ST GILES CHURCH, DURHAM

St Giles church lies on the south side of the A181 road approx 1km to the east of the centre of Durham city; it occupies a ridge-top position and commands extensive views over the Wear valley, especially to the south. The church consists of a nave with north porch, west tower and five-bay south aisle, and a chancel with organ chamber and vestry on the south.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The West Tower is approximately square in plan; the lower section, constructed of roughly-squared and roughly-coursed sandstone ranging between brown and yellow in colour, consists of two stages (undifferentiated internally) divided by a chamfered set-back, the upper of two unequal stages (the belfry, and a low chamber below) similarly divided and constructed of similar masonry but with stone nearer fawn in colour.

The lower section of the tower has a chamfered plinth and bold clasping buttresses, rather irregular both in plan and section, at the western angles. The west window is clearly an insertion, as its sill cuts into the first chamfered set-back; the window has three cinquefoil-headed lights with simple panel tracery over, under a four-centred arch with a hoodmould; all its stonework is of relatively recent date, except for the lower parts of the jambs. On the south side of the tower are indistinct traces of a blocked window below the set-back. The lower stage of the upper section of the tower has a square window with a chamfered surround in the centre of both north and south walls, and indistinct traces of a possible blocked window in the same position on the west. The belfry has a large opening in each face, consisting of two cinquefoil-headed lights (except on the east where the lights are unfoiled) with an unfoiled opening in the spandrel, under a pointed chamfered arch; the mullions of the belfry openings (except on the south?) have all been renewed. The tower is capped by a slightly-oversailing parapet, with a moulded string at its base, a moulded crenellated coping and a crocketted pinnacle at each angle; the stonework appears to be quite weathered, and is of some age.

Only the north wall of the nave is exposed externally, and is made up of roughly-coursed rubble, up to the level of a bold chamfered set-back at approximately two-third height, above which it is of roughly-squared and roughly-coursed stone. The north-west angle of the nave, and the adjacent section of the north wall, are covered by the 19th century north porch. Immediately to the east of the porch, and partly concealed by its east wall, is a patch of 19th century masonry (much eroded nevertheless) indicating the position of the pre-restoration north door. Further east are two single-light 12th-century windows, set quite high, with heads which have been cut to a semicircle on the extrados as well as the intrados of the monolithic lintels. East of these is a large stepped buttress of 19th-century snecked stone, and beyond this, a 19th-century single-light window with a cinquefoiled head, of approximately

the same size, and set at the same level, as the two earlier windows. This window is set in a large patch of apparently rebuilt walling; at the foot of the wall 1.64 m east of the buttress a few stones of the west jamb of a blocked opening can be seen; to either side of, and above the 'patch' are faint traces of a possible gabled roof-line. At the east end of the nave wall, close to a second 19th- century buttress, is a small blocked square-headed window (which has had a chamfered surround) set low in the wall. There are no architectural features in the upper part of the wall, which is capped by a 19th century moulded string and crenellated parapet.

The north porch, and five-bay south aisle, are constructed of snecked and tooled stone, with ashlar dressings, and built in a free Perpendicular style. Above the outer arch of the porch is a niche with a statue of St Giles flanked by the arms of the 5th Marquess of Londonderry (benefactor at the time of the 1873-6 restoration) and the Diocese of Durham. The aisle is lit by a series of three-light windows.

The chancel is constructed of close-jointed squared stone (ashlar) set in regular courses. There is a bold plinth with a chamfer above a roll moulding, and a string course, chamfered above and below, at the level of the sill of the east window. The string is continued round the pair of clasping buttresses at the eastern angles of the chancel, and a single-stepped buttress midway along the north wall. Close to the west end of the north wall is a blocked priest's door, having a round-headed arch carrying a continuous chamfer; the string is carried up over the arch to form a hoodmould. East of the buttress is a large round-arched single-light window; the inner order of the window has a continous chamfer, but the roll-moulded outer order is carried on jamb shafts with waterleaf capitals; there is a hoodmould with indented or 'nutmeg' ornament. Almost all the stonework of the outer face of the window is 19th-century restoration. At the head of the wall are several courses of 19th-century coursed and squared stone, above which are a moulded string and embattled parapet of the same date.

The east end of the chancel has old masonry below the string-course, but this and the walling above are entirely of 19th-century date, as is the large five-light window in the gable.

