

1.0 Introduction January 2019

1.1 Friends of Hornsey Church Tower

Friends of Hornsey Church Tower (FoHCT) was established in 1989 as a registered charity, with the aim of giving the tower a secure future. Members come not only from Hornsey but also from other parts of Haringey and further afield, demonstrating the widespread interest in preserving a monument, which has for centuries been a significant feature of the local landscape. FoHCT encourages the active use of the building and for it to have a continuing useful and varied role whilst recognising that as the Tower is a Grade II* listed building, repair and maintenance of the fabric has to be combined with a sympathetic understanding of its historical features and only with the necessary approvals.

Both tower and churchyard remain in the ownership of the incumbent Rector of Hornsey and the FoHCT has an agreement with the Rector to act as agent to assist in respect of maintenance, repair and improvement works to the Tower, Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance. This role includes fund raising for specific projects to be carried out with his consent, together with that of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary with St. Georges, Cranley Gardens and other church and statutory bodies as may be necessary.

Final responsibility for maintenance of the Tower remains with the Rector of Hornsey. The London Borough of Haringey has taken responsibility for maintenance of Churchyard and incorporated Garden of Remembrance, and the FoHCT works together with the Council on planning and executing these. The FoHCT's aim is to preserve the rural character of the Churchyard, to enhance the Garden of Remembrance, and encourage the use of the area for quiet recreation by the local community.

1.2 History

The Tower was built as part of the medieval parish 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 marked by 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. By that time a larger Victorian church had built on a neighbouring site, to serve the growing Victorian suburb. For forty years the two churches existed side by side, with the old Tower continuing in use as a bell tower. In 1968 the Victorian church was demolished and the church moved to the other side of the High Street into St Mary's Hall opposite what is now Greig City Academy. On Palm Sunday, April 12, 1981 a final service was held there and the congregation was united with that of the daughter church of St George in Cranley Gardens, which became legally the Parish Church, renamed St Mary with St George, with the incumbent taking the title Rector of Hornsey re-establishing the tradition of Hornsey dating back to the 13th Century.

1.2 Churchyards were essential adjuncts of medieval parish churches. Hornsey cont Churchyard was in use as a burial ground for hundreds of years, from the 13th century and probably earlier, up to its closure in the later 19th century. It served the parish of Hornsey, which until the 19th century was a large rural area extending south to Stoke Newington and west to Highgate. By 1840 it was necessary to extend the Churchyard, and an area to the south of the central east - west path was added. Until the end of the 19th century Church and Churchyard remained surrounded by fields, and there were only a few houses along the High Street. The main paths that run through the Churchyard are ancient rights of way that connected with routes in existence before the neighbouring streets were built up. The Tower is now all that remains of the Church after the rest of the building was demolished in 1927. It is now the oldest building in Hornsey and one of the oldest in the Borough of Haringey and is statutorily listed Grade II*. In 1950 the Borough of Hornsey created the Garden of Remembrance on the site of the demolished building to commemorate those who gave their lives in the Second World War.

1.3 Role of Friends of Hornsey Church Tower

The role of the Friends is as agent to the Rector of Hornsey as set out in the Ownership Document – Appendix 6.2- and as described in 1.1 above.

1.4 Contact with the Friends of Hornsey Church Tower

By arrangement with the Hornsey Historical Society the FoHCT postal address is:

c/o The Hornsey Historical Society
The Old Schoolhouse
136 Tottenham Lane
London
N8 7EL

Email: efohct@gmail.com

1.5 Website and Twitter account

FoHCT maintains a website www.hornseychurchtower.com and a Twitter account @hornseytower.

1.6 Local population characteristics

1.6.1 Profile of the Local Community

Hornsey Church Tower is located within the London Borough of Haringey in the Hornsey ward. Haringey straddles the traditional Inner and Outer London boundaries and runs east to west. It was created in 1965 by the amalgamation of three former London boroughs. It shares borders with six other London boroughs. Clockwise from the north, they are: Enfield, Waltham Forest, Hackney, Islington, Camden and Barnet.

1.6.2 People



Haringey is very ethnically and economically diverse. It has extreme contrasts-areas in the west, such as Highgate and Muswell Hill are among the most prosperous in the country; in the east of the borough, some wards are classified as being among the most deprived 10% in the country. Within the wards in the west, particularly Hornsey, there are also pockets of deprivation. Hornsey has two social housing estates: to the north of the High Street is the Campsbourne estate and to the south the Lightfoot estate. Unemployment rates are high and poverty is more evident on these estates. There is a gang culture amongst young mainly unemployed people and many are members of the Grey Gang, a large Afro/Caribbean collective. Civil disturbances occurred on the High Street in 2011 involving this gang and its rivals. The population in the 2001 census was around 221,000 and grew by 8.6% between 1991 and 2006 and is projected to grow by a further 5.4% by 2016 to 233,125. The male to female ratio is 50:50 and the age structure is similar to that of London as a whole although younger than the national average.

Hornsey has a high proportion of young adults in the 20-39 age range and a lower proportion of residents aged 45 and over. Because of its estates the ward has a high proportion of lone parent households.

Hornsey mirrors the ethnic composition of Haringey's residents and is 65.5% White, 20.1% Black, 6.7% Asian, 4.6% Mixed, 1.1% Chinese and 2% Other. An estimated 193 languages are spoken in the borough.

The 1950s, 60s and 70s saw the first waves of immigration to the borough. Aside from the commonwealth immigration from the Caribbean and Indian sub continent, Haringey became the focus for Cypriot immigration. This followed the civil unrest in Cyprus in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Communities from both sides of the Greek and Turkish communities established themselves particularly around the centre of the borough. In more recent times the Turkish community in this area has been reinforced by immigration from Turkey and Kurdistan and Kosovo/Albania. Since the 1990s immigration from the eastern European countries and African sub continent has become more prominent and the borough is now home to a sizeable African and Polish community. The new communities have tended to establish themselves in the centre and east of the borough where social housing and multiple occupation rented properties are more prevalent.