



## Spot listing application for Memorial Church of the Protestant Martyrs, Liverpool 15



*Pic: SharetheCity.org*

Prepared by Jonathan Brown MRTPI for SAVE Britain's Heritage,

with kind assistance from:

Mr James Hughes, Victorian Society,

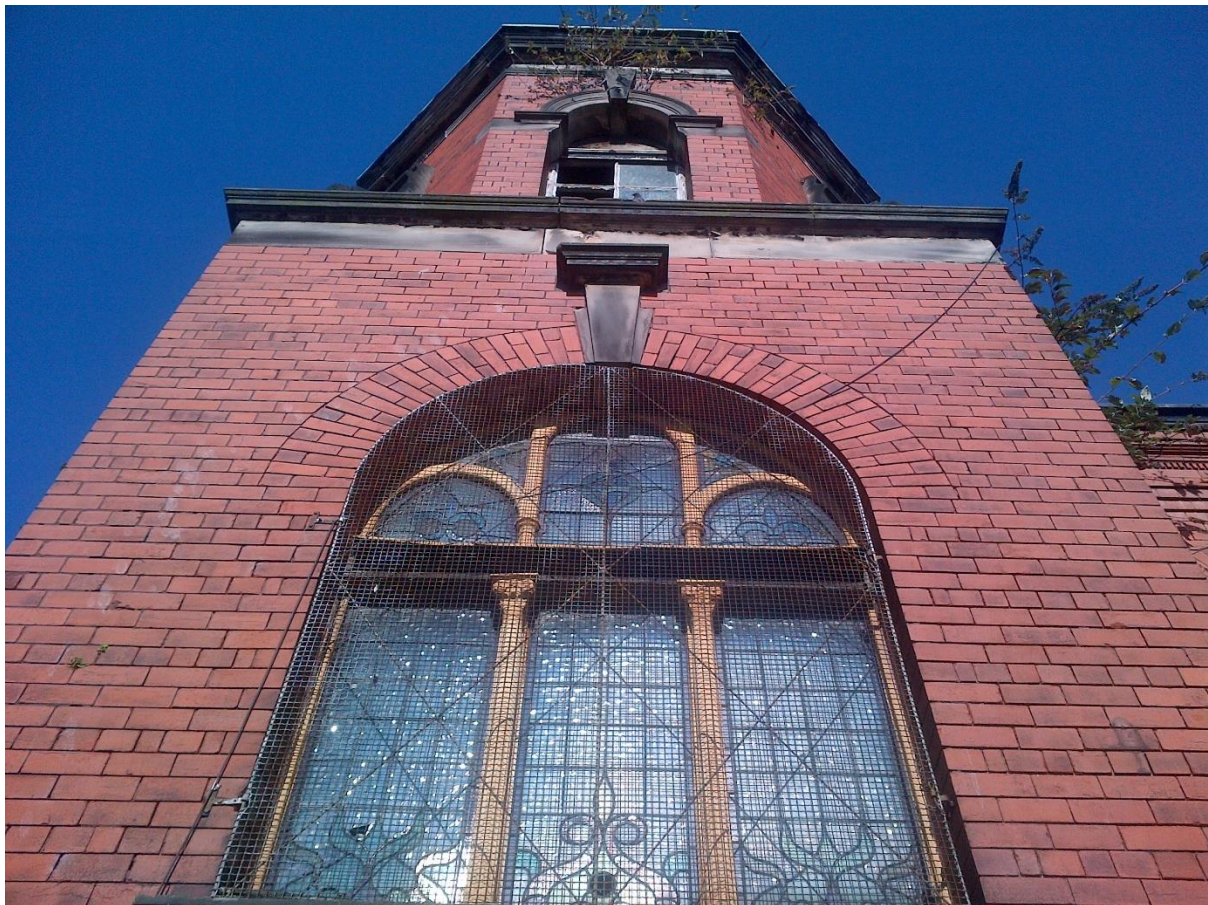
Mr Marcus Binney CBE, SAVE Britain's Heritage, and

Miss Florence Gersten, Save Our City Campaign.

10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 edit



Spot listing application for Memorial Church of the Protestant Martyrs, also known as 'Former Martyrs Church', by Thomas H.W. Walker, Lawrence Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15 0EQ.



