



About Old Holy Trinity Church

The village of Wentworth (or Winteworth as it was, meaning a high and exposed place) is mentioned in Domesday. A church is first recorded in 1235 but there is little now that can be reliably dated to before the 1491 rebuilding, except for the ledger slab in the floor, incised with a cross and a crossbow, in front of the vestry door.

The tower is at least as old as 1491 (it was lowered in 1962 for reasons of safety after the great gale in that year) as may well be some of the roof timbers and the plan of the building. A thorough restoration took place in 1684 at the expense of the second Earl of Stafford and most of what we see now took its shape at that time – the classical, centrally placed, south porch and the square-headed windows with heraldry above. This was the church in which John Wesley preached in 1733.

There must have been further alterations in 1825-7 when the mausoleum and the tunnel to it were built. The tunnel's entrance was put in what is now the vestry, although it had presumably been the sanctuary, with large monuments on the north side of the chancel.

In 1877 the 6th Earl Fitzwilliam built the new church opposite to the designs of J.L. Pearson. The nave of the old church was unroofed and the chancel with its north chapel became virtually a memorial chapel for the Fitzwilliam family, their forebears and their servants.

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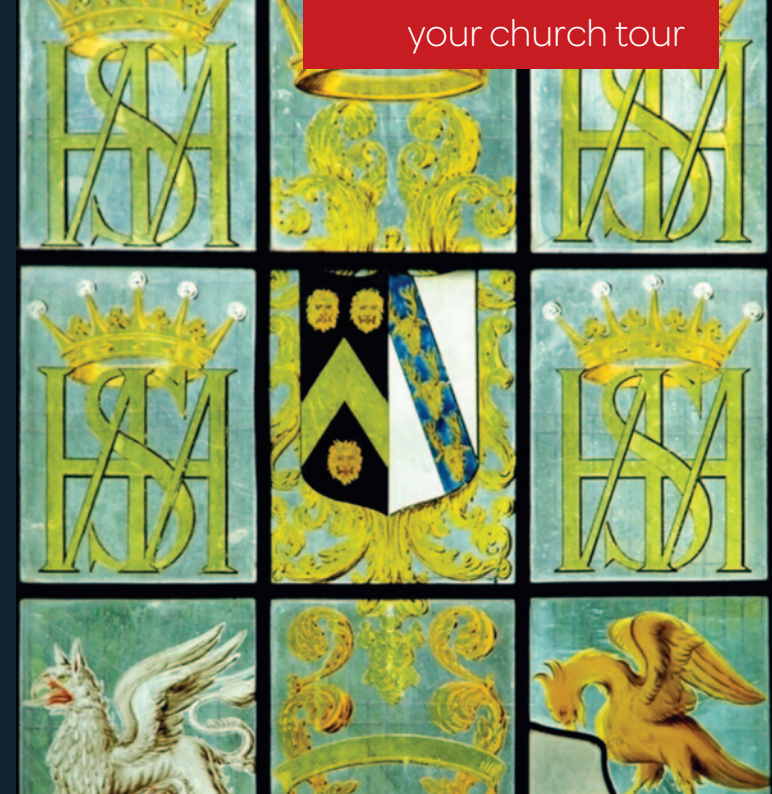
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your church tour



Church of Old Holy Trinity

Wentworth, South Yorkshire



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The historic church of Old Holy Trinity

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 **The Brass Plate** in the floor of the church dates from 1548 and commemorates Thomas Wentworth. It is the earliest Wentworth memorial in the church.
- 2 The impressive **Chest Tomb** of 1587 holding the remains of Thomas Wentworth and his wife Margaret Gascoigne.
- 3 **Mutilated Gascoigne Family Memorials**, originally in Monk Bretton Priory, were moved here after the marriage of Thomas Wentworth to Margaret Gascoigne.
- 4 **The Gravestone of a 13th Century Crossbowman** is thought to be one of only three still extant.
- 5 **Monuments of Sir William Wentworth**, the first baronet and his wife, the lady Anne, together with their large family. In the centre of his siblings is the armoured figure of the future Earl of Strafford.
- 6 **The Memorial of Thomas Wentworth**, Earl of Strafford executed on Tower Hill on 12th May 1641 after Charles I had signed the Bill of Attainder. A loyal servant of the Crown, he reflected, 'Put not your faith in Princes'.
- 7 William, the 2nd Earl erected this stunning **Memorial to his wife**, Henrietta Maria Stanley. He felt that 'never did a wife more passionately love her husband'.
- 8 **The Painted Glass Windows** include the arms of the 2nd Earl of Strafford and his wife. Her monogram 'HMS' can be seen repeatedly both in the windows and the family pew.
- 9 **The Two Hatchments** are those of, on the right, the 1st Marquis of Rockingham, the builder of Wentworth Woodhouse stately home. On the left is the hatchment of his heir, The 2nd Marquis who became Prime Minister twice in the mid 18th century.
- 10 **The Fitzwilliam Crypt**, completed in the early 19th century. Viscount Milton, traveller and author of 'The Northwest Passage by Land', an account of his journeys in Canada, is buried here.

