



 Nearby on Church Street

16 **St. Peter's Church**
Church Street,
Woolley,
Wakefield,
WF4 2JU

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It is possible that a wooden structure in Anglo Saxon times was improved in 1158 by small stone church with a short chancel and an aisle-less nave, followed by an enlarged 13th century chancel. A complete rebuild in the late 15th century, lasted until a reordering in 1871, giving us largely what we see today.

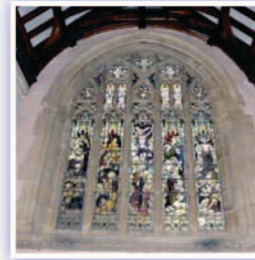
The 15th century South Porch contains the original timber roof, although the inverted gable-cross (St. Peter, our Patron Saint, was crucified upside down) was designed by Charles Gurrey, and installed as a Millennium project. The relief sculpture of three fishes is being a further symbol of St. Peter (the fisher of men) was used from the earliest Christian times to denote places of Christian assembly and also represents the Trinity.

The Norman font dates from the 11th century, and was reinstated in 1993 having been found in a local Woolley garden. In the west wall is a stained glass window after William Morris, dated 1871.

The 15th century bench ends at the rear of the nave, and the screen in the south aisle, are complemented by the Richard Wheatley bench ends supporting the pews at the front of the nave. The doorway and stairs in the south wall of the nave once led to a timber medieval screen and loft separating the nave from the chancel.

The Wentworth chapel restored in 1930 by Guy and Eleanor Wentworth includes family stained glass windows, an 1871 font (unused today), an altar table that is the heavy marble top of the tomb of Ann Wentworth, cross and candlesticks from 1930 in the Florentine style, and some significant ceiling bosses.

The reredos behind the altar dates from 1966 and was made by Thompson of Kilburn (including his trademark mouse). The pipe organ was installed in 1986, and came from a church in Penistone.



The circular 15th century Trinity window on the east side shows a rare depiction of God as Father; Son and Holy Spirit. On the south wall is hung a funeral hatchment (diamond shaped tablet) showing the armorial bearings of Godfrey Wentworth.

There is a peel of five bells in the key of B flat major. The oldest bell has in Latin an inscription 'given by Sir Richard Woodruffe 1477 – 1522'. The heaviest bell weighs 7 cwt. These two bells were re-hung in 1743 in a wooden frame, together with a third bell dated 1612. A fourth bell was added in 1871, donated by the farmers of Woolley. The bells were re-hung again in 1984, and augmented with a fifth bell, a treble.

The tower clock is thought to date from 1743, probably made by John Harrison (famous for inventing the maritime chronometer), whose brother made and fitted the bell frame in the same year. At one time the clock face was fixed high above the bell louvers on the parapet of the east side of the tower, but it was moved to the north side in 1871.

The two raised grave stones in the churchyard on the west of the path to the porch are grade II listed, and are graves of George Wildsmith and George Stringer; 1723 and 1724. Two more raised grave stones to the east of the path, also grade II listed, are the graves of Susanna and Anne Fretwell, 1707 and 1714. There is also a grade II listed pair of shrine-like tomb chests, possible Norman. These are believed to be tombs of the builders of the church who fell from the tower.

Date	Event / Activity	Times
Sat 29 May	Church Open Display of Wedding Dresses through the Decades	10.30am–5pm
Sun 30 May	Holy Communion Church Open Wedding Dresses display	10.30–11.30am 11.30am–5pm
Mon 31 May	Church Open Display of Wedding Dresses through the Decades	10.30am–5pm
Wed 2 June	Service of Stillness & Peace	8–8.45pm
Thu 3 June	Holy Communion	10–10.30am
Sat 5 June	Wedding	12.30–1.30pm
Sun 6 June	Holy Communion & Baptism	10.30–11.30am