*Memorial Church from Lawrence Road, Liverpool 15, showing high level of surviving detail and integrity of stone, wood and brick work, decorative glass and tracery etc. Pic © SharetheCity.org*

**Building Location:**

Memorial Church of the Protestant Martyrs  
Lawrence Road (corners of Salisbury Road, Alderson Road)  
Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 0EQ  
OS grid reference SJ3770489428 (Lat/Lon 53.397978,-  
2.938375).

**Planning Applicant**

A.Y. Chudray

**Owner Assumed to be:**

Mr A.Y. Chudray,







*Memorial Church from Lawrence Road, Liverpool 15, Pic © SharetheCity.org*

### **Immediate Threat of demolition**

The building has been empty for over a decade, since c.2004, and has been allowed to fall into some disrepair, although all the original features appear intact, and the stained glass has fortunately remained protected by grills installed when the church was active.

**The officer's report on Planning Application 14F/1223 'Former Martyrs Church' Lawrence Road recommends approval of the demolition of the building and the erection of a four-storey block of student flats.**

Officer's report to Liverpool City Council Planning Committee:

<http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/documents/s197014/Item%20No.%206%20-%20Former%20Martyrs%20Church%20Lawrence%20Road%20Liverpool%20L15%20EQ%20Picton%20Ward.pdf>

This was heard at Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and deferred following strong objections from local residents, Councillors, the Victorian Society, Merseyside Civic Society and SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Note of Committee meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct: <http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?!ID=112965>

However, the application remains live and the threat of demolition is likely to be immediate should the committee reconvene and follow officer recommendations.



**Application for Spot-listing on the basis of group value and architectural and historic interest**



*Memorial Church from corner of Lawrence Road and Salisbury Road, Liverpool 15, showing architectural quality and strong contribution to streetscape. Pic © SharetheCity.org*



*Memorial Church from Salisbury Road, Liverpool 15, showing entrance and tower. Pic © SharetheCity.org*





Memorial Church from Alderson Road, Liverpool 15. Pic © SharetheCity.org

**Given the building's obvious quality and integrity, and its group value with the GII\* and GII listed and unlisted churches along the same road, as well as the fact it is under direct threat of demolition, it is a clear candidate for inclusion on the statutory register.**

**Date of Construction:** Foundation Stone laid 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902 by Lord Mayor of Liverpool Rt. Hon W. Watson Rutherford Esq. The church is thought to have opened for worship in 1903.

**Information on Genuki.org.uk:**

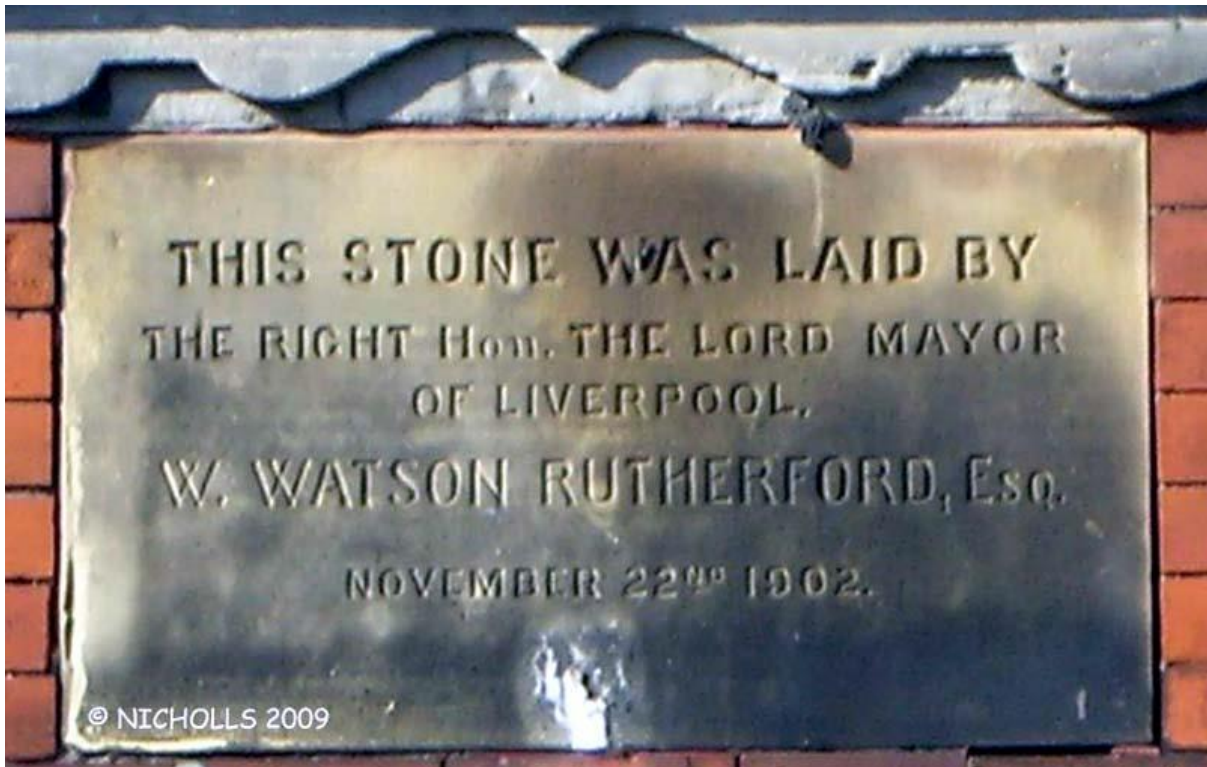
*"It was founded in 1903 and closed around 2004. Founded in 1903 by Pastor George Wise, the church maintained a sound uncompromising Protestant Evangelical Witness. From her inception enemies constantly prophesied her early demise but under God the work begun by Pastor Wise was faithfully carried out by his successor, Rev. H. D. Longbottom, who died in 1962; followed by Pastor George H. Mason who died in 1981. On Wednesday, 31st March, 1982, the Protestant Reformers' Memorial Church, Liverpool, was constituted as a congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster"*

