

This is the second in a series of leaflets being produced by the Society to illustrate some of Wakefield's fascinating and rich heritage. Look out for other leaflets in the series as they are published. All leaflets have been printed locally using FSC-certified paper sources, sustainable inks and reduced waste.

You can find out more on our website by scanning the QR code here or by visiting our Discover Wakefield webpage: [wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/discover-wakefield](https://wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/discover-wakefield)



Find out more about the Forgotten Women of Wakefield project, an initiative by Dream Time Creative, on the FWW website: <https://forgottenwomenwake.com>



Wakefield  
Civic  
Society

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02

# 02 Discover Wakefield Monuments to Women



Wakefield  
Civic  
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Building interest in Wakefield  
since 1964

## MONUMENTS TO WOMEN

Anyone who knows Wakefield will be familiar with the statue to Queen Victoria in Castrop-Rauxel Square on Rishworth Street, but did you know that there are other monuments to women in and around the city? This leaflet will help you identify some of them.

### 1. Queen Victoria (Reigned 1837-1901)

Born on 29th May 1819, Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22nd January 1901. Following her death, funds were raised by public subscription to pay for a monument to her memory. The resulting statue, by Francis John Williamson, was unveiled on its original site in the Bull Ring on 15th February 1905 by Mayoress Mrs HS Childe. Wakefield born contralto Phyllis Lett sang at a reception held after the dedication of the statue.



A Statue

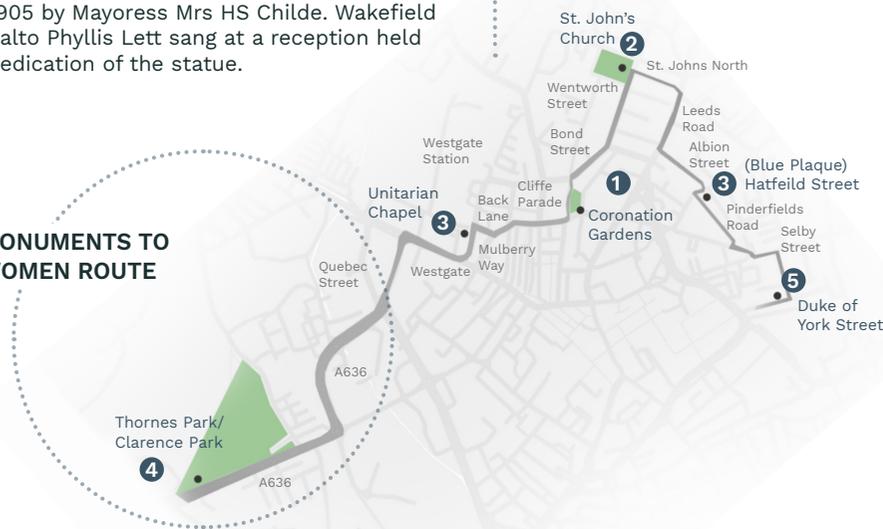


A Brass Plaque



A Fountain

### MONUMENTS TO WOMEN ROUTE



### 2. Edith Grace Mackie (1853-1941)

Born 17th January 1853 Edith was at the forefront of philanthropic work for the poor and sick in Wakefield. As founder and president of the Wakefield Victoria Nursing Association, recognised in 1897 as a centre of excellence, Edith was one of the first governors of Clayton Hospital, having been an integral part of the fund-raising efforts to provide a children's ward, which was named after her.



A Foundation Stone

Edith donated funds to St. John's Church to enable the building of two new wings, a new roof and all the church pews. She unveiled a foundation stone at the church. Simultaneously, she established Wakefield's first history library based at Wakefield Girls' High School. She also donated the land on which the St. John's School for girls was established and later, ran it. Edith worked with The Paxton society to establish green spaces, shared the pleasure garden she created with the public and donated her garden to the Girls' school to enable them, under headmistress Gertrude McCroben, to pursue a vibrant and revolutionary sports curriculum.

### 3. Clara Maria Clarkson (1811-1889)

Most famous for the journals she left to her niece Mary Clarkson, Clara was a dedicated non-conformist and a founding member of the Literary and Music Society in Wakefield. She was one of only 31 women who are named as part of the Anti-Slavery Association formed in 1860 and one of only 10 women who signed the 1866 Suffragist Petition. A plaque to her memory can be found inside Westgate Unitarian Chapel. A blue plaque dedicated to her legacy can be found on her former home on Hatfield Street, Wakefield. Inspired by her story, the award-winning short film Clara explores the oppressive Victorian society in which she lived.

### 4. Ann Clarkson (1800-1888)

Ann established a committee to promote the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1836, one of only two in the country, the other being in Liverpool.

Ann's dedication to good causes and social activism, including signing the 1866 Suffragist Petition, was honoured by the people of Wakefield in 1888 with the dedication of a water fountain sited at Westgate End. The fountain was moved in the 1970s and can now be found in Clarence Park, near to the Denby Dale road entrance.

### 5



A Blue Plaque

### 5. Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)

Born in a terraced house at 15 Duke of York Street, Barbara Hepworth was to become one of England's most celebrated female artists. Known both for her paintings and sculptural works, Hepworth is said to have taken much of her inspiration from the rugged countryside of her native Yorkshire. Today, of course, there is another monument to her memory in the city – the Hepworth Wakefield art gallery at Wakefield Waterfront. Hepworth is just one of an increasing number of women now being remembered by our blue plaques as we aim to achieve #blueplaqueparity for women under our partnership with Dream Time Creative.