

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
R Yorke Esq

Church of St John the Evangelist
Rookhope
County Durham

archaeological building recording

report 4898
November 2018

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological recording project conducted in advance of proposed alteration work at the church of St John the Evangelist, Rookhope, Co Durham. A photographic and drawn survey of the building, using existing architects' plans, has been carried out.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by R Yorke Esq and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The church

- 1.3 St John's is the second church to have served the parish. The first church was on the east side of the Rookhope Burn, about 200m west-south-west of St John's. The situation of the old church made it damp and prone to flooding. By the beginning of the 20th century there was pressure for the building to be replaced. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners provided a plot of land on a higher site. The architect for the new church was William Carøe, who was an important figure in the field of Arts and Crafts architecture and design. The foundation stone was laid on 30th July 1904.
- 1.4 The church has wide, low-pitched roofs and round arches to the plain windows. There is a broad round chancel arch. The low walls and wide arches gave rise to the term 'moorland style'. The materials used in the church are those seen in most of the buildings in the immediate area. The walls are local sandstone rubble, with some dressed stone, and the roof is covered with grey slate. The church was closed in 2014.
- 1.5 St John's church is a simple building and one that has undergone no significant alteration since it was opened in 1905. It is listed at Grade II. It is of interest chiefly because of its connection with the noted Arts and Crafts architect William Carøe, and because of its distinctive design which is linked with the exactly contemporary church at Broughton Moor. Carøe is better-known in the north of England for work on larger churches, such as Durham Cathedral and St Hilda's at Hartlepool, than for smaller buildings like St John's. The church at Rookhope is an interesting and unusual example of his work.

2. Project background

Location (Figures 1 and 2)

- 2.1 St John's Church lies to the south-east of village of Rookhope, Co Durham, at Ordnance Survey grid reference NY 94285 42299. It is a Grade II listed building, no. 1232216 (Appendix 1).

Development proposal

- 2.2 The church has been disused since 2014. Proposals have been drawn up for residential conversion of the building.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the project was to provide a record of the building in its present state. A brief summary of the history of the area is provided as background information. The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. In this instance, the scheme of works was designed to address agenda items PM: North Pennine dales, MOiv: religion and belief, and MOix, architectural style.

Specification summary

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, reference DS16.482r2, provided by Archaeological Services Durham University and approved by the County Durham Archaeology Section. The survey is at Level 2, as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016).

Dates

- 2.5 The church was examined on 22nd October 2018. This report was prepared for November 2018.

Personnel

- 2.6 Research, survey and report preparation work were carried out by Richard Annis. The illustrations were prepared by David Graham.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The project archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Archaeology Data Service in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-332854**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

- 3.1 The church and churchyard are disused. There are houses a short distance away to the north and west; the surrounding land is used for pasture.

Site and situation

- 3.2 The church is at an elevation of 335m OD, on the east side of the Rookhope Burn valley. About 70m to the north is the side valley of a tributary, the Stotfield Burn.

The sloping site covers about 3320m square metres and faces north-west towards a road bridge over the Stotfield Burn. The site is an open triangular area of rough grass, with mature trees on the north side of the church.

- 3.3 The long axis of the church is aligned WNW – ESE. In this report, directions are given with reference to liturgical orientation; that is, the building is described as if it ran truly east-west.

Geology and soils

- 3.4 The bedrock is sandstone and limestone of the Stainmore Formation overlain by glacial deposits. Stone quarrying and mining for iron, lead fluorspar and ganister were important industries in the Rookhope area in the past.

4. Historical and archaeological development

The site

- 4.1 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861 shows the study area as an open field; the site remained open ground until the church was built in 1904-5. Immediately to the north, the valley of the Stotfield Burn has been used for mineral working since the late 17th century. A man called John Clavering is recorded as having worked the area for lead in 1693 (Durham Historic Environment Record reference 3824). The first edition map marks the site as 'Stotfield Vein (iron)', and an old shaft is shown on the north boundary of the study area. The site and the surrounding area were worked at different times for lead, fluorspar, and ironstone. The Rookhope Valley Mining Company mined lead in the 1860s and 70s, sinking two shafts and driving an adit, but the British Geological Society report (Dunham 1990) suggests that output was low. By the end of the 19th century, when the second edition OS map was produced, the Stotfield Vein is marked 'disused'.
- 4.2 The collections at Durham Record Office and Beamish Museum include photographs of the workings, before and after the erection of the church. One is a postcard marked Stotsfieldburn that shows the old burial ground and vicarage to the south-west of the study area, and the mine site with a waterwheel and a steam engine. The present site of St John's is shown as an open field. A later 'View of Stotsfieldburn' shows mine waste heaps and St John's; a path running down from the church to the north-west boundary of the study area appears to be new.
- 4.3 In the early twentieth century, the Weardale Lead Company worked the mine and the old spoil tips for fluorspar. The mine closed in 1966.

Churches at Rookhope

- 4.4 St John's is the second church to have served the parish. The first edition map shows the first village church in an isolated position on the east side of the Rookhope Burn, about 200m west-south-west of St John's. It is marked 'Chapel of Ease' because Rookhope was at that time still a part of the parish of Stanhope. A description of this church is given in Whellan's Directory (1894, 390), which says

"This was formerly a portion of the extensive and ancient parish of Stanhope, and was for many years a chapelry, but in 1866 it was constituted a separate parish ... The Church, which was erected, but not dedicated, in 1822, is a plain stone building, consisting of nave, chancel, and vestry. It was restored in 1884, and

dedicated to the Holy Trinity in 1892. The church will seat 250. There is a marble mural tablet to the memory of the Featherstone family. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, valued at about £400, and held by the Rev. William Robert Hartley, M.A."

- 4.5 Some information about the first church appears in accounts by two local historians. William Fordyce's *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine* (Fordyce 1857, 669) says 'this is a spacious village church, erected about 30 years ago ... a burying ground is attached to the church, in which there are but three headstones, recently erected'. H Conyers Surtees published a history of the parishes of Rookhope, Westgate and Eastgate in 1925. In this, he says
- "The old church ... was a plain stone building, erected prior to 1824 as a chapel of ease to Stanhope, built in the Early English style of architecture and consisting of a nave, a chancel with a vestry and a turret containing a bell. The windows were provided with pointed double lights and there was seating accommodation for about 200 worshippers, the seats being all of pine wood except the Featherstone family pew in the north-west angle of the nave, which was of oak. The church was first licensed by Bishop Maltby on 29th July 1841, and on February 16th 1866 it was separated from Stanhope".
- 4.6 The 1896 second edition map shows the Vicarage alongside the old church, which is labelled 'Holy Trinity'. The site of St John's is shown as the west end of an empty pasture; a footpath descends along the south boundary of the field, meeting the lane at the site of the present church gate.
- 4.7 The situation of the old church, close to the Rookhope Burn, made it damp and prone to flooding. By the beginning of the 20th century there was pressure for the building to be replaced. At a Vestry Meeting held in Rookhope's Barrington Schoolroom on 18th June 1904, it was resolved "that the vicar and churchwardens be authorised to apply for a licence or faculty to take down the existing church and erect a new one on the site offered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in a drier and more convenient place". The proposal for the new church (DULASC) states that the land, excepting the mineral rights, was given to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by Sir Alfred de Bock Porter (1840-1908).
- 4.8 The application was successful and work on a new church began in 1904. It was designed by William Carøe, who was architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from 1895 until his death in 1938. Carøe was an important figure in the field of Arts and Crafts architecture and design; he built and restored many churches and served as architect to Durham Cathedral and to the diocesan board of finance of Newcastle upon Tyne. He was a distinguished designer of ecclesiastical and lay furniture, embroidery, metalwork and sculpture. His biographer, Jennifer Freeman, says
- "Among Carøe's most appealing churches are two in the North Country, St Columba's Broughton Moor [near Maryport, Cumbria] and St John's, Rookhope, Durham, both of 1905 ... St John's stands in an isolated setting, its low walls hugging the hillside. The stonework follows a local tradition of uncoursed rubble walling. In the nave is a series of carefully placed semi-circular windows with deeply splayed window reveals. The chancel arch is rounded too. There is a sturdy little font" (Freeman 1990, 62). A footnote says that "unfortunately the effect of the interior has been compromised by harsh repointing".

