

**PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO REMOVE THE LOGGIA TO THE HALL,
TO REROOF THE HALL AND TO REFURBISH
THE INTERNAL SPACES**

at

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,
GEORGE STREET,
BARNSELEY,
S70 1AX.**

HERITAGE AND DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

1.00 BACKGROUND

1.01 The Church is described at length in the recently published Pevsner volume as follows:

"HOLY ROOD (R.C.), George Street. By *Edward Simpson* with *Charles Simpson*, 1903-5. Very tall with continuous ridge to nave and chancel. Slightly lower transepts. Low outer projections for shrines and confessionals carry buttresses to lofty aisles. Small NW tower rises as octagonal belfry with stone spire. SW baptistery with apsidal end. Dec tracery. None of this prepares one for the glorious interior. Soaring stone arcades are set off by warm red brick walls, light descends from plain windows set high up. Aisles have transverse vaults in brick with stone ribs. The two easternmost bays of the arcades open into the transepts, which have similar but higher vaults. Chancel has polished marble shafts and good sculpted heads. Apsidal sanctuary with arcade. Above the central arch, in place of the E window, is a shallow niche for the Holy rood, cleverly top-lit. – Rich FITTINGS in marble and alabaster. – HIGH ALTAR and REREDOS. Carved by *R.B. Wall*, with figurative panels and elaborate pinnacles. – STATIONS OF THE CROSS. By *Gabriel Pippett*, c.1920. Marble and mosaic panels. S. CHAPEL. Lined in white marble inset with pictures in *opus sectile*. Simple classical front of porch from church of 1832 is reused as rear office entrance.¹"

Sadly, Evinson's² history of the buildings of the Diocese scope did not extend as far as Barnsley.

The Church is a designated heritage asset, and a copy of that "listing" description is attached. This has recently been revised and expanded by Historic England. It is in error in describing the façade of the demolished Catholic Church on Nelson Street being added to the East end of the Church in the 1990s. This was carried out as a part of the construction works to create the Barnsley Inner Ring Road in the 1970s.

1.02 Under the guidance of the present and last two Incumbents, a very significant programme of works of repairs and upgrading has taken place at the Church.

¹ R. Harman & N. Pevsner: "*Buildings of England: Yorkshire West Riding: Sheffield and the South*", Yale, London 2017.

² D. Evinson: "*The Lord's House: A History of Sheffield's Roman Catholic Buildings 1570-1990*", Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield, 1991.

The first project was the complete reroofing of the Church. The roofs plan attached shows the extent and complexity of those slated and lead roof. Sadly, there have been various metal thefts in the period of just over twenty years since the reroofing and all lead roofs have now been reclad in terne coated stainless steel sheet, and some vulnerable cover flashings have been replaced in the same material.

Following that, the Church was very carefully and skilfully rewired.

A major programme of works restored the remarkable Altar and Reredos and other parts of the Sanctuary, following their previous inappropriate redecoration.

After a period of some years, a programme of internal cleaning was carried out in three phases. The principal result was the cleaning of the brick vaults of the side aisles over the Chantry Chapels, together with some cleaning of the stone columns supporting the arcades. Some repointing of the fine brickwork joints was undertaken.

With the benefit of full scaffold throughout the Church, all of the timber structure of the Nave roof was checked and cleaned.

With the replacement of the original limited organ with the magnificent new instrument in 2019, located in the Gallery, in association with some preparatory works, principally to the parquet strip floor, the programme of upgrading the building has almost been completed. Various internal works are yet to be carried out.

- 1.03 During the recent refurbishment of the Church wooden floor, Mass was conducted in the Hall at this lower level. The space is very mundane, with the ceiling affected by water penetration from the deteriorated slate roof above.

The space is also dark, as the windows are now behind the added salvaged loggia.

There is a lavatory adjacent which urgently requires upgrading and alterations to achieve accessibility standards.

At a lower level, there is a large space which currently has no floor finish. The former wood parquet strip was failing, probably because of damp penetrating the concrete floor underneath, and instructions were given to salvage wood strips as required to repair the floor of the Church Nave.

Former windows to this space were historically infilled with stone for security reasons. These are proposed to be reopened and reglazed with security glass. This will improve the ambience in that lower space.