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN/Wavertree/MemorialChurch.shtml>

The Urban Exploration website 28 Days Later contains a comprehensive gallery of interior images taken in March 2016 showing the intact organ, pews, pulpit, wooden panelling, etc.:

<http://www.28dayslater.co.uk/lawrence-road-methodist-church-liverpool-march-2016.t102375>

## Architecture and Group Value



*Foundation stone laid 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902 by the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, W. Watson Rutherford, Esq. Pic © Nicholls 2009, [Genuki.org.uk](http://Genuki.org.uk)*

**Description by architectural historian Marcus Binney CBE:** "This is a telling example of quite a modest chapel being given a very strong presence in the street by the imaginative use of architectural features. The corner tower, though quite low, stands out strongly thanks to its octagonal drum (emphasised by the scrolls alternating with the windows) and the pretty bell-shaped dome. The baroque west front is also a carefully considered play of the typical baroque west front of Italian and French 17th century churches and is designed in a series of stages. In both main fronts to the street there is an added liveliness due to the subtle, carefully calculated asymmetry. Around 1900, Methodist architecture expressed a strong self-confidence, reflecting their huge congregations all over the country."

"An aspect of their architecture was the bold use of brick (more economical) with stone trim to provide colour and contrast. Here, on the flank, stone is used tellingly for small flourishes such as the keystones and widely spaced voussoirs. Altogether, this is a sophisticated design by an accomplished architect reflecting the high standard of civic and ecclesiastical buildings of this period in Liverpool."

**Description from the Churches of Liverpool, David Lewis, 2001:**

"This handsome chapel stands between Salisbury Road and Alderson Road, and makes the most of its strong location. It is in an Edwardian Italianate style, built of brick with pale sandstone dressings. The church has a low tower with a dome and much of its original stained glass. It was built in 1903 by the United Methodists and in later life was a general Methodist church and occupied by the Protestant Reformers church, but seems currently to be disused."



**Architect: Research by Florence Gersten shows the architect to have been Thomas H. W. Walker,** whose practice was at 41 North John Street, Liverpool, and who resided at 39 Kelvin Grove in the Welsh Streets, Princes Park Liverpool 8. It bears comparison with the contemporary work of City Architect Thomas Shelmerdine.



*Junction of Salisbury and Lawrence Roads, L15, Pic © Google Street View*



*Liverpool's West Derby (Lister Drive) Carnegie Library of 1904 bears comparison with the Church Pic © Images of England*

SJ 3891GREEN LANEL1325/557West Derby-Library

SJ 3891 GREEN LANE L13 25/557 West Derby - Library G.V. II Library. 1904. T. Shelmerdine. Brick with stone dressings, slate roof. One storey, 4 bays canted corner bay and 4-bay right return; 1st 3 bays project. Sill course, painted pilasters, pulvinated frieze, cornice and parapet. Windows have mullions and transoms. 2nd bay round-headed window under gable. Corner has octagonal turret, with buttresses and arcaded parapet. Segmental-headed windows have eared architraves with triple keys. Domical vault in 2 stages. Round-headed entrance has Ionic porch with pulvinated frieze and segmental pediment. Right return similar. Left return and rear facades have 2 canted bays.



