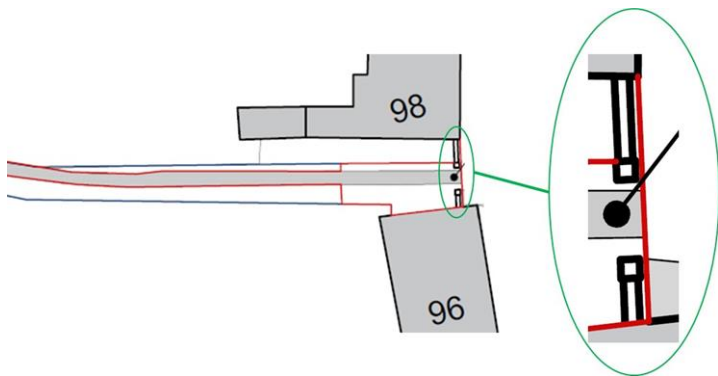




Issues Relating to the Sale of St. Paul's Church

1. Gates, Gate Piers and Overthrow - Grade II listed.



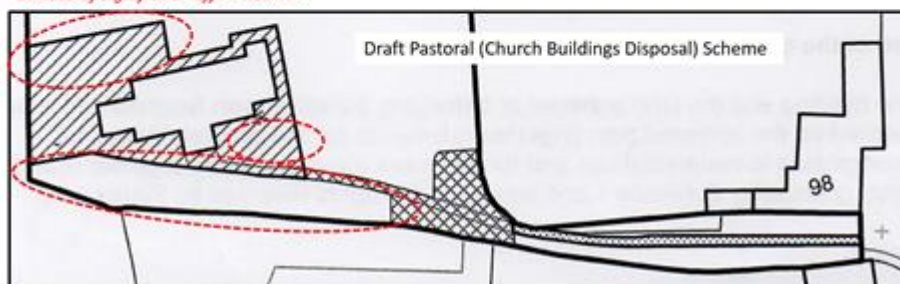
The latest. planning application (17/01158/FUL) is unclear as to the inclusion of the northern wall and pier. The red boundary line is discontinuous as shown above so exactly what is included? If the gates, piers and overthrow are included within the sale what measures will be taken to repair/maintain these items? If not included, the same question arises.

2. Extent of land included in the sale.



There are three areas of significant difference between the disposal scheme and the planning application as shown above. What/where is the definitive description of the sale area?

3 areas of significant difference



3. Graves within the boundary of the sale - SW Corner

NB1 - Grave identified as SW8 is recorded as a "Commonwealth War Grave".

NB2 - Relatives of Garrett & Purnell still visit today to pay respects at the graves in this area.

The Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme for St. Pauls recognises that some of the sale area contains burials. It also states that alterations have been made to the extent of the churchyard to be included in the proposed sale so as to exclude a previously unknown unmarked grave. What is not clear is, concerning the sale area, is exactly which graves are included/excluded and what measures are being taken to ensure the protection of these graves.



4. Further burials in the churchyard

The Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme for St. Pauls states "The remainder of the churchyard will continue to be available for burials" and the Critical Information Summary for St. Paul's states "The churchyard is said to have 2 spaces remaining." Since 'closure' of a graveyard commonly requires that no further burials take place, how many more burials will be allowed and exactly where within the graveyard?

5. Contents of the church that are not fixtures & fittings

The Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme for St. Pauls states "The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct subject to listed building consent being granted."

The Critical Information Summary for St. Paul's lists the following:

War memorials - Lectern, WWI & WWII inscribed on globe & added brass plate.

Bells - 1 small bell c.1826 (George Dawson, No.1812)

The Pastoral Measure Report: Staverton, St. Paul lists the following:

Lectern: Brass eagle, given as a World War 1 Memorial

Bells: There is one small bell of c.1826

Communion Plate: a cup of 1577, held in a bank. Brass altar cross given in memory of Howard Purnell, killed on the Somme in 1916.

Registers: From 1673, held in the church safe.

