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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd  
standard operating procedures.

**St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxbgangs Avenue,  
Edinburgh, Photographic Survey**

**Report No 1590**

## CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Building Recording Results	5
4.	Conclusion	6
5.	Reference	6

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Photographic Record	7
Appendix 2	DES Entry	9

## FIGURES (Bound at rear)

Figure 1	General Location map showing St Hilda's Episcopal Church
Figure 2	St Hilda's Church, ground floor plan
Figure 3a	St Hilda's Rectory, ground floor plan
Figure 3b	St Hilda's Rectory, ground floor plan

## PLATES (Bound at rear)

Plate 1	South-east corner of St Hilda's Church
Plate 2	Commemoration plaque on the south-east corner of the church
Plate 3	South-west facing elevation of the church
Plate 4	East-facing elevation of the church
Plate 5	Interior view of St Hilda's Church baptistery
Plate 6	Close-up of the font
Plate 7	Window on the nave wall
Plate 8	Nave and altar
Plate 9	Altar detail
Plate 10	Mural behind the altar
Plate 11	St Hilda's chapel
Plate 12	St Hilda's Rectory, South-facing elevation
Plate 13	St Hilda's Rectory, East-facing elevation

Contact prints (Bound at rear)

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a Level 1 Photographic Survey undertaken in December 2008 by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at St Hilda's Parish Church, 1a Oxfangs Road, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 2332 6910). The work was commissioned by Mr Alex Shaw of Hackland Dore architects on behalf of Dunedin Canmore Housing Association. St Hilda's Church and Rectory are to be demolished prior to redevelopment of the site for social housing. Although the church is not a listed structure, the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) consider the site to be of local historical interest and as such they have requested that a Level 1 (English Heritage 2006) standing building recording survey be carried out prior to its demolition.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was approved by John Lawson, at CECAS.

## **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 St Hilda's Church was designed by Stevenson & Dunworth Architect's, Edinburgh and constructed in 1965 for the Scottish Episcopal Church. It occupies a rectangular layout plan with baptistry, chapel and sacristy. The roof is asymmetrical and covered with zinc alloy sheets. The building is lit on the main elevations by both gothic-arched and ogee-headed windows. The interior of the church is minimalist in terms of ornamentation. A mural of Christ and his twelve disciples is present on the wall behind the altar.
- 1.2.2 The church rectory has a rectangular layout plan with study, dining and living rooms on the ground floor. The upper floor plan incorporates two bedrooms, storage space and a bathroom. The upstairs rooms are lit by dormer windows. The roof is asymmetrical and covered with aluminium sheets.
- 1.2.3 On 27th May 2007 there was a final thanksgiving service marking the end of the church as a place of worship. The congregation of St Hilda's, having reduced in size in recent years, decided that it could no longer maintain worship in the building and the building closed in the summer of 2007 (Bishop's Notices Archive 2007).

## **1.3 Objectives**

- 1.3.1 The aims of the programme of archaeological works were:
1. To carry out a Level 1 photographic survey of the church and rectory in relation to floor plans of the church and rectory.
  2. To produce an illustrated report outlining the results of the work.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and Standards and Guidelines for Historic Building Surveys as appropriate.

### **2.2 Building Survey**

- 2.2.1 Original architectural drawings from 1965 have been used to produce Fig 1. Owing to the poor quality of the drawings they have been redrawn to provide cross-reference to the photographic record (Appendix 1).
- 2.2.2 The building survey included an inspection of all interior rooms within the rectory and the church. Dimensions of each room were obtained using a Leica Distometer. General notes were taken on the layout of the buildings.
- 2.2.3 A photographic record of the exterior and interior of both buildings was made using a Nikon D100 SLR digital 35mm camera. Selected images that best portray the character of both buildings are produced as Plates 1-13.



### 3. BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

3.1.1 Figure 2 and 3 shows the ground and first floor plans of the church and rectory. The dimensions of the individual rooms within each building are listed in Table 1.