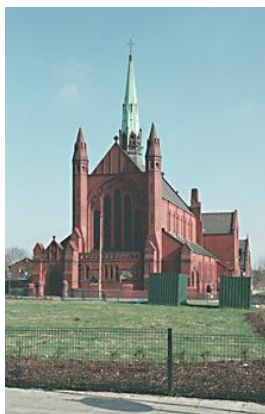
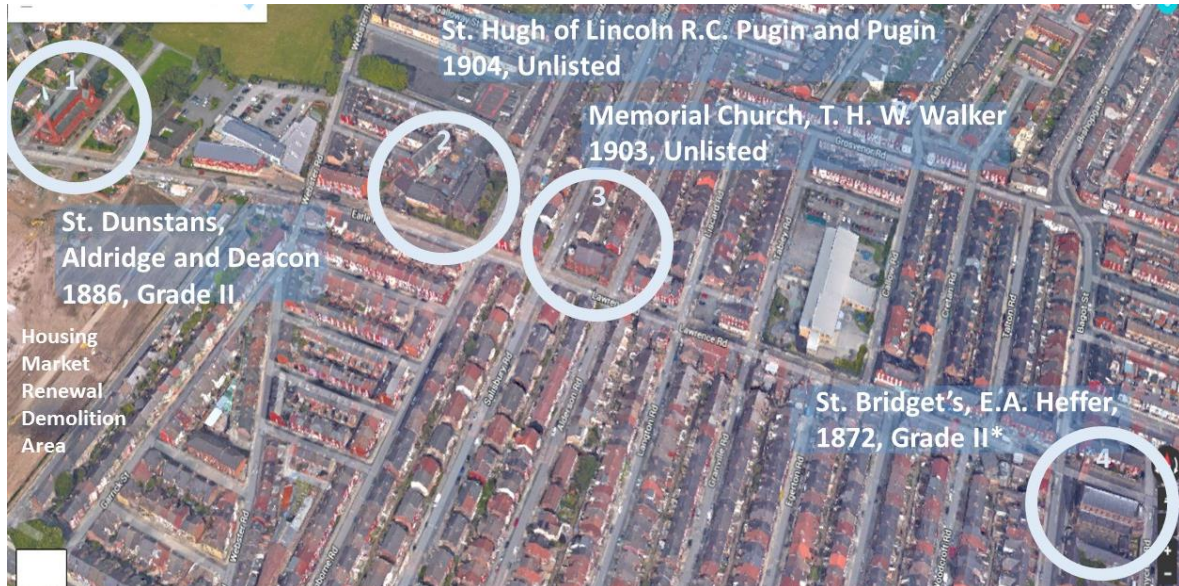
**Plan showing proximity of church buildings and group value**

**1. St. Dunstan's, 1886, Aldridge and Deacon, GII**

**2. St. Hugh of Lincoln, 1904, Pugin and Pugin, Unlisted**

**3. Memorial Church, 1903, Thomas H. W. Walker, Unlisted**

**4. St. Bridget's, 1872, E.A. Heffer, GII\***



**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**The powerful group value of this sequence of high Victorian and Edwardian places of worship is obvious, and would suffer severe harm were the Memorial Church at the heart of the run to be lost. It is near the spatial centre and temporal climax of the series, sharing the Italianate sensibility of St. Bridget's and the red brick character of St. Dunstan's. It is the equal in quality of the other Earle Road/Lawrence Road churches.**

**SAVE founder and architectural historian Marcus Binney CBE says of the ensemble:**

“Architecturally, the proximity of these churches along a single throughfare is remarkable.

They are individually and collectively an example of what in France is described as ‘petit patrimoine’ – modest buildings making a significant contribution to the greater heritage of a place” Marcus Binney, 2016.



