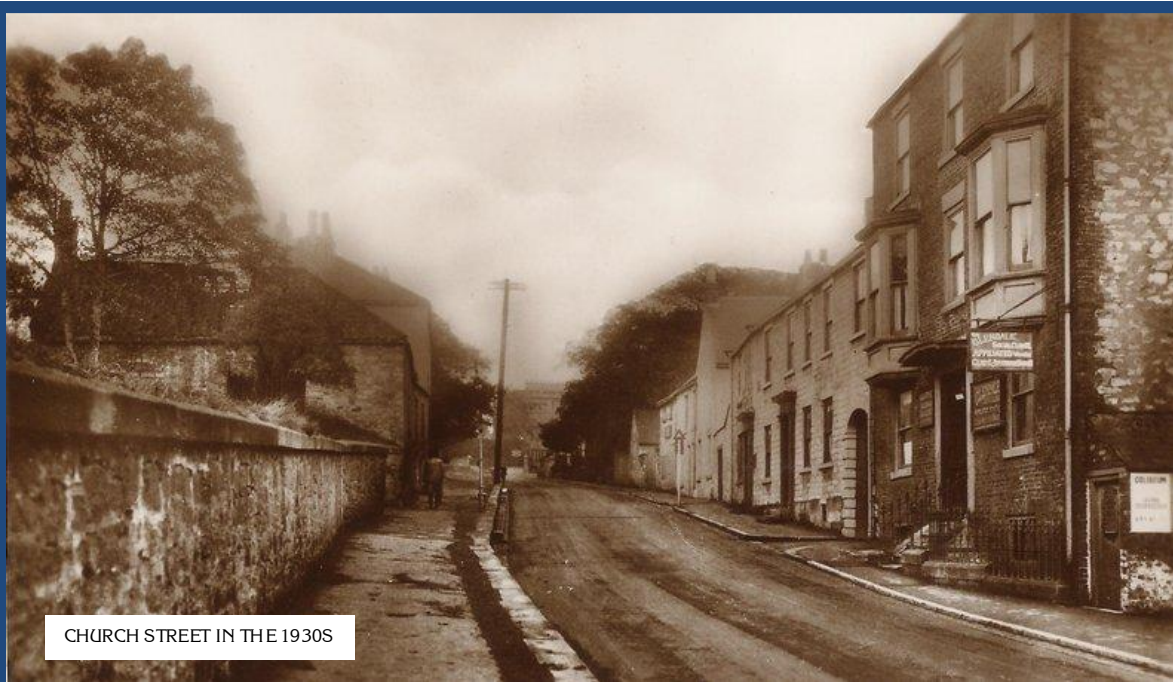


HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING STREET GUIDES: CHURCH STREET



SOME OF THE oldest houses in Houghton-le-Spring can be found on Church Street, which, according to the late Houghton historian, Cyril Arthur Smith, was originally known as Commons Lane, while in the 1841 census it is referred to as Church Row owing to its proximity to the parish church. The north side was recorded as Town Street in the mid-1800s and continued to be referred to as such until 1894 when deeds show the name as Church Street.

As small as the street is, it housed several noteworthy properties, including:

- the King's Head pub, of which very little is known;
- Lilburn House which was once an exclusive ladies' school and later a bank;
- the Mechanics Institute, which opened in 1852 on land donated by Thomas William Usherwood Robinson, Chairman of the Board of Guardians. It was shockingly demolished in the 1960s when the A690 road was put through.

Another impressive property on Church Street, Durham House, was used as a pharmacy by Alfred Edward Dawson, a druggist and confectioner. On Sunday November 24th 1912 a huge



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fire broke out in the premises. The huge plume of smoke attracted spectators from miles away and the local tramway was reported to have “reaped a rich harvest” from the large crowds who came to view the inferno. After the fire was extinguished, the premises lost its third storey.

At the east end of the street there is a raised section of which only a few properties remain. This was affectionately known as The Quay because of its similarity to a quayside, though no river flowed here.

