

The Building

Designed, in Early Decorated style, by Peter Paul Pugin (1851— 1904) of the celebrated family of architects who were responsible for numerous churches throughout Britain and notably for the Houses of Parliament, the current St Patrick's Church building is of Locharbriggs stone, a warm, welcoming red sandstone favoured as a building material throughout Glasgow and seen in many of the city's public buildings such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Construction was in the hands of local firms, probably including William Vickers, almost always entrusted with the carvings and statuary for Pugin's buildings. Vickers carried out much of the external decoration at Kelvingrove Museum too.



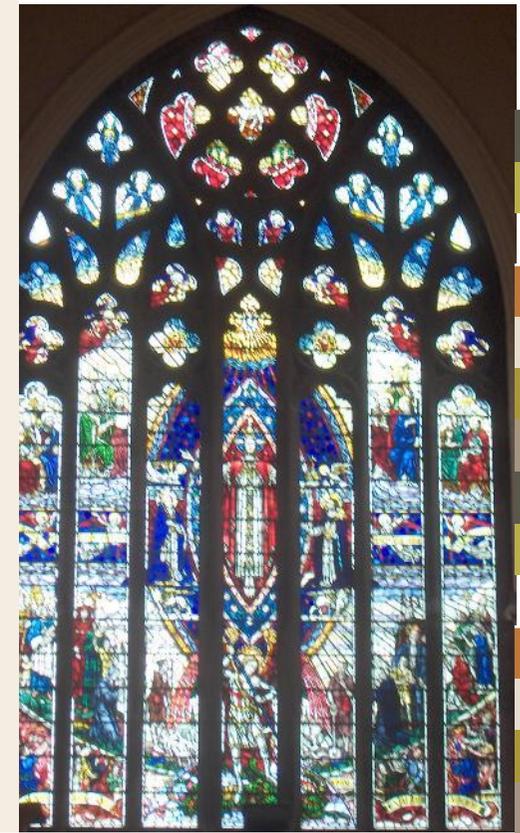
The Church, designed by Peter Paul Pugin is built of Locharbriggs Stone.

The Great East Window

The Great East Window behind the choir loft is renowned for its vibrant use of colour and its detailed depiction of Our Lord in Glory, as King surrounded by the Church Triumphant, Militant and Suffering.

This is the work of the famous stained-glass designers and manufacturers, John Hardman of Birmingham, who also created the windows of the Houses of Parliament. It was installed in 1951 and was designed by Donald Taunton (1885-1964).

From the outset the church was provided with electric light. Natural light comes from seven clerestory windows on each side, twelve windows below them in the north wall and seven, smaller, in the south, a 32 ft, seven-light window behind the organ gallery, five two-light windows in the apse and rose windows in each of the side chapels. There is a three-light window in the former baptistery.



The Nave

The nave occupies 102 ft of the Church's whole length of 134 ft and 30ft of its 60 ft width. It rises to 67 ft at its highest. The chancel is divided from the nave by an arch, as are the side chapels.

The baptistery is no longer used as such, the baptismal font (1905) being placed centrally in the nave. Around the baptistery the translation of the carving is: "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God".

St Patrick's Church, Anderston, Glasgow

Lady Chapel Altar & Sacred Heart Altar

The Lady Chapel altar and the Sacred Heart Altar are located at the front of the Church on either side of the High Altar.

The Lady Chapel altar was the gift of Mr Hugh Quigley and the Sacred Heart altar that of the Women's Sacred Heart Society. Both were dedicated in 1903.

Original High Altar

The photo below shows the main altar as it appeared until the 1990's. It includes alabaster altar rails and the sanctuary is flanked at the front by statues of St Joseph and St Anthony.

These statues remain in the Church but have been moved to side chapels.

The five double windows of the apse show St Margaret of Scotland, St Catherine of Siena, St Anne, St Joachim, The Sacred Heart, The Virgin Mary, St Patrick, St Bridget, St Mungo and St Columba. The central windows were gifted by the Women's Sacred Heart Society in 1905. They are flanked by two donated by Mrs McCafferty in 1907. All were created by Earley & Co of Dublin.



Father Lynch Memorial Altar

The Father Lynch Memorial Altar and Pieta was Donated by the Girls' Guild, 1938.

The inscription reads, in translation, "Come (all) who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest".



Church Location

Regeneration of the surrounding area and construction of the ring road which passes within feet of St Patrick's have resulted in the church being one of the few 19th century buildings remaining in Anderston and its oldest place of worship.

Historical Listing

St Patrick's is a B-listed building.

