

Christ the King, Thornaby

*Trenchard Avenue, Stockton on Tees, North Yorkshire*



**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *F. B. Swainston*

1.4 Date(s): *1968*

1.5 Date of visit: *6 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Very Rev. Daniel Spaight*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Parish centre and presbytery*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

*Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007*

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

*The church, one of many by F.B. Swainston for the diocese, is part of a parish complex which brings liturgical and non-liturgical functions as well as the priest's accommodation into a unified whole. The result is functional but does not result in any particularly striking architecture. The most notable fixture is the large stained glass window.*

### **2.2 Historical background**

Built to serve the large-scale development of Thornaby on an old aerodrome site in the 1960s.

### **2.3 Setting**

An area of mixed development and with a busy road on the east side.

### **2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings**

The church is oriented south-west so the directions given here are liturgical unless otherwise stated.

The church is an integral part of a church/parish centre/presbytery complex and occupies its (geographic) northeast part. The whole presents the viewer with a series of angular blocks with sheer walls but with the church rising higher than the adjacent parish centre. The buildings are faced with pale beige bricks laid in stretcher bond (though the top six courses on the church are laid soldier-wise). The main worship space is square on plan except for the corner opposite the altar which is chamfered off and filled with top to bottom glazing (wooden frames replaced with UPVC) and a small step on the south side again filled with glazing). The roof is flat and hidden behind a brick parapet. There is also large chapel behind the altar.

Inside the church is faced with beige brick laid in English bond. The altar is positioned diagonally across the (geographic) southwest corner. The ceiling is flat and boarded with timber. Adjacent to the altar is a fine semi-abstract stained glass window stretching from floor to ceiling. It has rich colours and is signed 'A F. PA PH' and dated 1978: it contains the words 'CHRISTUS REX' and emblems of the vine, a chalice, ears of wheat and a fish swimming in water.