

Roman Catholic Church of St Peter
South Bank
Middlesbrough

Architectural and Historical Report



March 2023

AHP Architectural
History
Practice

**Roman Catholic Church of St Peter
South Bank
Middlesbrough**

Architectural and Historical Report

Prepared for

**The Parish of St Andrew Teesville and the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough**

By

The Architectural History Practice Ltd

March 2023



CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	5
	Drill shed to school-chapel.....	5
	St Peter’s Church	8
	Later developments.....	16
3.	DESCRIPTION	21
	Context	21
	Plan.....	22
	Exterior.....	23
	Interior	29
	Condition.....	29
4.	SIGNIFICANCE	33
5.	NEARBY CHURCHES	34
6.	NEXT STEPS.....	36
	 Appendix 1: Letter from the Catholics of South Bank, 14 September 1871	38
	Appendix 2: Extracts from tender document, March 1903	39
	Appendix 3: Letter from J. Anneessens to Canon Nolan about organ, 5 September 1911	45
	Appendix 4: List entry (church).....	47
	Appendix 5: List entry (war memorial)	49
	Appendix 6: List entry (former presbytery).....	50
	Appendix 7: Brodrick, Lowther & Walker	51
	Appendix 8: Principal furnishings.....	52

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This architectural and historical report for the church of St Peter, South Bank, Middlesbrough, has been prepared by the Architectural History Practice (AHP) on behalf of the parish of St Andrew, Teesville and the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The church is a Grade II listed building and contains within its curtilage a war memorial crucifix, also listed Grade II. Lying alongside is the former church-school and attached former presbytery, the latter separately listed Grade II and both now in separate ownership.
- 1.2 The church has not been reopened for worship since the ending of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. It is in a poor state of repair, with dampness and rainwater ingress from slipped roof tiles. The resident population has declined in recent years, and the church is currently served by one priest, based at St Andrew, Teesville. The parish priest also looks after the church of St Anne, Eston. After local discussion, the Bishop is considering closure of the church.
- 1.3 This report has been prepared in order to meet the requirement of paragraph 43 of the *Directory on the Ecclesiastical Exemption from Listed Building Control* (revised January 2019), that the diocese should commission an expert report on the building proposed for closure, describing in detail the architectural and historical interest of the building and its contents.
- 1.4 It is hoped that the report will help the parish, diocese, Historic Churches Committee and other stakeholders to reach a balanced decision on the future of the building, taking full account of heritage as well as pastoral, financial and other considerations.
- 1.5 The report has been written by Andrew Derrick, a Director of AHP, and follows a site inspection on 14 March 2023. The author is grateful to David Smallwood (Diocesan Archivist) for assistance, and to parishioners Michael and Margaret Clark, for facilitating access to the church and providing hospitality.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Drill shed to school-chapel

- 2.1 In 1840, Henry Bolckow and John Vaughan set up an iron-making business in Middlesbrough. Ten years later Vaughan and the geologist John Marley discovered iron ore at Eston, and in 1851 a blast furnace was built nearby at South Bank (so named for its location on the south bank of the Tees). So began the growth of 'Teesside', whose population, fuelled by the rapid growth of the iron industry, grew from less than a hundred in 1829 to 40,000 by 1871¹. Great blast and puddling furnaces were concentrated in the South Bank area, which became a magnet for workers, including Catholic migrant workers from Ireland and elsewhere (the size of Middlesbrough's Irish population was exceeded in England only by Liverpool's). Streets of terraced housing were laid out to house the steelworkers and their families, and schools, churches, chapels and pubs followed.
- 2.2 The Middlesbrough Catholic mission was established in 1848, and the church of St Mary in Sussex Street (later the Cathedral) completed from designs by George Goldie in 1877. From some time in the 1860s, services were held in South Bank (known then as North Eston) in a former Drill Shed on Normanby Road, opposite the end of Nelson Street. These were led by the Revd Andrew Burns, a priest of St Mary's.
- 2.3 In 1871 a committee of local lay Catholics met with Messrs Bolckow, Vaughan & Co, concerning the acquisition of a site for church and schools on the corner of Middlesbrough Road and Milbank Street. However, it appears that in this endeavour they had the support neither of Fr Burns (who, it was alleged, was withholding funds raised for this purpose) or his Ordinary, Bishop Cornthwaite (of Beverley, the Diocese of Middlesbrough was only created in 1878). After a noisy public meeting, the committee wrote an open letter of complaint to the bishop, denouncing Fr Burns and hoping that 'your Lordship will patiently reconsider the disapproval of which you have been led to give expression without - we submit with due respect - a full knowledge of the whole facts and circumstances' (copy in Diocesan Archives, reproduced at appendix 1).

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolckow%2C_Vaughan

2.4 The committee's representations appear to have had the desired effect, for the land was acquired and on 24 June 1874 *The Daily Gazette* reported:

For a long time the Roman Catholics at Eston and District who number nearly 2,000 have worshipped in the Old Drill Shed, South Bank. In May 1873 the foundation stone of a building, to answer the double purpose of Chapel and schoolroom, was laid; and on Tuesday the building was solemnly opened by his Lordship the Bishop of Beverley. The church which has been dedicated to St Peter is of a modern Gothic style of architecture mixed with base antique, and will seat at least 500 persons, and the total cost is estimated at £1,500. The architect, Mr M. Carr of Middlesbrough, has carried out the work to the satisfaction of all concerned with credit to himself [...] It is intended to build a priest's house shortly at South Bank, and to appoint a priest to take charge of the district.

2.5 In 1875 or 1876 the Rev. (later Canon) Thomas Holland was appointed first resident priest. In 1881 he built the large presbytery and an infants' school opposite the school-chapel, on the other side of Middlesbrough Road In 1885 he also opened a school-chapel at the newly-developed Grangetown area (served from South Bank until 1888).

2.6 Martin Carr was also the architect of the churches of St Joseph and St Cuthbert, Loftus (1882-3) and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Staithes (1884-5). His perspective drawing for the church, schools and presbytery at South Bank was published in *The Architect* in February 1884 (fig. 1). It shows a tall tower and spire at the liturgical west end, never built; the school-chapel and presbytery as built are shown at fig. 2. The Ordnance Survey map of 1892 shows the group of buildings amidst streets of terraced housing (fig. 3), with the site of the present church as yet undeveloped.



Fig. 1: 'St Peter's Church, presbytery and schools, Southbank, Middlesbrough'; drawing by Martin Carr, *The Architect*, 9 February 1884



Fig. 2: The school-chapel and presbytery as built, in c.1905 (photograph in diocesan archives)



Fig. 3: Detail from 25 inch Ordnance Survey map, Middlesbrough-Yorkshire Sheet VI.12.22, surveyed 1892, published 1894 (National Library of Scotland)

St Peter's Church

- 2.7 In 1885 Canon Holland was posted to Thirsk. After several short-lived successors, the Revd (Canon) James Nolan was appointed to the mission in 1900. He was to remain for 34 years, and built the present church. Although the school-chapel was just a little over 25 years old, seating only around 400 people and serving a dual purpose, the building was inadequate for the needs and aspirations of a growing Catholic population. The new church, built on the adjacent plot, would seat over 600 and be of far greater scale and architectural ambition.
- 2.8 The foundation stone was laid on 2 July 1903, less than two weeks after that for St Mary's at Grangetown (foundation stone 24 June 1903, opened 10 October 1905) and about a month before that for St Patrick at Hull (foundation stone 1 August 1903, opened 8 September 1904). All three churches were built from designs by Brodrick, Lowther & Walker, architects of 77 Lowgate, Hull, and at the Hull ceremony the architects presented Bishop Lacy (first Bishop of Middlesbrough) with a silver salver as a memento.²

² *The Tablet*, 8 August 1903

2.9 The tender document for St Peter's dates from March 1903 and is in the diocesan archives (extracts at appendix 2). It specifies facing bricks from 'the best hand made Lincolnshire kilns', Dunhouse stone and Ancaster stone dressings 'of the best quality', polished granite shafts supplied by a London firm, and the best quality fir, deal and oak from Danzig (Gdansk), Archangel and St Petersburg. There is no evidence of a major donor, and it the undertaking appears to have been largely financed by the 'pennies of the faithful', given voluntarily or otherwise (McNicholas records that 'each quarter, a day's pay was deducted at source from the wages of (presumably only the Catholic) furnace men towards the cost of building St Peter's church').³

2.10 On 7 November 1905, the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette* reported:

A truly imposing building is the new St Peter's Catholic Church, which has been erected in Middlesbrough Road, South Bank. The total cost of the building is £7,242 exclusive of the seating and furnishings. The church, which is built of hand made Lincolnshire bricks, with stone dressings, is an imposing structure. It consists of a nave 84 feet long and 24 feet wide, with north and south aisles 11 feet in width. The nave is divided from the aisles on each side by an arcade of four bays each, the columns being of clustered shafts of polished Swedish granite with richly carved and moulded capitals. The pitch pine roof presents a noble appearance. The sanctuary is 27 feet long and 24 feet wide, with a pentagonal apsidal end, and lighted by five tall, traceried windows... The vaulted ceiling rises from polished marble columns, with carved and moulded caps and bases. The roofs to the aisles and side chapels are grained in wood with moulded ribs... The aisles are lighted by traceried stone windows...The west end elevation has a fine double entrance, with tall, two-lighted traceried windows over each door, and between these windows will be a five foot high statue of St Peter, in a carved stone niche, the carving being by Messrs Martin of Cheltenham. There are also carved in stone over the entrance the Pope's arms and the Bishop's arms. Mr Fry of Cheltenham being responsible for this work...There is a tower eighty feet high at the west end. Commodious sacristies and sacristan's house with conservatory attached are also provided. The seating accommodation is over 600. The church has been erected from plans prepared by Messrs Brodrick, Lowther and Walker of Hull, and the style is the early decorated period of Gothic architecture. Messrs Dickinson and Son completed the contract. The church is fitted with up-to-date heating apparatus, and will be lighted throughout by gas. Excellent ventilation has also been provided. There are some things yet required – namely, a good organ, a peal of bells, and, as the Rev. Father Nolan has suggested, a clock for the tower.⁴

³ McNicholas, Fr N., *St Andrew's Parish, Teesville, A Social History*, 2008, 4n

⁴ As transcribed in McNicholas, Fr N., *St Peter's RC Church, South Bank*, 1995, 5-6

2.11 On the following day, the paper reported on the opening of the church:

The Bishop of Middlesbrough (the Right Rev R. Lacy DD) visited South Bank today, accompanied by the majority of the Catholic clergy of the North Riding, to rejoice with Father Nolan's congregation in the completion of their new church, which is very well worthy of the objects for which it has been erected, and does credit to the sacrifices which they have made in the interests of their faith.