- 4.9 There are marked resemblances between the churches at Rookhope and Broughton Moor. They have similar plans, though St Columba's is a little larger and has a low bell tower over its porch. This adjoins the vestry, unlike the one at St John's which is at the west end of the nave. Both have wide, low-pitched roofs and round arches to their plain windows, which are triple in the gable walls. They have broad round chancel arches and their nave roofs have segmental arched trusses with wind-braces; Freeman described these as "in the typical Caroë manner". The low walls and wide arches gave rise to the term 'moorland style', which is used by Surtees (4.11, below) and repeated, capitalised, in the listing description for St John's (Appendix 1). A local story at Broughton Moor says that Caröe had been inspired by a recent visit to the ruined abbey on Iona, and that this explains a vaguely Celtic influence in the design of their church.
- 4.10 The foundation stone was laid on 30th July 1904. An undated press cutting, believed to be from the Newcastle Journal, is pasted into the Vestry Minutes book. This says that after a parade from the centre of the village to the site, and the presentation of an engraved silver trowel, the stone was laid with Masonic ceremony by Lord Barnard, the Right Worshipful Grand Master of Durham. The report also says that "the bottle containing coins and documents was placed in the cavity by Brother James Lee, Provincial Grand Treasurer". No more information about this time capsule is given and its exact location is unknown. There are photographs of the procession, and of a sizeable crowd of people at the stone-laying ceremony, in the collection at Beamish Museum. Low-resolution versions of these photographs can be seen online.
- 4.11 A second cutting preserved in the Minutes Book, this time from the Darlington and Stockton Times for 20th May 1905, describes the consecration and furnishing of the new church. It says that the stone for the building was taken and re-dressed from the old church, and that the building was not plastered but colour-washed inside. It had chairs rather than pews in the nave. The building contractor was Mr William Hall of Gateshead and the cost of the building was about £1200, plus about £250 for furnishings. The organ cost £138 10s, of which £60 was given by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The celebrant at the consecration service was the Right Reverend Noel Hodges, Assistant Bishop of Durham.
- 4.12 The new church did not meet with universal approval. Surtees's account of the old church, quoted above, goes on to say
- "In 1905, it was demolished, as the parishioners complained of it being damp, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners built a new church in the moorland style, utilizing the materials of the old one. This is on the site of the former edifice [an error] and overlooks Stotfield. It possesses no feature of interest and is declared by the inhabitants to be inferior to the one pulled down. The choir stalls and the Laudian screen are of plain oak, and a carved oak reredos to the memory of the late Vicar, H W Forbes, is about to be placed in the church, as well as a tablet recording the names of those parishioners who fell in the Great War".
- 4.13 Later entries in the Vestry Minutes book records proposals for some alterations. In 1909, an application was made to tile the floor of the chancel and to move the altar rail back by one foot to provide more room for kneeling; also to plaster and colour the walls and to extend the heating pipes into the chancel and vestry. In 1910, the chairs in the nave were replaced. Fifteen long pews were bought from Frosterley

church for £1 apiece, plus two short ones at ten shillings each. The proposal for plastering the walls seems not to have been carried out. The third edition OS map shows the church as it is today. A small shed at the south-east corner of the site sits on the line of the old footpath, which is diverted to the south-west to reach the lane a little to the south of the church. There are no changes to the building or the site in subsequent editions. St John's church was closed in 2014.

5. The building

- 5.1 When it was examined, the building had been disused for some time. The interior had been partly cleared and some excavation work had been carried out on the south side of the building, steepening the banks at the south and east sides of the plot. A plan and elevations of the church are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Exterior

- 5.2 St John's church stands near the top of its sloping plot, near the crest of the shoulder of land between the main and tributary valleys (Photograph 1). The site entrance is an iron gate at the south-west side (Photograph 2). The materials used in the church are those seen in most of the buildings in the immediate area. The walls are random yellow-grey sandstone rubble, with dressed stone at the angles and around the window and door openings. The low-pitched roof is covered with grey slate (Photograph 3).
- 5.3 The entrance porch is at the west end of the south face (Photograph 4). The deeply chamfered door has a plain round arch. There is a window on the west side; the east wall is recessed under the eaves and has recently been used as a store for heating gas (Photograph 5). There are two simple round-arched windows and three shallow full-height buttresses in the nave wall (Photograph 6). Between the buttresses, a chamfered plinth steps down to the west, following the fall of the ground. The east end is dominated by the wide gable of the vestry and organ chamber (Photograph 7). This has three graduated lights with round heads, and shallow buttresses at the ends of the elevation. A plain door in the west face leads into the vestry (Photograph 8). A chimney of dressed stone rises from the middle of the vestry ridge.
- 5.4 The east end of the church is cut into the slope and has a triple window set high in the gable (Photograph 9). There are chamfered offsets at the south side, where the vestry wall is slightly set back, and on the opposite corner. The stone coping of the gable is formed of a row of rounded roughly-dressed stones, set directly on the slates. The conscious rusticity of this feature is slightly undermined by the use of spiral iron brackets in the place of kneelers (Photograph 10).
- 5.5 The north face is fairly plain. The chancel window is higher than those of the nave (Photograph 11); below it, as below the others, there is an iron louvre embossed 'COWELL'S VENTILATOR, BLACKBURN' (Photograph 12). As on the south face, the plinth steps down to follow the natural slope (Photograph 13), and the windows have plain dressed masonry and iron bars supporting clear leaded lights (Photograph 14). At the west end is a sunken heating chamber with a concrete slab roof. This is secured by a steel door and was not accessible for this survey (Photograph 15). It is assumed that a boiler here was vented by means of a flue in the west wall of the church, but this could not be confirmed.

- 5.6 The west end has a tall group of three windows, as seen elsewhere, with clasping buttresses and a simple chamfered plinth (Photograph 16). There are two blocked openings north of the windows. A prominent fault in the masonry runs up the wall face between them. The function of these openings is not certainly known; they are probably connected with the former heating flue that led to a gabled outlet, with openings like those of the vestry chimney, at the peak of this wall. Immediately below this is a slated timber bell-cote carried on two plain corbels (Photograph 17). The bell is still in place but its rope is broken. No sign of any inscription could be seen on the metal. At the foot of the southern buttress is the commemorative foundation stone (Photograph 18). Interestingly, the stone is slightly narrower than the face of the buttress in which it is set, so two thin fillets have been inserted at the right-hand side (Photograph 19). The inscription reads 'THIS STONE WAS LAID WITH / MASONIC HONOURS ON JULY 30TH 1904 / BY THE RT. HON. LORD BARNARD / RT. WOR. GRAND MASTER OF DURHAM / "THIS STONE WHICH I HAVE SET SHALL BE GOD'S / HOUSE" / GEN. XXVIII 22.'
- 5.7 The porch roof has open trusses and the west window and the chamfered door jambs are quite plain (Photograph 20). The heavy plank door has decorative furniture in a rustic style that matches that of the fabric; there are long strap hinges with arrow terminals (Photograph 21).

Interior

- 5.8 The simplicity of the porch is matched inside, where the church door has a deeply-chamfered round arch (Photograph 22). The internal walls have exposed rubble masonry and the dressed stone of the chancel arch, organ chamber and window heads stands out (Photograph 23). There is no sign of heating pipes on the nave walls, but modern gas-fired heaters are present. Each wall has three splayed windows with ventilation grilles in their sills (Photographs 24, 25). Below the three-light west window is the font (Photographs 26, 27). The masonry has suffered from damp which has caused spalling of parts of the face. The 'harsh repointing' mentioned by Carøe's biographer (paragraph 4.8, above) seems to have contributed to this damage; it is a dark grey mortar, scored with trowel lines that crudely define individual stones (Photograph 28).
- 5.9 The choir is a step above the floor of the nave. It retains its fixed seats and screen; on the south side is the round arch of the organ chamber (Photograph 29). This has a splay that is continued in the rubble wall below the dressed voussoirs. Another step leads to the chancel, with an oak communion rail and two steps to the altar plinth (Photograph 30). The three-light east window is slightly obscured by a reredos. There is a single light in the north wall and a low stepped sedilia niche in the south. The fixed oak stalls of the choir (Photograph 31) are part of the original Carøe design but the Vestry Meeting minutes show that the tiled floors in the east end are later additions (Photograph 32, 33). The Arts and Crafts-style oak altar rails - the Laudian screen mentioned by Surtees - are also Carøe's work (Photograph 34). There is no obvious evidence that they were moved from their original positions, as was proposed in 1909.
- 5.10 The close-boarded roof over nave and choir has three open trusses with arch-braced collar beams and wind braces below a single purlin on each side (Photograph 35). The principal rafters are set into the heads of the walls and the braces run down to moulded ends without corbels. By contrast, the chancel has a boarded wagon roof

with a single moulded transverse rib (Photograph 36). The roof springs from decorative longitudinal timbers with moulded billets.

