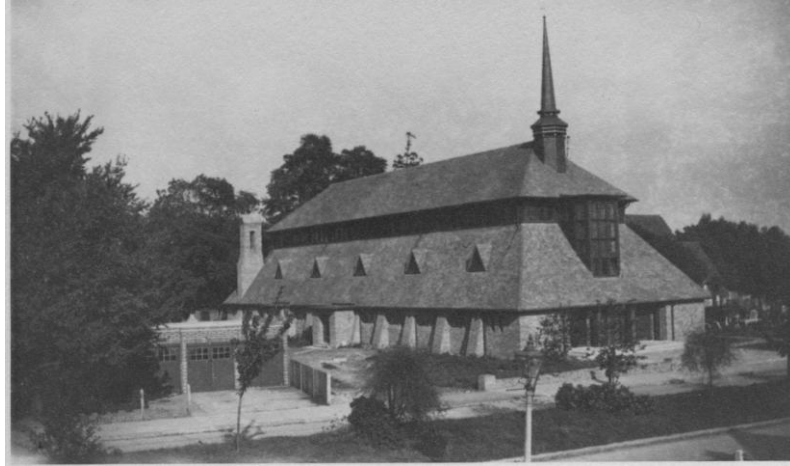


70th anniversary of the Dedication of Holy Cross New Church

Sunday 3rd July, 2011



1941

On Sunday, 3rd July, we hope to welcome many people to our Church as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Dedication of Holy Cross New church on 5th July 1941. The Dedication took place at 8pm on a Saturday evening, and there was a series of services the following day.

The original service involved the Bishop of Kensington who was invited into the new church by the Rector, Rev Donald Harris. In the course of the service the Bishop dedicated the High Altar and the Altar in the Lady Chapel in the Gallery. The service was not a Eucharist.

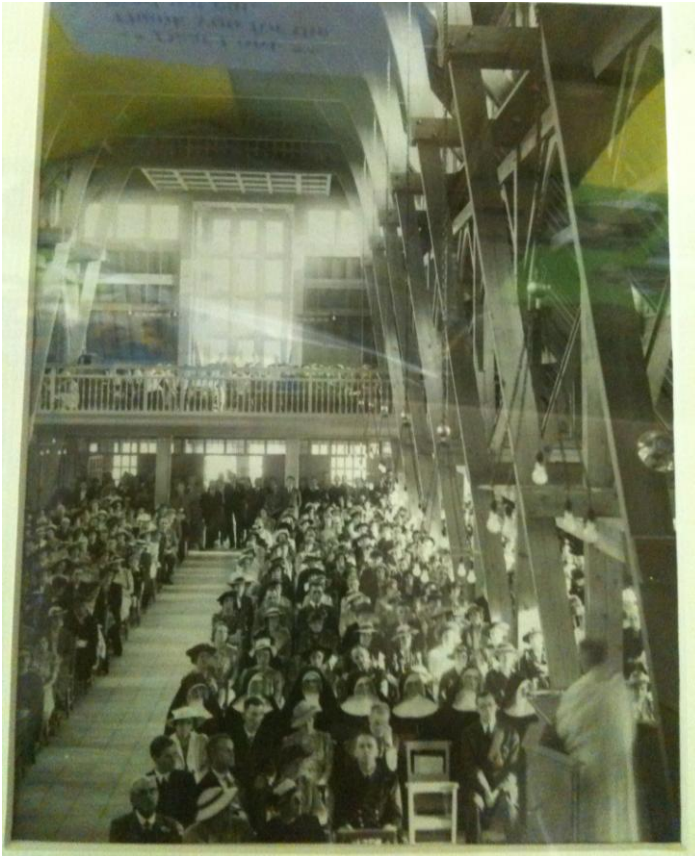
The order of service for the Dedication service survives and some of the material is incorporated within the normal order of our familiar Mass. In the Order of Service, the text that is from the original service is in *italic*, although it has been modernised by the substitution of “you” and “your” for “thee” and “thine”. The litany has been updated with the substitution of names to reflect the current Sovereign, Archbishop and Bishops, and to reflect that the original dedication is now viewed at a distance of 70 years.