The short length of the south wall of the chancel to the east of the organ chamber contains another window (said to have been re-set in 1874-6 from a position further west), of the same type as that in the north wall; rather more original masonry survives in this case, including (apparently) the capital of the western jamb shaft, which is of a plain cushion type. The indented hoodmould of the window is continued as a string-course along the full length of the visible section of wall, ands as a moulded (but not indented) string round the south-east buttress; on the south face of. On the south face of the buttress, just above the lower string course, are two blocks bearing the remains of a black-letter inscription, carved in relief. Although weathering gives the initial impresion of medieval work, these seem more likely to relate to the 1873-6 restoration; much of the stonework of this date has suffered

considerable erosion.

The organ chamber and vestry of 1873-6 are of similar fabric and architectural character to the south aisle and porch.

Interior

The interior of the church is plastered, with the exception of the north and west walls of the nave, the lower part of the tower, the north wall of the chancel, the lower parts of the east and south walls of the chancel and the ashlar dressings of the 19th-century parts.

The tower opens to the nave by a pointed arch of two orders; the inner order, chamfered on both faces, springs from a pair of corbels with moulded capitals above a line of large dog-tooth; the capital of the northern corbel has a line of nail-head ornament. The outer order of the arch is left square, and simply dies into the wall. The jambs of the arch carry narrow chamfers, stopped below the level of the corbels. Above the outer order of the arch is a relieving arch of rubble, which appears to cut across the base of a blocked high-level doorway, set on an axis a little to the north of that of the arch. This doorway is best seen from the nave, to which it has a simple 'shouldered' head. The courses of the masonry above the arch appear to 'dip' towards the centre of the wall, implying some movement after the insertion of the arch; the jambs of the high-level doorway, in contrast, are clearly coursed in with the adjacent walling.

There appears to be a blocked opening at the west end of the south wall of the tower, in the position in which one might expect a doorway into a tower stair; the 'long' stone forming its lintel may be a re-used grave slab. The position of the blocked window visible externally is somewhat obscured by fittings and heavy modern pointing. The rear arch of the west window, which has a narrow hollow-chamfer to its head, is old; below the southern jamb a straight joint extends to floor level, but there does not appear to be any corresponding joint on the north.

Three corbels on both north and south walls indicate the position of a former floor about 1 m below the present first floor, which is formed by 19th-century timbers. Access to the upper parts of the tower is by a metal ladder against the south wall. The walls of the low first-floor chamber are plastered; only the lower jambs of the blocked high-level doorway in the east wall are visible. The blocking of this doorway is pierced by a small loop, splaying towards the tower. The present floor of the belfry is relatively modern; inside the belfry are late medieval bell frames (see 'fittings & furnishings'); the tower roof is formed by a single cambered tie-beam carrying a ridge and purlins; most of the timberwork appears 19th century or more recent.

The present north doorway of the nave, within the porch, was removed from the south wall of the nave during the 1873-6 restoration. It has a round-headed arch of a single square order, enclosing a plain tympanum of 19th-century stonework, and

carried on jamb shafts with plain cushion capitals (that on the west entirely restoration); the bases are much decayed but appear to have been of simplex convex form. The inner jambs of the doorway are cut straight through the wall, without any splay, and carry a plain round-headed rear arch.

The internal face of the north wall of the nave is of roughly-coursed rubble from floor to ceiling; the discontinuity between the lower part and the late medieval heightening, obvious externally, is barely discernible. To the east of the present door the outline of its predecessor (with a pointed (?) rear arch) is visible. Immediately west of the western of the two 12th-century windows are indications of some sort of blocked feature, but not enough is visible to allow a plausible identification or interpretation. The two 12th-century windows have semicircular rear arches with cut voussoirs. East of these is a straight joint, supposedly indicating the position of the west face of the cross-wall containing the early 12th-century chancel arch; there is no such distinct indication of the east face of such a wall, although there is a large disturbed area here (more clearly seen externally) containing the small 19th-century window (this has a hollow-chamfered four-centred rear arch). The low-side window at the east end of the wall is partly obscured by the pulpit, but has a 'long' stone for its lintel; the chamfer on the lower edge of this suggests that it is a grave slab of some type.

The five-bay arcade on the south of the nave (of 1874-6) has pointed arches with two hollow-chamfered orders and a moulded hood, carried on octagonal piers and semi-octagonal responds, with moulded caps and bases.

The chancel arch, also of 1874-6, is pointed and of two moulded orders, with a moulded hood, springing from responds with triple circular shafts.

