

HOLY tRINITY wASHINGTON

The Exterior

The parish church of Washington, today Holy Trinity although in antiquity dedicated to St Mary, stands on a steep-sided mound immediately to the north of the well-known Old Hall. It consists of a broad nave of seven bays, with a narrower western annexe containing the entrance porch; the eastern two bays of the nave are flanked by short aisles or side chapels, and there is a short square chancel with a vestry on the north. The greater part of the building is constructed of elongate blocks of close-jointed stone with a rough pecked finish, and ashlar dressings with a fine diagonal tooling; the roofs are of graduated Lakeland slate.

The western annexe has a stepped diagonal buttresses at its western angles and a chamfered plinth; on the south is the main entrance to the church, above a flight of five ashlar steps. This is a two-centred arch of two continuous chamfered orders; on the west there is a lancet window towards each end of the wall and on the north a single lancet, all with double-chamfered surrounds. The west gable, of relatively shallow pitch, has a coping that is hollow-chamfered on its underside, and a carved foliate finial. The side walls have a hollow-chamfered oversailing course to the eaves.

The nave has a chamfered plinth and has stepped diagonal buttresses at the western angles and stepped buttresses with gabled tops between the bays, each of which has a lancet window in a double-chamfered surround. The steep-pitched western gable has a double-chamfered lancet (lighting the gallery) towards each end, and above and between them is a circular oculus window, again in a double chamfered surround. The gable has a triangular-section coping with panelled end stones, and rises to a mid-20th century belfry, square in plan, carried on a moulded oversailing course. The upper part of the gable has been partly refaced in blocks with a light diagonal tooling, whilst the belfry itself is of smooth-faced ashlar. It has a stepped base, above which the angles are chamfered, with broach stops at the base of the chamfer. In each face is an opening with a shallow triangular head and a broad chamfered surround; the overhanging parapet has an embattled coping, and encloses a narrow needle spire (in copped) with a weather-vane finial.

S doorway five ashlar steps lead up to paved platform handrail on neither side on twisted uprights.

S side nave articulated by stepped buttresses with gabled tops. HC eaves double lancets

S chapel. Similar fabric but steep plinth. Moulded string below windows. At SW corner broad clasping butt, smaller buttress just short of east end. S wall doorway at east end moulded four centred arch in casement hood string carried up. Two windows each with lancet lights with trefoil circle in spandrel double chamfered surrounds, two centered arches simple moulded hood. East wall much rougher fabric, no plinth or string heavily pointed. Small lancet in recent ashlar. Large square vent for ventilation above. Set a little to east of east end of nave, strange.

Chancel S wall similar, no plinth uppermost quarter in nearly squared stone pronounced rough horizontal tooling two narrow single-chamfered surrounds, go with E end.

E end has chamfered plinth, all horizontal tool stone Central granite slab with stepped cross (copied from a well-known Saxon slab at Monkwearmouth) with inscription 'In Memoriam John Lomax Rector 1897-1899.' and beneath 'this chancel is erected by his wife and family to the Glory of God 1902'. Of one build is east end vestry, set back slightly window of two two centred lights with circle in

spandrel, surround with moulding and moulded hood,. Ashlar angle quoins

North Chapel E end c 1 m to west of E end nave. Two windows each two trefoil-headed lights with an irregular quatrefoil in the spandrel under a semicircular arch, and moulded hood with turned-back ends.

The fabric of the north wall vestry of the vestry is matched in well with that of the adjacent rather earlier North Chapel. Three steps rise to a two-centred doorway with a continuous wave moulding, under a moulded hood with turned back ends, with beside it on the east a window made up of a pair of lancet lights with broad chamfered surrounds.

Against plinth c 1 m west of door upright shaped slab??

East ends nave and chancel folioate cross finials

All gables have triangular-section coping with panelled end stones.

Much of stonework of upper west gable replaced in diagonally-tooled stoppe.

Interior

Main body boarded dado, walls whitewashed except for some exposed dressings. Seven bays long gallery in W bay, eastern two bays have side chapels, each with a two-bay arcade of four-centred arches, octagonal pier, double-chamfered arches, deeply moulded hood turned back ends, responds semi-octagonal corbels to inner order, outer chamfer continued down to ground. Lancet windows all have chamfered surrounds.

