

Overview of Section H

Section page

FULL OVERVIEW
REFERENCES

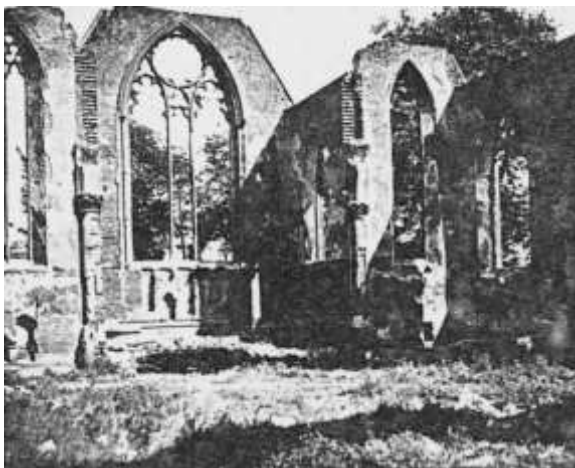
Tracing a little of the History of the Parish

Then and Now

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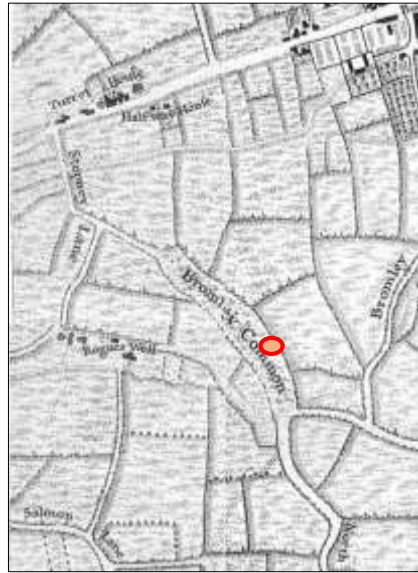
Then and Now ... from 1858 to 2008







