

Nathan Goss Conservation

Historic Building Surveys

Timber Conservation Advice

Television & Media

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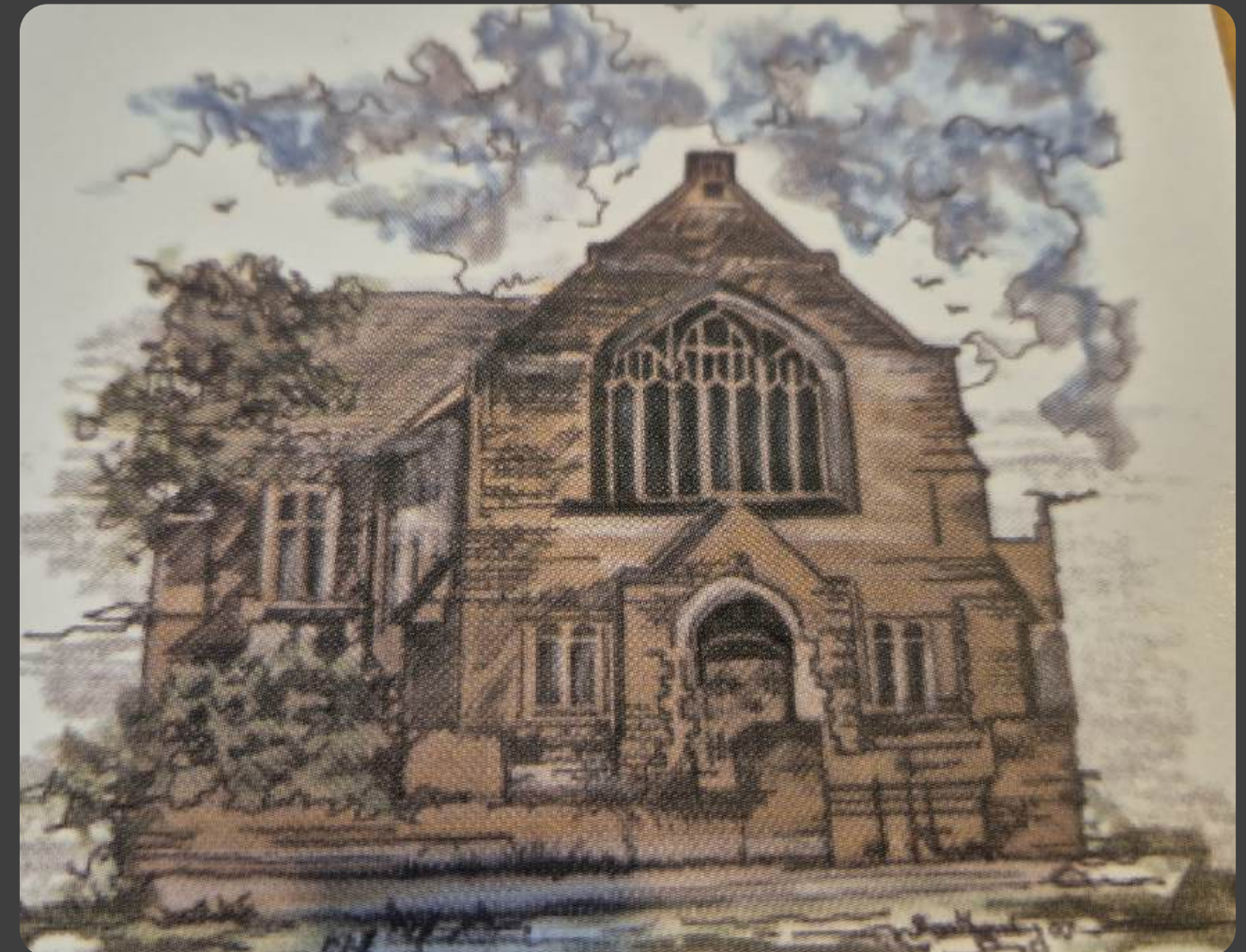
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LEVEL III ROOF SURVEY FOR:

NO 39 MARGAM ROAD
MARGAM,
PORT TALBOT,
SA13 2BN,

FEBRUARY 2025



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1. Introduction

1.1 Brief Summary

Nathan Goss Conservation has carried out a Historic Building Record of the Former Evangelical Church, no 39 Margam Road, Taibach, Port Talbot on behalf of Kyle Morgan and as requested by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The structure recorded is no 39 Margam Road, built in 1926 as a Calvinistic Methodist Church.

1.2 Location & Grid Reference

No 39 is situated approx. 1.7 miles on the outskirts of Port Talbot, Swansea is some 10.5 miles and Cardiff is 35 miles away.

Grid Ref - SS 77697 88447

X & Y Coordinates – 277697 (E), 188447 (N)

1.3 Methodology

The historic building record has been undertaken in accordance with relevant best-practice guidance, including Historic England (HE), 2016, Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice. A more comprehensive list of relevant documents can be found in the bibliography.

