

WCP

THE WHITWORTH
CO-PARTNERSHIP

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT

of

THE SWISS CHURCH
ENDELL STREET, LONDON



"Christ & Gantenbein"



Date of Inspection: 16th August 2007

The Whitworth Co-Partnership
18 Hatter Street
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1NE

AJR/ss/C713/1 QI

26th September 2007

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT 2007

THE SWISS CHURCH, ENDELL STREET, LONDON

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A4 REPORT DETAILS:

Limitations:

The report is made from the ground level, from belfry floor levels and from valley gutters accessible by ladders.

The inspections were clearly visual: opening up of enclosed spaces excluded, even if further inspection of these spaces may be recommended.

The report is restricted to the general condition of the building and its defects.

KEY:

AA	Denotes work which should be urgently carried out (2007)
A	Denotes work which should be carried out within one year (2007-2008) (AA and A equivalent to English Heritage Priority A)
B	Denotes work which will be required in the next 2 – 5 years (2009 – 2014) (Equivalent to English Heritage Priority B)
C	Denotes work to be carried out after 5 years (2014 – 2019) (Equivalent to English Heritage Priority C)
D	Work improve disabled access
E	Work to improve energy efficiency of the structure and services
Maintenance	Denotes work of a minor or routine maintenance type which may be undertaken without a Faculty or further professional involvement.

This report should be read in conjunction with the previous reports undertaken as follows.

- Lyster Gillet and Hardings completed a feasibility study in 1982.
- James Preston and Strebel produced a further feasibility study in 1985.
- Patricia Brock produced a condition report in 1988.
- Bruce Deacon of John Glanfield and Partners undertook a quinquennial inspection in 1998.
- London and Godfrey produced a scheme for repairs in 2000.
- Herzog and DeMuron produced a scheme for refurbishment in 2003.
- The church is currently considering a refurbishment proposal by Christ and Gantenbein.

1. **Date of inspection:** 16 August 2007
2. **Weather at time of report:** sunny with showers
3. **Those present at the inspection:**

Mr A J Redman
Magdalene Helmer
Ursula Jost
Victoria Easton
Rolf Peruzzo

A5 DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. **General description:** a single barrel vaulted space with a road frontage to the east 40' wide approximately, in London Stock brickwork, with a rusticated façade with two cylindrical columns and two rectangular section columns with Doric capitals and a central pediment over an entablature, with a central doorway with round headed windows to the side, with two square windows and a semi-circular window lighting the gallery. Three steps up from the pavement to the front door, with access through a lobby into a vestibule area, with contemporary styled oak faced block wood doors and panelling, and close fitted carpet. Stairs lead down to a basement area, with lavatories and a catering kitchen.

Double doors lead into the worship area with a carpeted floor, plastered walls, plastered panel vaulted ceiling, with an apse end, a door to the left hand side leading to a storeroom, with a further storeroom on the first floor and access to the roof over the apse. External walls of rendered brickwork. The roof structure is conventional trusses with Welsh slate finish with a central roof light, lead parapet gutters, behind low rise brick parapets with York stone caps. The right hand doorway from the main worship area leads to a fire escape to the adjoining property, with galvanised metal stairs leading down to the cellar, containing the warm air heating system, and storage.

The brickwork is four brick thicknesses thick at the base diminishing to two brick thicknesses (9") at the top. According to the previous quinquennial inspection, the site is approximately 0.027 hectares, with a frontage of 10.7m to Endell Street, with the site splayed to the front elevations and then to approximately 80°. The height at the apex

of the glazed roof is given as 10.86m, and the gallery floor 3.55m. We have not checked these dimensions.

2. Ordnance survey reference no: TL 87 NE
3. **Listing:** the property is listed grade II
4. **Statement of significance:**

In our opinion, the following elements have heritage significance, and we identify the nature of this significance using the following key:

H: Items of UK national heritage significance, which ought to be included in the listing information attached to the property.

h: Items of regional or local heritage significance from an architectural perspective.

i: Items which are of local interest, or which add interest to the building in its context, or which may be of significance to the Swiss community.

q: Items of reasonable or significant quality, in terms of design or workmanship, which add specific significance to the building and which should be retained or preserved.