1720



1745



After 1770



1831



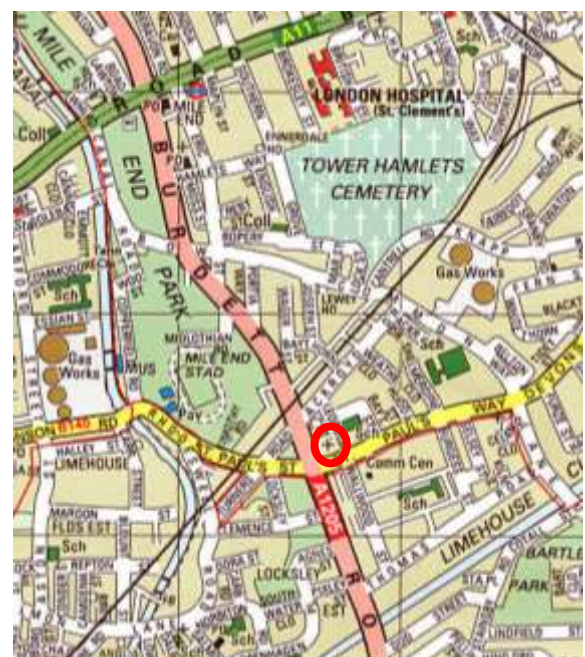
1882



1914



1952



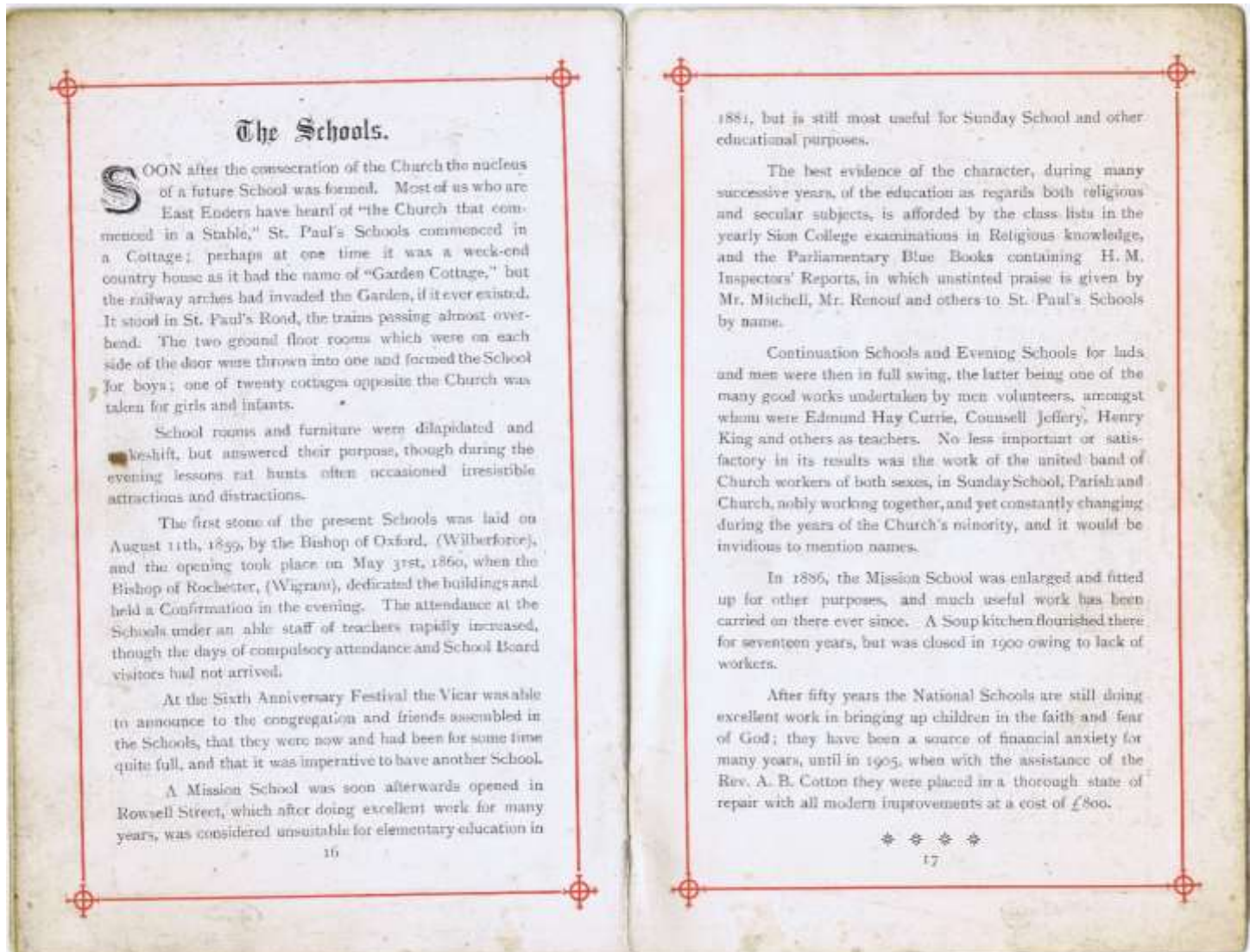
2000

The Church Schools

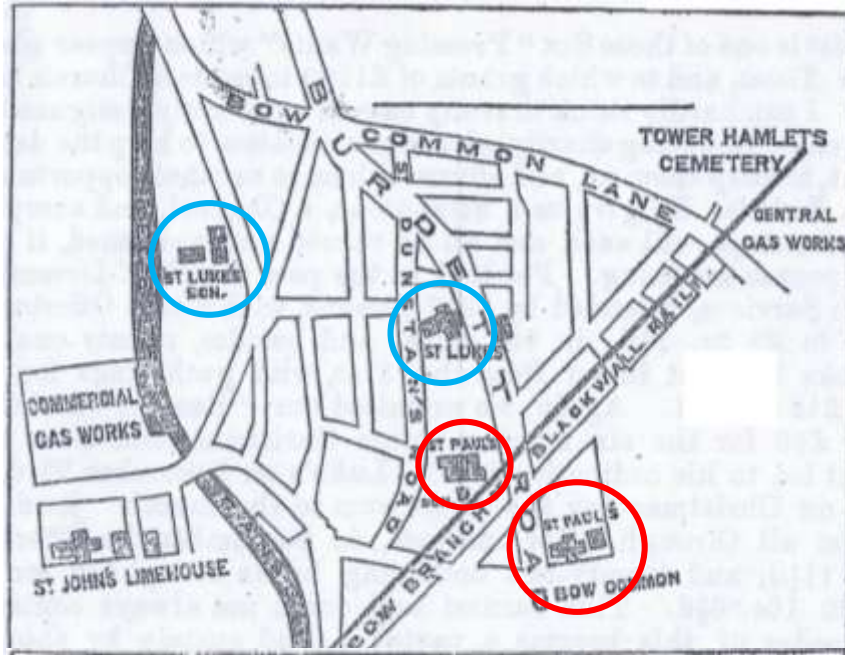
In this brief look back over the two parishes and churches and the changes they have seen, mention must be made of the church schools. The work of the church has never been seen as just concerning itself with spiritual wellbeing but with the growth of the whole person, in particular through a rounded education of high standards. Both parishes of St. Paul and St. Luke built a church school early on, soon after the churches were built.

St. Paul's School:

The commemorative booklet published in 1908 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the consecration of the first St. Paul's, Bow Common recorded the origins of the church school.



Churches took their schools very seriously and church schools are still seen as desirable places within which to place ones children and parents still make great efforts to find a place for their children in a church school. When I arrived at Bow Common it then had the smallest church electoral roll in the diocese. Growth came, however, through parents attending church for their children to qualify for admission to our church school and for the 'church letter' to be signed by the Vicar! However, many of these parents stayed and grew in commitment and became the new core for the church alongside those who had been there from the beginning. Together, they and those who have come on later still witness and serve admirably under the excellent new Incumbent, Mother Bernadette Hegarty. The link between church and school continues strong and central.



The East London Church Chronicle made this comment in 1908 on St. Paul's, Bow Common.

'The Church still retains many beautiful features, relics of more prosperous days: A very fine Jesse window designed by Street, a magnificent organ, a painted chancel (now faded), and a set of Holy Vessels, formerly the property of Queen Caroline, which were presented by Bishop Blomfield.'

The schools began in a small way in a dilapidated, rat-infested cottage, but in 1859 the foundation stone of the present school was laid by Bishop Wilberforce. The Schools have the largest playground in London, with a swimming bath, and in spite of recent legislation are more than holding their own.'

