

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, A BRIEF HISTORY

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
THE FOUNDING OF HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH	3
THE REV. HENRY CULLEY EDEN B.A. (Camb) – 1885 – 1933.....	3
THE HOLIDAY HOME	5
THE TRAINING SHIP ‘STORK’	5
THE ALL SAINTS SISTERS OF THE POOR.....	5
THE END OF AN ERA.....	6
THE REV. PATRICK ANDREW CLAY B.A. (Oxon)	7
THE REV. JOHN WETENHALL FRANCIS WARREN M.A. (Oxon).....	7
THE REV. STUART ADAMS – KELHAM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE	9
THE REV. CHARLES BEVERLEY DAVIES M.A. M.B.E.	10
THE REV. JOHN SEAN ALEXANDER McATEER B.A. (Trinity).....	12
THE REV. MURRAY GRANT AND THE RE-ORDERING OF HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH	14
THE REV. SCOTT LAMB B.A. (Edinburgh).....	17
INTER REGNUM	17
THE REV. DAVID W.G. MATTHEWS M.A. (Trinity College, Toronto)	18
VICARS AND PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE AT HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH.....	21
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	24

INTRODUCTION

THE HAMMERSMITH AND SHEPHERDS BUSH AREA

For centuries, Hammersmith Broadway and Shepherds Bush Green formed the northern half of the manor and parish of Fulham, but from the time of Charles I onwards they had, in practice, a considerable degree of administrative independence from Fulham.

In 1834 Hammersmith was formally established as a separate civil parish, while Hammersmith and Fulham formed a single unit of local government controlled first by Hammersmith Vestry, and then, from 1900, by the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith.

In 1965 the boundaries of the original manor and parish of Fulham were reconstituted with the creation of the London Borough of Hammersmith, (later becoming the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham). Holy Innocents Church, which had been in the Deanery of Brentford and Chiswick, now became part of the Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery.

Most of the Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush area became built up in the Victorian Era. Records show that in 1861 there were 24,000 residents here, but by 1931 this had increased to 135,000. (This number was halved to 72,000 by 1991.) Comparisons of Ordnance Survey maps of the 1860's and 1890's show the phenomenal amount of building carried out in that period in particular. Much of the surrounding open land, previously used mainly for market gardens, plant nurseries and brick fields, was consequently swallowed up.

THE FOUNDING OF HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH

THE REV. HENRY CULLEY EDEN B.A. (Camb) – 1885 – 1933

In Victorian times, attending church was very much part of family life, and church buildings were large to accommodate the increasing population. The foundation stone for the church of St. John the Evangelist, Glenthorne Road was laid in 1858, and the church was consecrated on 27th July, 1859. By 1871 the parish numbered 7000 inhabitants, but by 1890 this had increased to 20,000, far too many for even such a large building.

In 1876, the Rev. W. Allen Whitworth, then Vicar of St. John's, built a mission room in Dalling Road, which was mainly to be used for children's services. It was designed to serve for ten years, when it would be necessary to form a separate parish, and to replace the temporary building with a permanent church, that of Holy Innocents

The Rev. Henry Culley Eden, brother of the Bishop of Dover, became the priest there in 1885, and began the task of raising funds to build the new church. The laying of the foundation stone by Katherine Grosvenor, the Duchess of Westminster, took place on Saturday, 20th July, 1889. The first part of the building was opened for services on 25th September, 1890, and consecrated on 7th March, 1891 by the Bishop of London, Dr. Temple, who was later to become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The west wing was completed in 1903, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Kensington. The organ had been completed at a cost of approximately £300, and electric lighting installed at a cost of £250. The total cost of the building works was £1400, which came from various sources, including the following:-

Bishop of London's Fund £1000
Diocesan Church Building Fund £100
City Church Fund; £500
Incorporated Church Building Society £135
Marshall's Charity £400

Mr John Stone-Wigg was also a generous supporter, and the building of the Lady Chapel was funded by Mrs. Daghish of Kensington in memory of her mother. Other donations came from the parish of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, where Fr. Eden had been a curate.

The church was designed by Mr. James Brook of Wellington Street, the Strand, a distinguished architect of the Anglo-Catholic Revival. Early English in style, it could accommodate 1200 people. Holy Innocents was described as 'a fine example of simple and solid work, providing its effect by massive construction and picturesque outlining and grouping, without any adventitious aid from decorative detail'.

The Lady Chapel was in the south aisle, and the St. George's Chapel was in the north aisle.

The rood screen was designed by the Rev. Ernest Geldart, and Fr. Eden was said to have carved some of it himself, with help from the choir boys, and Mr. Miller, a skilled professional wood carver (and also a member of the choir).

The elaborately carved baldacchino, also designed by Geldart, was installed in 1907. It was placed against the wall under the east window. The priest prepared the Eucharist with his back to the congregation, as was the practice at that time.

The new parish of Holy Innocents was founded on the 6th February, 1892. At that time the parish had a working class population, mostly labourers, carpenters, railway men and a few shopkeepers and clerks. They often lived two or three families to a house, and large families were common. Some middle class families then began to move in, attracted by the new Underground links to the City, and the relatively salubrious surroundings of Ravenscourt Park.

In this large community Fr. Eden was supported by four other priests and three nuns. He had a much wider vision than just providing inspiring services, and they certainly were inspiring, with an orchestra and a choir in the back balcony, an elaborate procession of clergy and servers, and a packed church. The Sunday school had over two hundred children, and the crèche looked after 3000 babies in one year alone, under the guardianship of a Kensington lady, Mrs. Henry Pott. There were various parochial organisations, including a men's club, which was open every night, and activities for women and girls, which were run by some of the Sisters of All Saints, Margaret Street.

The vicarage was a large house at 205, Goldhawk Road, (now Cressy Court) which was able to accommodate several clergy, and which had a garden big enough for social gatherings of two hundred people. It was bought in 1896 for £2800.

Mr. Cecil Thomas O.B.E. (sculptor) in a letter received in 1955, remembers that when he was a choirboy, between 1895 and 1899, two rooms on the ground floor were devoted to workshops; one was for the Vicar and one for the choirboys. The boys worked there in the evenings and on Saturdays. It was in these workshops that the carving of the rood screen took place. Mr. Thomas and another boy each carved one of the ornamental squares at the ends of the cross. One of the four squares now forms the centre of the high altar fontal.

