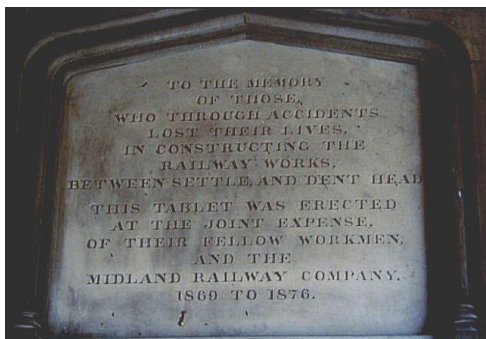


The **war memorial** on the “south side” of the nave, together with the **book of remembrance**, lists the names of the people of the parish who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

Included in the list are the names of two American airmen whose plane crashed locally.

As you are leaving the church, notice the **stoup** beside the door. This usually contains Holy Water with which some people will cross themselves when entering church.

In the outer porch you will see a memorial tablet to the workmen who died, as a result of accidents, during the building of the **Settle - Carlisle Railway Line**.



The Tower with its small spirelet in one corner on top, contains a set of eight bells, which were restored in 1996 and retuned in 2004. They are now rung every Sunday by an enthusiastic band of ringers.

On the way out, as you leave the porch, notice opposite the door, the grave of **John Owen**, one of the railway accident victims, with its inscription in Welsh.



On the left of the path a little further down is the grave of a local blacksmith, Luke Ralph, and his wife and children. Notice the very appropriate and poetic inscription!

Thank you for coming to visit us.

We do hope you enjoy the rest of your stay in Settle.

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Parish Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle

www.settlechurch.uk

Visitors' Guide

Welcome to Settle Parish Church.

This short guide points out some of the features of interest. A small contribution towards the upkeep of the church would be appreciated. There is a box in the wall at the back of the nave for your offering

Settle Parish Church is a little unusual in being dedicated, not to a Saint, but to a Mystery, **THE HOLY ASCENSION**.



It is more common to find churches named after Saints, although there are other local churches also named after a Mystery. The parish church at Rathmell is dedicated to **THE HOLY TRINITY** and the one at Austwick to **THE EPIPHANY**.

This church was built, in the Early English Style, from designs by **Thomas Rickman** and was completed in **1838**.

You will see a plaque bearing this date over one of the entrance doors.

The church was consecrated on 26th October 1838.

Extensive re-ordering of the interior was completed in 1998. This included the creation of a Narthex area, a kitchen and other useful rooms, on two floors, to the rear of the Nave.

Further works to enlarge the kitchen were carried out in 2019.

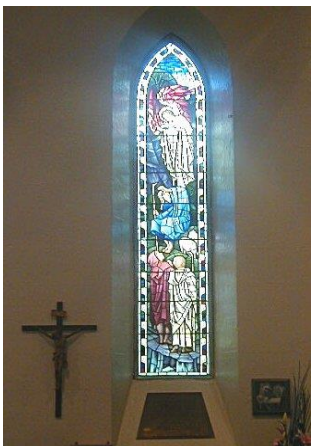
These alterations together with the repainting of the interior and stripping of the pine pews gave the church a more light and airy feel.

The large painting entitled “**The Ascension**” on the internal wall facing the altar was begun in early 2001 and dedicated in February 2005. It is a modern Icon and was a gift from the artist Mick Brown, who was inspired by the death of a relative, Rev Dr John Potter, an old friend of Settle Church. The painting is placed so as to be seen by communicants when returning from the altar, after they have been nourished and strengthened by the sacrament of bread and wine to go out into the world to proclaim the joyous message of Easter and the Ascension, to which the Church is dedicated. The work takes everyday objects and materials such as mud, dust, burnt grain, water, clothes, and transfigures them just as God takes and reshapes us. Some have said that the way it is hung prevents them from seeing the whole picture, but that is exactly the point and corresponds directly to the mystery of the Ascension itself.

