

St Mark's Church



St Mark's Road, Woodhouse Car, LS2

Why is it important?

St Mark's Church is a Grade II listed building built 1823-26 and altered in 1873 by Peter Atkinson Junior and RH Sharp. The alterations to the tower and window tracery were done in 1873 by RL Adams and J Kelly.

Building Description

The church is built using coursed squared stone and ashlar with a slate roof. The plan: west tower of 3 stages, 6-bay nave and chancel with side aisles. A commissioners' church in Gothic Revival style. The west door has 3-light windows to 2nd stage and paired 2-light belfry windows with perpendicular tracery and angle buttresses with gabled heads surmounted by tall octagonal pinnacles and embattled parapet. The tops of the pinnacles are stored inside the church. Internally a continuous nave and chancel with one step up to choir and 2 up to the sanctuary; aisles with vestry and organ at East end of North aisle and a side chapel at East end of South aisle. Plain and polychrome tile floors, quatrefoil columns, moulded rib vault with bosses and cast-iron columns support added West end gallery (perhaps of 1873). The reredos is a carved stone blind arcade of 7 crocketed arches, the central 3 framing the altar recess. A fine carved oak organ case with angels blowing trumpets, in memory of Joseph Ogden March of Beech Grove House, Leeds, 1889.

Current State

A number of the ground floor windows have been boarded up but this may be for security rather than damage. The clock in the tower is damaged and the window below it has several panes of broken glass and will therefore be letting in rainwater. The churchyard is in very poor condition with the majority of the gravestones being overturned and trees have taken over the space, their roots causing major damage. It has been reported that English Heritage have offered the owners £170,00 to repair the landmark and that their plan is to have a section of the church open in 2011 but no signs of this are yet visible!

Current Owner

The building is currently owned by Gateway Building Trust.

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