2.12 The organ, bells and clock followed fairly quickly: in 1909 two bells paid for by public subscription and cast by Taylor's of Loughborough were consecrated and the tower clock installed. The organ (built by Messrs Anneessens & Ruysers of Menin, Belgium, who also built the organ in Goldie's Middlesbrough Cathedral) was installed in 1912. It was originally powered by a gas engine. Jules Anneessens' estimate (£730) is in the diocesan archives, along with an accompanying letter which is reproduced at appendix 3. The final cost was £800, met by the Misses Brand.⁵

⁵ Carson, Fr E., *St Peter's Parish Centenary*, 1974, 4



Fig. 4: Early photograph of the church (1909 or later, showing the clock)
(photo in diocesan archives)

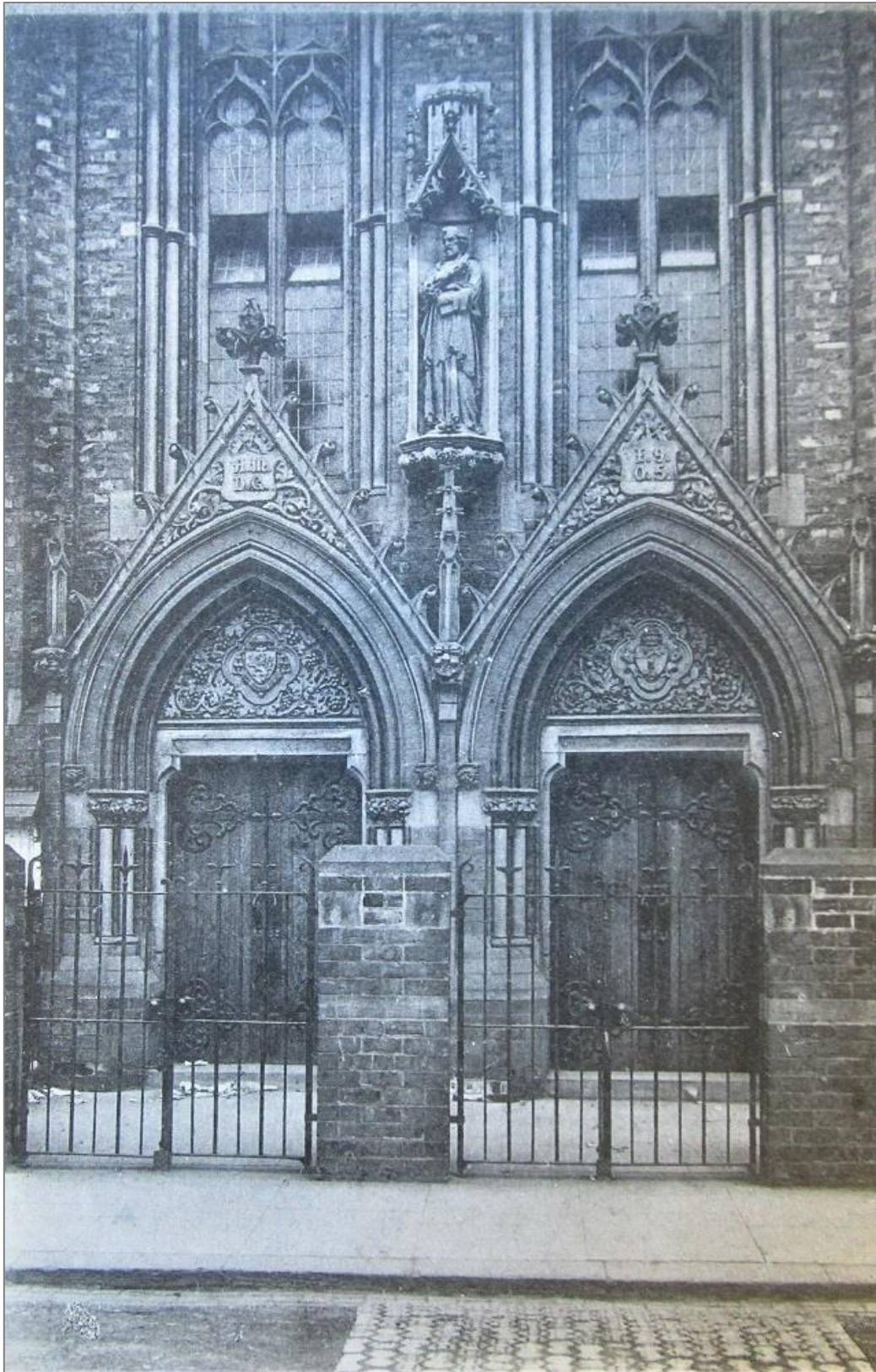


Fig. 5: Main entrance, showing the tympana carved with the arms of Pope Pius X and Bishop Lacy (by Mr Fry of Cheltenham), gables with crockets and finials (inscribed AMDG and 1905) over the doorways (destroyed in World War II) and central statue of St Peter (by Martins of Cheltenham, also destroyed in the war). In front are the original entrance gates and gate piers, since removed (diocesan archives).



Fig. 6: Early twentieth-century photograph of Canon Nolan in the Lourdes grotto/garden built at the side of the church (see also fig. 4) (diocesan archives)



Fig. 7: Early twentieth-century photograph of the interior, looking towards the (liturgical) east (diocesan archives)



Fig. 8: Early twentieth century photograph of the stone nave pulpit and Pietà. The pulpit was demolished in the late twentieth-century and the Pietà relocated to the north aisle (diocesan archives)



Fig. 9: Early twentieth-century photograph of the sanctuary. The high altar was raised on three steps and had a high central pinnacle and flanking reredos with statues of saints; a Last Supper panel was set into the antependium. Carved screens with ogee arches to either side, piscina set into the wall on the right, clergy and servers' seating to the sides, mosaic tile floor. All this was lost or covered over in later reordering (diocesan archives).

Later developments

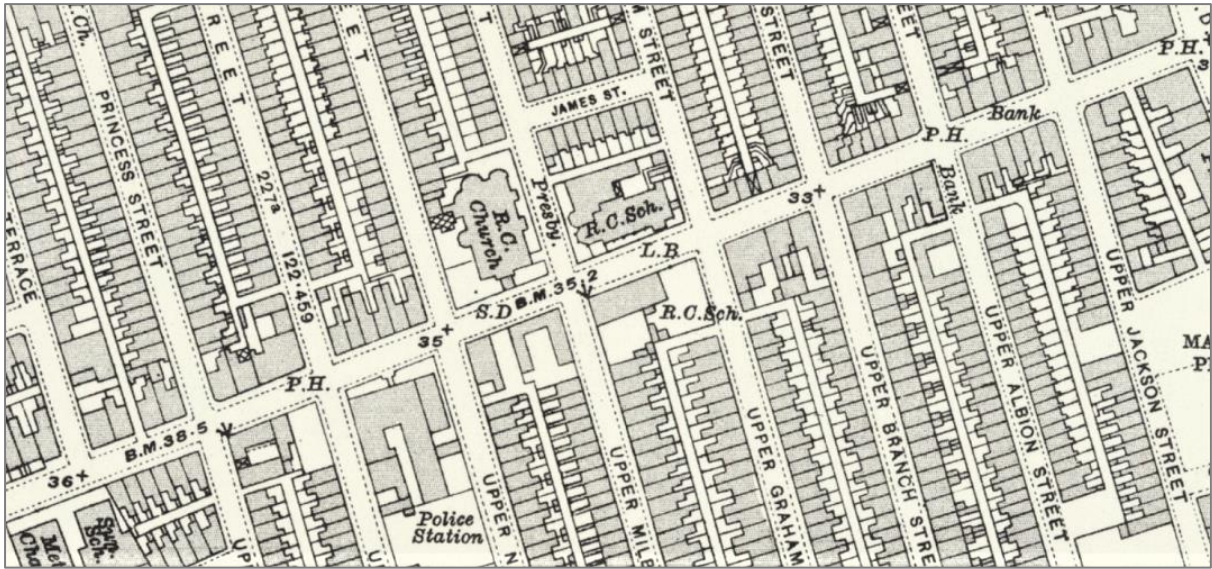


Fig. 10: Detail from 25 inch Ordnance Survey map, Yorkshire sheet VI.12, revised 1927, published 1939. Adjoining the sacristan's house on Napier Street was a conservatory (shown hatched, no longer extant) (National Library of Scotland).



Fig. 11: Undated (interwar) postcard view of Middlesbrough Road. Behind the railings in the foreground right was the police station, which suffered World War II bomb damage.

- 2.13 The map at fig. 10 and the postcard view at fig.11 show St Peter's church in its original context, with densely-built terraced houses in the side streets and shops along Middlesbrough Road.