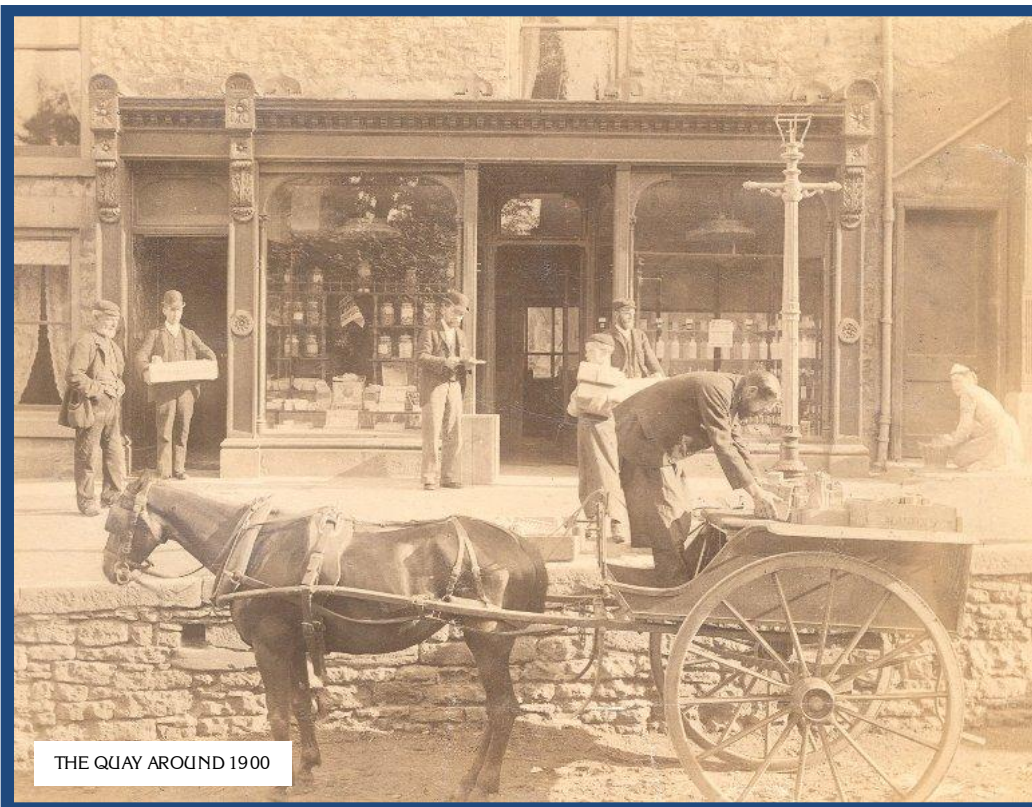
Church Street is now split in two, separated by the A690 dual-carriageway since the late 1960s, but remains linked by a pedestrian bridge. The west section of the street has the postcode DH4 4DN. The east section of the street has the postcode DH5 8AA.

Paul Lanagan

PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS

LOCAL HISTORIAN

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING HERITAGE SOCIETY



THE QUAY AROUND 1900



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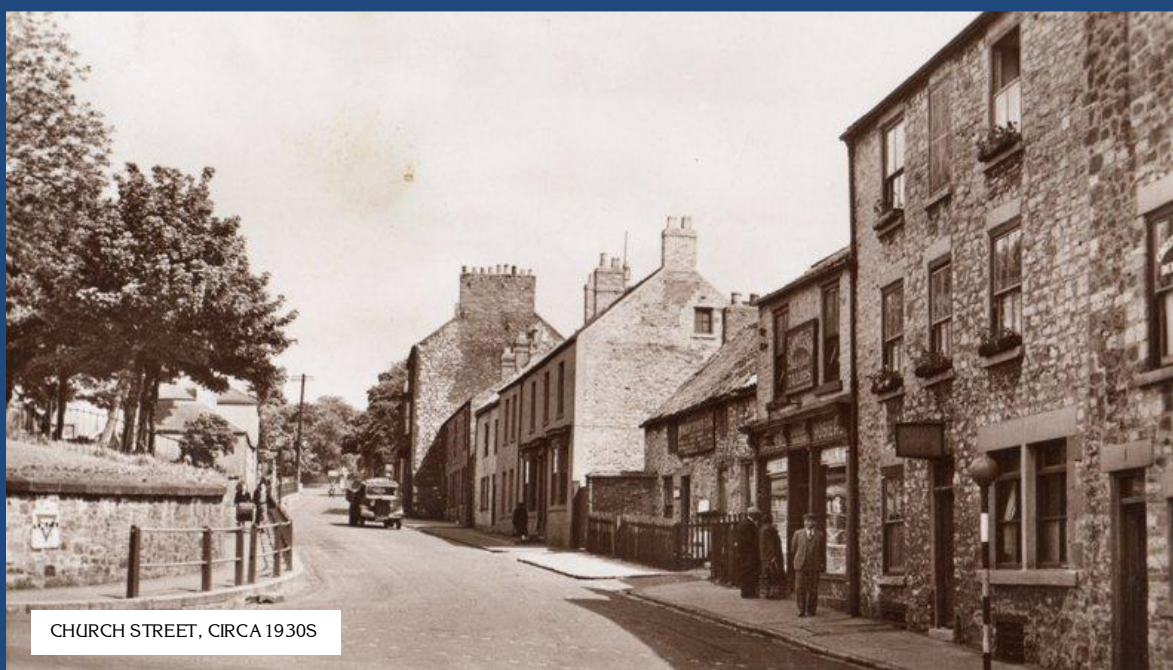
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SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET



❖ THE RED LION INN, 1 CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

This building was originally The Red Lion Inn. For the full history and occupants of this public house visit the Public Houses section.

❖ 1A CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

1993 – advert – George Whitfield Ltd – Old Red Lion Building.

2003 – advert – George Whitfield Ltd – 1A Church Street.

Currently occupied by G Whitfield Ltd, chemists.

❖ 2 CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

1841 & 1851 – William Stokoe, grocer and draper.

1861 – John Wailes, grocer draper and provision dealer employing two hands.

1871 & 1881 – Jeremiah Fatherly, grocer and master draper employing one man and one apprentice.

1891 – William Shotton, grocer.

1901 – Edward Purvis, coachman.

1911 – No entry on the Census.

1914 – Frederick Robinson, grocer.

1925 – London Gazette notice, February 27th 1925 – John Gammie and John Wickens gave notice that their Partnership carrying on business as 'Ladies and Gentlemen's Outfitters', No 2 Church Street, under the name of Gammie & Wickens, had been dissolved by mutual consent.

February 1944 – advert – Gammie & Son for clothes of character.



