

When the church was refurbished in 1971 the altar, marble plinth and the Cross and candlesticks were removed from the Lady Chapel and a kitchen area was created in this space. The font was removed to its present position using the black and white marble tiles from the old Lady Chapel as a raised base. Work started on building the toilet block. The North aisle was partitioned from the nave by glazed panelled sliding and folding doors. The bells were removed from the church to Taylor's foundry at Loughborough for safe keeping.

In 1974 the bells were re-hung and ancillary work carried out in the bell chamber. The description in the Terrier states: "Peal of 5 bells restored, one being recast and a 6th New Treble Bell added".

In 2000 the old wooden chairs were replaced by the more comfortable padded fabric and wooden chairs that we have today.

Family History

If you are researching your family history, you may be interested to know that nearly 6,000 baptisms and 1382 marriages from St Peter's, Hartshorne have recently been added to South Derbyshire BMD. These span the years 1524-1928.

For more information visit www.southderbyshirebmd.co.uk



Please visit our website for more information

www.hartshornechurch.org.uk



History of St Peter's Church, Hartshorne

The church of St. Peter is a building of grey sandstone, consisting of chancel, nave, north aisle, west porch and an embattled Perpendicular tower at the west end of the aisle, containing a clock and 6 bells, the tenor being of pre-Reformation date, and finely lettered; the 2nd, 3rd and 4th were cast in 1792, the treble cast in 1973 and the 5th recast in 1974 and identically marked to the original C16 bell.

There has been a church on the site since the beginning of the fourteenth century, although it is likely that it was a place of worship before that time. The Church was first mentioned in the Episcopal Register of 1303 and the tower was added during the fifteenth century.

Only the tower and chancel remain of the original church, the main body being rebuilt in 1835 at a cost of £1,400, when cast iron windows were inserted, imitating Perpendicular tracery. The font is believed to be fourteenth century.

There is a 17th century large oak parish chest, seven feet long, with nine iron clasps. There are two wardens' staves (or wands) clipped to fixed shelving next to the curtains at the back of the church. Wardens' staves were originally sharp pointed sticks to prod people and/or dogs, and were known as 'prodders' in the 1600s. These 20th century staves were presented by Mrs E Cooper, daughter of Mr E. Heffield who was a warden for some years.

Near the western entrance is a fine altar tomb with alabaster figures to Humphrey Dethick and his wife, with an inscription and the dates 1599 and 1611 and along the front reliefs of three sons and three daughters. It was one of the Dethicks who went to Cleves to find a fourth wife for Henry VIII and his son William laid a pall of rich velvet on the coffin of Mary Queen of Scots. In 1624 the Rev. William Dethick bequeathed £100 to the parishes of Newhall and Hartshorne. Before the 1902 restoration of the church this tomb was sited under a rounded arch in the north wall of the chancel. It had to be moved when this wall was opened up to build the Lady Chapel (now the Kitchen area).

There are other alabaster slabs with worn effigies on the floor, but the inscriptions are almost illegible; one is dated 1627.

The church plate includes a silver cup dated 1612. A record of this can be found in the Churchwarden's accounts for 1612. A silver paten dates from 1480s.

A statue of St Stephen is in a niche above the vestry door. It is thought that there was a mistake when the statue was installed as St Stephen's Church in Woodville (now Christ the Redeemer) has a similar statue of St Peter.

In the balcony there are old wooden benches, one of which is Jacobean circa 1600. This is on the south side of the balcony near the front and can be identified by its carved panels.

The church was restored in 1902-3, at a cost of £3,000 (worth over £300,000 today). A plaque is on display showing

that a grant of £20 from the Incorporated Church Building Society was given "towards enlarging this church on condition that all the sittings are for the free use of the parishioners according to law." The 1901 architect's plans can be found on www.churchplansonline.org which states that the work was: "For new North Chapel and South Vestries, with rebuilding of chancel E wall, new nave windows, reseating and general repairs".

We can see from these plans that that the font was centrally positioned at the foot of the tower. A photograph circa 1900 shows the old wooden box pews, pulpit and vestry.

There was not enough money to pay for the oak pews designed by the architect so wooden chairs were donated by Miss Lloyd, who also donated the pulpit, choir stalls and altar (this was replaced by a new Holy Table in 1965 donated by the Orme family - bakers in the village). Also donated in 1903 were the lectern, altar candlesticks and vases, the altar cross, the Font Ewer and brass Alms dish which can be seen today.

The Rev Robert Reade who was Rector during the restoration of the church was also responsible for the installation of the east window, a memorial to the Rev. Henry William Buckley M.A. d. 23rd Nov. 1892. The window depicts Christ on the Cross with the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist. There is an error in the wording of the scripture verse - can you spot it?

In 1930 a faculty was obtained for: "installing the necessary wires, fixtures and fittings for lighting by Electricity the church".

The large west window was reconstructed in 1935.

In 1959 a faculty was obtained for "removing the bells from the Tower and placing them in the church until they can be renovated and re-hung in the Tower" and in 1962 a faculty was obtained "to place one Bell in the Church Tower until the permanent bells have been repaired and re-hung".