

ENGLISH HERITAGE REVIEW OF CHURCHES IN DIOCESE 2005 (EXTRACT)

Our Lady & St Peter, East Grinstead

17 St James Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1DL



HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH

ARCHITECT(S) & DATE(S): F A Walters 1898

LISTED STATUS: Not listed

IN CONSERVATION AREA: No

LIST DESCRIPTION: N/A

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS TO LIST DESCRIPTION AND/OR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: N/A

HISTORY AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH IF NOT LISTED:

Frederick Arthur Walters (1850-1932) was a pupil of George Goldie and, like Goldie, developed an extensive practice designing Roman Catholic churches. There are eight churches designed by Walters in the Arundel & Brighton Diocese alone, and others where he made enlargements. Walters' best known work is the rebuilding of the abbey at Buckfast in Devon. Walters was equally at home in the gothic style as the Romanesque. At East Grinstead the Romanesque or Norman style was chosen, perhaps a client choice. The church was founded by Sir Edward C Blunt of Crabbet Park, Worth. The foundation stone was laid in 1897 and the church opened in October 1898 and consecrated in 1899. The exterior is of painted roughcast with thin stone dressings. It is sited hard up to the road with a gabled west bay and then a massive tower the full width of the church. Single envelope beyond with an apsed east end. Inside the church is more Early Christian or Byzantine in feel. Barrel vaulted (in timber), plastered and with shallow lean-to aisles opening into short transepts with eastern chapels. Western gallery on a three-bay arcade. The interior is dominated by a baldachino that fills the sanctuary. Decoration is otherwise restrained, apart from the transept chapels. The open-back pine pews and the corona light fittings look original.

SOURCES

Pevsner *Sussex* 1965

D R Elleray *Sussex Places of Worship* 2004

A Stuart Gray *Edwardian Architecture – A biographical Dictionary* 1985

Building News 25th June 1897, p942; *Building News* 14th October 1898, p533;

The Architect 30th April 1897, p280; *The Builder* 24th July 1897 (illustration)

STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

An individual, if a little austere, neo Romanesque church by Frederick Walters. Composed to give a sense of mass and scale beyond its relatively modest dimensions. Probably listable Grade II.

