

Statement of Significance

History and description of St Lucius' Church, Farnley Tyas In the Team Parish of Almondbury with Farnley Tyas

The Church of St Lucius', Farnley Tyas, founded by William, 4th Earl of Dartmouth, dates from 1840 and is in the Gothic Revival style. It was designed by R.D. Chantrell, who also, notably, designed Leeds Parish Church. St Lucius has a four bay nave, two bay chancel and two tier west tower with a squat octagonal spire, all with diagonal buttresses and shaped and crocketed off-sets.

The church is set within a churchyard and located within the Farnley Tyas Conservation Area; it was listed Grade II in May 1984. (No:KB 5/13)

The listing particularly notes its ashlar walls, stone slate roof and stone gutter on carved square brackets, each with a different motif and one bearing the date 1838. In terms of its windows, the church has square headed three-light nave windows with cusped, ogee headed lights and two-light similar chancel windows. The east window has four lights with Perpendicular tracery and the west window two lights with tracery. The heavily moulded door surround of the south porch is also noted in the listing description.

The interior of the church is noted for its very tall pointed arch to the tower and shallow elliptical chancel arch. Its carved oak fittings and queen-post trusses to the roof are also a feature of the interior.

As the Church is on high ground, the Churchyard has distant views both north and south and is surrounded with a stone wall, the roadside has metal railings on the wall and the gates are metal. In 2018 a metal hand-rail was erected on the sloping footpath from the road.

In 1904 the Church interior was re-ordered. An organ screen on the northside and a matching vestry on the southside, two rows of choir stalls each side of the chancel along with priests stalls leading to the Altar in the sanctuary, all in fine carved limed oak. New limed oak pews were installed in four sections creating three aisles in the body of the church and a central aisle at the rear leading to the 'tower vestry' at the west end. The pulpit was moved from the South wall to in front of the Organ screen and the Font moved from there to its present position in the centre aisle at the rear of the church. Pine block flooring is under all the pews with aisles of stone.

The Organ was built in 1911 by the Huddersfield firm of Peter Conacher & Co., and was unaltered until 2016 when it was refurbished by Spinks of Leeds and two new pipes were added. There were no visual changes to the Organ loft.

In 1995 new internal entrance doors were installed, made of limed oak and engraved glass panels by Adam Goodyear of Huddersfield; they feature episodes in the life of Christ and the four evangelists.

In the 1990's an access WC and kitchenette were created in the base of the Tower (tower vestry)

In 2008 a faculty was granted to remove sections of pews from the rear of the church to form an area for informal worship and community use. One pew was left in position on the west wall and one re-sited adjacent on the north wall creating permanent seating in the social area. The whole area was carpeted with matching carpet down the centre aisle.

The pine screen at the base of the tower (circa 1950?) was replaced to form a slightly larger area to create an adequate new kitchen. The new screen is made from limed oak panels at the base with fire resistant-glass panels from counter height above. A service hatch was created with a metal fire resistant roller shutter.

The style of the new screen and door are much more in keeping with the present limed oak furnishings of the Church and enhance this area of the building.

The salvaged pew recited on the west wall, with cupboards under, between the kitchen screen and new door to the toilet facilities along with removing the plaster from the wall above has helped to retain the symmetry of this area. The new cupboards on the south wall are built in limed oak and are multi-purpose.

The Font, which is of no significant architectural interest, is of octagonal stone on stone base with a conical limed oak cover surmounted by a metal cross, was relocated to the north wall.

The original clock, which had a pendulum action, was made by Thwaites & Read in 1853. Wm Potts & Sons overhauled it in 1935 and in 1964 they installed a flat bed mechanism with electrification equipment. In 2003 Smiths of Derby upgraded the unit and installed an autostart clock controller. The face of the clock was re-gilded in 2018 by Smiths of Derby.

A single bell was given by the Earl of Dartmouth in 1841. Three additional bells were added in 1973 to complete a chime of four and a fifth was added in 1975, all rung regularly for services on a carillon from the tower vestry.

We have an active ECO committee who have already earned for the church a silver award for their achievements towards achieving carbon neutrality .

We use green electricity already and we are encouraged to find ways to further reduce our reliance on carbon fuels for heating and propose to install PV panels to reduce our dependence on non sustainable fuels for heating.

The addition of the solar panels will allow us to substantially reduce our carbon impact and help to sustain the church as the Heart of the Community.