

Heatherycleugh St Thomas: Schedule and Statements

Faculty Petition OFS Application Ref: 2025-117449

Relocation of contents from closed church of Westgate St Andrew. (* Items already relocated for safe keeping.)

SCHEDULE OF WORKS OR PROPOSALS:

Items to be taken from the closed church of Westgate St Andrew:

- i. The wooden sanctuary altar table.
- ii. White and green altar frontals*. (*To then be returned to the family of Kathleen Edwards/ the Glass Family, who originally donated, if requested by them*).
- iii. Four large bibles: including some dedicated to the church*.
- iv. Church Plate: All items (except small chalice from Rookhope church). *
- v. 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*).

Statement of Significance and Needs

The Closed Church of St Andrew: The church was closed for worship 5th February 2024 through a scheme made by the Church Commissioners under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. The Church Commissioners seek to publicise a draft scheme that proposes the closed church and parts of its consecrated churchyard burial ground be appropriated for residential use as a single family residential dwelling. Planning permission has been submitted for this proposed change of use with a sensitive development. 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.](#)]

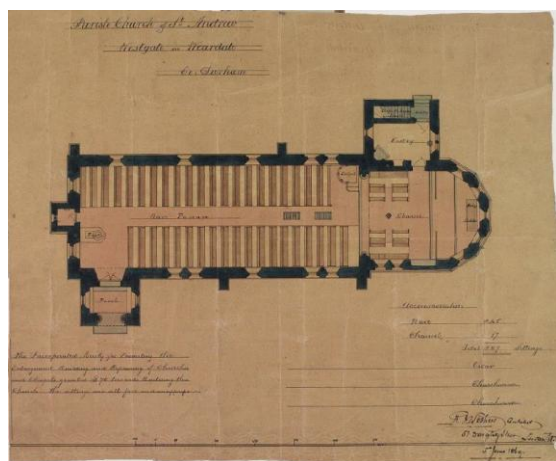


Church Description (CBC Report PM [2588](#)):

"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..."

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.

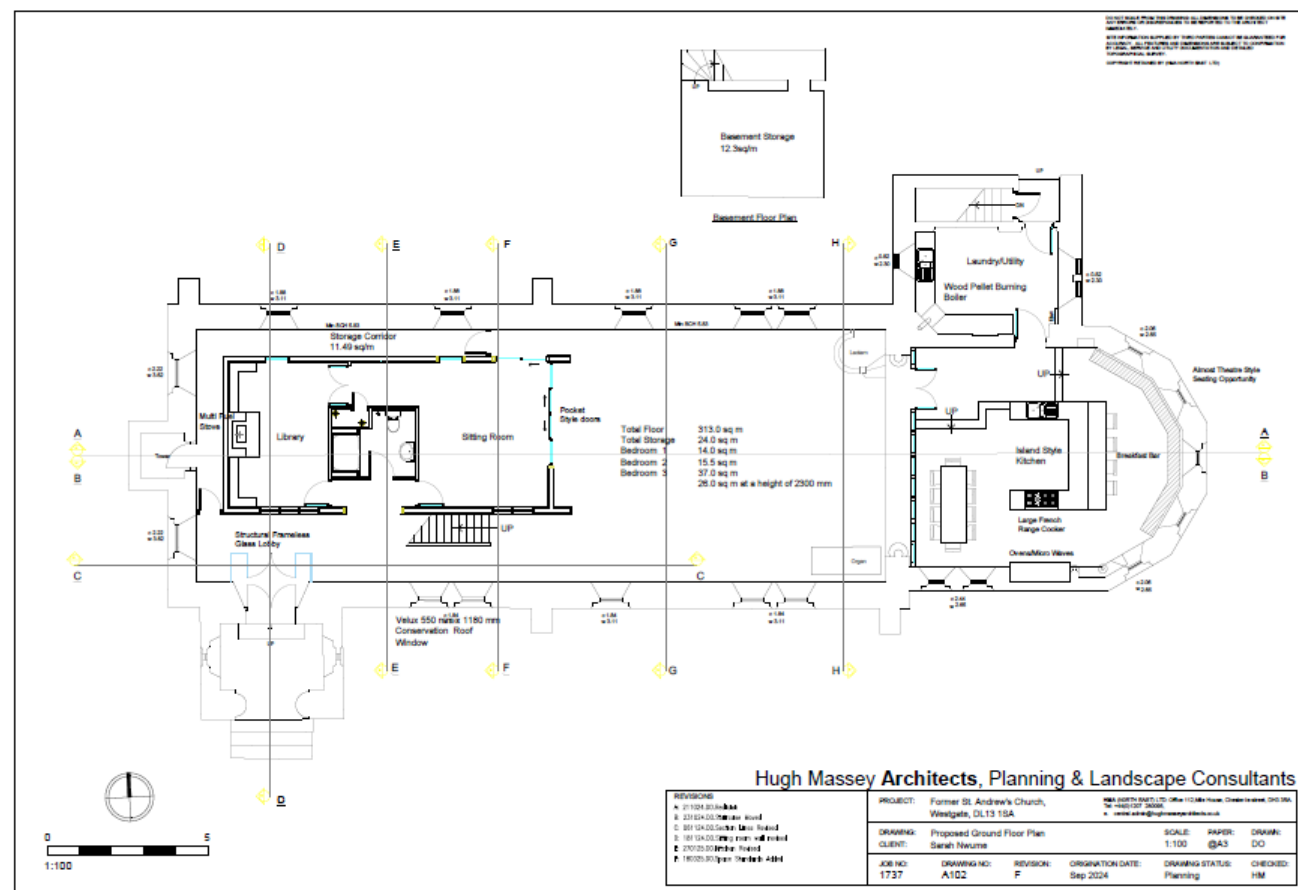
Plan signed by R J Withers, 5 June 1869; from Lambeth Palace ICBS Collection (ICBS06740):