It is proposed that these lower level works be phased as resources allow and need necessitates.

The Hall space is to be refurbished, including the renewal of all finishes, services and fire precautions.

- 1.04 When the Ring Road was constructed in Barnsley in the late twentieth century this necessitated the demolition of the former Church of the Holy Rood and attached Catholic School, which had been built in 1832.

As a physical manifestation of the ongoing Catholic presence in the town, the stone loggia of that School was relocated to the Church of the Holy Rood. It was incorporated in an altered rear entrance to the Hall and Parish Rooms behind and underneath the main body of the Church.

What is now the Hall was originally the Priest's Sitting Room.



Historic photograph of the now demolished Church and School.



Rear of Holy Rood Church as existing.

So far as the conservation of the fabric was concerned, that was not a happy decision.

2.00 PROPOSED REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

- 2.01 It is believed that the accommodation to the rear of the original body of the church has been altered in time. The author cannot believe that the awkward detail to the head of the monopitch slated roof of the Hall would have been as originally constructed.



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Was the Hall a previous extension to the original Church building? There is no such evidence of that on the flank wall which runs contiguously through with the external wall of the Lady Chapel and Sanctuary on the higher floor level.



- 2.02 This photograph shows the infilled windows which are to be reopened and fitted with new painted steel windows and toughened glass.

2.03 As noted previously, there has been a sad recent history of lead thefts from the roofs of the Church. The Lady Chapel was first attacked approximately six years ago, on more than one occasion, and has now been reroofed completely in terne coated stainless steel sheet/details. Some lead flashings and the parapet box gutter remain.

There are small roofs over the side Chapels to the Nave. Two of those roofs had previously been recovered with felt roofing sheet, and those remain. All others are now clad with terne coated stainless steel sheet.

The relatively low level roofs over the Pastoral Accommodation at the rear of the Church have also been attacked. The lead head flashing over the Hall slated roof, and the capping of the awkwardly shaped parapet walls have been renewed with terne coated stainless steel, with perhaps unfortunate visual results, but waterproof and unattractive to thieves!

Both the thefts and subsequent repairs have caused, despite every best endeavour for care by the repairers, damage to the natural slating of that Hall roof. The slating has had to be "patch repaired" following damage caused by the theft of leadwork at least twice. Following the most recent theft, the slating can be seen to be in damaged condition.



Budget quotations for further patch repairs bore unfavourable comparison for value for money by comparison with the stripping and reslating of the whole roof.

This would also provide the opportunity to provide ventilation and insulation to the overall roof construction, so improving its longevity and the thermal envelope efficiency.

The opportunity is to be taken to design in better and less visually obtrusive metal cover flashings at the various abutments.

So as to deter future metal thefts, CCTV cameras are to be located for coverage of the roof and spaces around.

It is not believed that Planning Consent would be required for the provision of these de minimis alterations which it is also suggested do not in any material way affect the heritage significance of the building. Listed Building Consent will not be required as the Roman Catholic denomination enjoys the benefits of the Ecclesiastical Exemption Measure. Certificate and Faculty for the works are being sought from the Diocese of Hallam.

2.04 As stated previously, the loggia to the School in Scotland Street was incorporated into the entrance to the Hall.

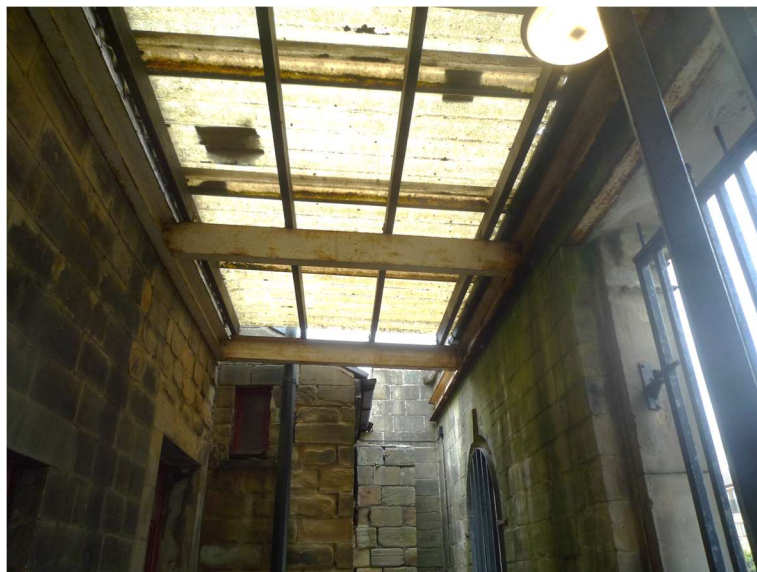
Unfortunately, this has been a constructional disaster.

