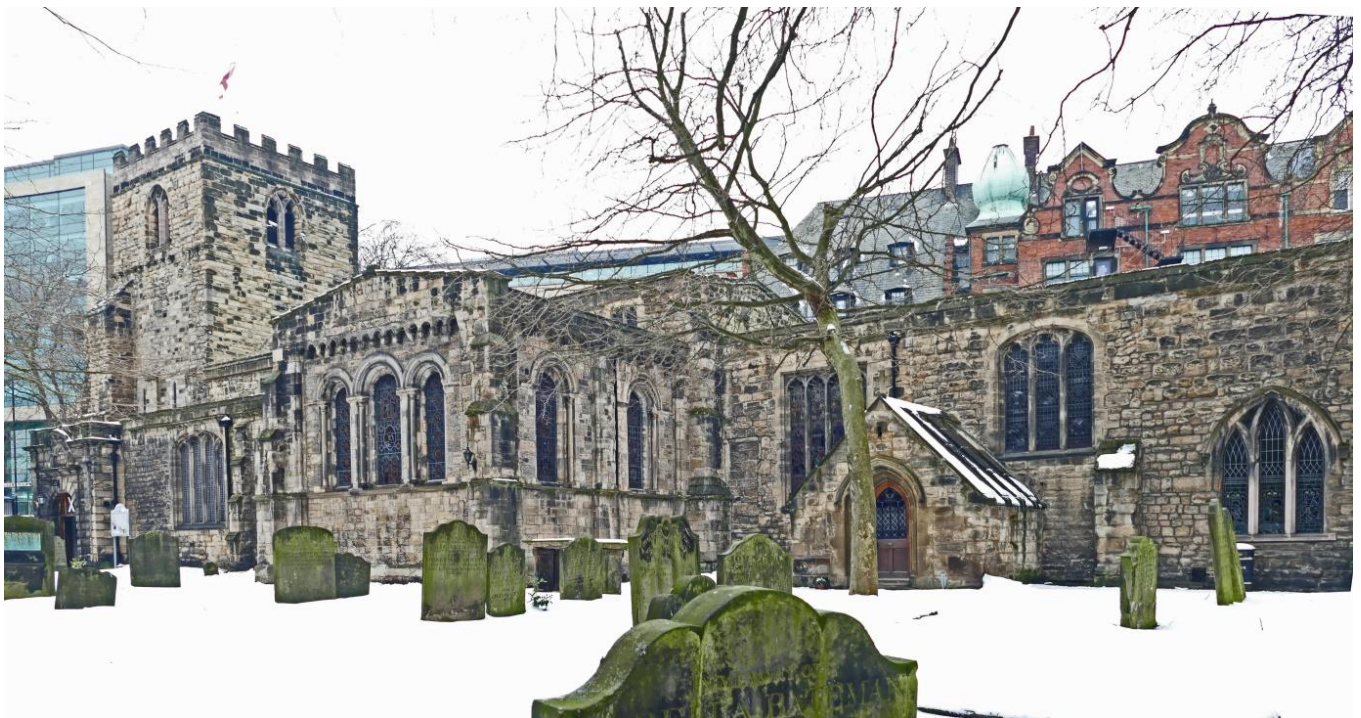


St Andrew's Church

Newcastle

An Archaeological Assessment

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The Tower from the WestSouth-East View

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The Tower from the West

smaller buttresses in the middle of each side wall, and towards the east end of each side wall. There is an original chamfered plinth at the base of the tower exposed on south and west, and a string-course, chamfered above and below, between the first and second stages; otherwise the tower rises unbroken to a

course of shaped corbels which may have carried the parapet before the present belfry was added. The south-western buttress, which is in much larger coursed stone than the original wall, has a broader chamfered plinth at slightly higher level, and the stair projection (or at least its latest encasing) an irregular series of off-sets at its base whilst the medieval buttress between them has a two-part chamfered plinth, its lower element at the level of the original plinth on the wall behind (now almost buried). The intermediate buttresses and buttress at the east end of the south wall rise to midway up the second stage, whilst the big south-western clasping buttress has various offsets before having its south-west angle bevelled back half way up its upper stage, and a sloping cap below the course of shaped corbels, and the north-western stair projection has a big chamfered offset at around the base of the second stage and a sloping cap half way up the present belfry. There is a string course, chamfered on its lower angle at the base of the parapet, which has older masonry in its lower courses but is largely in a relatively-recent light grey fabric, with an embattled parapet that has a moulded coping.

Looking at the individual details of each face of the tower, starting off on the west there is a simple two-centred doorway on the south of the medieval buttress, with an eroded narrow chamfer at least to its jambs, and an old square-headed window north of the buttress of two ogee-headed trefoiled lights with pierced spandrels; it may have lost a hoodmould. The adjacent stair projection overlaps the north jamb of the window, and has been chamfered back to clear it. Above the string course there are chamfered lancet windows, their dressings almost entirely recent, set, not symmetrically, on either side of the medieval buttress, then above the head of the buttress the outline of a broad opening, either round-arched or slightly pointed (its actual apex is concealed by re-facing), to the original belfry. It has had shafted jambs, the capitals of which remain visible, and at the same level a string course that was carried over the head of the opening as a hoodmould. There is a plain square-headed loop set in its blocking. The present belfry openings (on all four sides of the tower) have two-centred arches, with double-chamfered surrounds (now very eroded) and Y-tracery of two trefoiled ogee-headed lights.

The lower stage of the north-west stair projection has been re-faced in close-jointed coursed stone, but earlier fabric survives above the first chamfered setback; there are upright loops in the west face, one just below the level of the first-floor string and the other at the level of the original belfry opening.

On the north side of the tower there is a shallow square offset at the base of the stair turret, and its diagonal buttress: there is a medial buttress (as on the south and west), and a broad pilaster buttress towards the east end of the wall, carried up to the level of the early belfry. The stringcourse is carried round both buttresses; immediately above it, and to the east of the medial buttress is a

lancet window, with another higher (the northern opening of the original belfry) set a little further to the west, both with recent dressings of grey ashlar. The eastern buttress has an off-set just above the level of the head of the medial one, the off-set being continued along the short length of tower wall to the east (above the west wall of the north aisle). Details of the corbel course, belfry and parapet are as on the other sides of the tower.

On the south side of the tower the medial buttress (which is actually set quite close to the big south-western clasping buttress (but may have been central before the latter was enlarged) and the buttress towards the east end of the wall both rise to sloped tops at around the level of the top of the nave clerestory, although there is a clear scar above the top of the latter indicating that it has once continued as high as its counterpart on the north wall. Little remains of the earliest phase of fabric as there has been extensive re-facing; the lower stage, to the east of the medial buttress, shows original wall at its base, then later quite thinly-coursed squared stone, with a pecked tooling, of no great age, and finally a panel of larger coursed stone, almost black in colour. In the narrow space west of the buttress is a lancet window, in recent grey ashlar. Above the string course (entirely renewed on this side of the tower) the wall is almost totally refaced; there are the merest traces of the arched head of the opening of the early belfry. Above the corbel table the belfry and parapet are as on the other sides of the tower.

The east side of the tower, above the nave roof, seems to have been largely refaced as well; below the present belfry the only features are a square-headed doorway opening out onto the roof, that has a chamfered surround and upright blocks in its jambs and is perhaps of 18th century date, set a little south of centre beneath the tabling of a steeply-pitched gabled roof (the lower part of which can be seen inside, beneath the present roof). The re-facing here may go with the present belfry, as only on this side of the tower the earlier corbel table is absent; the visible roof tabling shows the re-facing is of some antiquity, as one of the earliest illustrations of the building (1723) shows a low-pitched roof to the nave.