- 2.14 On 30 July 1922, a concrete Calvary group was unveiled outside the church, a memorial to those in the parish who gave their lives in the 1914-18 war.⁶ The artist was J.A.O. Connell.⁷
- 2.15 The church suffered bomb damage in World War II, when a stray bomb fell on the nearby police station (visible on the map at fig. 10). Losses included the stone statue of St Peter (subsequently replaced) and the richly carved gables over the main doorways. There was also some damage to the windows, and shrapnel damage to the Calvary group.⁸
- 2.16 In 1964, the sanctuary furnishings were removed and the mosaic sanctuary floor replaced with large polished artificial stone slabs. Stencil decoration on the sanctuary walls was overpainted in white, the pitch pine roofs of the apse, nave and aisles painted blue and the Stations of the Cross overpainted in white. A new plain stone forward altar was introduced and an altar of repose installed in what had been the Lady Chapel (to the liturgical north of the sanctuary). The nave pulpit was removed, as was the font; a doorway was formed in the former baptistery to provide another entrance to the church (this later became disused when the baptistery was turned into a piety stall). Several statues were also removed.⁹ Surprisingly perhaps, the Communion rails were allowed to remain.
- 2.17 In 1962 the Sunday Mass count was 2,261 (estimated at half the Catholic population of the parish), but this number fell sharply after the parish was divided and the church of St Andrew, Teesville opened in the same year.¹⁰ Large-scale clearance of housing around St Peter's began in the late 1960s, and by the 1970s the church was considered 'too big and in the wrong location'. Planning of the route of the A66 dual carriageway (finally constructed in the 1980s, close by to the north of the church) caused further uncertainty, and closure of St Peter's and its replacement with a new church in Normanby Road (on the car park of the newly-rebuilt St Peter's Club) was considered.¹¹ However this was not taken forward, and the threat of closure receded with the listing

⁶ McNicholas, 1996, 6

⁷ List entry

⁸ McNicholas, 1996, 19

⁹ *ibid.*, 19. If correct, McNicholas's date of 1964 makes this an early example of 'post-Vatican II reordering', taking place while the Council was still sitting.

¹⁰ Carson, 1974, 7

¹¹ McNicholas, 1996, 20

of the church in April 1988. The Calvary war memorial and presbytery (which by then was in use as a probation hostel) were listed at the same time.

- 2.18 Listing did not come to the rescue of Brodrick, Lowther & Walker's church of St Mary at Grangetown, where house clearance was also taking place, with consequent decline in the Catholic population. That church was demolished in 1989, and the parish eventually amalgamated with that of St Anne, Eston, itself a daughter parish of St Peter's.
- 2.19 The 1990s saw a major investment in St Peter's church, with a scheme of repair and redecoration undertaken by Peter Gaze Pace ARIBA of York. The internal walls were repainted and the sanctuary, which had been left looking rather bare after the 1960s reordering, enriched by a scheme of painted polychromy, based on stencil decoration shown in old photographs and revealed by paint investigations. The ceilings of the nave, apse and aisles, which had been painted blue, were overpainted to restore the original tone and colour. The Stations of the Cross, which had been painted white, had their polychromy restored. 'Before and after' photographs are shown at figs. 12-15.
- 2.20 Restoration of the organ completed the refurbishment of the church. In 1997 a grant of £46,230 was offered by the Heritage Lottery Fund (representing 90% of the cost), and the restoration was complete by c.2001.
- 2.21 In 2002 a new parish of St Andrew's was created, encompassing the churches of St Andrew (Teesville), St Peter (South Bank) and St Anne (Eston). Today the parish is served by one priest, based at St Andrew's. The old school-chapel, adjoining presbytery and sacristan's house at St Peter's have been sold; at the time of writing the old chapel and presbytery are unused and derelict, and the chapel damaged by an arson attack (fig. 17).
- 2.22 In line with instructions from the Catholic hierarchy, and along with all other churches, St Peter's was closed for regular worship during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has not reopened since, but continues to be regularly cleaned by a devoted band of parishioners. However the structure is not being maintained, and is suffering from rainwater ingress and dampness.

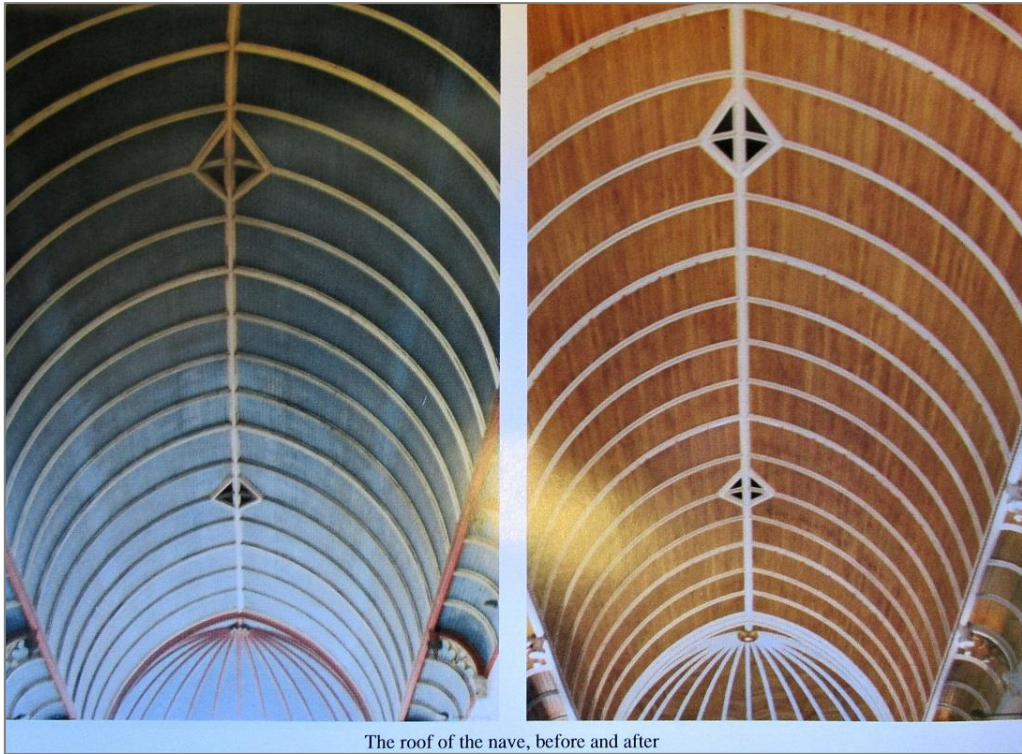


Fig. 12: Nave roof, before and after redecoration in the 1990s (from McNicholas, 1996)

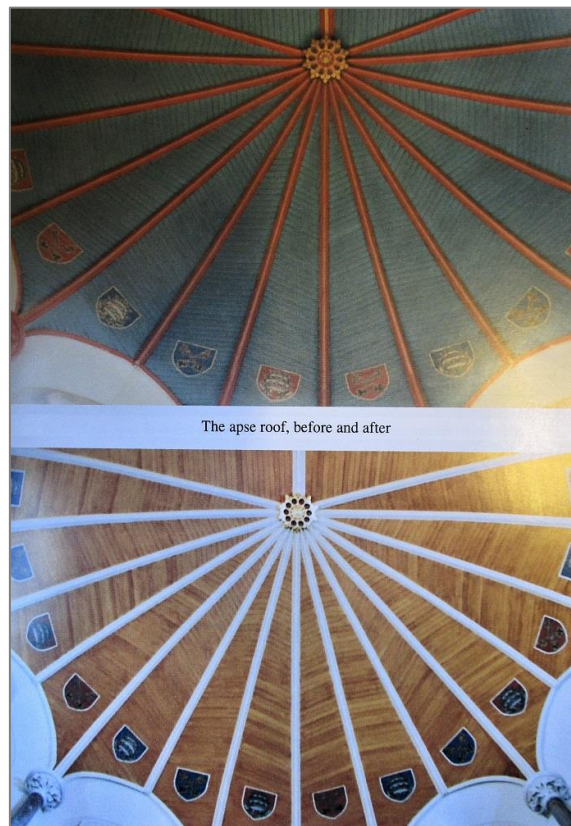


Fig. 13: Apse roof, before and after (McNicholas, 1996)



Fig. 14: View towards the sanctuary, before and after 1990s redecoration (McNicholas, 1996)



Fig. 15: Arch on south side of sanctuary, before and after 1990s redecoration (McNicholas, 1996)

3. DESCRIPTION

Context

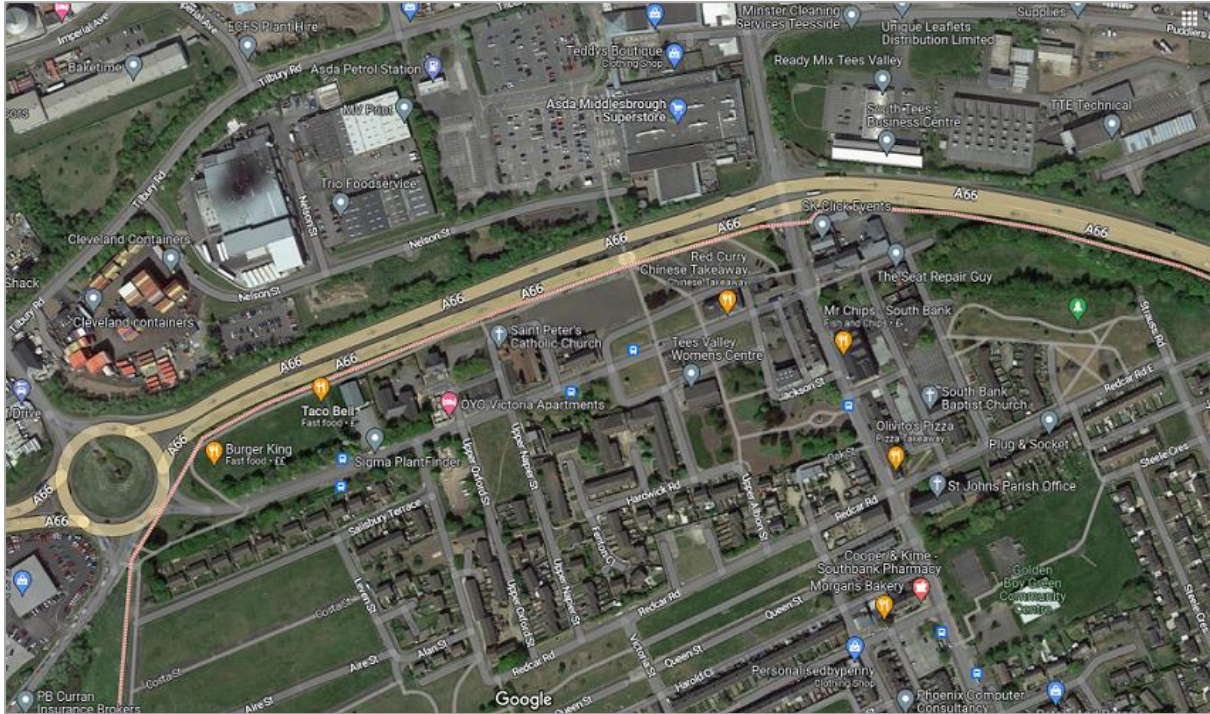


Fig. 16: The church in its modern-day context (Google Earth)