The space between the eaves of the slated roof and the parapet wall of the attached loggia stonework was infilled with a very heavy steel framing and Perspex sheet.





The detailing was unsatisfactory. To the side of the Perspex "canopy", stormwater discharges down the face of the stone wall, for lack of any verge detail. This has led to a fungal attack on the timber window frame and internally and severe stone deterioration, as can be seen on the photographs above and below.



The stormwater disposal just does not work, and access for maintenance is all but impossible.

The Perspex sheet holds debris and has discoloured, and so no longer offers light to the original Hall windows below.

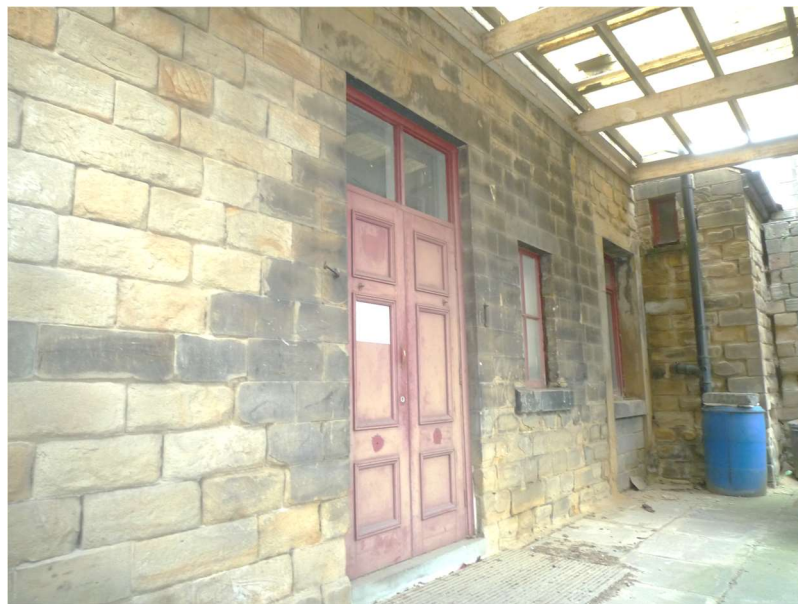
The protective paint finish to the steel has started to break down, so leading to corrosion, as access for maintenance/redecoration is all but impossible.

In addition, it is suspected that the embedded metal will be starting to corrode as no waterproofing appears to have been provided. As the mortar joints to those bearings have started to break down this will inevitably lead to corrosion, followed by the expansion of the metal and the splitting of the

stone, so allowing more water penetration, and an ongoing destructive cycle.

2.05 The appliqué nature of the loggia extension can quite clearly be seen on the photographs below.







2.06 It is proposed to now take down the loggia stonework, and the steel and Perspex canopy, and to dispose of them, hopefully for some small salvage value.

New gutters will be installed at the slated roof eaves linked to the existing adjacent to allow for proper stormwater discharge via new downspouts.

Where stonework has been significantly damaged/alterd for the installation of the structural steelwork, that will be repaired. Full general stonework repairs and repointing in the area will be carried out.

The timber windows and doors will be prepared and redecorated.

The existing access steps will all be altered and repointed.

3.00 PARTICULAR ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

3.01 The Church is located in a tight urban site, with no Churchyard. There is the currently unoccupied Presbytery attached to it, and a modern Hall adjacent to that. The former Convent adjacent has been repurposed.

3.02 Internally, the glory of the Church is the Sanctuary as improved in recent years under the direction of Fr. Terry Boyle, no retired. All of the Church interior is beautiful.

