

Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners (“the Commissioners”) this day of 20.... under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

Background

By a Scheme of the Commissioners made under the said Measure on the 21st day of December 2021 the parish church of Saint Mark (“the building”) in the former parish of St Mark, Millfield in the diocese of Durham was declared closed for regular public worship.

NOW, it is provided as follows: -

Future of the church building

1. The building and the land annexed or belonging thereto together referred to as the property and shown edged in red on the attached plan, shall be appropriated to use as a community and arts centre and for purposes ancillary thereto.

Disposal

2. The Commissioners are hereby empowered to sell the property for the said use.

Contents

3. The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct subject, so far as it is required, to listed building consent being granted.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

4. This Scheme shall not come into operation until such date or dates as the Commissioners shall determine following the making of this Scheme and the Commissioners shall not be obliged to bring the Scheme into operation until such time as they are satisfied that the condition specified in schedule 1 has been complied with but may do so if they so determine.

In witness of which this Scheme has been duly executed as a deed by the Church Commissioners.

Executed as a Deed by the Church Commissioners for England acting by two authorised signatories:

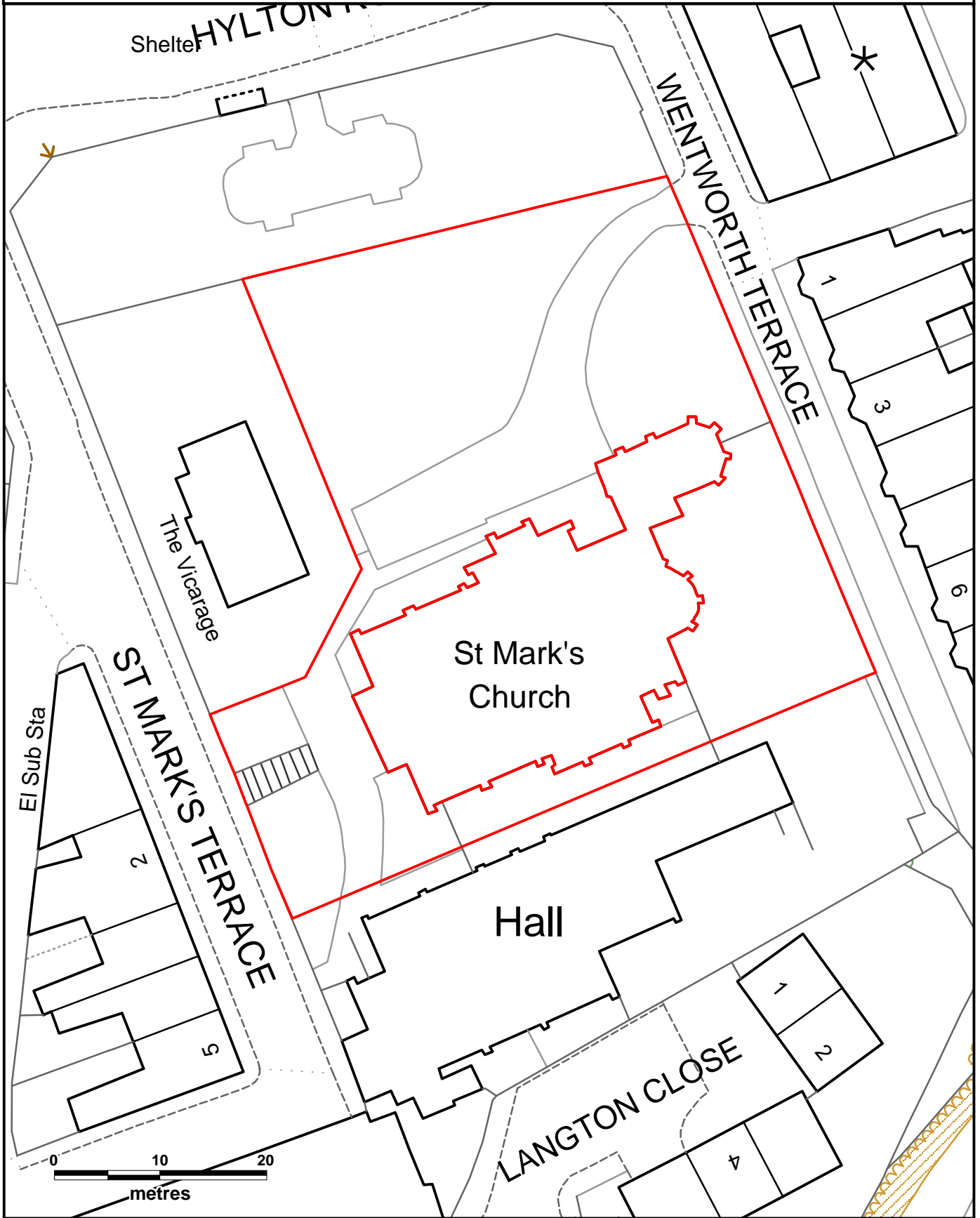
Signature of Authorised Signatory

Signature of Authorised Signatory

Schedule 1: Conditions

- (i) That Listed Building Consent has been obtained for such alterations as are necessary to enable the implementation of the proposed use.

MILLFIELD ST MARK



Drawn by g.odonnell	Scale 1:500 at A4	Date 27/06/2022
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 DRAFT PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME MILLFIELD ST MARK DIOCESE OF DURHAM

This note accompanies a draft scheme under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 which makes provision for the future of a closed church building, The Church Commissioners provide this information so that individuals and interested parties can understand the background to the proposals, make a reasoned judgement on the merits of the draft scheme and, if they see fit, a reasoned expression of support or objection to it.

The Current Proposals

The Commissioners have agreed to publish a draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the closed church building of Millfield St Mark, and the churchyard, to be sold for us as a community and arts centre and for purposes ancillary thereto. If the scheme goes ahead, it is proposed that the property will be sold to MBC Arts & Wellbeing, a well-established community interest company (CIC) operating in Sunderland. They intend to utilise St Mark's for community learning and engagement activities, especially for vulnerable adults and families, and for use by artists in the community for creative installations, sculptural exhibitions and workshops.

Background

The church has been formally closed for regular public worship since 1st January 2021. Congregation numbers had been falling for some time, and it had become increasingly difficult to find people wishing to stand as officers of the church. Following a public consultation process, the parish of St Marks was merged with the parish of St Luke, Pallion, and St Marks closed for worship.

The Building

