

3.0 Analysis January 2019

3.1. Amenity

The Churchyard is an important open space for the large number of people of diverse nationalities resident in the area, many of whom have no private open space of their own.

3.1.1 Tower

The Tower currently provides for:

- Those attending services in the Tower.
- General public attending tower Open Days.
- School groups on arranged visits.
- Cultural activities organised by the FoHCT, for example exhibitions, concerts, workshops etc.
- Rehearsal space in the chapel.
- Use by film makers and photographers.
- Storage and display of significant historical artefacts connected with the site.
- Crypt is used as base for Friends' storage of tools, other equipment and first aid box.
- Clock with faces visible to west and north.
- The special lights on the Tower provide a focus for the High Street in the Christmas period.

3.1.2 Churchyard

Amenities currently provided by the Churchyard include:

- Free and unlimited access to all parts at all times, using paths.
- A site for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of a green area, including an orchard, woodland and open grassy spaces.
- A place for Secondary school pupils and others to eat lunch.
- Green open grassy spaces for families picnicking.
- Space for dog walkers.
- Opportunities for visits to specific tombs.
- A pleasant route to the entrance to the infants section of St Mary's CE Primary School for schoolchildren and their parents and carers.
- Paths for those passing through on foot or by bike (via designated cycle path), including commuters to Hornsey railway station.
- A venue for public activities organised by FoHCT, church and other groups.
- An interesting historic site for visitors on Tower Open Days and for school groups.

3.1.3 The Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance currently provides for:

- Use of the site for quiet relaxation.
- A venue for public activities organised by FoHCT, church and other groups.
- An interesting historic site for visitors on Tower Open Days and for school groups.
- Pleasant lawns for picnicking.
- Appreciation of the seasonal interest of the extensive re-planting carried out by FoHCT volunteers. These provide sensory stimulation and seasonal interest.

3.2 Historical value

The Tower is the oldest building in Hornsey, a unique reminder of the medieval church which served the rural Middlesex village, now the London suburb of Hornsey. At the north-west corner of the Tower is a corner turret, which is a characteristic late medieval feature of churches in the Thames basin. The Tower is of special interest for its relatively early use of brick, faced with local stone, and for its inclusion of carved features, including the arms of two bishops of London on the exterior, and carved angel capitals inside. The alterations by the architect George Smith in 1833 are an early example of Gothic Revival, intended to be in keeping with the existing building.

The Churchyard is older than the Tower, in existence at least from the 13th century. The main features of the present layout, with partially surviving rows of chest tombs, were established by the early 19th century. Surviving tombs of special interest include carved 18th century headstones, and two listed monuments: the chest tomb commemorating the poet Samuel Rogers, (died 1855) and a ledger stone with an exceptional inscription recording Jacob Walker (died 1841) in America ‘the faithful slave – in England the faithful servant’ of Harriet and George Long. Harriet Long (died 1841) is buried in the same grave.

The Borough of Hornsey created a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the demolished 1833 church in memory of those residents of Hornsey who gave their lives in the Second World War. The Garden was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Charles E. Curzon, Bishop, on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 1950.

3.3 Ecological value

The churchyard is of value as part of a ‘green chain’ linked to the New River and Alexandra Park. It has an unusually wide range of trees, including woodland with native Hornbeam, Oak and Ash. There are several Yews and Hawthorns, fine examples of Norway Maple and London Plane, and two Ginkgo Biloba in the Garden of Remembrance. A grove of mature Holly Trees provides cover and food for birds. Wild life is encouraged by the undergrowth maintained around the borders of the site, and meadow flowers by a managed regime of grass cutting. A hedge with mixed native shrubs was planted along the High Street in 2004. The more recent creation of an ‘orchard’ with four apple trees provides further interest and diversity.

3.4 Potential

3.4.1 General

The Tower, Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance offer valuable educational resources over a wide spectrum of subjects and activities, including local history and geography, geology and building materials, crafts skills and technology, art and design, ecology and horticulture. With enhanced facilities the Tower could be a local resource centre providing space for meetings, lectures, education for all ages, exhibition, rehearsal and practice and performance space. Specific opportunities and possible enhancements are noted below.

3.4.2 Tower

- Study of social history.
- Study of architectural history.
- Study of conservation techniques.
- Improved display of building and historic artefacts in the crypt through better lighting.
- Improved facilities in ringing chamber to enable it to be fully used.
- Provision of information board at roof level to enhance understanding of panoramic views.
- Demonstration of techniques of bell ringing.
- Provision of water supply and wc facilities.

3.4.3 Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance

- Continuing understanding of the ecology through regular monitoring of flora and fauna.
- Participation in annual RSPB bird survey.
- Participation in annual big butterfly count
- Study of insect life.
- Repair of tombs.
- Completion of resurfacing of paths.
- Improvements to lighting.
- Continued development of new planting in the Garden's borders.
- Provision of water supply.
- Improvements to planting around boundaries.
- Repair and maintenance of dwarf walls around and to the Garden of Remembrance.