The Exterior of the Church

External carvings read, in translation from the Latin:

Above the North Street doors "To the glory of God (and) St Patrick, 1898"

Above the William Street door "The House of God"

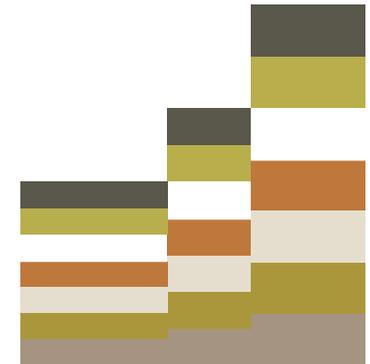
The Organ

Originally installed by Henry Willis III, the Lewis & Co, 2-manual and – pedal organ was renovated and electrified in 1939 at a cost of £1,000, a considerable sum at the time, made possible through the unfailing generosity of the good people of St Patrick’s.

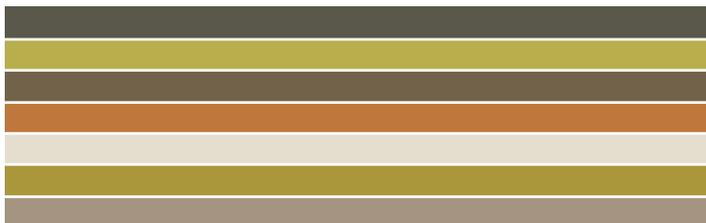
The organ was cleaned in the 1960s, but unfortunately by the turn of the century perished leatherwork and the accumulation of dust and grit were causing concern and the considerable cost of restoration was beyond church funds. It was decided to look elsewhere and a good quality, second-hand instrument, originally constructed by JW Walker of Ruislip in 1969, became available from a redundant Baptist church in London. This was purchased for a small donation, carefully dismantled and transported to Glasgow.

Between March and June 2008 the old Lewis organ was dismantled and removed. The Walker instrument was then substantially rebuilt by Michael Macdonald of Glasgow, a new solid-state transmission system fitted and the organ installed in the gallery (pic top right). The organ façade and console came from a small convent in Switzerland. The opportunity was taken to incorporate some of the Lewis pipework from the previous instrument.

The organ is in the choir loft below the Great East Window (pic bottom right) and is played at Sunday Mass.



Pipework from the 1939 Lewis organ is incorporated into the current working organ.



The Calvary

above the chancel shows Our Lady and St John at the foot of the Cross with Christ’s words “Mother, this is your son. Son this is your mother.”

St Patrick’s Church, Anderston, Glasgow

Side Altars & Statues



Side Altars

From left to right, the statues are:

St Anthony (below)

Donated by "An Italian gentleman of the parish", 1921

St Joseph, (below)

St Patrick (right) - This work is by Anthony Foster, apprentice to the famous sculptor Eric Gill (1882-1940). It was executed under Gill's supervision and is typical of his spare but evocative style.

The statue was commissioned for St John's, Portugal Street, Glasgow. When that church closed it went first to the Carmel in Oban before being repatriated to Glasgow and St Patrick's.

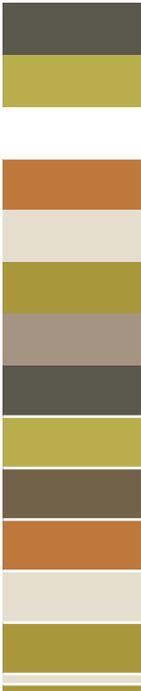
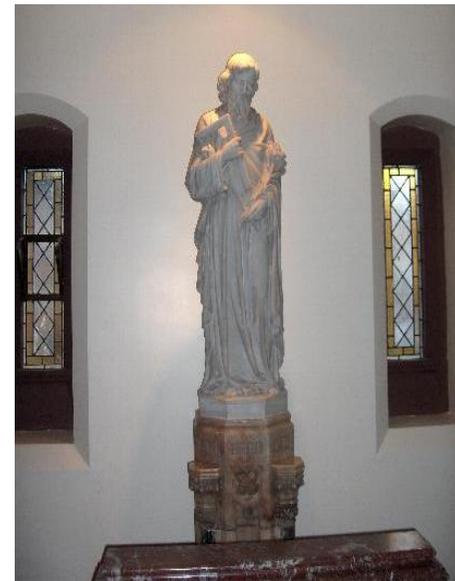
High Altar

The five-sided apse is graced by a reredos of Caen Stone and Connemara marble in which are set four statues.

The high altar, the Canon Condon Memorial altar (1905), is of the same materials.

The front-facing altar was imaginatively crafted from the alabaster altar rail which had been dispensed with following the reforms of Vatican II. Other artefacts, such as the lectern and rails surrounding the devotional alcoves in the gospel-side aisle, were similarly sourced.

Statues in the apse niches represent (left to right): St Therese of Lisieux "The Little Flower" (Donated by Mrs McCaffrey in 1940); St Patrick (1905) St Michael, Archangel (1905); St John Ogilvie (Mrs McCaffrey. 1940).



History of St Patrick's by Vince McGlennan

Most of the information in this guide is based on the book by Vince McGlennan. It is an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to find out more about the history of St Patrick's.

Copies can be purchased after Mass or by emailing the Parish Priest and sending a cheque for £9 per copy required.

Many thanks to Mr McGlennan for allowing the reproduction of photos and information in this guide.