

Corpus Christi, Hull

Spring Bank West, Hull, East Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *Bishop Thomas Shine and F. Spink of Bridlington*

1.4 Date(s): *1932*

1.5 Date of visit: *11 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

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

1.8 Associated buildings: *None noted*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

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

Pevsner, N. & Neave, D.: *The Buildings of England, Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*, Penguin Books 1995

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

A modest and architecturally unexceptional Gothic church which makes only a very limited contribution to the local townscape.

2.2 Historical background

The parish was created to serve the growing northwestern suburbs of Hull, one of eight new parishes created in the Diocese in the decade before the Second World War. The church cost £2,500 to build, financed by the Church Extension Fund. Bishop Thomas Shine is credited with the design, though he had no formal architectural training. F. Spink of Bridlington was probably responsible for putting the design on paper and was the builder of the church.

2.3 Setting

Spring Bank West is a broad road with trees planted down the middle and suburban housing set back on either side, mostly semi-detached 1920s private housing. Corpus Christi church is set back on the south side, respecting the general building line and has a front boundary of brick piers and railings. Land has been sold off behind the church and new housing built within the last five years, the access road to which runs close to the side of the church.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church faces south but references here follow conventional liturgical orientation.

A small red brick (in English garden wall bond, with thin sandstone dressings) gabled building of a main rectangular space with a projecting gabled west porch, a sacristy at the northeast corner, a smaller lean-to projection in the corresponding position on the south side (for confessionals) and a sanctuary with apse, though with a flat end externally. Plain Gothic style. Tall lancet side windows to the nave, separated by taller buttresses. The front has a gabled porch with small, paired lancets to either side and a three-light window above under a four-centred arch and with painted timber tracery. Pointed arched niche in the gable with a relief carving set in. Small single lancets to either side of the sanctuary and a pair on the east wall, all set high up. Foundation stone set low down on the right-hand side of the front, the lettering becoming illegible. Smaller stone above commemorating the 70th anniversary of the church.

The interior is plastered and painted with a stained tongue and groove boarded ceiling of canted form. Parts of trusses exposed and metal tie rods. Plain chamfered arch to the sanctuary without imposts. West gallery with Gothic panelled front. Later glazed screen below to create a narthex. Open-backed benches, timber high altar and nave altar, ambo; none of them of special interest. Stations of the Cross, small tablets, probably plaster, with scenes in shallow relief. Unusual heavy timber niches (4 in number set either side of opposing windows) with figures of saints probably brought from elsewhere. Saints in recessed niches either side of the sanctuary arch.