The west wall of the South Aisle is in two parts. The northern third, set back slightly, has old masonry of small squared stone towards its base, and a small blocked square-headed window; its upper part is re-faced in the larger more elongate blocks of fawn sandstone ashlar of the southern part of the wall (the west side of the porch). A string-course, hollow-chamfered below, extends across both parts, but is broken in the northern part by a larger blocked window, also square-headed, with a chamfer to its lintel only. The wall has a coping and a moulded parapet which slopes, then c 1.5 m short of the south end steps down to a final horizontal section representing the projection of the porch beyond the south wall of the aisle.

The south side of the porch (right) is all in ashlar with channelled rustication, and is a Baroque composition of 1726; pilasters with moulded caps flank a raised panel with a keyed hollow-chamfered round arch that has a nowy-headed niche above its cornice, flanked by scroll brackets, breaking up into the parapet. Set back to the east are two bays of the south wall of the aisle, divided by a stepped buttress. There is no exposed plinth, and the walling includes quite a lot of coursed almost square stones, probably re-used as the lower courses are of more elongate blocks. Each bay has a renewed window of four stepped trefoil-headed lights under a three-centred arch, in a chamfered surround without any hoodmould; above is a string course, hollow-chamfered below, at the base of the parapet (in part old) which has a moulded coping.



The **North Aisle** is built of squared and coursed stone, the earlier smaller well-squared fabric only appearing in the southern half of its west wall. The wall which has a shallow applied plinth, of no great age, and a large window is of five trefoiled ogee lights with panel tracery of cusped sub-lights above, under a hollow-chamfered three-centred arch and a casement-moulded hood with turned-back ends, all its stonework restoration.

At the north-west angle of the aisle is a stepped diagonal buttress, of old masonry, and similar and apparently contemporary buttresses articulate the north wall into four bays. At the foot of the wall (there is no continuous plinth; one buttress has a chamfered one and the other a square step) there is a metre or so of rough stonework, clearly not intended to be exposed; this is the same further east on the north side of Trinity Chapel, although between them the north transept has a chamfered plinth at the present ground level. The obvious interpretation of this is that the transept was built when the ground was at its present level, and the aisle and chapel when it was at a higher level (ie raised by upcast from the creation of the adjacent Town Wall), which has since been lowered again.

The western bay has an early-20th century doorway with a shallow three-centred arch in a moulded surround; it cuts away the eastern half of an older opening, probably a window (as it has a chamfered sill, and just seems too low to have been a doorway), which seems to have had a Tudor or three-centred head, the remaining western half of which has been opened up as a window. The next

three bays have windows of four stepped trefoil-headed lights beneath three-centred arches, and there is an oversailing hollow-chamfered course at the base of the parapet, which is all renewed; there is a small outbuilding in front of the lower wall of the easternmost bay.



The church from the north-east; note different levels of footings

The **South Transept** was rebuilt in 1844, in a neo-Romanesque style, by John Dobson. It is constructed of squared roughly tooled stone, and has a chamfered plinth and a string course, chamfered above and below, below the windows. The windows – two on the east and a slightly-stepped triplet on the south - have jambs with shafts and simple capitals, set in recesses with shafted sides and a round-arched corbel table above; there is a narrower recessed panel, without a window, in the short west wall. In addition there are stepped clasping buttresses at the angles. The shallow-pitched southern gable has a coping of overlapped slabs (chamfered on their lower edge) and the side walls have a parapet with a moulded coping.

The **North Transept** now only projects slightly from the aisle on the west and Trinity Chapel on the east; its walls are of coursed stone, and lower down in particular have a lot of almost square blocks. It has a plain chamfered plinth, and a stepped buttress at each end of the wall¹, and a window of three stepped lancets, the spandrels open, under a two-centred arch that has a hoodmould with

¹¹ Honeyman (1940) 1218, footnote 30, states that the bases of the buttresses ‘seem to be in part built of tombstones or crosses’ but now evidence of these seems now to be visible.

shaped stops; its dressings are all renewed. At the level of the head of the window there seems to have been a moulded string (a short section of which remains at the north-east corner and on the short east return), although any evidence to it west of the window head has been lost through refacing; the upper part of the very shallow gable is all of stone with a pecked tooling, probably 19th century, as is the coping of overlapping slabs. The west wall is of similar squared stone, and has one elongate block, possibly a lintel, directly above the roof of the adjacent outbuilding.

The single-bay **Trinity Chapel** is set in the angle between the North Transept and the Chancel. It is built of quite large coursed squared stones, and has a two-part chamfered and moulded plinth (above exposed rough sub-plinth masonry), a moulded string at window sill level, a gable-topped diagonal buttress at the north-east corner, and a moulded string at the base of the parapet, which is in recent ashlar, with a moulded coping. On the north there is a window of four stepped trefoiled lights under an elliptical arch, mostly in old stone, and on the east an interesting window (right) of three trefoiled lights with a big five-lobed panel in the head, under a moulded hood; its stonework has been restored but is thought to replicate the original. The moulded



string below its sill is cut short beneath the centre light; the central section of the (renewed) parapet steps up and carries a cross fleury finial.

The **Chancel**. In the angle between the chancel and the south transept is a large eastward-facing stepped buttress of 19th century character (on the line of the south wall of the nave) which has a big sloping set-back on both south and east faces directly above a continuation of the transept string course. The western bay of the chancel has a blocked square-headed window with a surround of fairly rough stones, its west jamb overbuilt by this buttresses, with above and similarly partly concealed a smaller square-headed window with a chamfered surround. East of these is a large window, again square-headed, of four cinquefoiled ogee-headed lights, in a hollow-chamfered surround, all its dressings relatively recent. East of this, above the western roof slope of the projecting porch/vestry, are a pair of ragged vertical joints, perhaps the scar of a removed buttress. Above the eastern slope of its roof is a three-light window, its sill at a higher level, of three stepped cinquefoiled lights under a three-centred arch, again all of 19th century date in its present form; to the east of its head is an odd patch of fairly rough rubble..

Lower down and immediately east of the porch/vestry is a blocked doorway with a flattened ogival head, probably of late 17th century date, that carries a weathered incised inscription, recorded in the 19th century as ‘John Reaflei John Story Thos: Musgrave Church Wardens’² but now only partly legible. Then comes a stepped buttress that now only rises to a sloped top at a little under half the height of the wall, although a continuing straight joint above its east side suggests it once went higher. Beyond the buttress the easternmost bay has a three-light window, set quite low in the wall, with three lancet lights, the spandrels open, under a two-centred arch; there is a moulded hood with a head stop to the east and a plain block, presumably unfinished, to the east. The surround of the window looks 19th century in its present form, but the mullions are more recent restoration. The wall is of coursed squared stone (with larger and presumably later stones above the window head) with a course of larger blocks c 2 m above the ground to the west of the window. At the east end of the wall is quite a slender stepped buttress which rises the full height of the wall, which is topped by a very weathered moulded string and a parapet with a moulded coping.

The east end of the chancel is an 1866-7 rebuild, and is of ashlar; close to each end of the wall is a two-stepped buttress rising only to about half height, and between them is a string, chamfered above and below, at the level of the sill of the east window which has three lights with intersecting tracery, under a two-centred arch with a double-chamfered surround and a moulded hood with head stops. The gable has a coping of overlapping slabs, chamfered on the underside, and across fleury finial.