Fr. Eden had originally intended to become an engineer, and he was a skilled wood carver. He had a wonderful American lathe, worked by a treadle, on which he turned out beautiful boxes in ebony and other woods. He did the decoration with a complicated American chuck

Mr. Thomas also remembered the parish holiday home in Dover. The choirboys were taken there during the summer holidays, and every afternoon, at 3 o'clock, they all went swimming at Shakespeare Cliff. Fr. Eden was an impressive figure according to Cecil Thomas's description: 'Eden was a very handsome and magnificent man, 6ft. 3ins. in height, and when stripped for bathing looked like a Greek statue of Hercules.'

THE HOLIDAY HOME

Over three hundred people a year took advantage of the parish holiday home in Dover. For many of them it was probably the only holiday they would ever have.

In 1922 advertisements were put in the local papers offering bed and board, for a small fee, so that Hammersmith residents to use it at slack times of the year.

In 1926 Miss Bowes and Miss Hicks were the matrons, but in 1928 the house was sold, when Holy Innocents could no longer afford its upkeep

THE TRAINING SHIP 'STORK'

The training ship 'Stork' was another enterprise set up by Fr. Eden, with the support of the Kensington and Hammersmith branch of the Navy League.

In April, 1913, an old surveying ship was brought up the River Thames and moored above Hammersmith Bridge. It was destined to become a training ship for the boys of the London Naval Brigade. About £1500 was raised to organise and fit out the vessel. Mr. Alan Burgoyne M.P. was instrumental in acquiring the lease from the Admiralty on favourable terms.

At the time the 'West London Observer' reported, 'The selfishness of the British middle class has never been more clearly shown, because of the pig-headed opposition from dwellers in the Mall, on the grounds that it would destroy the amenities of their residences.'

On board the Stork there was accommodation for fifty boys, who slept in hammocks. It was also intended to take a number of day boys. It was expected that only a tenth of these would follow the sea as a profession, but they would receive training that would stand them in good stead whatever line of work they followed.

As far as possible the boys lived the life of an ordinary sailor, but they could not be accepted until they had been tested to swim fifty yards in their clothes.

For Royal Navy training ships the boys had to be able to read and write and be of good character. In the big cities, to be on a training ship and wear naval uniform was greatly prized by many poor boys. Despite a shortage of recruits it was not easy to be accepted for training.

Mr. Arthur P. Jobbins, who joined T.S. Stork in 1937, wrote his memories of the 'Stork' and the day to day lives of those on board, and included some interesting photographs. He dedicated his book to 'All who served and trained on her'.

Many of the boys who trained on T.S. Stork were to lose their lives during the First World War, and they are listed on the boards in the Memorial Courtyard outside the east end of the church, together with the names of many members of the parish who lost their lives in both World Wars.

THE ALL SAINTS SISTERS OF THE POOR

Fr. Eden and his assistants seem to have had a rather man and boy orientated ministry, therefore the All Saints Sisters of the Poor were welcomed, particularly for their work with the girls and

women of the parish. In 1922 Fr. Eden said, 'I express thankfulness for the Sisters' work in the parish – as their influence on the spiritual life of the parish is invaluable.'

The order of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor was set up during the middle of the 19th century at the time of the 'Oxford Movement', when there was a revival in religious life in the Church of England. The first house was in Margaret Street, central London, later to become the parish of All Saints, Margaret Street. The Sisters ministered to the poor, the sick, the blind, the aged and orphans.

By 1891 they were at work in eleven parishes in England and Scotland, including the parish of Holy Innocents. They lived in a small community at 98 Shaftesbury Road, (now Ravenscourt Road). The girls called the house 'The Nunnery'.

In mid-summer 1927 the Sisters were recalled to the Mother House and 98, Shaftesbury Road was let to tenants. Because of the high maintenance costs it was sold in 1938 for £350 (minus solicitor's fees of £31)!

THE END OF AN ERA

The first minutes of Parochial Church Council meetings found in Holy Innocents' archives, were written in November, 1920. Even then the constant theme of discussions was the church's financial position, and how to manage the demands of the repairs and general running costs of the church building, the parish halls, the holiday home in Dover, and the Sisters' house.

The same issues as today were causing concern – the heating system, the lighting, the leaking roof, and the general day to day maintenance in the face of slowly declining church attendance.

Various ways of raising money were suggested, bazaars, jumble sales, parish teas, socials, dances, and performances by the Dramatic Club. These also provided an important part of the social life of the parish.

The Rev. Henry Culley Eden announced his retirement at a Parochial Church Council meeting in February, 1933. He died only a year later.

At his funeral service the Bishop of Kensington said in his sermon, 'How many in Holy Innocents had cause to praise and thank God for all Mr. Eden had done for them in forty-eight years of faithful work. – He had built up the parish from infancy to childhood, youth and middle age. – He had built a magnificent church in which we are worshipping. In an age when no one was content to stay in one place he had given up his whole life to found and father this parish.'

Fr. Eden's ashes were originally interred in the St. George's Chapel of Holy Innocents in 1934. They are now beneath the memorial plaque in the floor next to the north aisle.

THE REV. PATRICK ANDREW CLAY B.A. (Oxon)

1933 – 1935

The Rev Patrick Andrew Clay followed Fr. Eden as Vicar of Holy Innocents. He had been a curate there from 1898-1903 and was therefore familiar with the parish. He was affectionately known as 'Pat'. Unfortunately he was not to serve for long as he died only a couple of years later. The minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting held in November 1935 record that the members of the Council 'expressed their regret at the passing of the Vicar.'

The P.C.C. in a letter to the bishop wrote, 'The P.C.C. of Holy Innocents, Hammersmith, earnestly desire a continuance of the tradition established by our first vicar and Founder, and so ably carried on by his successor. We feel strongly that a celibate priest of about forty years of age would maintain in the best way, our standard of service to the Catholic faith'

THE REV. JOHN WETENHALL FRANCIS WARREN M.A. (Oxon)

1935 – 1948

The Rev. John W. Francis Warren was the man chosen. He was married with a family! Notes from the parish magazines in 1937 give a picture of a lively and social parish at that time. July in particular, was a very happy time – 'Rumour says that the Women's Bible Class trip to Herne Bay was just as bright and merry as the Mothers' outing to Hastings. Well of course it may have been. What is quite certain is that the Hastings Outing was a tremendous success, and that some who were lucky enough to take part in both, were of the opinion that both were equally delightful. The places chosen, the weather, the meals, the company, the journeys, (with stops) all seem to have given complete satisfaction. And then came the big party of 160 to Southend on July 12th. Once more we were fortunate with the weather. And no one was seasick, and no one got lost. All of us ought to be full of thanks to God for these refreshing days, and for the J.C. Clarke Charities which do so much to give us these treats at so little cost. Last of the summer treats was the infants' party, held as usual in Ravenscourt Park.'

