



Limited parking around the church

13 **St Paul's Church,**
St Paul's Drive,
Alverthorpe,
Wakefield,
WF2 0BT

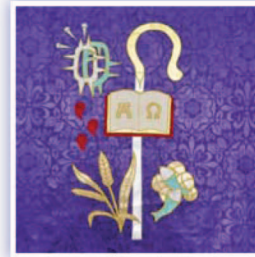
Revd Dr. Gerald Sykes, Priest-in-charge
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The Church Foundation Stone was laid in March 1823 and opened 1st July 1825 and the Church is now almost 185 years old. The Church was one of the 'Million' Churches built as a result of the Government donating £1 million following the Napoleonic Wars. The new Church was sited on top of a hill from which it could be seen by most of its new parish which included Wrenthorpe even though Wrenthorpe was in an adjacent township. Wakefield Parish Church became Wakefield Cathedral in 1888 which meant Wakefield became a Cathedral City and the township of Alverthorpe cum Thornes was merged into the new City by 1904.

Alverthorpe had an attached hamlet of Flanshaw and over the years Alverthorpe has shrunk in size eg Alverthorpe Hall demolished circa 1950 and replaced by Flanshaw Infants School with part of its grounds becoming an extension of Flanshaw Estate. Alverthorpe Cricket Field became another extension of Flanshaw Estate and St Michael's Parish took over parts of Flanshaw – Flanshaw Hall which stood on top of Flanshaw Hill was demolished and replaced by St Michael's Junior School circa 1950 but also the densely populated centre of the village has been replaced by more spacious housing. Flanshaw now has a greater population than Alverthorpe.

There have been changes within the Church since 1825:

- the side galleries, on which the music group accompanied the services, were removed
- an organ was installed and replaced by the present one
- a stained glass window was installed in memory of those killed in action in the 1st World War



- a chancel screen was erected in memory of Revd Joseph Walton, a long serving Vicar
- bells were installed after the 2nd World War – the heaviest musical instrument in West Yorkshire
- a new altar was installed on a platform in front of the chancel steps circa 1967
- rooms were created under the balcony at the rear of the Church in 1970
- gas lighting was replaced by chandeliers from the Cathedral and replaced again by the present lighting
- rooms were created in the Crypt circa 1985 but are presently not usable

In 1974 there was a major coal mining disaster when men from Lofthouse Colliery were possibly trapped underground directly below a field off Batley Road and the Church became part of a national focal point because bearings for pinpointing a round the clock rescue operation from the ordnance survey trig point on top of the Church Tower - to locate a point to drill a shaft – unfortunately the rescue attempt was unsuccessful.

The Church had its own Vicar from 1840 to 2001 but presently shares a Vicar with St Michael's Parish.

A new Aided School was opened in 1974 which is presently Infant/ Junior with Nursery.

The graveyard on the north, west and south sides of the Church was specifically for Church burials and the graveyard to the south of the Church was administered by the Local Authority. The Church graveyard is closed except for the burial of cremated remains and the Local Authority graveyard is almost full.

There are plans for alterations to the Church related to increased community use which includes an improvement to its heating system so its history will continue ongoing.

Date	Event / Activity	Times
Sun 30 May	Evening Prayer	6pm–7pm
Tue 1 June	Morning Prayer	9am–10am
Wed 2 June	Communion Church open	11am–12noon 10am–1pm
Sat 5 June	Church open Emley Brass Band, Proms on the Hill, £5 – children free	1pm–5pm 7pm–9pm
Sun 6 June	Communion and Baptism	11am–12.30pm