- 5.11 On the south side of the choir, the organ and its bench are still in place, but most of the pipes have been removed (Photograph 37). Behind the instrument is the passage to the vestry. The external and internal doors show the same style of simple heavy joinery seen in the main church door, very typical of the Arts and Crafts movement (Photograph 38).
- 5.12 The vestry is plastered and whitewashed and its walls are badly affected by damp (Photograph 39). A modern excavation for services has been cut against the east wall. In the south-east corner there is a small round piscina with a drain (Photograph 40). Traditionally, the water from the piscina would be led into the ground rather than being led to a sewer. No obvious outlet for the small drain here was seen. There is a fitted cabinet with numbered hooks for choir surplices in a niche on the north wall (Photograph 41); an angled wall beside the door has the traces of the coke stove that formerly stood here (Photograph 42).

Memorials

- 5.13 The east window is the only one in the church with stained glass. It shows the Crucifixion flanked on the left by the Virgin and on the right by St John (Photograph 43). An inscription at the base reads 'TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF JANE WESTGARTH, DIED MARCH 9TH 1905, THESE THREE CHANCEL WINDOWS ARE DEDICATED BY HER HUSBAND JOHN WESTGARTH. AD 1905' (Photographs 44-46). The carved and painted oak reredos below the window has a small plaque reading 'ERECTED BY THE WOMENS HELP SOCIETY / IN MEMORY OF / REV. H. W. FORBES, M.A. VICAR 1915-19' (Photograph 47). On the north wall of the nave, close to the choir step, is a brass plaque in memory of Ethel Whitehead (Photograph 48). Near the middle of the north wall is an oak panel commemorating twelve men of the parish who died in the First World War (Photographs 49, 50). At the west end, near the font, is a large monument of black and white marble that was transferred from the old church. This commemorates Ann Featherston (*sic*), who died at Gateshead in 1834 (Photograph 51). On the south wall, a small wooden plaque by the door lists the Vicars of Rookhope (Photograph 52). This reads 'Vicars of Rookhope. Augustus Davies, 1866-1872: Clement Francis Cobb, 1872-1873: Richard Waters, 1873-1877: John Wagstaff, 1877-1883: James Johnson, 1883-1885: James Philip Shepperd, 1885-1891: William Robert Hartley, 1892-1902: Joseph Baker, 1902-1912: George R Christie, 1912-1915: Henry Warren Forbes, 1915-1919: Arthur White Officer, 1919-1972. Priests-in-Charge. John Kenneth Young, 1972-1973: Andrew J Bealing, 1973-1985'.

Other church furnishings

- 5.14 A notice posted on the church door on behalf of the Diocesan Consistory Court showed the destination of the church furnishings. Most were distributed among local churches but some went to parishioners and others to be sold. The list is reproduced below.
- To St Thomas, Stanhope:
- the altar, with its frontal, brass cross and candlesticks; also a stone cross from the old church, which is recorded as having stood loose against the west gable of St John's
- To St John's at St John's Chapel:
- the carpet

To St Thomas, Heatherycleugh (Cowshill):

- the votive candle stand

To All Saints, Eastgate:

- the light shades

To St Andrew, Westgate

- the silver chalice and paten

To Stanhope Methodist Church:

- the hymn board and numbers

To Rookhope Village Hall

- the War Memorial plaque

To Jennifer Bainbridge:

- the plaque in memory of her four times great grandmother, Jane Ann Dixon

To Bryan Featherstone:

- the Featherstone coat of arms and the end of the 'Featherstone pew'

To Chilton Church Antiques:

- the stove, bishop's chair, eagle lectern, the pews from the nave, the loose chairs, the offertory box, the collection dishes and the kneelers.

The churchyard

- 5.15 The churchyard is an open area of rough grass bounded by dry stone walls. There are some mature trees on the higher ground north-east of the building. Some stone paving remains between the church and vestry doors. Beside this the ground has been disturbed by recent works. The path to the iron gate is unsurfaced; there is no sign of another path, shown in early photographs, between the south-west corner of the church and the west boundary.
- 5.16 As far as can be determined, the existing churchyard at St John's has not been used as a burial ground. Since the pre-1905 churchyard was closed for burials in March 1984, the adjacent civil cemetery has been used.

6. Assessment

- 6.1 St John's church is a simple building and one that has undergone no significant alteration since it was opened in 1905. It is listed at Grade II. It is of interest chiefly because of its connection with the noted Arts and Crafts architect William Caröe, and because of its distinctive design which is linked with the exactly contemporary church at Broughton Moor. Caröe is better-known in the north of England for work on larger churches such as Durham Cathedral and St Hilda's, Hartlepool, than for smaller buildings like St John's. The church at Rookhope is an interesting and unusual example of his work.

7. Sources and references

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DULASC

Durham University Libraries Archives and Special Collections (DULASC) hold a number of documents about the church; the following have been used in the preparation of this report.

DDR/EJ/FAC/3/443. 16 August 1904. Rookhope: Faculty for taking down the existing church and erecting a new one.

DDR/EA/CHC/3/R/16. 13 May 1905. Rookhope: petitions for consecration of the new church.

DDR/EA/BEP/4/737. 14 March 1984. Order for discontinuation of burials in the churchyard of Rookhope St John the Evangelist: Order in Council (with plan).

Websites

www.beamish.org.uk Beamish Museum, People's Collection; photo archive

www.keystothepast.info

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Specimen Producing Mines in the North Pennines, available online at

<http://www.kureczka-martin.com/Rookhope.htm>

Appendix 1: Listing description

Stanhope Stotfield Burn NY 94 SW Rookhope 10/277 Church of St. John the Evangelist GV II

Grade: II List Entry Number: 1232216 Date first listed: 05-Jun-1987.

Parish church, 1905 by Caroë and Passmore, replacing 1822-4 church on lower site beside burn. Coursed squared sandstone with ashlar dressings and quoins; Welsh slate roof with stone gable copings. Nave with south porch; chancel with south vestry and organ chamber. Gabled porch has deeply-chamfered open round arch; boarded inner door. Round-headed narrow windows in buttressed bays of nave and 3 similar windows in west end and in south gable of vestry. 3-light east window. Low-pitched roof has gabled west bellcote above overhanging gabled bellcote.

Interior: stone with ashlar dressings; arch-braced collar-beam roof with wind braces. Round arch to chancel and chamfered round arch to organ; wide segmental arch over sedilia. Simple octagonal stone pedestal font with ogee-shaped C17 wood cover. Memorials to Featherstone family, removed from former church: white marble oval on black mount, to Mrs Ann Featherstone died 1834 and buried in Church of St. John, Newcastle; and high-relief Featherstone arms in wood.

Appendix 2: Catalogue of photographs

No	Description
1	A view of St John's church and its setting
2	The church gate, the churchyard and the porch
3	The south face of the church
4	The porch, with some sloping stone paving outside it
5	The east face of the porch
6	The south face of the nave
7	The south face of the vestry
8	The vestry door, in the west face
9	The east end of the church
10	Detail of the rustic coping on the east gable
11	The north window of the chancel
12	One of the iron ventilators fitted below the windows
13	The north window of the choir
14	One of the windows in the north wall of the nave
15	The north face of the church with the heating chamber
16	The west end of the church
17	The ventilator on the west gable
18	The west face of the porch
19	The foundation stone
20	A view looking up into the porch
21	Detail of the decorative hinge and nailing on the church door
22	The simply chamfered entrance and heavy door
23	A view looking east from the west end of the church
24	The north wall of the nave
25	The south wall of the nave
26	The church seen from the east end
27	The font, with the broken bell-rope beside it
28	Detail of the east window
29	The south side of the choir
30	The chancel
31	The north side of the choir
32	The tiled floor of the choir
33	The tiled floor and the steps in the chancel
34	One of the two Arts and Crafts altar rails
35	The roof of the nave and choir
36	The wagon roof over the chancel
37	The south side of the choir
38	A view looking west from the vestry
39	The east wall of the vestry
40	Detail of the small piscina in the vestry
41	The north wall of the vestry
42	The angled wall beside the vestry door
43	The east window
44	The memorial inscription in the east window
45	Inscription in the central light
46	The inscription and date in the southern light

No	Description
47	The reredos
48	The memorial to Ethel Whitehead
49	The Great War memorial on the north wall of the nave
50	Detail showing the names of men who died in the First World War
51	The Featherstone memorial
52	The wooden plaque listing Rookhope's vicars



Photograph 1: A view of St John's church and its setting, as seen from the south. The lane descends to the main road at the bottom of the valley



Photograph 2: The church gate, the porch and the rough grass of the churchyard, seen from the lane to the south-west



Photograph 3: The south face of the church. Note the recently-disturbed ground in the foreground. A bag at the peak of the gable covers recently-disconnected electric cables