These happy events were to be severely curtailed however, when the war with Germany was declared in September 1939. It must have been very difficult to maintain the life of the church with most of the young men going away to serve in the armed forces, fear of bombing; rationing of food, and lack of materials to carry out necessary maintenance of the church building. Fr. Warren had this unenviable task and the P.C.C. minutes indicate some of the concerns that the church had to deal with.

May 1939: The Senior A.R.P. Warden suggested that the furnace room under the church be turned into an air raid shelter at an estimated cost of £15.

November 1939: The Vicar reported that the furnace room had been turned into a good air raid shelter for 30 or 40 people. The cost had been divided between the church and the British Legion.

Hammersmith Council asked permission to build an air raid shelter in the churchyard for the tenants living in Ravenscourt Mansions.

December 1939: There were masses on Christmas Day at 7.00, 8.00 and 10.30 a.m. There was no Midnight Mass because of the difficulty and expense of blacking out the church to prevent being seen by enemy bombers. The Vicar asked for help to complete a list of names and ranks of any member of the parish serving in His Majesty's Forces. Their names were put on illuminated cards in the church and on the altar.

April 1940: Because of the great number of children evacuated from the parish it was decided to discontinue the 10.00 children's mass.

July 1941: The organ was insured for £1000 and other property for £1000 under the War Risk Insurance Scheme at a cost of £30.

March 1942: Hammersmith Council paid £19.19s.6d. to rent the parish hall for the use of the Civil Defence Organisation. (This continued until the end of the war at a rental of £85 per annum)

April 1942: The Vicar changed the mid-week service from Wednesday to Thursday so that he could continue his work as part-time air raid warden.

June 1942: £25.19s.10d. was received from the War Damage Commission for damage to the church and the parish hall.

December 1943: Joe Warren, the Vicar's son, who was serving in His Majesty's Forces, had hoped to come home for Christmas and prepare the Christmas Crib in the church, but this was not possible. A special tea was prepared in the parish hall to mark Holy Innocents' Day. 100 children were expected, 110 children arrived.

April 1944: Alfred Denton, a server at the church, had been taken as a prisoner of war. A parcel of food and other items was sent to him from the parish. Parcels were then sent at regular intervals.

May 1944: Miss Roper left a bequest to the church, and from the money two ladders were purchased. These were to be used to remove incendiary bombs from the roofs of the church and the parish halls.

September 1945: This month's collections were earmarked for Malta 'In token of the magnificent resistance displayed by that island.'

1947; It was decided to erect a war memorial. The Roll of Honour is now in the Memorial Courtyard near the Roll of Honour for the First World War.

Having steered the church through these difficult years Fr. Warren resigned from his ministry at Holy Innocents. He finished his work in July 1948. He moved to the parish of St. Giles with All Saints, Pentonville, where he had accommodation in the Mission House. When he retired he moved to Swerford in Oxfordshire where he died, in 1954.

THE REV. STUART ADAMS – KELHAM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 1948 -1953

On 6th August 1948 there was an informal gathering of the Parochial Church Council to welcome the Rev. Stuart Adams who was to be the new Vicar of Holy Innocents. He also became the Chaplain of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, which at that time was in Goldhawk Road, Stamford Brook.

Fr. Adams had been a senior army chaplain during the Second World War and had served in India and Burma.

He continued to encourage the established church organisations, including the Mother's Union, the Women's Fellowship, the Youth Club, and the choir. To add to these a small company of Girl Guides was formed, and by 1949 the 'Eden Club' had been set up with about twenty founding members from the older members of the congregation.

The church building continued to give cause for concern, along with increasing worries on how the costs of maintenance could be met. The church heating provided continuing problems, and the letting of the church halls had become an issue as they now required proper administration. Fr. Adams also drew attention to the need for reviewing the state of the organ, and of the railings in the churchyard. The 'Periodic Survey' (now the Quinquennial Survey) was becoming increasingly important, with a need for proper planning and funding for repairs.

At a P.C.C. meeting in May 1949, a plan was discussed to convert the house at 125, Dalling Road to make two flats. The house had been used by members of the clergy, and had been bequeathed to Holy Innocents by Fr. Eden. It was thought that after conversion the rentals could be counted as part of the salaries for church employees, thus reducing staffing costs. In 1951 Sister Hall of the Church Army began her service at Holy Innocents, and was the first person to live in one of the flats. She had taken over the work from Sister Flynn, who had served for two years.

In September 1950 Holy Innocents celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a 'Jubilee Dinner'. This had to be held in the 'Hut' in Dalling Road because the parish hall was being rebuilt.

In 1951 Holy innocents followed the example of many other churches and cathedrals by setting up 'The Friends of Holy Innocents'. It gained thirty-eight members who held various social events to raise funds to provide such things as altar linens, silverware and other necessary items that could not be financed from general income. 'The Friends' continued to play an important part of church life for over fifty years.

In the summer of 1952 the old parish hall became the headquarters of the Hammersmith unit of the Nautical training Corp. The cadets themselves transformed the run-down and damaged building, under the direction of the First Lieutenant, Mr. Philip Clifton. It was reported that, 'The stage at the east end has become 'the bridge', where a wooden screen had been cleverly and very realistically made to look like the steel plates of a warship, with rows of rivet heads, circular scuttles, and three watertight doors.

Fr. Adams found looking after the building a difficult task. He wrote 'In these days the reconditioning of buildings is a great burden, and when the buildings are as large as the church and halls are, the task is very considerable.'

In March 1953 Fr. Adams announced to the P.C.C. that the Bishop of Kensington had requested him to take up a ministry in another church. He said he believed he would accept and gave this as one of his reasons, 'the vicarage is a burden and too much for one person to keep going' He resigned as Vicar of Holy Innocents after five years of service. In his farewell letter published in the parish magazine he sounded rather sad and disappointed, 'We could have done much better, we could have done much more. Yet, the knowledge of our failings should provide a spur for the future, and an awareness of our shortcomings must lead us to greater faithfulness.'

The Rev. Stuart Adams preached his last sermon at Holy Innocents on 3rd May, 1953, and after evensong there was a farewell gathering to wish him joy and happiness in his new work as Vicar of St. Gabriel's, North Acton.

THE REV. CHARLES BEVERLEY DAVIES M.A. M.B.E.

1953 -1958

The Rev. Charles Beverley Davies became the fifth Vicar of Holy Innocents Church in June 1953. He had served as an intelligence officer during the First World War, and had also been a rubber planter in Kenya before his ordination in 1925.