Our church's dedication to **THE HOLY ASCENSION** is also reflected in the stained glass of the "East Window", which was designed by **O'Connor** from the famous **Pugin Studio**, and was given in memory of Mariah Swale, who died in **1845**. The outer panels show the four evangelists, the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The two central panels depict scenes of the **Crucifixion** and the **Holy Ascension**. Notice the teardrops of blood surrounding Jesus on the cross!

A rather more mundane mystery about this church is the fact that it is not aligned along the usual East-West axis but is instead aligned North-South. So the "East Window" actually faces South!

An attractive result of this is the colourful effect produced by the sunlight streaming through the stained glass onto the adjacent walls, if you are fortunate enough to be here in the morning, when the sun is shining.



Other notable windows include the one at the front left of the Nave "North Side", which dates from **1913** and is by **William Morris** from a **Burne Jones** design. It was given in memory of Alphonsine Sarah Jarry.

And on the same side is a Window dedicated to **Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**, who helped the poor and died at the age of 24 in 1229 AD. This is by **Abbots of Lancaster** in memory of Sidney James Procter and his sister Doris, a VAD nurse, who both died in the Great War in **1918**. The family had a confectioner's shop and café in the town and there is a family memorial – a black granite slab – on the left of the path as you enter the churchyard. Elizabeth of Hungary is a patron saint of bakers and also of nurses which may explain why the family chose to dedicate the window to her.

At the front of the Nave, to the left and right of the Chancel screen are the **Pulpit** and the **Font**. Both are made of Alabaster. The font was given as a Thank-Offering from William Frederick and Margaret Pierson

*"for God's Mercy bestowed
Christmas 1869"*

See the four symbols for **Christ** around the font. Fonts were originally placed near the door as a reminder that by baptism we enter the Church Family. This font was moved to the front of the nave during the 1998 reordering, acknowledging the current practice of including baptisms within the regular Sunday worship of the Church Family.

Beside the pulpit is the large brass eagle **lectern** from which the Bible was formerly read. This was a gift also in memory of **Rev. William Frederick Pierson** who was **Vicar of Settle 1848-83**. His grave, with a chalice embossed on the stone, can be found in the graveyard close to the "East End" of the church.

The eagle was a common symbol on lecterns with its large wings "to carry forth the Word."

The smaller wooden lectern was a gift, by a member of the church in **1998**, and was made in Settle by a local craftsman. The cross on the front is in burr oak.

The area through the screen is the **Chancel**. The word comes from the Latin CANCELLI meaning a lattice or grating.

*In the medieval period, and again now here in Settle, the naves of churches were often used for secular community meetings, and the screen was there to maintain the dignity and mystery of the **presbytery** or **chancel**.*

Further up beyond the **communion rail** is the **Sanctuary** – the most holy part of the church. Here is found the **Communion Table**, or **Holy Table**, also referred to as the **Altar**, on which the bread and wine are placed for the **Eucharist** or **Holy Communion**. The present table was given by the **Mothers Union** in **1934** in memory of **Susanna Isabella Edgar**. See the memorial plaque on the wall to the left.

The candle on the right hand wall in the **Sanctuary** indicates that, in the wall safe or **Aumbry**, consecrated

bread and wine from the **Eucharist** have been stored ready for taking to the sick and housebound.

On the left side of the **Chancel** is the organ, built by **JJ Binns of Leeds** in 1913 and still giving good service with its original pneumatic action.

The exit door to the right of the **Chancel** is another recent alteration and the meditation and exhibition space in front of it replaces the former small Lady Chapel.

A set of ceramic "**Stations**" of the **Cross** (made by Watts of London) can be seen, around the walls of the nave. These were the gift of a parishioner in **1972**.



*In the Middle Ages, when the Holy Land was conquered by the Turks, pilgrimages there could not take place and instead, the journey could be made walking around the church stopping at the various "stations" depicting our Lord's way of the Cross to **Calvary**.*

Even today, many people find this to be a helpful meditation and the QR codes give access to suitable readings and prayers on our website.