

St Bernadette, Nunthorpe

Gypsy Lane, Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire TS7



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *F.B. Swainston*

1.4 Date(s): *1963 with alterations from the mid-1990s*

1.5 Date of visit: *7 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rt Rev. Mgr David Hogan*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery (across the car park)*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007
Diocesan archives

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

The original building was a cheap, functional church-cum-hall of 1963 (designs produced by F.B. Swainston of Marton and dated Nov. 1960). Thirty years on it was worn out and in much need of refreshment. This has been carried out effectively, but the building is not of architectural significance.

2.2 Historical background

Built in 1963 to serve the needs of Catholics in a large new middle-class housing area on the outskirts of Middlesbrough.

2.3 Setting

In an area of 1960s/1970s middle-class housing.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

A long, broad, brown- and red-brick building which began as a church-cum-hall. The worship area is at the southeast (geographic) end with two-storey community/social facilities at the other. The central part of the main façade facing the car park is a recent replacement and has pairs of broad lancet windows either side of a shallow projection. The building has a shallow hipped roof, covered with imitation slate tiles.

The interior retains a broad, flat ceiling and has plastered, whitened walls. The furnishings have all been introduced over the past ten years to improve the quality of the building. The chancel fittings reuse Gothic Revival work imported from elsewhere. The etched glass in the (liturgical) north windows depicts the Blessed Nicholas Postgate, St Margaret Clitherow, St John Fisher, and St Hilda: it was made locally in Stockton-on-Tees.