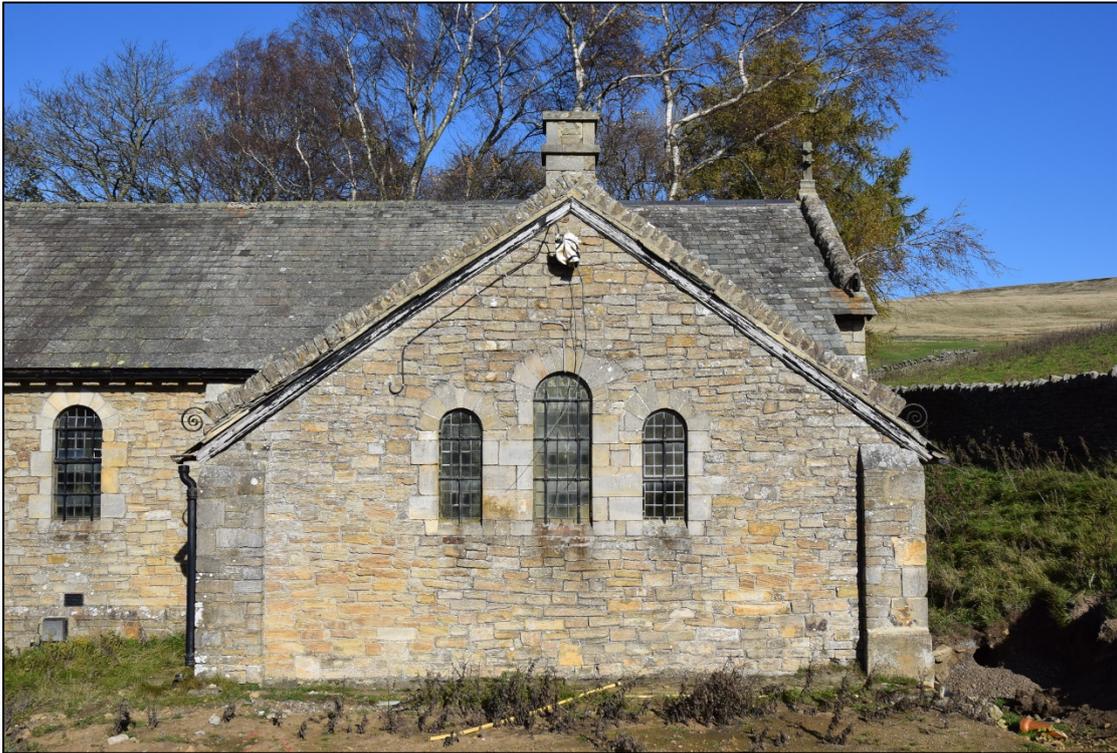
Photograph 4: The porch, with some sloping stone paving outside it. The scale is 1m long



Photograph 5 (left): The east face of the porch, adapted for use as a store for the gas cylinders that supplied the heaters



Photograph 6 (below): The south face of the nave



Photograph 7: The south face of the vestry demonstrates the low pitch of the church roof

Photograph 8: The vestry door, in the west face



Photograph 9: The east end of the church is cut into the slope. The chimney served a stove in the vestry



Photograph 10: Detail of the rustic coping on the east gable. Note the random lengths of the dressed quoins in the three-light east window



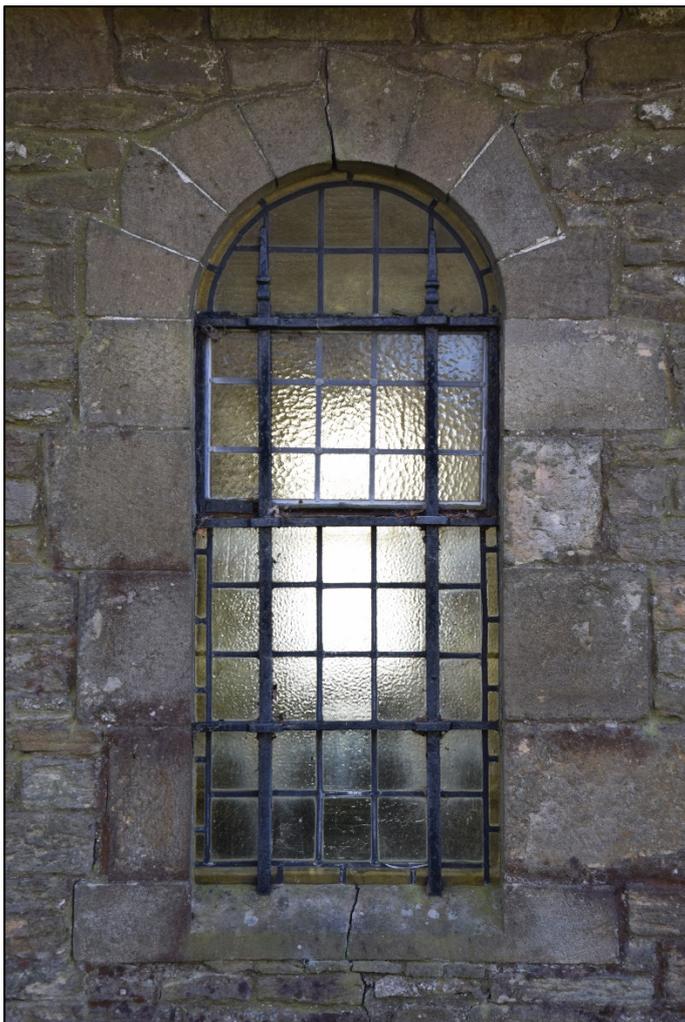
Photograph 11: The north window of the chancel, seen from the natural ground level north-east of the church



Photograph 12: One of the iron ventilators fitted below the windows



Photograph 13 (above): The north window of the choir. A view looking south-east



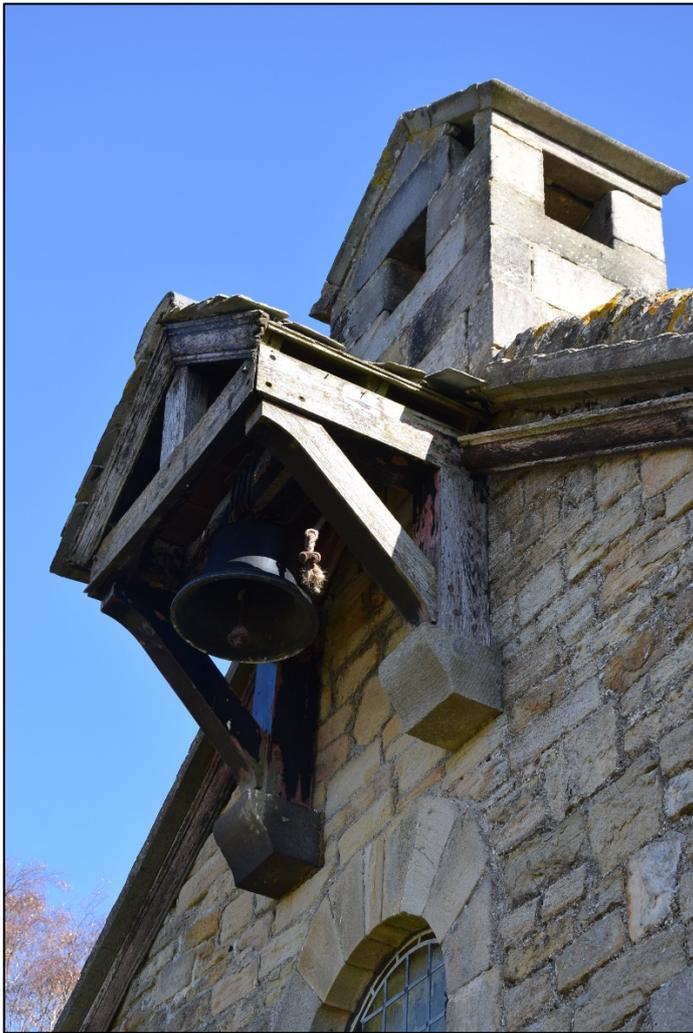
Photograph 14 (left): One of the windows in the north wall of the nave. Note the simple masonry and the decorative spikes on the external iron bars



Photograph 15: The north face of the church, with the sunken heating chamber in the foreground



