

St Bede, Hull

Staveley Road, Hull, East Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *P. Harbron*

1.4 Date(s): *1952-3*

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: *Wilf Dealtry (parishioner and Sacristan)*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Attached hall and presbytery*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

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

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

The church and associated buildings are not unappealing in their simple clean lines but architecturally they are not distinguished and, despite the corner site, the group does not have a significant townscape presence.

2.2 Historical background

St Bede's parish was created from that of the Sacred Heart and was the ninth church to be built in the Hull area. St Bede's parish subsequently spawned three new parishes, those of St Theresa, St Stephen and St Francis.

2.3 Setting

Sited on the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Hopewell and Staveley Roads, the designed complex of church, hall and presbytery occupies a generous plot, rather austere with its Spartan surround and forbidding security fence. The wider area is typical of the loose suburban layout of post-War estates.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

St Bede's shares a common language and materials with the attached hall and presbytery. The materials are red brick and clay pantiles, with projecting concrete frames around the windows and doors. The church comprises nave and sanctuary enclosed within a single pitched roof structure. Canted apse. Flat roofed aisles with taller transverse gabled bays at each end. As a result the west front has the main gabled centre section with pitched roof projections to either side. Giant round arch with stepped surround enclosing both the entrance with flat roofed porch and a tripartite arrangement of windows. All windows are of simple rectangular form in vertical format. The church hall, which is set in a kind of butterfly plan arranged to the southeast echoes certain features of the church and is linked to it by a wall.

The interior of the church reads essentially as a single space, well lit from a clerestory with tripartite windows. The aisles are no more than passages divided from the nave by an open 'arcade' of post and beam. The roof is canted and clad with some form of acoustic panels. The polygonal sanctuary apse opens from the nave without any form of arch. The church is carpeted and furnished with contemporary open-backed pews and marble sanctuary fittings.