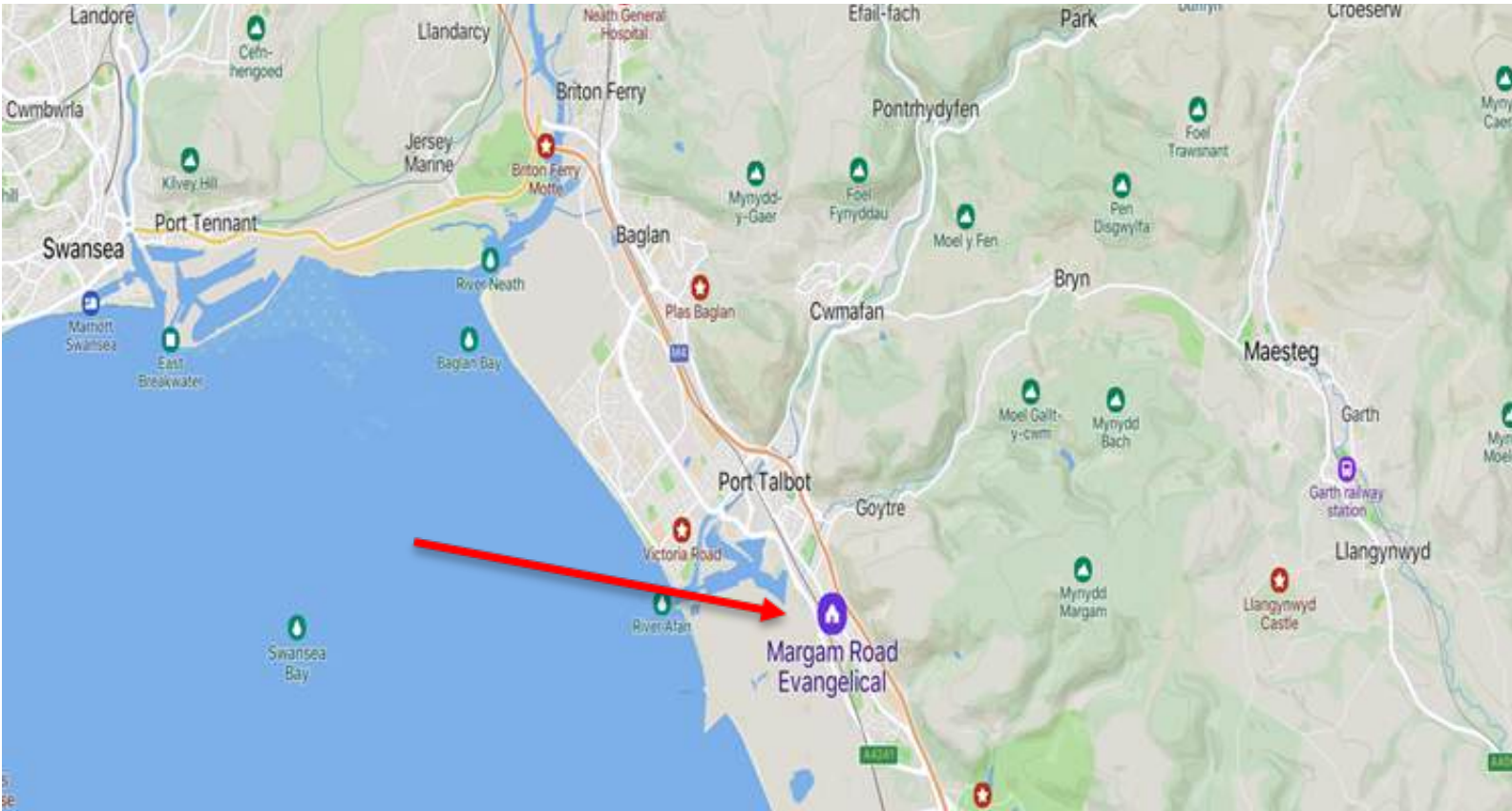


Figure 1 - Aerial view marking location of No 39 Margam Road
© mapcarta.com

Level 3 is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. This record comprises of a detailed description of No 39 Margam Road and its surrounding setting, where applicable.

1.4 Designations

No 39 Margam Road is “not listed” or in a conservation area but is considered as a building of local importance under Policy BE 2 of the 2011 - 2026 LDP - The Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance

2. Aims & Objectives

2.1 Brief

Neath Port Talbot Planning Department has requested as a pre commencement condition (P2024/0458), that a level 3 survey of the property is needed.

The survey is in line with Historic England’s (HE), 2016, Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the report are as follows:

- To understand the historical development of the building.
- To compile a lasting record of the building prior to the work being carried out.

2.3 Scope

The written account includes–

- The building’s precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form
- A note of all statutory and non-statutory designations; relevant to the building.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of the archive.

- A summary of the building's type, form, function (historically and at present), materials, date and sequence of development.
- An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints.
- Acknowledgements to all those who have made a significant contribution to the making of the record, or who have given permission for copyright items to be reproduced.
- A discussion of the published sources relating to the building and its setting, an account of its history as given in published sources, an analysis of historic map evidence (map regression) and a critical evaluation of previous records of the building, where they exist.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building
- An account of the building's overall form (structure, materials, layout) and of its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis.
- An account of the building's past and present use, and of the uses of its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations.

- Bibliography
- Photographic Register containing internal and external photos of elevations
- Plans which include elevations, plans & sections
- Glossary with abbreviations/descriptions



Figure 2 - Present minister and elders in 1961

2.5 Limitations & Constraints

- No scaffolding was present, so close up inspections to the interior and exterior have been undertaken with the use of a drone and camera pole

3. Acknowledgements

Nathan Goss Conservation would like to thank Kyle Morgan & Matthew Fury for commissioning the project.

The recording and research were carried out by Nathan Goss and reviewed by Lowri Goss (Lowri Goss Consulting).

Matthew Fury of Atrium Planning consultants for the drawings

4. Copyright

Documents and Illustrations supplied or sourced for this document are credited accordingly.

