

No. 25: 'Lighten our darkness.....

***Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.***

This collect from the Book of Common Prayer is one that I have always found to be a comfort. It is said or sung at Evensong and will have been used many hundreds of times at Holy Trinity over the years.

At the end of October we began the year of celebrations to mark the opening of Holy Trinity in 1819. As part of the service we lit a candle to remind us that Christ is the Light of the World, which is to be one of the themes for our celebrations. The candle will burn at all our services over the coming year.

Floodlighting on the church tower and clock-face were also switched on as part of our celebrations. The photos below were taken at the event. Our prayer is that over the year, more people will come to know Christ as their light. The church is a beacon to point people to Him.



Also this year we have replaced the lights in the main worship area of the church. The new dimmable LED lights cost a fraction of the amount to run the old lights which were becoming obsolete. The church is very thankful to Chris Rigg, Quinton Armitage and Neil Harper for their time and skills in designing and installing the new lighting system. It's probably fair to say the lights can now be brighter and more flexibly used than at any point in our church's history!

For the greater part of its lifetime the church would have been very dark inside. When first opened, candles would have been the main form of lighting and the balconies around three sides would have prevented much daylight shining in.

The church was comprehensively reordered in the early 1880s and it was then that gas-lighting was first installed. Brass gas-lighting standards were installed in the newly designed pitch-pine pews. The photo (right) shows the church as it was around 1900 with the gas standards. It is still possible to make out where the gas lights were in the choir-stalls and one of the original gas mantles remain in the clock-room in the tower. It





**Huddersfield Power Station and
Gasworks 1960s**

was hoped that the clock-face could be illuminated but it was considered too expensive and the request to the Huddersfield Corporation for a contribution towards the cost was turned down. It only took us 135 years to light up the clock, re-using one of the lights from inside church!

In 1901 electricity was installed in church. Installation cost £108 8s and was by Broadbent's, a local company still in business, now advertising itself as the 'Oldest Independent Electrical Retailer' in Huddersfield, having originally opened in 1897.

"The installation of the electric light, ... has added considerably to the church's fine appearance," stated the Parish Magazine.

The church cost less to light by electricity and was considerably more convenient than using gas. In its first year of use the electric bill totalled £10 7s. 9d, in comparison to the previous cost of lighting by gas, of £15 7s. 4d.

Over the years the electric lighting was improved many times. The current stage lighting was purchased in 1991 with the surplus money donated to the 'Platform Appeal' when the front of church was re-ordered and the pulpit removed. The target for the appeal was £10,000 and on the Gift Day, May 5th 1991, over £17,000 was given. This was a day of great rejoicing at God's abundant generosity and inspired the PCC to ambitiously pursue the church re-ordering project which started in 1994.

The Advent and Christmas seasons are full of imagery around the theme of light. I finish this blog with the collect for Christmas Eve. May it be fulfilled in us this Christmas and in the rest of our 200th anniversary celebrations:

*Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen*

**Andy Barber
December '18**