The external face of the north wall of the chancel is all now internal; the short length of old walling exposed between the present vestry and the Trinity Chapel, and showing no features other than a transition between smaller (and presumably earlier) stone below and larger squared blocks above, is a surviving section of the north wall of a north chancel aisle; its lower section is concealed by a modern structure; its upper has a moulded string below the parapet.

The **South Porch/Vestry** of the Chancel is built of large coursed squared stone, and has a gabled south elevation with a two-centred doorway of two casement-moulded orders, and a moulded hood with head stops, which looks all 19th-century restoration; the gable above has a coping chamfered on its underside and a simple Greek cross finial. The west side of the porch is featureless, but the east has a square window with a double-chamfered surround. The roof is of large cut stone slabs, with overhanging eaves.

The present **Vestry** of 1904-5 is attached to the north wall of the chancel, and is built of tooled ashlar with smooth yellower quoins and dressings. There is a big

² Honeyman (1940) 140 dates this to 1685

raised moulded plinth and a moulded string at first-floor level; both floors have three-light windows, the lower square-headed, with elliptical arches to the lights, and the upper with stepped trefoil-headed lights under a three-centred arch; the moulded cornice to the eaves is continued to the north round a slightly taller octagonal stair turret, lit by square-headed loops; to the north of this is a mid-20th century extension in a similar free Gothic style.

The Interior

The **South Porch** has a stone slab floor and a coffered ceiling, and its walls are whitewashed. On the east the upper section of the wall is set forward on a series of simple corbels, above the segmental rear arch of a recess, formerly a window looking out eastward before the south aisle was widened, which has been rebated for a shutter. The inner arch of the porch is round-headed and has a wooden frame, fitted with glazed doors of 1931.

Inside the **Tower** (below, right) there are straight joints in the lower part of the sidewalls very close to the tower arch responds; that on the south rises to c 1 m, that on the north forms the east side of a large infilled socket c 1.5 m above the floor. The south wall has an internal offset about c 30 cm above the floor; the doorway in the west wall has a pointed rear arch which rises considerably higher than the outer opening, and the window alongside a shallow segmental rear arch. In the south wall the lancet window has old jambs and a renewed shouldered rear arch and old jambs, and at the west end of the north wall is a square-headed chamfered doorway to the tower stair. The basement of the tower has at one time had an octopartite vault, clearly an insertion as its surviving chamfered ribs that form two-centred arches adjacent to the wall face now cut across an upper tier of lancet windows (two on south and west and one on the north); the vault springers remain in all four corners. High up at the west end of the south wall, above the inserted vault, is a



blocked square-headed doorway onto the tower stair, which must have given access to a gallery. The front face of its lintel seems to bear some sort of incised design, but really needs a long ladder or scaffolding to examine. Just above this the ceiling of the lower stage of the tower is carried by four east-west beams, two against the side walls.

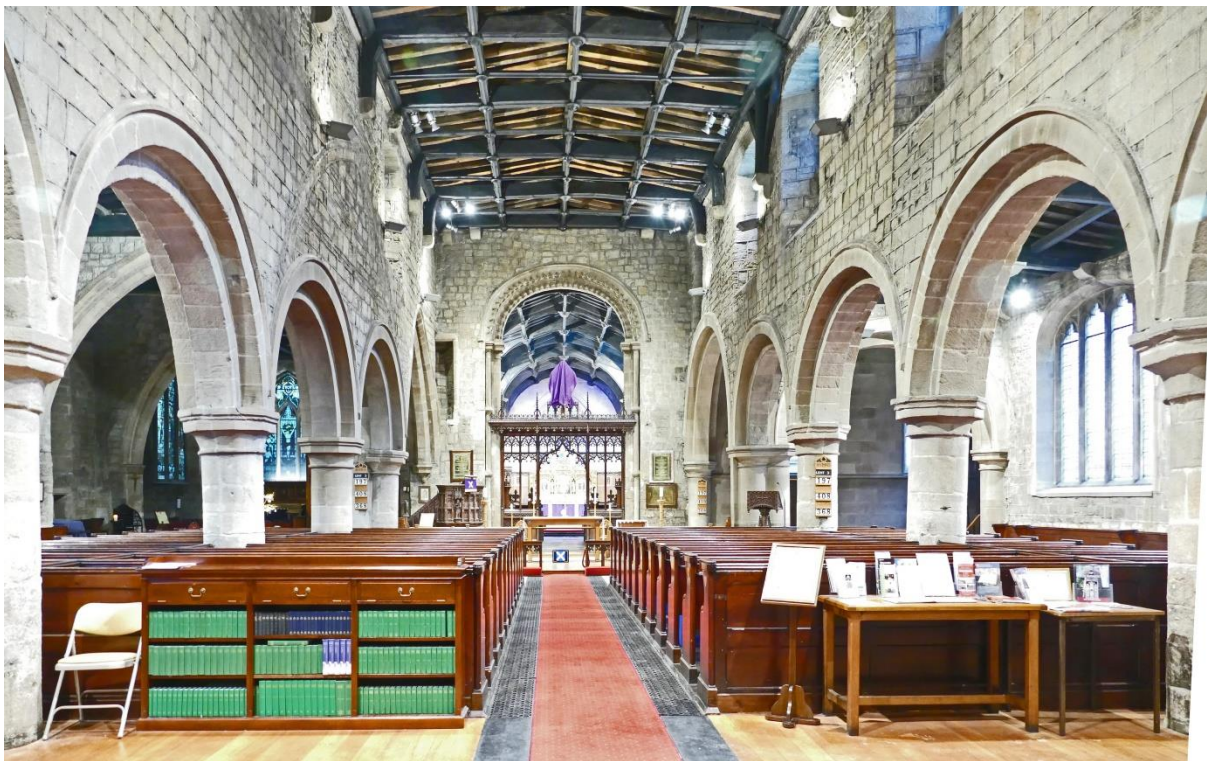
The newel stair rises in the north-west corner of the tower; a few steps above its base there is the splayed recess of a loop facing west, its outer opening blocked and concealed externally by the later re-facing of the turret. Further up the doorway to the former gallery, infilled on this side with old brick, also forms a recess, and then comes a square-headed doorway into the upper chamber; the door enters c 1.5 m above the floor, which is reached down a short timber stair.

The walls of the upper chamber (the original belfry) show a number of somewhat perplexing features; the north and south are of comparatively clean stone, the east and west have considerable remains of plaster (perhaps soot-blackened), the former from floor level up to a little over half height (the level of a former floor, and the level at which there is a clear fabric change to more elongate blocks) and the latter from c 1.5 m above the floor to the same level. Similar two-centred rear arches are visible to the openings on north, west and south, although the northern (the only one which remains open) has a much broader splay as it is a single lancet window whereas the south and west seems to have been broader belfry openings. In the centre of the east wall is a plain square-headed doorway now opening out on the nave roof, with a peculiar curving line in the plaster above which is difficult to explain. In the west there are several rough sockets that may relate to the frames for the bells when they were set at this level and on the north a blocked square-headed door from the stair, serving the former upper chamber.

The ceiling of the chamber is of old north-south beams carried on two heavy east-west beams, additionally supported by long straight braces springing from the side walls at around mid-height, a little below the level of a single central east-west beam which may relate to the earlier floor, although does not look of great age. There are also a pair of long braces that spring from the north and south walls – on the north from an ashlar corbel forming part of the inner west jamb of the lancet window and on the south from the sill of the blocked former belfry opening.

The stair (initially very steep) continues up to the present belfry, where since 1966 the six bells have been hung from concrete beams – one bell wheel from the former frames is preserved at the Base of the tower. The head of the stair has a rough dome of old brick, and similar brick is used in what may be a repair to the internal head of the western belfry opening. The tower roof is now a concrete slab, with a ladder and trapdoor at the south-west corner.

