

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Lealholm

Lealholm, Whitby, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Lealholm Conservation Area*

1.3 Architect: *Not established*

1.4 Date(s): *1931-2*

1.5 Date of visit: *9 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

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

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery (now tenanted) south of the church*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

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

Pevsner, N.: *The Buildings of England, Yorkshire: The North Riding*, Penguin Books 1966

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

A small church of modest architectural pretension. Pevsner is perhaps a little too harsh in commenting 'not a job to do any architect credit'.

2.2 Historical background

The handful of Catholics in Lealholm eventually raised sufficient funds to build a church there and Bishop Shine laid the foundation stone in September 1931. Lealholm was served from Egton Bridge until 1948 when it became a parish in its own right.

2.3 Setting

An attractive North York Moors village, the centre of which is located towards the bottom of the hill above the River Esk. The Church of England church is located up the hill on the lane leading north from the village, whilst the Catholic church is located further up the hill towards the edge of the settlement. The church is set back from the road within a small burial ground without trees. The road boundary has a well constructed stone wall with a surprisingly substantial stone lychgate with shouldered round arches under a gable.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church is faced in coursed rock-faced stone under a Welsh slate roof with a cross on the west gable. The nave has four tall lancet windows to the north and three to the south and a pair of lancet windows to the west, over a small rectangular porch with crenellated parapet, accessed by a flight of steps to the south. The sacristy is in a gabled projection to the south. The sanctuary is only demarcated externally by a stepping in. It too has plain lancet windows, two to the east and single lancets north and south. The ground rises steeply from north to south. The interior is simple and largely unadorned. Pointed sanctuary arch with just a slight chamfer and no capitals. Shallow niches to either side with statues supported on projecting shelves. Simple king post roof in the nave. Plain open backed pews. Pine altar and ambo, the latter with a slightly Gothic treatment. Stained glass figures set in plain coloured backgrounds to the two sanctuary east lancets. Unusual carved relief Stations of the Cross, in wood and recessed into the walls.