

St Mary and St Joseph, Pocklington

Union Street, Pocklington, East Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Pocklington Conservation Area*

1.3 Architect: *Matthew Ellison Hadfield*

1.4 Date(s): *1862-3; enlarged 2002-03*

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: *Attached presbytery and hall*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

The Builder 6 Dec 1862 p860, 20 Dec 1862 p915 and 22 Aug 1863 p607

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

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

The original church was a fairly typical mid-Victorian Gothic building by a highly respected Yorkshire Roman Catholic architect, many of whose churches are now listed. The extensive enlargements, whilst tactfully done, undermine the architectural integrity of the original building and render it as much a 21st century as a 19th century building.

2.2 Historical background

The recusant Dolman family had a 'mass house' at Pocklington and a Catholic community existed from at least 1790. A chapel was built in 1807 and the present presbytery is said to incorporate evidence of this chapel. The present church was built in 1862-3 and considerably enlarged in 2002-3.

2.3 Setting

The church stands off Union Street, close to the Market Place and centre of this small town. Union Street runs northeast from the Market Place and quickly assumes a residential character. The church stands at the more open junction with London Street and the Pocklington Beck. It is set back from the road with a garden in front and presbytery to the left.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church faces northwest but all references in this description follow conventional liturgical orientation.

The church is built of yellow brick with bands of red brick and stone dressings. Concrete tile roof. The original church comprised a nave with polygonal sanctuary. To this has been added a south aisle with polygonal eastern baptistery, a gabled hall set back to the southwest and a narthex to the west. Gothic style, the recent work faithfully copying the original work. The apsed sanctuary faces Union Street with three two-light windows with plate tracery. Presbytery built up against the north side. One window to the baptistery, also with plate tracery. Plain lancet windows to the south aisle, arranged in pairs. Lancets also to the extension at the southwest corner with a porch entrance into the church. The upper part of the original west wall remains, with two circular windows with stepped surrounds and a lancet in between, placed slightly higher and with similar surround. Projecting in front of this elevation at lower level is a lean-to and gabled narthex with a closely set pair of two-light windows with plate tracery. Secondary entrance at the southwest corner.

The interior of the church appears quite narrow and tall. Plastered and painted walls. The south aisle does not have an arcade but a plain post and beam support to the nave south wall. West gallery with canted centre on slender iron columns. Partly boarded and partly open Gothic arcade to the gallery front. Exposed roof trusses, closely set, with a web of diagonal struts. No division between nave and sanctuary, but the latter carpeted and raised on an L-shaped podium. 19th century open-backed pews, the front pierced with quatrefoils. Sanctuary furnishings of circa 2003. Octagonal stone font on a cylindrical base, probably original to the church. Typical and quite good Victorian stained glass in the three sanctuary windows and the Baptistery window. Crucifixion scene in the upper west window. Another good window in the narthex, with figures of saints and Gothic canopies.