

St Andrew's, Teesville

Fabian Road, Teesville, Middlesbrough



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *Frank Swainston*

1.4 Date(s): *1962*

1.5 Date of visit: *5 November 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Geoff Brandwood*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Joe Gallagher (parish worker)*

1.8 Associated buildings: *Hall and meeting rooms (on two floors); presbytery. These are physically linked to the church.*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

This is a fairly modest piece of architecture though it has a little more embellishment than the rather later St Anne's (by the same architectural practice). Its construction and details are typical of routine modernist architecture in the 1960s and, although it has an effective, light worship space, this is functional rather than having any special architectural qualities.

2.2 Historical background

The original parishes of St Peter's, South Bank (1874) and St Mary's, Grangetown (1886), serving the Irish and Lithuanian immigrants who worked in the smelting works by the Tees, gave birth to the parishes of St Andrew (1962) and St Anne (1970) as the terraced streets near the works were demolished and new housing was built further south towards the Cleveland Hills. St Mary's church was demolished in 1989 and four parishes became one by 2002.

2.3 Setting

In the large, drab 1960s housing estate of Teesville. Contemporary school and Redcar & Cleveland town hall opposite. The church is almost dwarfed by the adjacent parish centre.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church is oriented south and directions given are liturgical.

The church, opened in 1962, consists of a broad, unified nave and sanctuary under a low-pitched roof carried on reinforced concrete trusses. There is a small Blessed Sacrament chapel at the northeast and a sacristy at the southeast. The exterior is plain being faced with brown bricks laid in stretcher bond. The west end presents a symmetrical face to the road with a small, functional porch above which is a tall, central panel with a mosaic of St Andrew flanked by a pair of grid-like, six-light windows with criss-cross leading and brightly coloured stained glass. The south elevation is of plain brick. The north one is mostly glazed and has a broad band of glazing with more criss-cross leading and brightly coloured glass.

The spacious nave is brightly lit by the northern windows. At the west end there is a gallery over an assembly area, repository, toilets etc. The focus of the building is a Crucifixion standing proud of the east wall and set against a fine, tall mosaic where the colours merge from gold on the edge to blue in the centre. The coloured glazing in the windows also grades from gold to blue. The east end is distinguished by a series of fittings – high and chapel altars, font, pulpit and priest's seat – made from green marble (breccia in the case of the high altar) and white marble. The nave is seated with sturdy wooden benches with strong linear lines. The floors are carpeted.