

**St Mary & St Joseph, Bedale**

*Bedale Road, Aiskew, Bedale, North Yorkshire*



**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not Listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.2 Architect: *George Goldie*

1.4 Date(s): *1878*

1.5 Date of visit: *5 February 2008*

1.6 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rev Patrick O'Neill*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Former 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 good example of a small mid-Victorian Catholic church, paid for by a local landowning family who employed an established architect for the work. Despite some alterations, the building retains much of its original character.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

There was apparently a Mass centre at Aiskew Grange by 1771 and the Aiskew priests also served the congregation at Northallerton. The first church in the area was built in 1812. The present church was built at the expense of the Scrope family, from designs by George Goldie, the York-born architect who built widely in the diocese.

### **2.3 Setting**

The church and attached presbytery front a busy road in the village of Aiskew, which is now part of the eastern outskirts of Bedale. Adjoining the church is a modest two storey building housing the parish centre and behind the church is a substantial plot of ground, part of which is taken for the presbytery garden and part for car parking.

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

The church is built of rough-faced local stone, squared and coursed; the nave roof is covered with Welsh slate, the sanctuary roof with red concrete tiles. The plan comprises an aisleless nave with a small northwest apsidal projection which was probably the baptistery originally but has been converted to serve as a porch, and a short chancel or sanctuary. The west end fronting the road has a central pointed doorway, now blocked, with an elaborate traceried rose window above; the west gable rises steeply to finish in a tall bell-cote with twin openings. The earlier presbytery is attached to the south side. On the north side is the projecting porch, with modern steps, and a nave of three bays divided by simple buttresses with a two-light traceried window at the head of each bay under the eaves. The sanctuary has two lancet windows on the north side, with a four-light traceried window in the east end wall.

The interior is simply finished with plain plastered walls, the windows high up, and with handsome rafter roofs over both nave and sanctuary, the spaces between the rafters now filled with modern painted boarding. The church is carpeted throughout, the nave is furnished with timber benches, the sanctuary has been reordered and the altar brought forward. The iron altar rails are modern. The central nave window has an 1880s stained glass memorial window; the glass in the east window is a 1940s memorial window to Sir Hugh Smith Dodsworth Bt. The other windows are clear-glazed.