



Mr Edward Cheseldine
Planning and Development Service
Kirklees Council

Clare Chapman
Closed Churches Case Officer
Cathedral and Church Buildings
Department
Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

Our ref: RC46/248
5 February 2026

Dear Mr Cheseldine

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Closed Church of Thornhill Lees Holy Innocents (Diocese of Leeds)

I am writing to you in relation to the closed church of Thornhill Lees Holy Innocents and the current applications for conversion of the existing church building into two dwellings (reference 2025/90439 and 2025/90441).

You have enquired as to the future of the War Memorial currently contained within the building and the details of its relocation.

We had previously advised that the War Memorial will be relocated under the direction of the Bishop (in accordance with section 78 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011), most likely to another local church or public building.

Following further consultation with colleagues within the Diocese of Leeds, and after seeking the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC), it has been determined that the War Memorial will be relocated to an alternative church building within the local area. This course of action accords with the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice Code of Practice, which stipulates that such memorials should be situated in a publicly accessible location.

The final details are yet to be confirmed, however the Archdeacon of Halifax (together with officers from the Diocese) will be making site visits later this month to consider the most appropriate site for its relocation given its size and scale.

We will of course be in touch with an update as soon as the details are confirmed.

Yours sincerely

Clare Chapman
Closed Churches Case Officer (North East Region)