No part of this report should be reproduced without permission of the authors and client

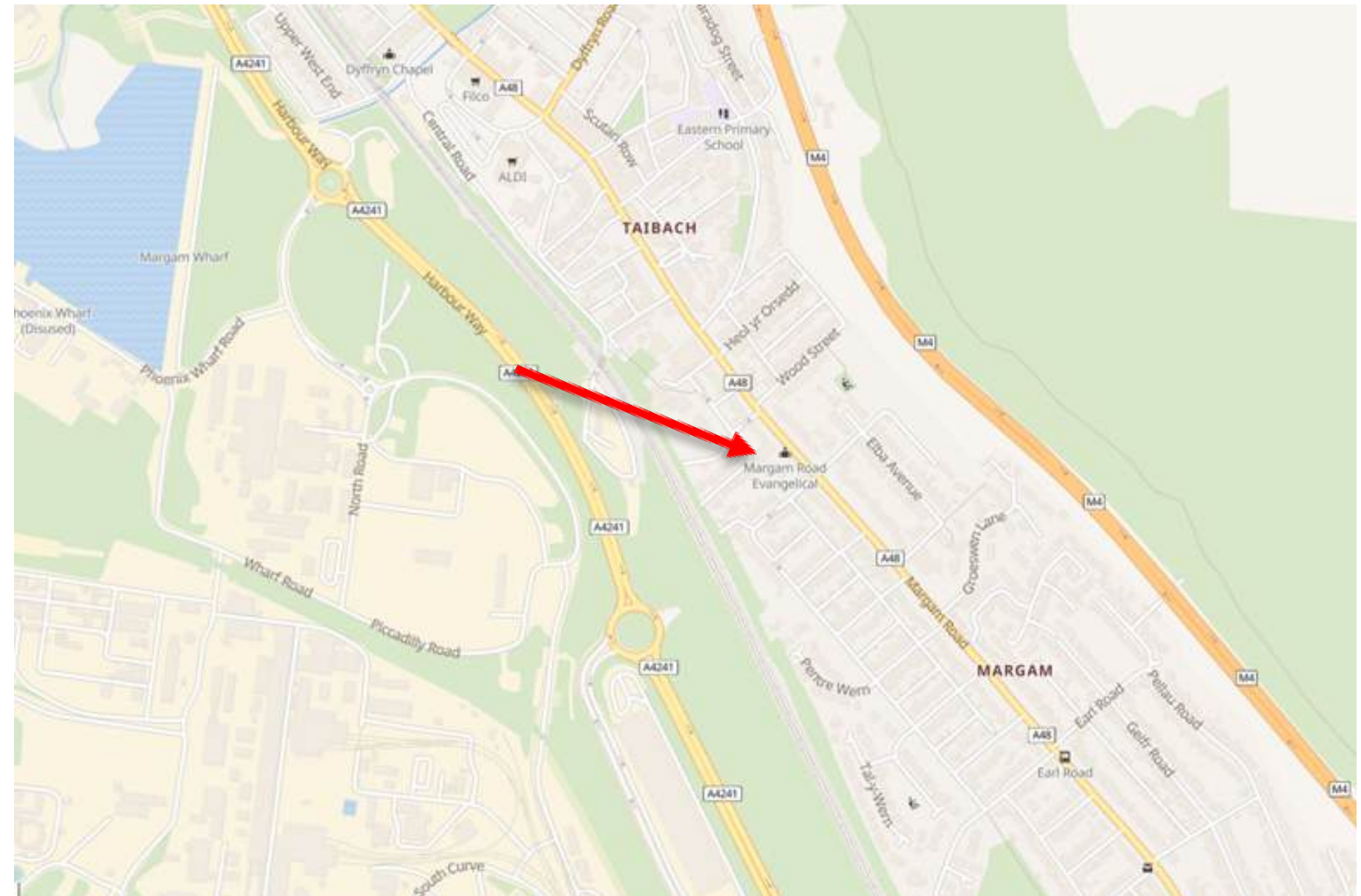


**Figure 3 - Plan showing the location of No 39 Margam Road ©
llgc.org.uk**

5.0 Building & Setting

The church was built in 1926 as a Methodist chapel and as the fig 4 NLS 1888-1913 map shows, a building existed on the site prior to this one being built.

When you study the NLS 1913 map its apparent for all to see that the road from Taibach to Margam was bare of properties and undeveloped. The original settlement was a loose cluster of post-medieval farms and cottages, in the local vernacular/estate tradition.

Margam Copper Works began operation in 1777-80, and ceased production in 1898. By 1917 the works were largely demolished and in 1926 the site was built over by the Margam Iron and Steel Works, which coincides with the chapel being built. The population in the area was starting to boom and the undeveloped area between Margam and Taibach was being built upon to keep up with the development of the new steel works -

1938: Construction of Blast Furnace 3 and the re-build of Blast Furnaces 1 & 2 to increase capacity.

1951: A new steel plant, called the Abbey Works, is opened. It is the location where the current plant stands. Two years later it becomes fully operational.

1941: Blast Furnace 3 was put into operation at the Margam works.

1947: The Steel Company of Wales is formed.

5.1 History (Published Accounts)

Margam Road Methodist Chapel was built in 1926 in the Gothic style, it has a stone tracery arched headed doorway, fanlight with double doors. To the left and right of the doorway are two pairs of smaller trefoil headed stone windows. The front facade is dominated by a rather large perpendicular window with a decorative stone tracery.

There are narrow buttresses to the front and side elevations.

The building was still in use as a chapel in 1984.

RCAHMMW, March 2008

5.2 Historic Maps



Figure 4 - Extract from NLS 1888-1913 map showing a building where No39 is built ©National Library of Scotland

5.3 Evaluation (previous records of building / alterations)

N/A



Figure 5 – Decorative corbel stones under all trusses

6.0 Buildings

6.1 Past & Present use

As far as records state no39 has always been a place of worship, it has changed from a Presbyterian Chapel to an Evangelical Church (Presbyterian) to Calvinistic Methodist Church.

