

Eastgate All Saints: Schedule and Statements

Faculty Petition OFS Application Ref: 2025-117452

Removal and receipt of church contents. (* Items already relocated for safe keeping.)

SCHEDULE OF WORKS OR PROPOSALS:

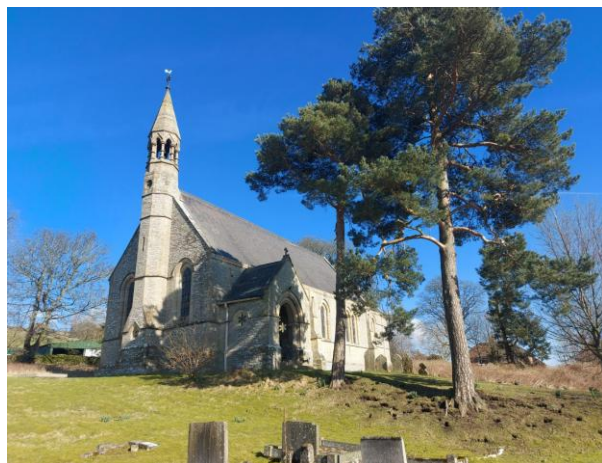
- i. Removal and disposal of damaged wooden paschal candle stand.
- ii. Permanent gift to Willington St Stephen of altar superfrontals belonging to altar of former church of Frosterley St Michael & All Angels (now at St Stephen's).
- iii. Receipt of metal paschal candle stand from former church of Witton Park St Paul.

Receipt of the following contents from the closed church of Westgate St Andrew:

- iv. All church brass items including altar cross, candleholders, large brass plate and brass vases.
- v. Red carpet runner
- vi. 1 no. Glastonbury chair.
- vii. 2no. slim wooden tables/benches: To be received into the church and kept until donated to the parishioner Margaret Craig.

Statement of Significance and Needs

Contents from the closed church of St Andrew: The church 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.](#)]

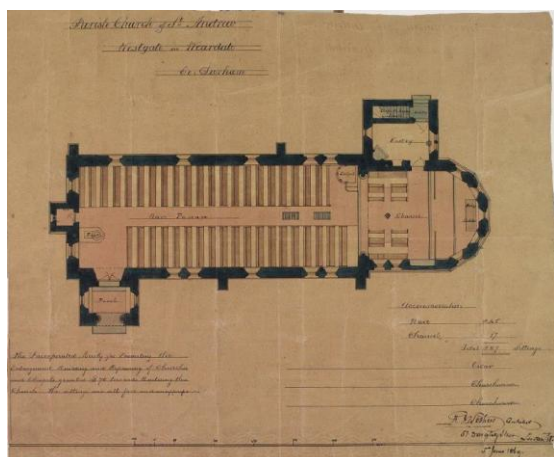


Church Description (CBC Report PM [2588](#)):

"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):

