

The overall cost of the original building and furnishings was £10,500.

In recent years substantial remedial work and refurbishment has taken place with the aid of grants from the Lottery Fund and English Heritage.

However, as is often the case with important buildings of this age and nature, extensive further work is necessary.



The exterior of the Church



We sincerely thank you for taking an interest in our beautiful building, which aside from its architectural presence, houses a vibrant and growing congregation made up of local residents who deeply appreciate its beauty. If we can be of further assistance please contact the Priest-in-Charge, the Revd Wendy Saunders on 020 8850 6829 or email revwendy@tiscali.co.uk



St Saviour's Eltham, 98 Middle Park Avenue, Eltham, SE9 5JH

A HISTORY OF ST SAVIOUR'S ELTHAM



Opened in 1933 to serve the new estate (located in former royal parkland), this was one of the first churches in the London area to abandon medieval traditions and be built in a modern style. It is considered as influenced by the German 'Expressionist' style of the 1920's and is of particular interest to devotees of 1930's architecture.

The architects were the partnership of Welch & Lander & N F Cachemaille-Day. They produced a church of unique design. The style is of continuing interest to students of architecture, often featured in books of the period.

On its completion the church was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Cachemaille-Day, who practised before and after the Second World War, was the designer of a number of interesting churches in South London. They include St Phillip's in Avondale Square (off the Old Kent Road) and St James' in Clapham Park.

St Saviour's, a Grade II Listed Building, is an imposing and dramatic structure of dark purple brick, lit by tall, narrow windows and has evident similarities with Sir Gilbert Scot's power station aesthetic, as manifested in the latter's contemporary Battersea and, later, Bankside stations. The squat, keep-like tower at the east end (in fact, the roof of the chancel – higher than the nave roof) became something of a Cachemaille-Day trademark in his later churches in London.



The form of the church consists of a single, tall, rectangular cell, with narrow passage aisles and a west gallery.

The Interior, which is striking and full of interest, with its low aisles, is all brick (even furniture such as the pulpit, sedilla and lectern) – except for the ceiling, which is poured concrete – and maintains the restless and angular pattern of the exterior. The foundations, roof and pier cores are of reinforced concrete. Contemporary materials are used throughout.



The windows are pre-cast concrete units, except those of the tower (sanctuary), which are leaded. The east windows are glazed principally with brilliant blue glass, the remainder with gold, purple and red.

Inside, between the nave piers, the walls are plastered. The ceiling has received an unusual finish – the beams are surfaced with a granite aggregate, the panels with broken lemonade bottles and the sanctuary with patterned wall board, sprayed blue.

Against the simple, strong forms and natural surfaces of the structure, the carefully designed and strongly coloured fittings and furniture create a series of stimulating contrasts.

The black, red and green cross hangs against the background of the brilliant, bright blue stained glass east windows and the grey concrete reredos below. The altar has a red frontal with green frontlet - the colours of the altar, cross and ceiling matching one another. The original lighting consisted principally of powerful flood-lighting from the west end, with secondary flood lighting of the sanctuary from the roof, and light boxes in the aisles.

The concrete reredos, with its large central figure of Christ, was crafted by the talented sculptor Donald Hastings, who is as highly acclaimed as the architect.

As you gaze up at the face of Christ, Hastings has captured a holy and peaceful presence as he blesses the world in his hand.

The now enclosed north chancel Lady Chapel has some beautiful vividly coloured stained glass windows, added in the 1970's.



A rear view of the Pulpit



The massive font at the back is also from cast concrete with a beautiful engraving



The beautiful Lady Chapel windows