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1951 – Gammie & Son Tailors & Outfitters.
 1954 – advert – Gammie & Son, 2 Church Street, Tel 2203.
 1961 – advert – Gammie & Son, 2 Church Street.
 1966 - Sign Post Church Magazine advert – Gammie & Son, tailors, hatters, hosiers.
 1971 - Sign Post Church Magazine advert - Caslaw Bros (Houghton), gents tailors & outfitters.
 Telephone: Houghton 2203.
 1973 – advert – Caslaw Bros (Houghton).
 1975 - advert - Caslaw Bros (Houghton).
 1975 – newspaper advert – Caslaw Bros, 2-3 Church Street.
 1977 – advert – Caslaw Bros (Houghton), gent's tailors and outfitters. Telephone 842203
 1978 - advert - Caslaw Bros (Houghton).

❖ 3 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

1901 – George Ronaldson, brewery drayman.
 June 1906 - Michael Thompson, aged 68 years, of 3 Church Street, was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.
 1911 – Elizabeth Annie Adamson, widow, plus family.



HOUGHTON HEALTH CENTRE

❖ 4 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

After demolition, the land of 4 & 5 Church Street was used by Mr Lawson, stonemason and memorial mason (1935) and for a small road to the health centre in the 1970s.

1938 – 4 & 5 Church Street - Lawson & Son, monumental masons.

February 1944 – advert – Lawson & Smith Monumental Sculptors. Telephones: Houghton 188 Durham 867.

c1966 – Number 4 Church Street was demolished.

❖ 5 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

c1966 – Number 5 Church Street was demolished. Afterwards, a road was put through the plot of land leading to Houghton Health Centre.

❖ HOUGHTON HEALTH CENTRE

Completed in 1979, the health centre is located behind Church Street and is accessed via a road which crosses through the former location of numbers 4 and 5 Church Street. It was sensitively built in the style of the nearby Brewery building.



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❖ SANCROFT HOUSE, 6 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

Sancroft House consisted of twelve rooms, a stable, garage, and large garden.

1881 – William Elstob, master joiner, or Thomas Puriple, engineman at brewery.

1891 – Anthony Donthavite, inland revenue officer, excise branch. Erroneously recorded in the census as Transcroft House, instead of Sancroft House.

1901 – Avery Norman Robinson, brewery manager, widower, plus two.

1911 – Norman Robinson, brewery manager.

1914 - Number 6A Church Street was occupied by Norman Robinson, managing director of the Houghton brewery, in 1914.

1938 – John Gammie, private resident

Number 6 was home to Mr & Mrs Crosthwaite Snr, who bred white highland terrier dogs in kennels at the rear of the house, in the 1950s. In 1966, the garden to the rear of Number 6 was to be compulsory acquired as part of the A690 dual-carriageway and town centre redevelopment scheme. Number 6 is currently occupied by JTH Tang, Church Street Dental Practice.

❖ 7 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

1901 – James Ferguson, brewery drayman, plus five others.

1911 – James Ferguson, labourer sewerage farm, plus three others.

This property (as of June 2009) is available to let. Rent per calendar month is £500. The property was described as *“a charming 2 bedroom period cottage located in the heart of a conservation area very close to Houghton town centre”* and featured a lounge, kitchen and bathroom in addition to the two bedrooms, one of which is en suite. The property is thought to have belonged to the Brewery and was lived in by an Annie Ferguson until recently.

❖ 8 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

1911 – 8 Church Street – Charles Green, brewery fireman.

1971 – advert – 8 Church Street - Stappard & Hill chartered surveyors and estate agents. Tel 2105.

1975 – advert – Stappard & Hill. Tel: 842105

1977 – advert – 8 Church Street - Stappard & Hill chartered surveyors and estate agents. Tel 842105.

1978 - advert – 8 Church Street - Stoppard & Hill.

Numbers 8 & 9 Church Street are now thought to be one single property, with the door to Number 8 bricked up. Number 8 was occupied by Mr Green, who worked for the Brewery. Number 9 was occupied by a Mrs Tone, but she exchanged houses with Arthur Jordison of Outram Street.

❖ THE KING'S HEAD PUB, 9 CHURCH STREET

(West section, South side)

On early photographs, 9 Church Street appears to have been a single storied building, while photos from around 1900 show it as two stories. None of these photographs show the presence of a sign for the King's Head pub!

1827 & 1834 – William Makepeace, agricultural labourer.

1841 – William Makepeace, agricultural labourer.

1847-1848 – Thomas Steel.

1851-1865 – Mary Binks, publican.

1871 – Listed as the King's Arms, Church Street.

1871-1872 – Thomas Mowbray, licensed victualler.



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1873 – Mrs M Mowbray.
 1877 – William Swales.
 1881 – Johnson Prest, licensed victualler.
 1884-1891 – William Place, mason and publican.
 1891 – The King's Head pub was described as being adjacent to and west of Glendale House.
 1901 – Henry Oswald, maltster.
 1911 – Robert Hogarth, brewery labourer.



❖ GLENDALE HOUSE, 10 CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

Glendale House is currently used by Hodgson, Coulthard & Co solicitors.

1881 – Home to John Hatley, bank manager, his wife Margaret, son William, granddaughter Jane, step-daughter Jennie Robson, grandson James Robson, a domestic servant and nurse.

1888 – John Hatley passed away at the age of 72 years, abode: Glendale House. He was buried at Hillside Cemetery on September 10th 1888.