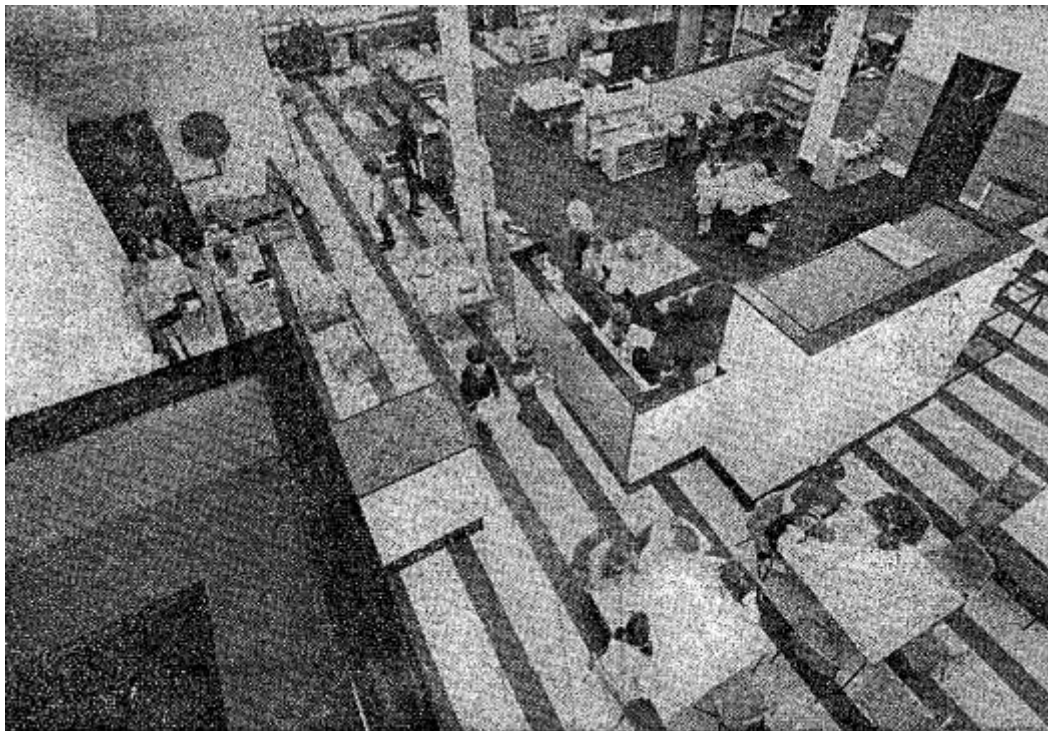




To the north of the railway bridge across Burdett Rd. stands a row of tennis courts and, latterly, the entrance to underground work for the new Crossrail network. It is now impossible to imagine that the church school of St. Paul's, Bow Common stood here for just over 100 years. The building did not only see generations of young east-enders find education and nurture and positive role-modelling here but it also was the place where the St. Luke's Mission was first located and began on 15th October 1865. When the church was destroyed in 1940/41 the school was used as one of the places in which the congregation relocated as emergency measures.

The church has an album of rather discouraging photographs of the school taken in the 1950's! These show all kinds of dilapidations, including very healthy dry rot fungus! I was given to understand that these were part of the 'evidence' for the provision of a new church school as the old building has outrun its day. The case was proven and a new school opened on 1st May 1972.

Maguire and Murray had already designed the new church and were give the commission now for the new school, around 1970 or 1971. This was now **St. Paul with St. Luke Primary School**.



Open plan at the St Paul School in East London: 'A totally fresh look at the problem.'

DAVID NEWELL SMITH

These items below witness to this, the new school now being relocated to Leopold Street, on the same side of Burdett Rd. as the church and on the same road as the vicarage.

The article here is unsourced but introduces this new example of the 'open plan' approach to teaching, radical just as the church was radical in its approach to liturgy and church life.

Open plan discoveries at school

WHEN the question, 'What do you think of open-planned schools and how do you respond to modern, open-ended methods of education?' is put to teachers today the answer tends to be somewhat the same: that the success of these ideas depends on the outlook, ability and vitality of the teacher, and on the nature of the child being taught.

This could suggest, and not unreasonably, that different sorts of schools are required which will suit both teacher and child and that, possibly, the pendulum has drifted too far in a direction away from traditional methods. No educational method is ever the same in any two schools. Teachers all have their own ways of working; heads of schools have their own policies; some children thrive on facts being rammed down their throats; some rely heavily on their teacher; some prefer to remain independent. Dr Winnicott, the child psychiatrist, once advocated the building of separate schools to suit different kinds of children. This may be the ideal solution: but the school which is planned in an open way presents an arrangement where different children can be brought together without impairing their development.

The success of this kind of school also depends on quality of design. One of the few which is of good quality and real architectural interest is the new St Paul school at Bow Common off the Mile End Road in London. The architects, Maguire and Murray, had not designed a school before and had no prior detailed knowledge of current developments. In a sense this may have been all to the good, because it meant a totally fresh look at the problem by outside architects. And, since they worked in the dark with little help from those officials whose business it is to specialise in this form of planning, their research was personal and the discoveries they made were first-hand.