The church, which dates from 1868, is Grade II listed. It is of traditional construction with walls of snecked sandstone blocks with rubble faces, and a slate roof. It is designed in the Early English style and sits on large plot with gardens and parking. It is adjacent to the former church hall which is currently leased to the St Mark's Community association. Their tenancy of the former church hall is not affected by this scheme.

The Views of the Statutory Advisory Committee

The Commissioners statutory advisors, The Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council (SAC) have indicated that the building is of moderate significance overall, and that it would lend itself to a variety of alternative uses calling for a large space which could be used communally or in open plan.

Planning and Access

Access to the site is available directly from the public highway. Sunderland City Council has confirmed that the proposed new use of the building falls within the existing F.1 use class,

and that planning permission for a change of use is therefore not required. Listed building consent will be required for the removal of the fixed pews to create a flexible open space within the building.

Burials and the Churchyard and the Church Hall

The churchyard has not been used for burials and it is proposed that it will be sold along with the building. The legal boundary between the churchyard and the church hall site is not clearly defined on the ground but is shown on the plan that accompanies the draft scheme. St Marks Community Association currently utilise some of the outside space, but this is not included in their formal lease, which is for the building only. The Community Association will vacate the churchyard and concentrate their activities within the curtilage of the church hall, and they will continue to have access to this on informal basis for the time being.

The church hall is owned by the parish of Millfield and Pallion. Each Church of England parish is a charity in its own right. St Marks Community Association wish to buy the hall and its curtilage from the parish and positive talks about this are ongoing. Because the church hall is not a consecrated church building, its disposal is not governed by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Its sale is a local matter for the parish and the Diocese, and does not require the oversight of the Church Commissioners.

Making the Draft Scheme

Before they allow the Scheme to proceed the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that any necessary listed building consent has been granted.

Correspondence

Further information about the proposals may be obtained from the Case Officer, Emma Cosgrif by e-mail at emma.cosgrif@churchofengland.org or by telephone at 0113 353 0269

Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme

Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme.

Representations should be sent to:

**Representations
Closed Churches Division, Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ**

Or by e-mail to: closedchurches.reps@churchofengland.org

Any communication received after 12th September 2022 can not be treated as a representation.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop, whose view will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If no representations against the Scheme are received the Commissioners shall make the Scheme and bring it into effect as provided for in the scheme and explained above.

Information on the Mission and pastoral Measure 2011 and its procedures can be found on the Church Commissioners' web-site at www.ccpastoral.org where there are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme.

Emma Cosgrif

05 August 2022