1891 – Thomas Mente, mechanic, plus four others.

1901 – Roman Catholic Institute, Arnold Pearson, coal miner, his wife Mary, caretaker of the Institute, plus their daughter and nephew.

1911 – Michael Swift, caretaker at the Institute.

1914 – Catholic Institute, secretary was Denis Lyons.

1938 – Glendale Social Club Ltd, Church Street - Peter

Hoey, Secretary.

1950s - This was the Glendale Social Club.

1966 - By 1966 it was occupied by St John Ambulance Brigade. In a written analysis document for the proposed A690 dual-carriageway system, this was the only building on Church Street to have been identified as of architectural or historic interest on the supplementary (non statutory) list.

1992 – London Gazette, Winding Up Notice, April 13th 1992 – Verifine Engineering Services Limited, Glendale House, 10 Church Street.

1994 – advert – Hodgson Coulthard & Co solicitors.

❖ LILBURN HOUSE, 11 CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

Lilburn Houses was built around 1800, and was once an exclusive ladies' school and then a bank.

1841 – Lilburn House, Quality Hill, was occupied by Elizabeth H Taylor, teacher, her son, two servants, and 11 girl boarders aged 9 – 16 years.

1851 – Lilburn House, Quality Hill, was occupied by Elizabeth Dixon, widow, head of school, with a governess, house servant and seven girl boarders aged 7 – 14 years.

1861 – Not found on the Census.

1871 – Lilburne House – Francis Widowfield, colliery agent and clerk, his mother Hannah, teacher, Marg Franklin, governess, aged 25 years, Emma Franklin, aged 21 years, governess, four girl boarders aged 15, 16, 17 and 19 years.

1881 – Home to Sarah Booth (72, widow) and two other teachers, Margaret and Emma Franklin, seven scholars (all girls), and a housemaid and domestic servant.



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1891 – Richard H Gates, bank manager.
 1901 – Robert Mackie, bank manager.
 1911 – John Robert Mitchell, manager at bank.
 1914 - Occupied by John Soulsby in 1914, but named as '11' not Lilburn House. The Barclay & Company (late Woods & Co) manager was named as John Soulsby.
 1938 – Sam Todd OBE, LDS Glas, dental surgeon.
 1938 – Sam Todd OBE, private resident.
 1966 – Mr S Todd, owner, objected to the A690 road proposals, as the redevelopment would encroach on the rear of his property, resulting in the loss of some of his garden and privacy.
 1985 – The house became a listed building.



LILBURN HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

❖ DENTIST SURGERY, 13 CHURCH STREET (West section, South side)

1901 & 1911 – Not mentioned in the Censuses.
 2001 – advert – Gavin Maw & Associates Dental Practice.
 Currently occupied by GW Maw, dentist. Following the demolition of parts of Church Street for the A690, this property currently marks the end of the south side of the west section of the street, before the pedestrian bridge. It was previously owned by Major Sam Todd and then Geoffrey Oliver.

❖ 15 CHURCH STREET (Demolished section, South side) (tbc)

September 1903 – Martha Eleanor Wilson, aged 15 years, of 15 Church Street, was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.
 1901 – Occupied by William Wilson, butcher, plus five others.
 1905 – Vintage photo shows the premises to be occupied by W. Wilson, butcher.
 October 1907 – William Wilson, aged 15 days, of 15 Church Street, was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.
 1911 – Occupied by George William Smith, butcher, plus three others.
 1914 - Occupied by Henry Johnson, butcher.



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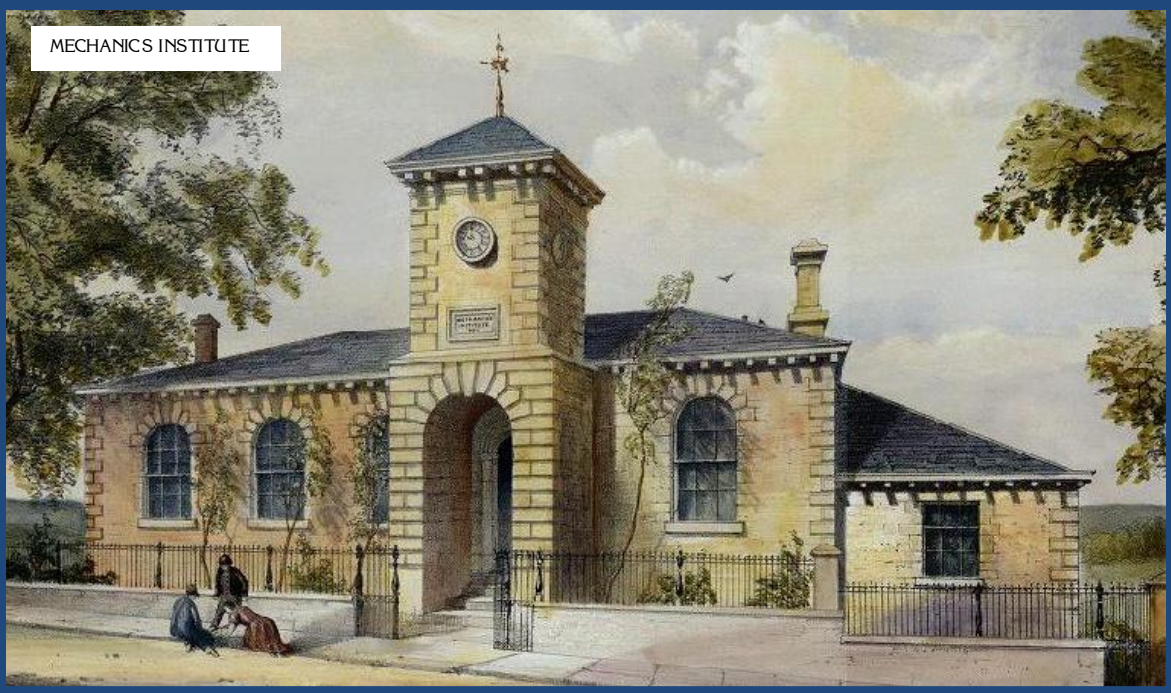
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PROUD TO BE MEMBERS OF