The internal faces of the north wall of the chancel, and the lower parts of the east and south walls, are of diagonally-tooled ashlar; a much-restored string-course, chamfered above and below, runs round all three walls at the level of the sill of the east window. Close to the west end of the south wall are the remains of the late-12th century chancel arch. The arch springs from above a corbel (much damaged) which appears to have incorporated two diminutive shafts (little more than capitals); the apparent gap between the corbel and the first voussoirs of the arch (hollow chamfered towards both nave and chancel) may either relate to a removed inner order of the arch, or possibly a former rood beam. Immediately east of the position of the arch is the blocked priest's door, with a round-headed rear arch and splayed jambs. An upper string course, with indented ornament, commences adjacent to the remains of the chancel arch, and extends the full length of the wall, bein carried up over the head of the north window. The window is very similar internally to externally, except that the chamfer of the inner order is somewhat broader. Below and to the east of the window the lower string is interrupted by a square-headed aumbry, with a raised and simply-moulded surround; it is not clear how much of this is ancient; its interior is concealed by a metal safe. The window

on the south side of the chancel is precisely similar to that on the north. Both side walls show several infilled sockets indicating previous positions of the altar rails. The western part of the south wall was rebuilt, somewhat thicker, in 1873-6, and contains a large arch opening into the organ chamber.

The whole church has late 19th-century low-pitched roofs.

FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS

The font stands beneath the tower; it has a cup-shaped circular stone bowl set on a circular shaft which rises from a base resembling an inverted cushion capital; the bowl is lead-lined. There are traces of fastenings for a font cover.

The furnishings of the church are almost entirely of late 19th or 20th century date. The openwork screen between the chancel and organ chamber and the pulpit look to be of the same workmanship, and may date from the 1873-6 works. The more substantial screen between organ chamber and south aisle was designed by the Durham architects Cordingley and McIntyre in 1935, and carved by Robert Thompson of Kilburn (as was other woodwork in the church including the entrance lobby, the benches and small book cupboard in the baptistery and the book rest by the altar).

Stained Glass

There is no pre-19th century glass in the church. The east window is of 1898, by Clayton & Bell.

Bells

There are three bells (PSAN 1889, 196), now hung on a modern iron girder against the west wall of the belfry:

(1) Probably of 14th century date, inscribed '+ CAMPANA SANCTI EGIDII'

(ii) Probably of c1520-40, inscribed '+ Sancta Maria ora pro nobis ihc'

(iii) Inscribed 'SOLI DEO GLORIA 1640' in a band of scroll ornament, beneath the initials 'AE RT RO MD'; this bell may have come from a York foundry.

The old bell frames, now redundant, are of oak, with pegged joints; there are four frames, each with a central post supported by curving braces; they look to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS

The church is quite remarkably devoid of sepulchral monuments and memorials of any type. The one exception is an oak effigy, of slightly less than life size, at the south-east corner of the sanctuary. The effigy represents John Heath, of Kepier, who died in 1591; he is depicted in armour; it has been described, rather

unkindly, as 'truly wooden in every sense of the word....we are at once reminded of Don Quixote when we behold it' (VCH, 188, note 72).

The upper part of a medieval coped tomb slab, carved with tegulated ornament, now stands against the west wall of the baptistery. A 13th century slab bearing a cross and a very large pair of shears is illustrated by Thompson (1868, 132 and plate facing 130) and described as lying in the churchyard. It is referred to again by Boyle (1892, 383) but the VCH account of 1905 states that it had 'disappeared'. Sir Stephen Glynne's 1825 account (PSAN.1908, 284) states that 'on 2 flat stones near the West end are 2 ornamental crosses', and Surtees (1840, 58) refers to 'some stone coffin-lids in the ailes with the usual ornaments'.

Both Hutchinson and Surtees' accounts of the church describe a number of 17th and 18th-century memorial slabs inside the church; the only survivor of these appears to be a slab to members of the Maire family (1684 and later) which was probably removed from the chancel in 1894, placed in the churchyard, and returned (broken) into the north porch in 1989.

CARVED STONES

A carved stone representing Christ in Judgement was found in 1829, lying face down and serving as the lowest step to the pulpit; it was removed to St Mary-the-Less and built into the internal wall of the chancel above the vestry door; Thompson (1868, 133) conjectures that its original position was over the north door; his plea for its return was ignored. Pevsner (1983, 222) calls it 'extremely fine' and 'far too little known' and ascribes it a date of c1215.