Building	Room/feature	Dimensions
St Hilda's Church	Baptistry vestibule	2.7m x 2.6m
St Hilda's Church	Baptistry	6.6m x 6.4m
St Hilda's Church	Baptistry to altar wall	18.5m
St Hilda's Church	North wall to altar wall	11.9m
St Hilda's Church	Nave, east to west	10.9m
St Hilda's Church	Chapel	8.3m x 2.7m
St Hilda's Church	Sacristy	2.7m x 2.4
St Hilda's Church	Robe Room	2.8m x 2.8m
St Hilda's Church	Entrance lobby	3.3m x 2.8m
St Hilda's Church	Disabled toilet	2.6m x 2.8m
St Hilda's Church	Kitchen	2.3m x 1.5m
St Hilda's Church	Main door to nave door	3.7m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, kitchen	3.1m x 2.6m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, living room	6.8m x 5.1m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, study	4m x 3.3m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, Bedroom 3	3.3m x 3.1m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, toilet	2m x 0.8m
St Hilda's Rectory	Ground floor, hall	2.7m x 1.8m
St Hilda's Rectory	First floor, Bedroom	4.2m x 3.1m
St Hilda's Rectory	First floor, Bedroom	4.7m x 3.6m
St Hilda's Rectory	First floor, bathroom	2.4m x 1.6m
St Hilda's Rectory	Loft	6m x c.2.8m

Table 1 Summary table of individual room/feature dimensions

#### *St Hilda's Church exterior*

3.1.2 St Hilda's Church is a single storey structure with an asymmetrical pitched zinc alloy roof. The walls are brick-built with a heavy coating of grey pebble-dash render on the exterior. The east elevation incorporates the main entrance doorway and windows that light the baptistery (Plate 1). A commemorative plaque laid by Kenneth Carey, Bishop of Edinburgh on July 25th 1965 is also present on the corner of the south-facing elevation (Plate 2). The south elevation is buttressed with windows lighting the nave (Plate 3 & 7). The north elevation also has buttresses and an outshot building (robe room) with a cat-slide roof. The east-facing elevation incorporates three small windows that light the chapel (Plate 4).

### *St Hilda's Church interior*

- 3.1.3 The interior of St Hilda's Church is open plan with a sliding door forming a temporary division between the nave and baptistry (Plate 5). The baptistry font is situated at its centre (Plate 6). A doorway on the west elevation of the nave leads to the robe room. On the south wall, a doorway leads to the sacristy where a doorway leads to the chapel. The walls of the nave and chapel have white-painted walls and are lit on the east elevation by lancet windows (Plate 7). Two rows of pews constructed from plywood occupy the nave floor. A brass alter rail enclosed the altar that is raised on a dias at the south end of the nave (Plate 8). The altar is constructed of sandstone blocks (Plate 9). The wall behind the altar has a crucifix and a mural of Christ and his disciples depicted in simple line-form (Plate 10). The chapel is accessed through the sacristy and has plain white-painted walls and a small altar with tabernacle at its south end (Plate 11).

### *Church Rectory*

- 3.1.4 The rectory occupies a rectangular layout plan. On the ground floor an L-shaped living and dining room are present at the west end. The kitchen, stairs and hallway occupy the middle part of the ground floor and a study and bedroom are present on the east side of the building. Two bedrooms are present on the first floor. Due to the shape of the asymmetric roof configuration, the east side of the first floor has a large area of loft space used as a storage area. The bathroom leads off the landing and hallway. The two storey rectory has been fully modernized since its construction. There are no 1965 period features present within the building. All the walls are lined with plaster-board and all fixtures and fittings are modern. The main entrance is situated on the south-facing elevation (Plate 12). This elevation also includes an outshot chimney for the living room and bedroom and bathroom windows on the first floor. The east-facing elevation is plain with two windows lighting the study and a bedroom (Plate 13).

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The photographic survey has adequately recorded the architectural character of the building and its form and layout have been described.
- 4.2 In accordance with the terms of the WSI approved by the CECAS the survey has now been completed. An online OASIS entry and submission to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland will be made to disseminate the results (Appendix 2).