The Disposal Scheme for residential use:
 The property is currently awaiting determination by Durham County Council LPA on a planning application for conversion to a single residential dwelling (DM/25/00719/FPA). Following this the Church Commissioners will undertake a public consultation on their draft disposal scheme.



Proposed ground floor plan courtesy of Hugh Massey Architects:



Schedule of items to be taken into Heatherycleugh St Thomas:

i. The Sanctuary Altar Table



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

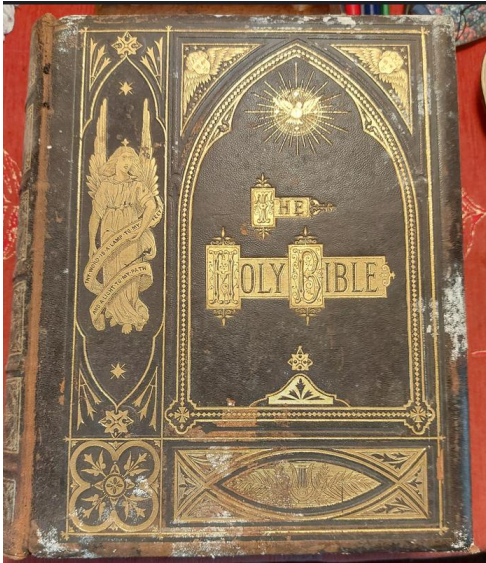


CBC Report:

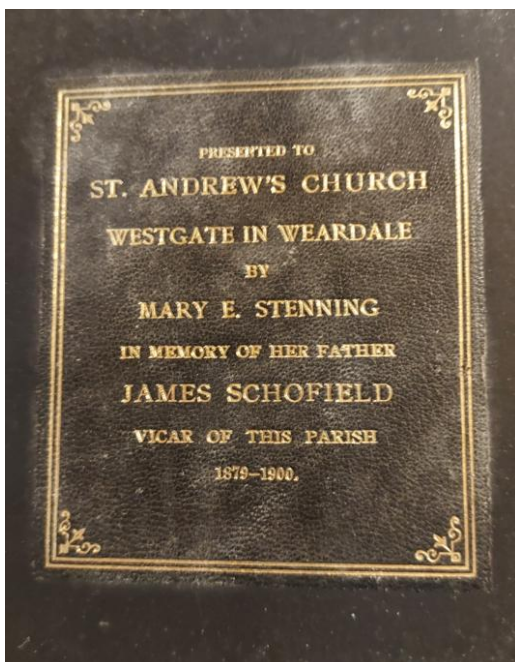
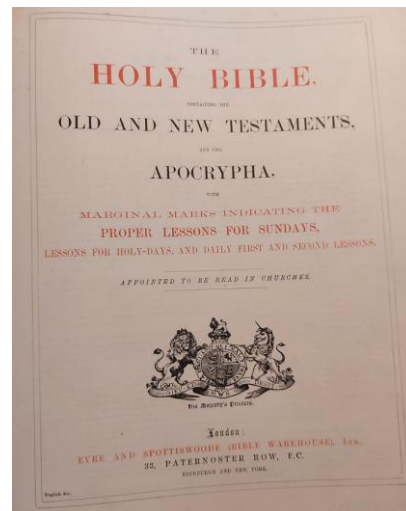
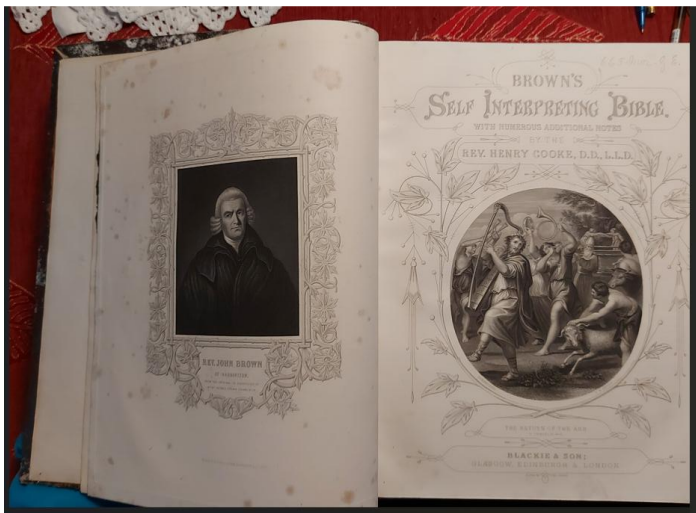
"The best items are the altar, pulpit and font... The[se] principal liturgical items are almost certainly designed by the architect and of good quality, warranting a rating of Moderate significance individually. The rest of the furnishings are quite plain."