6.2 Interesting Fixtures & Fittings

Windows – In Gothic style, the front facade is dominated by a rather large perpendicular window with a decorative stone tracery. To the left and right of the doorway are two pairs of smaller trefoil headed stone windows.

Doorway – The building has a stone tracery arched headed doorway, fanlight with oak grained heavy double doors with decorative hinges.

Naming (inscription) Stones – There are 4 no inscription stones to the front façade of no 39. Dyffryn, Bethany, Beulah churches and Margam Park

6.2 Interesting Fixtures & Fittings (cont..)

Trusses – 5 decorative king post trusses with arched braces running moulds held together with heavy steel work, which make up a 4-bay roof.

Corbels – Decorative corbels at the base of the King Post Trusses

Balcony's – There are two balcony's, one to the northwest the other to the southwest. They are both accessed via a narrow dog legged staircase. The front pitch pine panels are made up of 7 carved panels, with trefoil mouldings, which sit directly onto oversized beams and a ½ truss, an angled ceiling finishes off the underside of the structure. Cast iron columns support the structure.

Elevated Decorated Pulpit - Victorian gothic styled softwood pulpit with narrow staircase. Moulded handrails and newel posts.

Entrance Foyer Partition - Pitch pine 7 bay leaded window foyer partition, stretches from the northwest wall to the southeast wall, there are two wide single doors at either end and a pair of thin doors in the centre. Decorative cornice to the head.

Doors, door frames and wall panelling – Either side of the pulpit are two pitch pine doors complete with frames and wall panelling. The doors have three long panels with mouldings, the architraves and skirting boards have a stretched lambs tongue moulding.

Plaster work – As you enter the church facing southwest, there is a very impressive lime plastered running mould round arch rising up to the ceiling, being supported by two decorated half columns with sunken panels.

Fireplace – Victorian fireplace in small rear room, complete with oblong red glazed tiles and moulded wooden surround.

7.0 Demolished Structures

None available

8.0 Specialist Reports i.e Stone or Timber

None available

9.0 Setting

9.1 Other buildings (location, attached)

The church is situated on the main Margam Road (A48) surrounded with residential houses.

A list of listed buildings within the area:

Taibach

- Carnegie Free Library – Cadw ref 22807
- Gibeon Chapel – Cadw ref 22806
- Mile post – Cadw ref 22808

Margam

- Milepost at Tollgate Park – Cadw ref 23284
- Beulah Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Vestry, Gates, Piers and Railings – Cadw ref 14172, 23282 and 23283

9.2 Past & Present (Altered)

None available

10.0 Bibliography

10.1 Primary Sources

- National Library of Wales - <https://places.library.wales/>
- British listed buildings - <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/wales/margam-neath-port-talbot>
- National Library of Scotland - <https://www.nls.uk/>

10.2 Secondary sources

- Port Talbot Historical Society - Online

10.3 Sources contacted (Via Email)

- West Glamorgan Archive Service - Nothing of relevance
- Neath Antiquarian Society - Nothing of relevance
- Neath Port Talbot Planning Department - Nothing of relevance
- Port Talbot Historical Society - No answer
- The Church in Wales - No answer

11.0 Photographic Register

11.1 External photos



Figure 6 – Northeast Elevation



Figure 7 – Southeast elevation



Figure 8 – Southwest elevation



Figure 9 – Northwest Elevation

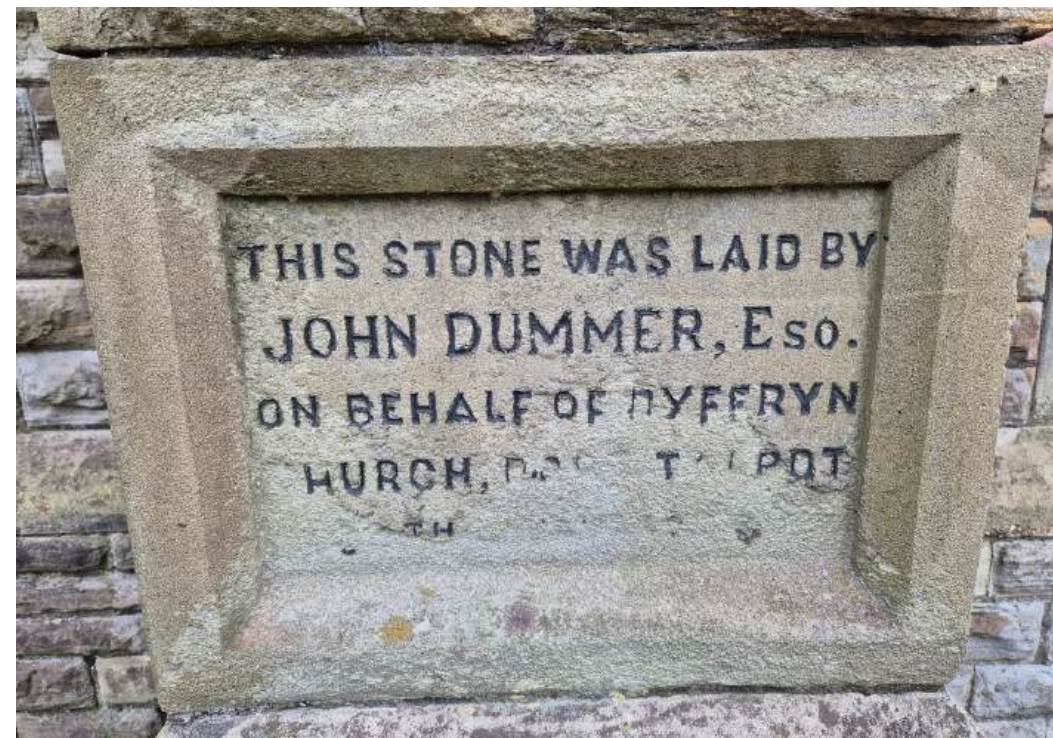


Figure 10 – Plaque furthest left of front door



Figure 11 – Plaque left of front door



Figure 12 – Plaque right of front door



Figure 13 – Plaque furthest right of front door

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 14 – looking southwest



Figure 15 – looking northeast

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 16 – looking southeast



Figure 17 – looking northwest

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 18 – Pulpit, raised platform and handrail



