

Corpus Christi, Thorntree

*The Greenway, Thorntree, Middlesbrough*



**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Listed grade: *Not listed*

1.2 Conservation area: *No*

1.3 Architect: *Not established*

1.4 Date(s): *1957-8*

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: *Unaccompanied*

1.8 Associated buildings: *None. The church no longer owns the parish centre and has the availability of one room in the former presbytery.*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

*Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007*

## **Part 2: Analysis**

### **2.1 Statement of Importance**

***The church of Christ the King was built at the end of the 1950s and hence before changes in design that followed on from Vatican II. It is a long, broad structure without aisles but with a lower sanctuary. Its lines and the detailing are simple. Architecturally it is of limited interest although the internal arrangement where an aisle arcade is expected and yet is not there (rather there is a huge lintel running from one end of the church to the other) is a feature of some curiosity.***

### **2.2 Historical background**

The church was built in 1957-8 to meet the needs of Catholics on the newly-built Thorntree council estate. Foundation stone dated 4 June 1957.

### **2.3 Setting**

Late 1950s council housing.

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

The church is oriented west so directions given here are liturgical.

It consists of a wide nave and lower sanctuary and is faced with thin, light brown bricks laid in stretcher bond with recessed pointing. The dressings are of artificial stone. The fenestration of the nave consists of ten windows on either side, grouped in pairs and with shallow triangular heads: there is also a single window in the west bay (occupied by the gallery internally). There are similar windows in the sanctuary side walls but the east wall is blind. The west façade to the road has a superarch embracing a tall three-light window and a square-headed doorway.

Internally the walls are also of bare brick. There is no chancel arch but the width of the sanctuary is reduced by the width of the side chapels. The most striking feature of the interior is the treatment of the covering of the nave. There is a huge lintel running the length of the church on either side in the positions where one might expect conventional arcades. This creates a somewhat unusual, if slightly disconcerting effect. The main, five-sided ceiling is covered with insulating tiles. There is a west gallery which houses the organ.