



About St Leonard's

The church was a former chapel of Blackburn. It was built around 1557, using stones from the dissolved abbey at Whalley.

The fabric of the walls is local gritstone and the roofs are covered with graded stone slates. Closer inspection reveals a number of carved stones, particularly in and around the porch. These are thought to have been re-used from the older building at Whalley, as are some late Perpendicular architectural features including 15th-century square-headed windows, a credence and a piscina.

The church was granted parochial status in 1842 and was restored in 1897. The good quality restoration work was carried out by Paley and Austin. The attractive bell-cote at the west end appears to be of the 19th century, consisting of a simple stone arch for one bell, which is inscribed 'T. Elleray, Curate 1756'. The spacious churchyard is planted in Victorian fashion, with a large variety of trees including chestnut, lime, copper beech and sycamore. The churchyard was extended in the early 20th century as a patients' cemetery for the nearby Brockhall Hospital.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1990

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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.



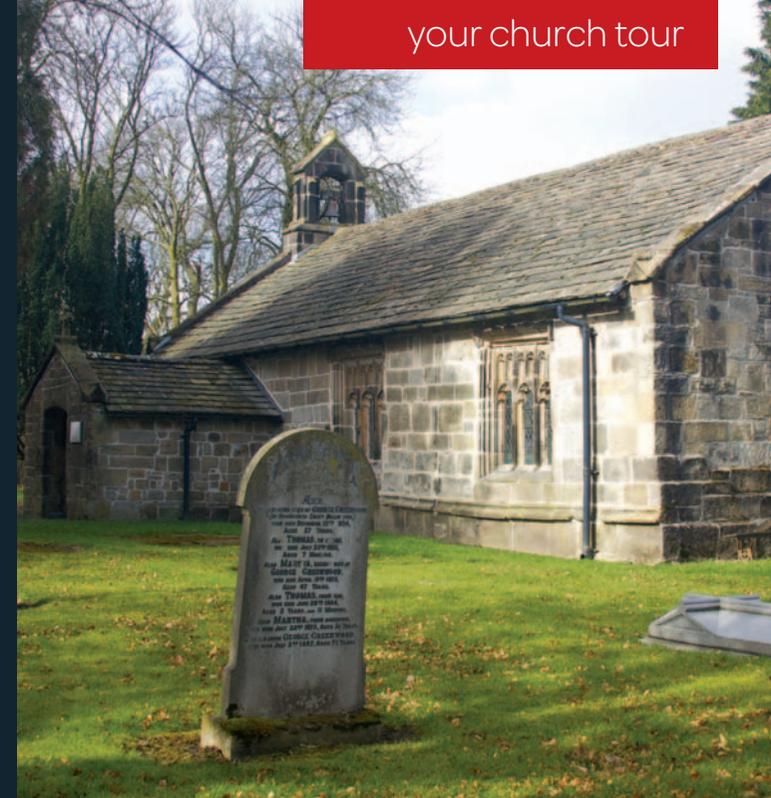
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Church of St Leonard

Old Langho



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The historic church of St Leonard

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The **font** is made of smoothly-carved local sandstone and was installed as part of the 1879 restorations to the church. It is a deep octagonal bowl with two tiers of blind arches, the lower plain and the upper trefoiled. The flat oak cover has an applied iron cross.
- 2 The **nave benches** date from the 19th century. However, the older bench ends date to the late 17th century. These show some interesting carved lettering within shields which identify individual benefactors. They also bear dates of between 1688 and 1719.
- 3 A brass **monument** records the restoration of the church in 1879 funded by William Thomas Carr of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law. Carr's mother was a member of the wealthy Chew family of Billington. A member of this family had been the incumbent at the church in 1840, just before Langho became a separate parish.
- 4 Fragments of **medieval stained glass** are set in the tracery lights in the north and south chancel windows. They are mostly very small and their features are difficult to identify.
- 5 A pair of **sanctuary chairs** is to be found on the north and south side of the sanctuary. One is 17th century, the other a good copy. Each has turned legs, scroll arms and a round-topped back.
- 6 The **credence shelf** set in the north wall of the chancel was most likely re-used following the dismantling of Whalley Abbey. Dating from around 1557, it is richly carved, with four tiers of moulding. The depression in the top indicates use as a holy water stoup.
- 7 The sturdy oak **communion rails** date to the 17th century. They consist of runs of six balusters with panelled uprights in between each run. They were restored in 1897.
- 8 A **piscina**, also believed to have come from the abbey at Whalley, is set in the south wall. This attractive feature has a quatrefoil drain under a trefoil arch.

- 9 The oak **lectern** is in the medieval style, but was probably made as part of the 1879 restorations.
- 10 The **floor tiles** are Victorian. The photograph shows just one example of the three different types of single colour tiles with impressed motifs located in the sanctuary.