MECHANICS INSTITUTE



❖ MECHANICS INSTITUTE, 17 CHURCH STREET (Demolished section, South side)

The Mechanics Institute opened in 1852 and was built on land donated by Thomas William Usherwood Robinson, Chairman of the Board of Guardians. It was demolished in the 1960s when the A690 road was put through.

1852 – built as the Mechanics Institute, featuring a library of 800 books.

1853 – a print shows cows wandering around on the land behind the building.

1858 – Secretary: Dixon Burn.

1898 – March 7th – renamed by deed poll as Houghton-le-Spring Church Institute.

1901 – William Hossan, labourer coalmine, and wife Caroline, caretaker of Institute.

1911 – Occupied by William Whitworth, caretaker, and his wife.

1914 – Church Institute & Reading Rooms, secretary: Surt Taylor).

1957 – Mr Morley, who served on the Church Institute Committee for many years, dropped down dead from a cardiac infarct when entering the building one evening in January 1957.

❖ 19 CHURCH STREET (East section, South side)

The first of the three townhouses.

1881 & 1891 – George Howe, brewery manager.

1901 – Occupied by Jas Will Howe, clerk brewery, and his wife.

In July 1908, a French visitor was staying at 19 Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring. The visitor decided to send a message home on a postcard featuring a view of the domineering St Michael's Church. The recipient's address was: Madame Marie Morvan, 1 Passage Chatelet XVII, Paris, France.

1911 – Occupied by Joseph William Howe, brewery clerk, plus three others.

Number 19 was home to a Miss Ella (tbc) Carr, one of the directors of Pallisters Store, Sunderland Street. In c1939 Mr Alan Priddin and his wife moved in. Mr Priddin was a solicitor, based at Scruton House, Newbottle Street, and attended Mautland Street chapel, where he was a Local Preacher and Sunday School President. In April 2002, the property sold for £107,000.



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❖ THE MANSE, 21 CHURCH STREET (East section, South side)

The second of the three townhouses.

May 4th 1854 - The land upon which 21 and 23 stand was sold by Elizabeth Robibson (widow), Thomas Young Hall (colliery viewer), and William Shepherd (woollen manufacturer) to Thomas Hewitt, a builder, for £112 7s. The land was part of a field called North Captain's Close and part of the premises of John Thompson.

December 15th 1854 – Houghton-le-Spring Benefit Building Society paid £200 for the land and dwellinghouses (21 and 23) to Thomas Hewitt, Alexander Nowley (inn keeper) and John Liddell (butcher).

1881 – James Milligan, Minister of Pres Church of England.

1891 – James Milligan, Presbyterian Minister.

March 16th 1894 – Number 21 was occupied by John Todd.

c1897 – Known as 'The Manse', Mary Gill Brass moved into number 21 Church Street, with some of her children and remained there until 1904, when she moved to Edwin Street.

1901 – census – Mary G Brass (52), children Mary (20), Daisy (25), Primrose (15), Gladstone (12) and Meggie (10).

1904 – Number 21 was owned by Maria Greenhow.

1914 – Number 21 was occupied by William Greenhow in 1914. Mr Fisher, head of Bernard Gilpin School, lived here in later years (he was thought to have committed suicide after an incident regarding a pupil). It was then occupied by Jack Veitch of Durham, who worked at Myre Hall when it was an Education Office.

1938 – William John Fisher, private resident.

❖ ST OLAVES, 23 CHURCH STREET (East section, South side)

The third of the three townhouses, currently occupied by Peter Thompson of Synergy Compliance, an environmental consultants.

May 4th 1854 - The land upon which 21 and 23 stand was sold by Elizabeth Robibson (widow), Thomas Young Hall (colliery viewer), and William Shepherd (woollen manufacturer) to Thomas Hewitt, a builder, for £112 7s. The land was part of a field called North Captain's Close and part of the premises of John Thompson.

December 15th 1854 – Houghton-le-Spring Benefit Building Society paid £200 for the land and dwellinghouses (21 and 23) to Thomas Hewitt, Alexander Nowley (inn keeper) and John Liddell (butcher).

1881 – Walter Lyon, general practitioner MD.

October 9th 1885 – Number 23 was occupied by Mrs Hodgson.

1891 – Uncertain.

April 17th 1894 – Number 23, occupied by William Stokoe, was sold to William Lamb for £560.

1901 Census – Arthur Ernest Pridden.

May 13th 1904 – Mr Lamb sold the house to Arthur Ernest Priddin, solicitor, for £520.

1911 – Arthur Ernest Pridden plus three others.

