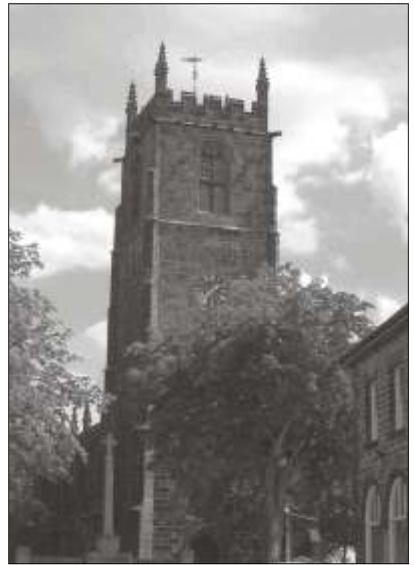


welcome to st john the baptist church penistone



Welcome to St John's. Christians have been praying on this site for 1000 years. Under your feet are the foundations of an earlier church from the 900's AD, although most of the present building was erected in the 1300's. However, there is evidence of earlier buildings in the structure you can see today.

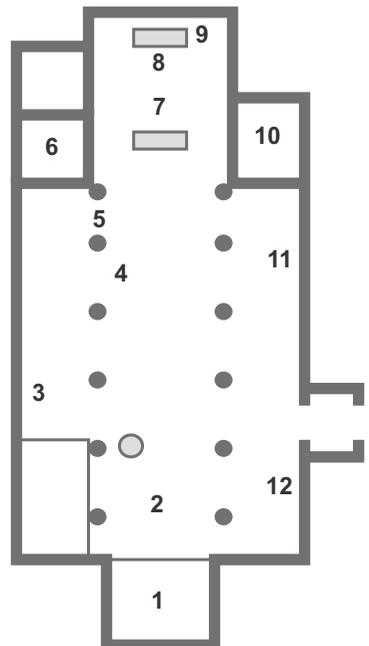
Each generation has left its imprint. Each has contributed its ideas in terms of fashion, furnishings and worship styles. The church has never stood still but sought to be accessible to the changing world about it. Over the centuries it has remained faithful to God, who 'makes all things new'.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the church has sensitively embarked upon a reordering programme and project called "Open Doors" which encourages a wider community use of its premises. As a visitor you may see this new space which has been created at the west end.

The south porch was added in the 18th century. Start your tour at the west end from where you will obtain a view of the whole church, its 14th century nave and earlier chancel.

The Tower Room (1)

The tower room contains a small meeting room. It was formerly the baptistry and was dedicated by the Bishop of Wakefield at St John's Patronal Festival in June 2007.



The Community Space (2)

Part of the 'Open Doors' project, this space includes a kitchen, toilet and coffee and refreshment area. It was also dedicated during the 2007 St John's Patronal Festival. Notice the beautiful new oak in the Hawley screen and the additional inner doors at the west end. It was designed by architect Peter Pace. The organ above was a gift from Salem United Reformed Church and was installed here in 1975. There is also a medieval octagonal font in this area.

Statue of St John the Baptist (3)

This statue, by Peter Eugene Ball, was commissioned and dedicated in 2002, in memory of The Venerable David Turnbull who was the first Team Rector of Penistone and Thurlstone Team Ministry.

Clerestory Windows (4)

As you walk down the nave, notice the clerestory windows above the pillars and arches. These windows were added in the 14th century to give more light into the church. Look up to see the 33 bosses in the nave roof. These date from around 1375. Some are carved with faces of people and some show creatures with tongues sticking out. The corbel stones in the nave also have faces.

Penistone Grammar School Window (5)

This window was installed in 1992. It celebrates the 600th anniversary of Penistone Grammar School.

Team Ministry Office (6)

The office and vestry was crafted and glazed in 2006. It was previously the Chantry Chapel of Saints Erasmus and Anthony. In this area, are some of the oldest stones in the church. Notice the chancel pillar near the office, it contains the shaft of a Saxon cross. Nearby are fragments of herringbone masonry and two 12th century corbel stones.

The Chancel (7)

The chancel dates from around 1300 with an 18th century extension altering the pitch of the roof. There are many impressive monuments in the chancel, the largest two on the north wall date from 1714 and 1708 and bear the Bosville crest. The memorials opposite are mainly to the West and Fenton families of Underbank Hall. The elaborate memorial which mentions Nicholas Saunderson dates from the mid 18th century.

Medieval Stone Altar (8)

The stone altar under the east window was removed from a wall cavity at St James Church in Midhope in the 1970's. It is believed to have been hidden during the Reformation. The small cupboard in the north wall is an aumbry.

The East Window (9)

The colourful east window design is based on the Jesse Tree from the Book of Isaiah in the Bible. It shows the risen Lord, John the Baptist and Isaiah.

The Lady Chapel (10)

The Lady Chapel has a stained glass window designed by William Glasby. The chapel served as a chantry school in 1392 - the beginnings of what became Penistone Grammar School after a gift of land was given by John Clarel, Lord of the Manor at Penistone.

Stained Glass Windows (11)

There are two striking 20th century stained glass windows in the south aisle. The first is by a student of William Morris and depicts the story of Jesus preaching from the boat. The next window is based on the childhood and ministry of Jesus and is by Frederick Cole.

Hatchment (12)

The hatchment bears the arms of the Savilles of Ingbirchworth. This would have been carried in a funeral procession then hung over the doorway of the deceased person's house before being displayed in the church.

The Churchyard

Take time to wander around the outside of the church. Notice the fine west door with its carved faces and the many gargoyles around the building. Also see if you can spot the scratch dial on one of the south side buttresses. This is an early form of sundial, intended to show the times for services.

The Tower and Lych-gate

The tower dates from 1500 and stands 80 feet high with a peal of eight bells. During the Civil War the tower was garrisoned from Summer 1643 to Spring 1644 by Sir Francis Wortley, a leading Cavalier in the district. The lych-gate was built in 1959 and is a memorial to Revd Canon William Turnbull who was vicar here for 60 years (1855-1915).

The Sensory Garden

You may also want to visit our newly created Sensory Garden at the east end of the graveyard. It is dedicated to Nicholas Saunderson, a blind boy born in Thurlstone in the 17th century who despite all the odds, grew up to become Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University.

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

There are coffee mornings with tourist information at St John's every Thursday from 10am - 12noon and Saturday from 10.15am - 12noon.

There is an all-age quiz available, on request, to test your knowledge of St John's Church.

We also produce a monthly Team Magazine 'The Bridge' and a weekly newsletter 'Team News'. They are both available on request.

Service Times

A warm and friendly greeting awaits you at all our services.

Wednesday	9.30am
Friday	9.30am
Saturday	9.30am
Sunday	8am (<i>The Eucharist - said</i>)
Sunday	10.45am (<i>The Eucharist - sung</i>)

*1st Sunday every month Family Communion with Baptism
3rd Sunday every month Family Service without Communion*

For further information:



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