3.1 The setting of the church (National Grid Reference NZ 53210 20827) has been completely transformed in the last fifty years or so (fig. 16). Heavy industry has largely departed and the dense grid of terraced housing shown on the historic maps has been mostly cleared. The dual carriageway of the A66, constructed in the 1980s, runs close by to the north of the church, with large retail sheds, areas of surface car parking and business areas to the north of that. The church now sits somewhat isolated in an area of low-density modern housing and grassed areas, and with the fire-damaged and vandalised former presbytery and school-chapel forms a beleaguered cluster of surviving historic buildings (fig. 17). The area suffers from high levels of deprivation, but there are signs of regeneration, which will gather pace in the light of Teesside's designation as one of twelve new Investment Zones, announced in the Chancellor's budget of spring 2023.



Fig. 17: The former presbytery and school-chapel

Plan

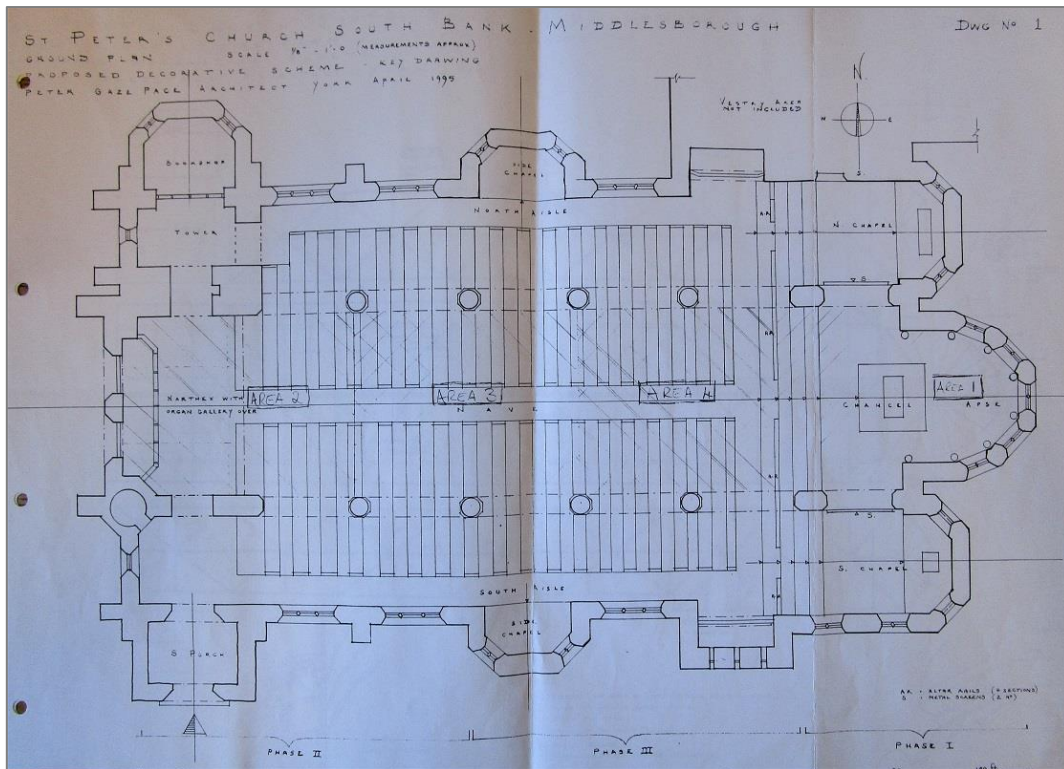


Fig. 18: Plan of St Peter's church by Peter Gaze Pace ARIBA, 1995 (diocesan archives)

- 3.2 **NB St Peter's is orientated north-south, but in this description conventional liturgical orientation is assumed, i.e. as if the altar was to the east.**
- 3.3 The church is built on a traditional longitudinal plan (fig. 18), consisting of nave, north and south aisles, apsidal sanctuary and shallower north and south chapels with canted ends. The north chapel is now a Lady Chapel and baptistery, the south chapel houses the Blessed Sacrament. Shallow 'transepts' house the two surviving confessionals; confessionals located in the canted projections at the mid-way point of the aisles have been removed.
- 3.4 At the west end of the nave, the organ gallery has a pitch pine frontal and is reached by a spiral stone stair in the turret to the south. Below the gallery is a narthex and shallow inner porch and screen with fine timber and glazed detail. In the northwest corner (projecting from the base of the tower) is a canted projection, originally the baptistery and more recently used as a piety stall. The day-to-day main entrance to the church is via a doorway in a southwest porch. At the east end, a doorway giving off the Lady Chapel/baptistery leads to the sacristy and a flower room.

Exterior

- 3.4 The church is in Decorated Gothic style, with curvilinear tracery and French Gothic-style northwest tower. The exterior is faced with red Lincolnshire bricks laid in garden wall bond (with occasional bands of narrower bricks), with dressings of Dunhouse stone and clay plain tile roofs.
- 3.5 The tower consists of two tall stages with lancet window openings (louvres for the belfry on the second stage) and a shorter top stage with the clock faces; on each side, angle buttresses rise to short pyramid-capped turrets. Above the tower is a steeply-pitched, swept roof with ball-and-spike finials. The canted former baptistery projects from the north side of the tower, with short lancet windows on the angled sides and a central door formed in the 1960s.
- 3.6 The west front has similar angle buttresses, flanking two pairs of boarded pitch pine double entrance doors with scrolled strap hinges, set within surrounds of three moulded orders on nook shafts and foliate capitals. There is much rich sculptural

detail, but the crocketed gables over the doors were mostly lost in wartime bomb damage. Above the doors, tall paired windows with nook shafts flank a central niche with enriched corbel and hood, containing a statue of St Peter (a replacement for the original one, also lost in wartime bomb damage). Affixed to the gable is a carved stone crucifix.

- 3.7 At the southwest corner is a gabled side porch containing the day-to-day entrance, its doors and surround similarly detailed to those on the west front. The four-bay north aisle and the five-bay south aisle each have hip-roofed canted projections at the half-way point, and square projecting shallow 'transepts' further east. Above, a timber and metal vent with tapering sides is placed on the ridge of the nave roof, with cusped-headed openings and topped with a lead dome and spiky weather vane. At the east end, tall lancet windows to the chancel and shorter windows to the canted side chapels. These (and all the windows) are covered with protective polycarbonate sheeting.
- 3.8 The boundary on the west and south sides is now marked by a modern low brick wall; there is an older red brick wall on the south side and a higher one at the east end. Within the site enclosure at the southwest corner is a concrete Calvary war memorial of 1922. To the northwest is a single-storey red brick sacristy with modern shallow-pitched lean to addition (in place of the conservatory originally in this location). Adjoining this is the former sacristan's house, red brick with a tile hung gable (this is contemporary with, and not later than the church, as stated in the list description; it is now in separate ownership).
- 3.9 Photographs of the exterior follow at figs. 19-25.



Fig. 19: (Liturgical) west front



Fig. 20: View from northwest



Fig. 21: Calvary war memorial



Fig. 22: Former sacristan's house and adjoining sacristy with modern lean-to flower room (in place of the original conservatory)



Fig. 23: East end



Fig. 24: South front



Fig. 25: South porch, with worn cross keys mosaic at threshold

Interior

- 3.10 The interior is wide, light and spacious. The glazing is mainly semi-opaque Cathedral glass with some pastel coloured quarries and Art Nouveau-style patterning in the leadwork. The wall surfaces are of painted plaster, with reinstated stencil enrichment and some applied marble or marbled panels in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is paved with polished reconstituted stone slabs and partly carpeted, while the side chapels are fully carpeted. The circulation areas of the nave and aisles are also carpeted, while the pews are on raised timber boarded platforms.
- 3.11 The nave arcade consists of six bays, with compound polished Swedish granite shafts and foliate stone capitals. The stone arcades are painted. Round wall shafts with carved capitals continue around the apsidal sanctuary between the windows. Arcades on the north and south sides of the sanctuary are enclosed with delicate wrought iron screens, and a foundation stone dated 1903 is set low into the wall on the north side.
- 3.12 The nave ceiling resembles an upturned hull or a version of an enclosed hammerbeam roof, with painted deal boarding, painted timber ribs and cusped curved braces (picked out in red and blue) with enriched pendants. The aisle roofs have pointed cross-vaulting, while in the apsidal sanctuary there are painted shields between each of the ribs. In the side chapels the ribs spring from carved corbels.
- 3.13 At the west end of the nave the organ gallery has a pitch pine frontal, and is reached by a spiral stone stair in the turret to the south. Below the gallery is a narthex and shallow inner porch with screen. The former baptistery lies to the north, now much altered but retaining its original aumbry.
- 3.14 Some general views of the interior follow at figs. 26-31. The chief furnishings are illustrated and described in appendix 8.