Figure 19 – Decorative steel work to pulpit handrail

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 20 – Balcony with pews and supporting cast iron column



Figure 21 – Decorative panelling to the balcony's

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 22 – Truss detail



Figure 23 – Running mould lime plaster work

11.2 Internal photos

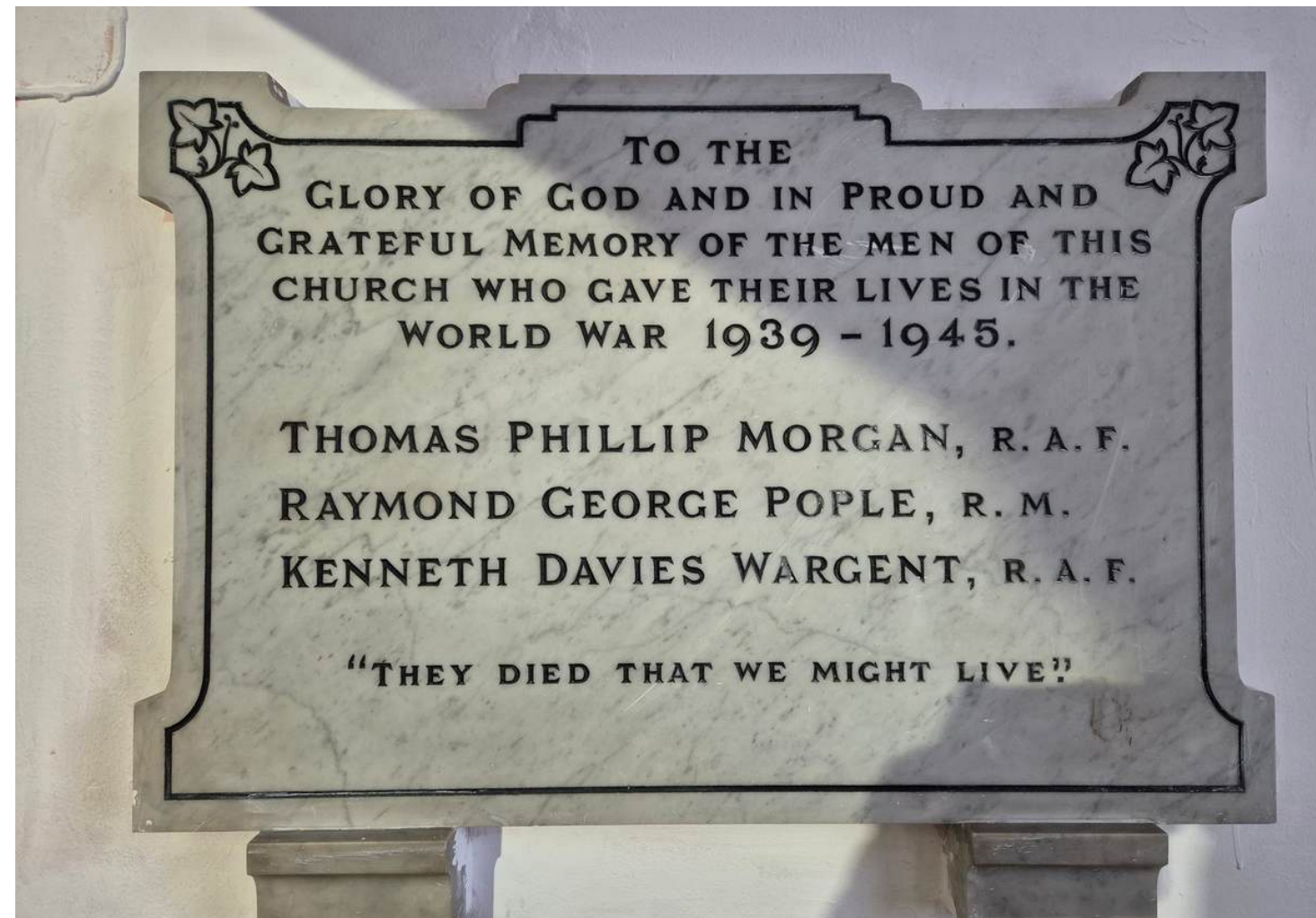


Figure 24 – Second world war