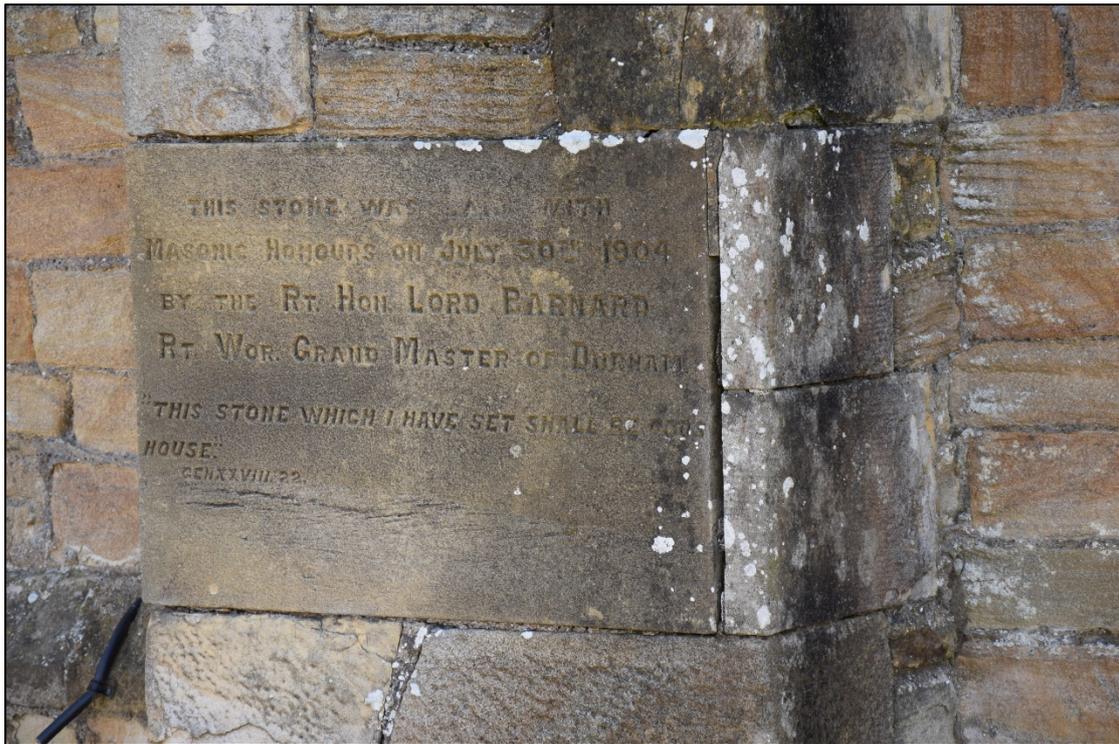
Photograph 16: The west end of the church, with signs of some recent excavation work in the grass



Photograph 17 (left): The ventilator on the west gable, with the bell cote below it

Photograph 18 (below): The west face of the porch and the buttress with the inscribed foundation stone





Photograph 19: The foundation stone and the fillets of masonry that make it fit the width of the clasping buttress



Photograph 20: A view looking up into the porch



Photograph 21: Detail of the decorative hinge and nailing on the church door



Photograph 22: The simply chamfered entrance and heavy door, seen from the nave. The scale is 0.5m long



Photograph 23: A view looking east from the west end of the church. The wide chancel arch has no chamfers



Photograph 24: The north wall of the nave



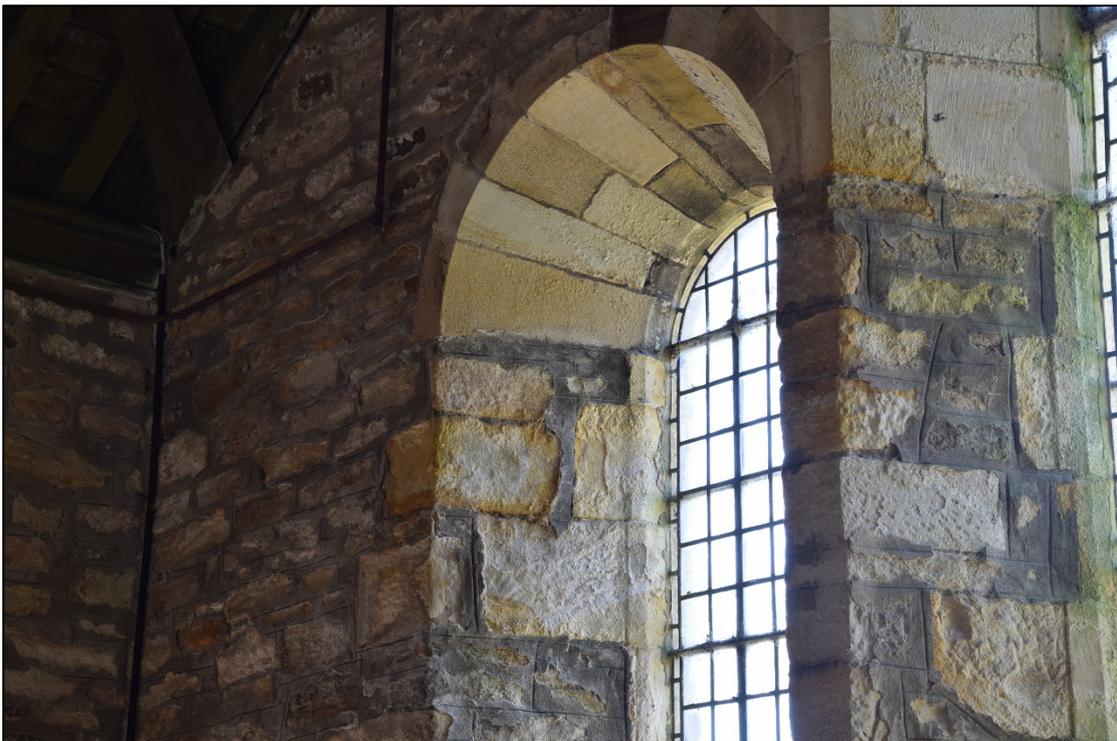
Photograph 25: The south wall of the nave, with one of the modern gas heaters



Photograph 26: The church seen from the east end. The stone flags at the centre of the nave are flanked by parquet where the pews stood



Photograph 27: The font, with the broken bell-rope beside it. The full width of the church is paved with stone flags at this end



Photograph 28: Detail of the east window, showing damage to the surface of the stonework. The grey cement mortar can be seen clearly here



Photograph 29: The south side of the choir, with the arch to the organ chamber and vestry



Photograph 30: The chancel. The small sedilia occupies the space where a south window might have been, but for the vestry on the other side of the wall



Photograph 31 (above): The north side of the choir, with the original oak stalls and screen



Photograph 32 (left): The tiled floor of the choir, with the altar rails and part of the chancel floor in the foreground



Photograph 33: The tiled floor and the steps in the chancel



Photograph 34: One of the two Arts and Crafts altar rails, which are undoubtedly part of William Caröe's original design for the building



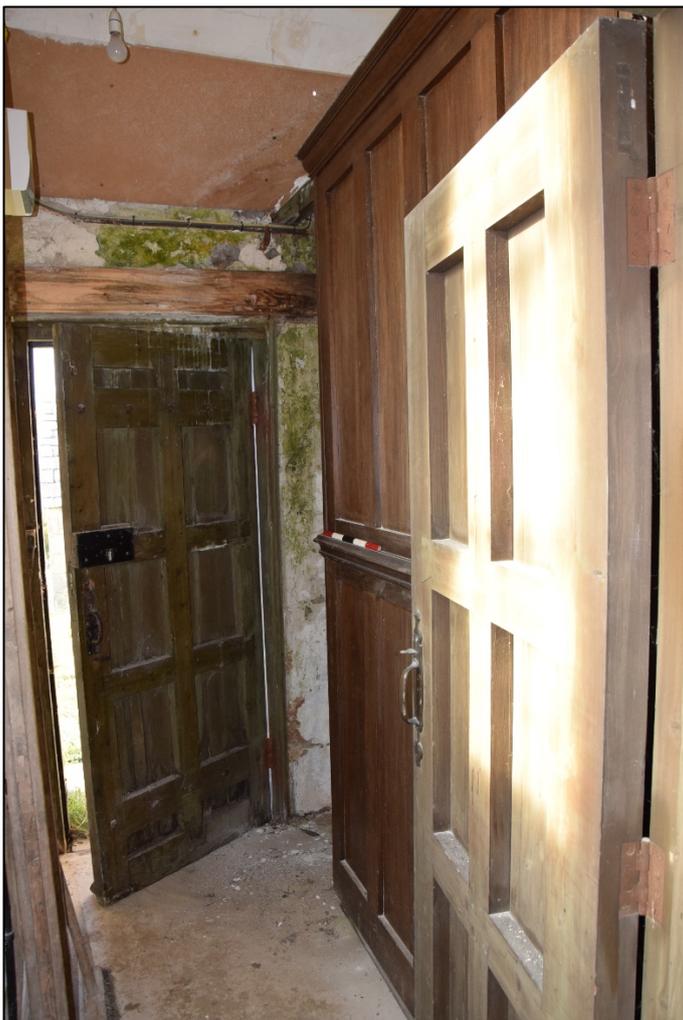
Photograph 35: The roof of the nave and choir. A view looking north-west



Photograph 36: The wagon roof over the chancel



Photograph 37 (above): The south side of the choir, showing the organ with the vestry passage behind it.



