

Closed church of Westgate St Andrew: Statement of Significance and Needs

Faculty Petition OFS Application Ref: 2024-101086

Relocation of contents out of closed church.

(* Items already relocated for safe keeping.)

SCHEDULE OF WORKS OR PROPOSALS:

1. Items proposed to be taken to the church of Heatherscleugh St Thomas:

- i. The Sanctuary Altar Table and white and green altar frontals. (*White and green frontals to then be returned to the family of Kathleen Edwards/ the Glass Family, who originally donated**).
- ii. Four large bibles: including some dedicated to the church.
- iii. Church Plate: All items (except small chalice). *
- iv. Marriage, baptism and burial certificates, registers and PCC minutes. (*To be kept in St Thomas' safe until collected by the Durham County Records archivist, except for burial register - see below*).
 - Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A:
 - a. 3 no. Flower Stands: List A5.(4f)
 - b. Storage box in vestry (below Vestry Table): List A1.(14)

2. Items to go to Eastgate All Saints Church:

- v. All church brass items including altar cross, candleholders, large brass plate and brass vases. *
- vi. 1 no. Glastonbury Chair.*
 - Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A:
 - a. 1 no. small movable bookcase with glass front: List A5.(4a);
 - b. Long red pew runners/pads; tweed cushions; all remaining kneelers: List A5.(3)
 - c. Red carpet runner: List A5.(5b)
 - d. Portable electric heaters: List A1.(14)

3. Items to go to church of St John's Chapel St John the Baptist:

- vii. Credence Table with small brass plaque dedicated to Hannah Parker. *
- viii. Purple and red altar frontal (embroidered by Amy Emms MBE).*
- ix. Small chalice (*originally from Rookhope church*).*
- x. St Andrew's Burial Register for continued use by Parish.*
 - Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A:
 - a. Large storage chest in Vestry (for vestments and altar covers): List A1.(14)

4. Items proposed to be taken to Westgate Village Hall:

- xi. George R Angus, churchwarden d. 1976, oak memorial plaque (Mouseman).
- xii. War memorial plaque to 2nd Lieut. David R Peacock d. 1916, the Somme, France.
- xiii. Memorial Plaque - World War I Roll of Honour for Westgate Men (in Vestry).
 - Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A:
 - a. St Andrews' Dedicated Tea Set (crockery): List A1.(14)

5. Other Private Requests:

- xiv. A number of small movable pews, benches, table and stall from the west end of church to go to parishioners, as directed by the PCC of St John's Chapel and Westgate Parish.

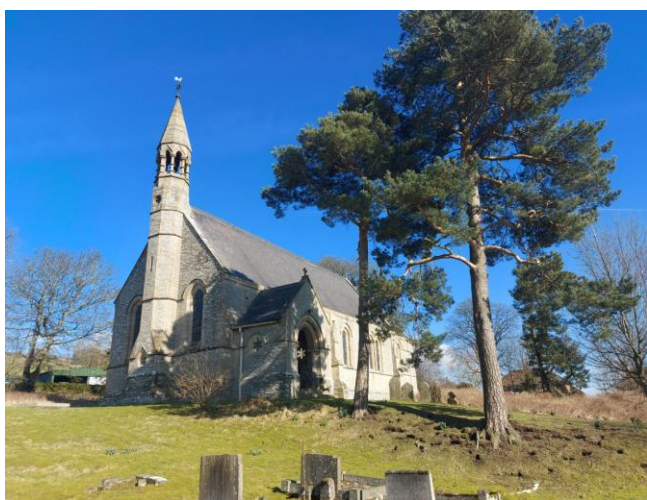
Statement of Significance and Needs:

The church of Westgate St Andrew was closed for worship 5th February 2024 through a scheme made by the Church Commissioners under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Following a marketing process, a pastoral (disposal) scheme is to be drafted by the Church Commissioners and put up for public consultation, proposing the closed church and parts of its consecrated churchyard burial ground, to be appropriated for residential use as a single family residential dwelling. Planning permission will need to be secured for this proposed change of use and a sensitive development is currently being designed and drafted.

This petition seeks to ensure church contents which hold local or even regional significance have their future secured and are found an appropriate new home, prior to the disposal of the closed church. The items to be removed are described by the CBC report (PM 2588) as having low or low-to-moderate significance. Items marked with an asterisk* are already relocated for safe keeping under the Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011.