## **5. REFERENCE**

English Heritage 2006 English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording Practice*. London.

Bishops Notices Archive, Diocese of Edinburgh, Number 144, 25th May 2007.  
[www.dioceseofedinburgh.org/html/bishop\\_s\\_notices\\_archive.html](http://www.dioceseofedinburgh.org/html/bishop_s_notices_archive.html)

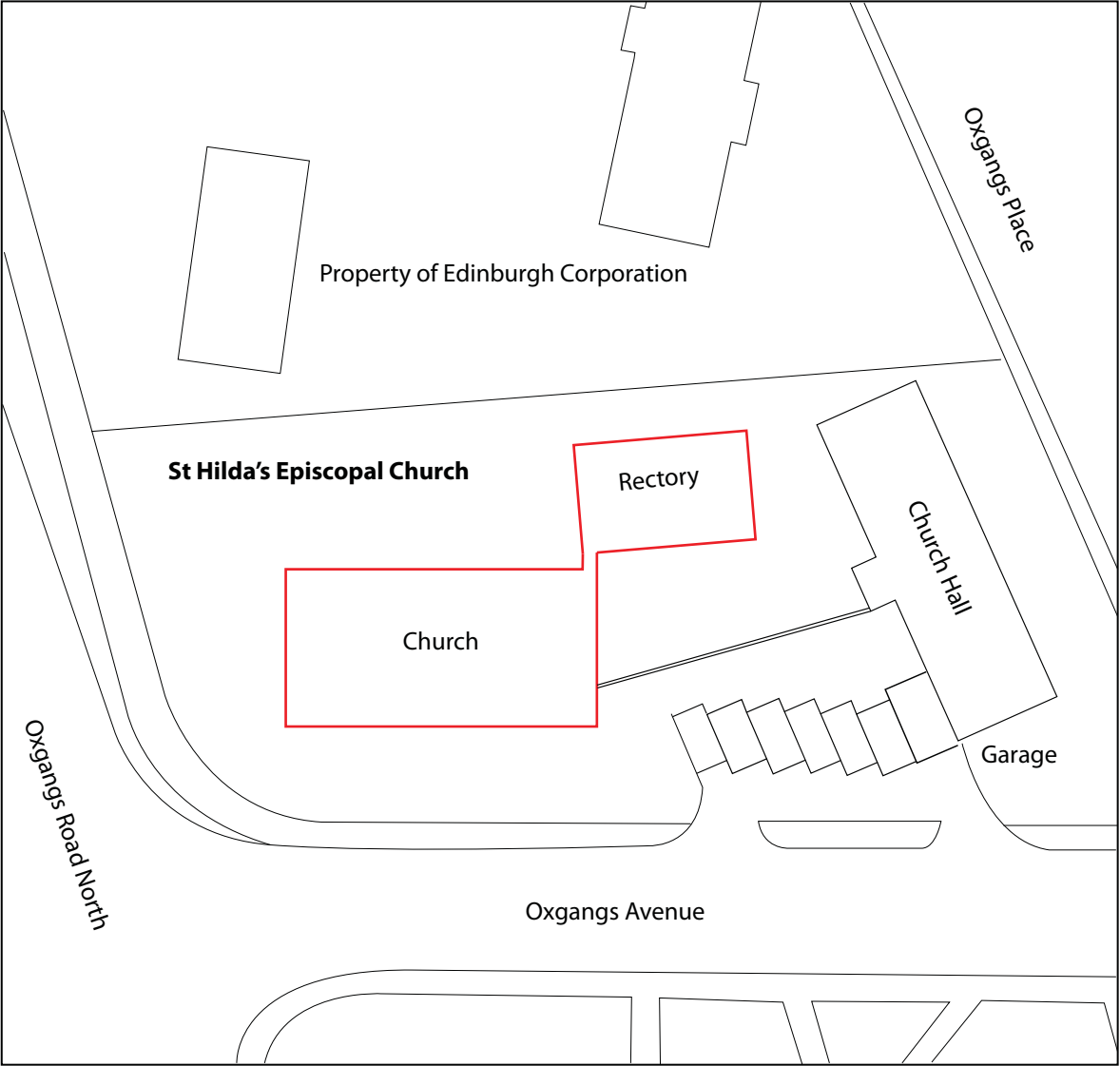
## Appendix 1: Digital Photographic Record

