

PROJECT

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST NOTTING HILL

by Simon L Ablett of Ablett Architects
Inspecting Architect to St John's

PROJECT TEAM

Client:
The PCC of St John's
Notting Hill

Architect:
Ablett Architects

Quantity Surveyor:
Sawyer and Fisher

Structural Engineer:
Hockley and Dawson

West end first phase
contractor:
Fullers Builders

West end second
phase contractor:
Barnes Woodfield

West end panelling:
Penny's Mill

Paint analysis and
trial finish to the
reredos:
Hare and Humphreys

Photographs:
Jonty M Sexton

The church of St John's, built in 1845, has been altered internally on numerous occasions in the last hundred years or so, including the relocation of the organ from the west gallery to the chancel aisle (unfortunately its case was discarded), a new stair and pews in the west gallery and then, in 1929, and as part of the works to tackle settlement, the galleries in the transepts were taken out. In more recent times the nave pews were removed, the interior decoration neutralised in the 1950's with a grey and white scheme with salmon pink to parts of the reredos and in the 1960's a large carpeted dais was installed and the altar moved forward.

The PCC and have been successful in raising the funding from numerous sources including parish fundraising, the Heritage Lottery Fund and most recently a landfill community fund to revitalise the church in a number of ongoing projects.

The first step in considering a revival was the commissioning of a feasibility study identifying the issues and the opportunities. This report led to the tackling of the main entrance with a new stone ramp and oak and glass doors, then the relocation of the font onto the axis between the north and south porches, the formation of toilets at west end and the major organ project followed on. >



PROJECT

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



The restoration and relocation of the eighteenth century organ (it had been brought from Holy Trinity Church at Clapham) to the north transept and its new oak and walnut case was described in *Church Building & Heritage Review* in September 2014. This work also enabled a permanent exhibition to be created on the history and workings of the instrument, with an explanatory model, as well as brief history of the development of Notting Hill. The relocation of the organ enabled the large and ugly dais to be removed, the pulpit restored to its original location and a

small prayer chapel created where the organ had stood.

The next stage was the creation of two rooms to the first floor gallery at the west end with the removal of the modern boarded walls and their replacement with simple glass screens with oak and glass doors. The finish to the gallery balustrade was also restored. The two first floor rooms and the centre gallery provide much needed multi use space and rooms, including for use by the community.

The ground floor works recently completed have provided a lobby and buggy space to the

“The relocation of the organ enabled the large and ugly dais to be removed, the pulpit restored to its original location and a small prayer chapel created where the organ had stood.”

toilets, storage, a ground floor multi use room plus space for a future kitchen all concealed behind a new panelled wall. The detailing of the new panelled screen repeats the simple contemporary detailing of the oak and walnut of the organ case. The plain oak faced doors to the centre of the screen provide a serving hatch to the future kitchen. In due course it is intended these will be enlivened by a marquetry tree of life. The colouring to the roof timberwork of the two first floor rooms is temporary, as we have uncovered the original decoration of red, green, cream chevrons and foliage that was originally painted onto all of the roof timbers but all painted over in the 1950's with brown paint. It is hoped that the original colouring will be restored to the whole church, along with a new lighting scheme and the bronzing of the fine terracotta reredos during the next phase of work.

All construction projects need to be driven if they are to achieve fruition. The PCC's determination to revitalise the church is commendable and particular credit should go to the Vicar, Revd Canon Dr William Taylor for his vision. ■



SAWYER & FISHER

Chartered Quantity Surveyors, Construction Consultants

Sawyer & Fisher was established in 1959 and continues to provide professional quantity surveying services on all aspects of building work.

We have extensive experience in the repair and restoration of historic and listed buildings, the construction and refurbishment of schools, private houses, hotels, leisure facilities, Cathedrals, Churches of all denominations, windmills etc.

Our highly qualified team also possesses comprehensive experience in the refurbishment of heritage and high profile projects where continued public use of buildings has to be maintained during the project.

Sawyer & Fisher is proud to have been part of the team for the recent works at St John the Evangelist Church Notting Hill.

Sawyer & Fisher (Epsom) Ltd
Unit B Aviary Court, 138 Miles Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9AB
Tel: 01372 742815 email: qs@sawyerfisher.co.uk
website: sawyerfisher.co.uk



quality construction & refurbishment



Barnes Woodfield Ltd were the main contractors for the St John the Evangelist, Notting Hill project. Our remit included joinery, plumbing, electrics, decorations and the installation of glass screens and glass and timber doors.

The company has considerable experience of working in churches and other historic buildings. We pride ourselves on our ability to carry out works efficiently and with the minimum disruption to daily activities.

w: www.barnes-woodfield.co.uk
e: admin@barnes-woodfield.co.uk

01474 814 940

St John the Evangelist
Landsdowne Crescent
Notting Hill
London
W11 2NN