3.03 A magnificent new Organ has been built on the (liturgical) West Organ loft.

3.04 There are various fixtures and fittings, such as the marble pulpit, the Madonna Icon and the statuary of the Side Chapel saints, but the delight of the building is combination of form, materials and light.

The efforts of the Congregation to assist their Priests of recent years in the upgrading of their Church must properly be admired.

3.05 Paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework states the need of applicant and Local Planning Authority to consider and understand the heritage significance of the designated asset, or that part of it which is to be affected by the proposed works.

The recent updated designated asset description leaves little to be further investigated. The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record adds little. Investigation of the Archive of the Diocese of Hallam in Leeds offered nothing except unexecuted internal decorative details.

3.06 It is suggested there is no heritage significance to the ancillary pastoral accommodation, which is the part of the Church where the works are proposed, except in the main the historical and evidential interest, and record of the loggia and its previous location, offering that communal memory of historic Catholic presences in Barnsley, will cause less than significant harm to the heritage asset.

3.07 There are no other designated buildings or buildings of local historic interest in the vicinity of the Church. To the North there is the void over the Inner Ring Road.

3.08 From British Standard 7913: 2013 it is suggested that the following individual heritage values are relevant to the proposed alterations:

1) **architectural, technological or built fabric value:**

Those values are self-evident with the designated asset.

2) **townscape characteristics:**

The opposite end and flank walls of the Church contribute to the townscape values there primarily with the ubiquitous use of the local stone, and the scale and architectural detailing all contribute to the townscape values of the place.

3) **economic values:**

The ongoing use of the Church for its original purpose and extended community involvement must show economic value.

4) **educational value, recreational value, social and/or communal value, religious value, commemorative value and spiritual value:**

Self-evident as item 3).

- 5) **commemorative value:**
This must be offered by any religious building, particularly that of the Roman Catholic faith
- 6) **identity or belonging values and symbolic and associational values:**
This value is self evidently offered to the congregation of any faith building.
- 7) **aesthetic, material and technological values:**
The design and construction of the Edwardian building are interesting for their response to the changing technologies and aesthetics at the time by a known regional architect.

4.00 CONCLUSIONS:

- 4.01 The Parish leadership have concluded that the reroofing and improvement of the Hall roof following its being damaged during many previous thefts would offer better value for money than the alternative of ongoing and regular patching repair.

The opportunity would be taken to improve the thermal efficiency of the roof, and to introduce ventilation as now expected by/for best roofing practice.

- 4.02 The "application" of the loggia salvaged from the School many years ago has not been successful in practical constructional terms.

The return to the original form of the Hall entrance would improve the weather resisting performance of the building.

The removal of an ongoing maintenance problem must be of benefit to both the building and the Parish.

- 4.03 The assessment of those values creating the significance of the building have been set out above at item 3.08.

It is contended that none would be in any way affected by the proposed works, so will cause no harm to those values and the significance of the overall Church.

- 4.04 For these reasons it is suggested that Planning Consent be granted for the proposed alterations.



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ADWS/TAM/ 03.28.19-20
26th September 2023

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rood

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **II**

List Entry Number: **1151152**

Date first listed: **13-Jan-1986**

Date of most recent amendment: **23-Jun-2022**

List Entry Name: **Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rood**

Statutory Address 1: **George Street, Barnsley, S70 1AX**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

[Understanding list entries](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/>)

[Corrections and minor amendments](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>)

Location

LOCATION

Statutory Address: **George Street, Barnsley, S70 1AX**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: **Barnsley (Metropolitan Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **SE3427406120**

Summary

Roman Catholic church. 1903 to 1905 to designs by Edward Simpson of Bradford assisted by his son Charles. Late Victorian Gothic style.

Reasons for Designation

The Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rood, Barnsley, of 1903 to 1905 by Edward Simpson of Bradford, assisted by his son Charles, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Architectural interest:

* as a commanding Gothic design, well massed and detailed, with a prominent corner location creating a strong visual presence in the townscape; * the lofty interior has an attractive detailing with contrasting red brickwork and white stonework and an elaborate arch-braced hammer-beam roof; * richly decorated with very fine fixtures and fittings demonstrating high-quality craftsmanship and materials, including notable Stations of the Cross by Gabriel Pippett and pinnacled altar and reredos by A B Wall of Cheltenham; * designed by the architect Edward Simpson (1844-1937) and his son, whose practice specialised in Catholic ecclesiastical commissions, with a number of listed churches.

