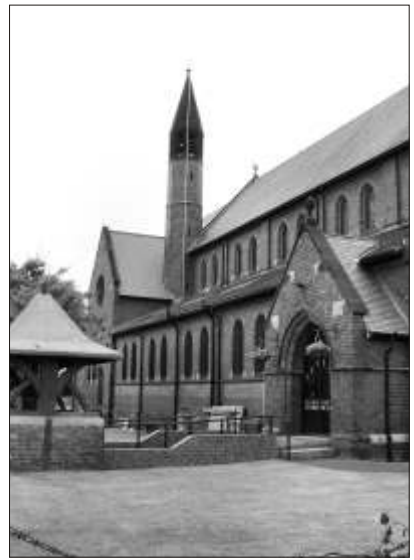


# welcome to st Luke's church GRIMETHORPE

*A church built by the miners,  
for the miners.*



When Grimethorpe Colliery opened in 1895 it had a dramatic effect on the population of Grimethorpe and Brierley. It grew from 484 in 1881 to 1684 in 1901. Hundreds of new homes were built to house the workers and, although St Paul's Church in Brierley was built in 1869 as a daughter church to Felkirk St Peter, it was deemed insufficient for the expanding population.

Grimethorpe became an ecclesiastical parish in 1901 and the first vicar, Revd W A Holiday, set about raising funds to build a new church. Major donations were received from F J Savile-Foljambe (who also donated the land for the church and vicarage) and Carlton Main Colliery. The church was completed in 1904.

The architect was Mr C Hogson-Fowler of Durham and the contractors were Messrs Bowman & Sons of Stamford. The style is Early English and the church is built of brick and stone. The lofty stone arcades lent dignity and grandeur to the whole interior and gave it a cathedral-like stateliness. It was often referred to locally as 'the red brick cathedral'. Seating was provided for 500 people and the provision was left (if required) for an extension which would have consisted of an additional side chapel and south aisle.

The church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1904. Although the fabric of the church has altered little over the years, there have been small internal re-ordering schemes to improve facilities. Following the pit closure in 1993, the village suffered from massive degeneration and the church faced the possibility of closure. However, since the arrival of the current Vicar, Father Peter Needham, in 2002, the church has followed a mission of regeneration and growth.

The church currently has planning permission for a major three phase re-ordering project which will transform the building. Phase one of the project was completed in 2007 and consisted of new windows, exit doors and a new roof. The central heating system was installed in 2008.

### **The Porch (1)**

The main doors into the church have recently been stunningly restored by a local voluntary group who are based in offices next door to the church.

### **The Font (2)**

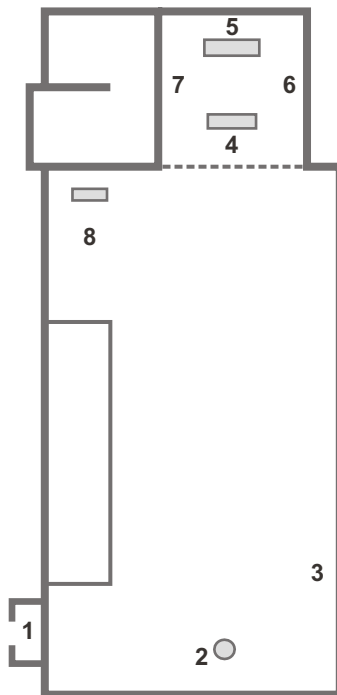
The elegantly designed Font is made from Ancaster stone. The Font is used for baptisms and has a simple wooden cover. In history, Font covers were used to protect the holy water and to stop unauthorised baptisms. Above the Font is the Rose Window. The Paschal Candle stands next to the font. It is lit at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and remains lit in the Sanctuary until Ascension Day. It is also used throughout the year at baptisms and funerals. It displays the Greek letters alpha and omega, symbolising that God is the beginning and the end.

### **St George Statue (3)**

The statue of St George was donated to church in memory of George Morrall, a member of the congregation, who died in 2003. The surround is reclaimed wood from the original Pulpit which was replaced in the 1950s. Stained glass featuring St George was installed in the East Window behind the High Altar in 1953 in memory of those who had died in World War II. It was relocated to the south wall, to the left of the statue, in 2006. Beneath this window is a cabinet which holds the Book of Remembrance.

### **The Chancel (4)**

To either side of the Chancel Arch are statues of Mary and St Luke. The beautifully carved Reredos is an original feature of the church and is inscribed with the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Creed.



## **The East Window (5)**

The stained glass in the East Window, behind the High Altar, depicts Jesus and was installed in 1953 in memory of those who died during World War II.

## **Mothers' Union Banner (6)**

The Mothers' Union banner was received in 1952 and dedicated by the Bishop of Wakefield. It is still used in processions around the church on special occasions. The parish still has an active Mothers' Union branch.

## **The Organ Loft (7)**

The beautifully carved Organ Chamber front is an original feature of the church. The Organ was donated in 1912 in memory of Revd W A Holiday, the first vicar of the parish.

## **The Lady Chapel (8)**

The Lady Chapel was built in 1922 in memory of those who lost their lives in World War I. It was shortened at the end of the 1970s to install a store room, kitchen and toilet facilities.

A reclaimed stone from the medieval boundary wall at Ladywood, Grimethorpe forms the base of a new stone Altar. It was installed in 2008 and consecrated by the Bishop of Pontefract. New unique stained glass, designed by Nathalie Leige and depicting images of Mary, was installed in the Lady Chapel windows in September 2009.

## **The Lych Gate**

The Lych Gate was installed in the 1950s. It was given to the church by the National Coal Board Training Unit, based in Brierley, and was made using reclaimed beams from closed pits. During World War II, the iron gates and railings around the church were removed to help the war effort.

## **Church Exterior**

To the front of the church, there are a number of memorials:

- War Memorial
- Miners Memorial
- Calvary
- Stone Pulpit

Information about these memorials can be found on a separate leaflet in church.

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

We are the Parish of Grimethorpe with Brierley in the Diocese of Wakefield.  
We have a daughter church, St Paul's in Brierley, about one mile away.

### **Usual Sunday Service Times in the Parish**

9.30am	Mass with hymns at St Paul's
11.00am	Parish Sung Mass at St Luke's
6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction at St Luke's

### **Daily Service Times in the Parish**

8.30am	Morning Prayer each day at St Luke's
Mass is celebrated each day at St Luke's or St Paul's (times vary)	
6.00pm	Evening Prayer each day at St Luke's

*Bless O Lord, the worship and work of this church.*

*Thank you for making it a holy place and a house of prayer.*

*May it continue to be a centre of Christian teaching, a community of faithful  
service and a witness to your redeeming love;*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

### **For further information please contact:**

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Text: Eve Cowdell & members of the congregation at St Luke's.  
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