St Margaret Clitherow

Active
Roman Catholic
4 Kingswood Drive, SE19 1UR

St Margaret Clitherow, exterior and interior

Historical summary
The parish originated as a mission in 1952, with Mass celebrated in temporary venues nearby while the community sought funds for a permanent home. The present site was purchased from the Dulwich Estates and a hall that also served as a temporary church opened in 1961, followed by the presbytery in 1966. Both were designed by architect D. Plaskett Marshall who also produced an unrealised Scandinavian-influenced church design with a square tower.

Construction of the current church began in 1973 under architect Anthony Stalley of Broadbent, Hastings Reid & Todd. The foundation stone was laid by the archbishop in October 1973, and the first Mass celebrated at Christmas 1974. Designed to seat about 300 people, the church cost £65,000. Several furnishings were gifts: 19th-century Belgian painted Stations of the Cross from Canon John Devane of St Matthew's, West Norwood; a crucifix for above the altar from the Knights of St Columba; and a £1,200 stone altar donated by parishioner Mrs Murray in memory of her mother Helen Bramley. Seating came from a redundant Salford church. Later additions included a pipe organ from an Upper Norwood United Reformed church (1995) and a stained-glass window of St Margaret Clitherow by John Lawson of Goddard and Gibbs, installed and blessed in 2000.

The church is T-shaped, consisting of a nave and chancel, with two side transepts, and with the sacristy accommodation to the rear of the sanctuary There are dark russet brick walls and a concrete-tiled roof. Its interior features a narthex with gallery, white

plastered walls, acoustic-tiled ceilings, and simple finishes, with its principal artistic elements being the Stations of the Cross and the stained-glass window.

Sources: http://www.stmargaretclitherowdulwich.org/