Image	Location	Detail	Taken from
1-2	Rectory	General shot of the hall and stairs	N
3-4	Rectory	General shot of the main hallway	N
5	Rectory	Ground floor toilet	N
6	Rectory	Ground floor toilet and w. h. basin	E
7-8	Rectory	General shot of the living room	NW
9	Rectory	General shot of the living room	SW
10-12	Rectory	General shot of the study	E
13-14	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 3	E & W
15	Rectory	General shot looking up the stair	S
16	Rectory	First floor landing	S
17	Rectory	General shot of first floor bathroom	N
18	Rectory	Loft doorway	W
19	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 1	E
20	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 1	W
21	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 1 window	N
22	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 2	S
23	Rectory	General shot of Bedroom 2	E
24	Rectory	General shot of emersion heater tank	NW
25	Rectory	General shot of loft space	S
26	Rectory	General shot of loft space	N
27-28	Rectory	General shots of ground floor kitchen	E & W
29	Church interior	Passage to the church from rectory	N
30	Church interior	Baptistery vestibule	N
31-32	Church interior	General shot of the font	W
33	Church interior	General shot of the font	W
34	Church interior	General shot of the font	NE
35-36	Church interior	General shot of the baptistery	S
37-38	Church interior	Nave, general shot of lancet window	W
39-40	Church interior	Nave, east facing wall with blind window	E
41-44	Church interior	North-facing alter and mural detail	N
45-46	Church interior	Mural detail above the alter	N
47-48	Church interior	General shot of the chapel	E
49	Church interior	General shot of the chapel alter	E
50	Church interior	Detail shot of the chapel alter tabernacle	W
51	Church interior	West facing chapel wall with re-used stone	W
52-53	Church interior	Door to sacristy	E
54-56	Church interior	General interior shots of the sacristy	N & E
57-58	Church interior	General shots of the robe room	E & W
59	Church interior	Cupboard in baptistery	N
60-61	Church interior	Main entrance vestibule	N
62	Church interior	General shot of the disabled toilet	S
63	Church interior	General shot of the kitchen	E
64-65	Church interior	General shot of the nave pews	N & E
66-67	Church interior	Tracery on east-facing church wall	E
68-74	Church exterior	North-facing elevation and garden	N
75-77	Rectory exterior	West facing elevation	W
78-79	Church exterior	East-facing elevation and garden	E
80-81	Rectory exterior	South-facing elevation	S
82-83	Rectory exterior	East-facing elevation	E
84-86	Rectory exterior	North-facing elevation	N

87	Church exterior	South-east facing elevation	SE
88-89	Church exterior	South facing elevation, commemoration plaque	S
90-91	Church exterior	North- west corner of the south-facing elevation	S
92-93	Church exterior	South-facing elevation, window detail	S
94-97	Church exterior	East-facing elevation	E
98-99	Church exterior	North-facing elevation	N
100-101	Church exterior	Boundary wall between the garden and church north gable	E
102-104	Church exterior	South-facing elevation	S
105	Church exterior	North-facing elevation	N