The editor of the parish magazine wrote, 'Our new Vicar comes to us after serving in parishes where church buildings have been bombed, and the lives of people disrupted by the blitz. His work has been full of problems, and yet he comes with a record of achievement, especially in his work among children.'

Holy Innocents was to benefit from his previous work in parishes with bombed churches, particularly St. John the Evangelist, Red Lion Square. The Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury had taken charge of many items from St. John's and he gave some of them to Holy Innocents. These included books, cassocks and an oak gospel lectern. There were also some items on permanent loan from the Diocesan store, including two clergy seats, two clergy desks and a bishop's chair.

In October 1954, Sister Wenham, a Diocesan church worker, started her work at Holy Innocents. She took over from Sister Hall, who had served for four years. She moved into the upper flat at 125 Dalling Road, the rental of which had been assessed at £60 per annum. This was to form part of her salary of £300 per annum. (£200 of this was funded by a grant from the Diocese). The lower flat was to be let at five guineas a week.

After two years of service Sister Wenham resigned to take up a new appointment at St. Michael and St. George, White City. Miss Stoney came from the Chichester Diocese to replace her.

As in previous years a great deal of time at P.C.C. meetings was taken up with discussions on managing the finances and the building maintenance, and also the administration of the church

halls. In June 1954 the electrical wiring in the church was pronounced unsafe and faulty. The Diocese, however, was willing to share the cost of replacing it, an amount of £560.12s.9d.

In November permission was given to obtain six chandeliers from St. Mary's, Bourne Street. W.1. at a cost of £1 per fitting, to be used in the nave. A Cupboard for hanging the clergy cassocks was also purchased for £3.10s. together with six little angel figures for three guineas. The angel figures are now above the doors to the Lady Chapel and the chandeliers are in the Upper Hall.

Miss Forgham had come from Fr. Beverley Davies' previous parish to run the Sunday school, and children's activities were major events. A large number of children were involved both from church and from John Betts School. For the Coronation the head Teacher, Miss Leedham, produced a pageant with 'well-chosen scenes from English history, interspersed with patriotic songs.'

In 1954 there were three major children's events. On Ascension Day 101 children and 30 adults attended the 9.30 a.m. sung Eucharist. Afterwards 14 of the adults joined the children on a trip to the London Zoo.

In July the Sunday school sports day was held in Ravenscourt Park, at which 110 prizes were presented by Councillor Mrs. Woods. The victor's prizes included crowns of laurel leaves!

The Sunday school floral procession went ahead in August in spite of the threatening weather (it had already been postponed once). Wooden crosses, hoops and baskets were decorated with flowers, and three banners were also carried. The procession went well, until fifty yards from the church, the heavens opened and everyone had to run to get out of the downpour, rather spoiling the planned ending in the church.

The Nautical training Corp cadets offered to help with the decorations for the summer Garden Fete in 1955. This must have been impressive as they managed to borrow props, scenery and other materials from the Ealing Film Studios.

Also in 1955 the Sunday school adopted 'Tikopia', a South Sea island. The parish magazine reported, 'It has fewer than 1000 inhabitants, who are light brown Polynesians, happy by nature, keen to have education and training now that most of them are Christians (300 are still heathen)' The children were shown a film about life in the islands where the Bishop had to arrive in a boat for Confirmation services.

At the end of 1957 Mrs. Beverley Davies died. Friends and family contributed to the purchase of ornamental gates in her memory, and it was also planned to enclose the ground around the south side of the church to make a rose garden. The gates were dedicated on the 14th September, 1958. They are now the gates to the Memorial Courtyard.

Fr. Beverley Davies was troubled by the ways that money was raised for church purposes, for example, tombola stalls at fetes etc. In a church magazine in 1958 he drew attention to this in an article he had found titled 'Is gambling right or wrong?' His feelings were absolutely clear on this issue, 'It is not right, and apart from the dishonesty, it is the lowest way of obtaining money to offer to God in his church --- The right way is by direct giving, in church collections, free-will offerings and Gift Days.'

This continues to be an issue today.

The Rev. Charles Beverley Davies was offered, and accepted, the living of Llangurig in Monmouthshire, the highest village in Wales. This must have been a welcome offer after the loss of his wife as there were relatives living in the area. In his final letter to his parishioners at Holy Innocents in October 1959, he expressed his commitment to the work God sent him to do – ‘We all serve the same Master and must do so in love and sincerity, with sacrifice. I have in the past years done what I was guided to do, and have to obey orders from God. It has fallen short of what I wanted to do: perhaps my successor will take up the torch and carry it to another stage ---- I commend to you all the children and youth whom I have loved. Do not spare yourselves in this work, for the rewards are rich and beyond price.’

Miss Forgham followed him to Wales and they married some time later.

THE REV. JOHN SEAN ALEXANDER McATEER B.A. (Trinity) **1958 - 1982**

The Rev. John S. A. McAteer was appointed as Vicar of Holy Innocents in December 1958, and chaired his first Parochial Church Council meeting in February 1959. He had previously been curate for six and a half years at All Saints, Notting Hill.

As with previous vicars the reality of maintaining a huge, and now ageing church, meant that a lot of time was taken up with maintenance and finding funds for essential repairs. Fr. McAteer was constantly looking for ways of conserving heat in the church, and also trying to find the most economic and reasonable replacement heating system, as the heating was frequently not functioning. The organ had totally broken down, but to rebuild it would cost £9000 - £10,000, even a cheap replacement was estimated to cost £2500. An electronic organ was eventually acquired in 1962 with a loan of £340 from Miss Clarke, a member of the P.C.C. Unfortunately this was found to be a poor solution due to the size of the space, and fluctuating electricity voltage which affected performance.

Fr. McAteer had an interest in drama and he could also draw. In 1961 he said that he had received an offer, ‘at considerably low cost, from an experienced craftswoman, to fill in the arch above the west door with beautifully coloured mosaic work, which would greatly enhance the appearance of, and attraction to, the church.’ He had approved the artist’s very striking design.

Trata Maria Drescha, who was born in Czechoslovakia, was the expert mosaic artist commissioned to do the work. The design, which is worked in turquoise, black, white and gold, is still in position for all to see. It was completed by October, 1961. Trata is best known for her work on the floor of the Chapel of Unity in Coventry Cathedral.

The drama group was very popular. It was led by Howard Bennett, Churchwarden (1980-1984). He was a professional actor with a beautiful speaking voice, and the group held various performances, including pantomimes, in the church hall, and also in the crypt of Rivercourt Methodist Church.

The Guide and Brownie packs were led by Mrs. Lilian Philips, and there was also an active youth club.

