



17 *St Stephens Church,*
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The foundation stone for our well-used and popular church was laid on 23rd October 1872 with Masonic ceremony by the Marquis of Ripon who was the Grand Master of The United Lodge of England. The church was consecrated by Dr Thompson, Archbishop of York on 24th November 1874.

It is cruciform in shape and is built in the Gothic style with steeply pitched roofs covered with natural blue slate. The double arched main entrance doors are framed in a stone archway with a carved pillar to either side. It has a 13.5 metre high castellated tower that was an addition when the original wooden turret was removed in 1926 and it contains the original ring of three bells in an oak frame. In the base of the bell tower is a smaller unhung bell taken from the old Chapel, built circa 1653, for use in the school when the chapel was demolished. Sadly, it is too dangerous to allow visitors into the tower. Also removed from the Chapel and now in church is the octagonal stone font complete with wooden petal shaped cover.

Internally the roof is lined in pitch pine and ribbed with large wooden arches supported on stone plinths set in the walls. The four gothic stone arches at the intersection of the Nave, Chancel, south and north transepts each have equally majestic wooden arches meeting in the centre where the original wooden turret was positioned.

In the chancel either side of the approach to the altar rail are choir stalls. The still-used church organ, built by booths of Wakefield in 1874, is located on the north wall and has a raised carved stone pulpit located in its front. To the south side of the chancel is an oak lectern.

In the east gable are three arched stained glass windows with dedications in the bottom sections; in the south transept there are five stained glass windows (two new ones facing east and three original ones facing south), and in the base of the bell tower there is one South facing stained glass window.

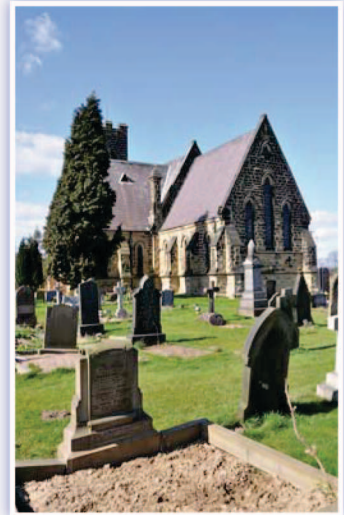
The font is situated in the south transept. Access to the tower is also from here. A wall clock from the village school is hung on the south wall.

The Nave has fixed pitch pine pews along either side with a central stone flagged aisle.

The north transept has had a kitchen and disabled toilet facilities built into it recently.

There are various monuments on the walls of the church, including brasses stone and marble. Some are to the memory of people who have served St Stephens church and some are from the demolished chapel, including one with a Latin inscription. There is also an oak board listing all the Clergy who have served at St Stephens over the years. In the north transept near the entrance to the vestry are two wall hung canvasses, The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer.

In the church grounds are gravestones and monuments. One monument of particular note is that of Thomas William Tew, founder master of the St Oswald Lodge of Freemasons, Pontefract and chairman of the trustees who founded the church.



Date	Event / Activity	Times
Sat 29 May	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Sun 30 May	Eucharist Service followed by refreshments	3–5.30pm
Mon 31 May	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Tue 1 June	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Wed 2 June	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Thu 3 June	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Fri 4 June	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Sat 5 June	Open Church	6.30–7.30pm
Sun 6 June	Eucharist Service followed by refreshments	8.45–11am

