

Abel Smith Mausoleum

A lavishly carved Gothic Revival chapel with trefoil-headed windows, wrought-iron grilles and gates of the same material. There are fifteen plaques with inscriptions inside the building.

Portfield Cemetery
Church Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7HX
England
Scan for Google Maps Link



Architects

George Gilbert Scott

Year Built

1872

Style

Gothic Revival

Listing

Grade II (England and Wales)

Condition

2002: At risk. The slates have gone from the roof exposing the timber planks beneath and the iron grilles, though still in place, are rusting. If repairs are not undertaken soon the marble-lined interior will be badly affected (2002).

2025: Roof issue (noted in 2002) since rectified, although the finial above the western gable is detached and is currently stored inside the mausoleum. Ironwork badly deteriorated and some rainwater goods and ornaments damaged (Nov 2025).

History

The mausoleum was built for John Abel Smith (1801-71). He was a banker by profession who entered Parliament as MP for Midhurst in 1830 and was returned for Chichester the following year. Apart from one short break, he continued as MP for Chichester until 1868. A staunch Liberal, he is best known for his support of religious emancipation and for advocating the admission of Jews into Parliament.

Sources

The John Abel Smith Papers, with documents relating to this chapel, are deposited in the Sussex County Record Office.

Online Links

3D model by Arena 360:

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/abel-smith-mausoleum-chichester-uk-cd2882e28b44432baed8ed43f61c510a>

Photos





Location

SatNav Co-ordinates: 50.84086125622046, -0.7581833184760124