HISTORICAL NOTES

1112. Bishop Ralph Flambard founded the Chapel and Hospital of St Giles (or Kepier), the Chapel being dedicated on 11 June 1112 (although VCH p.189 states that the church was founded in 1114).

1112-28 For a short time during this period St Godric, the hermit of Finchale, was doorkeeper at St Giles.

1143. Bishop William de St Barbara takes refuge at St Giles when threatened by the usurper William Comyn; it is recorded that he 'endeavoured to surround the church of St Giles with a rampart' (Surtees Soc xvii,xviii) Comyn later burned the hospital, and possibly the chapel as well.

c1180 Bishop Hugh of Le Puiset (Pudsey) refounded the hospital at Kepier, lower down on the bank of the Wear to the north; the former hospital chapel then became the church of the new parish of St Giles.

1414 Bishop Langley granted an indulgence of 40 days to all

who would contribute to the repair of St Giles' Church.

1787William Hutchinson's 'History of Durham' provides the earliest detailed description of the church (Vol.II, 303):

The church of St Giles has marks of distant antiquity; it has no ailes, and much resembles the old church at Jarrow, being narrow, long and very lofty; It is thirty paces in length, and only seven wide; the rafters of the roof are supported on brackets; it is lighted to the south by six irregular windows, and two to the north; the tower rises from a pointed arch. The arch which separated the chancel from the nave is broken down: The chancel is ten paces long, and of equal width with the rest of the church; has a modern window to the east, two windows under pointed arches to the south with pilasters, and one similar to the north....

1825 Sir Stephen Glynne visited the church; his description of it (PSAN 1908, 284) is also worth reproducing:

It is a singular structure consisting of only one aisle with a tower at the West which has a Perpendicr. window and is divided from the body by a pointed arch. The Church is obviously of very great antiquity although Modern taste has not suffered one of the original windows to remain in its primitive state - some have been stopped up & others altered into sashes, & c. They were all with semicircular heads and zigzag moulding supported on shafts formerly, but now present more the appearance of Methodist Meeting windows than those of a Church; and but few of them exist, the whole of those on the North side being closed up. The South door bears Norman features. The Church within is of singular appearance, being very long, narrow and lofty, the pews are of antient fashion, and most of the Church furniture of a very homely and humble character....

c1820?The historian Surtees' account of the church, although published in 1840 (IV, 57) appears to have been written before the 1828 alterations:

The structure is very simple, and probably of high antiquity. The nave is lofty and narrow, without ailes; the chancel of equal width with the nave, but lower: thew arch which separated them is removed, and the whole structure, internal and external, has been repeatedly patched and altered. Two lights with pilasters under early round arches are closed up in the South wall of the chancel, and one to the North. An indented ornament runs round the head of each window both within and without, and is continued in a horizontal line running between the lights along the whole chancel. This portion probably belongs to the earliest

structure erected here. On the south of the nave are several old lights closed up, of various dates, some under pointed arches and some under square labels, evidently proving various periods of repair and alteration. At present the building, damp and gloomy, is lighted by a large modern East window, and some irregular lights on the South; the North side is entirely dark. The tower rises from the West end of the nave, and has four regular lights in the clerestorey. An old pointed light below, with elegant cusps and tracery, is closed up, and a small modern window introduced.

1828 Alterations to the church carried out by the architect Philip (?) Wyatt. A gallery inserted at the west end of the nave, and various windows altered.

1843 Internal alterations

c1868 When the Rev Thompson wrote his account of the church (published in 1870) in the Transactions of the Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland it was planned to demolish the old church.

1873-6 Following a public outcry at the prospect of its demolition, the church was restored and extended, the architects being the Newcastle partnership Austin & Johnson.

FACULTIES AND OTHER RECORDS OF STRUCTURAL WORK

Faculty no.	Date	Works
	1828/9	Plans of church before and after works accompany Archdeacon Thomas Thorp's report on Church Accomodation in the Archdeaconry of Durham (1824), in Durham Cathedral Library
194	1873	Major restoration by Austin & Johnson
373/8	1894	New marble floor throughout chancel
2169	1926	New oak frontal
2305	1929	Installation of electric lights
2627	1939	An oak screen
3615	1953	Cleaning stone & internal decoration
4370	1961	Replacement of wood flooring blocks
4715	1964	Clearance of churchyard
5367	1972	Lowering and repair of churchyard wall
5576	1975	Construction of car park

THE STRUCTURAL HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

There is little doubt that the north wall of nave represents part of Bishop Flambard's hospital chapel dedicated in 1112; its architectural features -the two surviving windows on the north,

and the present north door (moved from the south wall in the 1873-6 restoration) are of early 12th-century character. When a new 'Norman' door was constructed in the north wall during the earlier 19th century, remains of what may have been the rear arch of a similar doorway, opposite that on the south, were seen (Thompson 1870,130).

