



Rector Robert Gray 1787 - 1838

Rector Robert Gray was the Rector of Sunderland Parish Church from 1819 -1838. He was a devoted Clergyman who cared for the physical and spiritual well being of his parishioners.

In 1838 another deadly disease swept the East End community. Typhoid swept across Sunderland and this new epidemic began to claim many more lives only seven years after the deadly cholera outbreak. Robert Gray refused to leave his calling and continued to make house visits to the sick and the dying. He was moved by the poverty and the suffering that he saw on a daily basis in his parish. Unfortunately Robert Gray paid for his devotion and on 11th February 1838 he died after falling victim to a typhoid fever. He was held in such a high regard that his funeral attracted around 30,000 local people. His memorial stands in the central porch of the church, built by public donations and one of the only memorials in the building. His final resting place is in the graveyard amongst his parishioners.