

St Chad, Kirkbymoorside

Piercy End, Kirkbymoorside, York, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *Yes (Kirkbymoorside Conservation Area, Area 2)*

1.3 Architect: *Bernard Smith*

1.4 Date(s): *1897*

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: *Peter Padmore, Chairman of parish council and fabric committee*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery (partly let)*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007
Kirkbymoorside Conservation Area Appraisal, Ryedale District Council, undated
St Chad's Kirkbymoorside: A Short History, Various, 1997

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

Attractive late 19th century small stone-built church in lancet Gothic style, set within a churchyard on the edge of the conservation area. The church contains some furnishings of interest, notably some carved wooden panels from a 17th century altar previously at Gilling Castle.

2.2 Historical background

Kirkbymoorside's association with Ampleforth Abbey began in 1859, when Prior Cooper said Mass in a house in Piercy End. In 1867 his successor Prior Prest negotiated a lease on an old joiner's shop in Tinley Garth (demolished in the 1960s), which served as a church and from 1877 doubled up as a school until the present church was built in 1897. Mrs Barnes of Gilling gave a fine 17th century carved wooden altar from the old chapel at Gilling Castle, and this was supplemented by carved and painted reredos with saints, by Pippett of Birmingham.

The present church was built on land acquired from Lord Feversham, and the foundation stone laid on Michaelmas day, 1896. The architect was Bernard Smith, a London architect and Amplefordian, and the contractor Anthony Lyons of Norton. The church was opened on 15 June 1897, when the Prior of Ampleforth preached.

In 1902 St Chad's House was built as accommodation for the priest, abutting the east end of the church.

At the time of the church's Golden Jubilee in 1947 it was given a new stone altar, designed and carved by Fr Laurence Bevenot, a monk of Ampleforth. This replaced the old wooden altar from Gilling Castle, the carved panels from the front of which were incorporated in a new reredos. Fr Laurence also carved a reliquary in Blue Hornton stone for the relic of St Chad (which had been given to the church by the Archdiocese of Birmingham), and carved the Stations of the Cross.

At the time of the Diamond Jubilee in 1957 the present reredos was fashioned, still incorporating the panels from the old Gilling Castle altar, but in a more elaborate setting of carved wooden angels carved by John Bunting (art teacher at Ampleforth College), incorporating salvaged picture frames and mouldings. This and the Stations were gilded by a team of parishioners. The triple lancet east window was internally reconfigured in Perpendicular Gothic style and fitted with medieval stained glass fragments laid in an abstract pattern (this from the collection amassed by the father of the parish priest). The ensemble was surmounted by an elaborate tester, carved by Bunting, with angels and the dove of the Holy Spirit.

In 1975 Fr Laurence's altar and the altar rails were removed and a new free-standing wooden altar introduced (now replaced by a stone altar which is a cut down version, or a free copy of Fr Laurence's altar).

2.3 Setting

Kirkbymoorside (Kirkby meaning Church Town) is a historic market town at the margin of the Tabular Hills and the Vale of Pickering. It retains its medieval street layout, although the buildings are nearly all post-medieval. St Chad's church lies on the east side of Piercy End towards its southern end. This is a wide street leading into the town centre from the south (made wide enough to accommodate overspill from the market), lined with brick and stone terraced houses and shops set back from the road behind cobbled hard standings. The church and attached presbytery lie within an attractive and well maintained church yard, with gatepiers, wall and railings on the street boundary.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church is built in the Early English style, of Sleightholmedale stone, with a slate roof. Aisleless nave, short square ended chancel, south porch. The west elevation is dominated by a large triple lancet window, and surmounted by a gabled bellcote containing one bell. The east window has a similar, smaller window arrangement (remodelled in Perpendicular style internally). Lancet windows to nave, triple lancet to south chancel wall, bays marked by stepped buttresses. Gabled stone porch with slate roof at west end of south elevation. Attached stone-built presbytery attached to the east, with a single storey lean-to sacristy abutting chancel north wall.

The interior consists of two cells, the nave divided from the chancel by a moulded chancel arch. Open timber boarded roof, canted in the nave, pitched in the chancel. The main furnishings are the reredos, incorporating carved 17th century panels (described above), the 1957 work (reredos in which the panels are set, tester) and the 1947 Stations. Plain benches in the nave installed in the early 1960s, by Thompson's of Kilburn, who did so much work in the Ampleforth parishes.