The VCH interpretation that the early 12th-century chapel had a chancel of equal width, separated from the nave by a chancel arch in a cross wall c.5.5 m west of the present chancel arch, may perhaps be queried. It is not immediately obvious that the area of disturbed masonry on the internal face of the nave wall at this point relates to a removed cross wall; however, assuming that it does, it need not necessarily indicate a nave/chancel division. It would be somewhat unusual for a church of this period to have nave and chancel of the same width. It would seem more likely (or at least a plausible alternative) that the area east of the cross-wall represented a crossing or central tower rather than a chancel; there is an area of disturbed masonry in the north wall at this point, and visible externally are remains of one jamb of an arch or doorway (see plan II) and traces of what appears to be the gabled roof-line of an adjacent building (transept or chapel?) at right angles to that of the main body of the church. If there was a crossing or tower then the late 12th century chancel would have replaced an earlier, narrower, predecessor, rather than be a simple eastward extension.

Since St Giles' in its original form was a hospital chapel, it may have been that the 'nave' acutally functioned as an infirmary hall, with the chapel itself being situated further east (possibly incorporating the postulated 'crossing').

The late 12th century alterations, marking the conversion of the hospital chapel to a parish church, also pose a structural puzzle in that the new chancel arch is situated in an extraordinary position a metre or so into the chancel, rather than in the conventional position at the east end of the nave. It is difficult to think for an explanation for this aberrant piece of planning which (coupled with the relatively thin construction of the new chancel walls) occasioned severe structural problems at a later date. One possibility could be that there was already an arch on the line of the east wall of the nave which the late 12th century builders did not wish to disturb (perhaps because it carried a crossing tower), but that they wished to span their new chancel with an ornamental arch nonetheless.

The late 12th-century chancel was a structure of some refinement and architectural pretensions, in contrast to the rather severe and plain early 12th-century nave. Early 19th-century accounts show that there were two windows in the south wall; remains of a triplet of windows in the east end were noted in 1875 (VCH 187).

It is difficult to ascertain the date of the lower part of the tower; the nail-head and dog-tooth ornament of the corbels from which the tower arch springs indicate a 13th-century date, but there is some evidence that the arch is an insertion in an earlier wall (see architectural account). It is possible that

the tower may have replaced (c.1200?) an earlier belfry (perhaps of timber) above the crossing. The fact that only the lower two stages are of the first build may point to the first belfry of this tower having been of timber as well. The level of the high-level doorway between tower and nave (whatever its function; similar doorways occur in a number of Durham churches, cf Aycliffe, Staindrop etc), which appears to pre-date the tower arch, does suggest that the phase I tower extended above the present lower section.

Several writers have linked the indulgence of 1414 with the construction of the upper part of the tower, and the addition of the nave clerestorey. Thompson (1870. 130) mentions the remains of two or three blocked square-headed windows on the south of the clerestorey, which may have been early 15th-century work.

Evidence of other medieval and post-medieval works (including the conversion of most of the windows to sashes, which presumably took place in the 18th century) has been erased by the various 19th century alterations and restorations, which are fortunately quite well documented. Structural failure occasioned by the late-12th century chancel arch pushing the side walls of the chancel outwards presumably prompted the removal of the arch. It is not recorded when this took place; by the early 19th century it had been replaced by a lath-and-plaster successor.

At this period the church was a long rectangle in plan, with small porches flanking the west end of the nave, as seen in a 1778 drawing of the church from the north-west by S.H.Grimm (British Library, reproduced in Meade c1990) and the 1828/9 plans. The lower part of the tower arch had been walled off, the base of the tower serving as a vestry, with a fireplace at the south-west corner; a window may have been inserted in the soth wall of thew tower at this stage.

The 1828/9 works, carried out by the architect Wyatt (probably Philip), included the replacement of the older windows on the south side of the nave by three two-light windows (which Thompson describes as 'large and pretentious would-be Perpendicular'), the replacement of the sash window in the east end by a copy of the old west window, and the insertion of a gallery above the west end of the nave. Although the 1828/9 plans only show a single window in the south wall of the chancel, close to the east end, Thompson's account (1870, 131) states that Wyatt destroyed one late-12th century window here and 'turned inside out, and otherwise maltreated' the other; the 1873 plans show that the only window in this wall at that date was close to its west end.

