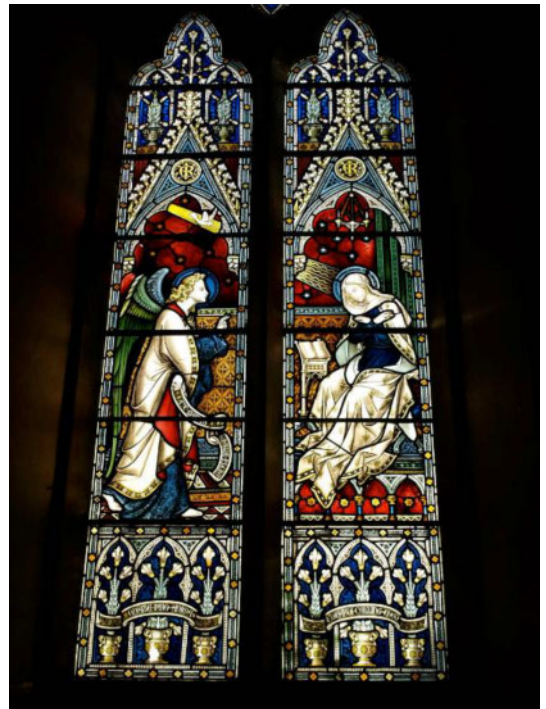


Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Chapel of Ease)

High Street, Corby Glen, Lincolnshire

National Grid Reference SK998253



Statement of Importance

A good example of a mid Victorian rural Catholic church with an especially fine set of stained glass windows by John Hardman & Co.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1. Listed grade: *II (church and attached presbytery)*
- 1.2. Conservation Area: *Corby Glen*
- 1.3. Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

- 1.4. Churchyard: *Yes, with many burials*
- 1.5. Date: *1856-7*
- 1.6. Architects: *Weightman, Hadfield & Goldie of Sheffield*
- 1.7. Date of visit: *6 October 2010*
- 1.8. Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*
- 1.9. Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rev Canon Anthony Dolan and Robert Hirst*
- 1.10. Associated buildings: *The former presbytery, although attached, has been sold, as has the former school (1882)*
- 1.11. Bibliographic references:

T. B. Trappes-Lomax: *The Owners of Irnham Hall*, typescript transcribed by Robert Hirst
Exhibition to celebrate 150 years of the Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
H. Colvin: *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* 4th edition Yale UP, 2008

Part 2: The building, its contents and its setting

2.1. Historical background

The history of the Catholic church at Corby descends from nearby Irnham Hall where the Thimelby, Conquest, Arundell and Cliffords had kept the Faith alive through Penal times. A chapel was built there in 1822-3 in 'Grecian style' to designs by Joseph Ireland, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1822 (although the Register of Confirmations Marriages and Deaths for Irnham states that the chapel was opened in 1826). An entry in the Baptism Register 1812-59 tells that, following the purchase of Irnham by the protestant Mr Woodhouse, the chapel was taken down 'the middle of December 1855. The materials amounting to about a thousand loads were transferred to Corby by the middle of April 1856...' Although the materials were brought from Irnham the appearance of the church at Corby Glen appears entirely the work of Weightman, Hadfield & Goldie.

In the second of his Memoranda inserted into the Baptism Register 1812-1859, Canon John Gascoyne writes: 'the decorations of the Corby church were mainly done in 1868 and 1869'.¹ This included new stained glass by Hardman & Co.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The church is accurately described in the list entry (below), apart perhaps from the reference to the altar tabernacle as a pyx. Attention might also be drawn to the painted roofs, the pews and other wooden furnishings. There is a plain octagonal stone font and trefoil-headed niches either side of the entrance with inset fluted bowls as Holy Water stoups. The most impressive thing about the church is the complete set of stained glass windows by John Hardman & Co, executed between

¹ Information from Canon A. Dolan

1868 and 1874, a time when Hardman's were in their heyday with John Hardman Powell, trained by A. W. N. Pugin, leading the stained glass design. It is all of exceptional quality.

2.3. The church in its setting

The church, former presbytery, school and school master's house are all in a leafy setting, set back from the road, bounded by a stone wall. A cohesive group which forms a significant element within the conservation area.

2.4. Listed status

The church and former presbytery are listed grade II. The grading is probably correct but does not reflect the importance of the stained glass.

Part 3: Managing the building into its future

3.1. Condition

Basic maintenance is carried out but there is concern about damp and there are mature trees very close to the west end, necessitating vigilance in clearing gutters. With only one service a month on a Thursday evening there must be concern about the ability to keep on top of routine maintenance.

