

Welcome to St John the Baptist Stamford Bridge!



Here's a brief guide to our lovely building. We hope it encourages you to come and visit.

The church building is usually open Monday to Saturday from around 9.30am to 4.00pm for you to look around and maybe pause for a while to say a prayer.

If you are visiting, then do leave us a message or a comment in the Visitors Book at the back of the church.

If you would like us to pray for you, then do write a prayer request and leave it on the board at the front of church

St John the Baptist Church was built in 1868. It was originally built as a chapel-of-ease (daughter church) in the parish of Catton with Stamford Bridge and Scoreby.



The much older church of All Saints Catton was the main church until 1957, when the population of Stamford Bridge began to rise and it was changed to the Parish Church, with All Saints as the daughter church.

The building was designed by G. Fowler Jones in early English style, in yellow sandstone with limestone dressings, it has a vestry and porch on the northern side.

The entrance is by the porch on the north west corner of the Church. There is small stained glass window in the porch depicting the fish, an important Christian symbol. Have a look at the noticeboard in the porchway which has up to date information about events at our church.

When you go into church you will notice the wooden font, which can be moved to the front of church for Baptism services. The Font was carved for the Church by a local craftsman.

Our gallery upstairs is where the organ is played and provides space for a number of activities as well as overflow seating for large services. Looking to the left, the expanse of the Nave spreads out.



The kneelers placed between the pinewood pews were made by members of the congregation, some as memorials of important dates and events in their lives and others of favourite designs.

The Mothers' Union banner is permanently out. You will see that at the time it was made Catton was the parish church and Stamford Bridge was the chapel of ease. Other banners are on display, which change from time to time. They are the work of some of our congregation, as well as our many children and Youth Groups.

You will also notice our children's area, where we hold our mid-week toddler group. Children and parents enjoy being in this more informal space during our services, where they can take part in the service as well as have their own activities.

Looking up from the aisle is the Sanctuary Cross hanging from the Chancel Arch, denoting the change from Nave and Chancel towards the Sanctuary.



From the Chancel beyond the pews, the priest leads prayers and preaches the sermon. It is home to a large wooden lectern facing the Nave on the left side. On the right is the Priest's Stall, used by the Priest to kneel or sit to lead prayers during the service.

During services, the Chancel Arch is adorned with two carvings donated as a memorial to a loved one by a member of the congregation. A matching carving is displayed at all times on the north wall of the Nave, near the door.



Beyond the Chancel Arch, the Altar Rail divides the Chancel from the Sanctuary, which is the wood-panelled, raised area housing the altar. The cushioned kneeling step on the Chancel side of the Altar rail is where we come to receive Communion or a blessing. The furniture was carved and contributed by a local person who also made the Font.

Underneath our Altar we have seasonal displays for Christmas, with our nativity scene and at Easter, our Easter garden.

The stained glass East Windows above the Reredos date from the building of the Church in 1868. They are of good quality Victorian stained glass, but the artist who designed and produced them is, to date, unknown. The glass has no discernible mark or signature to identify it. However, York has long been recognized as a notable centre for stained glass artistry. Because Stamford Bridge is located at an important and historic crossing point of the River Derwent, the three figures depicted in the windows have a highly appropriate association with rivers, floods and water crossings. The figure on the left



is Noah, of flood and ark fame. He is shown as holding the dove with the olive branch and on the right is Moses, seen with his staff which he used to part the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to escape bondage in Egypt. The roundel above is of a dove descending. This is traditionally the design used to depict God the Holy Spirit. This also relates to the central window showing the Church's patron saint, St John the Baptist, who baptised Jesus Christ in the River Jordan.





The belfry contains 2 bells, cast in the 19th Century by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough. They are good quality and well tuned but cannot be used for safety reasons.

The Church was built on land belonging to Lord Leconfield, partly financed by C. A. Darley of Burtonfield Hall in Stamford Bridge, with the remaining funds being raised by public donation. The Churchyard has been in use since the Church was built but is now closed except for cremated ashes.