



Brighouse Parish Church

The Parish Church of Brighouse, St. Martin's, was built to serve Brighouse and Rastrick after an 1818 Act of Parliament provided money to build churches in the developing industrial areas of the country. £3,600 was allocated to Brighouse which covered the £3,514 cost .

The Church was consecrated in 1831 by the Archbishop of York as Brighouse was then in the Diocese of York. In 1836 Brighouse became part of the Diocese of Ripon and, in 1888, of the then newly created Diocese of Wakefield.

When the Church separated from Rastrick in 1843 Brighouse became an independent Parish and the Reverend Joseph Birch became the first Vicar.

St. James' Church on Bradford Road was built in 1870 as 'Chapel of Ease' for St. Martin's Church (a Chapel of Ease being an additional Church within a Parish which is easier to access than the main Parish Church). St. James' was closed in 1970 and on the site is now a Residential Home with the name 'St. James' Court' thus keeping a link to the past.

The first major restructuring of the Church building was in the late 1890s when the floor was relaid, side galleries reduced and old pews removed. This rebuilding work was completed in 1904 with the building of the Chancel, removal of the north and south galleries and relocation of the organ to the Chancel.

The second major change took place between 2002 and 2006 when, amongst other works, all the pews were removed in favour of a flexible seating arrangement, the floors were realigned and new heating and lighting systems were installed.

In this same programme of work a new Community area was created. This is named 'The Sugden Suite' in recognition of the family who had been major benefactors of the Church for many years

Since 2011 St. Martin's has been linked to St. John's Clifton and are together known as 'The United Benefice of Brighouse and Clifton'