After 1828/9 the base of the tower remained in use as the vestry, although various changes were made, including the relocation of the fireplace at the north-west corner and the blocking of the south window. Fordyce (1857, 376-7) records that 'for want of a better place, a Sunday school is taught in the belfry'(!). Either in 1828/9 or a few years later (the VCH mentions, but does not specify, internal alterations in 1843) the north porch was removed and the previous north door supplanted by a Norman-style round arch of several orders.

The 1873-6 restoration is well documented by the plans and drawings accompanying the faculty, although not all the changes planned (eg the insertion of a large window at the east end of the north wall of the nave) were carried out. There have been no structural changes of any significance since this period.

The Churchyard

The church stands in the south-western part of an elongate east-west churchyard; this was cleared of its memorials in 1964. 37 headstones (including some of interest, such as that of 1702 to William James, a fuller, depicting his fulling shears) were set up alongside the southern boundary wall. An extension to the south-east was made in 1927; memorials remain *in situ* here, although much overgrown.

A detached area c200 m east of the church, the Holywell Field, was consecrated in 1870; some memorials remain here. This area is of archaeological interest in itself, as being the site of a Holy Well. There are records of a wellhouse here being repaired and whitewashed, and being newly decorated with a cross in 1755 (Surtees Soc, 119). The stone-built wellhouse was apparently destroyed in the early 19th century; whilst the wellhouse seems to have been situated close to the lane which runs down the west side of the cemetery (in an area currently heavily overgrown) the actual spring which fed it may be represented by a boggy patch (where several willows grow) in the centre of the cemetery; a slight channel (in places just visible as a line of more lush grass) runs south-westwards from this towards the presumed site of the well. This channel may be that referred to in a 1727 reference to 7s being paid for 'scouring the Hallywell Gutter' (ibid,111).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Although there is no real reason to believe that there was any building here prior to Flambard's hospital foundation of 1112, it should be borne in mind that such a choice of site might have been iunfluenced by some previous ecclesiastical usage, which might not necessarily be recorded; the site of the 'Holy Well' (see 'Churchyard' section, above) is one hint that there may have been some previous activity in the area.

As already discussed, the plan of the 1112 building is by no means clear. If the building was cruciform at this stage, as seems possible, then remains of a north transept/chapel may lie beneath the churchyard adjacent to the north wall of the nave; any surviving evidence of a southern counterpart will lie beneath the floor of the 19th-century south aisle. Remains of the former south porch may also lie beneath the aisle floor further west; whilst this porch was a post-medieval building in its latest form (to judge from the 'before' drawings attachd to

the 1873 faculty) it may well have replaced an earlier structure.

Underfloor remains will of course have been disturbed by both generations of burials and the installation of an underfloor central heating system in the 19th century (supplanted by the present above-floor radiators). Despite the present-day absence of memorials, there are almost certainly burials throughout the building; there is said to be a Heath family vault beneath the sanctuary. The boiler house beneath the 1873-6 vestry is well clear of the presumed extent of the medieval church, although linked to it there appear to be a series of brick-vaulted conduits running round at least part of the exterior of the building; that adjacent to the south wall of the aisle was examined in a brief exploratory excavation in 1981 (Quinquennial 6, 1983, item 3:7). A concreted area, containing drains (and perhaps capping the brick-vaulted conduit seen on the south) runs round the whole north and east sides of the church.

Despite these disturbances, any works involving the exposure or removal of sub-surface deposits within or close to the church will require careful monitoring. The churchyard could be of especial interest, as one might presume that other buildings associated with Flambard's original hospital stood adjacent or close to its chapel. Some form of survey using remote-sensing equipment might be useful in detecting any sub-surface remains that might exist.

From the known extent of 19th-century alterations, it would appear unlikely that medieval fabric survives in any of the internal walls which currently carrying plaster. The earlier walling has been left exposed, although heavily pointed in parts; any cleaning or re-pointing may also merit archaeological recording.

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October 1991

Fig. I Phased Plan (after Page 1905)

possible outline
of c.1112 east end

position of south
porch demolished 1873

Fig II Plan of East part of Nave

Fig III Plan of church in 1873 (from faculty 194)

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