

## St Mary, Crathorne

*Hutton Rudby Road, Crathorne, North Yorkshire*



### **Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *II\**

1.2 Conservation area: *Yes*

1.3 Architect: *Not established*

1.4 Date(s): *c.1821*

1.5 Date of visit: *8 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

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*

Peter Markey, *A Brief History of St. Mary's Church Crathorne (1777-1977)* (n.d. [1977])

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

*This chapel is of exceptional importance on both historic and architectural grounds. The exterior is typically modest for a Catholic chapel of its time, but the interior is a remarkably complete survival and its ensemble of box pews, gallery and rich Gothick decoration is of the highest quality.*

### **2.2 Historical background**

The Crathorne family maintained the Catholic faith after the Reformation and, no doubt, Mass was held in the manor house. It is sometimes said (e.g. the list description) that a (or this) chapel was built in 1777 but this is challenged in Peter Markey's publication. He cites a document of 1816 stating that the then chapel was 'formerly a Cowhouse' but there seems no firm evidence for the 1777 dating and this is probably a self-perpetuating tradition. Markey cites documents that indicate the chapel was complete by the end of 1821 and suggests it was probably the result of efforts by the 'resident Missioner', Fr George Corless, using funds from a donation by Ralph Crathorne in 1742 to endow the Crathorne mission. After much neglect the chapel was restored from the mid-1960s.

### **2.3 Setting**

In Crathorne village just west of the Anglican parish church.

### **2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings**

The list description is sparse but lists its essential features. The following additional points/corrections are worth noting:

- There is one broad west gallery, not 'galleries'.
- The porch, following Markey (p.7) seems to be the work of the period mid-1960s-1977 ('Fr. Dunstan has added ... the new church porch'). It is therefore not 'C19' as in the list description.
- The decorative treatment of the east end is quite notable: triple hanging arches at the nave/sanctuary junction; the pair of concave sided canopies over niches either side of the altar; and the decorative treatment of the reredos.

### **2.5 List description:**

**Building Name:** CHURCH OF ST MARY

**Parish:** CRATHORNE

**District:** HAMBLETON

**County:** NORTH YORKSHIRE

**Postcode:** TS15 0BB

**LBS Number:** 331887

**Grade:** II\*

**Date Listed:** 23/06/1966

**Date of Last Amendment:** 23/06/1966

**NGR:** NZ4421807492

**Listing Text:**

NZ 4407 CRATHORNE HUTTON RUDBY ROAD  
9/4 (north-west side)

23.6.66 Church of St Mary

II\*

Roman Catholic 1777 built for the Crathorne family, Roman Catholics and former lords of the manor.

Local handmade light red brick, English garden wall bond. Welsh slate roof with stone gable coping, bracketed eaves.

One tall storey, three windows, Tudor arched and roll-moulded, with interlaced glazing bars and cill band.

C19 south-west porch in similar style.

Gothick interior with galleries and box pews.

Listing NGR: NZ4421807492