

## The New Church

From the beginning it had been decided that the new church would be something special, different and modern. It was described as “A church for tomorrow” by the surveyor, Mr. Derek Wardman. The nearest he could come to putting a name to the style was a “Pace” church as the architect had his own very distinctive way of working. Having also worked on the Cathedrals at Durham, Lichfield, Liverpool and Chester, George Pace had earned quite a reputation for his innovative ideas and St. Saviour’s was to be the only one of its type in the West Riding.

The most notable feature on entering the church is that there is no separate chancel. The congregation is grouped around the sanctuary with its central altar table and symbolic wrought iron cross (which gives us our Crown of Thorns motif), and feels totally included in all services. Yet, although it is modern and untraditional, it does incorporate items from other churches in Bradford—pews, the organ, the bell, Churchwardens’ staves and a wonderful mosaic in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, which link it to the past.



The then Bishop of Bradford, the Rt. Revd. Michael Parker, performed both the ceremony for the laying of the foundations and the dedication of the new church. At the former event, he arrived with his own trowel; a gift from a previous service in 1954, and proved himself to be most adept at brick-laying. He joked with the congregation that he had previously been offered a job by the contractors at a similar ceremony—but had declined!

Then, on 17th September 1966, he presided at the service of dedication when the dreams of the congregation at last came to fruition and they had their new church, which we continue to enjoy today. Alterations and additions have been made over the years, but the essence of the church remains the same and we are proud to serve the people of Fairweather Green and beyond.

*More information on the history of the church is available in the updated St. Saviour’s Church History which is on sale at £1.*

# St. Saviour’s Church, Fairweather Green



## 50th Anniversary Special Supplement

To mark the passing of 50 years since the consecration of our present building, we include this supplement of items relating to the history of the church—some you may have seen before, some are new.

*The following is the Vicar's letter from the September 1966 issue of the Parish Magazine.*

St. Saviour's Vicarage

My dear friends,

With something of the same feelings that the Jews looked forward to the Day of the Lord, the Britons looked forward to the return of King Arthur and the Germans looked forward to 'Der Tag', here the people of Fairweather Green looked forward to the long-awaited consecration of our new church. Many of the older people had indeed at one time given up all hope. Nevertheless the day is almost here. Not only that but the shoddy workmanship, the gimmicks or the nostalgia for the past which have been features of so many modern churches have no place in ours. It is right up to date yet with nothing merely sensational and the craftsmanship has been the best that we could get. We can be sure of one thing, many people are in for a very big surprise when they actually go into our new building.

The slogan I have taken during the last few months is: 'A consecrated church and a consecrated people'. A prayer about the new church which we have often used is that people will 'make a right use of the same'. Better a few devout people in a tin hut than a multitude of people of merely formal religion in the most lovely of cathedrals. We hope that our new church will inspire us, make our worship more worthy, encourage many others to join us, help us to deepen our own faith, help to strengthen the hold of Christ on the hearts of the people of Fairweather Green. If it does not do some or all of these things it will merely have been a colossal waste of time and money.

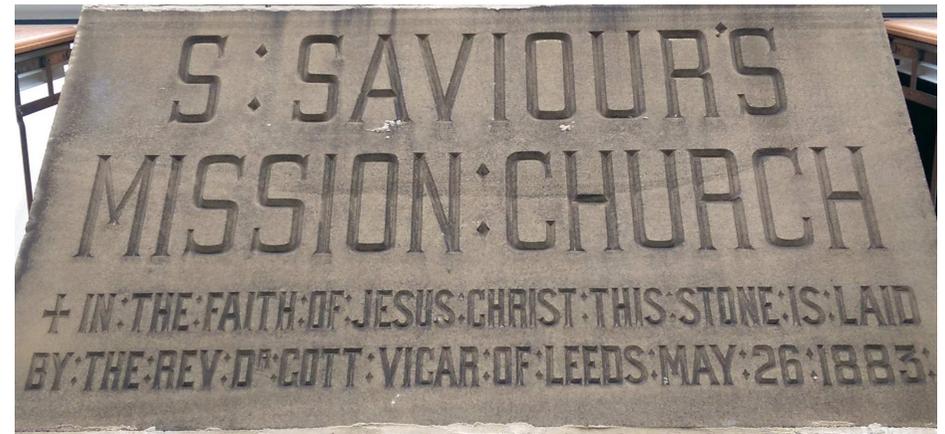
Your sincere friend,

PETER J. WINSTONE.