The re-letting of the old church hall, which had been vacated by the Nautical Training cadets because of the need for Holy Innocents to increase the rental, was proving difficult due to planning permission and a legal difficulty over right of way. It was to be a few years before this was finally settled in 1967.

There had been a 'Free-will Offering' scheme since 1944, but in 1969 this was revised to become an envelope scheme for weekly collections, in the hope that it would encourage greater, and more regular giving. This scheme continues today.

In July 1967 the Bishop gave permission for an Orthodox Priest to use Holy Innocents Church for periodic services, with the Vicar's permission. The Byelorussian congregation also requested the use of the hall afterwards. The Vicar stated to the P.C.C. 'that he could not refuse without good reason'.

After discussion it was agreed that they be asked to pay thirty shillings each time to cover overhead costs and lighting. This congregation has declined over the years, but they still worship at Holy Innocents occasionally, particularly for major feast days.

Changes to the liturgy were also taking place that year. In October the P.C.C. sanctioned the use of the Alternative Service Series II after Fr. McAteer explained the changes involved. He also explained that baptisms would now take place at Mass or Evensong 'so that infants can be properly received into the Church of God, and witnessed by the worshipping community', instead of having a private affair in the afternoon. This also continues to the present day.

As an Irishman, Fr. McAteer always celebrated St. Patrick's Day. On 17th March every year there was a St. Patrick's Day Mass attended by the parishioners and Irish Anglicans living in London. Shamrock that had been flown over from Ireland was blessed and distributed to all present

After twenty-three years of service Fr. McAteer retired from Holy Innocents, where he had been much loved by his congregation. He died on 25th August, 2003 and a requiem mass was held on 1st September.

The obituary in the parish magazine recorded that Fr. McAteer had a great devotion to Our Lady, and he began the tradition of parish pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The painted statue of Our Lady that stands in the Lady Chapel was purchased by him in Bruges, and the gilded statue of Our Lady of Walsingham which is in the church, was bought in Walsingham during a Parish Pilgrimage..

On the 25th anniversary of his ordination in 1970 Fr. McAteer wrote 'We must hold firmly to the birth of Christ as born of the Virgin Mary, by the activity of the Holy Spirit. This is no mere abstract principle. It is the very life of our spiritual peace and strength --- The miracle of Christmas is continued in our own day and every day. We are to live in His presence now, as we are to live in His nearest presence in Eternity'

Affectionately yours, John McAteer

The memorial plaque to the Rev. John McAteer is above the Holy Water stoop in the Narthex

THE REV. MURRAY GRANT AND THE RE-ORDERING OF HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH

1983 – 1999

The new person chosen to serve at Holy Innocents was an energetic, determined and extrovert personality, useful qualities at a time of change. While recognising the need to maintain the traditional Liturgy of the services, and the social life of the community, something had to be done about the building itself. (This had also been a concern to Fr. McAteer and others in the past)

After nearly a hundred years of service the church buildings no longer fulfilled the needs of the parish. It was too big for the number of people in the congregation. It was impossible to heat, and was in use for less than three hours a week. Urgent repairs were needed to the roof, estimated to cost about £80,000, and the church halls were decrepit. The church looked shabby, neglected and unloved. Fr. Grant told the story of an elderly parishioner who collapsed on the way home from Midnight Mass and was found to be suffering from hypothermia. Something had to be done.

After much thought and prayer, a plan was devised which would involve selling the site of the two church halls to a housing association to build sheltered housing for the elderly at fair rents. The money obtained from the sale would enable work to be done to the church. However, Fr. Grant's vision encompassed more than just mending the roof. His redevelopment plans were not welcomed by everyone. The Council for the Care of Churches, and English Heritage, were both unhappy that the building would be altered quite substantially. English Heritage refused to give a grant for the work.

Fr. Grant stated, 'Their main interest is in keeping buildings exactly as they are, intact and unaltered for all time, no matter how ineffective and useless they have become. They want them to be museum pieces of a bygone age, preserved in aspic for evermore. --- We look forward to 1990 to be celebrating the church's centenary in an old church that has been carefully and lovingly adapted to serve future needs. --- We want it to be a holy place where God is worshipped and honoured, a place where the two pillars of the Christian faith, the love of God and the love of neighbour, can be fulfilled.

It took three years to get the necessary planning permission. The work itself would cost half a million pounds and would take a year to complete.

At that time Holy Innocents was described as a fine example of the later red-brick lancet manner of the architect James Brook (1825-1901) who designed several churches in London, notably in Shoreditch and Willesden. There were concerns about the preservation of the stained glass windows which were designed by well-known artists. These included:-

*A three light window in the original lady Chapel made by James Powell and Sons from designs by artist Henry Holiday(1839-1927), depicting 'suffer the little children' (1890) This is now situated behind the font.

*The four lancets depicting the Apostles in the south wall, relatively rare examples of Holiday's designs after he had left the company (slightly later than 1890)

*On the north side seven memorial windows of saints by Mayer of Munich and one by Percy Brown of London.

*On the south side two lights depicting angels in a very simplified version of the Arts and Crafts style circa 1930.

The baldacchino was to be moved, together with the chancel screen and rood.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee asserted that within such an important interior changes must be as reversible as possible, but doubts were expressed, with the feeling that Brook's original concept would be destroyed for ever. The plans were eventually accepted and in December 1988 Selby and Saunders, chartered quantity surveyors of Tunbridge Wells, submitted estimates for the project. Broadbent, Hastings, Reid and New were named as the chartered architects. The estimated figure was £493,750, but the costs eventually reached £600,000.

The church that had originally seated 1200 people would now seat 250, and it could be properly heated. The building was to be divided into three main parts, the chancel and transepts for the worship of God, the nave becoming two halls by putting in a floor above the arches. There was also to be proper kitchens and toilets. The outdoor space at the east end of the church would become the Remembrance Courtyard.

The old church halls were demolished and the land was sold on a 125 year lease to the Shepherds Bush Housing Association. The Rev. John Asbridge was instrumental in setting up the association, and the flats were named after him. He was at that time Vicar of St. Stephen's Church, Uxbridge Road. Fr. Asbridge maintained contact with Holy Innocents after he retired and sometimes joined our Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

While all the building works were taking place, worship continued in the church hall until it was demolished. Services were then held in a room in the Evangelical Church in Dalling Road. Masses were also celebrated in parishioners' homes, using a small pottery chalice and ordinary bread.