West door; fairly modern stair to gallery. Belfry is carried on two slender octagonal columns and corresponding responds against the west wall, rising through the gallery to flattened triangular arches. The front of gallery is carried on a pair of slender cast-iron piers of quatrefoil plan, with moulded caps, bases and two shaft rings; the gallery front above has a central section with Royal Arms flanked by intersecting Gothic arches, with plain panelling to either side.

Above windows series of corbel carry heavy moulded roof; roof of eleven bays, the westernmost being taken up by the belfry.

Short chancel large four centred arch of three chamfered orders detail otherwise very similar to arcades, semi-octagonal responds, bases beneath present floor.

Chancel door to vestry at west end north wall con wave moulding moulded hood to ends. S wall two lancets high up with segmental pointed rear arches with chamfered only to their heads and steeply-sloping internal sills. East wall panelled reredos three lancets segmental pointed heads chamfers to rear arches only.

Vestry

walls plastered except for exposed dressings floor three steps below chancel boarded dado

Door to chancel seg ptd rear arch cont chamfer. Windows on east and north east has two centred rear arch chamfer to head, N window seg rear arch chamfer head only. Door on N seg ptd rear arch cont chamfer

Doorway N end W wall square edged two centred archway Projection with bevelled angle at SE corner.

Fittings and Furnishings

Altar rails c. 1700? Choir stalls front bench coats of arms

Low screen set between pairs of side chapel arcades, so chancel extends one bay into structural nave.

Easter bay of northern chapel holds the Organ carved screenwork – plaque refers to restoration in 1981

Painted pipes openwork tracery of front with three cherubs, screen on west gable has painted figures (musicians). Plaque Built for Dr Monk (organist York Minster 1859-1883) on his retirement purchased by Frederick Stirling Newall his pupil, later given to church by his wife in 1934.

Old bench or settle looks c. 17th with poppy heads, in W part N chapel.

Eastern part N chapel two centred chamfered doorway to vestry, window to N segmental rear arch chamfer to head only similar to one on N side western bay.

On W wall old wall memorial to Catherine wife of Rev Chas Egerton rector, d. 1801, and to their two children, John of HMS Stirling Castle who died in Calcutta in 1813 aged 15 and Charlotte Catherine d. 1814 aged 18; the poignant inscription beneath reads:

Their afflicted Father has placed this Tablet
in Memory of two amiable and affectionate Children
Whose spring of life, put forth buds of Virtue,
which, had they come to maturity,
might under the Divine Blessing,
have perfected Fruits to the Glory of God,
their own Happiness the Comfort of those around them,
and the ornament of society

The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away: blessed be the name of LORD

Brass below Bryan Sneyd Herbert drowned in Queen Charlotte's Sound, New Zealand 1862

Chancel. Panelled reredos has coloured coats of arms

S wall medieval grave slab – brass plate – 'discovered being used reversed as a window ledge when some outbuildings of the Area Council Offices were demolished in January 1962. The stone could be the grave cover of Alexander de Biddick, mentioned by Surtees' in his History of Durham, It was returned to the church in November 1962.

East window WWI memorial. In centre light two soldiers in trenches with ruined church beyond. Erected by congregation 'and others' in 1921.

pulpit against pier of S chancel arcade octagonal openwork Gothic simple mid c. 19th?

Chancel screen low screen painted shields on panelled front.

Four windows on N nave inserted in 1950. unsigned

On south second window from E has Washington arms, and inscription stating that it 'marks the site of the medieval porch belonging to the Lords of the Manor of Washington' and given by American descendant of the W family

Third window presented by Washington Development Corporation 'which between 1964 and 1988 were responsible for the devt of WE New Town. Their arms

Monuments

N wall nave between 1st and second windows from E marble tablet to members of the Pattinson family 'whose remains are deposited in the adjoining vault', Hugh Lee d 1858 Phoebe his wife given 1861 by

Chancel roof wagon roof plain boarded six bays brattished all plates

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