

St Patrick, Thornaby

*Westbury Street, Stockton on Tees, North Yorkshire*



**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *Edward Goldie*

1.4 Date(s): *1891*

1.5 Date of visit: *6 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Fr Michael Keogh*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Presbytery (attached) and hall (formerly a school – now removed some distance away to the south)*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

*Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007*

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

***The church acts as something of a landmark in a rather drab residential area. Architecturally it is fairly conservative for its date. Externally the transverse gables add some individuality to the north elevation. The interior retains its original coherence; the simplified detail of the piers is unusual and the reredos has some distinction.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

A school-chapel (now the parish hall) was designed in 1872 by George Goldie and replaced with the present church by his son Edward in 1891 to serve the needs of Catholics in and around Thornaby.

### **2.3 Setting**

An undistinguished residential area with Victorian housing and modern replacements for such housing.

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

The church is built of red brick and consists of a nave, north aisle, three-sided apsidal sanctuary with a sacristy in the south and is linked to the presbytery adjoining. The roofs are covered by slates. The west façade abuts the street and has a gabled entrance with a statue of St Patrick above in a niche flanked by pairs of lancet windows. Above is a single-light bellcote. The north side has an interesting treatment: low eaves are interspersed between tall, transverse gables which rise to the level of the nave eaves. Each gable is pierced by three, graded lancets. The south windows of the nave are also graded triple lancets as are the ones in the canted faces of the apse.

The nave and sanctuary are a long, undivided space under an arch-braced roof: a number of skylights have been let into the roof. The very individual external treatment of the north aisle is reflected internally by tall gables alternating with low lean-to roofs. The walls are plastered and whitened. There is a west gallery with a ground floor glazed screen to the nave. The nave has seven bays and an arcade with alternating round and square piers (the latter with chamfered-off corners). The arches are of a single step without any embellishment and the capitals are also of striking simplicity – the tops of the piers swell upwards to take on the section of the arch masonry above. The reredos is an extremely ornate one of timber. It is flanked by windows containing glass signed by Mayer & Co. of Munich and London, and depicting six named saints.