3.2. Ancillary facilities

There are no ancillary facilities.

3.3. Access

A sloping gravel path leads to the church from the road and there is level access into it.

3.4. To what extent is the building amenable or vulnerable to change?

- *As a consequence of remaining in use as a place of worship:* The church is very much of a piece and whilst small considered changes may be accommodated these would have to respect its historic character.
- *As a consequence of being closed as a place of worship and passing into alternative secular use:* Should the church close (given the limited number of services this must be a possibility), re-use would be highly problematic. The interior is effectively more important than the exterior. The fittings and especially the stained glass make it hard to envisage an appropriate alternative use. If upgraded to II* it might be a candidate for care by The Historic Chapels Trust if no other suitable use could be found. Otherwise it seems most likely that the glass would have to be removed to another church or museum and the church converted (subject to planning) most probably to a residential use. However, even this would be difficult given the number of burials.

3.5. Category: 2

Part 4: List descriptions

Church

Building Name: ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish: CORBY GLEN

District: SOUTH KESTEVEN

County: LINCOLNSHIRE

Postcode: NG33 4LU

LBS Number: 194063

Grade: II

Date Listed: 15/12/1986

NGR: SK9982325268

Listing Text:

CORBY GLEN HIGH STREET
SK 9825-9925 (east side)

12/89 Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

G.V. II

Roman Catholic Church. 1855-6. In c.1300 style. Ashlar with stone coped slate roofs. Nave with clerestory and western bellcote, chancel, vestry, north porch and aisle. The west end has 2 stepped buttresses and 2 string courses. Central shaped and gabled statue niche, flanked by single tall trefoil headed lancets with trefoils over. Above a further trefoil and to right of gable a double bellcote with mid wall shafts, pointed heads and pierced sexfoil to gable. In the west wall of the north aisle a 2 light window. Gabled north porch has a double chamfered outer door with moulded hood. The inner doorway is single chamfered with hood and floriate stops. In the north wall 4 pairs of 2 light windows and to the clerestory alternating trefoil and quatrefoil lights in circular surrounds. The east aisle wall has further 2 light window with trefoil over and in the chancel north wall are 2 single lights also with trefoils. The east window is of 3 lights with cusped heads and quatrefoil over with moulded hood and human head stops. On the south side of the chancel a single storey link connects the former presbytery with the church, in the west wall 2 pairs of shouldered windows. The south nave wall has 5 pairs of trefoil lights with cusped quatrefoils over, separated by stepped buttresses.

Interior. 4 bay north arcade with pointed arches, round columns and floriate annular capitals. Chancel arch double chamfered with octagonal imposts, foliate capitals, moulded hood with angel stops. In the north aisle a trefoil headed piscina and at the west end of the nave a timber gallery on octagonal posts. Panelled and painted ceilings. Fittings all C19 with fine brass telescopic altar rails. In the Sanctuary an encaustic tiled floor, stone altar with sacred monograms, and gabled pyx. In the north aisle substantial low wooden screen with paired pierced traceried arches and moulded cornice. The stone altar has panels containing carvings of angels holding scrolls, with above a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Complete collection of contemporary stained glass. The Catholic Church was moved from the Irnham Estate to Corby when the Cliffords, a Catholic family, sold the Estate to the Protestant Woodhouses in mid C19.

Listing NGR: SK9982325268

Presbytery

Building Name: PRESBYTERY HOUSE AT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish: CORBY GLEN

District: SOUTH KESTEVEN

County: LINCOLNSHIRE

Postcode: NG33 4LU

LBS Number: 194062

Grade: II

Date listed: 5/12/1986

NGR: SK9983825261

Listing Text:

CORBY GLEN HIGH STREET
SK 9825-9925 (east side)

12/88 Presbytery House at Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

G.V. II

Former presbytery, now house. 1855-6 in c.1300 style. Ashlar, slate roof with raised stone coped gables, kneelers, trefoil finial. Single ashlar ridge stack with chamfered coped top. T-plan, with single storey link to Church. 2 storey, 3 bay front, the right hand bay being advanced and gabled. In the angle between the ranges a 6 panel door with Caernarvon surround and cusped trefoil light over. To left a single 2 light plain sash and to right a similar 3 light window, to first floor 2 further 2 light sashes, all have wedge shaped heads to the lights, chamfered surrounds and lintels. The right hand side front has similar fenestration and a moulded and pointed niche containing a plain shield. Included for group value only.

Listing NGR: SK9983825261