St Andrew, Sedbergh, Yorkshire, West Riding

Feature Sets (3)
- Exterior Features
- Interior Features

Description
The town is the market and shopping centre for a dale still very much centred on farming. The church is long and low with a western tower. There is no chancel arch and the arcades are of 8 and 6 bays; the last arch to the east in each arcade is pointed. Considerable rebuilding in the Perpendicular and Tudor periods besides alterations at the restoration of 1885-86 have affected the appearance of the church (Frankland 1938, 293-4). Late 12thc remains are found in parts of the restored arcades, and the N doorway to the nave; an earlier tower arch may be seen in the W wall of the nave.

History
A small motte covered in trees with a bailey of about a quarter of an acre is on the eastern edge of town; no sign of habitation has been found (Frankland 1948/9). The church is at the opposite end of the main street from the motte.

In Sedbergh, 3 carucates had been held by Earl Tostig (VCH II, 207).

Sedbergh was a vill of Whittington-in-Amounderness at Domesday and belonged to the king, afterwards it belonged to the Mowbrays (VCH Yorkshire II, 37; Frankland 1938, 293).

Features
Exterior Features
Doorways
Nave N doorway

This is the entrance in use, it is of one order and a label. The first order is plain and continuous with no bases; there is a hollow chamfer on the angle. The label projects about 0.06 m from the face of the wall; it is chamfered inside and out. The label is not quite a semi-circle and there are no stops.

Dimensions

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height of opening</td>
<td>2.32 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width of opening</td>
<td>1.09 m</td>
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Interior Features
Arches
Tower/Transept arches
Tower arch
The plain voussoirs forming two round-headed arcs seen in the rubble wall may represent one archway reused, or two window splays. The present tower arch has imposts plain and flush on the main wall, plain and chamfered in the reveal, but they are in the same pinkish stone as most of the facings in the pointed arch.

Arcades

Nave

N arcade

This arcade is taller than the S arcade. It is of 8 bays, of which bays 7 and 8 are between the square pier 6, and the W wall which has the round-headed voussoirs discussed in Feature, Tower arch. Pier 7 is round; the capital is similar to those of the S arcade but perhaps a little squatter; it is square with chamfered corners. The W respond is a plain pilaster. The arches are of one order plain and square with a narrow chamfer.

Pier 6 is as if a short length of wall. It has a chamfered and plain base and plinth. The pier has chamfered angles with a pyramidal stop at both top and bottom. No capital; impost plain and chamfered. The material of the arch of bay 7 appears less regular in stone type, and lighter in tone than that of the eastern arches.

S arcade

Arcade of 6 bays, bays 3 to 6 being round-headed and having similar piers (nos. 2 to 5); bays 5 and 6 are enclosed as a vestry. Piers 2 to 5 have bases that are square and slope up to a round torus; cylindrical column; round necking. The capitals have a slightly hollow chamfer, with corners chamfered; integral impost with shallow hollow and plain upright. In the arch one plain order with narrow chamfer. The label is modern.

The W respond has a deep chamfered plinth with waterholding bases; a cluster of three columns, the centre one larger and keeled; capitals with angled sides and a narrow upright; impost with plain upright.

Dimensions
Height of capital of pier 5 0.28 m
Height of capital of W respond 0.2 m
Height of capitals of piers 2 to 4 approx. 0.26 m
Height of column of W respond 1.27 m
Side of square base, pier 5 0.61 m
Side of square bases, piers 2 and 3 0.65 m

Comments/Opinions

The detailed building history has not yet been disentangled.

The current church guide (Gladstone 1996, 1) suggests the N porch archway is ‘Norman’ but no part of it is so.

Morris, (1911), 1923, 446, describes the interior as ‘a somewhat important Trans. structure… with the N and S arcades carried through from end to end.’

Tower arch: Pevsner says ‘Above the pointed tower arch a former round arch seems discernible, and the imposts are plain and seem Norman.’ Perhaps more accurately, Morris says ‘… ( 5) Traces of Norm. work (perhaps of 2 blocked windows) above the tower arch, on the side towards the nave’.

Arcades: Sir Stephen Glynne visited in 1862 and says the four western bays of the south arcade ‘are all early’; Lawrence Butler comments that the S arcade was entirely rebuilt in 1889 (Butler 2007, 362, n.6). Further notes by Butler refer to works in the late 19th century.

Pevsner (1967) thinks the S arcade might be around 1200 because of the W respond, and that the N arcade was made in two efforts in the 13thc, with ‘the last pier on this side’ that is, at the E end, having a ‘fine mature E.E. moulded capital’.

Leach and Pevsner (2009, 688) suggest that bays 7 and 8 of the N arcade, that is, the bays W of the square pier 6, are ‘Norman’, together with the W wall of nave and N aisle, and the N doorway.

Bibliography


J. E. Morris, Yorkshire: the West Riding, London 1911, 446.


The church from the NE.
The porch to the N doorway.
Main street between church and motte
Up to the fell side.
Down to the main street.

Location

Site Location

Sedbergh
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<th><strong>National Grid Reference</strong></th>
<th>SD 657 920</th>
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