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.)"

iii. **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

- iv. 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



- v. 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.



Heatherycleugh St Thomas: (photograph and plan courtesy of QI Crosby Granger Architects)



St Thomas's church is not a listed building but is located in the Cowhill Conservation Area. The church is described in architect Chloe Granger's 2022 quinquennial inspection report:

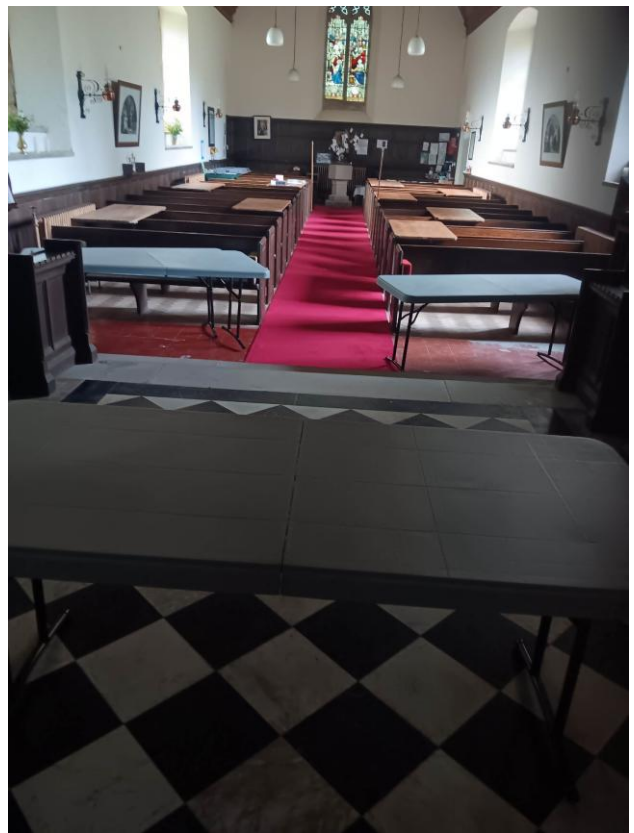
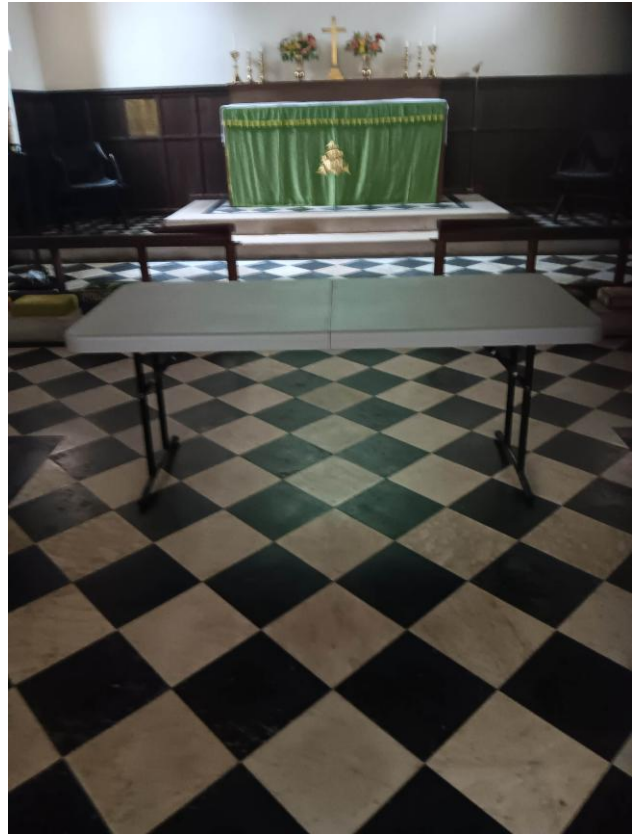
"The church was moved in 1912 from its original site in Heatherycleugh due to the encroachments of the local quarry. It was moved to its current site and it is believed was completed in approximately 1915. It is a stone built church in coursed rubble stone and Westmorland slates to the roof.