remembrance plaque



Figure 25 – Air vent box

11.2 Internal photos

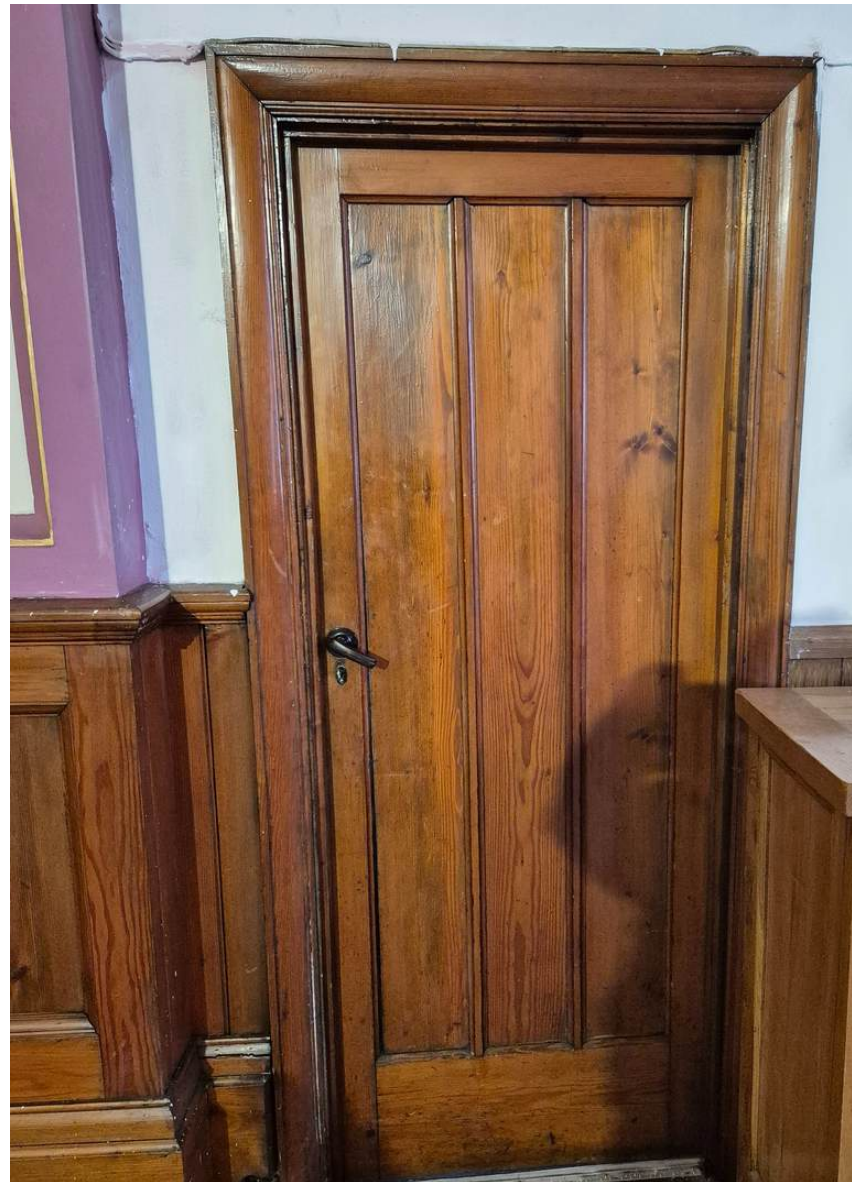


Figure 26 – Three panel door with architrave and wall panelling

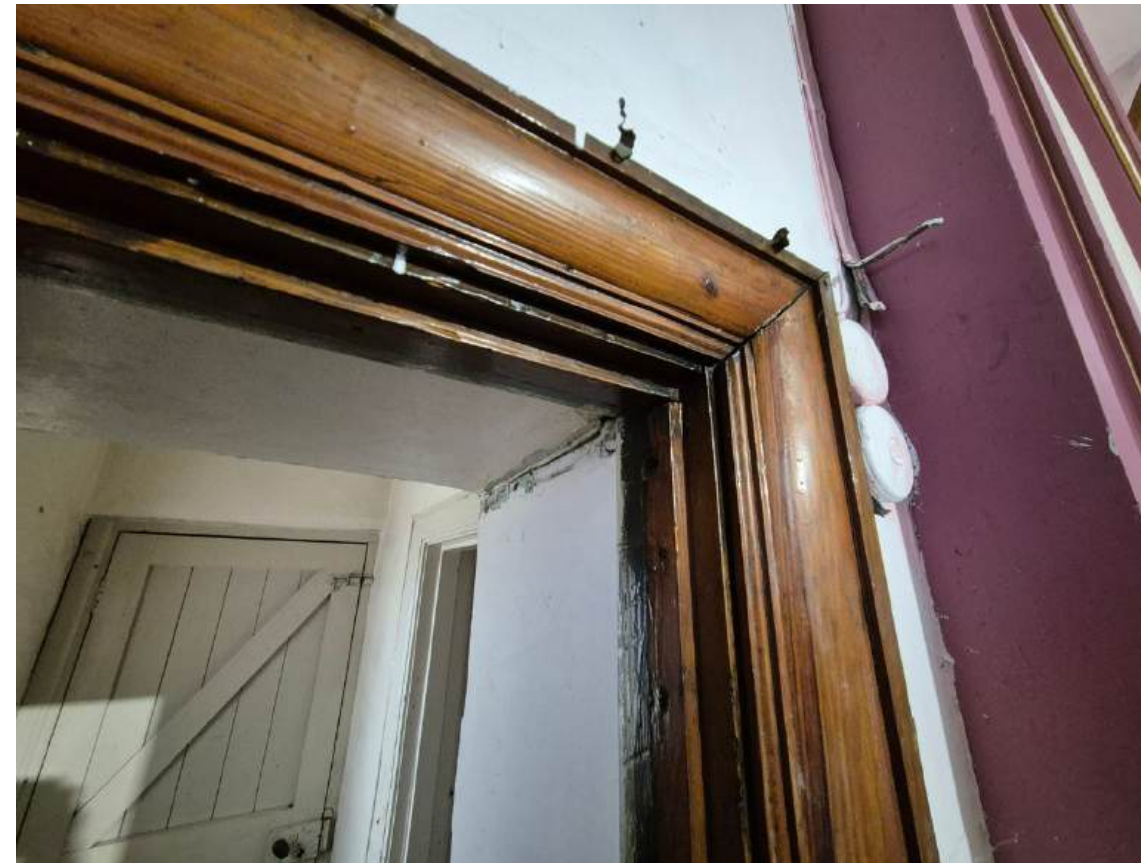


Figure 27 – Lambs tongue architrave



Figure 28 – Victorian fireplace with over cupboard

11.2 Internal photos



Figure 29 – Foyer screen with leaded lights, fixed doors to the left and right, a pair of doors in the centre