Photograph 38 (left): A view looking west from the vestry. Note the simple heavy joinery of the two doors



Photograph 39 (above): The east wall of the vestry, showing a recent hole for cable ducts and the damp-affected plasterwork



Photograph 40 (left): Detail of the small piscina at the south-east corner of the vestry. This was used for washing vessels used in the Communion service



Photograph 41 (above): The north wall of the vestry, with an open-fronted cabinet for choir vestments



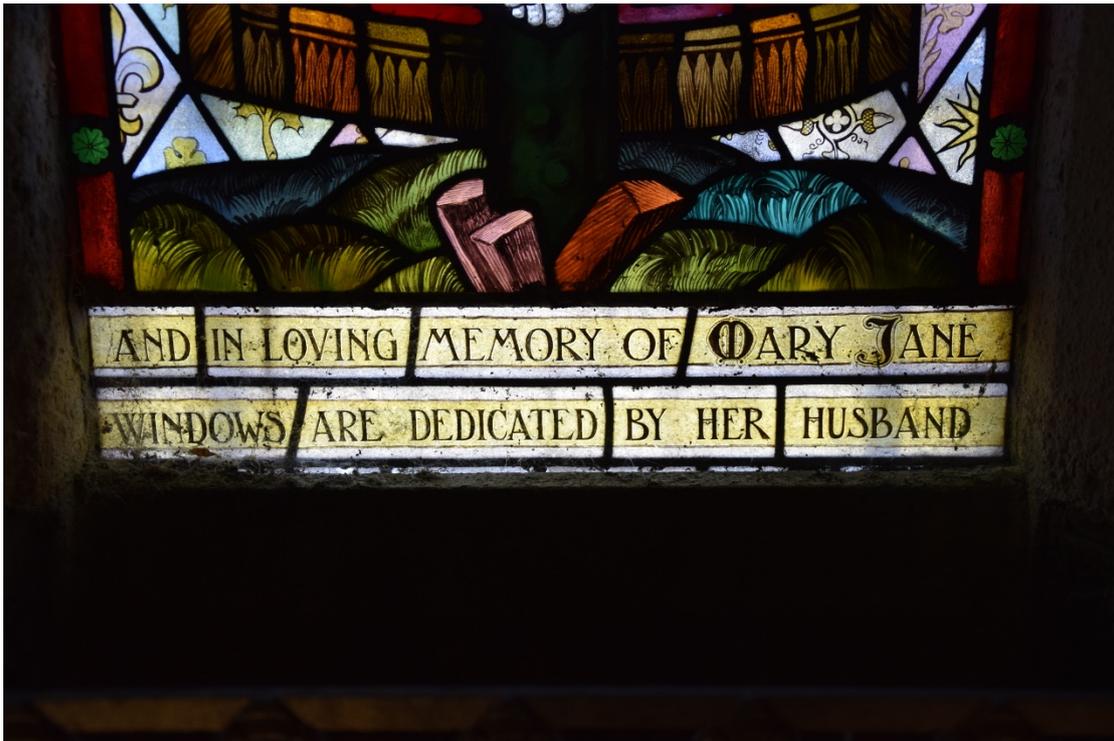
Photograph 42 (left): The angled wall beside the vestry door conceals a chimney for a stove, the mark of which can still be seen



Photograph 43: The east window



Photograph 44: The memorial inscription runs across the foot of the three lights in the east window



Photograph 45: Inscription in the central light



Photograph 46: The inscription and date in the southern light



Photograph 47: The reredos. The small plaque at the base says that it was given by the Women's Help Society in memory of Henry Forbes

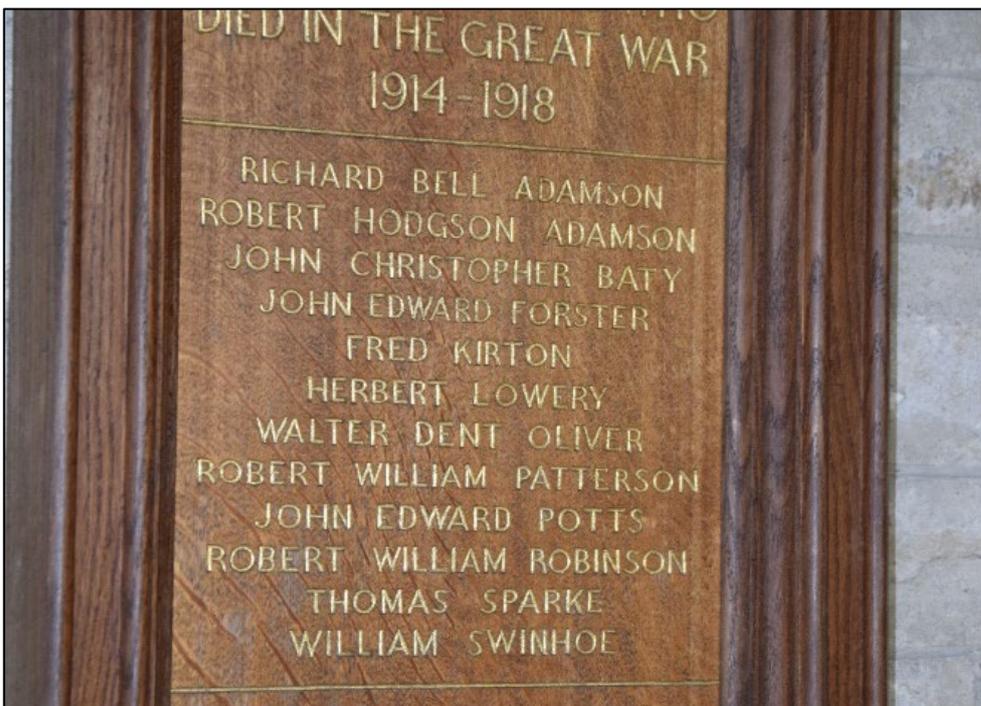


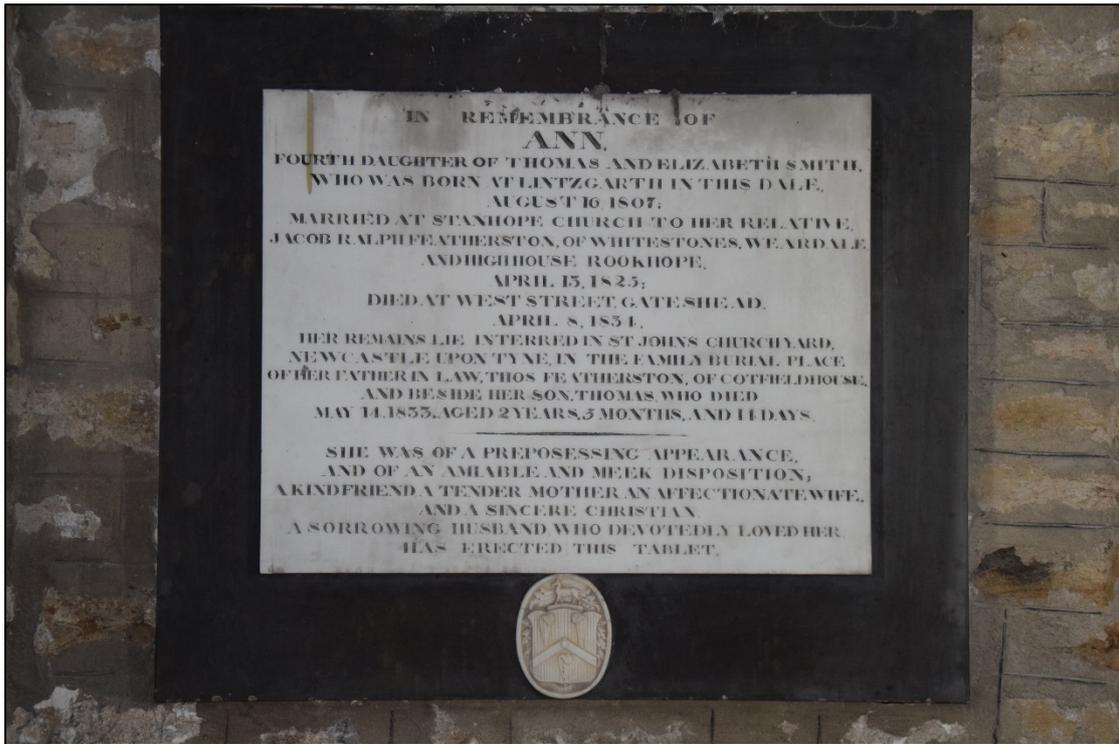
Photograph 48: The memorial to Ethel Whitehead on the north wall of the nave



