church farnley tyas



The village was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Ferlei' or 'Fereleia' which is thought to mean either 'lea of the ferns' or 'the far lea'. Later records show the village as 'Farneley' (1316) and 'Farneley Tyas' (1361). The Tyas part of the name is thought to have been a family name added by an ancient lord of the manor.

By 1732 the lands were in the possession of the Earls of Dartmouth. The church was paid for by the Rt Hon William Lewisham, the 4th Earl of Dartmouth. The architect was a Mr Chantrell of Leeds and the foundation stone was laid in 1838 by the Honorable Philip Saville. By 1840 the church was complete and dedicated by Bishop Longley. It was built in a traditional Gothic revival style with nave, choir, sanctuary, centre chancel arch and west tower with a plain spire.

The church underwent some restoration in 1880 and again in 1904, when three aisles were created and beautifully carved limed oak stalls, pews, organ case and vestry screen were installed.

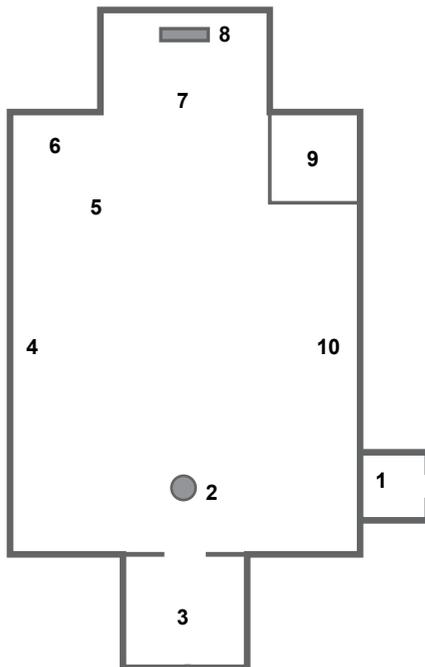
The church is now in the Team Parish of 'Almondbury with Farnley Tyas'. The parish incorporates, along with Farnley Tyas, the ancient township of Almondbury, parts of urban Huddersfield and the magnificent Castle Hill, an iron age fort with spectacular views in all directions.

The Porch (1)

The doors into the nave of the church were dedicated on 26th February 1995 to the memory of John Sykes. They were made from a single block of English oak by Roebuck & Holmes of Farnley Tyas. The four glass panels were designed and etched by Adam Goodyear of Armitage Bridge. In his design, the artist has used modern interpretations of subjects already featured elsewhere in the church, with the significant addition of four key events in the life of Jesus.

The four evangelists feature with their symbols: St Matthew and a winged man, St Mark and a lion, St Luke and an ox and St John the Evangelist with an eagle.

The upper sections show flowers with traditional associations. Roses, linked with the Nativity and a symbol of Mary's love; columbine or aquilegia, representing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in baptism; holly, associated with grief and tribulation; and ivy, symbolising everlasting life gained through the Resurrection. Also featured in the upper section are further symbols and key events in the life of Jesus: the stable at Bethlehem, Baptism in the River Jordan, the Crucifixion and the empty tomb.



The Font (2)

The octagonal stone font is used to hold the holy water during baptism, which marks the beginning of the Christian journey.

The Tower (3)

The tower window was given in memory of Frederick Thynne. It depicts scenes from St Luke's Gospel and Isaiah.

Originally, there was just one bell in the ringing chamber. It was cast by John Taylor Bellfounders of Loughborough. Three additional bells were added in 1973, then a fifth bell was added in 1975 by the then Vicar, Revd Oswell.

The North Aisle (4)

The stained glass window in the north aisle was installed in 1961 by Harry Stammers. It shows The Ascension and also, at the bottom, scenes of baptism and communion. The window was given in memory of Nelly Oswell by her husband.

The Pulpit (5)

The pulpit was moved to its present position in 1951. It was given by the 6th Earl of Dartmouth in memory of his mother, Augusta.

The Organ (6)

The organ has two manuals (keyboards) and was built by Peter Conacher & Co of the Springwood Organ Works in Huddersfield.

The Chancel (7)

The two candle sconces at either side of the chancel were made using stone from York Minster. After the fire in 1970, St Lucius' was one of the first churches to send a donation towards the repairs.

The large candle nearby is called the paschal candle. It is lit during baptisms and every Sunday during Easter. Notice the symbols alpha and omega which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They are commonly seen in churches and represent that God is the beginning and the end. The stand was given to the church in 1997 by Mr and Mrs Freddie Ramsden in memory of Mr Ramsden's father and brother.

One of the stained glass windows on the north wall of the chancel shows leaves and flowers entwined with Bible text. There is another small window that features the Adoration of the Magi. This small window was designed and made by Harry Stammers.

The Altar (8)

This altar was added in 1904 and has a beautifully carved oak tracery frontal. It features the letters 'IHS' which are commonly seen in churches and represent the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus. The curtain hanging behind the altar was given in 1995 by Mrs Lena Anderson.

The east window was installed in 1856 and features the four Gospel Evangelists and a dove, representing the Holy Spirit. The window serves as a memorial to the 4th Earl of Dartmouth whose generosity made the building of the church possible.

The Vestry (9)

The vestry was moved to its present position during the alterations of 1904. Look up and see this date carved above the vestry doorway.

The South Aisle (10)

The stained glass window in the south wall of the nave shows symbols of the four Evangelists and verses from the hymn 'For All the Saints', which was written by the Rt Revd Walsham How, the first Bishop of Wakefield. The window was installed in 1900 in memory of Augusta, Countess of Dartmouth.

The Churchyard

When outside the church, look up and see the 47 decorative carved corbel stones high up on the exterior. These are all different and include floral designs, geometric patterns, an anchor with rope, the cross keys of the York Diocese, a bow and arrow, hunting horn, the Masonic symbol and a crescent moon.

The maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard is partly financed through legacies. At the side of the path near the door is a yew tree that was presented by the Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, in June 1999 to commemorate the Millennium. It was planted in the present position in 2005. In the early spring there is a wonderful array of snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells.

**We hope that you have enjoyed your visit.
Please do sign the Visitors' Book before you leave.**

Services

We meet every Sunday morning at 11:00am
Matins is sung on the fifth Sunday of the month
Morning Prayer takes place on Fridays at 8:30am

The Team Rector:

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