Condition

- 3.15 No condition report has been seen. However, a recent health and safety report (Debra Butler, October 2021) identified various problems including slipped tiles, dampness and mould growth. Although the building underwent repairs in the 1990s, little in the way of maintenance or repair appears to have taken place more recently. However, the building is kept internally clean, tidy and well-maintained.



Fig. 26: Interior looking east from organ gallery



Fig. 27: Interior looking east from west end of nave

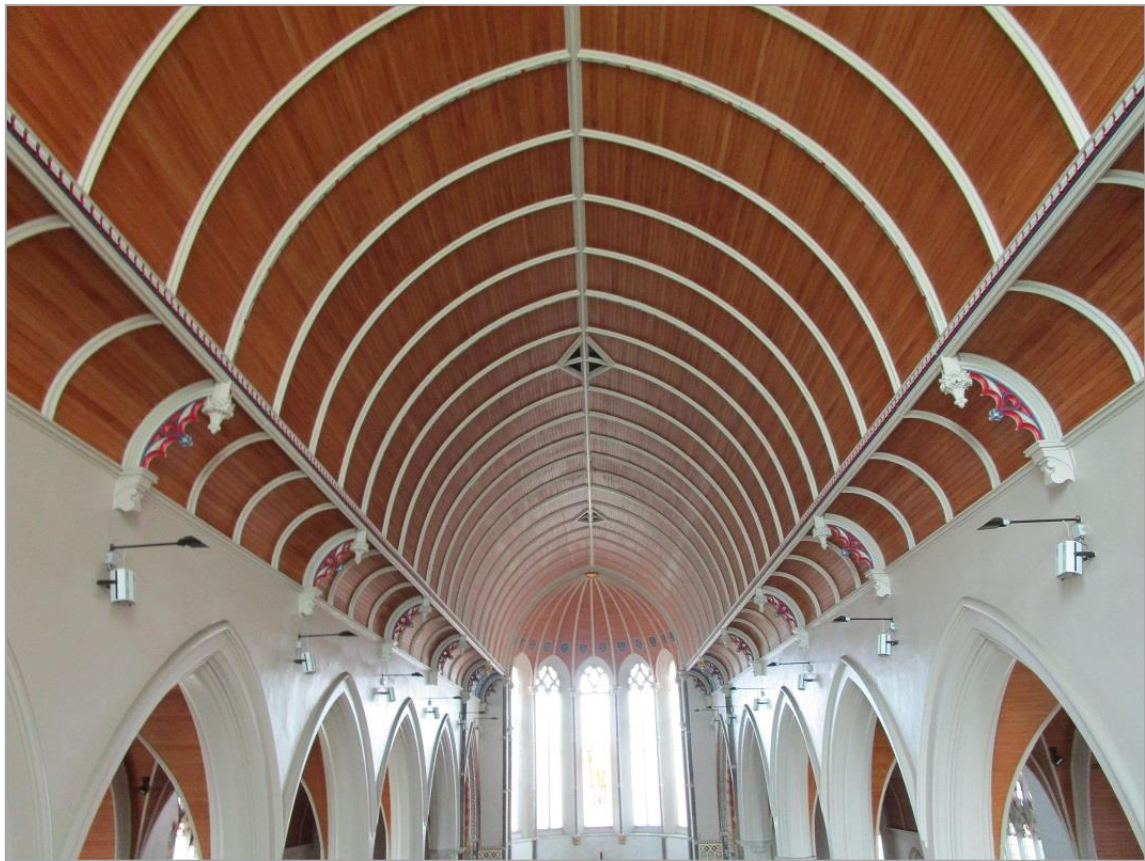


Fig. 28: Nave ceiling



Fig. 29: View towards sanctuary from nave



Fig. 30: View looking northwest from south aisle



Fig. 31: View looking west from sanctuary

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 St Peter's church is listed Grade II (see list entry at appendix 4). It is a building of high architectural, historical, artistic and communal value for the following reasons:

- The oldest Catholic church in Middlesbrough still in use, built to serve the needs of mainly Irish workers in nearby steelworks and blast furnaces, and redolent of the town's industrial heyday
- For its communal significance (with the adjoining former school-chapel) as a place of continuous Catholic worship since 1874, the scene of countless baptisms, weddings and funerals, and a place of commemoration (as witnessed in the Grade II-listed war memorial outside the church)
- Architecturally, St Peter's is one of the two finest Catholic churches in Middlesbrough (the other being Sacred Heart and St Patrick, Linthorpe Road). It was built from designs by the Hull firm of Brodrick, Lowther & Walker, at the same time as their churches of St Mary, Grangetown (demolished) and St Patrick, Hull (listed Grade II but now in Old Catholic use). For more information on the architects and their churches, see appendix 7
- For the quality of construction. The church was built to a high specification
- For its organ, a fine instrument by the Belgian organ builder Jules Anneessens, whose father Charles took over the Willis firm in 1896. The online National Pipe Organ Register lists 21 organs in the UK by members of the Anneessens family, of which nine were built for Catholic churches; of these only one other survives (at Sacred Heart, Redcar, 1923). The instrument at St Peter's was recently restored with major grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- The 1960s reordering resulted in the loss of the high altar, nave pulpit and font, and (apart from the organ) there are no outstanding furnishings (although many are of good quality, see appendix 8). Nevertheless the interior retains its fine spatial qualities, restored/enhanced by the redecoration of the scheme of the 1990s
- For its townscape contribution in an area otherwise bereft of historic landmarks, and for its group value with the former presbytery (listed Grade II) and school-chapel.

5. NEARBY CHURCHES

- 5.1 St Peter's, South Bank, lies within the Northern Deanery of the Diocese of Middlesbrough, and forms part of the parish of St Andrew (Teesville), which is served by three churches (including St Peter's) and one priest.
- 5.2 There are currently nine churches in use for Catholic worship within five miles of St Peter's. These are listed here in order of proximity, with a link to the relevant Taking Stock entry, brief description and summary of heritage significance (ranked as high, medium or low).
- 5.3 The nearest (1.8 miles from St Peter's, postcode TS6 9BA) is [St Andrew \(Teesville\)](#), the current centre of the parish. The church was built in 1962 from designs by Frank Swainston, and seats about 400. It has some furnishings of note, notably a mosaic reredos of c.1966, but is overall a fairly functional design. It is not listed or locally listed and is not in a conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.
- 5.4 [St Alphonsus \(North Ormesby\)](#) lies 2.2m from St Peter's (postcode TS3 6EP). The church was built in 1959 from designs by Thomas A. Crawford. There is some good stained glass in the sanctuary, but the church is otherwise an economical and unremarkable design of its time. It is not listed or locally listed, and is not in a conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.
- 5.5 [Corpus Christi \(Thorntree\)](#) lies 2.3 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS3 9EP). It is another design by Crawford, built in 1957-8, and of similar architectural character and quality to St Alphonsus. It is not listed or locally listed and is not in a conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.
- 5.6 [St Anne \(Eston\)](#) is within the same parish as St Peter's, but lies 2.6 miles from it (postcode TS6 8EX). Built in 1970 from designs by Swainston, Wilson & Collie, the church is a functional post-Vatican II design, not listed or locally listed and not in a conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.
- 5.7 [St Gabriel \(Ormesby\)](#) is now amalgamated with Corpus Christi (Thorntree). The church lies 2.9 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS7 9LF). It is another post-Vatican II design by Swainston, Wilson & Collie, built in 1968 to a square plan as a dual-purpose

church and hall. It is a decent and characteristic design of its time, but is not listed or locally listed and is not in conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.

- 5.8 [St Joseph \(Grove Hill\)](#) lies 3 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS4 2RB). It is an attractive neo-Romanesque or basilican design by Bishop Thomas Shine and builder Frank Spink, dating from 1933-4. The tower is a landmark on the Marton Road and the interior has good mosaic decoration. It is not listed or in a conservation area, but is included in Middlesbrough Council's local list. Heritage significance: MEDIUM.
- 5.9 [Sacred Heart and St Patrick \(Linthorpe Road\)](#) lies 3.4 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS5 6HA). The church is a local landmark of striking presence, built in 1930 from designs by J. Coomans of Ypres and Kitching & Co. and modelled on a Belgian Romanesque abbey. The interior is notable for its mosaic decoration, marble and stone finishes and Harry Clarke stained glass. The church is listed Grade II and lies within the Albert Park and Linthorpe Road Conservation Area. Heritage significance: HIGH.
- 5.10 [Holy Name of Mary \(Linthorpe\)](#) lies 3.6 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS5 6QT). An early church design by Thomas Crawford, built in 1937-8 in Italian Romanesque style and forming a prominent local landmark on its corner site. The interior is notable for its Stations of the Cross and Last Supper panel by Frank Brangwyn RA. The diocesan curial offices occupy a large nineteenth century villa (former convalescent home) alongside. The church is not listed but is included in Middlesbrough Council's local list (as is the building housing the curial offices), and lies within the Linthorpe Conservation Area. Heritage significance: MEDIUM/HIGH.
- 5.11 [St Thomas More \(Beechwood\)](#) is amalgamated with and served from St Joseph (Grove Hill), and lies 3.9 miles from St Peter's (postcode TS4 3EE). It is a prefabricated design of 1962, probably by Lanner of Wakefield, on a hexagonal plan. The building is fit for purpose, but not of special interest. Not listed and not in a conservation area. Heritage significance: LOW.
- 5.12 Therefore, apart from Sacred Heart and St Patrick, none of these nine churches approaches St Peter's in architectural and historical significance.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Procedures relating to the closure of listed churches are set out at paragraphs 41-48 of the [Directory on the Ecclesiastical Exemption from Listed Building Control](#) (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2019). Guidance on the disposal of objects from churches is set out at Appendix C of [Consecrated for Worship: A Directory on Church Building](#) (CBCEW, 2006).
- 6.2 Paragraph 43 of the Directory requires the diocese to commission an expert report on the building proposed for closure, describing in detail the architectural and historical interest of the building and its contents. This report should satisfy that requirement.
- 6.3 Paragraph 45 of the Directory sets out the procedures to be followed following receipt of the report. The document should be forwarded to the diocesan Historic Churches Committee (HCC), who would then notify the Patrimony Committee, local authority, Historic England and relevant national amenity societies (in this case the Victorian Society, whose remit extends to 1914, and Historic Buildings and Places, whose remit covers all periods) of the proposed closure, enclosing a copy of the report. The Diocese should also arrange for a notice to be displayed in a prominent position on the exterior of the church at or near the main entrance, and consultees given 28 days to comment. At the end of the consultation period, and having taken into account the views of consultees, the HCC will make recommendations to the Bishop of Middlesbrough about the future of the church. Such a recommendation may be:
1. that it should be preserved intact by handing over to a trust or similar;
 2. that it should be retained for some secular but not unbecoming purpose; or
 3. that the building may be demolished.
- 6.4 Recent Vatican guidance (*Doesn't God dwell here anymore?*, proceedings of 2018 conference) states that preferred uses for closed churches are religious use (by another Catholic community or Christian denomination) and cultural or charitable uses; these might be regarded as coming under the umbrella of Directory options 1 and 2. Of other uses covered by option 2, commercial for-profit reuses are discouraged, although the guidance states that residential conversion of buildings of lesser architectural significance may be countenanced.
- 6.5 Demolition would require listed building consent, since a church proposed for demolition cannot be regarded as 'for the time being in use for ecclesiastical purposes',

