



About St Stephen's

This can be regarded as the sister church of All Souls, Haley Hill, which is also in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. Both churches were conceived by the same man, Edward Akroyd. In 1846 Akroyd built a new mill in Copley. He believed strongly in improving the social welfare of his workers, so between 1849 and 1853 created a model village for them. This included housing, allotment gardens, a school, a library and a 'dining shed' which seated 600.

The church was commissioned in 1861 and designed by W. H. Crossland, who was a protégé of George Gilbert Scott, the designer of All Souls', Haley Hill. It was completed in 1865 and cost approximately £9,000, about £389,000 in today's money. Akroyd paid about two thirds of the total cost out of his own pocket.

The first vicar was the Reverend J. B. Sidgwick, an acquaintance of Akroyd. A scandal soon erupted when it emerged that Sidgwick was an Anglo-Catholic. Accused of not being 'a sound churchman', he was replaced by the Reverend Charles Halmshaw.

Initially the whole of the interior of the church was painted but the plaster was stripped off in the 1960s, leaving the masonry exposed. The chancel roof was painted by Clayton and Bell, who also painted the churches of All Souls, Haley Hill and All Saints, Salterhebble, both in the Halifax area.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1993.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



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your church tour



Church of St Stephen

Copley



THE CHURCHES
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The historic church of St Stephen

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 This iron **chancel screen** was not part of the original design. It was added in 1867.
- 2 The **dedication tile** of October 1865 marks the rebuilding of the chancel and sacristy but also records Edward Akroyd's benefaction. The floor tiles were supplied by the firm of Clayton and Bell.
- 3 The current **organ** was built in 1892 and was brought to St Stephen's from the church of St John the Baptist, Dawgreen, Dewsbury, in 1964. The original organ had been intended for All Souls', Haley Hill.
- 4 The **stone pulpit**, made by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, is elaborately decorated with gilded mosaics of the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) and the four Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- 5 The **stone font** is decorated with quatrefoils and foliage.
- 6 All the **stained glass** in the church is by Hardman of Birmingham. The windows include the Passion, the Baptism of Christ, scenes from the Old Testament and figures of various saints.
- 7 The **reredos** is decorated with mosaics and paintings and was crafted by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, the same company who made the pulpit.
- 8 In the north aisle there are several stencilled **roof timbers**. Originally the entire interior was painted. However, only traces of paint in the chancel and north aisle remain.
- 9 There are two **collection boxes** in the porch. One was intended as a collection box for relief of the poor, the other for the upkeep of the church.
- 10 Outside the church, in the north-west corner of the churchyard, stands a **monument** dedicated to those who died in World War I.



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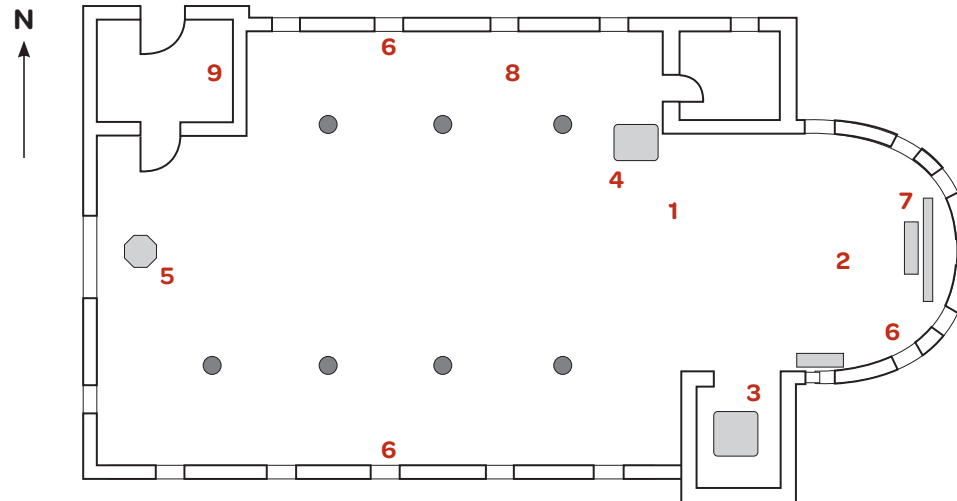


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