June 27th 1952 – EAB Priddin and ARB Priddin, executors of the estate of AE Priddin, sold number 23, which was now known as St Olaves, to Jane Annie Jackson, spinster, for £1300.

August 8th 1953 – Elizabeth Minto Wood purchased Number 23 from Miss Jackson for £1700. Elizabeth, and her husband Leslie Davidson Wood (electrical engineer) moved in from 51 Newbottle Street, the sweet shop.

August 17th 1992 – The house was purchased by the current occupants.



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PROUD TO BE MEMBERS OF



❖ HOLLY HOUSE, 25 CHURCH STREET

(East section, South side)

1901 – David Scott Park, surgeon.

1911 – David Scott Park, surgeon.

According to mouseprice.com, 25 Church Street was built in 1985. It appears to be located on Church Street, alongside Holly House care home.



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NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET

❖ KEPIER COTTAGE, CHURCH STREET

(West section, North side)

Formerly known as 'Roanoak', the premises were used as the laundry for the Royal Kepier Grammar School.

c1928 - Planning permission was sought for change of use from laundry to residence and a door was installed leading onto Church Street.

1992 & 1997 – advert – Alex Scullion Electrical contractors.

❖ GILPIN HOUSE, THE QUAY, 12 CHURCH STREET

(West section, North side)

This building was recorded in the Kepier School statutes as the White House, and was for married headmasters of the Kepier. Deeds for this property state that the street was Commons Lane. It was built c1830.

1851 – Occupied by William Melbourne, curate of Houghton-le-Spring, wife Elizabeth, five children, two servants and washerwoman.

1861 – Occupied by Gilpin House, Church Street, Elizabeth Dickson (widow and teacher), Hannah Dickson (widow and teacher school mistress), Isabella Dickson (teacher of music and French), Francis Dickson (son and colliery clerk), Sarah Booth (sister-in-law and widow of ship master) [see 11 Church Street, 1881], Elizabeth Allison (governess), seven girl pupils aged 10-15 years, a cook, kitchen maid and a house maid.

1871 – Eliz Dickson, head teacher and school administrator; Mary A Dunhilly, aged 21 years, governess teacher; Emily Finlay, governess teacher; Eleanor Huntly, aged 36 years, housekeeper; ten girl pupils aged 5 – 17 years; cook; housemaid; and kitchen maid.

1881 – Home to Joseph Stokoe, coal mine manager; his four sons, Charles, Joseph, and Benjamin; daughter Alice, and servant Margaret A Bell.

1891 – London Gazette, re: estate of Reverend John Stokoe (who died May 13th 1891), July 24th 1891 – one of the executors: Joseph Stokoe, Gilpin House, Houghton-le-Spring.

1891 – Joseph Stokoe, colliery manager, and son John G Stokoe, mining student, daughter Elizabeth F Palmer, son-in-law Edwin T Palmer (chemist and druggist) and granddaughter Ida M Palmer.

1901 – Gilpin House, 12 The Quay, William Ridley, colliery manager.

1911 – Dr Frederick Ridac Van Langenberg, medical practitioner. Dr Langenberg had consulting rooms in Sunderland.

1914 - Home to William Edward Balmer.

1938 – Unemployment Assistance Board Area Office, Edward Egan, manager.

c1950 – Gilpin House was taken over by the local health department and was a clinic where parents could get dried milk and orange juice for infants. Mr Harry Crosthwaite Jnr (whose dental practice was above Number 1 Church St) bought this house and moved in with his wife and young family in 1956. It had a large garden (and apple trees) with a drive in from Church Street and double gates to access.

1966 - Mr Crosthwaite objected to the proposed A690 road scheme, as most of his garden would be taken and he would lose access to his garages; the Council's solution was to offer him land on the opposite side of Church Street for two garages.

1985 – Gilpin House became a listed building.



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❖ 14 CHURCH STREET, THE QUAY (Demolished section, North side)

Number 14 was located to the left of Swiss Cottage, and housed GH Stevens Solicitors.

1881 – Occupied by Henderson Stokoe, assistant overseer and wife Charlette, plus five others.

1891 – Robert H Rowell.

1901 – Occupied by Sydney Booth, general medical practitioner, plus five others.

1906 – photo – The property had an illuminated sign outside proclaiming “DR BOOTH”.

