

M&S in Leeds Timeline

- 1882 Michael Marks arrived in Leeds as an immigrant from Russian Poland. He met Isaac Dewhirst, owner of a wholesale business, who loaned him £5 to buy stock.
- 1884 Michael set up his first stall in Kirkgate open market, using the slogan 'Don't ask the price, it's a penny'.
- 1886 Michael married Hannah Cohen, also a refugee from Russia, in the Belgrave Street synagogue.
- 1886 Michael took up a stall inside the covered hall at Kirkgate Market.
- 1894 Michael met Tom Spencer, Dewhirst's book-keeper, and they began a partnership - Marks and Spencer was born.
- 1904 Marks & Spencer opened a Penny Bazaar in eight units of the Cross Arcade, which had newly opened on Boar Lane. This Penny Bazaar closed in 1910.
- 1907 Michael Marks died on 31st December.
- 1909 A new Marks & Spencer store opened at 76 Briggate. This store was rebuilt in 1925.
- 1914 The First World War began: goods became scarcer, prices rose, and Marks & Spencer couldn't maintain the penny price limit - the age of Penny Bazaars came to an end.
- 1935 One of the first M&S Café Bars opened in Leeds.
- 1938 The Rialto cinema was demolished at 46 Briggate to make way for a new M&S store. With the start of the Second World War in 1939, the new building was taken over by the Ministry of Works for storage and the sub-basement was used as an air-raid shelter.
- 1951 47-49 Briggate opened as a new M&S 'superstore'. The store at 76 Briggate closed.

- 1984 To celebrate 100 years of M&S, a commemorative clock was unveiled at Kirkgate Market, 200 yards from where Michael Marks set up his first market stall.
- 1989 A new 'satellite' store opened at 129-132 Briggate, on the corner of Kirkgate. It had one of the biggest menswear and childrenswear departments at the time, as well as a Home department. Known as the Kirkgate store, it closed in 1994.
- 1991 Moortown store opened, and Pudsey store opened at the Owlcotes shopping centre.
- 1998 M&S opened the first new M&S coffee shop in Leeds, called 'The Coffee Bar'. It was visited by over 8000 customers in the first week.
- 2011 To celebrate over 125 years in Leeds, M&S supported a project to improve Victoria Gardens outside Leeds Art Gallery and Central Library.
- 2012 The M&S Archive moved to Leeds and opened to the public in the Michael Marks building on the University of Leeds campus.
- 2013 The M&S Heritage Stall opened in Kirkgate Market, sharing the M&S story with visitors and selling coffee and gifts.
- 2015 An M&S shop opened in St. James' Hospital, providing M&S products for patients, staff and visitors.
- 2016 An M&S Food store opened at Central Square.
- 2017 M&S Outlet store at Crown Point Retail Park reopened as an M&S Foodhall.
- 2023 A new M&S flagship store opened at the White Rose Centre, at the time it was the largest M&S in the UK.