

Mount St Mary Church



Church Road, Richmond Hill, LS9

Why is it important?

Mount St Mary's is a Grade II* listed Roman Catholic Church built in 1852 by Joseph Hansom and W Wardell. The chancel and transepts were added in 1866, by EW Pugin.

Building Description

The building is Gothic Revival style with coursed rock-faced masonry and a steep-pitched slate roof. There are high gables over aisle windows and gables over tall narrow windows to the polygonal apse. Decorated window tracery; rose window in transepts and very large 2 x 4-light west window with geometric tracery and wide moulded arch entrance below. Internally many of the original fittings have been stripped out and the church is not in use, but it has fine proportions and the remains of important features survive. There is a very high 7-bay nave with clustered columns and uncarved capitals. There is a wooden floor and an arch-braced roof to nave with 7 steps up to the choir and attached columns with elaborate carved capitals, tiled floor, altar with plaster frieze on frontal. The windows are boarded but the stained glass by John Hardman Powell survives.

Current State

It was not possible to reach the church as the road has been incorporated into the school grounds, which are closed for summer. The building is in poor condition with a large amount of damage to all of the windows. There is some scaffolding to the side elevation of the church, which appears to be for carrying out repairs to the roof. The roof of the single storey stone building to the rear is nearly completely bare and water will be pouring in at a high rate whenever it rains.

Current Owner

The building is currently owned by Rushbond (MSM).

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/mountstmary>