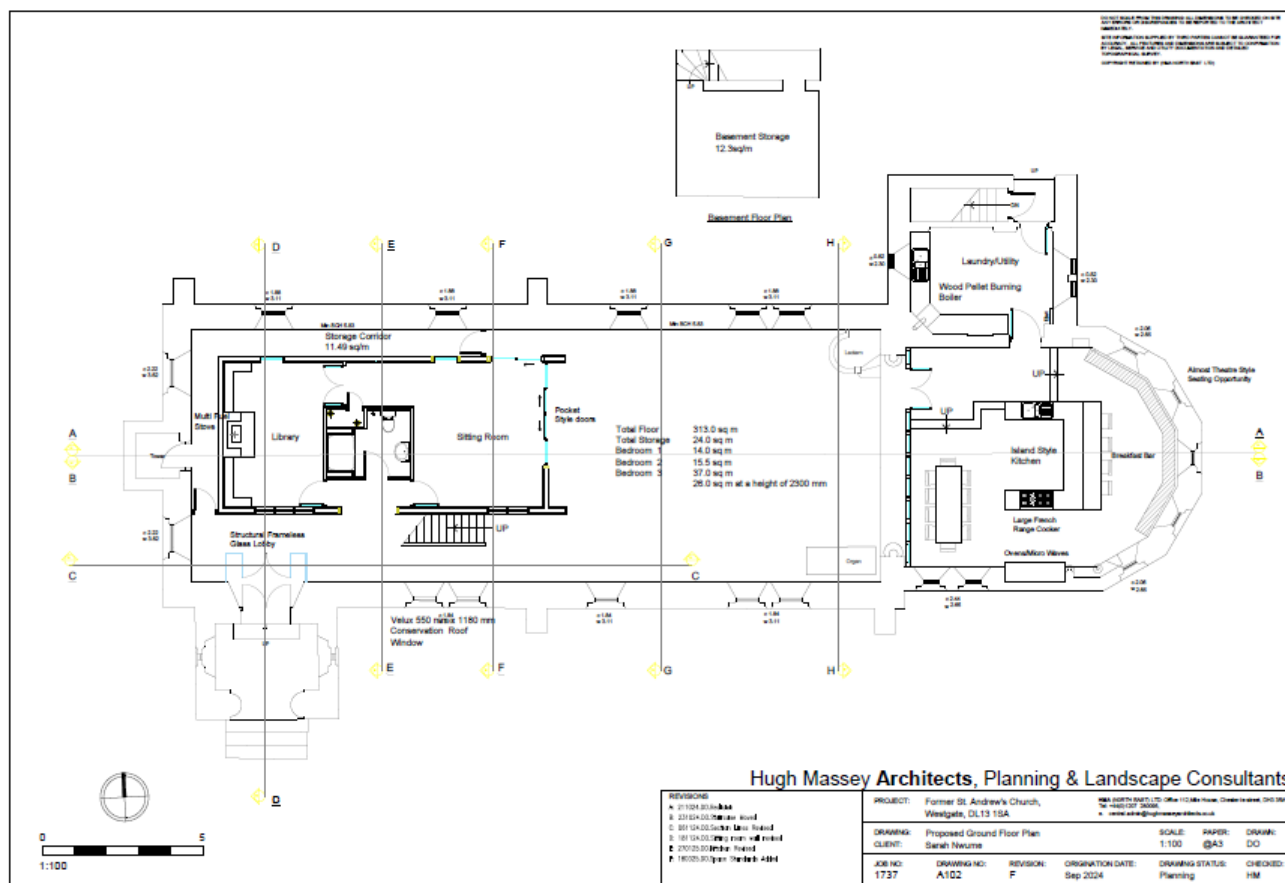


The Disposal Scheme for residential use:

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:



The Church of Eastgate All Saints:

The church is not listed but is situated in the Eastgate Conservation Area. Architect Chloe Granger's 2023 QI Report describes the church as follows:

"The church was designed by J Johnson and built in 1887. The Church consists of Nave, Chancel under a common roof, south Porch, and north Vestry that also accommodates the organ.

The church is constructed of squared roughly coursed sandstone, with ashlar sandstone to windows, doors, buttresses, quoins and parapet. The Nave and Chancel have a moulded string course at cill and window head levels. Internally all walls are plastered above the timber panelling that finishes at cill level. The chancel arch is plastered apart from the arch masonry which is exposed. Timber barrel vaulted ceilings in both the Nave and the Chancel. The Chancel roof being covered below the barrel vaulting by carved timber panels rather than being open to the sarking boards as the Nave. Floors are a mixture of solid construction (presumably a cement sub-floor) with clay tile to the Nave and Chancel apart from the pews which are timber parquet and separated from the clay tiles with a concrete strip. Areas of the clay tiles to the chancel are covered with carpet. The Porch has a concrete floor and the vestry has a timber parquet floor. There is a fleche spire above the chancel arch hanging for two bells."