The hymns and psalm are those sung on the day. No Bible readings are recorded, so the ones chosen are those which are appropriate to the dedication of a church. The prayers used for the dedication of the main altar and the altar in the Lady Chapel have been omitted. There is no record of an anthem sung during the service, but the words of “Surely the Lord is in this place” (which come from today’s first reading) were included in the Bishop’s prayer of dedication in 1941. Nothing seems to be known of the composer of the anthem, I. Burnell; the anthem was composed in 1931.

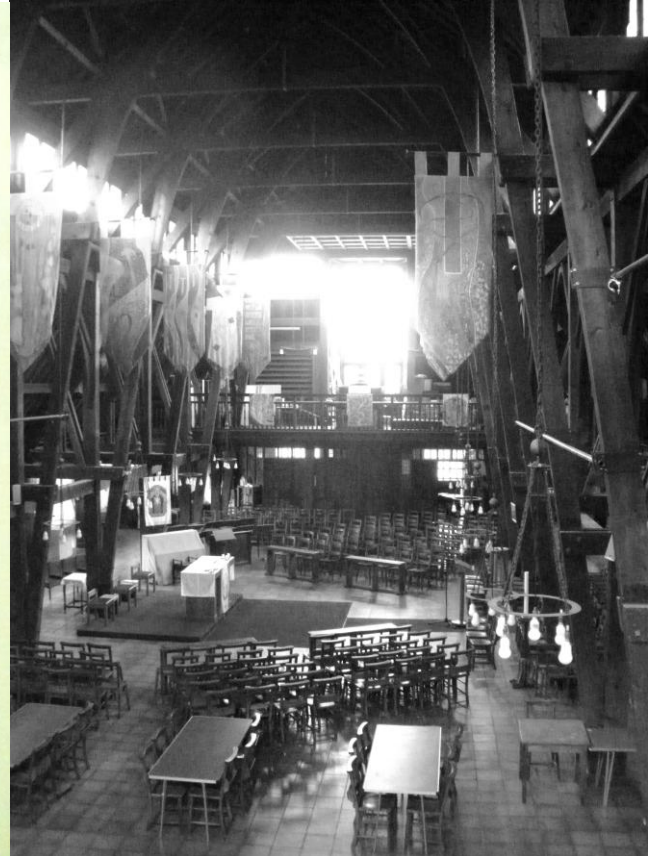
In the course of his address the Bishop said, “This is a great occasion on which I congratulate your rector, the diocese, and all those who have helped in the work of this church. It is rather wonderful to be here at this dedication at a time when London had lost some hundred of its churches as a result of enemy action”.

Let us pray that we may draw inspiration from the dedication of the clergy and congregation of 1941 and continue to find in this building a spiritual home for our faith and a sense of shared endeavour.

Peter Hounsell



5th July, 1941



5th June, 2011

The New Church has not only undergone a furniture make-over, but it was in 1978, legally declared a dual-purpose building and so it is available to us for use in non-religious activity, regulated by the rector and wardens at the time. Jill Marsh recently sent me a link to a Facebook page with photographs of the church I hadn't seen before. One of the comments made on Facebook was that the changes to the furniture were part of a process of "dumbing down" the church. It seems that one of the problems with Facebook is that you will have to plough through pages and pages of rubbish before you get to someone who has a clue!

Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. The changes made in 1978 have had a huge impact on the quality of our common life as a church, from parties and theatrical events to being able to see each other, rather than look into the back of the head of the person in front of you, as in a cinema. The church building has been adapted to a new and better ethos for worship and the sense of participation thus created has enhanced the experience of worship at Holy Cross Church for over 30 years. For many years, not one person has spoken to me about the possibility of changing back to the old style (apart from the odd bride who wanted to have a long walk down an aisle!)

I hope that you enjoy the special service on 3rd July, starting at the usual 9.30am. It will be good for the more established members of the congregation to meet Canon James Coutts, who is still remembered well from his 3 years as a curate in the 1960s. And I hope that you will enjoy and participate in the Flower Festival, taking a part in being a steward, perhaps working for a while in the kitchen, and generally being welcoming. If I know Rosemary's Flower skills, this will be a very memorable Festival indeed, with the sacraments of the Church being celebrated in the Old Church and the life of the community around us being celebrated in the New Church. I plan to spend a lot of time in church, talking, looking at the details and just enjoying the whole thing.

Neil Richardson