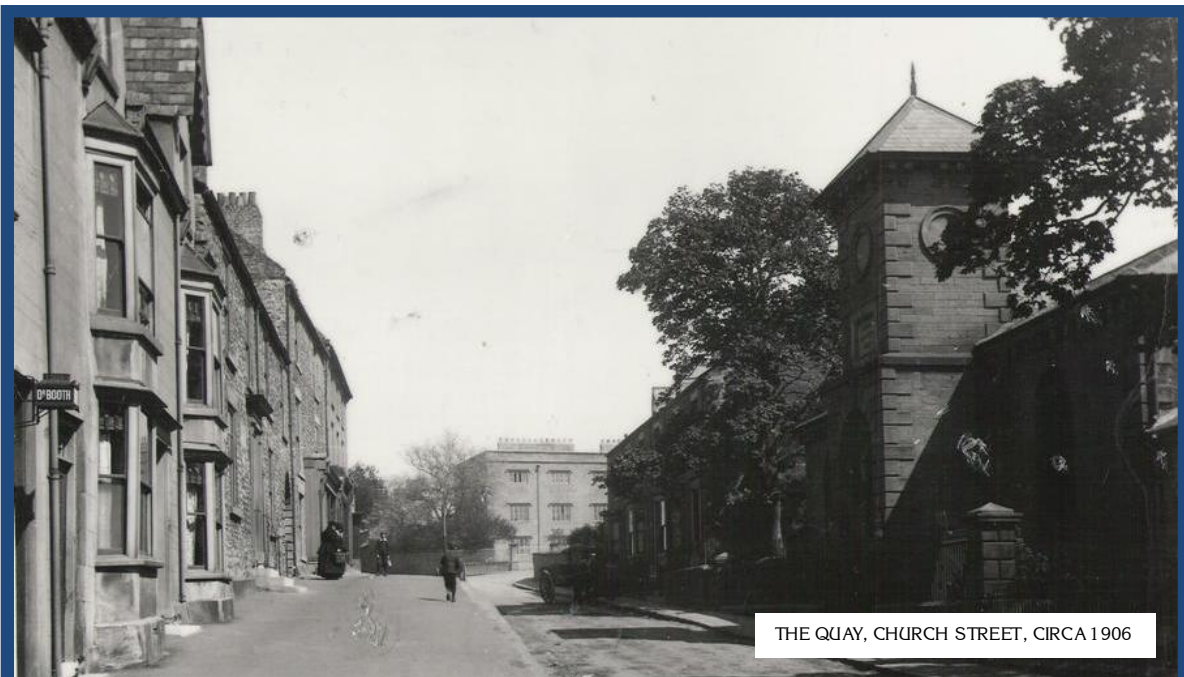
1911 – Occupied by George Hunt Stevens, solicitor, plus three others.

1914 - George Hunt Stevens occupied this property. He died on December 14th 1950 and was buried at Houghton-le-Spring Municipal Cemetery, Durham Road.

1938 – George Hunt Stevens, private resident.

1966 – Mr JR Stevens, Miss M Rowell and Mrs Gibson, owners of Number 14 Church Street, spoke at the public inquiry into the A690 road proposals. Their objections included:

Miss Rowell is a life tenant and it would cause personal hardship to disturb her; and the house has been in the family for four generations. Mr Stevens also offered an alternative route for the A690, which would be less disruptive and less destructive; his granddaughter claims that this alternative route would have led to the demolition of several council houses, something which apparently was considered as ‘sacrosanct’ (history shows us that his proposal was sadly ignored).



❖ SWISS COTTAGE, 16 CHURCH STREET, THE QUAY (Demolished section, North side)

Located to the left of Church House, the premises were occupied by Turnbull (greengrocer) and others yet to be confirmed.

1881 – Alfred G Cuffe. Born 1847 in Jamaica, LRCP London, MD asst.

1891 – Margaret Pallister.

1901 – 16 The Quay, Margaret Pallister.

1911 – Martha Dobson (sister of Margaret Pallister).

1914 - Robert Bolam Marby occupied the property.

1938 – Robert Turnbull Jun, private resident.



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❖ CHURCH HOUSE, 18 CHURCH STREET, THE QUAY (Demolished section, North side)

1871 – Listed as White House: occupied by Harriet Taylor, school teacher, with her two daughters and three sons; Eliz Boucher aged 29 years, teacher asst; Isabella Hutton, aged 22 years, teacher; 13 boy boarders; laundress; housemaid; and a cook.

1881 – Referred to as White House: Mary A Wooley, lady, principle of boys' boarding school, plus sixteen boarders.

1891 – Referred to as White House: Amy G Hutt, diocesan church worker.

1901 – Church House, 18 The Quay, was occupied by Sofia Garnell, diocesan church worker, plus three others.

1912 – 18 Church Street was the residence of Mr Sam Todd, dentist (according to the Church Street fire report). He was still there in 1914 according to the directory.

1926 – The Rural District Council moved from William Street into new offices at 18 Church Street.

1938 – William Walter Plews, clerk to the Urban District Council, telephone number 222.

1938 – Mr R. T. Brain, rating and valuation officer. Thomas Baggott, financial officer to Urban District Council.

1937 – Houghton Rural District and Urban District Councils amalgamated; 18 Church Street became the main new Urban District Council offices. The Clerks Dept (Walter Plews), Finance Dept (Thomas Morley), Rates (Thomas Baggott) and the Council meeting room (chambers) were sited here, while the Health Dept (Thomas Morley), Rates (JJ Morley) and Surveyor Dept (V Hunter) were located on Newbottle Street.

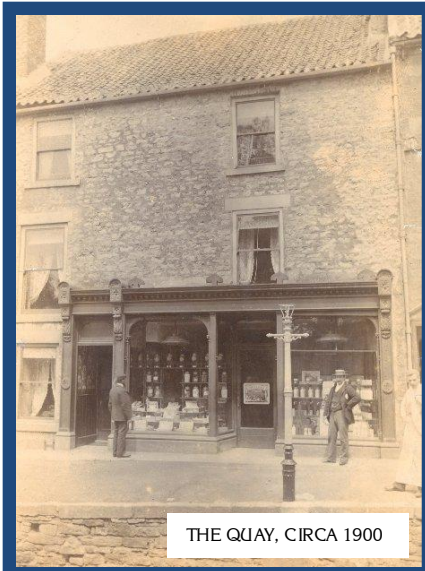
1940s - Jack Jordison recalls that there was an air raid shelter built out the back during World War II. It was a control centre for the ARP. The siren was on the top of two telegraph poles. All messages went to and were issued from there.

