

St Jude's - the first 100 years

On Sunday 8 May, in one of his first public engagements after the royal wedding, the Bishop of London presided at a service to mark the centenary of the consecration of St Jude's church. The congregation was joined by that of the Free Church and by invited guests including the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Mike Freer MP and Councillors John Marshall, Andrew Harper (who sang in the choir) and Daniel Seal.

The consecration of the church on 7 May 1911 set aside the building for ever for sacred use, legally constituted it as a church, and allowed for the creation of the new separate parish of Hampstead Garden Suburb, and the appointment of the first vicar. St Jude's had actually opened for worship in October 1910 and the Reverend Basil Bouchier had been in residence since October 1908, but legally this was 'mission' work in the ancient parish of Hendon (recorded in Domesday

Book of 1086). Golders Green parish incidentally was also created out of Hendon but only in 1914 which confirms that for ecclesiastical purposes at least the Suburb has never been part of Golders Green. The new Suburb parish also included a former part of the medieval Finchley parish (east of Bigwood Road). There is still a Hendon/Finchley boundary marker in Little Wood, which may be the oldest 'monument' on the Suburb.

St Jude's was named after the church in Whitechapel where the Suburb's founder Henrietta Barnett's husband was vicar. Our St Jude's is correctly called St Jude-on-the-Hill because Henrietta had the idea that its spire linked it with that of St Mary's at Harrow-on-the-Hill, four miles distant. St Jude himself was one of the twelve disciples but because it is easy to confuse him with the traitor Judas he was rather neglected in Christian tradition becoming known as 'the obscure'

and then as the patron saint of lost causes (because you would only ask for his help when you were desperate). According to legend Jude was martyred by being clubbed and then his body was hung upside down on a cross in mockery of his faith (which is why St Jude's has inverted cross motifs in the stone work).

St Jude's has been described as the architect Lutyens's ecclesiastical masterpiece and was the only twentieth-century church in London included in Simon Jenkins's England's Thousand Best Churches. Together with the Free Church it is the only Grade 1 Listed Building in Barnet. One of its most distinctive features is the mural scheme by Walter Starmer painted between 1919 and 1929 which is the most extensive scheme of its kind in the country. Not much was known about Starmer until recently when members of his family contacted the church to



Cllr John Marshall, Angus Walker, Jane Blackburn Trust chairman and manager, the vicar, Mike Freer MP, the Bishop of London, Cllr Daniel Seal, Cllr Andrew Harper and RA chairman Janet Elliott

say they had papers and drawings connected with his work at St Jude's.

The anniversary will also be celebrated with a Centenary Book of St Jude's that examines the origins of the church and the Suburb in the context of the unconventional Christianity and fin de siècle spirituality of the Edwardian era.

ALAN WALKER



During an inspiring sermon the Bishop said he takes his mitre off to St Jude's for being so serious about its website



The Bishop embraces Hilda Williams one of St Jude's longest serving members who well into her tenth decade is still full time caretaker at Fellowship House

The Bishop helps try out a new Lutyens style bench in the Calvary garden



Archives open for business

For many years the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archive Trust has been housed, first by The Institute and then by Henrietta Barnett School, in Bigwood House. Researchers have welcomed the opportunity to visit the Suburb in addition to looking at material housed in the London Metropolitan Archives. From this room the trustees have been able to answer queries, offer advice, gather new additions to the collection and organise exhibitions.

Because the school now needs this space to teach food technology the invaluable collection of letters, books, photographs and press reports relating to the history

and development of the Suburb has been boxed while the trustees look for new premises.

Plans to provide a permanent base for this fascinating resource are progressing but, for the time being, The Institute has offered a temporary refuge.

You can access the collection, make enquiries, deposit new material and visit the Archive room in The Institute where you will be helped with your house history, photos, and your research into Suburb history.

Please contact Micky Watkins, 8455 8813 or Chris Rafferty 8455 2877 for information or to make an appointment.



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