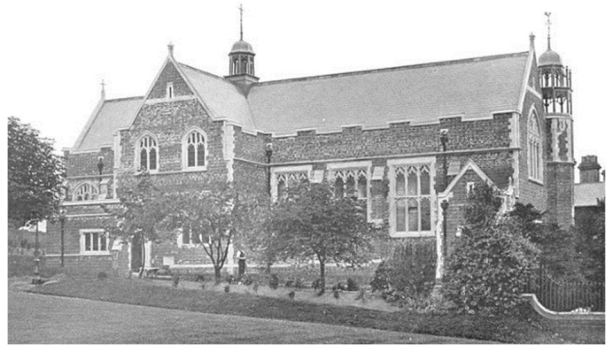


1895 The Chapel located at the entrance to the Orphanage was dedicated



The foundation stone was laid in 1894 with masonic honours by the Earl of Dartmouth, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire. The chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Lichfield, Dr Augustus Legge, on 21st July 1895. The ceremony was attended by, amongst other leading local clergy, the new Chaplain of the Orphanage.

A large bequest from William Henry Rogers (who also funded the fountain in memory of his wife) enabled sufficient funds to be quickly found. Having their own chapel meant 250 children did not have to walk to St Paul's church for services.

When it opened the chapel did not have an organ or bells. An organ was hired until, in 1896, one was purchased from Nicholson & Lord for £335 (£57k at today's prices). It was renovated in 1933 and in the late 1990s.

In 1897 8 Tubular bells were presented to the orphanage to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Later, local residents complained about "incessant practice" on the bells. Discord might have been exacerbated by one bell being cracked and the incompetence of the boy bell-ringers. In 1933 the bell tower was found to be unsafe, and the bells were removed.



The Chapel did not always have the magnificent stained-glass windows we see today.

1895 The Chapel located at the entrance to the Orphanage was dedicated

The chapel is now a treasure house of stained glass by C.E. Kempe and by Kempe and Co. Ltd.

It is no exaggeration to say that this is the finest stained glass that Wolverhampton has with its richness of colour and beauty of design.

Many of the Kempe windows are signed with his wheat-sheaf crest, and all the C.E. Kempe and Co. windows bear the wheat-sheaf and tower symbol.

The east window and those in the transepts show episodes from the life of Jesus. The windows in the North Aisle show saints and Old Testament figures.

In the South Aisle are Christian martyrs, St John the Evangelist and a window showing Kings David and Solomon with their musical compositions, the Psalms and the Song of Songs.



The fact that all the chapel's glass comes from the same workshop gives it an overall unity which created a whole greater than the sum of its (individually magnificent) parts.