Figure 30 – Looking southwest in entrance foyer



Figure 31 – Church roof and land

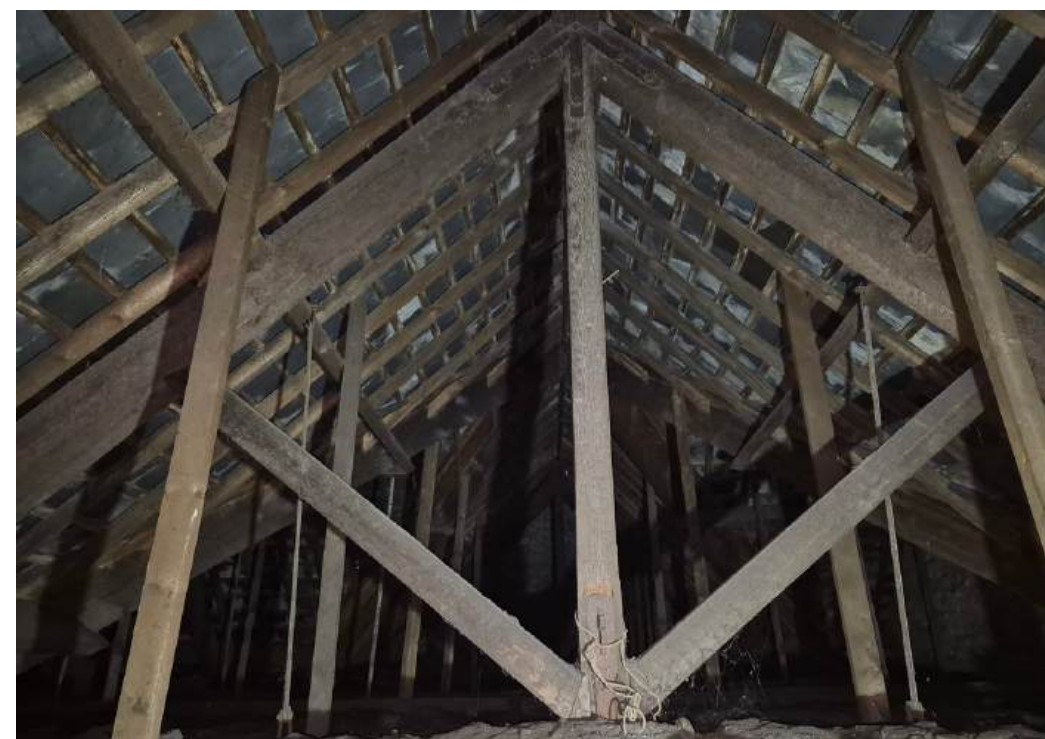


Figure 32 – King post trusses

Figure 33 – Lime pointing mixed with steel slag deposits

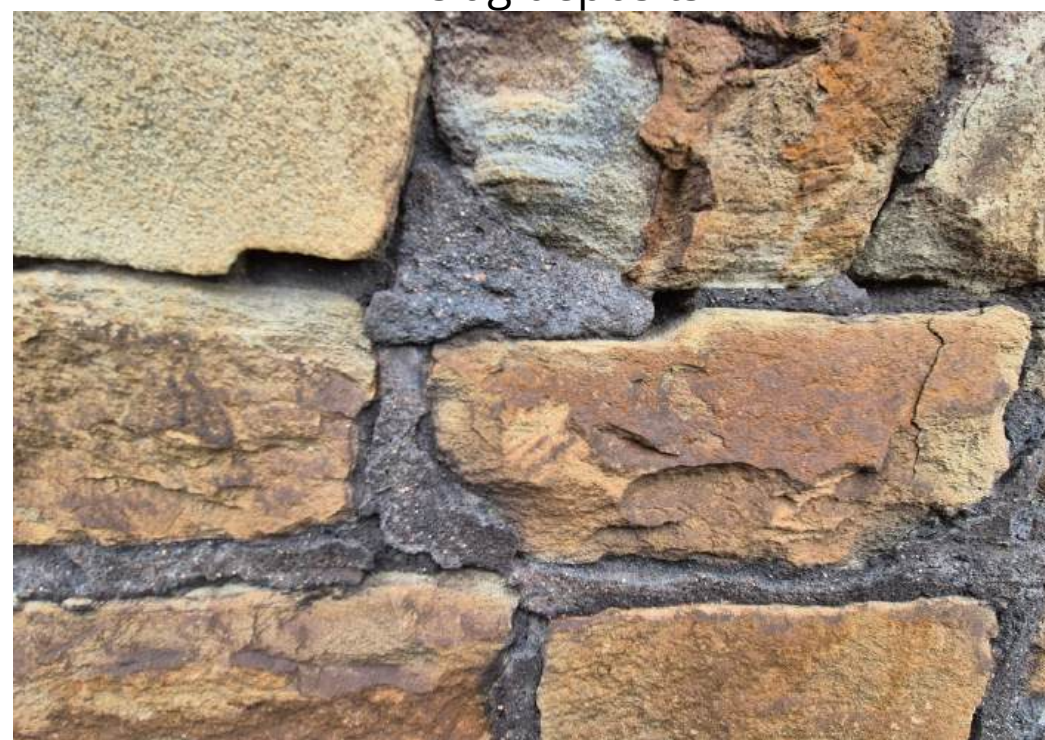
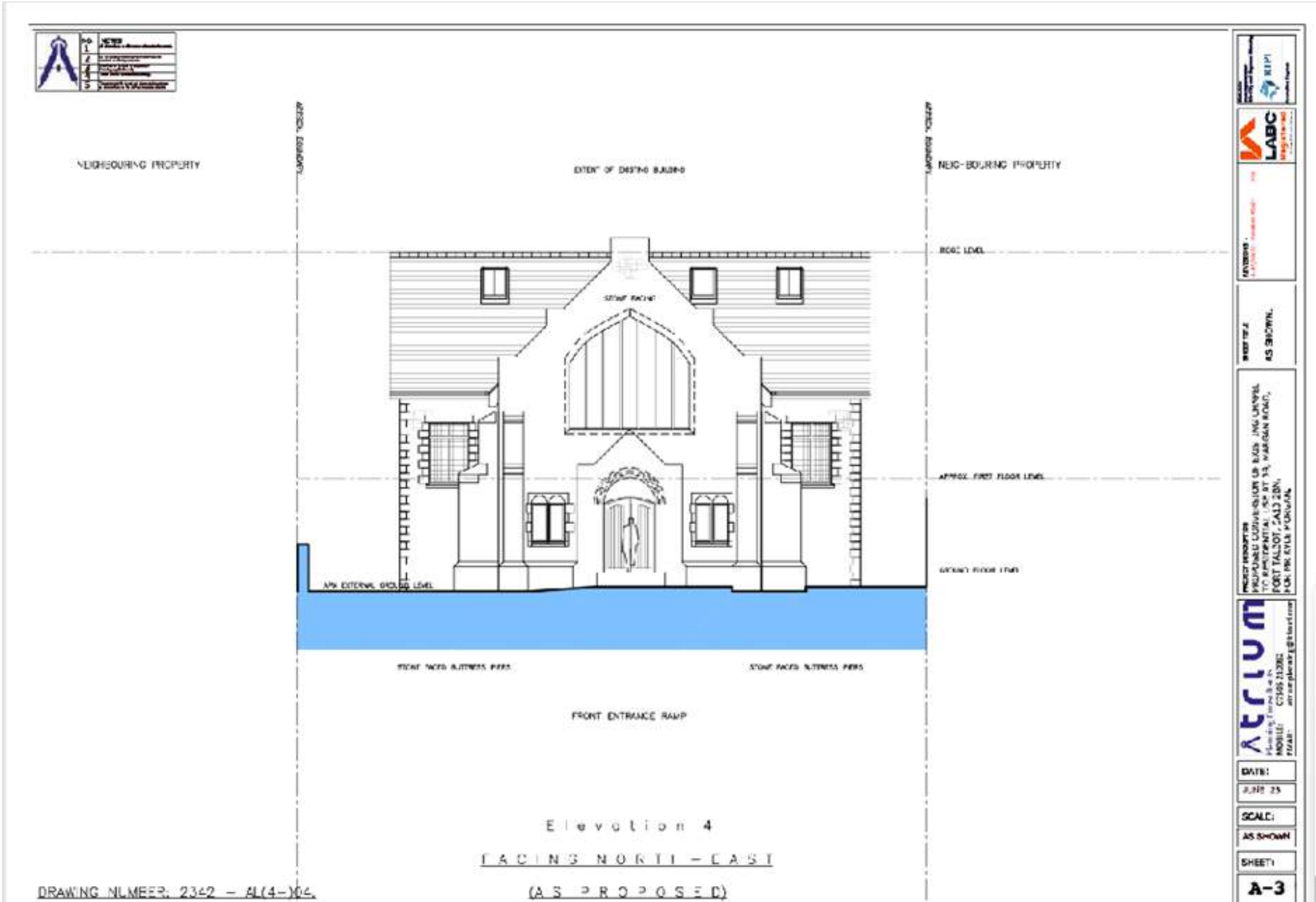


Figure 34 – Gothic style, perpendicular window with a decorative stone tracery

12.0 Plans







13.0 Glossary

Newel - A supporting pillar (the "newel") acts as the core from which the stairs gets support, also houses the handrail

King post truss - A king post extends vertically from a crossbeam (the tie beam) to the apex of a triangular truss

Corbel - a structural piece of stone, wood or metal jutting from a wall to carry a superincumbent weight, a type of bracket

Foyer - Can be known as a Narthex. It refers to the entryway or gathering space at the front of the chapel where people enter before going into the main worship area

Balcony - The upper level that overlooks the main space of the chapel

Pulpit - Is a raised platform or stand where clergy deliver sermons during worship services

Pitch Pine - Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is a softwood, widely used in Victorian buildings and valued for its distinctive grain, rich colours and durability

Gilding - Is a decorative technique that uses gold-colored paint to give an object a gold appearance. It can be applied to a variety of surfaces, including wood, glass, metal, and ceramics

Trefoil - Is a design featuring three interlocking circles, often used in church architecture to symbolize the Holy Trinity, representing the Christian belief in one God with three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Tracery - Is a decorative stone or wood framework that supports the glass and divides the window into sections. It's a common feature in Gothic-style architecture

Gothic Style - places a strong emphasis on light and space, creating interiors that feel open, airy, and illuminated

Buttressess - are structures that support and reinforce walls in churches.

Prebryteion - relating to or denoting a Christian Church or denomination governed by elders according to the principles of Presbyterianism

Evangelical - The teaching of the gospel or the Christian religion

Calvanastic - The theological system of John Calvin and his followers, which emphasizes God's sovereignty and the depravity of humankind. Calvinism is a major branch of Protestantism



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Photographs illustrate a variety of projects I have recently worked on