Historic interest:

* since the revival of Catholicism in Barnsley at the end of C18, driven by the arrival of a French émigré priest from revolutionary France, three churches had been built to serve the rapidly growing congregation, with Holy Rood replacing the original 1824 church and the subsequent 1832 church.

Group value: * Holy Rood has a functional group value as a place of worship with the nearby Salem Wesleyan Reformed Church, and also the gate piers, walls and railings of the churchyard of the now demolished Anglican St George's Church, both listed at Grade II.

History

There was a revival of Catholicism in Barnsley at the end of the C18, driven by the arrival of a French émigré priest, the Revd Vincent Louis Dennis, from revolutionary France. He started a mission, with Mass celebrated in a private house until 1804, when a chapel was set up over a stable in Quiet John's Yard. In 1824 a classical chapel opened on Nelson Street, but in time became too small to serve the growing congregation. The Revd John Rigby acquired a site and a new church and basement school was built in 1832. A separate school followed in Dodworth Road in 1858 to 1859, built to designs by M E Hadfield.

The 1832 church also became inadequate due to a growing Catholic population, and in 1894 plans were initiated by the Revd John Hill to build a replacement designed by Edward Simpson of Bradford and his son Charles. The school buildings on Dodworth Road were demolished at the start of the C20 and the stone used in building the new church. The foundation stone was blessed and laid on 14 September 1903 by the Right Revd Dr R Brindle, Bishop of Nottingham. The church opened in 1905 and it was consecrated on 10 May 1919 by Bishop Cowgill of Leeds. The interior was richly fitted, including sculpted shrines of stone, and alabaster with opus sectile panels. The elaborate reredos behind the high altar was by A B Wall of Cheltenham.

Around 1920 the congregation commissioned Stations of the Cross from Gabriel Pippett as a war memorial to those who lost their lives in the First World War.

In the 1990s the façade of the Nelson Street church was relocated to the exterior of the youth rooms at the east end of the present church.

The architect Edward Simpson (1844-1937) was the son of a Hull builder, who was articled to a local firm before moving to London and then Bradford, where he set up practice, specialising in Catholic ecclesiastical commissions. His son Charles subsequently joined him. Simpson retired in 1914. Charles continued to practice until 1939.

Gabriel Pippett (1880-1962) was born in Solihull into a family of artists and designers. He was an illustrator, wood engraver, carver and designer. His work was influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites and the Arts and Crafts Movement. Pippett designed murals and mosaics in a number of churches, including the extraordinary series of mosaics

covering the walls of the Roman Catholic Church of Sacred Heart and St Catherine of Alexandria, Droitwich Spa (Grade II*).

Alfred Bernard Wall (1849-1923) came from a long-established family of stone masons and builders. Alfred became a Catholic and it is likely that he added the name Bernard at this time. He moved from London to become an apprentice to R L Boulton and Sons of Cheltenham. He then set up his own business and throughout his career was responsible for many ecclesiastical sculptural pieces for Catholic churches.

Details

Roman Catholic church. 1903 to 1905 to designs by Edward Simpson of Bradford assisted by his son Charles. Late Victorian Gothic style.

MATERIALS: the church is built of coursed, squared sandstone with ashlar dressings and Welsh slate roofs. The east end sacristy porch is built of sandstone ashlar. The interior walls are of red brick with stone dressings.

PLAN: the church has a tall five-bay nave and a two-bay apsidal sanctuary under one roof, with a south-east Lady Chapel and north-east sacristy, shallow, two-bay transepts, four-bay lean-to aisles to the nave, a north-west tower and a south-west baptistry. Attached to the east end are single-storey rooms (originally used as youth rooms) and the former Nelson Street façade.

