

Statement of Significance

Guidance on completing this form can be found on the ChurchCare website at <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/statements-of-significance-need>

This document must be accompanied by the Standard Information Form 1A

Section 1: Brief history and description of the church building(s), contents, churchyard and setting

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend

A church at Milton is first mentioned in the 'Textus Roffensis', the Rochester Register, of 975 and later recorded in 1086 in the Domesday Book. The current church sits on the site of the earlier 11th Century one, no fabric from the earlier church survives.

St Peter and St Paul's church, Milton, dates from the late 14th Century and early 15th Century built in the Perpendicular style with later restorations carried out in the late 18th Century and subsequently in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

The re-roofing of the nave in the 18th Century was by Thomas Hall of Dartford. The works involved the walls of the nave to be extended, leaving the original corbels in place, a flat ceiling with moulded cornice inserted. The unusual roof has deep eaves and no gutter. The church is listed as Grade B and II*.

The walls are stone rubble and flint with freestone dressings and knapped flint bands and a slate roof. On the east side there is a 3-light 19th Century Perpendicular style window. On the south side there are 3 windows dating from 1862 2-light windows. The 4th window on the western end is medieval with 2 cusped lights below an octafoil. Later additions to the church include new vestries that were added in 1952 that were later incorporated in the new parish centre designed by David Croydon on the north side of the church built in 1992.

The church contains a 3-rib vaulted sedila, one with a piscina in the decorated style, a font dating from 19th Century. The organ was originally built by Bunting in 1830. Victorian pine pews and cast-iron heating grates in the floor. Various memorials on the walls, including one to Robert Pocock and a re-sited one for General Gordon that was once in Trinity Church. A large oil painting in a gilt frame portraying Luke XXIV.51. The tower contains 8 bells, 5 date from the 17th Century, 1 from the 19th Century and 2 from the 20th Century. As well as a 19th Century clock by Smiths of Clerkenwell.

The churchyard has a lych gate at the western end and a wrought iron on the south side both were erected in 1951. The churchyard surrounds the church on three sides and been closed to burials and is looked after by Gravesend Borough Council.



View of the nave

Section 2: The significance of the church (including its contents and churchyard) in terms of:

- i. Its special architectural and historical interest**
- ii. Any significant features of artistic or archaeological interest**

The listing for St Peter & St Paul's Church, Milton, Gravesend lists the reasons behind the Grade II* designation as follows:

- The extent of the surviving medieval fabric from the 14th Century and early 15th Century.
- The architectural interest of the Georgian restoration, in particular the design and form of the nave roof and the additional internal north and west galleries;
- Architectural details of interest including: carved stone heads to the exterior, and a medieval rib-vaulted sedilla and a piscina with bosses and fine carved stone corbels internally.

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals on the significance defined in Section 2.

Statement of Needs

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Section 1. General information

This should provide an overview of the parish and the current use of the building

The church is used by the local parish of Denton and Milton and holds regular services at least twice a week.

Section 2. What do you need?

Briefly explain your needs (not your proposals). Append any brief for your architect.

Approval is sought for the repair of a section of boundary wall that has collapsed and the introduction of railings to prevent falls from height by visitors and groundskeepers to the graveyard. The boundary wall along Milton Road East at places is 2m above pavement level.

Section 3. The proposals

Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in section 2.

The proposal is to demolish a section of the boundary wall as shown on drawing 5268/GA/100 while carefully protecting the graves and minimising the disturbance to the graveyard. Retaining wall foundation and wall are to be constructed, a land drain

laid and backfilled. The retaining wall will be faced in knapped flints to match the 14th Century tower.

Section 4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

Justify your proposals by explaining why you can't meet your needs without making changes. Also include anything which may have prompted the proposals.

Part of the boundary wall to the churchyard that faces Milton Road East has failed. There is evidence that the wall has been repaired multiple times over the years. Originally, the wall would have been built with flint bedded in lime mortar. Over time brick courses have been introduced and lastly repointing has been carried out in cementitious mortar. Over time the cementitious mortar has weakened the wall as water is unable to escape through the mortar and can only do so around the flint and through the brick.

Furthermore, the structural integrity of wall would have been weakened by the roots of trees growing relatively close to the wall. The trees have been removed but the damage has been done.

A large section of the boundary wall has collapsed and urgently needs to be rebuilt to prevent further collapse and the graves behind the wall being disturbed. Affecting the historic graveyard and putting the health and safety of the public at risk.



The collapsed section of boundary wall

Section 5. Justification

If the proposals are likely to harm the significance outlined in the Statement of significance, explain how the proposals would result in public benefits which outweigh such harm (public benefits include matters such as liturgical freedom, pastoral wellbeing and putting the church to viable uses that are consistent with its role as a place of worship and mission).

The proposal to repair the boundary wall of the churchyard will not impact on the significance of the church. The rebuilding of a large section of the boundary wall will improve the view of the church from the road. The addition of railings above the wall will protect visitors and groundkeepers to the graveyard from potential falls from height.

The new section of wall will be faced in knapped flints following the 14th Century tower, as suggested by Gravesham Borough Councils' Conservation Architect, Allan Cox.

Bibliography:

Books

- The buildings of England, West Kent and the Weald. Edited by N Pevsner By Newman, J. Pub. Penguin, London 1976 second edition.
- The church of St Peter & St Paul's, Milton-Next-Gravesend, Statement of Significance by Clague. August 2012.

Websites:

- [History - Milton Parish Church \(St Peter & St Paul's\) - A Church Near You](#)
- [Milton Church | Discover Gravesham](#)
- [CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, Non Civil Parish - 1341484 | Historic England](#)
- <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MKE27799>