**Group Value in Sequence of Listed Places of Worship Along Lawrence/Earle Road,**

**St. Dunstan's Earle Road, 1886, Aldridge and Deacon, Grade II**



*St. Dunstan's, Earle Road, 1886, GII\*, in the Picton demolition area Pic © Mr David Cross*

Statue of St. Dunstan, Pic: AChurchNearYou.com

[http://www.achurchnearyou.com/photo\\_gallery/stlukeinthecity\\_15195\\_1304677397\\_765.jpg](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/photo_gallery/stlukeinthecity_15195_1304677397_765.jpg)

**Description from the Churches of Liverpool, David Lewis, 2001:**

“This Anglican church was built with money from the Earle family on the site of their former mansion, and opened in 1886; the architects were Aldridge and Deacon. The west front of the building, facing Earle road, has five lancet windows set in a large pointed arch, with an impressive image of Christ and the Evangelists. The porch has a statue of St. Dunstan in a small niche, with the gable filled in with patterned red tiles. The church is built of brick inside and out, and for this reason it was long known as ‘the brick layers’ church’.”

**Listing description from English Heritage Images of England website:**

SJ 38 NE EARLE ROAD L7 7/409 Church of St Dunstan 14.3.75 - II\* Church. 1886-9. Aldridge and Deacon. Red brick with slate roof. 5-bay nave with aisles and baptistry under lean-to roofs, 2-bay chancel with north chapel and south organ-loft in transept. Fleche at west end of nave has 2-light traceried bell-openings and copper-clad spire. West end has baptistry with 1:3:1 lancets and parapet. North porch has pointed entrance with roll moulded arch and flanking buttresses; diapered gable has niche with figure of St. Dunstan. South porch has south entrance. West window of 5 stepped lancets under pointed relieving arch, the tympanum with Christ and symbols of the Evangelists flanking octagonal turrets with pyramidal roofs with (ucarnes. Aisles have 3 stepped lancets per bay, the clerestory has 2 lancets. Chancel has 3 stepped lancets. Interior: Brick, 5-bay nave arcades on stone piers, frieze over. 3 arches to baptistry. Arch-braced king-post roof, western trusses more elaborate. Stepped chancel arch, no capitals. Iron screen and frieze with angels' heads; wagon roof. Wall memorial brasses in aisles and good C19 glass, particularly west window. A severe but handsome design.

**Roman Catholic Church of St. Hugh of Lincoln, Earle Road, 1904, Pugin and Pugin, Unlisted**



*Pic © Dave Atherton, Genuki*

**Description from the Churches of Liverpool, David Lewis, 2001:**

“A temporary iron church dedicated to the Holy Family opened on Earle Road in 1898. St. Hugh’s was built to replace it after a donation from a local magistrate, Sir William Nelson, in memory of his brother Hugh, and the church opened in 1904. It was designed by the firm of Pugin and Pugin. The church is a fine and imposing building of slightly sooty red sandstone, in a heavy Decorated style.”

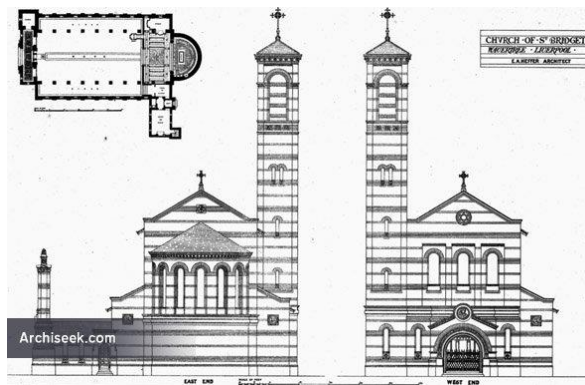
**Description from ‘Taking Stock’, the Catholic Churches of England and Wales**

An engaging church of 1904 by Pugin & Pugin, St Hugh of Lincoln is characteristic of the work of this prolific practice, but shows touches of originality in its external treatment. The luminous interior includes features of interest, including a good set of Stations of the Cross and a rood by the sculptor Bainbridge Copnall.

Full architectural description here: <http://taking-stock.org.uk/Home/Dioceses/Archdiocese-of-Liverpool/Wavertree-St-Hugh-of-Lincoln>



**Anglican Church of St. Bridget's, Lawrence Road, 1872, E.A. Heffer, Grade II\***



Pic © SteH Flickr, 2014 [https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3848/14563976608\\_5483360471\\_b.jpg](https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3848/14563976608_5483360471_b.jpg)

