

# Sheffield Presbyterian Church



Upholding the Inerrancy of Scripture

Adhering to the Westminster Standards

Fulfilling the Great Comission



## Hill Top Chapel, a brief history

Hill Top Chapel was built in 1629 in Attercliffe by English Puritans committed to Reformed worship and teaching. Their first minister was Stanley Gower, a man originally from Derbyshire, who was educated under Archbishop James Ussher in Armagh. Gower served as the founding minister of Hill Top Chapel (HTC) from 1630-1635 until he was called to a pastorate in Herefordshire. From there he went on to be one of the delegates to the Westminster Assembly where he was involved in the composition of the Westminster Standards.

The congregation in Attercliffe continued to grow over the years and remained strong in reformed doctrine even after the Great Ejection of 1662. A son from one of the influential families in that area served in the English Civil War as a colonel on the side of Parliament whilst another served as a minister at Hill Top Chapel. Later, a Presbyterian minister named Timothy Jollie, the pastor of Upper Chapel in Sheffield, started a Presbyterian academy for training men for the ministry just minutes from the chapel; it was operational until 1714 and doubtless was involved with the chapel.

The population in that area continued to grow and by 1649 the chapel became the parish church of three other villages; the population just in Attercliffe was around 1000 at the time. Many more additions to the building were made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it was recorded that 578 attended church at Hill Top Chapel at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their numbers had grown so large by 1832 that they built another larger church just half a mile from Hill Top Chapel called Christ Church Attercliffe. That building was destroyed during a bombing raid in 1940. Hill Top Chapel was little used and by 1916 all regular Sunday services were discontinued. The church lay derelict until it was refurbished in 1991 during the Student Olympic Games. The chapel was a community centre from 2002 to 2010 and then was sometimes used for prayer or special church events. Sheffield Presbyterian Church now worships within its walls.

### General Timeline

- 1629- Construction begins of the chapel
- Oct. 10 1630- First service
- 1630-1635- Stanley Gower Minister at HTC
- 1642-1651- English Civil War
- 1643-1653- Westminster Assembly
- 1649- HTC made parish church of three villages
- 1649- Charles I executed
- 1660- Monarchy restored
- August 1662- Great Ejection
- 1665- Five Mile Act
- 1688- Glorious Revolution
- C. 1691- Timothy Jollie starts Christ's College
- 1714- Christ's College closes
- 1742- Benjamin Huntsman invents crucible steel
- 1822- Christ Church Attercliffe built
- 1837- HTC undergoes structural changes
- 1909- HTC restored
- 1916- Regular Anglican services finish at HTC
- 1940- Christ Church Attercliffe destroyed by bomb
- 1991- HTC refurbished for Student Olympic Games
- 1996- Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales is formed
- 2002-2010- HTC used as a community centre.
- 2010- Sheffield Presbyterian Church constituted
- March 30 2014- Sheffield Presbyterian Church begins weekly services in HTC

## Benjamin Huntsman, Inventor of Crucible Steel

Benjamin Huntsman was born to Quaker parents on June 4, 1704 at Epworth, Lincolnshire. He moved to Doncaster in 1725 and set up his own clock making business. Being frustrated with the poor quality of steel springs available, he began experimenting in 1738 to produce better steel, and in the process, invented crucible steel. He later moved to Attercliffe where he built a factory in 1740 to produce crucible steel. Although his work was little appreciated in his day by his English contemporaries, it was prized internationally. Soon after his death, the crucible process was the only method used for nearly a century and it made Sheffield the center stage for the British steel industry. Huntsman died in 1746 and was buried alongside his wife, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons in the cemetery at Hill Top Chapel.



## Sheffield Presbyterian Church, a brief history

The work of Sheffield Presbyterian Church began with a church planting Bible study in 2010 which developed into the formation of an enthusiastic church planting nucleus. These weekly church planting studies covered a whole range of subjects but the emphasis was to consider the biblical basis of a particular church related truth. As the nucleus became firm, the elders who oversee this presbyterian church plant decided to commence public worship services in The Source at Meadowhall.

In 2011, the church was formally constituted by Rev. Brian Norton and the work has continued to grow. We have a number of different nationalities, a growing student work, as well as a keen interest in evangelism. However, our main emphasis is upon feeding and caring for God's sheep. Our worship is simple, joyful and reverent. Preaching is deemed to be the high point of our worship. Are you committed to the preaching of sound doctrine? If so, you will enjoy worshipping with us.

We are delighted that we meet in Hill Top Chapel which was built in 1629 by English puritans with presbyterian connections. The founding minister was Stanley Gower who became one of the Westminster divines. There is a car park, as well as easy access by tram and bus. We are opposite the English Institute of Sport on Attercliffe Common, a few minutes from junction 34 of the M1, and very close to Sheffield's inner-ring road near the Arena.

We look forward to you joining with us in worship.

## Our Values

There are five core beliefs and values that are important to our understanding of the church and these headings (all of which begin with the letter 'C', co-incidentally) may help you to appreciate the DNA of this church.

**Confessional:** The supreme authority of the church is the Old and New Testaments, comprising the sixty-six books of the Bible. Our Standard for interpretation comes from the Westminster Standards.

**Connectional:** The government of each congregation within our denomination is made up of elders. These elders, which includes a minister (a teaching elder), together form the presbytery. The presbytery is the regional expression of our authority structure and there is great benefit to each church in terms of encouragement, prayer, accountability and unity.

**Covenantal:** An organic unity is seen to exist between the Old and New Covenants. The climax of these various covenants are manifested in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. A covenantal approach to the Bible impacts our method in preaching, our understanding of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and our vision of discipleship in the family.

**Community:** People are made in the image of God and this divine blueprint includes an inbuilt desire to be in harmony with other people. We hope that our congregation strives to take the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) very seriously but simultane-

## Our Service Times

**10.00am-10.45am. Sunday School.**

The Westminster Shorter Catechism for Adults and Children

**11.00am Lord's Day morning worship**

**5.00pm Lord's Day evening worship**

**7.30pm Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meeting**

ously the building of a living community of real people should be the expression of our doctrine.

**Care:** It is our sincere desire that our church members sense that they are cared for spiritually, practically and pastorally.

## Sheffield Presbyterian Church

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