The church consists of a nave and chancel with vestry to the north-east and organ loft to the south-east. There is a small porch to the northwest. The orientation of the church is almost 45 degrees out of the east west axis but for the purposes of this report and any drawings we will assume an ecclesiastical orientation with the altar at east end.

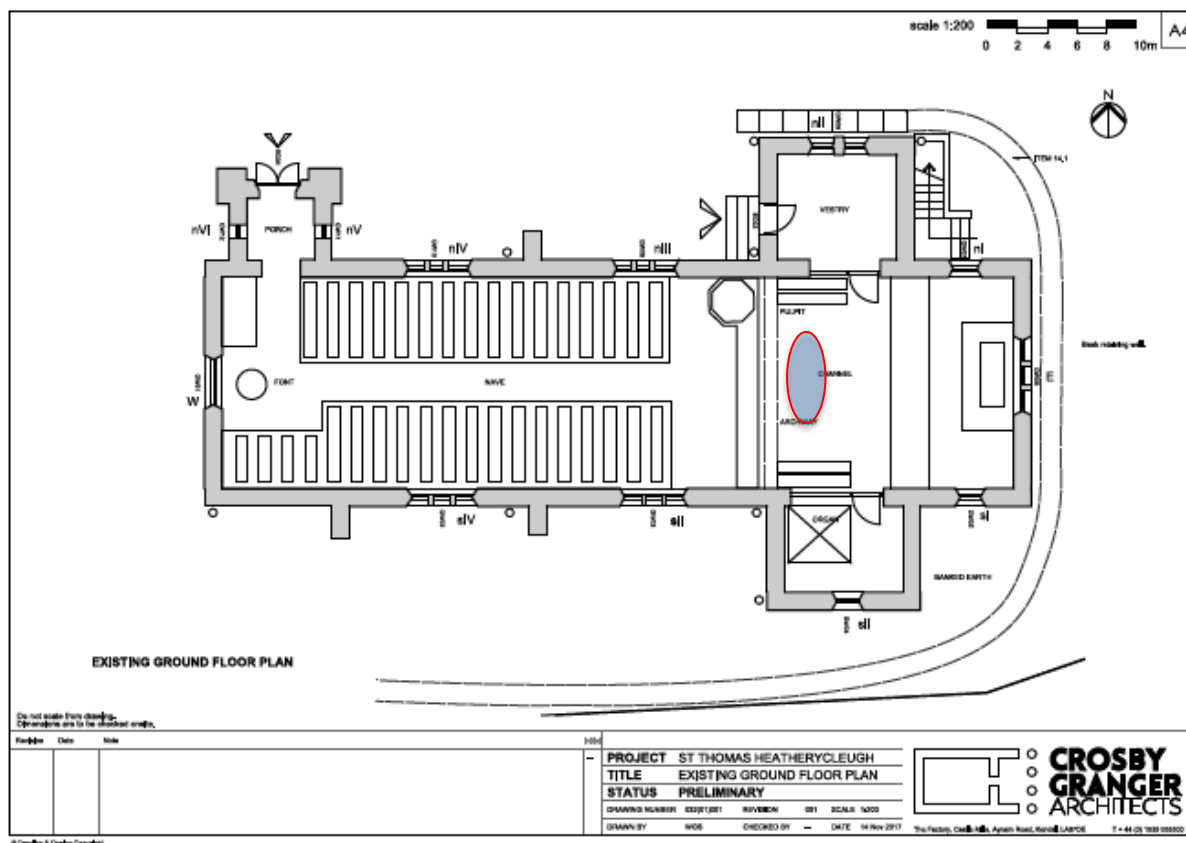
Internally all walls are plastered above dado-height timber panelling. The masonry to the chancel arch is exposed leading to timber barrel vaulted ceilings in both the nave and the chancel. Floors are a mixture of solid tiled to the chancel, sanctuary and central aisle with woodblock to the pews. There is a bellcote over the junction of the vestry and nave with hanging for one bell and two chimney flues was completed in 1915.

There are no partitions within the internal spaces of the nave and chancel. The timber panelling which runs around throughout church appears to be in very good condition."

Proposed location for the Westgate altar:



The table marks the location where the altar will be placed in the centre of the Chancel. This will allow the celebrant to face the congregation for communion and will have a positive impact on services.



The old records and registers and the church plate from St Andrew's will be stored in St Thomas' church safe, until the Durham County Records Office make arrangements to collect records/registers. The PCC will consider individual requests that might be made for church plate items (to be determined by future faculty).

Dan Spraggon
 Church Buildings Support Officer
 Durham Diocese