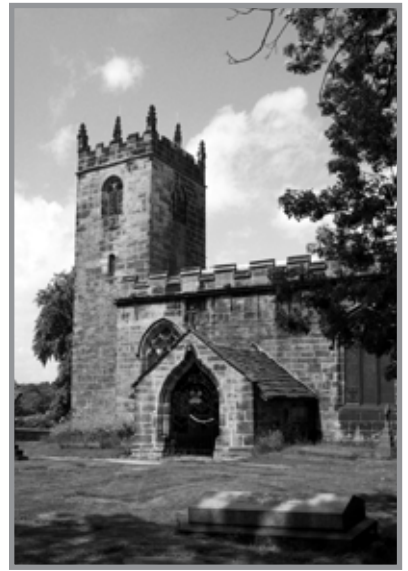


welcome to st peter's church tankersley



Tankersley is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The village name derives from 'Tancredleia' meaning a 'meadow or lea of Tanchere'. Tanchere is a personal Saxon name.

The church dates from the 10th century when the Saxon Leduin was Lord of the Manor.

Leduin, together with Elric of Pilley and Ulsi of Wortley formed a parish and built a church. After the Norman Conquest, the three manors were given to Robert, Count of Mortain, by his half-brother, William the Conqueror. The manors later passed to the de Laci family and the church also had links with Monk Bretton Priory. How the lands passed into the hands of the Lords or Knights of Tankersley is not clear but the family held the manor for around two centuries.

Nothing remains of the original Saxon church structure although two pieces of stonework survive within the outline of the building. One has been used in the outer wall of the church to the left of the priest's door. The other stone lies on the ground to the south of the tower.

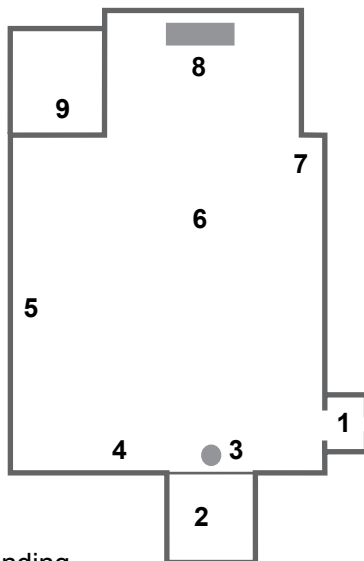
The earliest part of the present church is the north aisle arcade, built around 1200. The chancel is 13th century and the rest of the church is mostly 14th century. The church had many windows with old stained glass, which was destroyed at the time of Cromwell in the late 17th century.

The church underwent restoration in the 19th century when the Rector was Revd William Mason Fenn. The tower and porch were restructured, the chancel repaired and the north aisle was enlarged. Further work was carried out by Revd Canon Archibald Douglas between 1918 and 1942. The rood loft entrance was uncovered and some of the church furnishings were renewed.

The Porch (1)

The porch was reconstructed in 1726 and again in 1881 so little of the original work can be seen. The stones built into the inside and outside walls of the porch are fragments of 12th and 13th century coffin lids. They feature incised crosses and swords.

The holy water stoup is not original and is thought to have been put in place during the 1881 reconstruction. The iron gates were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and were installed in 1901.



The Tower (2)

The tower was built before the nave and there is no bonding of the stonework between the tower and nave. It was restored later by Revd William Mason Fenn. The west door was removed and the present window installed. There are three bells in the tower which were restored several years ago.

The Font (3)

The stone octagonal font is medieval. It was moved to its present position in 1874 and the cover is a memorial to those from the parish who died in the Second World War.

Thomas Toytill Tombstone (4)

To the right of the font is a rubbing from the tombstone of 'Thomas Toytill, Priest'. The actual tombstone, which dates from 1492, can be seen on the floor of the chancel, on the far right of the choir stalls. Next to the font are some cannon balls, found after a Civil War battle in Tankersley Park near the church. This area was also the site of battles during the earlier War of the Roses.

The North Aisle (5)

A fine Arts & Crafts marble memorial to those who died in the First World War is on the north wall. The Book of Remembrance is below the memorial. The north aisle stained glass windows feature figures from the Old Testament including Joseph, Moses, Job, Adam, Daniel and Solomon.

The Nave (6)

The nave was rebuilt between 1400 and 1500 to join the chancel and the already existing tower. All the stained glass in the nave is late 19th century and installed during the time of Revd William Mason Fenn or later. The window on the south wall depicting Faith, Hope and Charity was designed and made by Edward Burne-Jones in partnership with William Morris. Many of the windows of this church were stored down the local coal mine during the Second World War.

There is a Royal Coat of Arms in the nave above the porch. After the Reformation, Royal Coats of Arms for the king or queen of the day were hung in churches to remind the congregation of the link between the church and state. The other coats of arms in the nave were added when Canon Archibald Douglas was Rector and are for families associated with Tankersley parish, park and hall.

The Rood Loft (7)

The original rood loft was built at the same time as the nave, between 1460 and 1500. The staircase is original and was uncovered and restored by Canon Archibald Douglas. The small cupboard to the left of the staircase is an aumbry and is also original. The rood cross is a carved image of Christ on the cross with the figures of Mary and St John the Evangelist on either side. This, along with the rood screen, was installed in 1922.

The Chancel (8)

The chancel dates from the early 13th century. The east window is in memory of Revd William Mason Fenn and there is an image of him in the stained glass. Next to the priest's door is a symbol commonly found in churches of a pelican feeding her young with her own blood, representing the sacrifice of Christ. On the south wall of the chancel is a triptych (three-fold panel painting). It came from the chapel of Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln and was put there during the time of Canon Archibald Douglas. Below this is a carved bench end, thought to date from the 15th century. It displays the crossed keys of St Peter and also a serpent or dragon carving. The sanctuary area was remodelled in 1979 to permit the Celebration of the Eucharist from behind the altar.

The Organ (9)

The organ was originally in a gallery at the west end of church. The gallery was taken down in 1865 and the organ moved. The present organ dates from 1874.

The Churchyard

Take time to wander around the churchyard and look at the many interesting gravestones. Under the east wall is a First World War grave, and there are two Second World War graves in the same section nearer to the church. The lych gate was erected to commemorate Canon Henry Macnaughten who was Rector from 1886-1918. It features crossed keys, a symbol of St Peter.

Every year the church has a tradition of 'yclepping' or 'clipping' the church. It is an ancient custom that seems to have been introduced in Tankersley in the 1920s and revived in the 1970s. Villagers embrace the church, forming a circle by holding hands, on St Peter's Day.

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

Regular Services

Sunday	9:30am	Holy Communion
1 st Wednesday in month	10:15am	Holy Communion

If there is a 5th Sunday in the month, a 10:30am Holy Communion service rotates around our Benefice of Tankersley, Wortley and Thurgoland.

Please contact us for the venue.

For further information please contact:

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