The Closed Church:

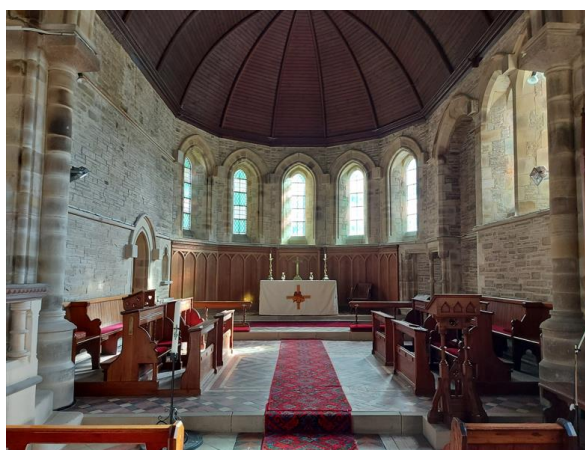
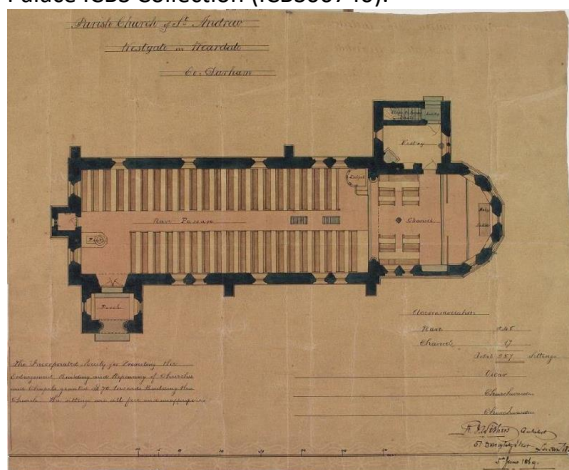
The closed church of St Andrew's is **unlisted** but lies in a designated conservation area (Westgate Conservation Area) within the Northern Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. [[Photographs here.](#)]



Church Description (CBC Report PM 2588):

"Parish church, created c1869 from part of the parish of Stanhope, St Thomas. Aisleless nave with W bell turret and S porch, apsidal chancel and N vestry; by Robert Jewell Withers, 1869. Sandstone with slate roofs. A vigorous and assured design, scarcely altered since completed in 1869 as part of the campaign to plant new parish churches all the way along upper Weardale... of moderate significance overall..."

Plan signed by R J Withers, 5 June 1869; from Lambeth Palace ICBS Collection (ICBS06740):



The Disposal Scheme for residential use:

With the Church Commissioners, Durham DBF has taken professional advice of agents in marketing the property and accepting offer of purchase for conversion to residential use (single family dwelling house).

1. **Items proposed to be taken to the church of Heathercleugh St Thomas:**

(Should they be requested, the white and green frontals to be returned to the family of Kathleen Edwards/ the Glass Family, who originally donated).

i. **The Sanctuary Altar Table and green and white altar frontals and covers;**



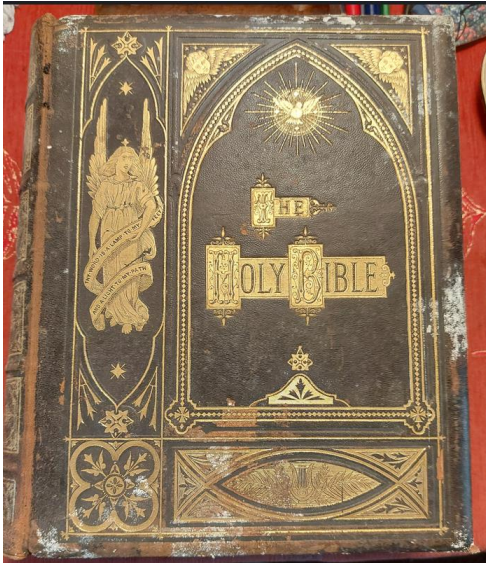
CBC Report:

"The best items are the altar, pulpit and font... The[se] principal liturgical items are almost certainly designed by the architect and of good quality, warranting a rating of Moderate significance individually. The rest of the furnishings are quite plain."

