

Cardiff: Listed Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest



Record Number	Street No.	Street	Community
13753		Wellfield Road	Roath

Name	Location
St Andrews United Reformed Church	Prominently sited at the junction of Wellfield Road, Penylan Road and Marlborough Road.

Grade	Date Listed	Last Amended Date	Grid Ref.	E	N	Locality
II*	19/05/1975	12/10/2001		319263	178085	Roath

Description

HISTORY: Built 1899-1901 by Habershon, Fawckner & Groves, architects, for the English Presbyterians, at a cost of £11,000. It was designed to seat 700 with a further 140 in the W gallery.

EXTERIOR: Early Decorated style chapel, its exterior strongly resembling a parish church with lofty nave, NW tower and spire, shallow transepts, lower and narrower chancel (housing an organ), and hall and Sunday School on the S and E sides. Of coursed rock-faced Pennant sandstone, Bath stone dressings, and slate roof behind coped gables.

The asymmetrical W front has flanking stair towers to the gallery, of which the S is 2 stages while the N is taller and carries the lofty spire. The W doorway is modelled on the W door of Tintern Abbey. Two doorways are set within an outer arch, which has 3 orders of nook shafts, foliage capitals and moulded arch. The doorways have a single central shaft and cusped heads, while the tympanum of the outer arch has blind tracery incorporating cusped circles against a diaper-work back surface. Each doorway has double doors with vertical ribs. The doorway is flanked by 2-light windows with impost bands carried over as a hood mould, and foundation stones below the sills. The 5-light W window, said to have been modelled on a window in Melrose Abbey, has a sill band and crocketed ogee gable, with hood and head stops. An angle buttress to the R side has a gabled cap with blind arcading, and polygonal pinnacle. On the R (S) side is a 2-stage stair tower, with angle buttresses, and hipped roof behind a plain parapet incorporating blind arcading to the abutment with the main chapel. Its W doorway has a pointed arch with continuous moulding, double doors with vertical ribs, above which is a 3-light landing window with sill band. On the S side of the tower is a cusped light with hood and foliage stop, above which is a 3-light landing window with sill band.

The N side of the W front has a 3-stage tower, incorporating gallery stairs, with a tall parapet spire. It has angle buttresses with gabled offset to the lower stage. A projecting doorway is under a gabled hood. It has 3 orders of shafts with foliage capitals, a finely moulded arch with cusped inner order, and double ribbed doors. A hood mould has foliage stops. A cusped roundel beneath the apex has radiating blind tracery. The N side has a 2-light window with hood mould and impost band, above which is a small cusped light with hood mould lighting the stair. The middle stage has a sill band, and each face has a 5-bay arcade with shafts and foliage capitals to cusped arches. The outer bays are blind, the 3 inner bays have narrow lancet windows. The buttresses have gabled offsets to this stage. The tall bell stage has 2 2-light windows with ringed shafts and foliage capitals, and louvres, inset with raked sills. Diaper work is over the windows and then the parapet has blind arcading and coping. The buttresses are crowned by broad polygonal pinnacles with spirelets. The octagonal parapet spire has 2-light lucarnes in the cardinal directions. Red sandstone bands incorporate small roundels and string course with gabled hoods.

The N side, facing Marlborough Road, is 4 buttressed bays with 3-light windows, of which the 2nd from the W end is beneath a gablet, with impost band. The shallow N transept has a 5-light window and angle buttresses. Beyond it is a further bay with 3-light window. Set back against the E return wall of the nave is a polygonal porch with ribbed door in a moulded surround and lintel, and cusped lights in the side facets. The N side of the chancel has a single cusped light, and a rose window to the E wall is above a hipped-roof projection with canted mullioned bay windows.

The S side of the main chapel has 3-light windows similar to the N, while the S transept window is only glazed in the tracery lights. There is a short link from the transept to the hall and Sunday school on the S side of the chapel. The hall W elevation has angle buttresses, doorways R and L with ribbed doors under pointed arches with glazed quatrefoils to the tympana. Above each doorway are 3 stepped lights. In the centre is a projecting polygonal bay with 2-light windows, parapet with moulded cornice and red sandstone coping. Above it are shallow buttresses framing triple cusped and transomed windows lighting the gallery, with small window above. The S wall has a cusped lancet at the W end, then 5 cusped lancets grouped together further R. The 1½ storey Sunday school projects on the SE side of the hall. Its W elevation has a pointed doorway to the L with ribbed door under a shouldered lintel and glazed cusped light in the tympanum. To its R are 3 pairs of cusped lights and 2 gabled 3-light roof dormers with timber-framed gables. The faceted S wall has 3-light windows with cusped lights while the E side has two similar 2-light windows and 3 roof dormers similar to the W side. The E side of the hall has an added hipped lean-to below triple cusped lights. The S side of the chancel has a hipped outshut housing vestry and additional school rooms.

INTERIOR: The entrance vestibule has 2 2-light Tudor Gothic glazed screens opposite the entrance. Double panelled half-lit doors are R and L of the screen, with similar doors in the side walls which lead to the stairs. The open-well stairs have open arcaded balustrades. The lofty and spacious interior of the main chapel has a 6-bay hammerbeam roof, which has a wider bay opposite the transepts, and has cusping to the upper sides of the brackets and arched braces, crown posts and a boarded underside. Transverse arches with openwork spandrels are between the hammerbeams. The transepts have 2-centred arches with one order of ringed nook shafts and foliage capitals, while the transept windows have hood moulds with foliage stops. The S transept window is blind below the transom. The chancel arch has 3 orders of ringed shafts with foliage capitals, 2-centred arch and hood mould with crowned heads to the stops. A W gallery is supported on 2 cast iron columns with foliage capitals, cast by Walter Macfarlane & Co of Glasgow. The gallery front has blind cusped arcading.

The main pews have moulded ends. Choir stalls have poppy heads and moulded backs. The polygonal pulpit has 2 segmental-headed panels in each facet. The organ has blind arcaded panelling below the pipes.

The hall has a 5-bay roof with diagonal braces on corbelled brackets. A reredos is partly concealed behind an inserted stage, and comprises a 2-centred arch with foliage stops. A W gallery has a panelled front incorporating open ironwork panels. A separate room is beneath the gallery with porches to the outer sides.

REFS: Newman, John, *The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan*, 1995, p 303.

REASONS: Listed grade II* for its outstanding architectural contribution to the E end of the Roath Park district, with an especially fine spire, a well-preserved and spacious interior, the whole retaining its original character.

Please note that the list description is not exhaustive and all parts of the building (including objects and structures, interior or exterior, regardless of its grade and whether or not the feature concerned is specifically mentioned in the list description) are covered by the listing. It may also apply to associated buildings that are within the curtilage of the principal building and can include boundary walls. More information can be found at:

cadw.wales.gov.uk/docs/cadw/publications/historicenvironment/What_Is_Listing_EN.pdf