Normal parish activities continued and there were some innovations. At harvest time a harvest market was held, and at the Grove Neighbourhood Fete Holy Innocents had a strawberry stall. Day trips to places of interest were organised by the Social Committee and became very popular. These trips were extended to include weekends on the Continent.

The re-ordering of the space within the church would make it possible for community groups and other organisations to hire hall space, thus providing income for the church. On 25th September 1990, Holy Innocents celebrated its centenary with a week of celebrations for the completion of the work. The church was open each day throughout the week, with a Flower Festival and a display of photographs and memorabilia.

Fr. Grant wrote of the refurbished building, 'For her age the church looks amazing – no lines or wrinkles – no hint of sagging flesh or decrepitude. In fact she looks better now than she did a few years ago – Holy Innocents has had more than a cosmetic face-lift – major surgery has taken place to make it a centre where God is worshipped, and where help and pleasure can take place for neighbours. We have a lot to be thankful for.'

Changes to the Liturgy had been discussed by the Parochial Church Council in 1987 and it had been agreed by six votes to four to continue with Rite A except at the 8.00 a.m. service on Sundays. The question had also arisen as to whether Communion should be taken standing or kneeling after re-ordering as there was to be no communion rail. It was decided to leave this to personal preference.

In 1990 the P.C.C. were asked to discuss the ordination of women. This issue was to be raised in the Synod, at which P.C.C. member, Simon Wethered would act as opponent to the proposal and Fr. Graham Morgan would speak for the proposal.

The Rev. Graham Morgan, a non-stipendiary priest, had joined Holy Innocents to support Fr. Grant following the re-ordering. He was a gentle and sympathetic man as befits someone whose profession was in nursing. He celebrated the tenth anniversary of his ordination in 1994 with a party for 100-150 guests. He became the Director of Nursing for the North West London Hospital Trust and was honoured with a knighthood for his services to the National Health Service in the year 2000. He moved on to serve at the church of St. Michael and All Angels, Turnham green in 2001.

Restoration and removal of some of the artefacts in the church continued after the completion of the re-ordering. The large painting which had covered the east window behind the altar was finally deemed by experts to be of no value and was disposed of. The 'Stations of the Cross,' believed to be 19th century copies of early German Gothic Art, were restored in 1992 at a cost of £2000, The 'Friends' Social Committee paid for reframing them at a cost of £1400. The altar was partially re-gilded in 1993, and the Social Committee paid for the repair of the high altar candlesticks for £763.

The painting of 'The Deposition', now in the Lady Chapel, was confirmed to be from the 17th century, of the school of Van Dyck, and it was decided to keep it. It had been cleaned in 1950 by restorers holding the Royal Warrant.

Two art works were given to the church by Lilian O'Connor (Eskanasi), a local, and somewhat eccentric local sculptor. A panel depicting 'The arrest of Jesus' can be seen in the lower hall, and the 'Madonna and Child', carved in walnut, is in the church. Lilian was a prize winning sculptor at the Festival of Britain in 1953, and also taught students at her home. Fr. Grant tried to protect her from some unsympathetic local people, and allowed her to bring her dog into church to sit quietly beside her.

The P.C.C. discussed the installation of a lift to the upper hall in 1994, and again in 1996, but it was not possible to take further action at that time, and the project remains on the 'to do' list

After sixteen years of hard and complex work at Holy Innocents, Fr. Grant decided to move on. He accepted. The position of Chaplain to the NATO Armed Forces in Italy, a country he had always loved.

THE REV. SCOTT LAMB B.A. (Edinburgh)

2000 – 2002

The Rev. Scott Lamb was appointed to replace the Rev. Murray Grant. He had gained a degree in Psychology at Edinburgh University and then worked for the Inland Revenue before training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and studying for a Theology degree. He was ordained in 1993 in the Chelmsford Diocese, and served in the East Ham Team Ministry, and then at St. Luke's, West Holloway.

He was to serve at Holy Innocents for only two years before he too moved on to be a Chaplain in the Royal Navy.

Simon Weale was responsible for music at this time and through his contacts was able to acquire a second hand pipe organ for a reasonable price. The church had needed a new organ for many years.

During Fr. Lamb's time at Holy Innocents the Episcopal Area of Kensington celebrated its centenary. As part of this event the church opened its doors for its 'HI-LIFE' festival. There was an exhibition showing the history of the church, compiled from the archives, and led by Marion Iles-Hunt, Churchwarden and long-time member of the congregation.

There was an Open Day to show some of the activities taking place regularly in the church halls, involving a whole range of people from the local and wider community. A nun from St. Mary's Convent, Chiswick attended, as Fr. Lamb regularly presided at Holy Communion in the convent chapel. (This had also been one of Fr. Grant's duties.)

There were demonstrations and displays from the various organisations using the building, and a professional actor held a story-telling session for the younger children. Various other activities for children took place throughout the day.

This was a different vision from that of Fr. Eden, the church's Founder, when the population was much larger and much poorer, but it certainly justified Fr. Grant's vision of re-ordering the building to accommodate the changing needs of the parish. Hopefully it also provided some good memories for Fr. Lamb to take with him on his travels with the Royal Navy.

INTER REGNUM

During the short Inter Regnum that followed Rev. Scott Lamb's departure, the Churchwardens were faced with a major problem. After an unusually powerful winter storm the top of the central east window was seen to be hanging out of its frame. The window had to be removed and taken to specialist glaziers in Hove, Sussex. For a few weeks the window was boarded up and scaffolding was in place both inside and outside the church. The cost of repairs came to nearly £4,700, which fortunately was mostly covered by insurance.

THE REV. DAVID W.G. MATTHEWS M.A. (Trinity College, Toronto)

2003 to Present Day

In July 2003 the Rev. David W.G. Matthews was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Innocents. (He was made Vicar in January 2006) The licensing was a splendid occasion with about three hundred people in the congregation, some travelling from Wales where he had been a curate, and there was also a friend who had come from Canada especially for this celebration.

Fr. Matthews, a young Canadian, had been ordained in 1998 by Dr. Rowan Williams, then Bishop of Monmouth (later to become Archbishop of Canterbury). Before coming to Holy Innocents Fr. Matthews had been Project Manager and Chaplain to the Upper Room Project at St. Saviour's Church, and also honorary associate priest at St. Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

His ministry at Holy Innocents began with concerns about the future of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Glenthorne Road, which had been the 'Mother Church' of Holy Innocents in 1885 but now had a very small congregation. The cost of the work needed to maintain that large building was far beyond what they could hope to fund.

After two years of discussion and consultation, the Diocese decided that St. John's was no longer a viable parish, and in 2006 it was joined to the parish of Holy Innocents and its congregation now forms a valued part of the Holy Innocents' Church family.