## APPENDIX 2: DES ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxfangs Avenue, Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HILD
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Dr M Cressey
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Historic Building Survey
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Parish Church
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2332 6910
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	December 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	December 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>A Level 1 photographic survey was conducted at St Hilda's Church and Rectory, 1A Oxfangs Road, Edinburgh. The building is to be demolished to make way for social housing. The church and rectory were built in 1965 and are modernistic in design. The rectory interior has been modernised and there are no period features from the 1960s present. The two-storey rectory has a rectangular plan with asymmetric zinc roof. The ground floor has a large living room with study, kitchen and bedroom. The first floor has two bedrooms and a bathroom.</p> <p>A passage on the ground floor connects the rectory with the church. The church is single storey and open plan with an asymmetric pitched roof. A baptistery is present at the north end of the nave. At the south, a simple altar is overlooked by a mural of Christ and his disciples. A door at the south-west corner of the nave leads into the sacristy and chapel. The latter has plain white walls and a small altar at the east end.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Dunedin Canmore Housing Association
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	mressey@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Survey reports lodged with NMRS and SMR. Archive to be deposited with NMRS.



Key:



Fig. No: 1	Revision: A	Client: Hackland Dore Architects for Dunedin Canmore Housing Association
Title: Location Map showing St Hilda's Episcopal Church		
Project: St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxgangs Avenue, Edinburgh Standing Building Survey		


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Fig. No: 2

Revision: A

Title:

St Hilda's Church,  
Ground Floor Plan

Project:

St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxfords  
Avenue, Edinburgh  
Standing Building Survey

Scale:

1:100 @A3

Client:

Hackland Dore Architects for Dunedin  
Canmore Housing Association

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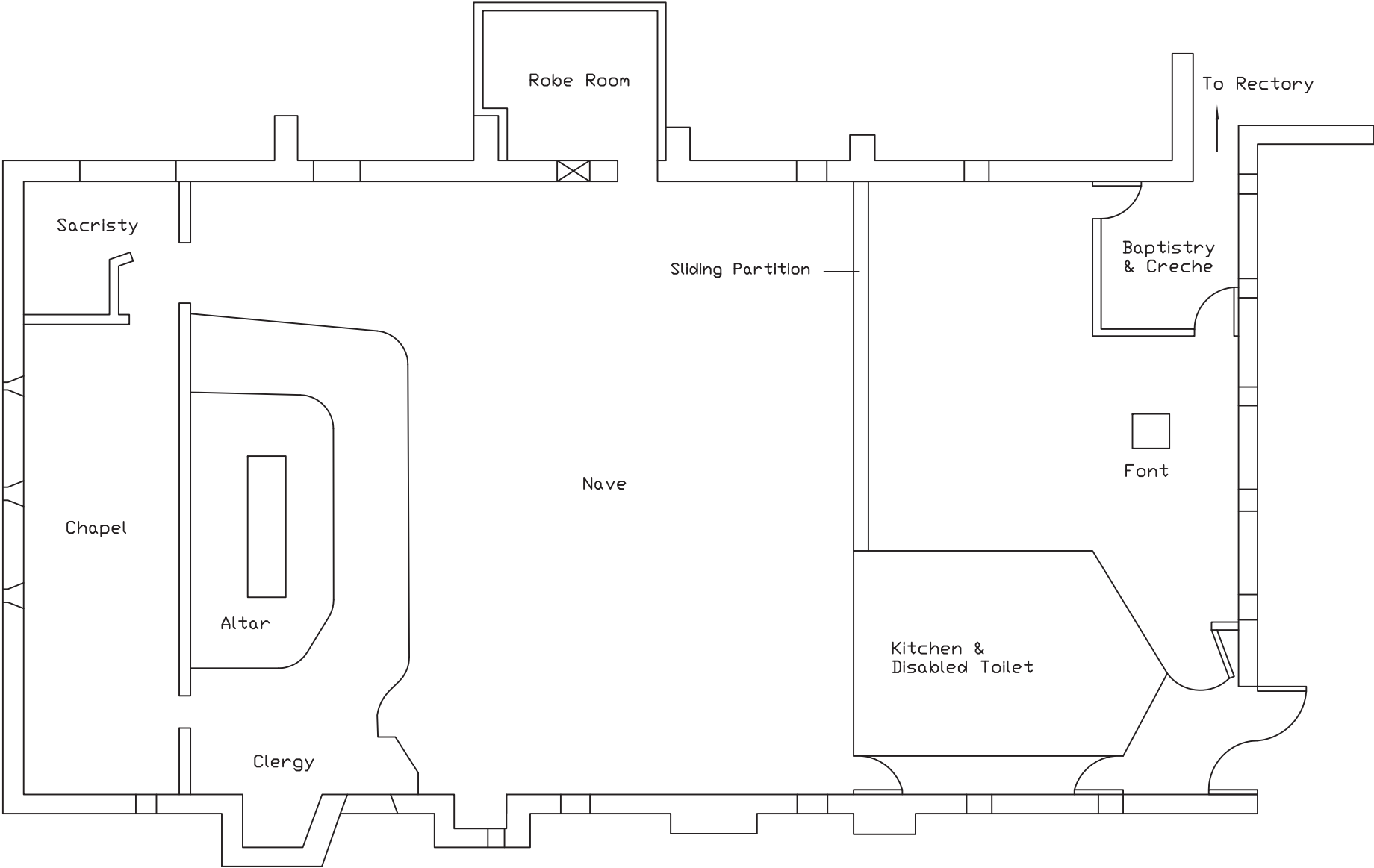


