

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapel: Architecture

The Chapel is a Grade 1 listed building. It was built between 1619 and 1623 and is constructed raised up on an open-vaulted undercroft above a burial ground. It is a plain rectangular building, originally consisting of three bays with a wooden roof and gothic-style windows which are mainly glazed with stained glass. Inigo Jones is said to have had some input into the chapel's design. It was built by J. Clarke. The interior has original carved pews by Price the Joiner and a fine pulpit and communion rail.

The six windows on the North and South were filled with Stained glass by Bernard van Ling between 1623 and 1626. They contained figures, with shields of arms beneath them, and in the tracery lights were angels and other ornaments. Photographs of these windows are contained in the 'Inventory of the Historical Monuments in West London' 1925. As a result of an Order of the Council made on 28 January 1703 the name, arms and year of office of every Treasurer since 1680 were put up in the East window over the Communion Table (with the arms of the Society in the middle window), and the same for every Treasurer afterwards until 1909, when the East window was full. They were then continued in the two other windows.

A number of alterations have been made to the Chapel. The East window was replaced, designed by James Wyatt 1795-6 and glazed with stained glass. In 1882-83 a fourth bay was added to the West of the Chapel by William Salter, working for Lord Grimthorpe, in order to accommodate greater numbers attending chapel at that time. In 1818 the upper part of the East Windows was enhanced with Gothic decorations in stained glass by William Edmington of Birmingham

The new bay ends in a large window which is a copy of Wyatt's to the East, but glazed with clear glass. It is above a gallery which houses the organ. The instrument was constructed in 1856 in three sections: one on each side of the West window and the third in the centre front of the gallery. The organ fell into disrepair and was replaced in 2008.

The main structure of the Chapel has been unaltered since it was lengthened in 1882/3.

During the 1990s extensive repairs and refurbishment were carried out. The present gothic revival reconstruction replaced the original barrel vaulted ceiling. At the same time the corbels supporting the beams were decorated with Arms of former Preachers who went on to become Bishops or Archbishops. In 1996 a series of re-wiring and lighting works were undertaken. In 1998 sidabled access was incorporated and a lift was added. A year later works on the internal plaster of the Chapel were begun.