enjoyable afternoon. Church architecture was examined and cat accessories were purchased!

Today only a few members of our congregation can remember our old church in Jesse Street and the interior has certainly changed beyond recognition since 1966. Of course the pews are long gone and most of the building is a large open space ideal for parties and other social events. A section on the north side has been made into a kitchen and serving area.

When St Saviour's occupied the building the roof beams were painted with quotations from the Bible and religious sayings - sadly these have long since been painted over. Fortunately they are recorded in old photographs. Most intriguingly, there is a door half-way up one of the walls which has no staircase or other means of access! Presumably there is an upper room behind the door - can anyone remember what this was used for? Anyone who tried to open the door from inside the upper room would be in for a very unpleasant surprise! Little except the foundation stone (see illustration) survives to remind us that the building was once a church



*Foundation stone for the old Jesse Street Mission Church.  
Picture by Mrs. Ceri Halfacree)*

Although it is hardly surprising that the building has been altered so much in half a century it is very pleasing that it is so well cared for by its present owner and is still serving the needs of our local community.

Our churchwarden came to the rescue with his screwdriver and we picked the service up and carried on.

Our church was BUILT. It was furnished with items from churches that were being demolished - pews, churchwardens' staves, the beautiful reredos which we placed in the chapel, and the organ. The altar frontals and hassocks were made by the ladies of the congregation.



*The Church interior*

The GREAT DAY arrived - September 17th 1966. The church was packed. Only people with tickets were sure of a seat. All the pews were full, folk were standing at the back. Bishop Parker led the consecration service, hymns were sung, prayers said and thankfulness felt that Fairweather Green had a new church to worship in.

*Mary Blackburn. (Written in 2003)*

### **Visit to the Old St. Saviour's in Jesse Street**

*Ian Mc Alpine.*

Early in August a flyer dropped through my letter box advertising a fund-raising event for Pawprints, a local charity in aid of unwanted cats. Most interestingly, the event was to be held at Fairweather Green Events Hall which had started life back in 1883 as St Saviour's first purpose-built church. The foundation stone was laid in May, 1883 and the building was opened for worship only four months later! Until recently it was a factory making roller blinds and it has been used as a hall for social events - rather like our hall, I suppose - only in the last few years. The modest stone-built structure served the congregation very well for more than eighty years until our present beautiful building was opened exactly fifty years ago.

I had never been inside the old St. Saviour's and the prospect of cats combined with church history seemed irresistible! I arranged to meet Ceri, a close friend and fellow cat enthusiast at the hall and we had a most

*The following is also an extract from the September 1966 magazine. It's interesting to see how attitudes have changed!*

### **The Use of the New Church**

In the use of a church, certain customs and rules grow up, and in our new building we shall be able to evolve a different set of customs than in our old. Here are some of the things which we ought to get used to, at any rate to start with.

Smaller services, including said communion services, will take place in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. This chapel will be open permanently during the day for private prayer; the main part of the church will be closed.

The bell will be rung for ten minutes before sung services, and for two or three minutes before said services and Sunday School. One minute before sung services begin, the bell will stop for half a minute, and then be rung for half a minute more. The choir prayer will be said during this second half minute.

There is a large porch. Talking together after the service should be a feature of all churches, for we should be friendly to one another. But in our new church this can be done in the porch rather than in the church itself. But it does seem to the vicar that friendly greetings and brief enquiries after health are in place in the church itself, and indeed an important part of the life and fellowship of worshipping people. It is lengthier discussions or conversations which ought to take place in the porch or vestries. Commonsense and a sense of reverence taken together are our best guides here.

