

2.0 Description January 2019

2.1. Location

The site lies to the south of High Street Hornsey, London N8, within the Hornsey ward of the London Borough of Haringey. In the centre of the site is the Tower remaining from the former parish church, which was demolished in 1927. The Tower has no postal address but the post code N8 9NT is used to assist location.

2.2 Ownership

The incumbent Rector of Hornsey is the owner of St. Mary's Church Tower and surrounding Churchyard and incorporated Garden of Remembrance.

2.3 Topography

The site lies to the south of High Street Hornsey, London N8, within the Hornsey ward of the London Borough of Haringey. It covers 0.71 hectares. The Tower and adjoining Garden of Remembrance, on the site of the demolished Church, are in the centre of the Churchyard. The rest of the Churchyard is grass, with groups of trees and shrubs, mainly around the outer borders and in the south east corner. The Churchyard is bounded by back gardens on the north side and parts of the south and east sides, and by St Mary's C.E. Primary School on the east side. Ancient rights of way run through the site; N-S between High Street and Temple Road, and E-W from Church Lane.

2.4 Status of site, building and tombs

The site lies within the Hornsey High Street Conservation Area and is scheduled by the Borough as 'Significant Local Open Land' and is included in the Borough's 'Register of Public Parks, Gardens, Cemeteries and Churchyards of Local Historic Interest'. The Tower is classified Grade II*. The Churchyard contains two tombs listed Grade II. The Churchyard also contains a Council designated Garden of Remembrance, commemorating those who died during the Second World War.

2.5 Tower

The Tower was built as part of the medieval church of St Mary when Hornsey was a small rural village in Middlesex. The Tower stood at the west end of the building whose site is now the formal Garden of Remembrance. The lower part of the Tower is medieval, and was probably completed around 1500. The top storey is a heightening of 1833, when the architect George Smith reconstructed the rest of the building in a Gothic Revival style. This building, apart from the Tower, was demolished in 1927. In 1888 a larger Victorian church was built on a site adjacent to the east boundary of the Churchyard, to serve the growing surrounding suburb. The upper part of the tower to this new church was never completed and the old Tower continued in use as a bell tower until 1959, when excessive movement made it unsafe to continue ringing the bells. The new church was demolished in 1969 when it was decided that severe structural problems were beyond economic repair.

2.6 Tombs and monuments

The Churchyard was used for burial from the medieval period until 1892 when it was finally closed to all new burials. The older part lay around the Church and it was extended to the south in 1840. By 1892 the Churchyard was full of upright headstones, chest tombs and ledger stones, whose inscriptions provided a wealth of information.

In the early 1950s and, possibly later, in the 1970s, the local council flattened many of the gravestones. In 1987 245 tombs were recorded by members of the North Middlesex Family History Society (NMFHS), (details in Appendix 6.6). After the Church of 1833 was demolished in 1927, some tomb stones (then inside the church), were moved, and re-laid after the creation of the Garden of Remembrance in 1950, so that the 1987 survey included gravestones formerly within as well as outside the Church. This management plan is concerned with the existing stones in the Churchyard and those once in St Mary's but now considered part of the graveyard. Other surviving monuments, not in the graveyard, are listed in Appendix 6.6

Currently only 213 of those recorded in 1987 can be seen. A survey was carried out between 2009-2012 by FoHCT in conjunction with the Hornsey Historical Society and a report prepared on their condition. Threats are identified to their survival – notably plant growth, vandalism, and wear. The condition of each stone is recorded on a sheet, and Appendix 6.6 records the threats to each stone surveyed. Appendix 6.6 also contains specific general management objectives in order to preserve the tombs in as good a condition as possible for the future.

It is an objective of the FoHCT to acquire as much information about the past changes in the Churchyard, and to preserve the character of the Churchyard as a place in which these monuments of memory can be contemplated and appreciated by the visitor.

2.7 Ecology

The site forms a significant element in the 'green chain' running along the line of the New River on the north side of the High Street, and continuing north to Alexandra Park.

The Churchyard is notable for its considerable variety of trees, shrubs and open grass areas, contrasting with the formal planting of the Garden of Remembrance. A comprehensive record of the flora was made in 2010 by David Bevan. From 2009 appropriate forms of management have been adopted to suit the diverse character of different parts of the site. Details are given in appendix 6.7.

The FoHCT policy is to maintain the churchyard as a place for quiet relaxation, keeping a balance between preserving wild life, encouraging biodiversity, caring for the surviving tombs and monuments and maintaining the Garden of Remembrance as a distinct entity. Fortnightly gardening sessions are held throughout the year for FoHCT members and volunteers. In general the different areas are left to develop as they will, but with thuggish growth removed as far as possible, while the Garden

- 2.7 of Remembrance requires more regular attention. FoHCT does not use weed killers; cont. green waste is composted on site and used as mulch or collected by Haringey Council for shredding. Additional much is provided for FoHCT use. There are dog waste bins and litter bins which are emptied by Haringey Council.

2.8 Facilities

2.8.1 Tower

The Tower contains a ground floor chapel used for church services and for use by FoHCT for meetings. This is accessed via three external steps and a pair of doors opening from a small terrace. Access without assistance is therefore limited to ambulant people. This is also used for a variety of other uses, including by outside groups. By arrangement, the chapel can be hired by outside groups and individuals. A hire cost is made and all proceeds come to FoHCT for use on upkeep of Tower and Churchyard. Below the chapel is a crypt in which are stored a number of tomb stones and other items of historical interest. This is accessed by a separate side entrance via five external steps. This is also used for storage of FoHCT's gardening tools and equipment. Above are a bell ringing chamber, clock chamber containing the mechanisms for two working clock faces, bell frame and accessible flat roof all reached by a spiral staircase which is lit and has rope handrails. The crypt, bell ringing chamber and roof can be safely accessed by ambulant visitors when accompanied by those authorised to do so. The Tower has electrical power and lighting but no water or toilets. Water is stored in a large water butt in the crypt for use by FoHCT for gardening purposes. By arrangement with the adjacent school this is filled by hose from their water supply.

2.8.2 Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance

There are two benches installed by the FoHCT on the path to Church Lane and a further bench on the central path leading to the High Street. These have replaced benches in the Garden of Remembrance, which were inappropriately used. Paths within the Churchyard have council street lighting. There are two litter bins and two bins for dog waste, which are emptied by Haringey Council. FoHCT have installed three lockable weatherproof notice boards. One is situated at the Temple Road entrance and is for sole use of FoHCT. A second is located close to the Tower at the side of the cycle path, again for sole use of FoHCT. A third is located facing the High Street and is split into three sections, one for FoHCT, one for the Church and one for used by The Intimate Space, the organisation that collaborates with FoHCT and the church in finding users of the lettable part of the tower. FoHCT have installed three interpretation boards in the churchyard, covering the ecology of the Churchyard, the history of the churches on the site and of the significant tombs in the Churchyard. FoHCT have installed direction signs to the paths within the Churchyard and a replica of the sign on the High Street erected by Hornsey Borough Council in 1950 to mark the Garden of Remembrance.