1942 - Paperwork from GH Stevens from 1942 on behalf of HUDC states the address as 18 Church Street.

1949 – HUDC Official Handbook – Clerk: W.W.Plews, Tel: 3222/4

1949 – HUDC Official Handbook – Chief Financial & Rating Officer: T.Baggott, Tel: 3222

❖ DURHAM HOUSE, 20 CHURCH STREET, THE QUAY (Demolished section, North side)



1881 – Occupied by Matthew H Earle, draper, wife Botsey and six children.

1891 – Occupied by Botsey E Earle (widow), living on own means, plus two children, her mother, sister and three lodgers (including William Morley [see 100 Sunderland St]).

1901 – 20 The Quay, was occupied by Alfred E Dawson, druggist.

1911 – Durham House: Alfred Edward Dawson, druggist and confectioner. 20 Church Street: Thomas Craggs, coal miner hewer, and five others.

1912 - Durham House was the location of a huge fire on Sunday November 24th 1912; the building lost its third storey. The lower window was replaced by a door to the relocated shop, with the shop window to the left of the new door.

1914 – Alfred E Dawson, drug stores.

Latterly occupied by W.Wilkinson's general dealers shop, with a doorway to the left leading into the YMCA which was behind and above 24 Church Street.



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❖ 22 CHURCH STREET (OLD) (Demolished section, North Side)

This property was to the right of Dawson's Chemist, and is still to be confirmed as being Number 22.
1901 – 22 The Quay, occupied by sisters Jane and Elizabeth Dobson, living on own means.
Around 1910 it was photographed as being Forster's Grocery Store. It later became Greenwell's stores.
1911 – John Forster, grocer.
1936 - 22 Church Street was converted to the first public library in Houghton.
1962 – advert - 22B Church Street – A & D Newby, newsagents and tobacconists.

❖ CHURCH STREET NEWS, 22 CHURCH STREET (NEW) (East section, North side)

This house and shop was newly built after the A690 road was put through. The newsagents was initially occupied by W. Wilkinson's, who had had the original newsagents (thought to be 24 Church Street) and was then occupied by Newby's in the 1970s then Eagleton's in the 1980s. Between the demolition of the old street and the new building, the newsagents was housed in a temporary cabin.

❖ 24 CHURCH STREET (Demolished section, North Side)

This was the last property on the northern block of buildings.
1901 – 24 The Quay, was occupied by Richard Newbolt, confectioner (shopkeeper) and his wife.
April 1913 – Richard Newbolt, aged 77 years, of 24 Church Street, was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.
October 1918 – Isabella Newbolt, aged 90 years, was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.
Prior to its demolition it was known as W. Wilkinson's newsagents and general dealers. The YMCA, which was formed in 1952 by the Women's Auxiliary as a youth club, was behind and above this property. The YMCA vacated Church Street prior to the demolition and moved into Houghton Hall in 1972.

❖ THE MYRE HALL, CHURCH STREET (East section, North side)

1881 – Occupied by William Pallister, woollen draper, and his sister Margaret.
1891 – Occupied by David Balfour, civil engineer, wife Margaret, and four others.
1901 – David Balfour, civil engineer, and wife Margaret.
1911 – David Balfour, civil engineer, and wife Margaret.
1912 & 1914 - This property was the residence of Mr David Balfour CE, who died there on December 22nd 1914 at the age of 76 years.
1938 – William Chrystal F.A.I, JP
1938 – Wm Crystal, F.A.I, JP, auctioneer and estate agent.
Post WWII – Durham County Divisional Education Offices.
1950s - Myre Hall was the divisional education office.
1960s - It was demolished in the 1960s and was described as being a red bricked and stone building, with a conservatory to the rear.



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❖ MYRE HALL SHELTERED HOUSING (East section, North side)

Built in 1978 on the site of the original Myre Hall, the modern building contains 36 sheltered housing flats.



MYRE HALL, CHURCH STREET

❖ 1851 RESIDENTS House number not listed

Mrs Mary Bell
Mr Phillip James Dunn (The Quay)
Miss Frances E Ironside (The Quay)
Miss Margaret Spoors
Thomas Horton – blacksmith
William Crofton – boot and shoemaker
Elizabeth Watson – confectioner
John Dobson (The Quay) – corn miller/drapers/grocers
William Earle (The Quay) - drapers
William Stokoe (The Quay) – drapers
John Wailes - drapers
Thomas Wilkinson (The Quay) – grocers
Mary & Jane Hodgson – milliners and dress makers

❖ 1858 RESIDENTS House number not listed

Christopher Carr – cooper
William Crofton – shoe maker
Thomas Hewitt – builder and brick maker
Thomas Horton – blacksmith
William Smith – surgeon
William Stokoe (The Quay) – linendraper and grocer
John Wailes – grocer and draper
Mrs Elizabeth Watson – confectioner



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The information in this article is presented in good faith, based on people's recollections and memories. Present dates relate to July 2009, with information obtained from the following websites: Royal Mail, City of Sunderland and other online directories. While every effort is made to ensure this article is accurate and up to date, some errors may exist, such is the nature of recording local history; all suggestions would be most welcome.

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