and thereby exempt from secular controls. In the event of consent being sought for demolition, the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, para.201) would apply:

Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- (a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- (b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- (c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- (d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

6.6 These provisions intentionally set a high bar, and demolition can only be viewed as a last resort, all other options having been properly and fully explored.

6.7 In the event of closure, therefore, it will necessary first to thoroughly investigate suitable alternative uses. This will require active engagement with the local authority, Historic England and other interested stakeholders. During this time, the building should be kept safe and secure from vandalism and unwanted entry; the current state of the former presbytery and school-chapel (and indeed the fate of George Goldie's Middlesbrough Cathedral) provide salutary lessons in the consequences of failing to ensure that historic buildings are properly protected during the use-seeking period.

6.8 It would be a mistake to make a decision based solely on current demographics and the current economic plight of the South Bank area. Neither should be regarded as immutable. Investment is taking place and new houses are being built, including 1,250 dwellings allowed for and underway at the nearby Low Grange Farm site. Regeneration will doubtless gather pace in the light of Teesside's designation as one of twelve new Investment Zones. Whatever its future, it may be hoped that a retained and restored St Peter's will serve as a catalyst and a beacon in the revival of South Bank.

Appendix 1: Letter from the Catholics of South Bank, 14 September 1871

To our BELOVED BRETHREN in JESUS CHRIST, the CATHOLICS
of Middlesbrough and neighbourhood.

DEAR CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST,
A newspaper has to-day reached our hands, which records a meeting of Catholics at South Bank, Middlesbrough, convened by Mr William Ward, and presided over by John Gribbin, Esq. That meeting is stated to have been called "for the purpose of perfecting the arrangements made in previous meetings, to meet the wants in respect of school and church accommodation of the Catholics in that locality."
Among Catholics, dear children in Jesus Christ, such an undertaking requires Episcopal sanction. The parties to these proceedings have shown none, and you have, many of you, no doubt, concluded that they have none to show.
For your guidance, however, we declare not only that they have no authority from us, but that they are acting in opposition to that authority.
Our Diocese is very large, and requires incessant labour and attention; we can, and do fully discharge our duty in its regard, so at least we humbly trust, and your most important mission has had its full share of that labour and attention.
The very work the above-named unauthorised parties have undertaken, has not been over-looked; it is well advanced, and will be realised in due time, if such proceedings, as we this day formally condemn, do not thwart and delay it.
We rely, dear children in Jesus Christ, on your obedience, you at least do not forget the exhortation of the Apostle (Heb. xiii., 17), "Obey your prelates, and be subject to them; for they watch as being to render an account of your souls."
We bless you all in Our Lord, and ask your prayers.

ROBERT, Bishop of Beverley.

Leeds, September 10, 1871.

THE CATHOLICS OF SOUTH BANK

To the Right Rev. Dr. CORNTHWAITE, Vicar of Beverley, Leeds.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

We the Catholic Committee of South Bank, who have been duly elected for the purpose of supplying Educational advantages, so long and so lamentably neglected in this large district, have heard with sorrow that our efforts in the cause of our Religion has incurred your disapproval. Allow us to say, with all respect to your Lordship's expressions of disapprobation, that we have acted throughout impelled by a sense of duty towards our poor, long-neglected children, in this district called South Bank. We can safely say, and are ready to prove by the strongest testimony, and our witnesses shall be the most respectful and respectable of our body, that the interests both of Religion and Education are entirely and practically neglected, or access to them placed out of our reach. Not only so, but the past has sadly convinced us that, without your Lordship's personal and immediate inquiry into the many and flagrant abuses taking place amongst us, they never can be removed.

You will probably have been informed of things in quite a different light. We only ask, therefore, that you will hear our statements, and weigh also the evidence that we are ready at any moment to supply. In reply to your Lordship's supposition of our course being hostile to the interests of religion, we can only say that we were moved to act as Catholics of this abandoned district, as regards the Faith.

Your Lordship's remarks relative to the largeness and laboriousness of the work of the diocese, might, we modestly think, have been pleaded as the strongest reason for the action we would wish to see carried out by your authority, for securing for us the blessings of which we are deprived; for we are debarred from all free access either to Sacraments, Church Services, Schools, and means of mental culture, unless in all things we are to submit to what we cannot help thinking, the whimsical guidance of our non-resident Pastor—who has forfeited the trust and confidence which we reposed in him too long. Should you be inclined to disparage our testimony, we can readily name to your Lordship ecclesiastics of mature and learned judgment who have sanctioned our proceedings. Their names are many.

The sums placed in the hands of the Rev. Father Burns were amply sufficient to supply us with Schools and Chapel, as well as that blessing we deemed so necessary,—a resident Priest at South Bank, which all of us feel to be an imperative necessity.

For nine long years have we contributed earnestly and continuously, and yet nothing has been done by him whom your Lordship has commissioned to forward the interests of religion in this locality.

With regard to the charge of being unauthorised, we would beg your Lordship to understand that we always presumed on your anticipated sanction of that which was done simply for the good of religion. Our people are at present practically excluded from the means of hearing mass, and educating their Catholic children. We have desired, and merely desired, to place both within their reach.

We are sorry to hear that the efforts which have been made, simply and purely for the advancement of religion—and which, from religious necessity, seem incumbent upon us to push the adoption—should be characterised by your Lordship as of a nature to thwart your plans.

Our object is to serve religion, and, while serving it, co-operate with your Lordship to obey, as far as we rationally can, our spiritual superiors. We hope, therefore, your Lordship will ever remember that if our zeal has carried us far, it was never meant in opposition to episcopal authority.

We hope, therefore, that your Lordship will patiently reconsider the disapproval of which you have been led to give expression, without—we submit with due respect—a full knowledge of the whole facts and circumstances.

We are most desirous to carry out the work undertaken, with your Lordship's approval, and under duly authorised superintendence, promoting in all, as we are rationally led to think, objects most cherished by you as our Bishop.

Your Lordship's pastoral having been advertised in the *Gazette*, and sent specially in the form of circulars to Catholics, it will be necessary for us to publish this communication in order to prevent any misunderstanding of our case, which might be caused by the disapproval of one so high in authority, and whose office every Catholic must respect.

Finally, we wish to subscribe ourselves as your Lordship's faithful children, sincerely loving and cherishing the vital interests of our holy religion, and which we are sure are most dear to your Lordship.

We remain, with every sentiment of respect, your Lordship's faithful subjects,

CHARLES DOLAN, Chairman.
JAMES CASHIR, Treasurer.
WILLIAM WARD, Secretary.

Signed at our Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 14th, 1871, in Drill Shed, South Bank, on behalf of the Catholics of South Bank and district.

Appendix 2: Extracts from tender document, March 1903

rubbish

Suppl Best asphalt damp proof course
3/4" thick.

Brickwork

The bricks for the facing to be the best hand made Lincolnshire kilns from an approved yard, & the cost of these may be calculated at the sum of 40/- per M, delivered on the Quay at Middlesborough, and the remainder to be of the best local manufacture equal to an approved sample.

The bricks to be sound & well burnt and of good shape, and for face work of good & even color, & free from snips, etc.

All the bricks to be of a uniform size so as to bond correctly wherever the various kinds have to be walled in with one another, and to be laid solid in

continued

£

Continued L

mortar, well flushed up every course as the work proceeds, walled with level courses, and carried up uniformly, & no pieces of brick less than half bricks to be walled in, except where necessary for closers.

The lime mortar to be composed of one part best fresh burnt Building lime to three parts screened clean sharp fresh water sand, free from salt, earthy matter, or other impurities

The cement mortar to be composed of one part best Portland cement of Messrs Charles, of Hull manufacture, to 3 parts of sand as before, and mixed only as required

The whole of the brickwork is measured nett, all voids being deducted

The brickwork is reduced to roods of 63 feet superficial, one brick or 9" in thickness

South Bank Church

Mason

L. o. d.

All the stone to be of the best quality, of the several descriptions named, free from defects of every kind, and selected of uniform and approved color, set where practicable on its natural bed, with fine close joints. See Specification for stipulations as to the selection of the stone, etc.

The following Quantities to include all labor of every description in working, hoisting, and setting & complete, according to the Plans and Specification, including all mitres, grooves, rebates, weatherings, returned and stopped ends, etc, also all necessary hard stone or slate joggles, dovetails and dowels run with cement, and galvanized iron cramps run with lead wherever necessary for properly securing the work.