Fig 2 - Floor Plan of St Hilda's Church



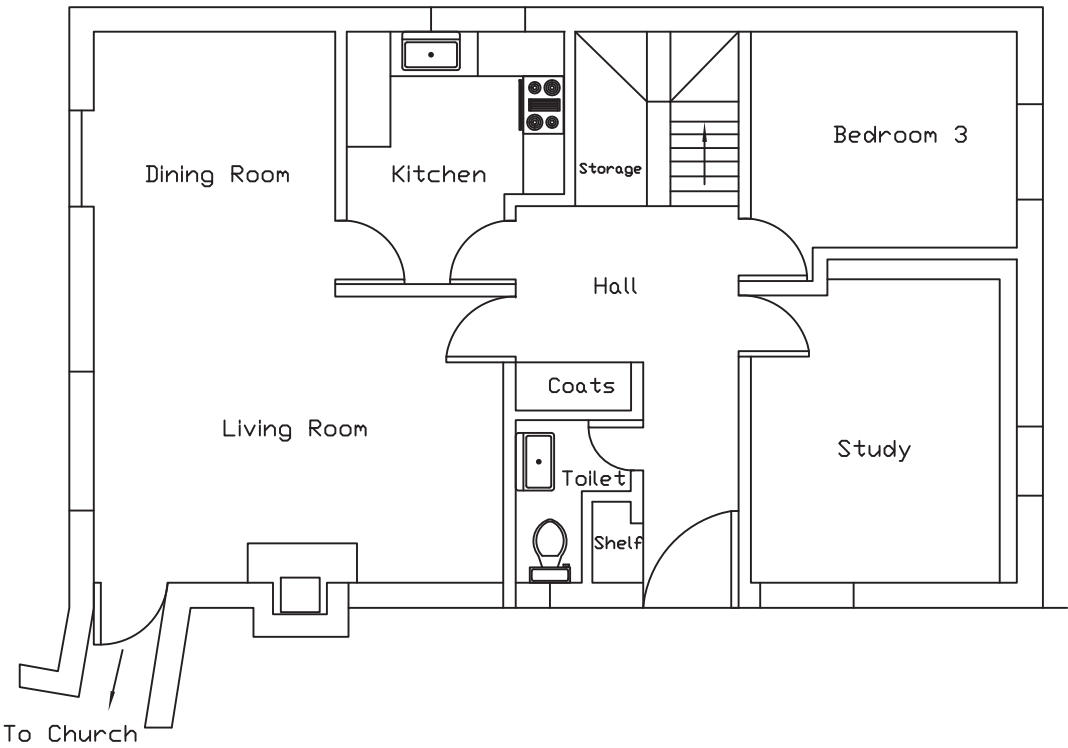


Fig 3a - Ground Floor Plan

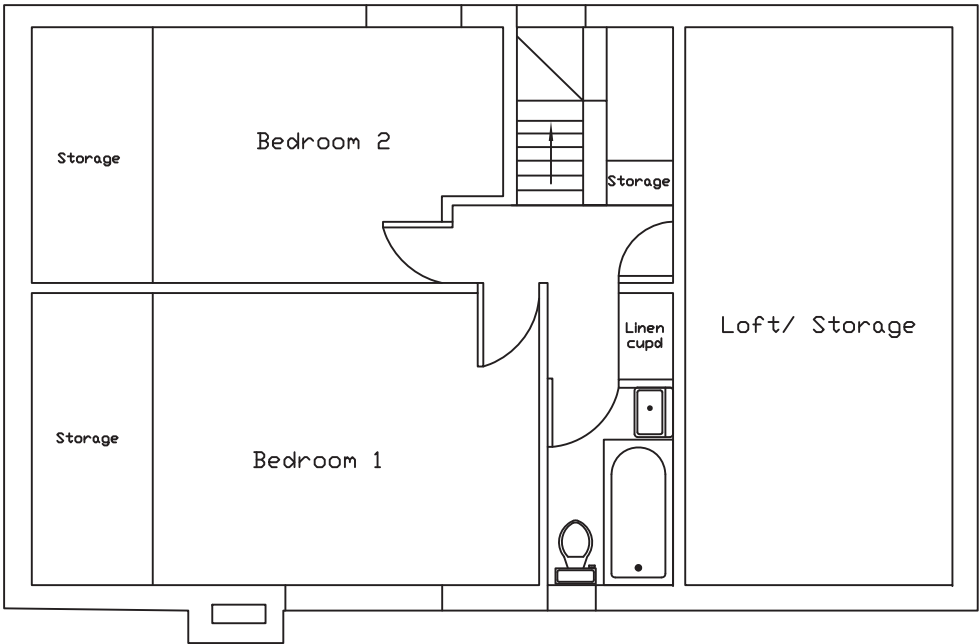


Fig 3b - First Floor Plan





Plate 1 - South-east corner of St Hilda's Church



Plate 2 - Commemoration plaque on the south-east corner of the church



Plate 3 - South-west facing elevation of the church



Plate 4 - East-facing elevation of the church



Plate 5 - Interior view of St Hilda's Church baptistry



Plate 6 - Close-up of the font

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Client:

Hackland Dore Architects for Dunedin Canmore Housing Association

Title:

Plates 1-6