All the components of this school—nursery, infant, junior, hall and staffrooms—go under one vast pitched roof and are contained within a single rectangle. The explanation given by the architects for this economical conception is that the site is small and as much room as possible was wanted for the garden outside (an important point, since there is very little open space in this part of the city). Thus external conditions make their own suggestions in the design of buildings. Nevertheless, it looks as though there is a good deal more to the shape and plan of this building than the size of a site.

On the one hand, as a more original answer to open-planning than the majority of the schools which have preceded it, the design takes new teaching concepts to their logical conclusion: in other words, it admits no preconceptions, no traditions which could be associated with schools designed in the past for quite different teaching methods. Its form is solely the outcome of the new approach.

Secondly, the conception can be analysed, and justified, from another direction. The strongly stated structure clearly defines the limits of the surroundings. On a psychological level this seems particularly crucial. Open-planning has its disturbing side-effects—architecturally speaking, there must be a discipline which will frame the disparate elements. In a barn, for instance, this discipline is created by the huge trusses; at St Paul it is the roof which is the dominant element, counter-acting the feelings of insecurity that might develop in children at a school where there are no walls.

But in this design the pendulum is not allowed to swing too far. The teaching spaces are separated from one another; there is privacy; there are corners; irregular screens (their heights correspond to the age groups of infants and juniors) make subdivisions within the larger space.

Instead of attempting, as many architects do, to translate diagrams into three-dimensional terms (as walls with a roof on top) and blurring their usefulness with devices that could work against the educational intentions, Maguire and Murray have chosen to accept them at their face value, as the perfect diagrams around which, and through which, people circulate. They have left them at that, untouched, inside their lovely architectural frame.

The photographs which follow on the next page are of interest because they show the new church school in the stage of construction (late 1971 or early 1972?). But, they also show the last days of the surrounding housing, since replaced by the Leopold Estate which is (2015) itself being rebuilt in large areas.

The first photo is of Leopold St. with the sloping roof of the new school visible at the end and the boarded up previous housing awaiting demolition in due course. I lived in the Vicarage at the end of this street on the right and it is fascinating to see what was once there!

The lower view shows the school being built and the housing on Ackroyd Drive in the background, again, not long before demolition. The heights of the tower block, Elmslie Point, can be seen on the left.



In the Letters page of the Evening Standard of 29th August 1972 the following letter appeared, written by the then Headteacher of St. Paul with St. Luke School. In it he vigorously defends open plan teaching against the critics.

Open plan and closed minds

AS headmaster, of one of London's most modern open-plan schools—St Paul's (Bow Common) Primary, E.3 — a school visited by top educationists from all over the world as well as this country—I get very tired of the modern trend to blame all our juvenile crime, lack of educational progress, illiteracy and whatever failing you like to name on open-plan schools and modern methods.

In your paper of August 22 in the article Open Plan Schools Slammed by Mary Macpherson, I note yet again another charge is laid at the door of open-plan schools, this time by Mr Douglas Walker, a remedial teacher.

No matter what Mr Walker and others think, open-plan methods of teaching are here to stay, and notice I say teaching, for teaching, even in the old fashioned sense of the word, plays as important a part in modern methods as ever it did. There is nothing in modern techniques which makes it superfluous.

I feel Mr Walker has very little real experience of teaching in a modern open-plan school—it is not just groups of children scattered round tables and the blackboard at one end as Mr Walker suggests. I have taught this way in a very old formal school and, incidentally, got excellent results.

SILENT ROWS

Of course children will copy from each other but so did we all at school, no matter what the type of educational method. All the faults about which Mr Walker comments are to be found in a formal school as well as in open-plan.