The Churchwarden describes the reasons why items are needed in All Saints Church:

The Paschal candle stick from Witton Park was required as the one previously in use at Eastgate was designed with three legs. In practice it was very unstable, consequently the candle was regularly broken due to falling on the floor.

The Chancel chair and carpet were wanted as additional items to Eastgate, as we previously had no chair or carpet. The seat cushions were an addition to try and make the pews and church more comfortable for our Dementia friendly services.

The book case is handy to store hymn books between services although the glass-front was not made from toughened glass and broke in transit, it's proving to be very useful addition. The only other two items that we did not receive from Westgate are the two small tables [for Margaret Craig]. NB the cushions and small bookcase were introduced under List A3 and A4.

The brass [altar] items were acquired as our original brass cross, while very ornate, was in several pieces and constantly falling apart every time it was moved, also difficult to clean. The brass collection [from Westgate St Andrew's] are more modern in appearance and as a festival church where we use the church for 'less formal style church' and they look more modern and appropriate to 'non-religious' occasions.

Festival Church: "To answer your question as to the use of our church as a 'Festival Church' and the usage of the items, I will list below the type of occasions [and activities] we have held over the past year:

Mothering Sunday children's Service; Easter Service and egg hunt in the church yard;

Ascension Day service and breakfast; Monthly Neurodiverse Support Group-meetings;

Funerals, weddings and Baptisms;

Pentecost Service for all churches in the Dale including Methodists and Vinyard Churches;

All church PCC plus AGM meetings;

Plough Sunday service; Lamis Service; Paws in Pews Service; Dementia friendly Services;
Children's Christmas party among tree festival, of 30+decorated trees, visit from Santa , entertainer,
refreshments and a lantern procession to the Christmas Tree and village Christmas lights switch on for
Eastgate Village;
Candle lit Carol Services on Christmas Eve;
Musical recital Sparkle and Strings to launch the Christmas Tree Festival; Wreath making sessions;
ECO friendly events for children; Pumpkin carving and Harvest Festival
Bugingham Palace insect hotel building, Tierrarium planting and bird box painting for the church grounds for
Explorers children's groups."





Schedule of church contents to be removed and received:

i. Removal and disposal of damaged wooden paschal candle stand:



The paschal candle stand is damaged and has only three feet (unsure if one foot is missing) leaving it unstable and unsafe for continued use. The candle stand has been replaced by the metal stand from the closed church of St Paul's in Witton Park (used in its former church as a flower stand – see below).

ii. Permanent gift to Willington St Stephen of altar frontals (superfrontals of former church of Frosterley St Michael & All Angels, now at St Stephen's)



Altar superfrontals and pulpit/lectern falls from the closed church of Frosterley St Michael & All Angels. These were initially taken in under faculty (2023-088918) by Eastgate All Saints church but unfortunately it had not been understood by the Area Dean that they were not a set of full frontals. Furthermore, they do not fit the Eastgate altar. They are wanted and requested by St Stephen's church in Willington who wish to reunite the super frontals with the original fine Frosterley oak altar which they received from the closed church under separate faculty (2023-088918).

iii. Receipt of metal paschal candle stand from former church of Witton Park St Paul.



The candle stand from the former church of Witton Park St Paul (previously used as a flower stand) replaces the existing damaged wooden stand which is to be disposed (item i above), and compliments the existing interior of All Saints church.

Contents received from the closed church of Westgate St Andrew:

iv. All church brass items including altar cross, candleholders, large brass plate and brass vases.



Image of brass altar items in the closed church of Westgate St Andrew:



There are no inscriptions on the brass items. St Andrew's CBC report described of *low significance*.

v. Red carpet runner



Image from carpet runner inside the closed church of Westgate St Andrew:



vi. 1 no. Glastonbury chair.



vii. 2no. slim wooden tables/benches: To be received by All Saints' church but the parish have decided these to be given to the parishioner Margaret Craig.



Dan Spraggon
Church Buildings Support Officer
Durham Diocese