

St Peter and St John Fisher, Withernsea

*Withernsea, 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): *1936*

1.5 Date of visit: *10 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rev John Wood*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Parish centre (in attached former terraced house), presbytery, a terraced house at the other end of the street*

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 simple interwar church of minimal architectural or artistic significance.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

From 1906 a priest from Hull said Sunday Mass in a small café at Withernsea (Hull's closest holiday town). A tiny wooden church was built and replaced by the present permanent building in 1936. This is said to have been designed (together with eight other churches in the Diocese) by the then Bishop, Thomas Shine and built by F. Spink (at a cost of £1,045), a builder from Bridlington. Thomas Shine did not have architectural training and the degree to which he was responsible for designing this and other churches has not been established.

### **2.3 Setting**

Bannister Street runs north from the centre of the small holiday town. It is lined by two-storey modest late Victorian terraces, several stretches rebuilt in a similar manner within the last twenty years. The church forms part of a terrace and is distinguishable only by the different architectural treatment.

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

The church faces west but all references here are to liturgical compass points.

A modest red brick building hemmed in by terraced housing on either side. Brickwork laid in English Garden Wall bond. The west front has a parapet with the middle section boldly stepped up. Stepped brickwork giving something of an Art Deco character. Gabled porch of domestic character and built within the last twenty or so years. Tall flat-headed lancet windows, the centre one broader and set higher up.

The interior is lit from windows at either end and from sky lights set in to the canted boarded ceiling with trusses supported on wall corbels. Three flat-headed east windows set high up, the centre one taller. Plastered and painted walls and no division between nave and sanctuary. West gallery, the area below enclosed (circa 2000) by a glazed screen to form an internal porch or lobby. Open backed oak pews. Oak altar, low screen behind and tabernacle with Gothic panelling, from the old St Vincent's Church in Hull. Sanctuary and altar are raised on a timber platform. Stained glass, crucifixion and other scenes in the three east windows. Engraved glass in the screen beneath the west gallery. Stations of the Cross also from St Vincent's church, Hull.