

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Market Weighton

*Cliffe Road, Market Weighton, York, East Yorkshire*



### **Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *John ('Jack') Houghton of Hull*

1.4 Date(s): *1960*

1.5 Date of visit: *12 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Unaccompanied visit*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery and hall*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

*Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007*

*Carson, C.: The First 100 Years – A History of the Diocese of Middlesbrough 1878-1978*

*Craven, M.: The Langdale Legacy – Catholicism in Houghton and Market Weighton, 2007*

*Pevsner, N. & Neave, D.: The Buildings of England, Yorkshire York and the East Riding, Penguin Books 1995*

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

***A pleasant 1960s church but not architecturally distinguished or of any particular interest for its date. It is not significant in the townscape.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

The Mission at Market Weighton sprang from the Langdale's of Houghton Hall whose private chapel was demolished in 1959 owing to the expense of repairs needed. A 'tin' church was built at Market Weighton in 1905 and the impending loss of the chapel at Houghton gave impetus for the building of a more permanent church, an ambition achieved in 1960. The church cost nearly £13,500.

### **2.3 Setting**

The church is located on the southeastern outskirts of the small market town of Market Weighton, on Cliffe Road, close to its junction with Sancton Road. It is elevated above the road giving a commanding position though fairly enclosed by trees. The church is set in a small green churchyard, enclosed on two sides by hedges and with the presbytery behind, facing Sancton Road, and the church hall (former school of 1898) behind again. The character of the surroundings is very much of Post-War suburban development on the periphery of the town.

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

The church faces northeast but all references here are to conventional liturgical orientation.

The church is built of brick with shallow pitched roofs clad in sheet metal. Of unequal cruciform plan, the nave forming a commodious rectangular space with a shallow projection for the sanctuary and a narrower but deeper projection for the porch, all of equal height. A copper 'spike' in the centre of the roof. The porch is recessed externally with a canopy set within the recess over the entrance and a crucifix on the wall. Lower flat-roofed blocks to either side, set in the re-entrant angles. The north and south sides have glazed upper parts carried into the gables and are blind below. The east wall is blind.

Internally the space is rectangular with the altar on a long wall. The sanctuary is partly recessed in the east projection (side-lit by hidden round-arched windows) but is also brought forward into the main space. The majority of the ceiling is flat and at eaves level, but against the glazed north and south walls is approximately two metres of boarding on the underside of the pitched roof. Simple open-backed pews contemporary with the church as are the chandeliers. The marble altar and shelf for the tabernacle are of later date, as is the wooden ambo. Stations of the Cross brought from the old church and, in their heavy wooden frames, out of place in this crisp modern environment. The octagonal stone font also seems out of place. The west wall has a run of five flat-arched openings, the centre three with doors to the porch or narthex and the outer ones open into small chapels (one the former baptistery).