EXTERIOR: the church has a plinth. The west gable end faces onto George Street. The main west entrance has two cusped doorways within a pointed arch with a hood mould with foliate stops and a relief-carved Crucifixion in the tympanum. The double plank doors have decorative ironwork strap hinges. Above is a large six-light west window with Decorated tracery and a quatrefoil to the head. To the left is a square tower, which becomes octagonal as it rises with tall single-light louvered belfry openings and a stone spire with gargoyles and moulded bands. There is a small single-light window in the west elevation and a pointed-arch doorway in the north elevation with a hood mould with carved stops and fielded-panel double doors. To the right is a small baptistry with an apsidal end and a hipped roof. To each side of the nave are low outer projections for shrines and confessionals, which carry buttresses to lofty aisles. Each aisle bay has a pointed arch containing a narrow, two-light window with cusped heads and a small trefoil. The south transept has two tall three-light windows with Perpendicular tracery. The north transept has two shorter four-light windows with trefoils and central cinquefoils. The chancel has three-light windows with trefoils and cinquefoils. The Lady Chapel has a three-light window flanked by two-light windows above three blocked basement windows.

At the east end is a single-storey room with a lean-to slate roof, hipped on the left-hand side. Standing in front of

the original front elevation is the stone-built front façade of the former church on Nelson Street, with a flat roof of corrugated plastic bridging the gap. The classical façade has an entablature, a wide central entrance with three steps flanked by paired pilasters and a round-headed window to each side. The windows have moulded heads with giant keystones and recessed aprons beneath the sills. The doorway has modern, vertical metal-bar gates and window apertures have similar grilles.

INTERIOR: there are six-bay, pointed-arch stone arcades of white Bath stone with blue Yorkshire stone bases and a taller, pointed sanctuary arch. The elongated piers are octagonal with attached colonettes. The walls are of red brickwork in stretcher bond. The aisles are transverse vaulted in brickwork with stone ribs. Bays five and six form the crossing and the two-bay transepts, which are similarly vaulted but higher. The nave and sanctuary have an arch-braced hammer-beam panelled roof. The nave and aisles have terrazzo flooring, with oak block flooring beneath the pews, and the sanctuary has diagonally set squares of Swedish green and white marble. The aisles have two traceried recesses to each side, alternating with the confessionals, which contain two marble sculptures of the Pieta and St Patrick, and two stone sculptures of St Michael and St Anthony. Above these is a blind, traceried frieze into which are set fourteen tessellated Stations of the Cross, the work of the artist Gabriel Pippett, which were erected by the congregation as a First World War Memorial. The dedicatory stone is inscribed THE / STATIONS OF THE CROSS / ARE ERECTED BY THE CONGREGATION / IN MEMORY OF THE MEN / WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES / IN THE GREAT WAR / 1914-1918 / RIP. The octagonal pulpit is of carved stone with red marble colonettes and moulded coping and a mosaic panel of Christ the Shepherd. The south transept has the Shrine to English Martyrs (war memorial) with a Uttoxeter alabaster Gothic frame with opus sectile panels and mosaic panels beneath, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. The north transept has the Shrine of St Teresa of the Child Jesus, also with a opus sectile panel, Gothic alabaster frame and altar.

The bays of the apsidal sanctuary are marked by slender, pale green and dark green marble colonnettes with four sculpted heads to each side. The elaborate, traceried and pinnacled altar and reredos is the work of A B Wall of Cheltenham: the altar frontispiece has a carved panel of the Last Supper and two panels in the reredos depict the Finding of the Cross and the Exaltation of the Cross, flanked by two similar panels of Christ carrying the Cross and Abraham leading Isaac. In a recess above is the Holy Rood. The organ gallery is at the rear with an ambulatory under. The Lady Chapel to the south is lined with white marble with opus sectile images. The Sacred Heart altar is relocated from the old church and the new reredos is designed by Gabriel Pippett. The baptistry has wood block flooring and an octagonal, relief-carved stone font.

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **333719**

Sources

Books and journals

The Church of the Holy Rood, Barnsley, (Unknown)

Websites

War Memorials Register, Imperial War Museum, accessed 15 May 2022 from

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/28027>

(<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/28027>)

Other

Architectural History Practice, Taking Stock (Diocese of Hallam), holy Rood, Barnsley, 2015. Abbreviated report available on <https://taking-stock.org.uk/building/barnsley-holy-rood/>

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



Map

This map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale.
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