The west wall of the **Nave** has a broad arch to the tower of two-centred form, of two chamfered orders with big broach stops to the inner, springing from semi-octagonal responds with moulded caps and holdwater mouldings to bases. This is clearly an insertion into earlier fabric, the well-coursed stonework with many almost square stones typical of 12th century work, although around the head of the arch it has been roughly hacked as if to key in plaster. A little above the top of the arch there is a string course, chamfered below, forming the base of a set-back of c 0.5 m. A little above this, in good smooth-faced 12th century fabric, there is an early window, now looking into the tower. A roof tie-beam set adjacent to the wall conceals the apex of its rear arch; the outer face of the opening, the head of which appears just above floor level in the tower's upper chamber, seems to have a pointed rather than semicircular arch. On either side of the window, corbels carry wall posts supporting the tie beam a little short of each end, and between the posts and the side walls the ends of the tabling of the steeply-gabled roof also seen externally are visible.



The side walls of the **Nave** (above, looking east) are of coursed stone, good-quality diagonally-tooled 'cubicular' masonry of 12th century character up to a level a little above the arcades, then larger more elongate blocks in the upper walls. Each arcade is of four bays, with a broader and taller fifth arch to the east opening into the transepts. The four-bay sections each have round arches of two square orders, with a hoodmould, chamfered below, to the nave, carried on circular piers and semicircular western responds that have moulded octagonal capitals and bases with 'holdwater' mouldings, although those of the north arcade piers are concealed by the present floor. The fourth pier (from the west)

seems 19th century, as is the broader arch to the transept, although in detail this copies the others; on the north the third and fourth arches are of copies of 1866-7, having been replaced in 1788-9 by a larger segmental-pointed arch (which remains visible above them, with evidence of a cut-back hoodmould) which opened up the view from the gallery constructed a few years before.

A course above the crowns of the arches of the north arcade is a slight off-set-back, and about six courses higher a clear transition from the 12th century square stones to more elongate blocks contemporary with the present clerestory. Over the third arch are two straight joints, and over the fourth pier a recess formed by the rear arch of a blocked clerestory window, with a shallow segmental head. On the external face of the wall, towards the aisle, there are two string courses, the lower chamfered on its upper face and the upper on its lower. Both have been removed by the large arch which replaced the third and fourth bays of the original arcade, and the lower by the arch into the transept. Over the first two arches there are a series of corbels, below and between the strings.

Above the south arcade there is a slight off-set level with the crowns of the arches rather than a course above, as on the north. Above the second, third and fourth piers of the south arcade remains of early clerestory windows are visible, their heads having been cut away by the present clerestory, which consists of four evenly-spaced openings and a fifth set a little higher near the east end of the wall; these having slightly segmental rear arches except for that of the second from the west, which is almost flat. On the external face of the wall, towards the south aisle, only the lower jambs of the blocked window above the second pier are clearly visible, directly above a square-section string course, which has been cut back over the first and second arches, and over the third pier is interrupted by a corbel. Below it, at approximately the level of the crowns of the arches, are a further pair of corbels, and there are pairs of infilled sockets at the same level over the first and second pier.

In the east wall of the nave the **Chancel Arch** is probably the most striking feature of the church, a somewhat distorted round arch of quite lofty proportions (there have been suggestions that it has been raised). The arch itself has two orders of chevron, and a hood mould chamfered above and below. The inner order is carried on a respond of semicircular plan and the outer on detached jamb shafts, both with stepped-and-chamfered imposts and moulded bases. The jamb shafts each have two fat moulded shaft rings; most of the shafts and rings are probably restoration, but the lower ring of the northern shaft is damaged and looks old. The angle of the outer jamb adjacent to the shafts has a chamfer to its upper third, stopped below the impost and with a broach stop at its base. Alongside the upper portion of the northern respond is the upper doorway of the



The chancel arch

rood stair, square-headed and chamfered round, now simply opening into a

recess of irregular plan; presumably the lower doorway was into Trinity Chapel, and any sign of it is hidden by the organ. In the stair-head recess one of the roof slabs is a re-used medieval cross slab.

At the west end of the **South Aisle** the South Porch forms a re-entrant block at the south-west corner. North of the porch is what was the west wall of the original narrow aisle, in typical 12th century small squared stone. The jambs of a blocked window are visible, with one block at the head of the north jamb bearing the lower part of an incised sword, clearly part of a grave cover. Higher up is a chamfered set-back, then in the upper part of the wall the jambs of a wider and later blocked window.

The south door, opening into the porch, has lost all its external features but retains its near-semicircular rear arch, with a narrow chamfer now partly cut away. The wall above the rear arch is of snecked stone, and perhaps 19th century, but there is a straight joint to the east on the line of the internal face of the east side of the porch; the external face of this wall forms the internal face of the southern part of the staggered west wall of the aisle, but has probably been refaced as there is no sign of the blocked window visible from the porch.

On the south of the aisle the two three-light windows have chamfered rear arches of the same three-centred form as their external heads; there is a straight joint close to the east end of the wall, probably representing the external face of the west wall of the medieval south transept, which is otherwise a Victorian rebuild. The arch between aisle and transept is a round 19th century one of two square orders with a thin hood mould chamfered above and below.

The North Aisle

Within the **North Transept**, on the west there is a two-centred arch of two chamfered orders, carried on the south by a semi-octagonal respond awkwardly built onto the fourth pier of the arcade, and dying into the aisle wall on the north. Above the arch there is a straight joint on the line of the internal face of the aisle wall, and a second, lower down, roughly on the line of its external face. The window in the north wall has broadly-splayed jambs and a segmental-pointed rear arch with a chamfer only to its head; the wall has a set-back of c 20 cm at the level of the springing of the rear arch. Below the eastern half of the window sill are a pair of square aumbries, both rebated all round. On the east of the transept is a broad segmental-pointed arch, again of two chamfered orders, into the Trinity Chapel, carried on jambs of the same section with moulded capitals. Immediately to the north of its north jamb is a straight joint, curving in as if it represents the north jamb of an earlier and smaller arch, with a hint of a

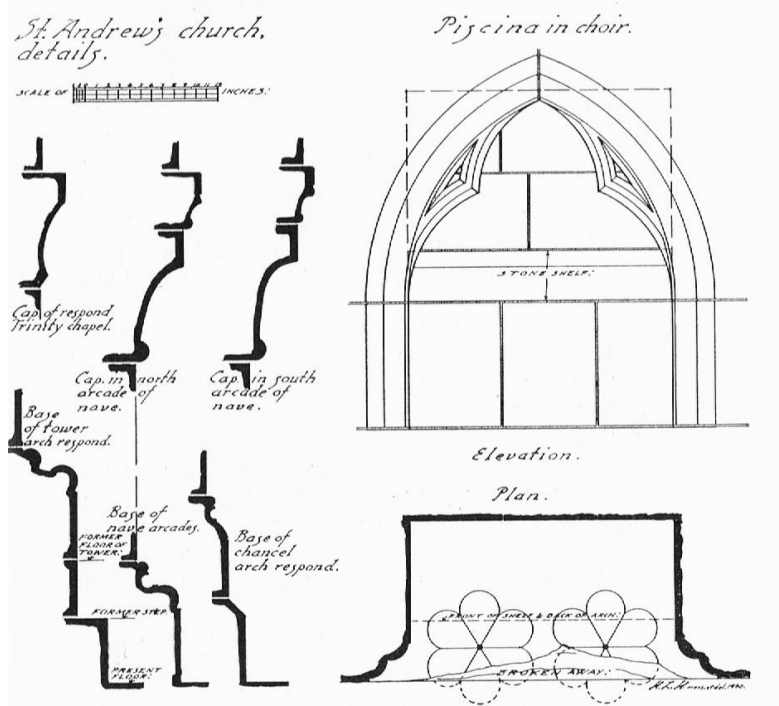
steep diagonal line above that more or less follows the remains of roof tabling on the opposite face of the wall.