A good open-plan school with good teachers, good class management and well recognised classes taught by the best of modern methods achieves just as high results academically, and may be higher as far as the children's development of personality is concerned than any formal type of school.

Just because children are not sitting in silent rows in front of a teacher with chalk and book, does not mean that the children are not learning anything and not being taught. How many children, even under the best formal teaching, often went to sleep at the back of the class or read a comic paper?

We shall always have children who are slow-developers, slow readers, children needing specialist schools and specialist teachers no matter what type or method of education is used.

As a teacher with many years experience in all types of school and method, I am convinced, when I see the happy, relaxed atmosphere in my present school, both in my staff and in the children, that the good open-plan school is one of the greatest advances in education and, providing the points I mentioned earlier about good and well organised class management and teaching are followed, children have all to gain and nothing to lose at such a school.

Let us all stop laying the blame for any educational deficiency at the door of so called modern methods. There is really nothing new about them. Years ago children were taught in classes of varying ages—the older

helping the younger—now called vertical grouping, or one teacher taking all the games while another took all the mathematics—a form of the modern team teaching. There is really nothing new under the sun.

To try to stop modern approaches in education is just as stupid and impossible as to try to stop progress in any other field of development. We must ask ourselves always—is this the best for the child?

We should not adopt any method just because it is new or gimmicky, but because we really feel it is the best approach to achieve the best result for the children we teach.

What critics should be doing is to find means of how better to help the retarded child, the slow developer, the illiterate child and not using the easy way out of laying the blame on formal schools or so-called modern schools.—T. E. Watts, MCJP, Headmaster, St. Paul's (Bow Common) School, Leopold Street, London, E.3.

On 1st September, a further letter appeared on this topic in the Evening Standard, in defence of the Headteacher.

Open plan

HAVING had the privilege of visiting his open-plan school last July—together with a party of Californian primary school teachers—I should like to endorse all that Mr. T. E. Watts, Headmaster of St. Paul's (Bow Common) School wrote in his letter (August 29).

What was particularly pleasing was the relaxed ease of the pupils as they happily replied to questions asked by the visitors. It should be added that the visiting teachers expressed admiration, approval and appreciation of all aspects of this splendid school.—G. Morris, Senior Lecturer, Senior Common Room, Trent Park College of Education, Cockfosters, Barnet, Herts.



View of the school from the lower level of the church roof.

This New Building
which replaces
St. Paul's School, 1860
&
St. Luke's School, 1872
was blessed
by the Bishop of Stepney,
The Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston C.R.,
on
1st May, 1972
R. G. Kirkby, Vicar T. E. Watt, Headmaster

Architects: Robert Maguire & Keith Murray
Assistant: R. Singh
Builders: F. C. Steele & Partners Ltd.
Quantity Surveyors: Nigel Rose & Partners
Structural Engineers: Aubury, Campbell & Reith

We wish to place on record our gratitude to the Governors of Sir John Cass's Foundation for a very substantial grant towards the cost of the building.

St. Paul with St. Luke, Bow Common

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW SCHOOL

by

THE BISHOP OF STEPNEY

on

Monday, 1st May, 1972

at 2.30 p.m.

The Bishop will greet the assembled company:

Peace be with you.

Rx. And with thy spirit.

In the faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this School to the glory of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Let us pray: Bless O Lord this School which is now opened in thy name, and grant to all who teach and learn in this place thy heavenly grace, that they may find in thee the fullness of life, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Rx.* Amen

All sing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Bishop will unveil the commemorative plaque.

We praise thee, our God and Father, for all thy blessings.

We remember with thanksgiving our founders, William Cotton and William Wallace.

We bless thy name for all who have enriched the past, and brought us to the present.

We pray thee to prosper us with thy continual blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom thou dost make all things new, and through whom thou art bringing all things to perfection.

Rx. Amen.

