

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large Victorian Gothic church of St Saviour and the adjacent contemporary school building along the north side form an attractive and impressive ensemble in a quiet residential area of north-east Leicester, which is characterised by terraced housing contemporary with the church. The building is slightly set back from St Saviours Road and partly obscured by two trees, behind which the west end with its tall steeple faces the road, making the church a notable local landmark in spite of this. It stands in a small and immaculately kept churchyard, laid to grass with shrub and flower borders, no burials. The curtilage is bounded by iron railings to the sides and with a double gate to the road, and a brick wall to the rear at the east end with a small gate.

The church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and built in 1875-7, shortly before his death. Scott was of course one of the leading Gothic Revival architects, and certainly one of the most famous. It is the last and largest of the churches he designed in Leicester, the others being the churches of St John, St Andrew and St Matthew. His influence on Leicester extends even beyond these buildings, for example nearby St Peters was designed by his former protégé G E Street. The site and the considerable construction costs for the church and school (£20,000) were a gift of the Revd F G Burnaby, the parish was created in 1878. The church school was built shortly after Scott's death to designs by Stockdale Harrison, a Leicester architect. It is a good building of its type and date in its own right

Architecturally this church is very fine indeed, particularly the interior, an expensive job by a mature and gifted architect. It is a good example of Scott's later work, and palpably not one of the off-the-shelf designs of this extremely prolific architect. The furnishings and fittings are of good quality as an ensemble, though not exceptional in their own right. The large building is a prominent townscape feature, particularly so because of its tall spire.