The interior of the **South Transept** is all in smooth 19th century ashlar, with roll-moulded surrounds to the windows and a moulded string below their sills.

Towards the **Chancel** the chancel arch is severely plain, the orders square and the jambs without shafts. The internal elevations of the chancel are somewhat obscured by its fittings, the choir stalls in the western part and a tall panelled dado in the sanctuary. Looking at the south wall, from west to east, just to the west of the first window is a straight joint, presumably the east jamb of the former low-side window. The first window, of four lights, has a surround of recent ashlar, and jambs set square to the wall. Further east is the doorway into the Porch/Vestry, of segmental-pointed form with a wooden surround but no real cut dressings; immediately to the west of it there is a small horizontal offset 1.5 m above the floor, which disappears behind the choir stalls. The second window again has a restored ashlar surround, but in this case has splayed rather square jambs. The eastern window seems of older stonework, although probably re-tooled, and has a segmental rear arch and a level sill which serves as a sedile. Alongside it to the east is a good 13th century piscina (below) with a trefoiled two-centred arch, double chamfered and with two damaged quatrefoil bowls and a stone shelf with a moulded front edge and possible traces of some incised design on its upper face.

The north wall of the chancel has a big segmental-pointed arch, of two chamfered orders, opening into the Trinity Chapel³, springing from semi-octagonal responds with very simple moulded capitals; there is an odd recess cut into the base of its eastern respond, and just beyond that what appear to be the jambs of a blocked doorway. Further east an opening in the panelling is the east end of

a squint or hagioscope which runs diagonally through the wall from the present



³ It is actually wider than the Trinity Chapel, overlapping the junction of the chapel with the presumably earlier chancel aisle to the east.

vestry (but originally opened from within the east end of the chancel aisle), and is now glazed at each end.

The east wall of the chancel is all of smooth 19th century ashlar. The east window has an internal hood or label, with carved head stops.

Inside the **South Porch/Vestry** the window in the east wall has hollow-chamfered jambs and a modern sill. The slab roof is carried on three ribs in the form of two-centred arches, each of plain square section.

Roofs

The nave roof is of nine bays, with very plain heavy tie beams, supported by short wall posts carried on stone quadrant shaped corbels; these are set at different levels, so as to clear the clerestorey windows; on the south the corbels on either side of the third window are set lower in the wall, and the eastern has a post with braces to a plate which supports the tie on either side as these are directly over windows. The roof is of very low pitch so its purlins rest directly on the ties and its ridge is carried on a king-block; attached to the soffit of the timbers are the beams of a now-removed coffered ceiling (of 19th century date?) eighteen panels long by four wide, with moulded bosses at their intersections.

The south aisle has a five-bay roof of similar form, without the lower ceiling structure; the ties are carried at their north ends on a wall-plate above the arcade.

The north aisle has a seven-bay roof, and here the inner ends of some of the principals are supported on long shaped timber brackets.

The north transept roof is of three bays and is again of similar form, although here there are horizontal brackets beneath the ties, secured to them by metal straps.

Trinity Chapel has a roof set on one gentle slope continuous the eastern part of the roof of the adjacent transept, of three bays with four purlins, the principal against the north wall being supported by two stone corbels.

The South Transept roof is again of the standard form, and of three bays; it is said to have been re-used from the previous structure at the 1844 rebuilding, and has the framework for a later coffered ceiling surviving, just as in the nave.

The roof of the Chancel is the one medieval survival, and is of six bays with arch-braced trusses, the principals, set at a shallow angle, are supported by wall

posts springing from quadrant corbels, with arch braces; there is a moulded strainer beam set below the ridge, and similar pieces set below the butt purlins, with carved and painted bosses where these intersect the trusses.

Structural History

By far the most authoritative account of the church is Honeyman's 1940 article⁴, which is exemplary in many ways, in particular for his meticulous work tracing post-medieval documentary sources, but has some problems in dealing with the undocumented medieval building history in that the author does not always make it clear what is his conjecture and what is factual.

The earliest architectural features in the building are the chancel arch and the nave arcades. The chancel arch looks to c 1150, but the aisle arcades, despite the simple square section of their orders, have octagonal capitals and 'holdwater' bases more typical of the late 12th century. There might either have been an original aisleless nave to which aisles were added within half a century, or, as Honeyman suggests, the whole building replaced an earlier church, with chancel (and chancel arch) being built first, and then the presumably Saxon or early Norman nave demolished and replaced by an aisled one. It is difficult to choose between these models; the fact that none of the external angles of the nave (where quoins might have been visible if indeed the first phase was without aisles) are accessible, does not help. There is no sign that the arcades are insertions in earlier walls, and the wall fabric – well-coursed quite small stones, often squarish (sometimes termed 'cubicular') are quite typical of the period of the arches below. Honeyman suggested that one grave slab from the church, now lost, was of Pre-Conquest character but this is open to question. A recent excavation near the church yielded occupational deposits that gave a radiocarbon date of c1000, so an early church on the site remains very much a possibility.

One of the first enlargements of the church was the addition of the west tower, which probably took place in the early 13th century. The transepts might have been added at the same time; the surviving north one has shallow buttresses and small square masonry that would be difficult to place much later than this. Honeyman suggests that the north chancel aisle was contemporary with the nave aisles, but nothing remains to prove this, although the one surviving section of its wall does show two phases of masonry. The manner in which the north transept arch cuts through earlier string courses associated with the aisle roof shows that the aisle predates the transept.

⁴ Honeyman, H.L., (1941) The Church of St Andrew, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, *Archaeologia Aeliana* 4th series XIX, 117-170

