






 Limited parking outside the church


St Michael's Church,
Westgate End,
Wakefield,
WF2 9RW

Revd Dr. Gerald Sykes, Priest-in-charge
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The site of our church was acquired in 1856. The Bishop of Ripon blessed the Foundation Stone of the church on Thursday in Easter Week 16th April 1857. The building, designed by architect William Dykes of York, was considered to be 'a great ornament to the town' and was solemnly opened for worship on Michaelmas Day, Wednesday 29th September 1858. The consecration could not however, take place then as insufficient funds had been raised for the endowment of the church. The offertories on the opening day amounted to £5 1 6 a very large sum of money for 150 years ago. The Bishop of Ripon finally consecrated the Church on Whit Monday 27th May 1861. The district with which it was connected was a very poor one. There were no wealthy properties within the area and the money had been raised among some 3000 small tenants.

St Michael's parish was originally part of Alverthorpe parish that was only formed in the early 1820's. A separate parish was assigned to St Michael's in 1869 and the Reverend W A Cass was designated as Vicar on the 7th January. The Vicar of Alverthorpe was designated as Patron of the Benefice. The Girls' School was built when the Reverend W A Cass was vicar. Cass remained at St Michael's until 1872 and the stained glass window at the western end of the church illustrating the words of the Benedicite was inserted in his memory.

The stained east window was a gift of Mr Thomas Foljambe of Holmfield who was the owner of a large part of Thornes.

After the First World War in 1919, the three hanging lamps were placed before the High Altar in memory of the members of St Michael's congregation and parish who gave their lives in that War. In 1927, an extension was made to the Vestry, including a priest's vestry in memory



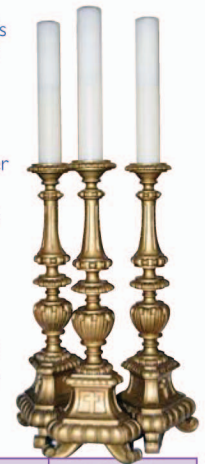
of Haydn Brear who for over 50 years had been the organist.

The six Florentine candlesticks and Crucifix on the High Altar were provided as a memorial to Mary Ann Marshall, a former Headmistress of St Michael's Infant School, and were dedicated at the Centenary Service on 27th May 1961.

On the 27th May 1961 there was a Solemn High Mass at 11 o'clock in the presence of the Bishop of Pontefract the right Reverend George Clarkson. The Mayor of Wakefield and a large congregation including neighbouring clergy and clergy who had served at St Michael's attended the service. Like the Consecration Day in 1861, it was a fine summer's day. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Te Deum was solemnly sung as an act of Thanksgiving for God's blessing to St Michael's for the previous 100 years.

The first thing that happened to St Michael's after the Centenary service was putting the Church on an Island, and since the 1960's the church has continue to serve the people of this area.

St. Michael's has been reordered in the last decade. Comfortable chairs have replaced the pews and a nave altar installed. The church can now be used very flexibly. The church maintains it's Anglo-Catholic tradition but tries to combine tradition with innovation.



Date	Event / Activity	Times
Sun 30 May	Mass	10 am–12noon
Mon 31 May	Coffee Morning	10am– 12noon
Tue 1 June	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Wed 2 June	Mass Coffee Morning	10am–11am 10am– 12noon
Thu 3 June	Coffee Morning	10am– 12noon
Fri 4 June	Coffee Morning	10am– 12noon
Sat 5 June	Garden Party	2pm – 4pm
Sun 6 June	Mass	9:30am – 11am

