

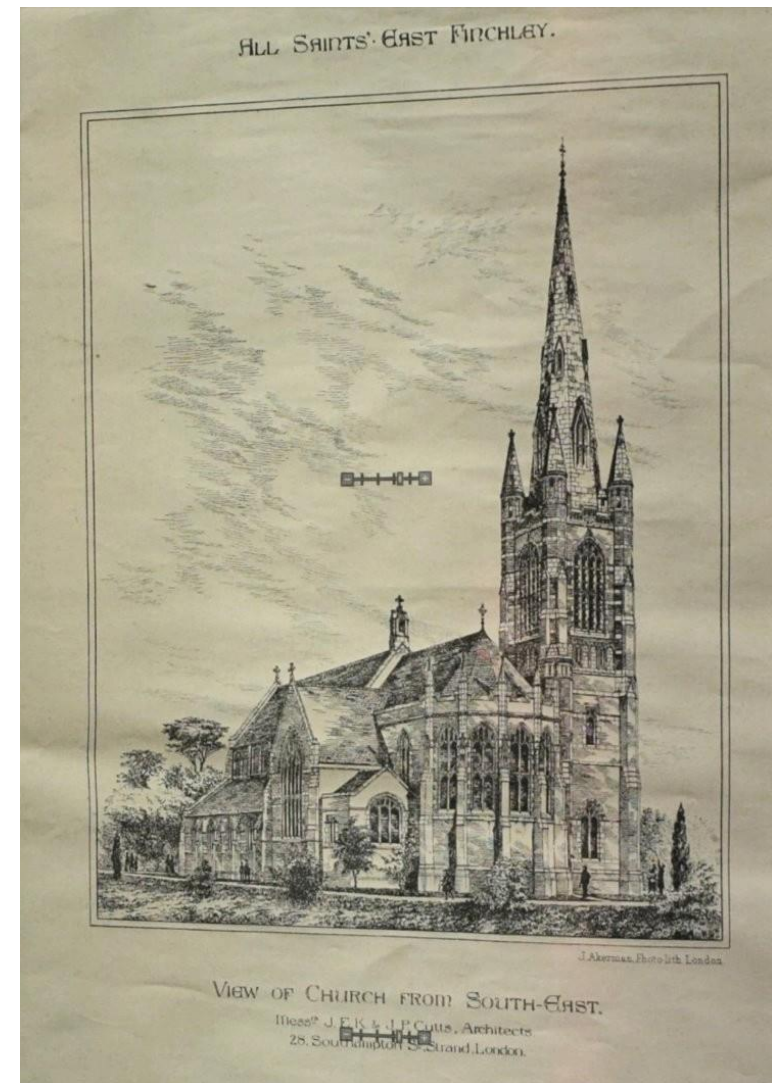
# The Love Potion

## All Saints' Edwardian Heyday

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On June 25<sup>th</sup> 1914 an 'Industrial Exhibition' was held. Rugs, doll dressing and industrial art were displayed. There were two performances of "The Love Potion" under the direction of Mr Jarrett and there was a fete with both a 'Men's Stall' and 'Cocoanut Shies'.

The year before there had been a well attended fete and 'Flower Sale'. The speeches from Fr Armitstead and the mayor of Hornsey were reported in full in the Finchley Mail and Golders Green Gazette, indeed every burst of laughter was also carefully noted. Hornsey's mayor appears to have been quite a wit. The assiduous journalist even recorded the moisture level of the grass and the quality of the post distribution on the All Saints' hoop-la. This was a church with high quality hoop-la, better than anything in neighbouring Muswell Hill. Naturally.