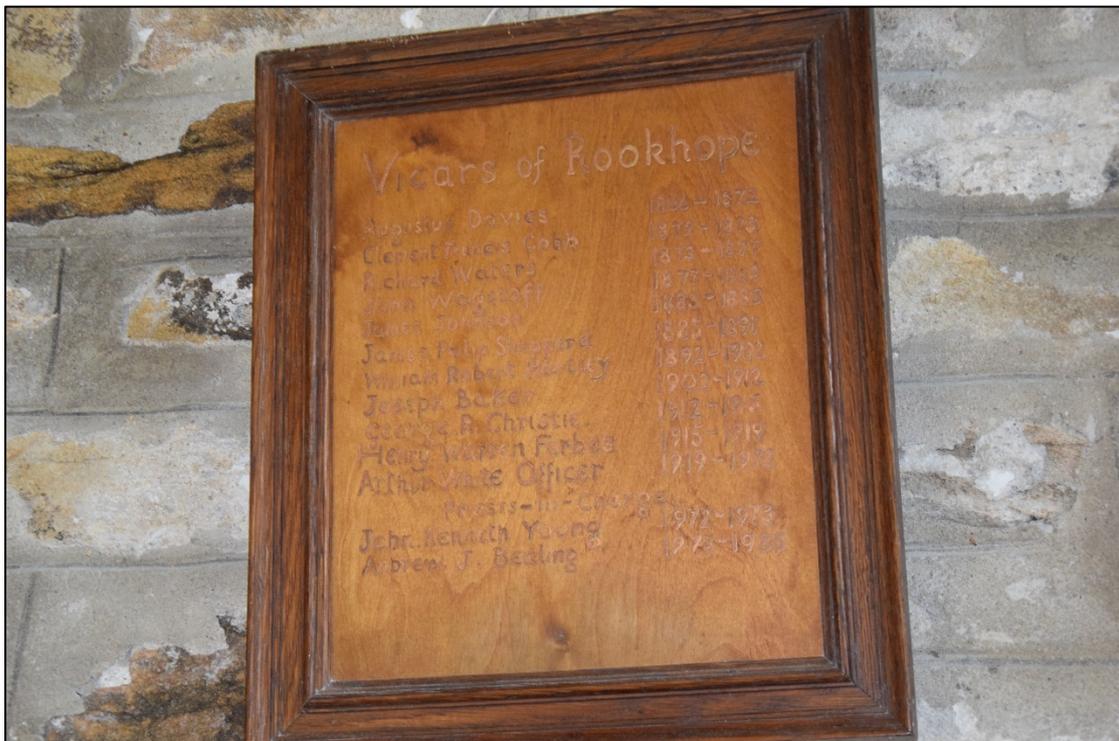
Photograph 49 (left): The carved oak Great War memorial on the north wall of the nave

Photograph 50 (below): Detail showing the names of the Rookhope men who died in the First World War





Photograph 51: The Featherstone memorial, at the north-west corner of the nave. This marble monument was brought from the old church in 1905



Photograph 52: The wooden plaque listing Rookhope's vicars is on the south wall of the nave

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
R Yorke Esq

Church of St John the Evangelist
Rookhope
County Durham

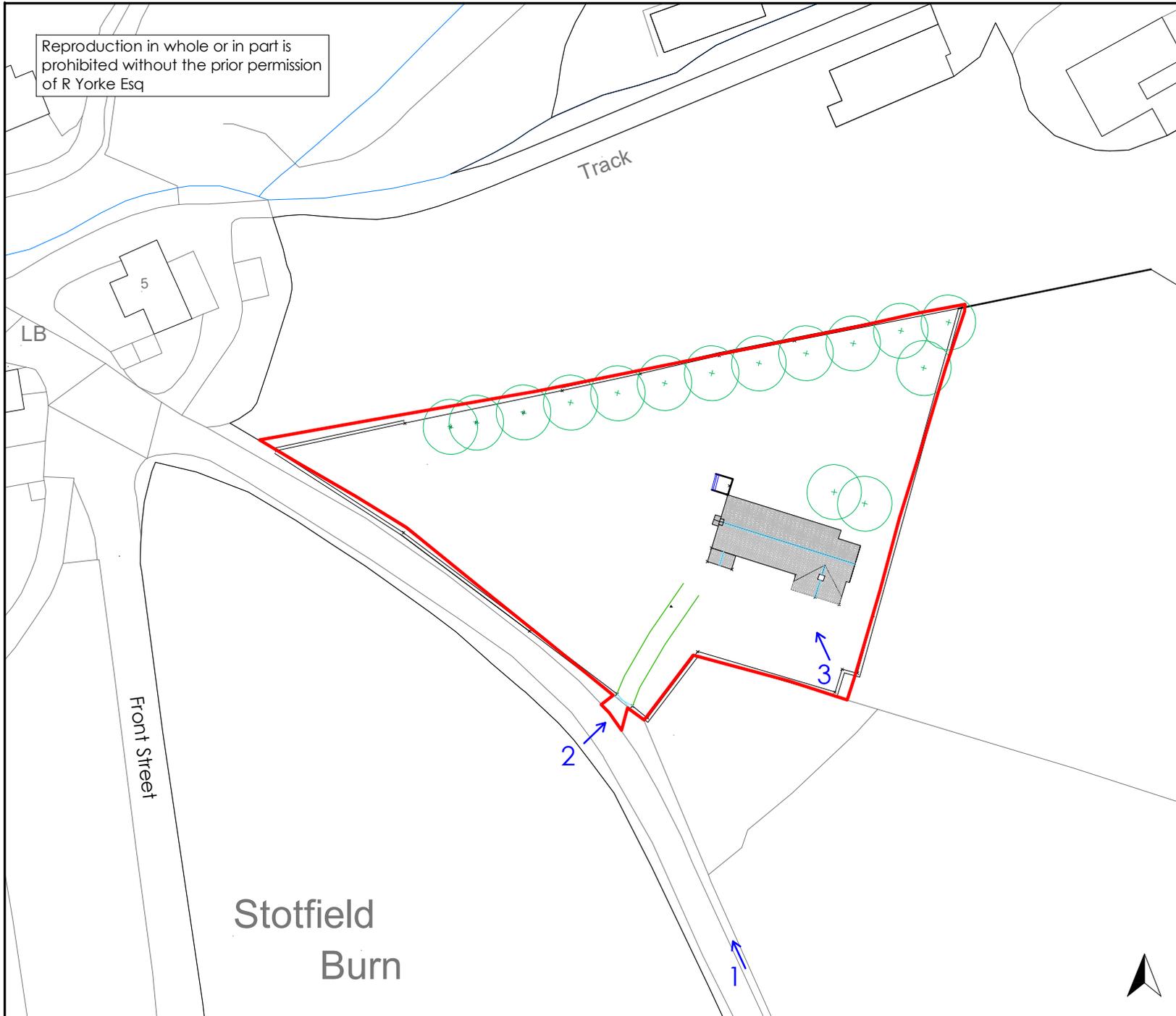
archaeological building recording
report 4898