- One of the best standing work by a nineteenth century Swiss architect in London. **H**



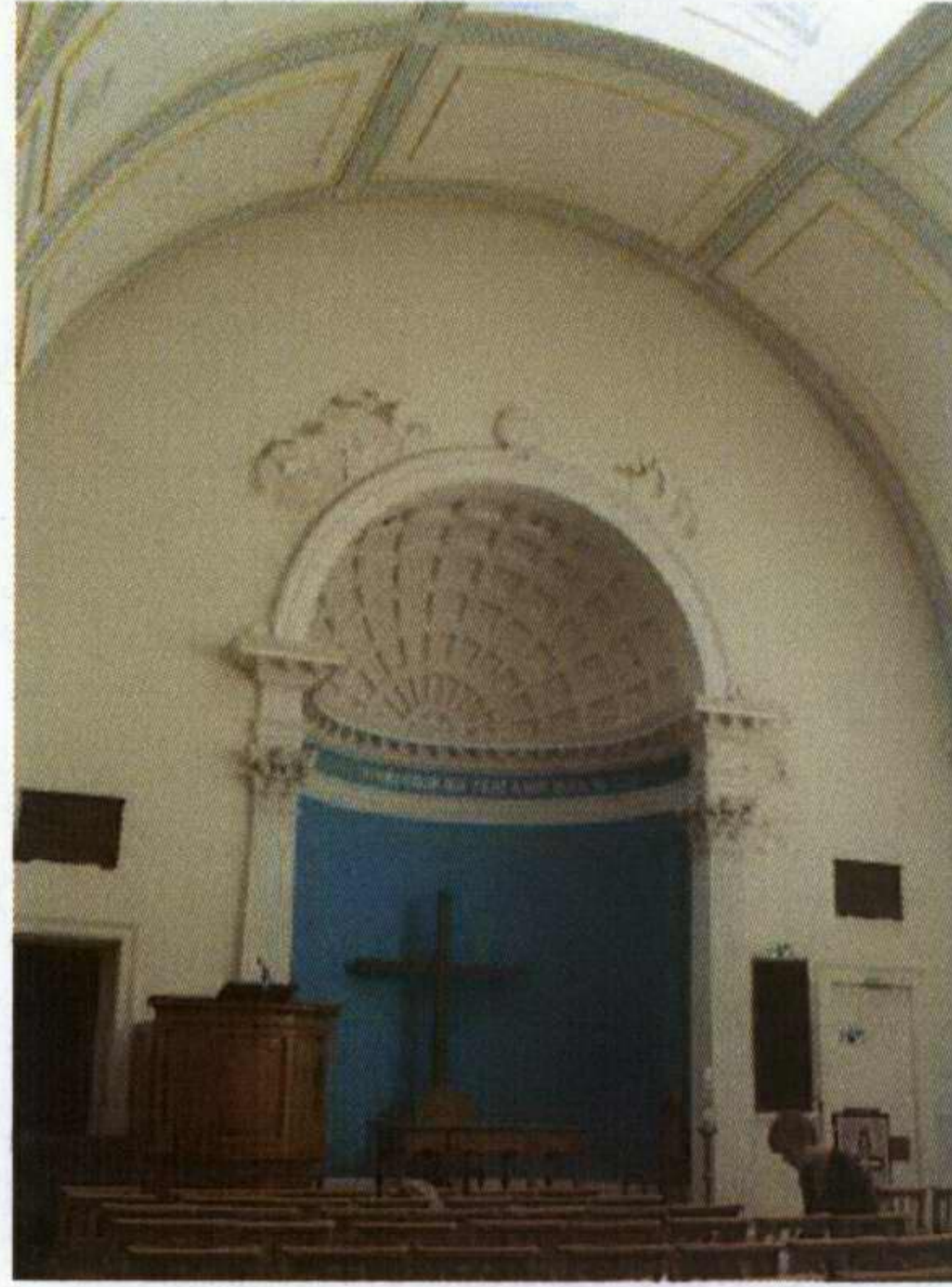
Middle of 19th century

Christ & Gantenbein

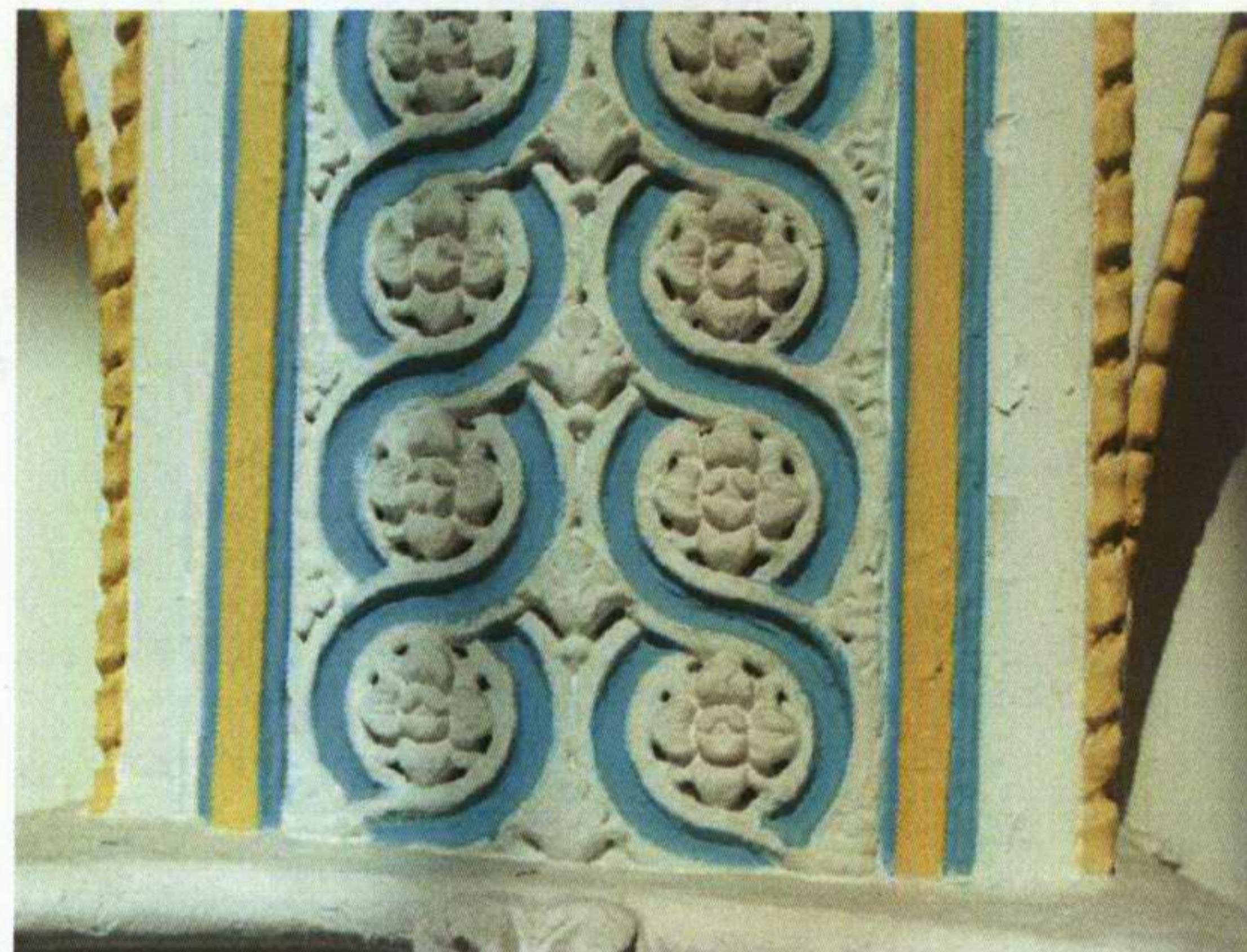
- Impressive street frontage at the entrance to Endell Street from the north. **H**

- It is the earliest recorded work by George Vulliamy (see appendix). i, H

The following features are original to the building and therefore of significance in their own right.



- The apse end with its scripture reference in French, but not the present colour scheme. H



- Fibrous plasterwork forming the ceiling decoration and including the decorative corbels, but not the colour scheme. H



- Stone steps leading from the ground floor to the gallery but not of the lower flights below the level of the landing. (These appear to have originally turned southwards at the landing position but have been relocated in their present arrangement. h
- The front entrance doors. h
- The front façade, including the window joinery, and the metal guards to the windows (added 1869), but not the front entrance railing which is later (post 1960). The various memorial slabs around the church, although the small slabs in the vestibule area do not appear to be in their original location. We refer you to the historical analysis, and the statement of significance in appendix to this report. h
- Memorials (generally). i, q
- Memorial to Suzanne Hoffman (d. 1932), a very early work by Thomas Clapperton, pupil of Sir William Gascombe John RA who carved memorial for Anna Martine Weiss. Clapperton's best know work is the Statue of Robert the Bruce in Edinburgh Castle and statuary frieze representing "Britannia and the wealth of East and West" for Liberty's store in Regent Street. He competed other commissions in Canada, Australia, India and New Zealand. q,h
- Memorial to Anne Martine Weiss by Sir William Gascombe John RA (her husband). A significant middle career work of a respected artist. q, H
- The Organ: the following information is recorded by the British Institute of organ builders:

The organ is located on the west gallery,
pipe display of gilt Diapasons
2f+5t+7f+5t+7f+5t+2f

Console

Console type: en Fenêtre Stop
type: Drawstop Label type: Ivory Label
font: Block Caps

angled jambs; 4 folding lockable wooden doors;

Couplers:

Swell to Pedal
Swell to Great
Swell octave
Swell suboctave
Great to Pedal

Department and Stop list

Pedal:

Key action TP Compass- low C Compass-
high c4 Keys 61

1 Bourdon	16 A
2 Bass flute	8 A

Great:

Key action TP Stop action TP Compass-
low C Compass-high g1 Keys 32

3 Double Salicional	16
4 Open Diapason	8
5 Wald Flute	8
6 Dulciana	8
7 Octave	4
8 Harmonic Flute	4

Swell:

Key action TP Stop action TP Compass-
low C Compass-high c4 Keys 61 Enclosed

9 Geigen	8
10 Lieblich Gedeckt	8
11 Salicional	8
12 Vox Angelica	8
13 Gemshorn	4
14 Trumpet	8
15 Oboe	8
16 Tremulant	

Details

Blowing=Mecvent

Accessories

3 thumb pistons to each manual
Thumb pistons for couplers
3, 3 toe pedals
Gt-Pd toe pedal

Commentary:

The organ was built by Alexander Hunter Ltd in about 1930, and was altered and the tracking disconnected in 2003. It may be regarded as a reasonable instrument but not outstanding. The organ is mentioned in the National Pipe Organ Register but not graded.

Hunters were a London based firm of organ builders with extensive work throughout the Home Counties and Australia. The founder, Alexander James Hunter was born in Deptford and trained originally as a watchmaker. In the 1930's the firm was run by his grandson Robert Hunter who left the firm in 1932 soon after the organ in the Swiss church was completed. The firm was bought out by Henry Willis and sons organ builders in 1937. Alexander Hunter the founder died in 1948.

Sources:

www.npor.emma.cam.ac.co.uk

www.bios.org.uk

I

5. **Polarity:** the front elevation of the church faces approximately east north east, but is taken as due east for the purpose of this inspection. The apse is therefore at the west end of the church, and the long walls on the north and the south.

B MAIN REPORT**1.0 WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE LAST INSPECTION:**

1.1 Comparing the current set of repairs against the 1998 report, no major work appears to have been undertaken in the last 10 years.

2.0 GENERAL CONDITION:

This quinquennial inspection has been prompted by proposed alterations to the gallery and worship areas, and this report identifies the scope and extent of current defects and attempts to put them into an order of priority.

We report in detail as follows:

3.0 ROOFING:

3.1 The roof is accessed via a sloping wooden ladder from the ground floor storage area to the first floor storage, thence by a vertical metal ladder thence by another sloping ladder up through a roof light, with vertical wall ladders leading onto successive heights of roofing. The ladder takes up space and could be set at a higher pitch in order to maximise space at ground level. The ladder itself is in sound order. Other ladders are securely fixed and in sound order.

PRIORITY

BUDGET COSTS

Consider repositioning ladder



ITEM E

150

- 3.2 **Lower roof over storage area:** a high spec bituminous felt finish, with copper flashings weathering the roof to the walls. The upper side of the roof finishes are sound, and the evidence of staining on the underside appears therefore to relate to an earlier roof finish. No significant defects noted.



c/f

150

PRIORITY

BUDGET COSTS

B/F

150

3.3 **Roof over apse end:** concrete slabs over insulation over bituminous felt finish ('inverted' roof detailing). There is shingle between the slabs, and this is supporting plant growth and weeds which need to be removed. No other defects noted at this level.

Remove weed growth



ITEM A MAINTENANCE

ITEM B MAINTENANCE

ITEM C MAINTENANCE

3.4 **Lower roof over boiler room:** galvanised meshing to the sides, with bituminous felt finish with flashings of copper or bituminous felt gets difficult to assess from upper level. No significant defects noted.

C/F

150

PRIORITY

BUDGET COSTS

B/F

150



- 3.5 **Main roof over worship area:** a Welsh slate roof, some of the slates secured by lead 'tingles', but mainly in reasonable order. We counted eight slates on the north slope and four slates on the south slope which are broken or have slipped and need to be resecured in order to maintain weather tightness.



ITEM A

300

C/F

450

PRIORITY

BUDGET COSTS

B/F

450

- 3.6 **Roof light:** a simple aluminium roof light, with a single skin of glass, resting just above the slate line. This appears to have been installed after 1988, and to have been subsequently repaired using a proprietary self adhesive metal finish such as flashband, applied to the twelfth bar from the east end, cracking in glass suggest these maybe overfixed. We note that there is no natural 'trickle' ventilation through the roof light, and apparently no ability to open roof lights to improve the ventilation. In the short term there is no evidence of water penetration from beneath, but the heat loss through the roof light and the risk of condensation caused by the form of heating suggests that consideration should be given to replacement of this with a more appropriate form of glazing, possibly double glazed solar reflective panels, with either controlled or trickle vent ventilation.



ITEM E

20,000

- 3.7 **Weathering to the east upstand parapet wall:** viewed from the west end, through binoculars, the flashings here appear to be poor and repointing is essential to maintain water tightness.

C/F

20,450