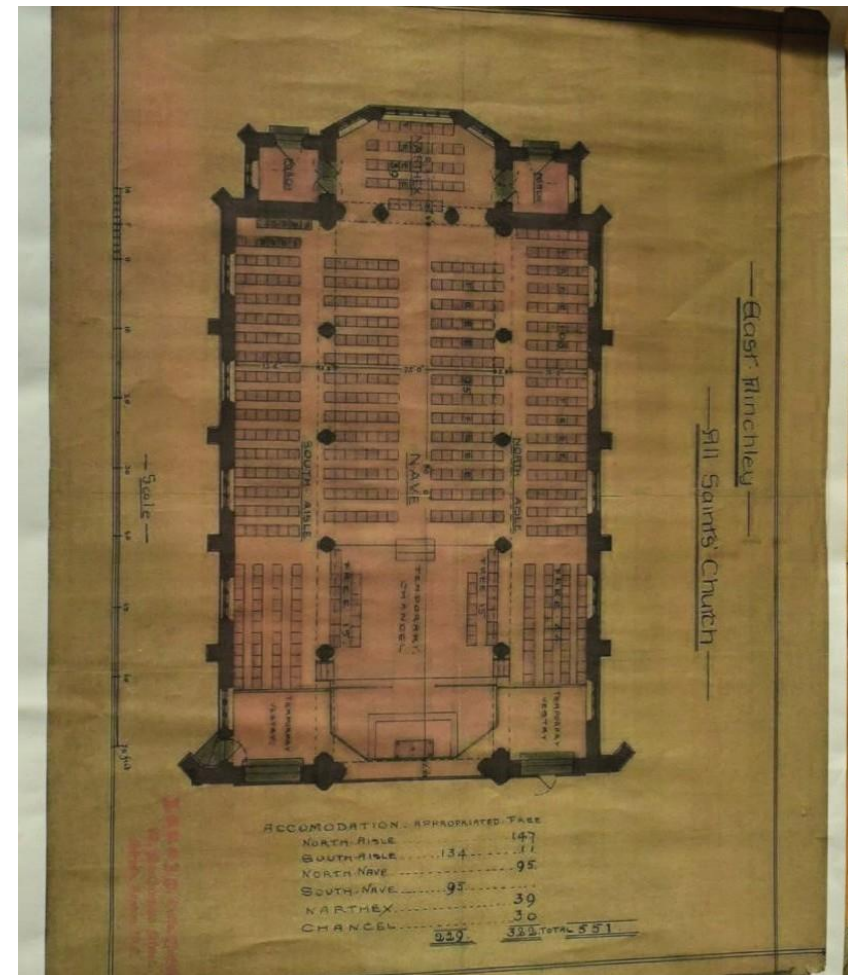


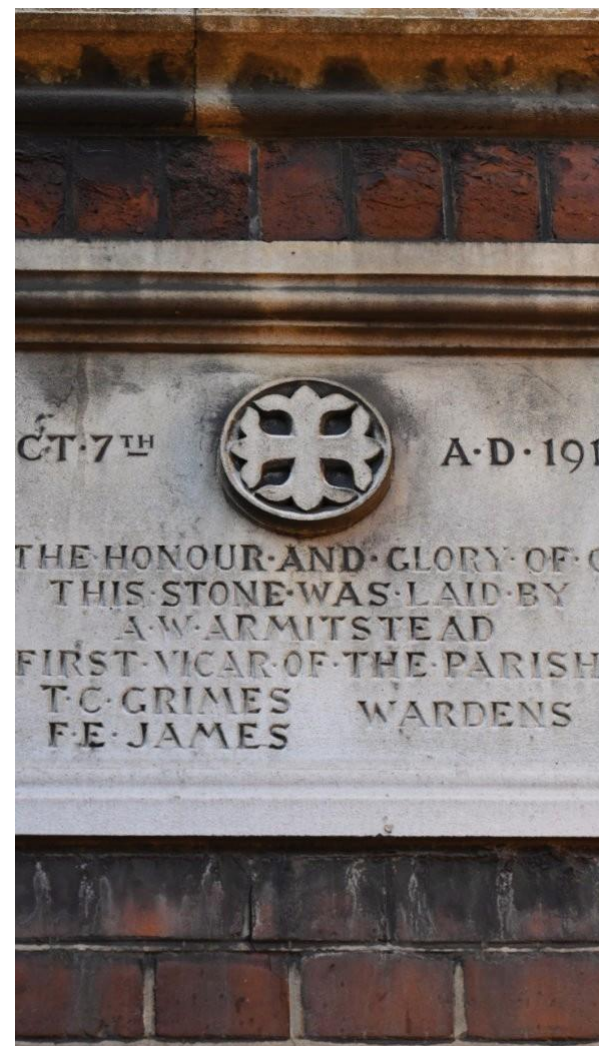


All Saints', in its early days, lay half submerged in woodland and would have felt like a little country church surrounded by trees and wildlife but there was a good reason for all this fund raising. They needed to pay off the debt for the elaborate chancel that had just been built and there were further plans to complete the church with a large tower.

The cost of building the original nave was £6,000. For 20 years services were held staring at a huge blank wall. The altar stood on a raised platform. The real transformation took place when that wall was demolished to reveal the newly built ornate chancel.

We have detailed records of parts of the building work but much of it is lost and there is no record of what people thought when the full beauty of the church was revealed. The four little stone heads staring across the chancel may have some special meaning but exactly what has long gone. Nevertheless, we know it cost £5,935, it was completed in 1911 and consecrated in May 1912 by the Bishop of London.









However, All Saints' was never completed; the First World War arrived before the builders could start work on the tower. You can see what it was meant to look like in an architectural sketch from the 1890s. They were still holding out hope in the 1920s that the spire would be built but no one seemed to be able to lay their hands on the spare £7000 that would be needed. One hundred years on a visitor to the High Road would only spot All Saints' if they happened to take a long look down one of the nearby county roads between Sainsbury's and the off-licence that Mick Jagger briefly lived above in the 1960s.

Through these early years everything around the church was changing. When the nave of All Saints' was completed in 1892, Lincoln Road, Leicester Road and the east side of Durham Road had all sprung up but many of the streets were still only randomly dotted with a few properties and the rest of the plots were up for sale at the Bald Faced Stag. What might at first glimpse appear to be streets of near identical houses was in fact a hodge-podge of many developers. Meanwhile, the grand houses of Fortis Green were being demolished. The Park Hall had become Park Hall Road.

At the junction with East End Road there was a large new Congregationalist Church in the site now occupied by Budgens and it was just one of an assortment of new chapels. The clerks and trades people moving into the area could choose from a religious smorgasbord of Christian flavours. What is now Finchley Youth Theatre was the chapel for the Primitive Methodists, the Wesleyan Methodists were further down the road and at the end of Creighton Avenue you could find the Baptists. Hertford Road had a Salvation Army citadel.

All Saints', tucked out of sight of its non-conformist rivals, was a relative latecomer but, architecturally, it rather stood out.

In 2011, English Heritage, granted All Saints' Grade II listed status. The ornate stonework, the imposing roof, this was, they said, a cut 'above the standard' of similar Victorian churches. It was also, they noted, a local landmark.

And one reason for its visual splendour lay in its style of worship.













