

## Churchwarden's Blog

*A monthly historical snippet to mark the bicentennial of the building of Holy Trinity Huddersfield, December 1816 – October 1819*

### No.1 Holy Trinity 'A beacon...'or the 'hidden church'?

Holy Trinity is the church you can see for miles around, but it's hard for people to find. Why is this?

Drive down Woodhouse Hill, or into town along Leeds Road, from Ainley Top or Newsome and Holy Trinity sits dominating the skyline of the town centre. Drive up Trinity Street and you can easily miss it.

When the church was first built, it was in the countryside outside the town. The urban sprawl of Huddersfield did not extend so far. The church was built on a plot of land that was part of the vast 80 acre Greenhead estate. Benjamin Haigh Allen inherited the larger, western, part of the estate from his uncle when he was aged just 18 and moved into Greenhead Hall.

The site of the church was on part of the eight-acre corner of the estate, severed from the rest in 1806 by the construction of the Huddersfield and New Hey turnpike road, today's Trinity Street.

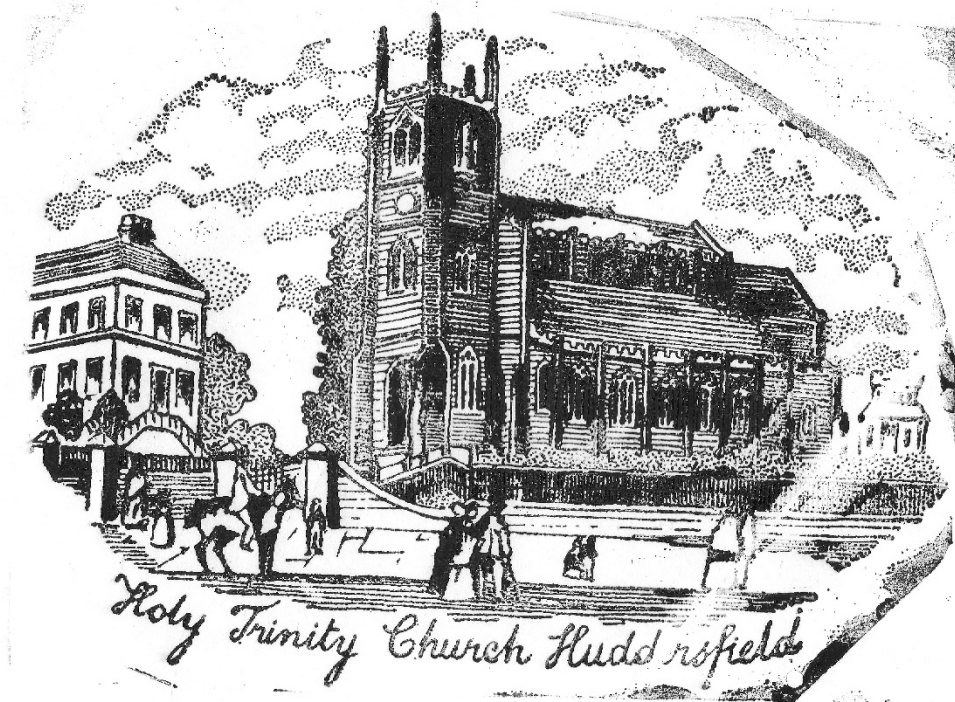
The church plot, set back from the road had a sizeable churchyard. As an investment Allen had Westfield (now the Trinity Hall, student residences) built in the 1820s and part of the building served as the first Vicarage. What is now the Highfield's Funeral Service is a house called West Place. This was built for Allen's sister-in-law, after her husband's death. The cottage behind it was the house used by the Holy Trinity's sexton and clerk.

The land immediately in front of the church, to the right of the church gates was reserved as a churchyard extension and so the church was clearly visible from the road at that time. However by the 1850s the churchyard was full and the decision was made to close it and Edgerton Cemetery was opened to serve the growing need of the town.

4 large semi-detached houses called Trinity Place were built on the land where the churchyard extension was to be and Trinity Church was largely hidden from view. No 3 Trinity Place (later renumbered 132 Trinity Street) was purchased as the Vicarage in 1932 at a cost of £1,400, the previous one being too small for all the new Vicar's family and servants.

In the 1980s and 1990s Holy Trinity's vision was 'That Christ should become so present by his Spirit in his body, that Holy Trinity would become - a beacon to which people are drawn by the love of God, and a base from which people go out to share the love of God with the world.'

Holy Trinity was built to serve God and serve Huddersfield. As the people of the church are we beacons of His love or are we hidden?



*This block print, found recently in Dennis Angell's study, shows the church from Trinity Street, before the building of Trinity Place in 1855.*

Andy Barber  
December '16