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The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We’ve saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.

About All Souls Church

This magnificent Victorian church was commissioned by notable local industrialist Edward Akroyd in 1856. Akroyd was deeply concerned by the growing rift between social classes and hoped his church would help bring people together. Akroyd’s statue now stands immediately to the west of the churchyard.

The church was meant to be the centrepiece of a model village called ‘Akroydon’, but the scheme floundered because those on lower incomes could not afford Akroyd’s housing. However, the church of All Souls continued to serve people from all social classes.

Prolific architect George Gilbert Scott was selected to bring Akroyd’s vision to life. Scott considered All Souls to be his finest church.

All Souls’ was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1989 and repairs to the west front and porch were carried out in 2009.

Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive ‘behind-the-scenes’ visits please go to our website.

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Your church tour

your church tour
The historic church of All Souls

10 things to see before you leave...

1. The **font** is made of dark Cornish serpentine, a marble-like stone found on the Lizard Peninsula. The pedestal is made of red Aberdeen granite.

2. The **stained glass** was designed and created by various companies, including William Wailes, Hardman & Co. and Clayton and Bell. The windows depict various saints and episodes from the Life of Christ. Some of the windows, including those in the south chapel, are dedicated to the memory of members of the Akroyd family.

3. The octagonal **pulpit** is made from French Caen stone and its base from Derbyshire marble. The fine geometric patterns are created with inlaid coloured marble.

4. The magnificent alabaster **reredos** depicts the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, St John, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. In the centre is a marble inlaid cross with the figure of Christ above it. The base of the reredos is of coloured marble, similar to the pulpit.

5. The **organ** is incomplete, having been heavily vandalised. It is the church’s second organ, the first having been moved to St Stephen’s church in Copley. Created by Forster and Andrews, it was the largest organ in Halifax at the time of its installation in 1868.

6. The **benefaction board** lists generous donors to the church, beginning with the church’s builder, Edward Akroyd, and also includes the legacies of the church’s vicars.

7. The awe-inspiring **west window** was donated to the church by Edward Akroyd’s brother Harry, in 1859. Showing the Last Judgement, it shares a number of features with the west window in St Mary’s Church, Fairford, Gloucestershire.

8. Instead of the typical wooden chancel screen, there is a fantastic screen of **painted wrought iron**, made by Francis Skidmore. If you look closely, you can see red painted flowers.

9. Edward Akroyd’s coat of arms is set into the centre of the floor in the **founder’s chapel**. Around the arms is the inscription ‘To the honour of God and the holy blessed and glorious Trinity this church was founded by Edward Akroyd, merchant and manufacturer of Halifax AD 1859’.

10. The **chancel ceiling** has been ornately painted with angels and stars, adding to the grandeur of an already splendid church.