



The Chapel - At a Glance

The chapel was originally built in 1815. There are information panels either side of the middle doors, explaining how Methodism came to Leicester, and how the Chapel came to be here.

Key dates for the Chapel Interior:

- 1816: The building was completed, and the first service was held in August 1816.
- 1847: An extension to the Church added to its length, and added the Choir/Organ gallery.
- 1858: Installation of the organ (they had an orchestra before that).
- 1883: Replace the box pews with long wooden pews, of which the central section remains.
- 1894: New pulpit and choir pews.
- 1920s: Gallery seating and ceiling renewed, with cinema-style tip-up seats
- 1936: Major expansion of the organ, with side sections added..
- 1960s: Downstairs partition inserted to create a large foyer area.
- 2010: Side pews removed to enable exhibitions and activities under the galleries.
- 2012: Central section of the partition removed and Café area created.

The Pews (wooden seats)

These were originally enclosed box pews with a door to enter. They were replaced by the long pews we see today in the late 19th century. The pews were originally rented to individuals as the main source of Church income. In 1848 they cost 4 shillings (20p) for front pews and 12/6d (62½p) for seats under the side gallery, payable 4 times a year.

The Gallery

Many hundreds of people used to attend the chapel so the upstairs gallery was needed to provide seating. This was free of charge, unlike the downstairs pews.

The Pulpit and Communion area

The arrangement of this part of the church is very typical of Methodist churches in the late 19th and early 20th century, although the detailing is an unusual Italianate style. The wrought-iron work may have been made by blacksmiths in Narborough. The communion table is used when we celebrate Holy Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper). Those taking part kneel at the rail. The steps on either side of the rostrum lead up to the pulpit where the preacher used to stand. He or she would then be high enough to be seen and heard by those in the gallery. Present day preachers usually remain at ground level.

The Organ

Music for worship was originally provided by a small orchestra and it was only in the middle of the 19th century that an organ was installed. The ornate organ case probably dates back to the 1680s or 90s and was built by the famous organ builder Father Smith of Bremen.

The War Memorials

On either side of the worship area you will see First World War Memorials from the Chapel and from the Temperance Hall, Mansfield St Mission and Humberstone Rd Church. For the World War One Centenary we have produced memorial books and leaflets summarising what is known about each individual.

I H S

These appear on the walls at the top left and right hand sides of the chapel at the far end. There is little decoration in a Methodist chapel but the initial I H S are often found where they can be seen by the congregation. I H S is an abbreviation of the Greek word for Jesus, but using the Latin letters. Some people add to it the meaning "In His Service".