

## Welcome to All Saints Church Penshaw

a church that has been used as a place of worship since 1746.

This is a Grade II listed historic building.



The table beside the entrance door was given in memory of John, Emily and James Scully. Emily Scully was an active church member and on the first Parochial Church Council when it was formed. John was her husband and James was their son.

The bookstand opposite was given in memory of Nancy Evans another long standing church member and worker. She was also a member of the Mothers' Union.

Nancy Evans also gave the case for the Memorial Book in memory of her mother-in-law Ida Evans. The memorial book was given in memory of Arthur Colman by his wife Jean & Family.

**The West Wall Window** – This stood above the original doorway and the plain glass was removed to give a memorial to the Reverend Philip Thompson, Rector of the parish from 1868

– 1880 during the major alterations to the church in 1876. His successor the Reverend Joseph Hamilton Fox organised the memorial window to be installed. The two large pictures depict the parable of the sower and Jesus the Good Shepherd. The smaller round window above depicts the parable of the lost sheep.

The Font is original to the building and is made of plain stone with no decorative features. It is now placed in a more familiar position as most fonts are, immediately facing the chancel and sanctuary and at the foot of the crucible shaped building. Here church membership begins with baptism into the Christian family.

**The North Wall** On entering the church the first thing that stand out to a visitor is the Lambton Funeral Hatchment hanging in its new place since it was restored in 1996. It used to hang over the entrance door for many years prior to this.

The second is the crucifix window given in memory of Joseph Hamilton Fox, who was Rector for only a short while from 1880 until his sudden death at 47 years old in 1884 far away in his home city of Bath where he had gone for a short stay. He was greatly loved and admired by many people who gave donations for this window to be installed. Although only Rector for four years he purchased the organ, began the choir, weekly Holy Communion Services and daily prayers. He also established regular services in the Mission Halls in Coxgreen and Station Road. The latter is now Penshaw Catholic Club.

No stained glass memorial for Rector Fox's successor, the Reverend James Moore, whose memorial plaque hangs on the wall between the

crucifix window and the middle window on the north wall. Rector Moore was here from 1884 - 1899. During his time as Rector a lot of significant changes were made to the fabric of the church.

Shortly after the crucifixion window was installed in memory of Rector Fox, Sir George Elliot, a local born Baronet and politician donated a fragment of the tablet cut from the Great Pyramid of Ghizeh. This can be seen close to the pulpit. Two of these fragments were given to Sir George by Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt; he presented the other tablet to Saint Mary's church at West Rainton.

The final window on the north wall is the Levett designed window depicting Saint Cuthbert in the centre. He is surrounded by symbols of the northern saints and the All Saints symbol of the crown with the Latin phrase 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus' beneath. This window was given in memory of George and Mary Marshall. George Marshall was a Sidesman and Churchwarden in the parish.

**The Sanctuary** This was the second addition and alteration to the church during Rector Moore's time. In 1887 Sir George Elliot donated the three stained glass windows that replaced the windows depicting the Evangelists when the church was built. They show the baptism, ascension and resurrection of Jesus Christ in that order. Sir George gave these windows in memory of his brothers and his son.

**The Reredos**, behind the altar, was given in memory of Phoebe Marshall. Another member of the family that gave the Levett window. A font ewer was also given in her memory. The wood panelling was given in memory of Pattie

Battersby, wife of Rector James Battersby, who was greatly loved and admired for her work in the parish.

The small **Credence Table** beneath the aumbry was given in memory of Jonathan Black. He was a Church Warden in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**The Altar** was given in memory of Sarah Fisher who was a long standing church member.

**The Sanctuary Light** was given in memory of the men from the parish who died during the First World War

**The Choir Stalls** These are the third set of stalls the church has had since the 1886 alterations. The first were removed with the old pews in the 1970's. They were replaced by pews from the now demolished church of Saint Hilda in Sunderland and then again with the present ones from the redundant church of Saint Chad in Gateshead.

**The Organ** This is a Harrison and Harrison organ and was bought for and installed in the church in 1883 during Rector Fox's time. Rector Fox also instituted the first surpliced choir in the church. In 2007 the organ was given a major refurbishment by H & H.

**The Crossing** The pulpit was moved to the north transept from its original position, where the Mothers' Union and other banners now hang, during the 1876 alterations.

The brass **Lectern** in the south transept was given to the church from donations made in honour of the life and reign of Queen Victoria.

The light oak prayer desk in front of the bishop's chair was given in memory of Elizabeth Kirton. The dark oak prayer desk in front of the votive candle stand was given in memory of Arthur Watson who died in 1926. Mr. Watson had been a Sidesman and a member of the first P.C.C.

The side altar was placed there after the installation of the new altar given in memory of Sarah Fisher. This was the main altar prior to that and no other side altar stood there before,

The votive candle-stand was given in memory of Alfred Gettings who was a Sidesman and Churchwarden of this church.

**The South Wall** The first memorial tablet not given in memory of a parish priest is the one for a young girl named Jane Elizabeth Bradley. Of her we know very little but she may have been a regular church attendant as her father was a churchwarden for a number of years and a Sidesman before that.

The last memorial tablet to be placed on the wall of the church in memory of a former Rector is that of Rector Lowenburg which hangs on the south-east wall. He was one of our shortest serving Rectors and came to Penshaw in January 1899. He died suddenly the following September in Saint Mary's Church, Whitby while he was attending the service there. He had left his wife and family behind while he visited his aunt in Whitby for a few days. He was planning to make a few alterations around the chancel area when he returned but they were never carried out.

**The War Memorial window** This depicts Saint Nicholas, Jesus the Light of the World and Saint George slaying the dragon. Beneath this are the

brass plaques with names of men from the parish who were killed in action in both wars. The brass candlestick on the window sill was given in memory of Lieutenant G.W, Holme who was missing in action in World War One. He was the son of Rector G.F. Holme.

**List of Parish Rectors** This was made for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church in 1996. The Reverend Joseph Hamilton Fox's Christian name should read James.

*Compiled by Dawn Cummings*

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