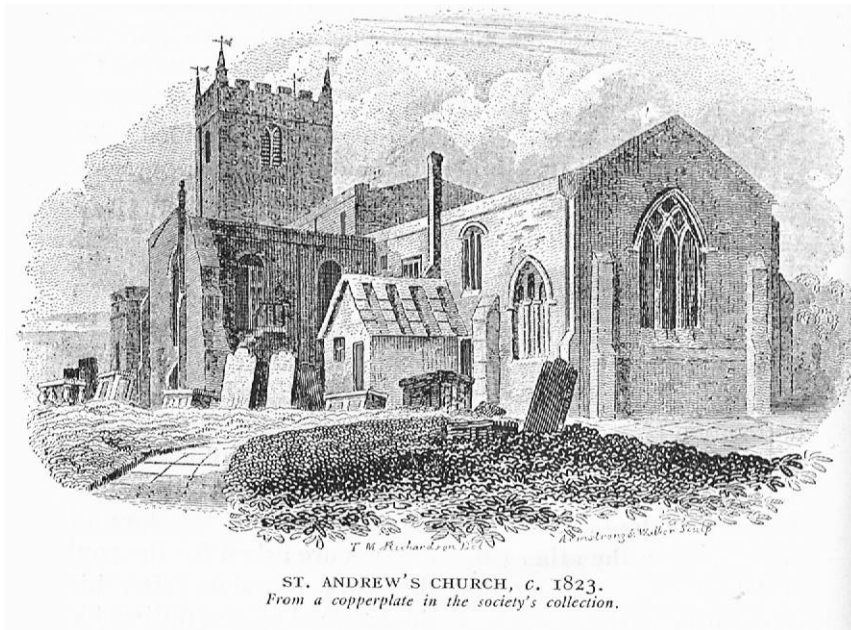
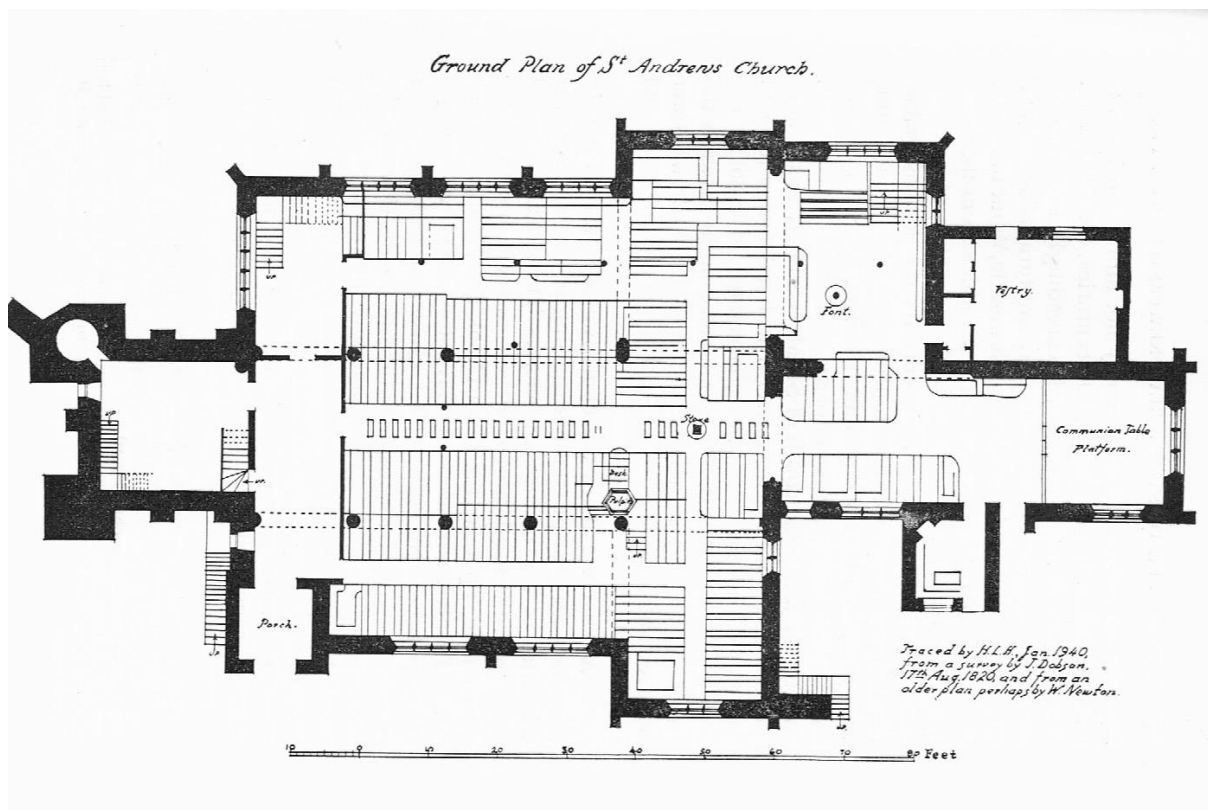


Illustration and Plan of St Andrew's Church in the 1820s (Honeyman 1941)



The first aisles were undoubtedly much narrower than at present, as shown by surviving fabric of both their west walls. Honeyman's reconstruction is that the south transept was built first in the mid-13th century, and the north aisle widened shortly afterwards⁵ and after that its eastern section broadened to form the north transept (which he rather confusingly refers to as an 'aisle/transept'. All this work was done before 1280 when the town wall was built and the ground level raised along the north side of the church. At the very end of the 13th century the chancel was extended and, Honeyman argues, the tower raised by the addition of the present belfry. The next building works, not long after 1300, were the south porches to both nave and chancel and then, c.132-30, the addition of Trinity Chapel seem to be narrow aisles, then transepts (and south porch) followed by the chancel extension (and north transept north window, both c1300) and later still widened aisles and Trinity Chapel, which it clear replaced an earlier and smaller chapel. The south porch of the nave and south porch/vestry of the chancel are both perhaps of 14th century date.

A final medieval phase of alterations took place in the late 14th and 15th century, when the aisles were rebuilt (the north one with its foundations at a new higher level, due to the upcast from the construction of the town wall), The Trinity Chapel and choir aisle were thrown together, (with the construction of new arches to chancel and transept), the chancel was heightened, a new roof loft on the west of the chancel arch replaced an old one to the east, the south porch received an upper story, and lastly the nave was heightened and a new clerestory was constructed. In the late 15th century a new font and font cover were provided, and a vault inserted in the tower.

Post-medieval changes are well documented by Honeyman. It is known that guns were mounted on the church tower during the Civil War siege of 1644, and it is highly likely that the building was damaged; the strengthening of the tower stair turret, and addition of its diagonal buttress, probably took place early in the 18th century. Alterations in 1685 included the insertion of a new priest's door in the chancel, and a new south porch was built in 1726. During the later 18th century a series of galleries were created in the nave and aisles; in 1759 the south aisle roof was altered from a shallow gabled one to a monopitch form, and in 1789 two arches of the north arcade was replaced by a single larger one. The 19th century was, as usual, a century of 'restoration'; in 1834 the chancel was restored and the south end of its south porch/vestry reconstructed, in 1844 John Dobson completely rebuilt the south transept and the nave ceiling was altered, and in 1866-7 the galleries were removed, and the east end of the chancel

⁵ On the basis of old descriptions and illustrations of the transept, which was destroyed in 1844, and the two rows of corbels above the external face of the north arcade which he interprets as evidence of two earlier roofs, and also of the column of masonry adjacent to the north jamb of the arch between aisle and transept, which appears to indicate a thicker aisle wall than the present late 14th/15th century one

rebuilt. Around 1900 the present north door was created in the north aisle, and in 1905 the present vestry rebuilt, replacing a plain late-18th century one.

