

A Brief Guide



Entrance with portcullis



St Giles is the Parish Church of Bramhope, in the Diocese of Leeds. It was dedicated on 28 November 1881. The ceremony began with the clergy, choir and building committee processing from the Puritan Chapel, where Anglicans had previously worshipped, to and through the portcullis entrance of St Giles.

Bramhope was designated as a separate parish from Otley some nine months later on 22 August 1882. Village people subscribed over £2000 towards the cost of the building and James Rhodes of Bramhope Hall donated the site. The building was designed by Richard Adams & John Kelly and built using millstone grit from local quarries on the Chevin.



Harvest Festival

Welcome, Worship & Wonder at 

Inside the porch the modern glass doors are engraved with the coat of arms of the Diocese of Ripon & Leeds. Since Easter 2014 St Giles has been in the newly created 'Diocese of Leeds'.



Original font

from the back of church to the chancel steps. The child or adult is often baptised at a family ceremony and later welcomed into the church family during a normal Sunday service. On this font you will see a carved mouse, the trademark of Robert Thompson of Kilburn. Several items in the church have been made at Thompson's workshop and you can see his 'mice' elsewhere.

Once through the original oak door on the right are various items. The stone font is in the customary position in English churches and a member of the congregation made its wooden cover. Toys are kept by the font for children to use during services and there is also a designated area nearby in the north aisle where children can be occupied. However, today, Baptisms are sometimes conducted using a portable oak font which is moved



Portable 'Mouseman' font

The windows behind the stone font carry the inscription: "He shall give His angels charge over thee." If you look at the Angel's feet, you'll see that one has six toes! In the glass-topped table is a Memorial Book, a gift from a member of the congregation. The church contains many gifts that have been given in memory of family members and this tradition still continues.



The six-toed angel stained glass window



The north aisle

An oak bench at the back of the nave was given in memory of a former churchwarden. If you look up the nave, you can see the chancel and the sanctuary with the impressive east window. Stout pillars with decorated capitals support the arches on the left which separate the nave from the north aisle. Buildings in the architectural style of the Early English

period were generally balanced and the architects of St Giles allowed for a south aisle and west tower in future developments. During the 1970's this was considered but in the end it was decided to build the Chapel of All Saints instead, which is accessed from the lobby.



The central window in the north aisle

Stained glass is used in churches to portray Bible stories, which was particularly necessary when few people were able to read. The first window in the north aisle shows an angel pointing to heaven. The angel in the Bible reference (*Matt 28:6*) says to Mary Magdalene and Mary in front of the empty tomb: "He is not here; he has risen...."

In the central window we have the words spoken by Jesus about Nathaniel (*John 1:50*) and the next window depicts the child Jesus in the carpenter's shop with Joseph and Mary. The window at the end of the north aisle shows Jesus in the Temple.



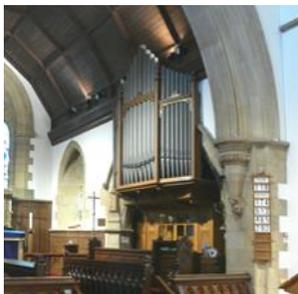
The MU Banner

Also in the north aisle is the banner of the St Giles Branch of the Mothers' Union. The MU not only reaches out into the community here but is part of a worldwide organisation. Our MU is one of the many caring groups within this lively, active Church.

The pulpit depicts the figures of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Above it hangs a small decorated wooden cross donated by missionaries who served in Jordan and who were supported by St Giles. Nearby stands a wooden candlestick with a Paschal candle - a gift in memory of a past member of the congregation. The Paschal candle is renewed and dedicated each Easter.



The pulpit



The organ

The steps lead to the chancel through the archway supported by angels. The handrails, another gift, are a great help to those less mobile going to the altar for Communion. On each side are the choir stalls and on the right is the organ, installed in 1908. It was originally hand-pumped and the pay for operating the bellows was £1 per annum! It has been powered by electricity since 1945.

The brass Processional Cross was a gift from the congregation to mark fifty years of service by a former chorister. The two windows on the north wall of the chancel above the choir stalls show the arrest of Jesus and the scene at Golgotha. The altar is used for the consecration of the bread and wine at Holy Communion and the embroidered frontal is changed according to the Church Calendar. The candlesticks and oak panelling were also crafted by 'Mouseman', Robert Thompson's workshop.



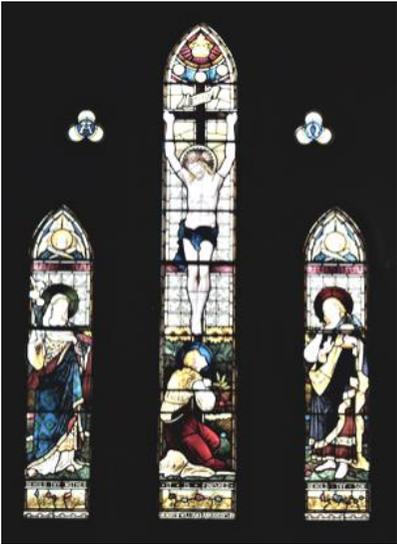
Processional Cross

The reredos behind the altar has three panels. The centre one is of the Nativity, with the two Apostles, St Peter and St Paul, on the left and right. The reredos is a memorial to Frances Elizabeth Ellershaw of Bramhope who went to Central Africa as a missionary. She died on Likoma, an island in Lake Malawi, East Africa, in 1897. Also in the sanctuary, the north windows show the Garden of Gethsemane.



The altar and reredos

The east window depicts the Crucifixion, with Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the left and his disciple, John, to the right (*John 19, 26-27*). The south window shows the Resurrection. The Bishop’s Chair is to the left of the altar and to the right is a Credence Table for the wine, water and bread used during Holy Communion. The altar rail is made of oak cut from a tree at Elston Hall in Nottinghamshire, which had been struck by lightning. The donor was Francis (Rhodes) Darwin, a major benefactor and owner of both Elston Hall and local Creskeld Hall.



The East Window



West windows

Before leaving the chancel, pause to look down the aisle at the main west windows. On the left is St Giles, a hermit who lived in the Arles region of France. His particular concerns were for cripples and the poor, apparently appropriate as St Giles Church is situated on a plot of land formerly called Cripplegarth. However, this is a coincidence, as ‘cripple’ refers to a hole in a stone wall that allows sheep to pass through, but not cattle. The right window is of St Cuthbert, a saint of Northumbria.

Returning down the nave, the ‘Mouseman’ wooden lectern, to your left, and its Bible, were given in memory of members of the congregation. The pew frontal on the right commemorates the life of an airman killed in 1941. The south wall windows tell the story of Ruth, based on the book of Ruth in the Old Testament and are considered particularly fine.



Ruth and Orpah



The new LED lighting

Below the west windows are the Churchwardens' boards flanking the Memorial to the Fallen of the two World Wars and the flag of the Royal British Legion.

Another original pew frontal houses the controls for the multi-media system which was installed in 2010. Services, hymns and notices can be displayed

on a screen that is lowered from behind the arch leading to the chancel. A camera beside the west window enables services to be transmitted on the various monitors in church and church hall.

New LED lighting was installed throughout the church in 2012 to improve the general lighting, but also to highlight the pulpit, lectern and reredos. Upward-facing LEDs illuminate the wooden rafters in the nave and ceilings of the chancel and north aisle. The ability to dim lights has proved invaluable in setting the ambience for special services and concerts.

Before leaving the church through the doorway into the lobby, notice the Incumbents' board with the names of the Vicars of Bramhope since 1882 on the left and, on the right, photographs of the current church officers.



The Church set up for its 130th Anniversary Celebration

To the left of the lobby is the Chapel of All Saints, a restful place designed for prayer and regularly used for weekday communion services. It was consecrated on 6 August 1981, St Giles' centenary year. The altar and reading desk came from St Matthew's Church, Holbeck, which had closed. The kneelers were embroidered by church members whose names can be found in a frame inside the doorway.



The Chapel of All Saints



A Fairtrade display

Back in the lobby take a moment to study what's happening at St Giles, both now and in the near future. This area is used as a 'shop window' and you are free to take any of the leaflets from the display racks for yourself or indeed for anyone who you think might benefit from them. On special occasions we have a seasonal display; It might highlight Fairtrade Fortnight, Harvest, Christmas, Easter.....

The church hall, built in 1977, was refurbished in 2002 to provide disabled access and new toilet facilities. With its well-equipped kitchen, the hall, together with the adjacent meeting room, make a valuable contribution to the social life of the church and local community. The hall and meeting room are available for hire.



The Church hall



The meeting room

In the grounds of the church, you may sit on one of the Millennium benches (a memorial to a generous benefactor) and enjoy the view. Near the gate is the Millennium Yew Tree, which continues to grow from a sapling taken from a tree believed to be some 2000 years old: may it thrive for centuries.

Finally, the bell in the gable came from the nearby Grade 1 listed Puritan Chapel. It continues to ring out an invitation to worship, as it has done in Bramhope for over three hundred and fifty years.

It is worthy of the last word.



The Millennium benches



**St
Giles Bramhope**
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*Revised and updated by Fred Archenhold,
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