Figure 2: The site and the church

0  40m
scale 1:800 for A4 plot

 site boundary

 photograph



Stotfield
Burn

Front Street

Track

LB

5

2

3

1





Memorials



Mary Westgarth



Ethel Whitehead



Ann Featherston



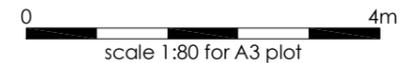
Rev. Forbes



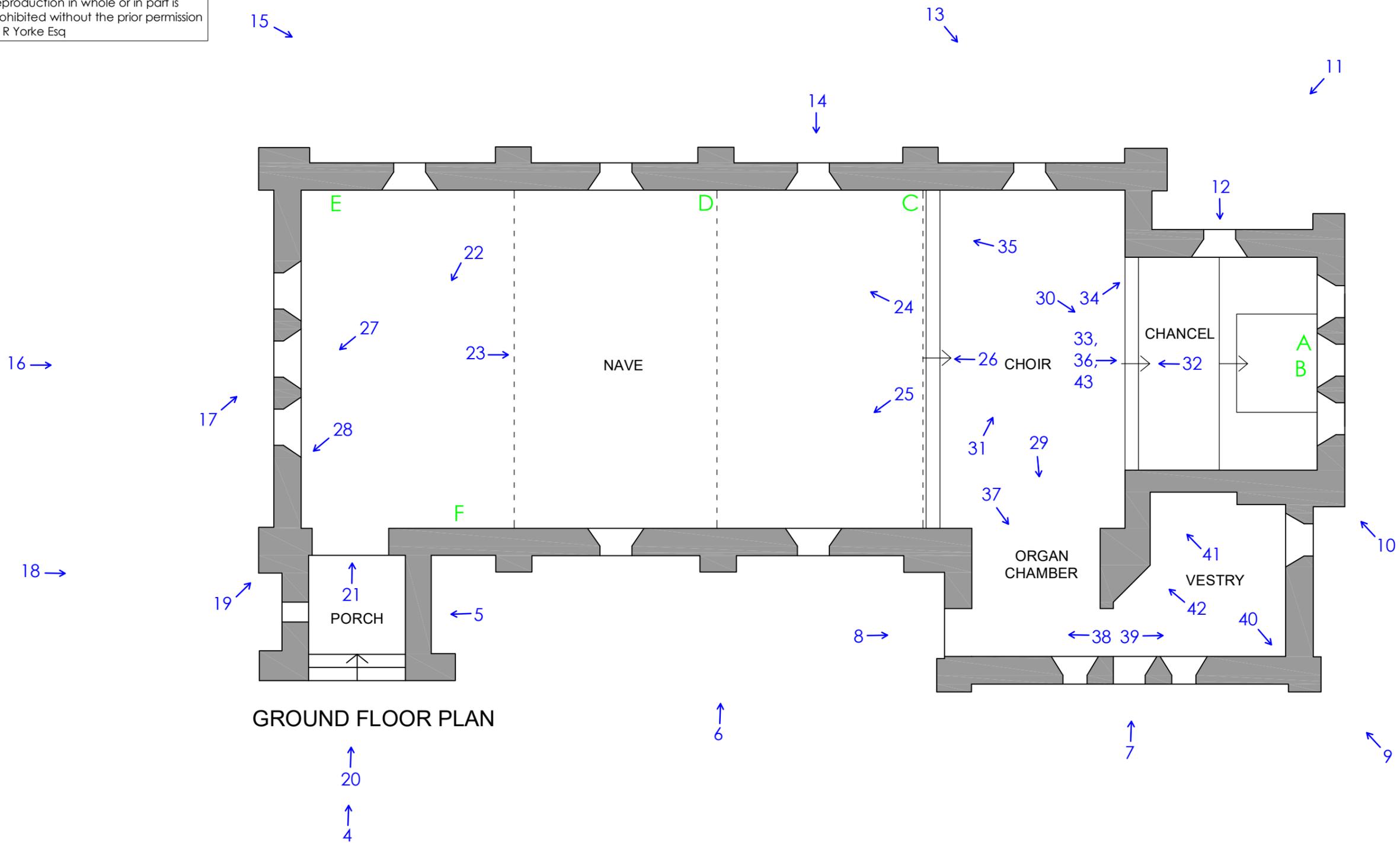
Great War



Vicars of Rookhope



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GROUND FLOOR PLAN

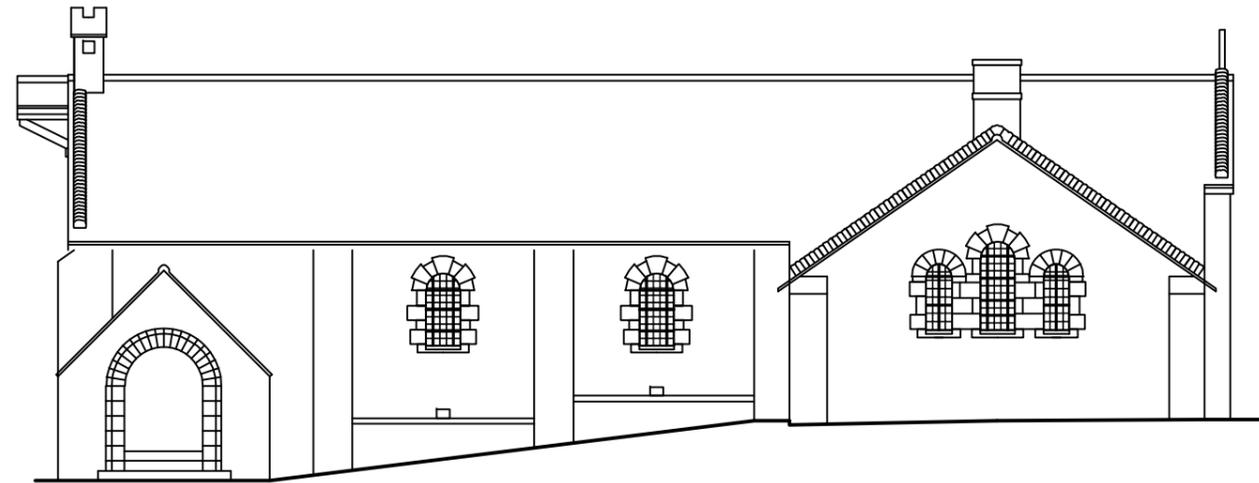
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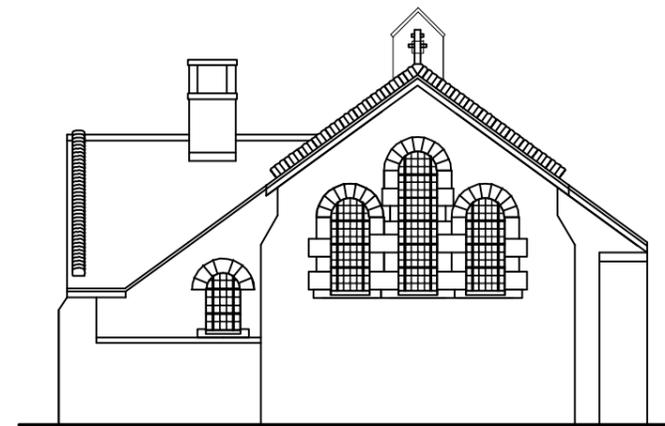
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Figure 4: Elevations

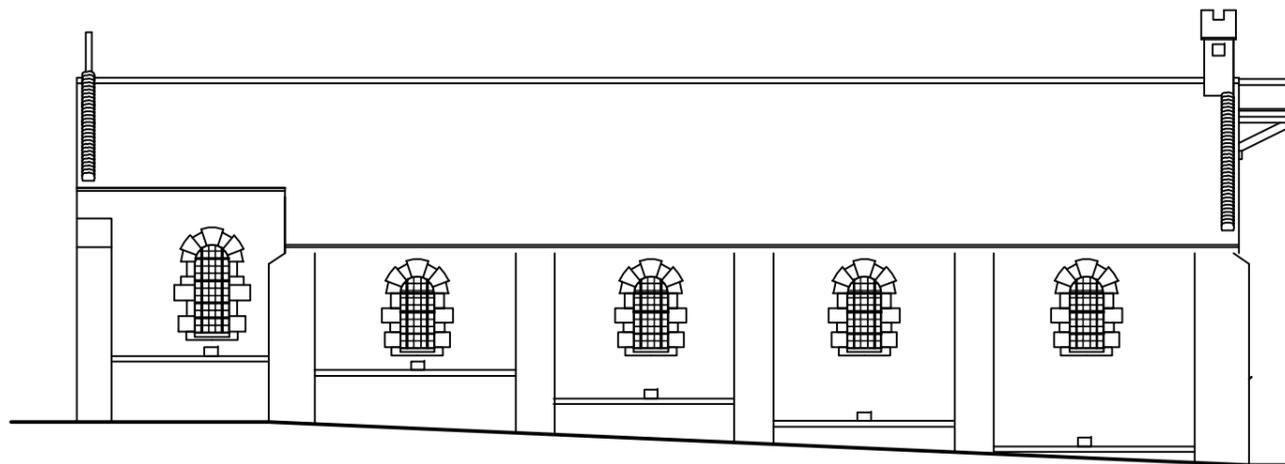
0 5m
scale 1:125 for A3 plot



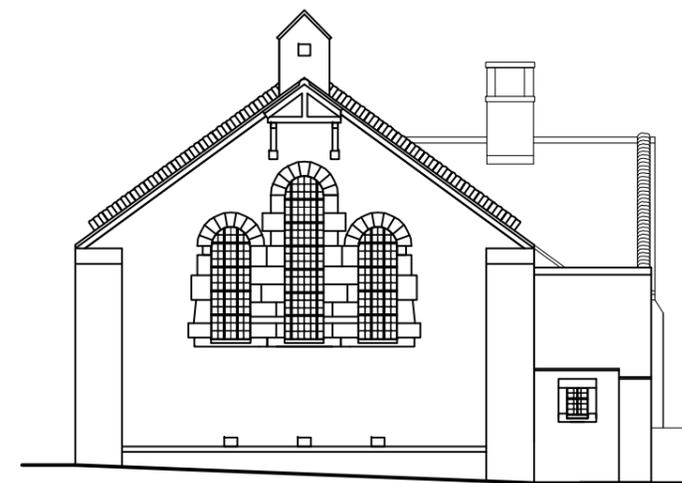
SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION