

Heritage Statement.

[Including Design & Access Statement].

Former PROVIDENCE PLACE UNITED

REFORMED CHURCH.

“The Monal”

40 Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, Bradford, BD19 3PN.



identity interior design
partnership

1.0 - Appraising the Site & Existing Building

The former chapel is located at 40 Bradford Road, Cleckheaton between Coach Lane & Scott Lane which are the 2No. facing roads at the other side of Bradford Road. The property and its immediate neighbours comprising of a mix of both residential and commercial premises adjacent to the property, which is situated with good travel links and vehicular access to both the town of Cleckheaton and the M62 [Junction 26].

The existing ecclesiastical property was constructed between 1857 & 1859. This property originally came with adjacent land which now serves as the car parking area. Its architectural Classical style has not changed neither internally or externally, and its Corinthian style large columns dominate the façade.

At some point the adjacent land / parking has been altered and revised to allow for a 2-storey parking arrangement but this does not detract from the building's presence and listed status.

2.0 - Identifying the Heritage Asset

Former "Providence Place United Reformed Church" is Grade 2* listed and dates from the mid 1800's.

Listing Entry No:- 1184234

Listing NGR:- SE1907925707

The description of the listing states:

Providence Place occupies a prominent position on Bradford Road, one of Cleckheaton's principal historic routes. The building is set back from the carriageway behind a forecourt enclosed by ashlar gate piers and cast-iron railings, which form an integral part of the listed structure. Its elevated siting and monumental Classical frontage give it strong visual presence within the streetscape, making it a key local landmark.

The site lies within a developed urban area characterised by a mix of historic civic, religious, and commercial buildings, many dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Regarding its Heritage Designation & Statutory Status, Providence Place is a Grade II* listed building, reflecting its particularly important status as a heritage asset of more than special interest.

The listing includes:

- The main building
- The forecourt boundary treatment, including gate piers and ironwork

As a Grade II* asset, the building is afforded a high level of statutory protection, and any works affecting its special architectural or historic interest require careful justification.

The origins of Providence Place are rooted in the long tradition of Non-Conformist worship in Cleckheaton, which developed strongly from the 17th century onwards. The growth of the congregation reflects the wider religious and social history of West Yorkshire, where Non-Conformist chapels played a central role in education, social welfare, and civic life during the Industrial Revolution.

The present building was constructed between 1857 and 1859, during a period of rapid industrial and population growth in Cleckheaton and the Spen Valley. Its scale and architectural ambition demonstrate both the prosperity of the congregation and the importance of the chapel as a focal point of community life.

The building was extended and enlarged in 1886, responding to the continued growth of the congregation.

The significance of Providence Place can be assessed under the following heritage values:

- Surviving fabric demonstrates 19th-century construction techniques and materials
- The form and layout provide evidence of historic Non-Conformist worship practice
- Strong association with the social and religious development of Cleckheaton
- Illustrates the importance of chapel building in Victorian industrial communities
- High-quality Classical design by prominent regional architects
- Exceptional façade composition and detailing
- Rarity and ambition for a Non-Conformist chapel
- Longstanding role as a place of assembly, worship, celebration, and social gathering
- Continued public use following adaptive reuse reinforces its community significance

“II* Former Congregational Church. 1857 – 1859. This impressive structure was built by the prominent architectural firm Lockwood & Mawson of Bradford who also designed the landmark Grade II* former textile mill, Salts Mill in Saltaire, Bradford, along with many important civic and commercial buildings in and around the city of Bradford. Providence Place listed as a former congregational church is widely recognised as one of the UK’s most impressive nonconformist facades with a combination of the Ashlar façade. Blue slate roof. Two Storeys & Basement. The monumental five bay façade is in the form of a giant portico between vermiculated quoins and surmounted by a boldly modelled pediment. The giant unfluted Corinthian columns rise from the shallow podium, the arches being archivolted and have large console keystones. The frieze above is vermiculated and large console brackets support the pediment. In tympanum is roundel supported by richly carved foliage. Roundel is inscribed “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH, PEACE, GOOD WILL TO ALL MEN”. The back wall of the portico is rusticated to the ground floor and divided by a bracketed cornice. Three round arched double doors with vermiculated, alternatively blocked surround and voussoirs. Niche to the left and right with Roman alter pedestals to cast iron lamp standards. Slender round arched archivolted windows with pilaster surrounds to the first floor.

The immense façade along with its style and the materials used signifies the immense wealth and the industrial power of the 19th Century of the northern textile towns. This building replaced

a 1770's chapel the "Providence Place United Reformed Church" [formerly congregational] and could once accommodate up to 3000 people. This present structure is also considered a gateway building for the town of Cleckheaton as this is one of the 1st major buildings when entering the town from the M62, and is regularly cited as a landmark status being cited as a crucial part of the town's heritage and visual identity. This building will always remain a prominent example of civic pride and Victorian architectural ambition in the North of England.

The nine-bay side elevations have boldly bracketed eaves cornice. Basement windows are plain, ground floor windows are square headed with shouldered architrave. First floor windows are round headed with archivolt and keystones. Windows to end bay, flanking the portico are blind.

Interior: horseshoe gallery with modelled panelling to front, supported on slender, fluted cast iron columns with foliage capitals. Box pews. The ceiling has been lowered to gallery level. In front of the chapel are five squat, square ashlar gate piers, with cornice and square cap, returned to podium. Cast iron gates have dog rails and ornamental cresting".

3.0 – Repair and Replacement Works.

With regards to the repair and replacement works, this is due to the partial collapse of the existing decorative stone pediment which occurred around 10am on Saturday the 6th of September 2025. As reports stated, this roughly sent around 60 tonnes of masonry down onto the pavement and the existing stone stepped entrance/approach into the property.



The majority of both the angled sections of the pediment became separated from the adjacent brickwork and rubble infill of which the stone pediment and facade were adjoined into & onto. This resulted in the base area of the pediment being struck and damaged as the masonry fell and culminated in the existing stone podiums and adjacent stone pillars to either side of the frontage at ground level being dislodged and destroyed.

Fortunately, the existing stepped entrance along with the impressive 6No. Corinthian columns were spared any damage during the collapse.

We are therefore proposing to replace and repair all of the damaged elements and restore the historically important Grade II* façade to its former glory.

For all details referring to our reinstating & refurbishment works to the front façade, please refer to the accompanying package of information.



4.0– Additional Information.

CJ / 25 / 001 – Proposed Stonework details – PEDIMENT CONSTRUCTION DETAILS.

CJ / 25 / 002 – Proposed Stonework Details – STEPPED ENTRANCE.

157903 – JBL – XXX – ZZZ DR – SE – 200 – Proposed Structural Fixing Details
as produced by JB Langley Associated Ltd, Structural & Civil Engineers.

Location Plan @ 1 : 1250

5.0 – Design & Access Statement.

There will be no changes with regards to the Design & Access to the aforementioned building as all / any works are referring to the repair and / or replacement of the damaged stonework to both the stone pediment and the associated areas to the stepped entrance.