

All Saints, Thirsk

Castlegate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not Listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Thirsk & Sowerby Conservation Area*

1.2 Architect: *W. A. Bourne (Pevsner says W. A. Brown)*

1.4 Date(s): *1866-7*

1.5 Date of visit: *4 February 2008*

1.6 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rev Colman Ryan*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery attached*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Carson, R.: *A History of Diocese of Middlesbrough*, 1978

Pevsner, N.: *Yorkshire: The North Riding*, 1966

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

A modest town-centre Catholic church of the mid-19th century, probably by a local architect, which has retained much of its original character and which contributes positively to the local conservation area..

2.2 Historical background

The present church is the successor to the early 18th century family chapel of St Anne at Kilvington Hall, the seat of the Meynell family. A Mass Centre was opened in Thirsk in 1839. Bishop Cornthwaite directed that the present church should be built and the priest transferred from Kilvington. Some of the furnishings and vessels from Kilvington Hall were also transferred to the new church.

2.3 Setting

Church and presbytery stand on rising ground, a little set back from Castlegate, which is a busy thoroughfare opening off the Market Place. Behind the church is the site of Thirsk Castle, now open ground.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church and presbytery are built of local red bricks with red and black brick banding and ornament. The body of the church is a single tall aisleless body, with a steep roof covered in Welsh slate with ornamental banding. The canted apse facing the street has two-light windows in each of its three sides with quatrefoils in the tracery and there are similar windows in the side walls of the nave. The west gable is bisected by a tall stepped buttress with an empty image niche at half height. The buttress is flanked at lower level by three small single windows each side and at upper level by a two-light quatrefoiled window. There is a small projecting northwest porch, now rendered.

The interior is very simple, with plain plastered walls with a modern boarded dado and a steep, boarded timber roof with alternate principals brought down onto chamfered wall-posts. Simple timber west gallery, the front pierced with quatrefoils, now glazed below to create an entrance lobby. The glass in the windows is a mixture of clear quarries, grisaille and some stained glass of which Pevsner comments that it is 'uncommonly sharply drawn and unmuddy'. The altar and reredos appear to be of *circa* 1900. The 20th century wooden benches have the carved mouse motif of Mr Thompson of Kilburn.