

St John the Evangelist, Easingwold

Long Street, Easingwold, York, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *II*

1.2 Conservation area: *Easingwold Conservation Area*

1.3 Architect: *J. A. Hansom*

1.4 Date(s): *1830-3*

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: *Presbytery, parish rooms*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

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

Marshall, R.D., OSB: *A Brief Sketch of the Origins of St John's Catholic Church, Easingwold, near York, 1945*

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

Simple stone lancet Gothic church, single cell with contemporary attached presbytery behind. An early (possibly the earliest) work by Joseph Hansom. The interior is plain, with a west gallery.

2.2 Historical background

In 1802 the English Benedictines from Dieulouard were driven out of France and took up residence at Ampleforth Lodge, home of the chaplain of Ann Fairfax of Gilling. From this grew the present community and school of Ampleforth Abbey. 25 years later, by agreement between the Benedictine Provincial and the Vicar Apostolic, the missions at Oulston and Crayke, hitherto served by a Benedictine, were closed and a mission established at Easingwold. A house (the present presbytery) was built in 1830. The church followed and is possibly the earliest work by J. A. Hansom; it opened in 1833.

In 1870 a new stone high altar was given by Mrs Stapleton of Myton Hall, designed by Joseph Hansom junior. In the following year a school was built alongside the church, possibly from the designs of Hadfield and Sons (see list description). This was extended in 1901.

In the early 1880s a single storey addition was built at the west end of the presbytery. In the late 1880s alterations to the church included the rebuilding and raising of the roof, the replacement of a high brick wall along the street boundary with a low wall and railings, and the addition of a church porch.

In about 1892 a rood screen designed by Charles Hansom in 1845 for St Anne's Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool was installed at Easingwold by the then parish priest, Fr Pearson. It was removed in 1964, but the Crucifixus was retained (now on the east wall over the high altar).

In 1905 the exiled Sisters of Mercy from Rouen established a school at Easingwold. They returned to France in 1948, but a number of the Sisters are buried in the churchyard.

In 1907-8 the presbytery was altered by the addition of bay windows and a porch.

In 1934 a set of 19th century oak benches was introduced to the church.

2.3 Setting

Easingwold is an attractive market town in the gently undulating Vale of York. The church is located to the north of the town in Long Street, a street characterised mainly by brick and pantile buildings of 18th and 19th century date. The church is set well back from the road in a large burial ground; the priest's house (St John's Priory) and garden back onto the east end of the church.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

See list description, below. The historical background (2.2, above) provides further information.

2.5 List description:

Building Name: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish: EASINGWOLD

District: HAMBLETON

County: NORTH YORKSHIRE

Postcode: YO61 3HY

LBS Number: 382348

Grade: II

Date Listed: 11/08/1994

Date of Last Amendment: 11/08/1994

NGR: SE5290169497

SE 5269 EASINGWOLD

LONG STREET

200- /9/10002 St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

II

Roman Catholic church. 1830-33 by J A Hansom, altered 1870 by Hadfield & Sons of Sheffield. Ashlar with ashlar dressings and slate roof Raised coped gables with kneelers. Plinth. Single cell church with western porch. Gothic Revival style. West front has projecting single storey porch with buttresses and a raised coped gable with kneelers and a cross finial. Central pointed arch doorway with double plank doors in a chamfered surround with hood mould. Behind a tall triple lancet set within 3 tall lancets with round columns and double chamfered arches. Above a gabled bellcote with a pointed arch and bell. At the corners diagonal buttresses with set-offs. Either

side 5 tall lancets in chamfered openings with buttresses between, the south side has the eastern 2 bays masked by a later brick lean-to.

Interior: has panelled wooden roof a wooden west gallery and late C19 pews installed 1934. The elaborate Gothic style altar and reredos is stone with polished marble columns, designed by Joseph Hansom Jnr in 1870.

Listing NGR: SE5290169497