St. John's Church building was leased to Godolphin and Latymer School, and thankfully has been sympathetically restored. The Lady Chapel is still available as a worship space and is used by Holy Innocents for the Annual Liturgy of the Palms, and as the starting point of the Palm Sunday procession.

Fr. Matthews has a love of fine liturgy, music and art. It was decided that it was time to lease a new grand piano. The existing piano had been on loan from Nicholas Cherniavsky, but a good quality instrument was needed that would be regularly tuned in order to develop the musical ministry of the church. Simon Weale, the Music Director, together with the newly formed Music Society was now able to organise regular concerts by a wide range of professional musicians. Concerts and recitals continue to form a part of church life.

This love of music and art has led to the funding of 'Artists in Association' to work on special commissions. These have included:-

*A new carved font cover and a fish shaped Paschal candlestick with two matching altar candlesticks by Andrew Peters, an excellent craftsman with a workshop in Waterperry, Oxfordshire.

*A beautiful altar frontal, depicting 'The Holy innocents', painted by Liverpool artist, John Afflick, which took a year to complete. This was partly funded by a bequest from Irene Hayes, a long-time member of the congregation, who died in 2005 at the age of 94.

*A new mass setting by Celia Harper, a local composer and leader of 'Chiswick Baroque', a group of singers specialising in early music.

'Childermass' was first performed on 11th January 2010, for the Patronal Festival. Chiswick Baroque, the St. Peter's Singers (now renamed 'Petros') and Ros Keating, soprano, provided the beautiful singing, supported by hand bell players from St. Nicholas, Chiswick and the Holy Innocents 'Bell Choir'

The Holy Innocents hand bells were made by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and funded by individual members of the congregation. Many are engraved with dedications to friends or family. This mass setting was used again at Patronal festivals in 2011 and 2012.

*A New Zealand artist, Vivien Mansell French, has drawn many interesting details of items in the church, which have been used on the covers of the seasonal service books. The original drawings are now displayed in the parish office.

*The most recent artist has been Ruth Chamberlin, a well-respected embroiderer and specialist in gold-work and church embroidery. She has worked since 2011 on a magnificent set of gold vestments, which are used at the major church festivals. These were jointly funded from the Irene Hayes bequest and a donation from the Friends Social Committee to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Ruth studied drawing and dress at Croydon School of Art, and then studied ecclesiastical embroidery at the School of Embroidery in London. Examples of her work can be seen in her book 'Beginners Guide to Goldwork'

Holy Innocents has acquired many interesting artefacts over the years. A recent acquisition is a wooden cross called the 'Cross of love'

In 2012 an antique wooden table was stolen from the church porch. The thief probably thought there would be cash in the metal money box that was attached to it, but he was to be very disappointed. The table was eventually found in the park, in pieces. However, this rather upsetting event was to become a positive challenge for Ghareman Maleki, a local artist and sculptor. He used the pieces to make the Cross of Love.

The cross was blessed at a Confirmation Eucharist in June 2013 by the Most Rev. Walter Makhulu, a retired Archbishop from Southern Africa. The occasion of the blessing could be seen to symbolise the multi-ethnic nature of the present parish and of Hammersmith in general – an artist from Tehran, an Archbishop from Southern Africa, and a Vicar from Canada!

In 2009 the small room on the mezzanine floor was converted into an oratory by Michael Dennis from Surrey, a skilled carpenter with a love and knowledge of old churches. He laid a new wooden floor and built new cupboards for better storage of the church vestments. A small altar was installed that had come from the church of St. John the Evangelist. Metal lampshades and a frieze were made by local metal worker, Pip

This work was partly funded from a bequest by John Godley, a dedicated member of the St. John's congregation.

The Social committee of the Friends of Holy Innocents continued to organise events and trips to fund items for the church. The weekend trips to the continent were very popular and reasonably priced, and often included members of other local churches. Unfortunately these trips came to an end when

Leslie Iles-Hunt, sacristan and organiser, moved to Norfolk with his wife, Marion, who had been churchwarden for several years. The whole family had been part of Holy Innocents' life for many years.

The church building continues to be a very busy place, with both halls being used by groups and classes on a regular basis, including karate, yoga, jive and various children's activities. The halls and the church are also used by theatre and music companies for rehearsals and performances. The east and west sections of the building are under contract to a nursery school. Income from these lettings is essential for the maintenance of the building.

The essential repairs to the church roof have at last been completed, but other improvements to the church interior are still needed. Other essential work is always on the horizon for a church of this age. Some funds have been raised but it has still not been possible to go ahead with the long-awaited plan to install a lift. However, the church is in reasonably good shape as we celebrate its 125th anniversary between 2015 and 2017.

Care of the building and the acquisition of beautiful artefacts have not been the only achievements of Fr. Matthew's ministry. It has certainly been a time of change. Of greater importance to Fr. Matthews has been the acceptance of women in the pulpit and at the altar, and the increased racial diversity in the leadership team – churchwardens, parish councillors and servers at the altar. Members of the congregation come from many parts of the world including Scotland, Ireland, Europe (including Poland and Finland), North and South America, Africa and the Caribbean.

Mrs. Rosamond McDowell served her title at Holy Innocents between 2005 and 2009. Her ordination actually took place in this church, which was quite an unusual event. She was the first deacon for many years to serve here, and certainly the first female deacon.

We are fortunate that during the anniversary period we have a new Deacon (ordained as priest in June 2016) Mr. Andrew Rooney is married with two teenage children and his professional experience is in the banking sector. He will be a great help to Fr. Matthews at this very busy time.

The coming together of the two congregations of the Church of St. John the Evangelist and Holy Innocents was initially quite uncertain. There was a possibility that services could still be held at St. John's once the renovations had been completed, but when this proved not to be viable the two congregations successfully became one church family. It was a particularly sad time when St. John's Parish records, and some artefacts, had to be rescued before the developers moved in. Some of the artefacts are now in use at Holy Innocents, while the records have been deposited with the London Metropolitan Archives.

Change will inevitably be a feature of the future, but in spite of the constant worry of maintaining this large Grade II* listed building, we must never forget the needs of the people, and our prime purpose --- the worship of God.

VICARS AND PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE AT HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH

REV. HENRY CULLEY EDEN B.A. (Camb) – Founder and first Vicar of Holy innocents

The Rev. Henry Culley Eden was born in Bishopwearmouth in County Durham on the 1st November 1858. He studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge and was awarded his B.A. Degree in 1881. He was Assistant Master at Aysgarth School from 1881 to 1883. He was ordained by Bishop Ryan of Ripon in 1883 and was then a curate in Kensington parish until 1885. He was appointed Priest-in-Charge of PSt. John the Evangelist Mission Church, Hammersmith; later to become the Vicar of the new Church of the Holy Innocents.