**Description from the Churches of Liverpool, David Lewis, 2001:**

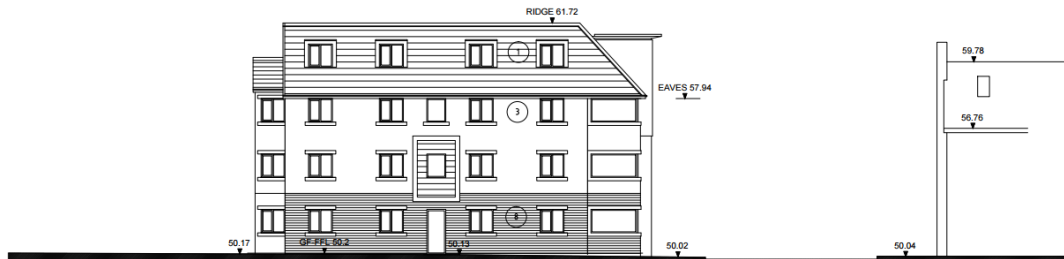
“This fine Anglican church was designed by E.A. Heffer and built in 1872. The brick church has a very high bell tower or campanile, and the Italianate theme is continued inside, with the church being the shape and form of a basilica, which Nikolaus Pevsner considered a ‘very exceptional conceit for its date’. St. Bridget’s is a very beautiful church; with the light flooding in on a sunny afternoon one could almost be in Rome.”

**Listing description from English Heritage Images of England website:**

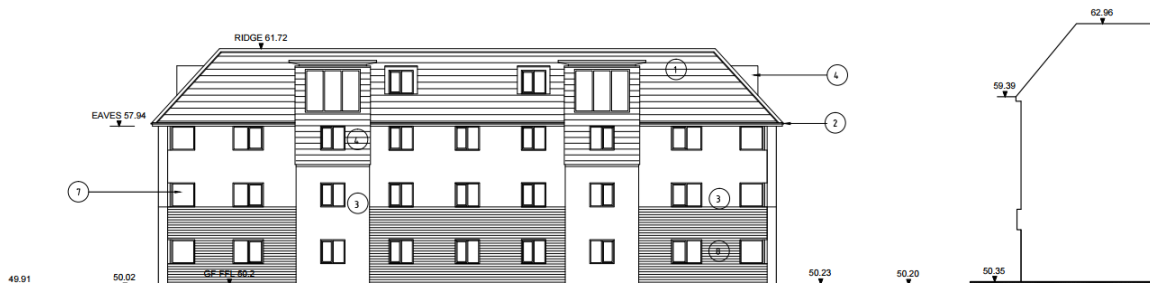
SJ 38 NEBAGOT STREET L15 7/106 Church of Saint Bridget

SJ 38 NE BAGOT STREET L15 7/106 Church of Saint Bridget 28.6.52 G.V. II\* Church. 1872. E. A. Heffer. Common brick with red brick and stone dressings, red and blue brick banding and slate roof. 9-bay nave with lean-to aisles, round chancel apse, north west tower and narthex. Windows are round-headed with recessed reveals. Nave and aisles have windows between flat buttresses with corbel tables above; bracketed eaves. 5-stage tower has narrow lights. Cornice over lowest stage and clasping pilasters above. Top stage has round-headed, louvred bell openings and sill courses, cornice and pyramidal roof. West front has narthex with parapet, gabled round-headed entrance with flanking narrow lights; gable apex has roundel with bust of Christ. 3 windows and top roundel over. Apse has sill band and 2 windows. Gates to narthex and inner tripartite window with flat pilasters and pedimental panel over. Interior: Stucco. Arcades on round scagliola columns with alternate oak and acanthus capitals. Clerestory windows in applied arcade. Richly ornamented coffered ceiling. Aisles have coffered half-tunnel vaults. Western bay of nave has choir stalls and organ to north aisle. Apse has bench all round, cornice and pilasters between windows. Wooden altar set in middle of marble floor. Mosaic reredos of Last Supper by Salviati. Pulpit and altar of different coloured marble. A dignified and impressive evocation of an Italianate Basilica <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/Details/Default.aspx?id=213710&mode=quick>

- ① NATURAL SLATE ROOF COVERING
- ② DARK GRAY FASCIA DETAIL & GUTTERING
- ③ RED BRICKWORK TO MATCH ADJACENT BUILDINGS
- ④ GRAY POWDER COATED ALUMINUM CLADDING
- ⑤ STONE WINDOW SURROUND
- ⑥ RENDERED PANELS
- ⑦ GRAY POWDER COATED UPVC WINDOW FRAMES
- ⑧ DARK BRICKWORK UP TO GROUND FLOOR LEVEL



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*Elevations from planning application showing the student flats proposed to replace the Church, October 2015*





*Memorial Church from Alderson Road, Liverpool 15, October 2014. Pic © SharetheCity.org*