In all cases where stones have to be cut to waste in converting them to the proper form, the dimensions have been taken square, so as to allow for such waste. In all other cases, the finished dimensions have been taken.

feet and

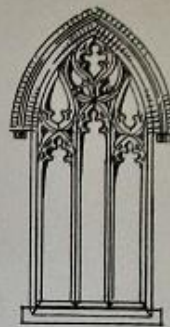
continued L

In Dunhouse Stone

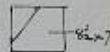
28 0 run $8 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ molded label to pointed arch
N^o 2 extra only to apex mitres



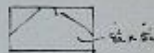
N^o 6 Three light window to aisle, as sketch and as follows:-



18 9 cube In splayed sills as sketch
N^o 12 extra labor only to jamb seats worked on.



12 9 " In splayed sills as sketch
N^o 12 extra only to jamb seats.
N^o 12 ditto to mullion seats.



45 9 " In splayed jambs as sketch
average $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8$



28 9 " In splayed mullions $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5$

250 0 sup^l chamfered and sunk tracery to detail $8\frac{1}{2}$ thick (measured square)

99 0 run $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ molded label to pointed arch
N^o 6 extra to apex mitres
N^o 12 square blocks for carving
bosses $12 \times 6 \times 6$



continued L

feet ins

continued £

In Ancaaster Stone

15 0 cube In molded abacus mold to caps to responds 30" x 27" x 4 mitred round half octagon corbels in No 8, with molded and returned stopped ends.

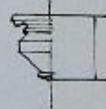
No 8 Polished Granite shafts, comprising a cluster of four each as sketch, to be supplied by Jennings and Company, 3 Salter's Hall Court, Cannon St, London, E.C. 4, whose price is £ 23 P.L. per set of four, delivered F.O.R. at Middlesboro and fix the same in addition, with any dowels necessary.



14 9 cube In corbels to responds in No 8 part basted for carving 18" x 16" x 11



41 0 " In molded and part basted for carving corbels to Aisle and Lady Chapel groining as sketch in No 28, 15" x 14" x 12



13 0 " In ditto ditto all as last but in No 12, 15" x 14" x 9, to side chapels.

25 3 " In molded and sunk corbels as sketch in No 18, 18" x 13 1/2" x 10



continued £

South Bank Church

Carpenter and Joiner

L s d

All the timber for the carpenter's Work where left rough is to be good middling, and where wrot to be best middling Memel or Dantzig red fir, and the deals and battens to be 2nd Archangel or 3rd Lyfle red fir. The deals and battens for the joiner's work are to be the best first quality clean red Petersburg.

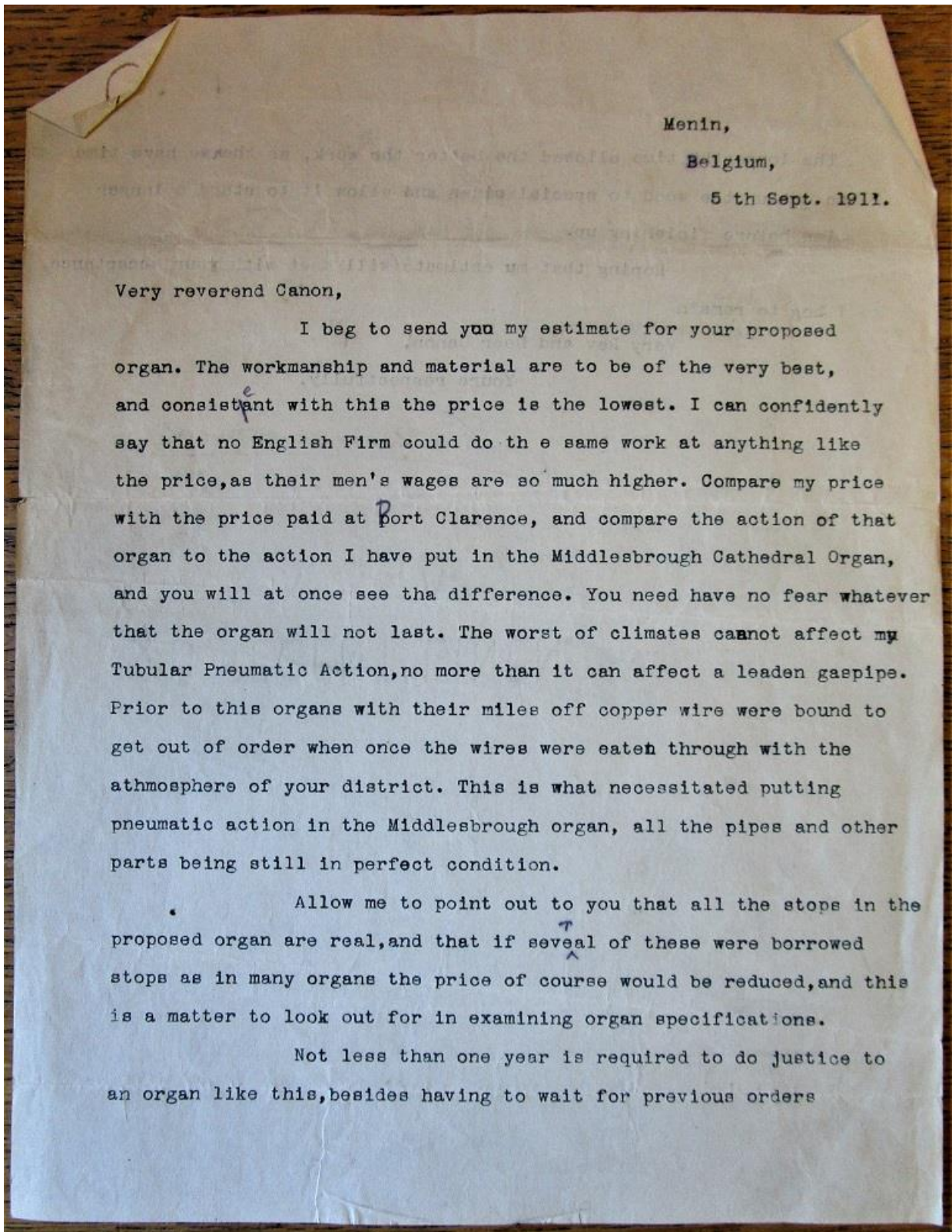
The oak of Stettin or Dantzig produce of the best quality

The whole of the timber and deals, both fir and oak are to be sawn die square, and to be carefully selected, and to be free from sap, shakes, large loose or dead knots, and other defects, and to be thoroughly seasoned, and to carry the full scantlings when fixed and finished in the Building

In no case is any other wood than that specified above to be used without the special sanction of the Architects.

Note The measurements are nett in all instances to the dimensions & scantlings shown on the Drawings (if not figured or stated herein) except the curved timbers of roof, which are square to allow for waste, & other items which may be

Appendix 3: Letter from J. Anneessens to Canon Nolan about organ, 5 September 1911



The longer the time allowed the better the work, as then we have time to cut up the wood to special sizes and allow it to stand a longer time before finishing up.

Hoping that my estimate will meet with your acceptance, I beg to remain

Very Rev and Dear Canon,

Yours respectfully,

J. Amessens

Appendix 4: List entry (church)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1139622

Date first listed: 29-Apr-1988

List Entry Name: CHURCH OF ST PETER

Statutory Address 1: CHURCH OF ST PETER, MIDDLESBROUGH ROAD

District: Redcar and Cleveland (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: NZ 53210 20806

Details

SOUTH BANK MIDDLESBROUGH ROAD NZ 52 SW north side 3/102 Church of St. Peter G.V. II

Roman Catholic Church, 1903/05 by Lowther (Hull). Brick with stone dressings; plain clay tile roofs. Disoriented, terms used are ritual. Continuous aisled nave and chancel with half-octagonal apse, south porch, short pent transepts, and north-west tower. Decorated style with curvilinear tracery and French Gothic style tower. 3-stage tower has angle buttresses rising to short pyramid-capped turrets. Lower stages have lancets under hoodmoulds; canted porch in north face. Paired lancet bell openings with louvres and cusped heads. Clock faces below eaves of steeply-pitched, sprocketed, hipped roof, with ball-and-spike finials. West end of nave has similar angle buttresses, flanking boarded double doors, with scrolled strap hinges, under shouldered heads, in paired pointed surrounds of 3 moulded orders on nook shafts and foliate capitals. Enriched hoodmoulds, gargoyles in spandrels and richly-carved tympana. Tall paired windows with nook shafts, flanking figure of St. Peter in niche with enriched corbel and hood. Rood in gable. 4-bay north aisle and 5-bay south aisle; each has hip-roofed canted projecting chapel. Gabled porch has similar doors and surround. Transepts canted at east ends. Tapered timber and metal ridge vent, on nave, has cusped-headed openings, ogee-domed roof and weather vane; louvres missing.

INTERIOR: 6-bay arcades have compound granite shafts and foliate capitals. Round wall shafts, with carved capitals, between apse windows. Foundation stone dated 1903 on north side of apse. West gallery, holding organ, over glazed timber screen. Ceiled hammerbeam roof has cusped curved braces with enriched pendants. Pointed cross-vaulting in aisles. Stucco stations of cross on

aisle walls. Wrought iron screens in easternmost bays of arcades. Similar communion rails.

Later house and offices, adjoining north side of chancel, are not of special interest.

Listing NGR: NZ5321020806

Appendix 5: List entry (war memorial)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1160378

Date first listed: 29-Apr-1988

List Entry Name: WAR MEMORIAL CIRCA 5 METRES SOUTH WEST OF CHURCH OF ST PETER

Statutory Address 1: WAR MEMORIAL CIRCA 5 METRES SOUTH WEST OF CHURCH OF ST PETER, MIDDLESBROUGH ROAD

District: Redcar and Cleveland (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: NZ 53204 20799

Details

SOUTH BANK MIDDLESBROUGH ROAD NZ 52 SW north side. 3/103 War Memorial, c. 5m south-west of Church of St. Peter. G.V. II

War memorial, c.1920, by J.A.O. Connell, sculptor. Concrete. Rockfaced base supporting rood, standing figures of Virgin and St. John and kneeling figure of St. Mary Magdalene. Panel in south face of base inscribed: "SWEET JESUS HAVE MERCY ON THE SOULS OF ALL FROM ST. PETER'S MISSION, SOUTH BANK, WHO FOUGHT OR FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918, ALSO ON THE SUBSCRIBERS". Included for group value.