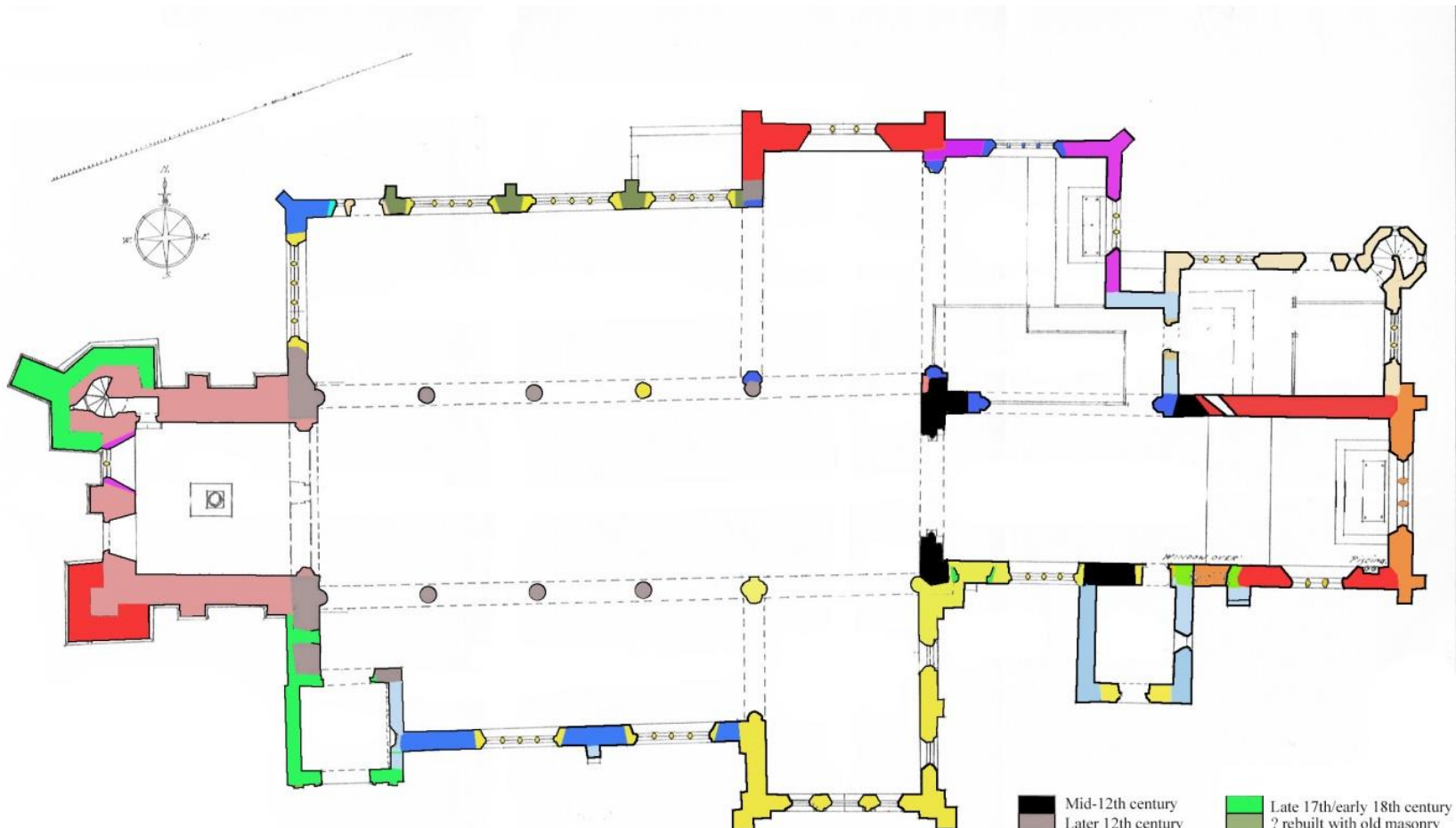
Archaeological Assessment

With its associations with King David and nearby evidence of early settlement, this is clearly a church of considerable historical significance, and has the potential to preserve archaeological material and information of great consequence, both in the below-floor deposits and the standing structure. As outlined above, the building is unusually complex, and its fabric retains a considerable number of unresolved problems, in particular relating to the earliest phases of the building. All wall surfaces are bare of plaster, although in places their fabric is partly obscured unsympathetic modern ribbon pointing: is desirable that a full archaeological record of these walls should be made at some time, preferably in the form of stone-by-stone drawings based on photogrammetry or rectified photography, but this is clearly a long-term project.

Beneath the floor, as usual it is almost impossible to assess the extent of the survival of archaeological material; inevitably a town-centre church like this will be packed with burials, many doubtless in vaults, and floor grilles demonstrate that there is an extensive underfloor heating system of 19th-century and later dates. The floors have probably been relaid several times, although there are many significant ledger stones, and the matrix of the sir Aylmer de Athol brass in the Trinity Chapel

In a church of this importance, any works entailing disturbance of floor level will need to be accompanied by at the least an archaeological watching brief. In the event of any large scale works a preliminary archaeological assessment and investigation may well be necessary.

Peter F Ryder March 2018



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
 NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE
 Phased Plan after H L Honeyman

Scale of 10 20 30 40 50 feet.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mid-12th century | Late 17th/early 18th century |
| Later 12th century | ? rebuilt with old masonry |
| c1200 | 1866 |
| Mid-13th century | Mid 19th century, various |
| c1327 | c1900 |
| Late 14th/15th century | Uncertain |
| 16th century | |

H. L. Honeyman
 1900

Appendix 1. Cross Slab Grave Covers⁶ (Ryder 2002, 89-90, 119-121)

- (1) In the floor of Trinity Chapel, against the north wall. Incised slab. The simple cross has terminals with sharply angular 'buds' between short rounded 'leaves'; semicircular arch base. Mason's (or carpenter's?) square behind and to l. of shaft. Thirteenth century?
- (2) In the chancel floor, north of centre. Slab with incised design; a hammer and three horseshoes, with below them the black letter inscription, now partly eroded. A drawing in Hodges' notebook shows this in better condition, with the inscription as:

Orate pro
aia thome
lygatton

Probably fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

- (3) In the chancel floor, north of centre, immediately west of (2) and opposite the priest's door. Small slab lacking its head; incised design. Cross rising from stepped base, sword on right. 1890 sketch (Blair VII, p.80) shows it in present condition. Not dateable.

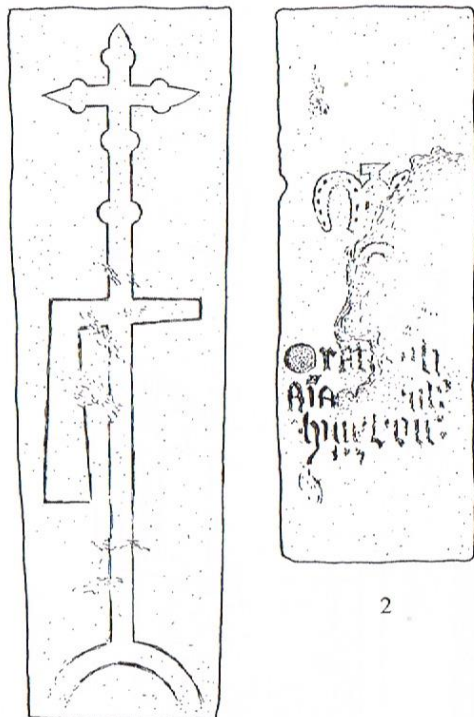
- (4) Re-used as a roof slab at the head of the rood loft stair on (right) . Cross with head made up of a ring of six (or eight?) bracelets, with multi-lobed terminals, carved in relief within a sunk circle. Thirteenth century?



- (5) Part of slab re-used as head of narrow window immediately west of the door near the west end of the north wall of the north aisle. Incised design. Cross shaft with pair of shears to left. Undatable.

⁶ Ryder, P.F. (2002) Cross Slab Grave Covers in Newcastle and South East Northumberland, *Arhcaeologia Aeliana* 5th ser XXX 75-137

Newcastle (St. Andrew's Church)



1

2



Re-used graveslab with end of incised sword, in internal face of west wall of south aisle (not in Ryder 2002)

Probable early carved slab re-used as lintel of blocked doorway high on north side of lower stage of tower (see p.10)



Newcastle (St. Andrew's Church), cont. Slabs 4 & 12 are of approximate size and scale.