Under Fr. Eden's guidance the first part of the present church was opened for worship on the 25th September 1890. He was instrumental in introducing the All Saints Sisters of the Poor into the parish, setting up a holiday home in Dover, and was also involved in work with the Training Ship 'Stork'

He resigned from his ministry at Holy Innocents in April 1933. He died a year later in May 1934. His ashes are interred in the church in 1934, and they are now under the brass memorial plaque next to the north aisle.

REV. PATRICK ANDREW CLAY B.A. (Oxford) – Curate and later second Vicar of Holy innocents

The Rev. Patrick Andrew Clay studied at Keble College Oxford and was awarded a B.A. Degree in 1892. He was ordained by the Bishop of Wakefield in 1895. He was a curate at Holy Innocents from 1898 to 1903. He was Vicar of St. John the Divine, Gainsborough, from 1912 to 1919. He then served as Vicar of St. Nicholas, Lincoln, from 1919 to 1933 when he followed Fr. Eden as Vicar of Holy Innocents, but he died only two years later.

REV. JOHN WETENHALL FRANCIS WARREN M.A. (Oxford) – Third Vicar of Holy innocents

The Rev. John W. Francis Warren was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. He was made Deacon in 1902 and ordained in 1903. After a succession of curacies, including St. John's Fulham, he was appointed Vicar of Holy Innocents in 1935. He steered the church through the difficult years of the Second World War and resigned in 1948. He served in the parish of St. Giles with All Saints, Pentonville, until his retirement, when he moved to Swerford in Oxfordshire. He died in 1954.

REV. STUART ADAMS – Fourth Vicar of Holy Innocents

The Rev. Stuart Adams was educated at Wanstead Grammar School, and trained at Kelham Theological College. He was ordained in 1936 at St. Paul's Cathedral.

During the Second World War he was a Senior Chaplain in the Royal Army Chaplains Department, serving in India and Burma.

He was appointed Vicar of Holy Innocents in 1948 and resigned in 1953 to become the Vicar of St. Gabriel's Church, North Acton. He went on to become Vicar of Christchurch with St. Barnabas in Marylebone. He died in 1976.

REV. CHARLES BEVERLEY DAVIES M.A. (Oxford) M.B.E. – Fifth Vicar of Holy Innocents

During the First World War Charles Beverley Davies joined the Legion of Frontiersmen, where he served as Intelligence Officer. He caught black water fever and was invalided home. He subsequently served as Staff Captain at GHQ Home Forces. He was made M.B.E. in 1919. Before ordination he worked as a rubber planter in Kenya.

He studied at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he attained a B.A. Degree in 1922 and an M.A. in 1926. He was ordained in Flint, in Wales, in 1925. He served at St. Martin and All Saints, Oxford from 1926 to 1928, and also from 1930 to 1932. He was then Chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1933 to 1942. He came to London during the Second World War, where he experienced working with churchgoers whose churches had been damaged or destroyed by the bombing. He was Vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Red Lion Square, from 1948 to 1952. In 1953 he began his ministry at Holy Innocents. He resigned in 1958, but continued to work in England and in Wales until his death.

REV. JOHN (SEAN) ALEXANDER McATEER B.A. (Trinity, Dublin) – Sixth Vicar of Holy Innocents

The Rev. John McAteer was awarded a B.A. (Divinity) at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1944, and an M.A. in 1950. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, in 1945, where he served as a Curate until 1947. He then moved on to St. Bartholomew's Church, Dublin until 1951. Before becoming Vicar of Holy Innocents in 1959, he served for seven years at All Saints with St. Columba, Notting Hill. He devoted over twenty-two years of service to the Church of the Holy Innocents and its parishioners. He died on the 25th August, 2003. A brass memorial plaque is situated above the Holy Water stoop in the narthex.

REV. MURRAY WILLIAM GRANT –Seventh Vicar of Holy Innocents

The Rev. Murray Grant had served in the merchant navy, and had also worked as a publican in Dartmouth before studying for the ministry at Chichester Theological College in 1964. He was made Deacon in the Liverpool Diocese in 1966 and then ordained priest in 1967. He served at a church in Pimlico before becoming Priest-in-Charge (and later Vicar) at Holy Innocents in 1983. He steered the church through the difficult time of its re-ordering and all the building work that it entailed, in order to meet the changing needs of the parish. After sixteen years of service he resigned, and took up the position of Chaplain to the NATO armed forces in Italy

REV. SCOTT LAMB – Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Scott Lamb was born in Dundee in 1964. He attended Edinburgh University from 1982 to 1986, where he studied for a degree in Psychology. He then worked for a time as a tax collector for the Inland Revenue. He trained at Ridley Hall, and also studied for a Theology degree at Cambridge University. He was ordained in 1993 in the Chelmsford Diocese, and then served in the East Ham Team Ministry, before moving to St. Luke's Church, West Holloway to be Priest-in-Charge. Fr. Lamb was appointed Priest-in-Charge at Holy Innocents in the year 2000. He resigned in 2002 to become a Chaplain in the Royal Navy where he served for seven years. He was then appointed Vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Bexley, and later became Rector following the formation of a Team Ministry with a neighbouring parish.

REV. DAVID W.G. MATTHEWS (M. Div. - Trinity College, Toronto) Eighth Vicar of Holy Innocents

The Rev. David W.G. Matthews was born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1973. He was admitted to the B.A. Degree at Acadia University at the age of sixteen, where he read political philosophy, specialising in democratic theory and the politics of mass media.

He graduated from Acadia at nineteen and was selected for the executive of the Canadian University Press, becoming its youngest ever President at the age of twenty. Graduate studies followed at Trinity College, the University of Toronto, in the Faculty of Divinity. He ministered as chapel sacristan for the three years of his Masters Degree. After working in parishes in Toronto, he completed a semester of research in the parish of Sketty, Swansea and Brecon, and was invited by the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams to serve his title in the Diocese of Monmouth. He was ordained Deacon in 1998, and Priest in 1999, at the Cathedral church of St. Woolos, Newport.

In 2000 he came to London to be the Chaplain of the Upper Room Project at St. Saviour's Church, where he continued his work with the homeless that he had begun in Toronto. He was appointed Priest-in-Charge at Holy Innocents in 2003, and made Vicar in 2006 when the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Glenthorne Road, was joined to that of Holy Innocents.

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