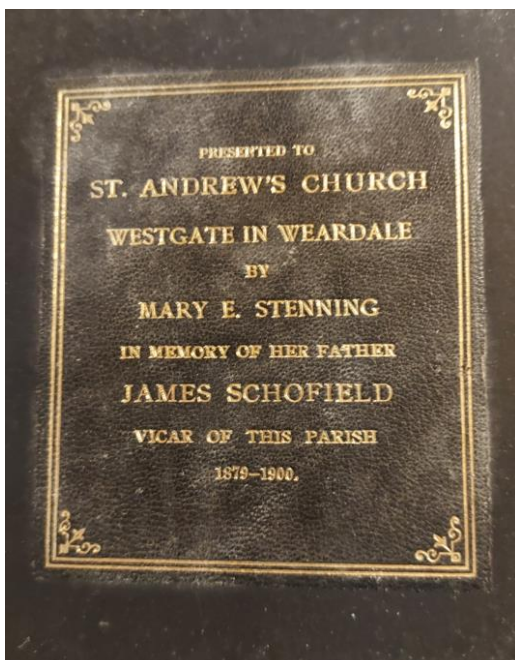
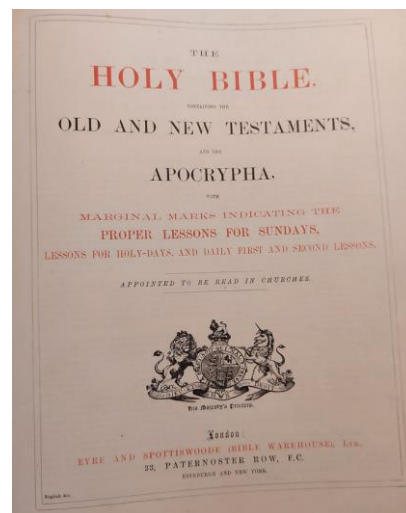
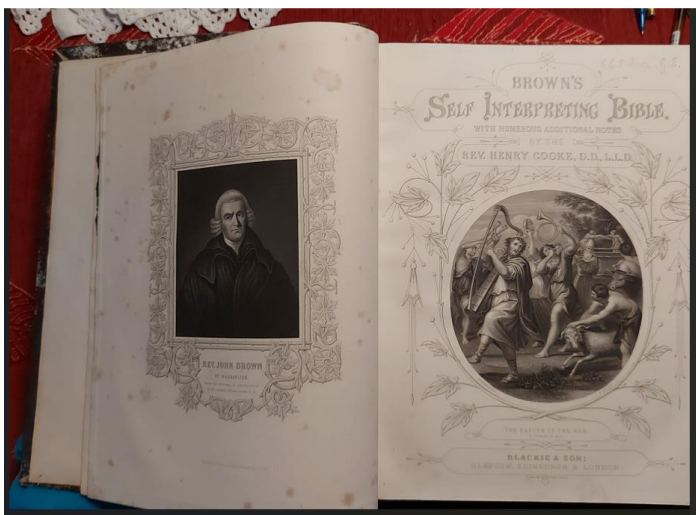
Church Terrier describes: "One Laudian Altar Frontal, in memory of Mrs Margaret Glass (1979) (green, matching the burse & veil)"...

"One Kaudian Altar Frontal, white, with cross, fish and loaves motif together with matching burse, veil and lectern fall. 1989.)"

- ii. **Four large bibles:** including some dedicated to the church.



*Annie Proddam
from her affectionate Mother
Westgate House
October 11th 1889*



*Dedicated &
first used on
Sunday, July 28, 1935
J. E. Perry*

- iii. Church Plate: All items (including box but excluding small chalice) – All items already taken and to be kept in St Thomas' safe for safekeeping and to remain until a future home might be determined.



- 1no. Small silver paten



- 1no. Small chalice (from Rookhope) wanted by St John's Chapel.



- 1no. Silver chalice and 1no. large paten

- iv. Marriage, baptism and burial certificates, registers and PCC minutes - **already taken and to be kept in St Thomas' until taken by the Durham County Records archivist:**



- Register of Services 1988-2024
- Register of Baptisms 2022-2022
- Certificate books of baptism & burials
- Register of Marriages 2021
- Banns of marriage 2014-2021
- SPCK services 1959
- A visitors book 1986-2022
- PCC Minutes
- Old faculties and burial certs.



Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A or List B:

- 3 no. Flower Stands: List A5.(4f)
- Storage box in vestry (below Vestry Table): List A1.(14)



2. Items to go to Eastgate All Saints Church:

- v. All church brass items including cross, candleholders, large brass plate and vases**



vi. 1 no. Glastonbury Chair;

vii. 2no. slim wooden tables/benches



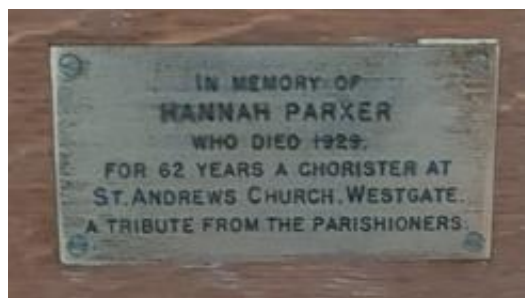
Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A or List B:

- a. 1 no. small movable bookcase with glass front: List A5.(4a);
- b. Long red pew runners/pads; tweed cushions; all remaining kneelers: List A5.(3)
- c. Red carpet runner: List A5.(5b)
- d. Portable electric heaters: List A1.(14)



3. Items to go to church of St John's Chapel St John the Baptist:

- vii. Credence Table with small brass plaque** dedicated in memory to chorister Hannah Parker (d.1929).



- viii. Purple and red altar frontal** (embroidered by Amy Emms MBE)

[Photograph unavailable. Terrier Description: "One frontal, Durham Quilted, Fish Design Red/Purple/Reversible silk."]

- ix. Small chalice** (originally from Rookhope church and currently stored at Heatherycleugh)



- x. St Andrew's Burial Register** for continued use by Parish of St John's Chapel and Westgate.

Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A or List B:

- a. Large storage chest in Vestry (for vestments and altar covers): List A1.(14)



4. Items proposed to be taken to Westgate Village Hall:

- xi. George R Angus**, churchwarden d. 1976, oak memorial plaque (Mouseman), south wall Nave;



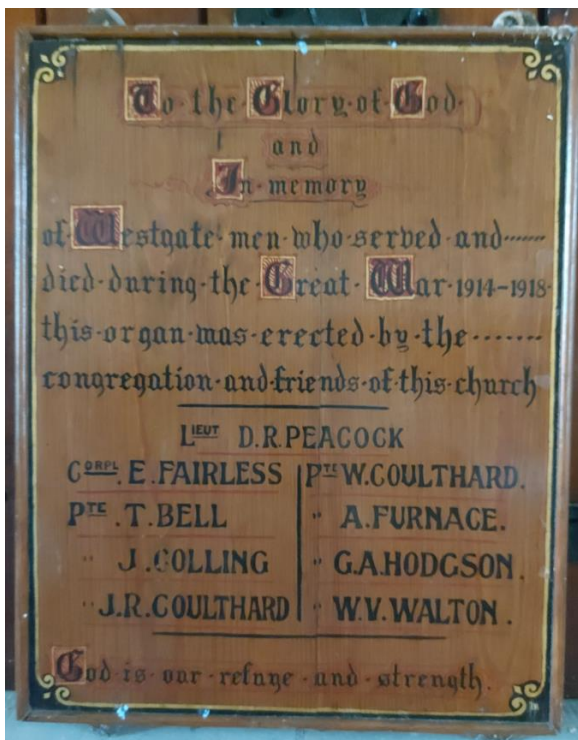
- xii. War memorial brass plaque 2nd Lieut. David R Peacock** d. 1916, the Somme, (north wall nave);



(North East War Memorial Project ref: W107.07)

<https://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=9913>

- xiii. World War I Memorial Plaque** in Vestry – *original church organ previously disposed of and replaced*)



World War I Memorial Plaque (roll of honour with nine names of Westgate Men who served in the war. Assume this was originally fixed to the original church organ and is what the NEWMP refer to as Ref W107.09 "Organ 1914-18 St Andrew". (The original church organ itself was located at the west end but has since been removed and replaced with the current Nicholson and Newbegin organ from the former church on Billy Row, and positioned at the east end of the nave.)

<https://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=11168>

See also: IWM 'Westgate Church Organ':

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/71222>

Other items which may be taken without faculty under List A:
St Andrews' Dedicated Tea Set (crochery): List A1.(14)

5. Other Private Requests:

xiv. A number of smaller movable pews, benches and tables and a small chair stall from the west end of church to go to parishioners, as directed by the Parish of St John's Chapel and Westgate:

a. Family of Margaret Craig to take shortened pew and narrow table.



b. Debbie Richardson (Nee. Nattrass) to take small stall, bench and moveable long pew.



c. Charlotte Fleming of CF Funeral Services to take other movable long pew.



CBC Report: "The choir and clergy stalls and the congregational seating are all original and, but for four pews, all intact. Whilst the chancel seating has a few details in keeping, the nave benches are in general quite plain and all in stained pine as opposed to the more expensive oak."

21 August 2024
Dan Spraggon
Church Buildings Support Officer
Durham Diocese