

No. 22: 'History enlightened'

The start of each September is marked by Heritage Open Days in England. Holy Trinity first participated in this annual event in 2010.

The story of Heritage Open Days began in 1994 with a European-wide drive to throw open the doors to historic monuments and buildings. Events are now co-ordinated by the National Trust and funded by the players of the Postcode Lottery. This year 5,500 events are taking place, including 58 in Kirklees. Why not take a look at a brochure in church, or on-line at <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> and visit somewhere new, (but please come to Holy Trinity too, so that visitors can see that the church is actually a living family, not just an historic building!)



Why are so many people interested in history? A quick google-search provided 2 main answers:

*"In all cases, **understanding** History is integral to a good **understanding** of the condition of being human. That allows people to build, and, as may well be necessary, also to change, upon a secure foundation."*

https://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/why_history_matters.html

*"A people who do not know their **history** are fated to repeat it." It is **important** because **history** helps you understand the past, to predict the future and help in creating it. ... Understanding **history** helps us avoid repeating the mistakes over and over again.*

*The more we study **history**, the wiser we become....."*

<https://www.enotes.com/.../why-important-study-history-explain-your-answer-389341>

My own interest in Holy Trinity's history began in 1994 when we were considering ways of raising money to re-order the church. At a meeting in the Parish Hall, it was suggested to me I could spend a few days researching the history in order to write a booklet to sell.

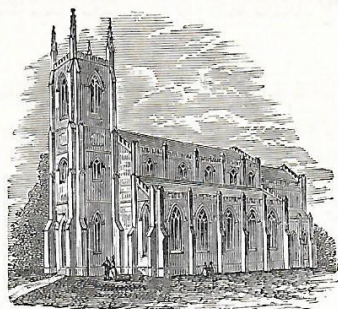
To help in my research, I was lent a book written in 1913 by long-standing church-member Pam Hawkins, called 'Three Lectures on the History of the Church and Parish 1819 – 1904', written by Rev. Arthur Weatherhead. 500 copies were originally published, but it is now available on-line at

[https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Holy_Trinity,_Huddersfield:_Three_Lectures_on_the_History_of_the_Church_and_Parish,_1819-1904_\(1913\)_by_Rev._A.S._Weatherhead](https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Holy_Trinity,_Huddersfield:_Three_Lectures_on_the_History_of_the_Church_and_Parish,_1819-1904_(1913)_by_Rev._A.S._Weatherhead)

Weatherhead was clearly fascinated by history and his book provides an invaluable insight into the early life of Holy Trinity. The book is basically his script of the three illustrated talks given. The talks and book were sold to raise money for the building of the Parish Hall.

The talks were held in the Parish Room, which stood adjacent to the new Parish Hall, then under construction. The Parish Room was demolished soon after and the site became a tennis court and playground for the Marsh school.

Holy Trinity, Huddersfield.



THREE LECTURES

ON THE

"History of the Church and Parish,"

WILL BE GIVEN BY THE

Rev. A. S. Weatherhead (Vicar),

In HOLY TRINITY PARISH ROOM, Marsh,

On Wednesday Evenings, October 15th & 22nd,

and Thursday, November 6th, 1913.

The Lectures will be illustrated by Lantern
Slides, and will commence at 8 p.m.

Tickets (for each Lecture—Reserved Seats), 6d.
Admission 3d.

J. Broadbent & Co., Printers, Ltd., Huddersfield.—37663a

The Rev. Canon Arthur Swinton Weatherhead became Vicar of Holy Trinity on January 9th 1910. He was one of 5 sons of a missionary couple in India. Two of his brothers later served with the Church Missionary Society in Canada and a third became the Headmaster of the Kings College School in Cambridge.



ARTHUR SWINTON WEATHERHEAD, M.A.

Weatherhead was described as "widely beloved wherever he worked", a "faithful priest" with "a real sense of humour". He served as Vicar between 1910 and 1923, during a time of great change, including the opening (and requisition of the Hall – see the blog No. 5, for more information).

During his time, the church celebrated its centenary, although the celebrations were somewhat muted by the growing depression following the Great War. The portrait of Benjamin Haigh Allen, displayed each year at the Open Day was cleaned and reframed as part of the centenary celebrations. A centenary fund was launched to clear the church's debts caused by the war, including the remaining building costs of the hall.



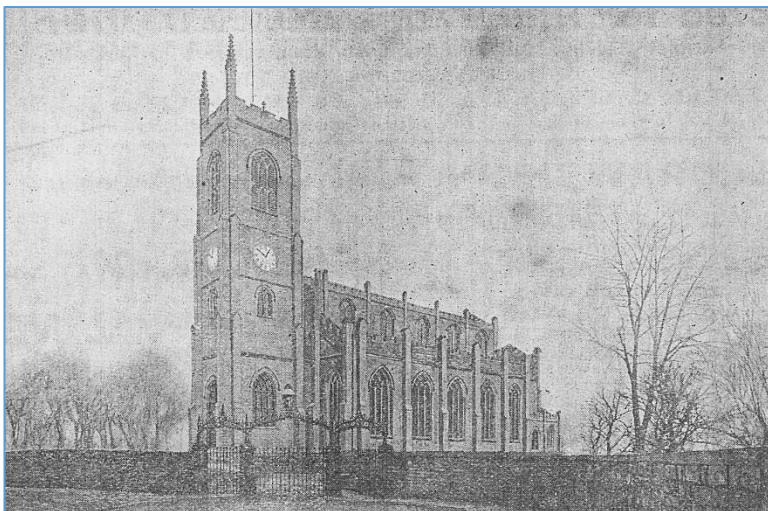
Parish Room, St James's Road

Despite the hard times, giving remained generous. Back in 1912 the church gave around £300 to mission and church expenses ran to about £1000 (the equivalent of £33,000 and £110,000 today). The cost of the hall, almost entirely paid for by the church was in addition to this. 1913-14 was the first year the church had to pay for diocesan expenses – the first “quota” was £50. The quota is now called the Parish Share and now includes all clergy costs.

In 1920 following the passing of new canon (church) law, the first Parochial Church Council was elected at the first Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Part of its first business was the completion of the centenary fund. The fund was finished in the summer of 1921, with a large bazaar. Overall the fund raised £2039.

Part of the fund was used to redecorate the church and construct the war memorial and windows, which will be the focus of a future blog.

Weatherhead's 1913 talks were illustrated by magic lantern, and around 60 photographs were printed onto the glass slides for projection. Some of these photos were also reproduced in the book. The church still has the glass slides in its archive and several years ago I got a few digitised, Weatherhead's own picture shown above is one of these. Magic lantern shows were a popular form of entertainment before the 'movies' started.



Holy Trinity 1920

Weatherhead's own interest in history left us an invaluable record of the first century of our church. We are about to begin a year of celebrations to mark the end of our second century, which is to be focused around the theme of light. The period of history in which the church was constructed was right at the end of a time known as the Enlightenment, during which European politics, philosophy, science and communications were all radically reoriented. The pace of change has accelerated since!

Who knows how we shall be able to celebrate our 300th anniversary and yet the gospel truth and the light of the gospel remains unchanging.

Andy Barber
September '18

References:

https://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/why_history_matters.html

<https://www.enotes.com/.../why-important-study-history-explain-your-answer-389341>

www.history.com/topics/enlightenment

[https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Holy Trinity, Huddersfield: Three Lectures on the History of the Church and Parish, 1819-1904 \(1913\) by Rev. A.S. Weatherhead](https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Holy_Trinity,_Huddersfield: Three Lectures on the History of the Church and Parish, 1819-1904 (1913) by Rev. A.S. Weatherhead)