

Form RB1

Registered Building No. 188

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991
THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991

To: The Vicar and Wardens of All Saints Church,
St Thomas' Vicarage
Marathon Avenue
Douglas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 27th July 2001, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

All Saints Church
Alexander Drive
Douglas

as represented by the buildings shown outlined in red on the plan hereto attached, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Dated this 15 day of, August 2001

By Order of the Committee



J Callow
Secretary, Planning Committee.

3rd Floor, Murray House,
Mount Havelock,
Douglas,
IM1 2SF.

NOTE :

Rights to request de-registration of the building are provided under the Registered Building Regulations and in summary are that:

Applications in writing for the de-registration of the building may be made by the owners or occupier of, any other person having an interest in the building, within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 3rd Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, IM1 2SF.

In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 day period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of 3 years.

c.c.:- Manx National Heritage, Kingswood Grove, Douglas
The Douglas Corporation, Town Hall Douglas
Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment 52 Alberta Drive, Onchan

Scale 1:500

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All Saints, Anglican Church Douglas

Siting

The church occupies the site of the old church, with its east end abutting Selbourne Road and facing the Church Hall, the west end facing Primrose Avenue and the north side running parallel with Alexander Drive.

Historical Notes

Greeba Towers was offered by Mr. Quayle Farrant and his sister as a potential site for the new church at a meeting held on 2nd. November 1896, with the Bishop, Archdeacon, Vicar Baron and several local residents. The handing over of the freehold could not take place which meant that the land would have to be held in lease, preventing the opening and the licensing of a temporary church.

Deemster Gill passed a resolution at the 1897 Diocesan Conference in Douglas, presided over by Bishop Stratton that another church was needed in Upper Douglas. The Revd J. B. George, while Vicar of St. George's, had collected money for a church in this part of the parish. In Bishop Hill's time Vicar Savage of St. Thomas's was willing to erect a chapel of ease to St. Thomas' in the Murray Road area but the plan fell through because Hill insisted on the new building being given a separate parish.

Vicar Baron became ultimately responsible for the building of All Saints as a daughter church in the parish, he died suddenly on the 4th. November 1906, aged 59 and was buried in the churchyard of St George's.

The foundation stone laying ceremony took place on the 8th. February 1898. The Bishop preached at the opening and licensing of the Church on the 14th. July 1898. The church seating 500, served the upper part of Douglas as a Curacy of St. George's.

The building was designed in the decorative style of the 14th. Century and was built of iron by Mr. J. B. Hawes, an iron building manufacturer of Deptford, London. The church became known locally as the 'Tin Tabernacle', due to its method of construction. The building, being built of iron was always intended as a temporary measure, which far outlasted its expected lifespan. As far back as 1938, the state of the building had become such that a decision had to be made between abandoning the Church completely or rebuilding. In 1965 it was finally demolished to make way for the fine modern church consecrated in 1967 and now attached to St. Thomas's.

Description of All Saints' Church

The main entrance is from Alexander Drive by way of a porch at the west end on the north side. A bell tower rises from this porch, up to about 50 feet.

Rectangular in shape with seating accommodation for 350, the church is 108 feet long and 40 feet wide.

The Nave, Chancel and Sanctuary maintain a constant width from end to end, the centre aisle is 8 feet wide and the south aisle 6 feet wide.

The organ is positioned on the south side of the Chancel.

The external walls of the Chancel and Sanctuary are in Manx stone, contrasting with the remainder of the Church which is finished in White Irish Limestone.

At the west end of the Church are the vestries for the Clergy and the Choir all giving common access to the Nave.

The structural frame in this Church is a development used for the first time in the Isle of Man. It has been used in German churches in tubular form, but here in All Saints' it consists of 132 inch by 8 inch rolled hollow steel sections welded at the joints, giving an overall impression of simplicity, lightness and elegance, combined with strength, of which uncovered steel is capable.

An innovation in the form of the roof was incorporated, by covering the rolled steel purlins with 1.5 inch thick 'Wayroc' man-made timber which with the steel purlins, introduces an interesting coffered, or panelled exposed ceiling. By the use of the materials, the Architect had eliminated the need for the roof rafters to support the roof tiles.

The building of the church was carried out by Messrs. Parkinson Limited of Braddan, and the result is a superb example of the Manx Stonemason's craft at it's best. The Choir Stalls and pews were constructed by Kelly Bros. of Kirk Michael.

Most of the internal woodwork is made of Agba African Hardwood, excepting the Choir Stalls and the west end wall panelling which is of American Walnut. The external doors and woodwork are of Iroko hardwood.

Of special interest is the effective use of modern reinforced white concrete, as in the four sides of '*the Camponile*', and in the flanking screens which assist in supporting the unusual shaped canopy over the main entrance doors.

In contrast, the large west window incorporating Memorial windows to the Royal Air Force Association and Seamen's Association in the Island, is constructed of in situ white concrete, with a reinforced concrete arched beam at the head to support the weight of the west wall above, and the roof.

