

St Aidan (chapel of ease), Oswaldkirk

Oswaldkirk, York, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Yes*

1.3 Architect: *Ewan Blackledge*

1.4 Date(s): *1963*

1.5 Date of visit: *16 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Andrew Derrick*

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

1.8 Associated buildings: *None*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

Village History website: www.oswaldkirkhistory.fsnet.co.uk

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

This church, built in the 1960s, is not of special architectural or historic interest, but occupies a prominent position on a raised site on the edge of the village.

2.2 Historical background

Before the church was built, local Catholics worshipped in the village hall and private houses (although Ampleforth Abbey is only a mile or so away). The present church was built in 1963.

2.3 Setting

The church is to the west of the village centre, on the road out towards Ampleforth. It is raised on a high grass bank looking over the valley to the south. There are modern traditional-style stone houses opposite.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

According to a local history website, the architect for the church was Ewan Blackledge. The church is built of local stone, roughly coursed. Slightly canted bluff main front with superimposed triple arched lights containing coloured glass designed and cut by Derek Clarke. Timber cross fixed to centre of the main façade. The church has a steeply pitched monopitch roof of steel construction, plywood boarded and externally felted. The scale drops right down at the rear, from which point (on the west side) the building is entered. A small vestibule leads into a large worship space, faced internally in brick, with sacristy and ancillary functions at the back.

The church has been adorned with various furnishings. Notable amongst these is the timber frieze of the Stations of the Cross across the back wall (1969), carved by John Bunting, a local resident and former art teacher at Ampleforth College whose work can also be seen at Kirkbymoorside (qv).