The publication "A History of St. Paul's Church Staverton" by Peter Lavis identifies the following:

(Details of the fuller text describing these items is in the appendix to this document)

A solid silver Elizabethan chalice made in 1577; locked away in the vaults of a local Bank.

A silver plated replica of the 400 years old Elizabethan chalice.

A brass altar cross.

A brass eagle lectern and village War Memorial.

A water colour painting of the Church commissioned by Nestle UK.

Plain brass candlesticks used to decorate the Altar top.

A paton hallmarked 1855.

A plated flagon.

Inscribed modern brass offertory plates.

Current church registers and other documents.

A very recent discussion with Julia Meeres (daughter of Thomas & Phyllis Blease of Smallbrook House, Staverton; granddaughter of Julia Blease) highlighted the value of having a list of contents and their relocation/disposal. This is of particular interest to Julia as her family made significant donations to St. Paul's of money, furnishings and fittings. Visibility of contents would, in general, certainly have value.

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Attached: Appendix

Appendix - Extracts from "A History of St. Paul's Church Staverton" by Peter Lavis

P7: The Chapel had slowly recovered from the traumatic results of Henry's purge on the Catholic Church and some of its valuables had been replaced including the acquisition of a solid silver Elizabethan chalice made in 1577. St. Paul's still possesses this rare and priceless item of church 'plate' but because of its great antiquity and value it is kept safely locked away in the vaults of a local Bank and only taken out and used on very special church occasions. The cup used to dispense the wine during communion services in the church today is a silver-plated replica of the 400 years old Elizabethan chalice which was presented to St. Paul's by Julia Blease in 1932.

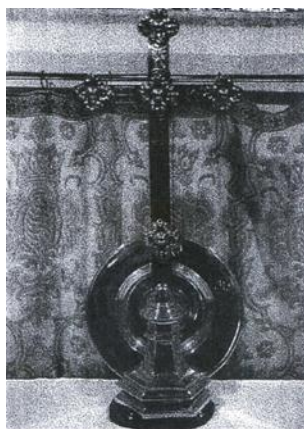
P35: Also that year, the growing concerns about the security of St. Paul's priceless Elizabethan silver chalice, hallmarked 1577, which was always kept in the Vestry, resulted in the Church Council deciding that it should be deposited in the vaults of a local Bank for safe keeping. A replica was brought into use in 1932, purchased from a generous gift to St. Paul's by Julia Blease who, four years later, also provided the carved oak communion rails that were installed beneath the chancel arch.

P8: St. Paul's silver Elizabethan Chalice



P11: Surviving registers of Marriages, Births, and Burials at St. Paul's Church date from 1673.

P12: An illustration from the front cover of the register:



P33: The present altar cross was presented to St. Paul's in 1926 by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rogers who dedicated it to the memory of Howard Purnell, a chorister of the church, and one of the village men who lost his life in the Great War.

P32: St. Paul's brass altar cross dedicated to Howard Purnell:

P33: By the end of the war.... seven men from the Parish had made the supreme sacrifice and their names were recorded for posterity on the Church's brass eagle lectern

which, from that moment on, became the village war memorial.



P32: St. Paul's brass eagle lectern and village War Memorial:

P45: The previous autumn a water colour painting of the Church was commissioned by Nestle UK for use on their annual Company Christmas cards and their appreciation to St. Paul's for permission to use a picture of the Church

was recognised by a donation of £1,000 and the presentation of the original painting which now hangs on the south wall of the Nave near the main church entrance.

P57: Plain brass candlesticks decorate the Altar top.... Other valuable items of church 'plate' include a paten hallmarked 1855 and a plated flagon. The offertory plates are modern, made of brass, and inscribed with the words "Freely you have received, Freely give" in old English. The current church registers and other documents ... are now secured in a modern Chubb safe in the south east. corner of the Vestry. Most. of the older church records are deposited for safe keeping in the County Records Office and these include the earliest. known register of "Ye Chappell of Stafferton', dated 1673, and Chapel warden's accounts and Vestry minutes dating from 1797.