Committee meetings and smaller meetings will take place in the choir vestry. The Vicar's vestry will be used as the Vicar's and churchwardens' vestry, and apart from them and the sacristan, other people should not casually walk in and out.

Please do not put anything on the window sills; this will look very untidy from outside, particularly in the vestries.

A cleaner will be paid to clean the floors. For everything else we rely on volunteer help



*The former Jesse Street church  
(Picture by Betty Longbottom., licensed for  
use under the Creative Common Licence)*

**Our Church: St. Saviour's, Fairweather Green**

In 1883 the Mission Church at the corner of Jesse Street and Thornton Road was built. And it was there in 1916 that the idea of a new church took root. A site for a church, church hall and vicarage was given by Mr. Eustace Illingworth in 1924 and a Building Fund started.

A new estate, called Lower Grange, was being built by the Council. With new people coming to live in the parish it seemed that the church would be up before anyone could say "Jack Robinson"! It wasn't to be - the twenties and thirties were not the right time to raise money with massive unemployment in Bradford. The Building Fund lay dormant, had a short burst of life in the 1940s, but once more the idea fell by the wayside.

The Bishop of Bradford, Dr. Coggan, started an appeal for money to build churches on the new council estates that were being built. St. Saviour's was on the list, but it must have been at the bottom of the list.

In 1960, after an interregnum that had lasted three years, the flabbergasted congregation heard that the Bishop had appointed a VICAR!! Was he old? Married with a family? Single? Young? Speculation was rife.

The Revd. Peter J. Winstone M.A. was young and single and keen to see the new church and vicarage built. What did Peter find? A Bishop who was enthusiastic about a new church. A small, dedicated congregation, full of energy and ready to do anything and everything. An old building that needed a lot of tender loving care. RATS, that fancied eating the Mothers' Union supper, which meant that one of them had to stay in the hall to guard it whilst the others were in church. And the sweet smell/STINK that floated over Fairweather Green on certain days from Woolcomber's Ltd. And Waddington's Bone Works - but not both on the same day!

Dr. Coggan asked Peter to visit the new churches and report back. It was with embarrassment that he had to tell the Bishop that the church roofs were leaking and there were puddles on the floors. It convinced the

Bishop that we needed a different architect for the new church. He suggested Mr. Pace, F.S.A., F.R.T., BA., MA, who was based in York, and he agreed to be our architect. A brief was drawn up and great stress was laid on the fact that we needed a church that was well built and easy to maintain. Mr. Pace said it was one of the best briefs he had ever received. This was high praise as he was also working on St. George's Chapel for the Queen Mother.

The building Fund woke up and found itself swallowing pounds, shillings and pence. Money was raised through whist drives, beetle drives, coffee mornings, selling cardboard bricks. Parents found their pockets and purses were raided by their children to fill feet of pennies to take to Sunday School.

Dr. Coggan left Bradford to become Archbishop of York. He was succeeded by Bishop Michael Parker whose support at this time was invaluable. There were difficulties with the Chief Planning Officer who didn't approve of Mr. Pace's plans but backed down when threatened with an appeal.

On 13th January 1965, Peter climbed on a tractor and cut the first sod. March 27th found the Bishop laying three facing bricks and on July 11th he led an open air service when the walls weren't quite six feet high.



*St. Saviour's Vicarage*

The vicarage was built - a four bedroomed detached house. Peter took time off to get married and he and Margaret moved into their new home.

The little Mission Church in Jesse Street thrived. New people came and were soon found jobs to do. The Choir had new robes; Sunday School, Junior Bible Class, Cubs, Brownies, Guides all flourished; Margaret started a Young Wives Group and Peter a Boys' Club. Services on Sunday were 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist and 6.30 p.m. Evensong. The organ needed attention when it ceased to play.