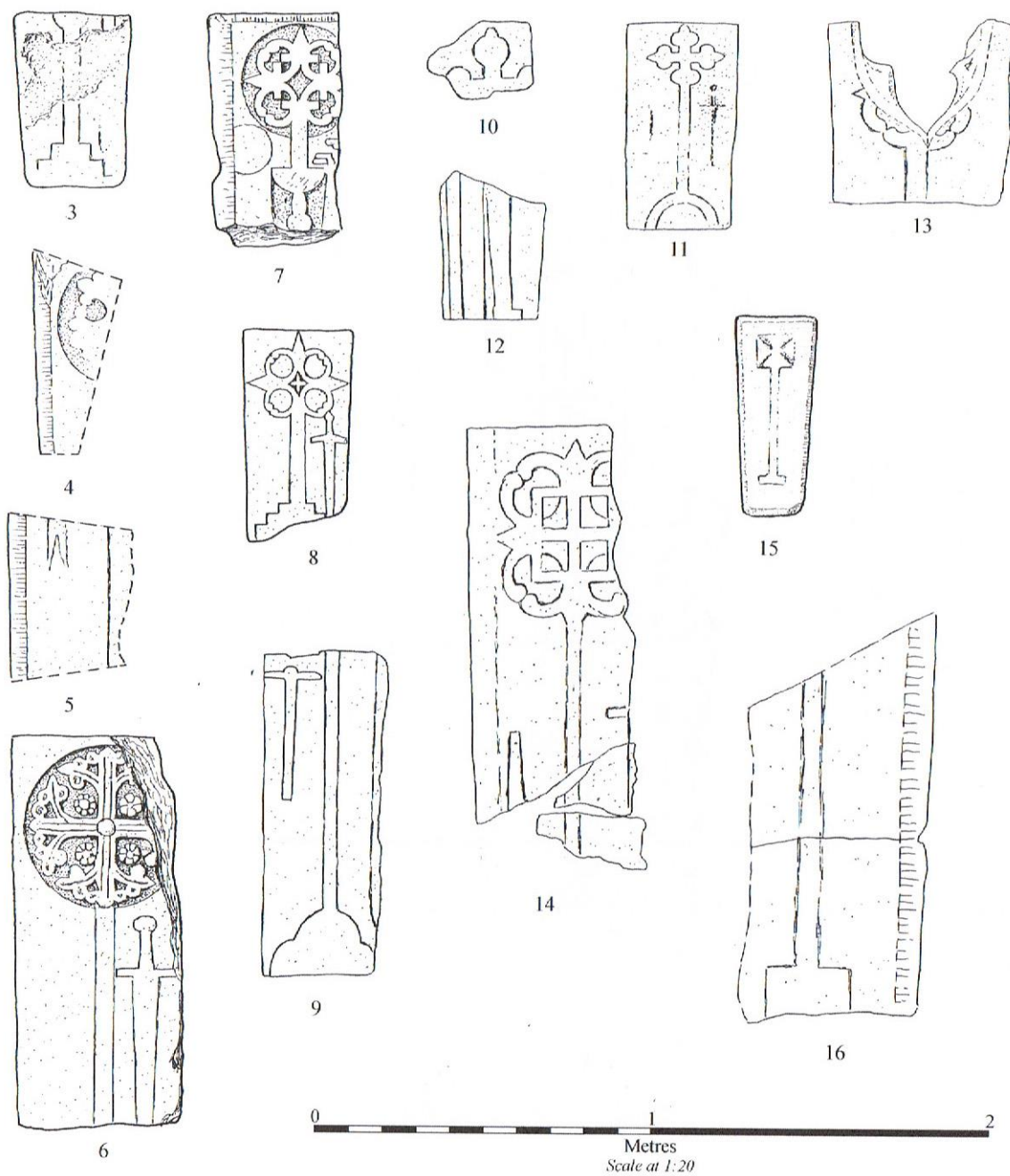


Fig. 16 Newcastle and South East Northumberland cross slabs, cont.

Newcastle (St. Andrew's Church), cont. Slabs 27 & 28 are of approximate size and scale.

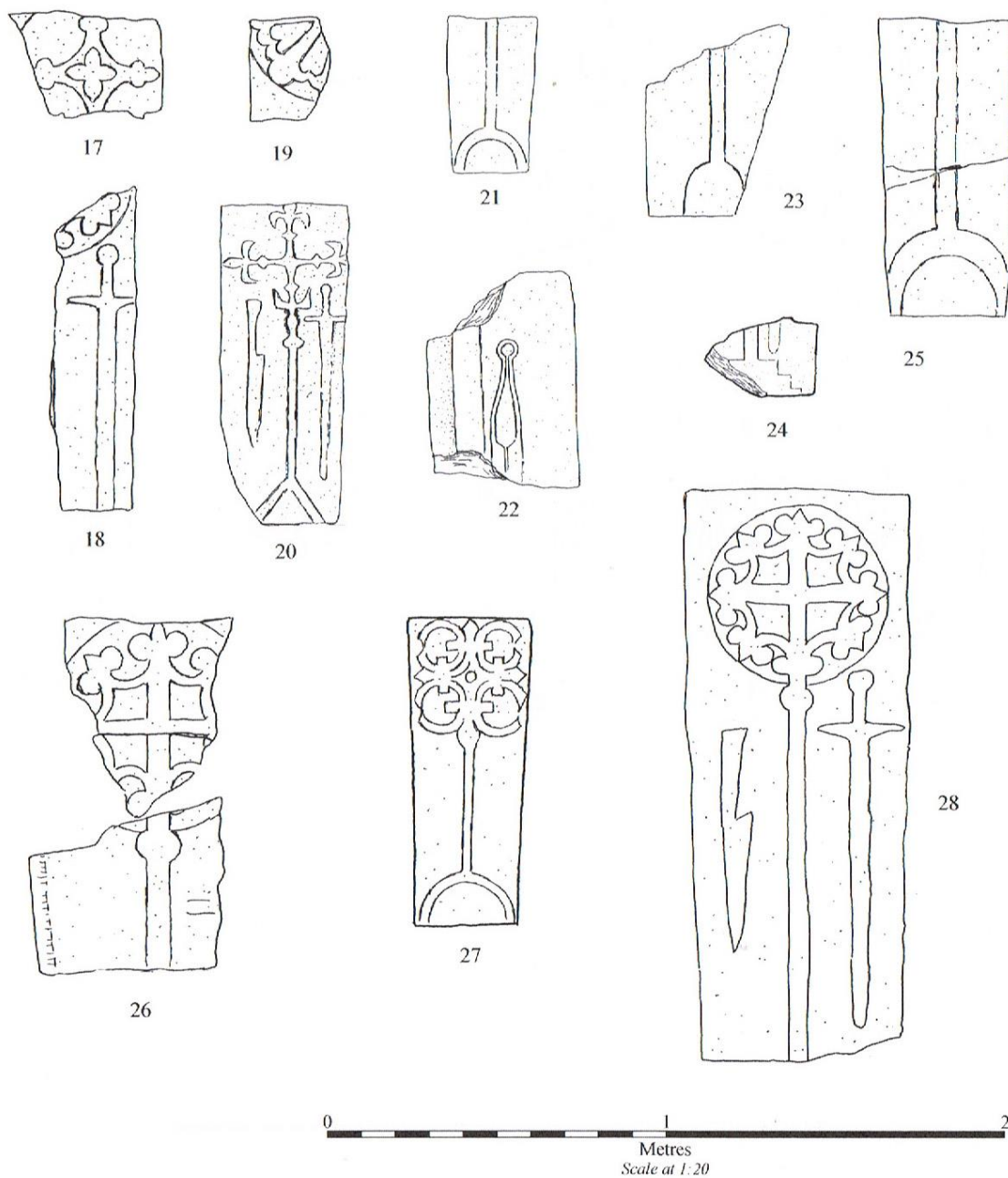


Fig. 17 Newcastle and South East Northumberland cross slabs, cont.