

welcome to
st paul's church
shepley



St Pauls stands in the centre of the village of Shepley and is open all year round. Shepley literally means 'a clearing or meadow where sheep are kept' and the name is most likely to be Anglo-Saxon. 'Sceaplei' is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, however, evidence exists of even earlier (possibly Roman) occupation in the area.

The church has been a centre of worship since 1848. We are a United Benefice (two churches sharing one Vicar) with Emmanuel Church, Shelley in the Kirkburton Deanery of the Anglican Diocese of Wakefield. Since 1996 the Roman Catholic community in the area also uses St Pauls for Mass each Sunday.

The building, as with many Victorian village churches, is of a simple design. However, visitors tell us of the sense of peace they get from our church and we feel proud that this is appreciated.

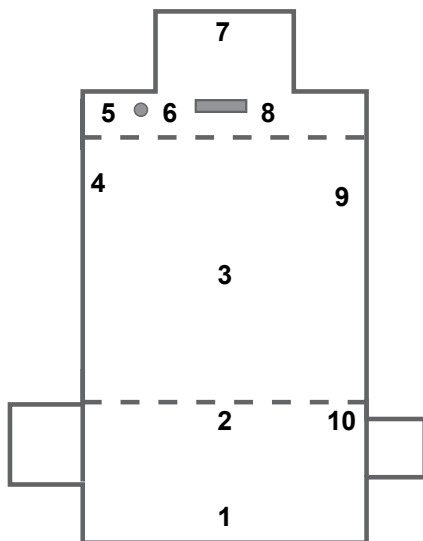
The church architect was William Wallen. It is built of local stone and has a bell cote containing two bells. The chancel was added in 1868 and extended into the nave in 1890. Throughout the years St Pauls has been altered to suit the worship patterns of the time and to be more accessible to everyone. The most recent alterations at the back of the church were completed in May 2008. The gallery was removed and disabled access, toilets and a kitchen were added.

The West Wall (1)

Notice the large painted boards on the west wall. One has a copy of the Ten Commandments and the other displays the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer. The word creed derives from the Latin 'credo' which means 'I believe'.

The Glass Screen (2)

The glass screen, provided by a legacy from William Cedric Clegg in memory of his parents, gives us a facility that can be used as part of the worship area or as a space for community use. Moving forward remains our vision whilst still maintaining our sense of history.



The Nave (3)

The nave is the main body of the church. The word is derived from the Latin meaning 'ship' as it was thought that the roof resembled an upturned ship. The Churchwarden's wands can be seen at the ends of the first pews. They are two oak staves topped with brass emblems. These wands are used by the Wardens on special occasions. One emblem, the mitre represents the Vicar's warden and the other, a crown represents the people's warden.

Notice the banners on the nave walls. These include one made to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church and one commemorating the Millennium.

War Memorial (4)

The war memorial lists the names of those in the village who lost their lives in both the First and Second World Wars.

The Font & Paschal Candle (5)

The small wrought iron font to the left of the chancel is placed in front of the altar for baptisms. Baptism marks the start of a journey of faith and becoming a member of the local and worldwide Christian family. The Paschal Candle next to the font is replaced each Easter. It is lit at all baptisms and funerals as a sign

of new life. Notice the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. These are commonly seen in churches and symbolise that God is the beginning and the end.

The Lectern (6)

A lectern is a reading desk on which the bible rests. Ours is carved from wood and is in the shape of an eagle standing on a ball. This is typical in many churches and represents the Gospel being carried to all corners of the earth.

The East Window (7)

The church contains several stained glass windows, most noticeably the large east window which depicts scenes from the life of St Paul. Famously converted on the road to Damascus, he travelled tens of thousands of miles around the Mediterranean spreading the word of Jesus. St Paul is considered among the most notable of early Christian leaders. Notice again, the symbols of alpha and omega in the top sections of the window.

The Altar (8)

The altar was moved from the east wall to its present position in 1996. It was redesigned in 1997 and remains central to our worship.

South Wall Windows (9)

The smaller windows on the south wall of church include Faith, Hope and Charity. Hope being a copy of Halman Hunts painting 'Light of the World'. Also on the south wall is the pulpit. This is where the Vicar stands to address the congregation.

Prayer Tree (10)

At the back of the church you will find a Prayer Tree for Intercessions and Thanksgivings. Please feel free to add any name or situation you would like us to pray for. The prayers will then be offered at our Sunday Services.

Prayer is an important part of life at St Pauls. A Faith Matters group which we share with our Catholic and Methodist friends meets monthly for discussion and prayer. The Prayer Group also meets on a regular basis. All are welcome to any of these meetings and details can be found on the weekly notice in the church porch.

The church, standing as it does at the centre of the village, is always looking for involvement with the community. It is always available for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Church and village organisations also use our hall which is situated behind the church.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit.

Please sign the Visitors' Book and if you want any more information please don't hesitate to contact the Vicar or Churchwardens. You can find their details on the church notice board in the porch.

Opening Times

Monday - Saturday (all year) 10am - 3pm

Sunday (all year) after morning service 3pm

Service Times

Sundays	11am	Parish Communion
1 st Sunday in the month	11am	All Age Communion
Wednesday	10am	Holy Communion

For alterations to this normal pattern of services please see the weekly notice sheet on the porch notice board.

The Roman Catholic community celebrate Mass at 9am each Sunday.

The Vicar is Revd Joyce Jones: 01484 862350

Parish Office: 01484 602640



Text: Doreen Halliwell (Shepley St Paul)

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