The design of the Memorial windows is deep and shaded, sand blasted on polished plate glass, with a background in acid stippled obscure glass, which is a modern technique for etching the design on glass, and this method has also been used for the glass panels forming the sides of the hardwood combined *Lectern and Pulpit*. So far as is known, this was the first Pulpit to be formed partly of glass.

The large south window to the sanctuary is constructed of small pre-cast and reinforced white concrete sections doweled together to form a magnificent window which casts south light on the Altar and Sanctuary.

The windows lighting the Nave are glazed with tinted glass, blue in colour while the south Sanctuary window glass is pink.

Two unique features are the red glass *Cruciform window* over the Altar (now floodlit from the interior to enable the cross to be seen from Selbourne Road when evenings are dark), and the twelve different coloured *Apostle windows* lighting the Chancel on the north side.

The heating too was the first installation of its type on the Island, and is a forced warm air system, oil fired, and operating by warm air being forced through two high level grills adjacent to the heating chamber. The system obviates the need for any pipe work or radiators, as the cooler air is withdrawn through a return air grill in the floor near the chamber, where it is reheated.

The east wall is clad with riven stone, quarried at Pooilvaaish by Manx Marble and Granite Company, and provides the maximum contrast with the rough white plaster Reredos panel.

The Altar table is made of red-pink Francia marble, from Carrara, Italy, and was partly executed in Italy and finished in the Isle of Man. This magnificent table was donated, along with various other items in the building.

The Font is constructed of grey-green Irish Limestone, imported from Northern Ireland, and having an Agba hardwood font cover with bevelled copper edges, to tone with the pews and the main light fittings. The design on the font was sandblasted into the quarried stone and the pattern used is a ring chain of Gaut, first developed by Norse Sculptor, Gaut Bjornson, who originated this particular form of art, and thus a link has been provided with the culture of the early Christian era in the Island.

The Organ screen is formed with 1 inch square rolled hollow steel, and the decoration on the screen consists of star motifs made of cast aluminium, both anodised and colour enamelled.

The Church Bell weighs 6.5 cwt., and was made in the foundry of Messrs. John Taylor, Loughborough, Leicestershire, one of the oldest bell founders in Britain. It is operated electrically to the note of D, by the touch of a switch at the foot of the Campanile, and the interval between each toll can be varied as required.

The lighting and the fittings themselves consist of cluster lights, the main fittings having copper polished tops. At the west end diffused pelmet lighting casts a soft glow on the walnut panelling, whilst flood and spot lights have been used in the Choir stalls to avoid interruption of the view to the Altar from the Nave seats.

The wall behind the Font is covered with a *mural* portraying the Nativity of our Lord, and depicts the homage paid by the Three Kings from the East. This mural is the work of the late Dorothy Nicholson, the well-known local artist, and wife of the late John Nicholson, R.I., who acted as Colour Consultant to the Architect throughout the project.

The Sanctuary floor consists of jade Amtico tiles covered with a carpet presented by the Royal Air Force Association (I.O.M.) Branch.

Since 1898, in the former church building, the organ music had been provided by a small, two manual instrument, built and installed by a local firm Messrs. Pollard & Co. This instrument was typical of the late Victorian era in tonal design.

In 1964 the question arose as to what type of organ should be provided for the new building. It was decided that the materials and workmanship of the old instrument, particularly the pipe work, were still of good quality and they should be preserved and form the basis of the new instrument. This was done on the modern extension system of organ building. The present organ is much more flexible, has more tonal reserves, and all the actions are electric.

The area on the North side, abutting Alexander Drive, has been landscaped as a paved Court of white and grey concrete tiles, surrounded by a low wall of local stone with white copings, and in the centre of the paved area there is a rose bed with white surround.

The original foundation stone taken from the old Church during the demolition has been perpetuated by including it in the paved court.

The new All Saints' Church was the first Anglican Church to be erected in the Island for over fifty years.

References

All Saints' Church, Douglas, Isle of Man - 25th. Anniversary Brochure of the consecration of the new church - 20th. April 1967-1972

All Saints' Church, Douglas, is judged worthy of entry into the Protected Buildings Register on the following grounds:-

HISTORIC CONTEXT - In the context of the Isle of Man as a separate entity, the church deserves special consideration in that it is an outstanding example of modern ecclesiastical design by local Architect Mr. C. J. Kneen, F.R.I.C.S., L.R.I.B.A., of Messrs. Davidson Marsh & Co.

UNIQUENESS - All Saints' Church was the first Anglican church to be built in the Island for over Fifty years and therefore, the first church to be built in a 'modern' style.

INNOVATION - Mr. C. J. Kneen the Architect, utilised many new and revolutionary construction techniques during the erection of All Saints' Church, namely:

The structural frame used previously in German churches in tubular form, was a development used for the first time in the Isle of Man.

The church has an unusual roof construction, by the innovative use of the materials, the Architect had eliminated the need for the roof rafters to support the roof tiles.

The heating was the first installation of it's type on the Island, an oil fired a forced warm air system.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILING -There is a mural by the late Dorothy Nicholson, the well-known local artist, and wife of the late John Nicholson, R.I., who acted as Colour Consultant to the Architect throughout the project.

SDM/JAN 2001