The Procession to the Church for the
Pontifical Eucharist:

The Servers

The Children and Staff

The Managers

The Architects and Builders

The Parents and Visitors

The Clergy

The Bishop

1 *ALL glory, laud, and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

2 Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One.

3 The company of Angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.

4 The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.

5 To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee now high exalted
Our melody we raise.

6 Thou didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

N.B. Those who have come with the intention of receiving Holy Communion are asked to place a wafer in the ciborium as they enter the Church.

The offerings will be towards the parochial contribution to the building costs.



Some of these views have already been seen but are brought together here, of the special service in the church to celebrate the opening of the new Church School, to replace the two schools for each of St. Paul's and St. Luke's parishes.

From what I heard, children had danced around the church scattering fronds and flowers, hence the covering over the church floor! I am grateful to Bob Maguire who gave these to me around 2009.

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Huddleston, Bishop of Stepney, presided, assisted by Fr. Kirkby.







As time went on and open plan teaching fell out of favour this building was now permanently committed to such a system of classrooms without walls and a very fluid method of teaching. It did recognise that children would emerge into secondary school teaching which was not based on open plan principles and so there were two classrooms which conventional enclosed classrooms for the children who be leaving in a year or two. Even so, by the time I came to know the school in 1995 I clearly remember the difficulties, in particular, with sound bouncing off the huge sloping roof into many of the central teaching spaces which, by then had been separated but still with one large common roof way up above them.

As time went on, floor to roof-height walls were built, as well as stairways, to separate out all the teaching areas, each now with its own space and entrance. The central under-roof space became the relocated school hall/dining-area. The best has been done with what was built for very different teaching conditions. Before 1995 asbestos had been found in the acoustic tiling of the main roof and these were all replaced, much as happened later in the church. The replacement inner roof surface, however, was very acoustically reflective. I remember mentioning this to Keith Murray who said that the acoustic properties of the original ceiling had been designed to be optimised for use in a school full of noisy and energetic children. However, such considerations did not seem to have carried through to the new surface.

In its present form the school has achieved its maximum potential within what it has and there is no room for expansion or a better configuration, alas. Briefly, around 2012 there were thoughts and even an initial design for a school expansion but these fell by the wayside.

St. Luke's School:



St. Luke's Mission began in 1865 from within a school – the church school for St. Paul's, Bow Common, loaned out for such use by its first Vicar, Rev. Arthur Cotton.

When St. Luke's Church was consecrated in 1869, its own school was opened on 1st July 1872 in nearby Copperfield Road. Alas this is all we have in terms of any archive on St. Luke's School.