Listing NGR: NZ5320420799

This List entry has been amended to add sources for War Memorials Online and the War Memorials Register. These sources were not used in the compilation of this List entry but are added here as a guide for further reading, 10 August 2017.

Websites

War Memorials Online, accessed 10 August 2017

from <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/250448>

War Memorials Register, accessed 7 February 2017

from <http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/43229>

Appendix 6: List entry (former presbytery)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1310598

Date first listed: 29-Apr-1988

List Entry Name: 1, MILBANK STREET

Statutory Address 1:1, MILBANK STREET

District: Redcar and Cleveland (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: NZ 53242 20831

Details

SOUTH BANK MILBANK STREET, east side. NZ 52 SW 3/104 No. 1 G.V. II

Presbytery, dated 1881, now used as probation hostel. Brick, moulded with nailhead ornament in upper part of gabled left bay. Welsh slate roof with stone gable copings. Domestic Revival. 2 storeys, and attic storey; 3 bays with projecting semicircular-plan right bay and slightly-projecting left bay. Central renewed door and fanlight in moulded brick pilaster-and-shaped-gable surround with date. Left bay has paired, windows in continuous moulded surround, enriched with fleuron ornament between floors, under paired shaped gables. Similar surround, with moulded sill string and shallow shaped aprons, to window under chamfered slit vent, in gable with obelisk finial. Gabled angle pilaster strips on ground floor, quoins on first floor and broad band between floors. Right bay has paired windows with painted shaped lintels. String course below fleuron-ornamented panels between floors; lotus-ornamented panels form band below moulded eaves cornice under half-conical roof. All windows have renewed casements and painted sills. Mid C20 raking dormer in middle bay. Slightly-truncated transverse stacks with octagonal shafts, that at left end partly rebuilt. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: NZ5324220831

Appendix 7: Brodrick, Lowther & Walker




Hull firm active around the turn of the twentieth century. Frederick Stead Brodrick (1847-1927) was the nephew of Cuthbert Brodrick, also of Hull and architect of Leeds Town Hall, and succeeded him as (Anglican) Diocesan Surveyor. By 1875 F. S. Brodrick was in partnership with Richard George Smith (c.1837-1901) (**Smith & Brodrick**). ‘Smith & Brodrick had the largest practice in East Yorkshire, but their work is of mixed quality ... Their major commissions included Hull Borough Asylum (De la Pole Hospital, Willerby), 1881-3, the Municipal Hospitals (Northumberland Avenue Almshouses), Hull, 1884-6, and County Hall, Beverley, 1890’.¹² Arthur Randall Lowther (d. 1917) became a partner in the early 1890s (**Smith, Brodrick & Lowther**); one of their most striking designs was the exuberant Punch Hotel, Queen Victoria Square, Hull, 1896. After the death of Smith in 1901 the partnership was joined by William Snowball Walker (d. 1930) (**Brodrick, Lowther & Walker**).

The firm (in its various incarnations) designed or significantly remodelled the following Catholic churches, all but one in the Diocese of Middlesbrough:

1. Hull, St Mary, Wilton Street, 1890-1 (demolished)
2. Bridlington, Our Lady and St Peter, 1893-4
3. Hull, St Charles Borromeo, 1894 (alterations) (listed Grade II)
4. Hull, St Wilfred (old church, demolished), 1896
5. Beverley, St John of Beverley, 1897-8
6. Hull, St Patrick, 1903-5 (closed, now in Old Catholic use) (listed Grade II)
7. Middlesbrough (Grangetown), St Mary, 1903-5 (demolished)
8. **Middlesbrough, St Peter, 1903-5 (listed Grade II)**
9. South Shields, St Peter and St Paul, 1905-6 (Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle)
10. Redcar, Sacred Heart, 1913-14 (unconfirmed attribution)

¹² Pevsner, N. and Neave, D., *The Buildings of England, Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*, 2005, 91-2

Appendix 8: Principal furnishings

Description	Photos	Comments
<p>1960s stone forward altar in sanctuary.</p>		<p>Replaced the original high altar shown at figs 7 and 9, with associated level changes. The changes left the sanctuary looking rather bare, an effect ameliorated by the partial reinstatement of painted polychromy in the 1990s.</p>
<p>Stained glass window of St Peter in sanctuary.</p>		<p>This (along with the small heraldic shields in the other sanctuary windows) is the only stained glass in the church. The date/artist have not been established, but stylistically St Peter looks like work of the Hardman firm, possibly 1950s. The glazing is otherwise semi-opaque Cathedral glass with pastel coloured quarries and Art Nouveau-style patterning in the leadwork.</p>
<p>Wrought iron and hardwood communion rails across front of sanctuary and side chapels.</p>		<p>Perhaps surprisingly, the communion rails were spared during the 1960s clear-out of sanctuary furnishings. Were they installed as a memorial?</p>

Polychrome plaster **statue of the Virgin and Child** on oak table in north chapel.



The statue bears the stamp of 'La Statue Religieuse, Paris', church furnishers of Rue Bonaparte (the brand appeared in 1911, so the statue is not original to the church, but may be early).

Portable timber **font** in north chapel, using what appears to be repurposed statue pedestal.



The original font was lost after the baptistery was decommissioned in the 1960s.

Tabernacle with decorative beaten bronze doors in south chapel, on modern stone-faced pedestal.



The tabernacle may be that originally placed on the high altar. The Blessed Sacrament was relocated to the south chapel after the 1960s reordering.

North **confessional**, pitch pine with ogee tracery and opaque art nouveau-style glazing. Original and designed by the architects.



There were originally four confessionals. Two survive, this one the more complete. Inside there is evidence of original polychrome stencil decoration. The confessional in the corresponding position on the south side has had its central panel removed and is now a store.

The pitch pine **pews** in the nave and aisles have open backs and moulded straight-headed ends with inset quatrefoils, the upper ones pierced.



These are the original pews, probably catalogue items (for example, a similar pattern was supplied by the firm of Jones & Willis, Birmingham). Some may have been brought from the 1874 school-chapel (see old photo on file in diocesan archives).

Polychrome plaster **statue of the Virgin and Child** against second bay of nave arcade (north side), on pitch pine columnar pedestal. Brass plate screwed to pedestal 'Pray for John M. Coy and Mary Smallwood, RIP'.



Vanpoules (ecclesiastical furnishers) adhesive label attached to the statue. It was previously placed on the south side of the nave (fig. 14).

Polychrome plaster **statue of St Peter** against second bay of nave arcade (south side), on pitch pine columnar pedestal. Inscription on front of statue 'To the memory of James and Ellen Hammill'.



No further information.

Polychrome plaster **statue of St Martin de Porres** against fourth bay of nave arcade (north side), on pitch pine columnar pedestal.



A more recent introduction (St Martin was canonised in 1962).

Polychrome plaster **statue of St Anthony of Padua with the Christ Child** against fourth bay of nave arcade (south side), on pitch pine columnar pedestal.



Of good quality, stamped Meyer and Co. Probably original to the church; this and the statue of St Joseph are shown placed against the second piers of the nave arcade in the early photograph at fig. 7.

Polychrome plaster **statue of St Joseph with the Christ Child** on the respond of the westernmost nave arcade (north side), under the gallery, on a timber pedestal.



Indent in place of missing supplier's label at side. Possibly by Mayer & Co. and original to the church (see fig. 7).

Polychrome plaster **statue of St Patrick** on the respond of the westernmost nave arcade (south side), under the gallery, on a timber pedestal.



The statue bears the stamp of 'La Statue Religieuse, Paris', church furnishers of Rue Bonaparte (1911 or later).

Polychrome plaster **Pietà**, on columnar oak pedestal with inset quatrefoil, in canted projection at mid-way point in north aisle.



The canted projection originally housed a confessional. A similar Pietà and pedestal (then painted) were previously located in front of the nave pulpit (fig. 8). Maker/supplier not established.

Polychrome plaster **statue of the Sacred Heart**, on oak pedestal in canted projection at mid-way point in south aisle.



The statue bears the stamp of 'La Statue Religieuse, Paris', church furnishers of Rue Bonaparte (1911 or later).

Fourteen **Stations of the Cross**, on the walls of the north and south aisles. Polychrome high-relief *tableaux*, probably Continental, in marble surrounds.



The Stations were painted white in the 1960s and had their polychromy restored in the 1990s.

Polychrome **rood figures** (Christ, Our Lady and St John) mounted on south wall of organ gallery, facing southwest entrance.



A photograph of the interior of the old school-chapel in the diocesan archives shows a rood screen at the chancel arch. The detail is indistinct, but there is certainly a rood figure of Christ. Might these have come from the school-chapel?

Stone **holy water stoup** set into wall by the south door. Twentieth century in style, with cross and fish.



No information available. The quality of the carving is good.

Timber screen under west gallery, creating a small draught lobby at the main entrance doors. Pitch pine with gothic tracery and art nouveau-style glazing.



Original to the church and designed by the architects; of high quality.

Stone gothic-style **aumbry** for holy oils in former baptistery, with timber door.



The baptistery was decommissioned in the 1960s, and the space has more recently been in use as a piety stall.

The **organ** is divided in two parts on either side of the gallery to leave the west windows clear. It has a polished oak gothic case with aluminium pipes. Jules Anneessens' estimate and technical specification are deposited in the diocesan archives, with an accompanying letter reproduced at appendix 3.



The organ was installed in 1912. It was originally powered by a gas engine. The final cost was £800, met by the Misses Brand. The instrument was restored with grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund c.2001.



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