

# welcome to ST LEONARD'S CHURCH WORTLEY

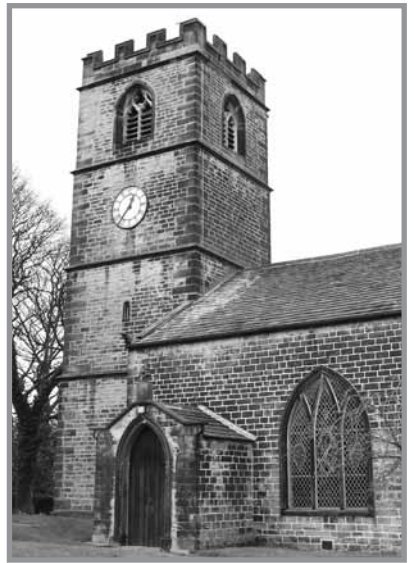
Wortley is a small village between Sheffield and Huddersfield, and the imposing parish church in the centre of the village serves what is essentially a rural community. The parish covers about 35 square miles and includes several small hamlets.

The name Wortley is Anglo-Saxon and there is evidence in the area of an early British settlement and of Roman occupation. The village is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as 'waste', ravaged by the Normans.

There are records indicating that there was a chapel in Wortley in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). The first definite mention of a church in Wortley is in 1318, when Nicholas de Wortley gave the "Chaplain", William Calthorne, Northorpe Farm in return for holding services in "my chapel of Wortley". The church was originally a chapel of ease and part of the parish of Tankersley.

The church registers date back to 1685 for baptisms and 1678 for burials and marriages. In 1746 Wortley became a separate parish and the church in its present form seems to date from around 1753. It was financed by Edward Wortley Montagu. The Wortley family (the Earls of Wharnccliffe) can be credited with funding many of the changes and improvements made to the church. There are many monuments in the church to members of the family who continue to this day to be patrons of the church. There is a vault in the choir area also dating from 1753. Several members of the Wortley family are buried there.

The historian Joseph Hunter in his "History of the Deanery of Doncaster" (1828) mentions Wortley church and we know that the church at one time had a steeple instead of tower and that there was a loft or gallery at the west end of the nave. Many alterations were made to the church in the Victorian period. In 1947 a fire in the roof caused considerable damage to the woodwork and after further destruction caused by a gale in 1956, the church had to be completely re-roofed.

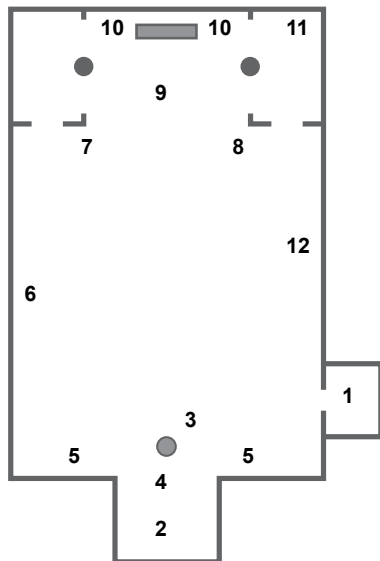


## The Porch (1)

The doors of the church were made and fitted by Robert “Mouseman” Thompson of Kilburn near York.

## Tower & Bells (2)

The tower was built around 1753 and replaced an earlier steeple. There are eight bells in the tower, installed in 1893 and cast by John Warner & Sons of London. They were gifted to the church by Mary Caroline, the Marchioness of Drogheda and sister of the first Earl of Wharnccliffe, in memory of her husband. The peal of bells are said to be amongst the finest in South Yorkshire.



## The Font (3)

The font was installed in 1845. It was given by the Honorable Caroline Talbot. Baptisms take place here, marking the start of the Christian journey. There is what is believed to be an old font in the porch. It was discovered at a cottage in the village in 1955 where it was being used as a plant pot.

## Hatchments (4)

The diamond-shaped boards on the west wall are hatchments. Hatchments were carried in front of funeral processions and afterwards hung on the gate of the deceased person’s house. It was then taken down and hung in the church. These hatchments date from the 1800s and are for members of the Wharnccliffe family.

## West Windows (5)

Notice the symbols of the four Evangelists in the bottom of the windows. On the left is a man depicting St Matthew and a lion symbolising St Mark. On the right is an ox for St Luke and an eagle depicting St John.

## Benefactors’ Board (6)

A wooden panel on the north wall of the church records the “Charitable Benefactions to the Lordship of Wortley”. It list gifts of money made to local charities. It was previously in the Vicar’s Vestry until that was converted into toilets a few years ago.

## **The Pulpit (7)**

The pulpit is where the priest stands to address the congregation. This pulpit was given by Eleanora Greenwood, wife of Sydney Greenwood who was curate of St Leonard from 1877 to 1897. It is made from some of the old beams from the tower.

## **The Lectern (8)**

The lectern is a reading desk on which the Bible rests. In churches they are commonly in the shape of an eagle. The eagle represents St John the Evangelist and the word of God being carried to all corners of the earth.

## **The Chancel (9)**

The chancel was built in 1753. Notice the old oak bishops chair, dated 1687. The present organ is thought to date from the 1820s, although there have been many alterations and adjustments over the years including a major overhaul in 1992.

The east window depicts Christ the Good Shepherd and is a memorial to the Wortley family. The altar stands in the area of church known as the sanctuary. It was given in 1955 and made by Gillam & Sons of Sheffield.

## **Chancel Monuments (10)**

The memorial to the left of the altar is for Edward Wortley and dates from 1778. His wife, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, first brought the idea of a smallpox cure from Turkey into England in 1719. Their daughter, Mary Wortley, is remembered in the monument to the right of the altar. She married John Stuart who was one of the chief ministers of George III at the beginning of his reign.

There are several other memorials to various members of the Wortley family in the chancel and around the nave of the church.

## **Flaxman Memorial (11)**

The seated figure in the south east corner of the chancel is thought to date from 1808. It is a very fine example of the work of John Flaxman RA and is a memorial to Margaret Mackenzie, wife of the Honorable James Stuart Wortley Mackenzie. The stained glass windows here are memorials to the Wortley family.

## **South Aisle Windows (12)**

The windows in the south wall of the nave are memorials to members of the family of George Brewin, who was curate between 1845 and 1977.

## The Churchyard

Take time to walk around the churchyard. There are many interesting monuments and gravestones. Just outside the porch are the remains of a churchyard cross.

The entrance opposite the Wortley Arms pub has a lych-gate. The word is derived from the Old English "lich" meaning corpse. From 1549 it was required that lych-gates be provide at the entrance to churchyards. They were meeting places and shelters for the party bringing a corpse for burial and this lych-gate has a coffin rest.

The other churchyard entrance is a war memorial to those from the parish who lost their lives in both the First and Second World Wars. It is the responsibility of Wortley Parish Council.

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

### Sunday Services

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in month	11:00am	Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month	6:30pm	Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month	11:00am	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in month	6:30pm	Evensong

If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month there is a Joint Benefice service of Holy Communion at 10:30am rotating with Tankersley and Thurgoland. We welcome all faiths (and those who have no faith) to all our services.

### Priest In Charge:

Reverend Keith Hale: 01226 744140



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