

HERITAGE STATEMENT

St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Hebburn



Introduction

This heritage statement has been prepared to accompany a listed building application to undertake works to St Andrews Church, Hebburn to restore original lath and plaster ceiling which has fallen into a state of disrepair.

Listing Detail:

Name: St Andrews Centre
Location: 1 Church Street, Hebburn
English Heritage ID: 303736
Listing entry number: 1025195
Grade: II
Date of Listing: 15th June 1982
Risk: Not at risk

St Andrew's Centre (formerly listed as St Andrew's United Reformed Church) 15.6.82 GV II Presbyterian, now United Reformed, church.

1872 by R J Johnson of Newcastle. Coursed sandstone rubble; Welsh Slate roofs. Nave and transepts; west entrance porch; north west tower. Decorated Gothic style.

Porch has 3 crocketed gables, the central one high with bud finial and having marble shafts flanking double door; east gable has large round spoked window, both transepts have windows of 2 lights and a large 10-foiled round window over; broad 5 bay nave.

Very tall and slender tower has much, decoration, including tall crocketed gablets to belfry openings with marble shafts.

Interior : semicircular panelled wooden ceiling rising from ornate shafted corbels.

Historical note: the building was the gift of Andrew Leslie, whose shipbuilding firm dominated Hebburn in the C19.

It is prominent landmark at the top of the river valley. Former Church of St Andrew.

History:

Located on Church Street, Hebburn St Andrews Church was built in 1872 and was mostly funded by Scottish Shipbuilder Andrew Leslie. Leslie was also responsible for the construction of over 1000 homes surrounding Church street plus the adjacent school building all of which he provided for the workers of his shipyard, located on the South bank of the Tyne at the foot of Ellison Street.

Of the Victorian era and Gothic style designed by Architect Robert James Johnson of Newcastle St Andrews Church was established as a Presbyterian Church and continued to be so until the late 1980's when it was acquired by South Tyneside Council and transformed into a light industrial workshop (B2 use). Sadly as part of the conversion and subsequent works including installation of suspended ceilings many features associated with the ceiling and decorative timber corbels have been irreparably damaged.

The Church forms the shape of the cruciform with corresponding Nave and two Transepts. Along the West wall of the Nave are four lancet windows and the East wall houses five of the same style windows.

Each transept has two double windows of stained glass surmounted by a circular window of ten lights.

The Southern wall of each transept has a double lancet window next to which is a vestry door.

The main entrance of the Church sits beneath a carved head of St Andrew, the patron saint after whom the Church is named.

In the North East corner you will find the imposing tower with spire which boasts an altitude of 190 feet from ground level on Church Street. The clock in the tower was by Benson of London and the peal of 6 bells (cast in 1872) were by John Warner and Sons foundry, Cripplegate, London, also famous for casting the original 16 ton bell 'Big Ben' in Westminster Tower, London.

The vestibule was tiled by Maw and Co Limited of Stoke on Trent who in 1872 were the largest tile manufacturer in the world with a production of in excess of 20,000,000 units per year.

Above the vestibule is a gallery originally built to support the organ and rows for the choir. The roof is semi-circular, timber arched and panelled. Originally the ceiling was a vivid azure

blue in colour and studded with golden stars representing the sky with four carved angels sited at the intersections of the roof looking down upon the congregation.

The Church was originally designed to seat 700 people and today sits in grounds linked with the adjacent School building (St Andrews Centre) with associated parking and access.

The Church was sold to our Client, Dhammakaya Meditation Centre of Newcastle (DMCN) in 2013 who intend to bring the Church back to its former use as a place of worship.