Project:

St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxfangs Avenue, Edinburgh Standing Building Survey



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Plate 7 - Window on the nave wall



Plate 8 - Nave and altar



Plate 9 - Altar detail

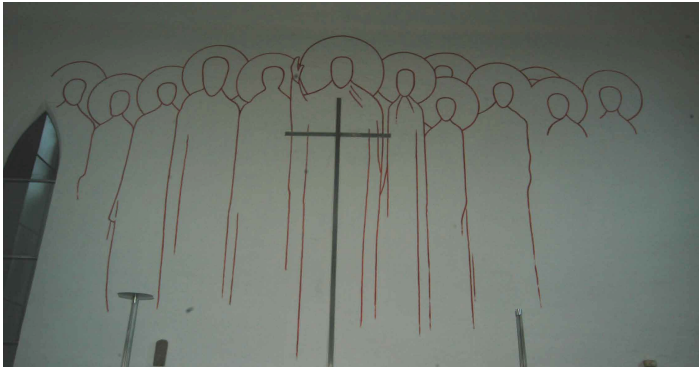


Plate 10 - Mural behind the altar



Plate 11 - St Hilda's chapel



Plate 12 - St Hilda's Rectory, South-facing elevation



Plate 13 - St Hilda's Rectory, East-facing elevation

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Client:

Hackland Dore Architects for Dunedin  
Canmore Housing Association

Title:

Plates 7-13

Project:

St Hilda's Church, 1A Oxfangs Avenue, Edinburgh  
Standing Building Survey



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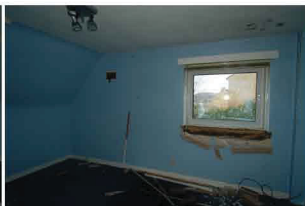
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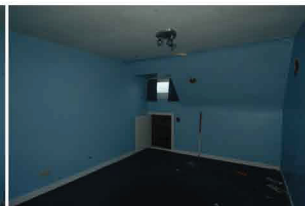
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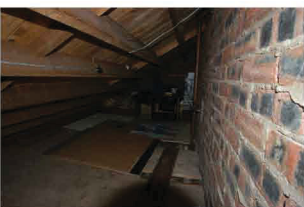
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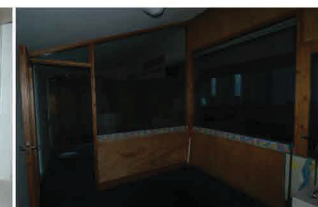
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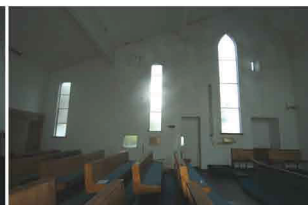
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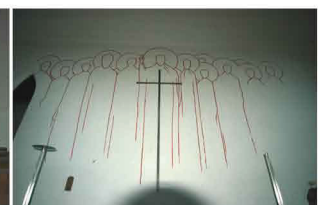
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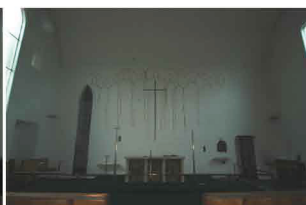
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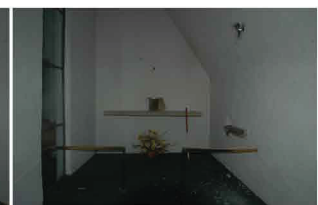
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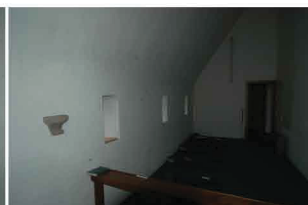
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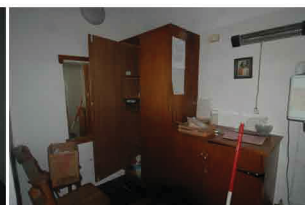
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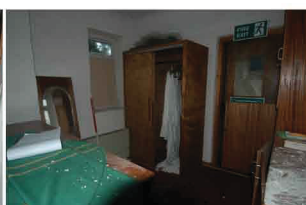
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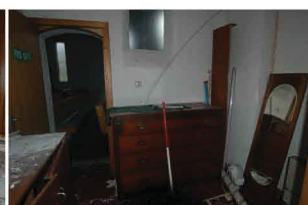
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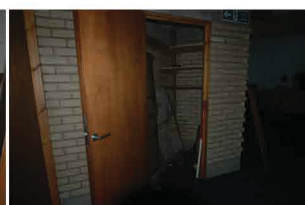
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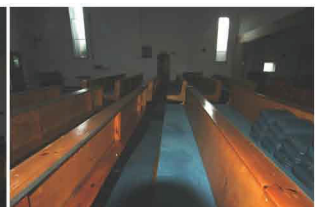
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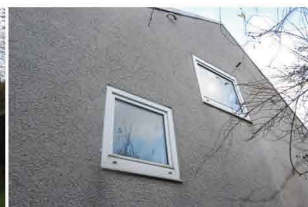
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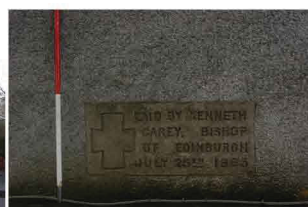
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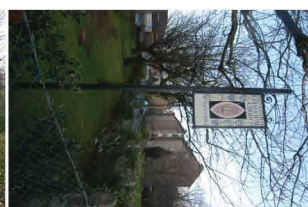
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