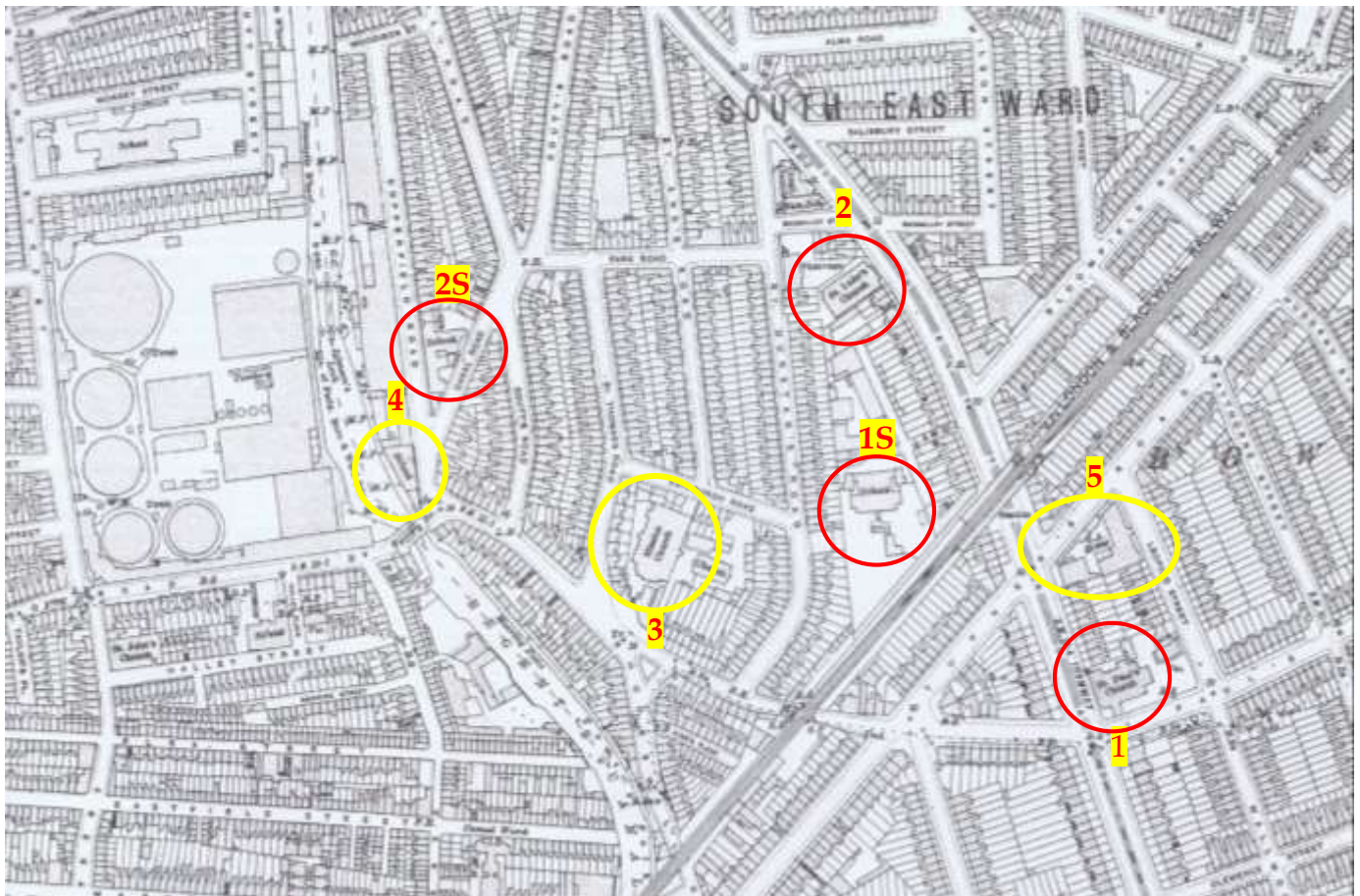
At the top of the next page can be seen a map of 1914 on which are marked St. Luke's Church and also St. Luke's Church Day School. But just opposite, at the beginning of Copperfield Rd. on the banks of the Regent's Canal,

by the Victory Bridge, is another building marked 'School.'

All of the canal side was filled with warehouses but in 1877 one of these was purchased and converted by **Dr. Thomas Barnardo** to create the Copperfield Rd. Free School. In fact there is a strong **Barnardo's connection** with both parishes of St. Paul and St. Luke and he would have known both churches, each of them located so close to some important centres for his work.

The 'Barnardo Connection' with the parishes

On the map of 1914 below, the two parish churches can be seen indicated in red (1 & 2), as can their respective church schools (1S & 2S). There are three other sites marked in yellow (3, 4 and 5) which were foundations of the remarkable **Dr. Thomas Barnardo**. Dr. Barnardo died in 1905 and so these establishments had changed their main function by 1914 but were still in place. Only one of them remains today in its original form, the excellent **Ragged School Museum**, but all three sites are still located within the now united benefice of St. Paul with St. Luke.



1 : St.Paul's Church 2 : St.Luke's Church 1S : St. Paul's School 2S : St. Luke's School

3 : Edinburgh Castle Mission 4 : Copperfield Rd. Ragged School 5 : Leopold House Boys' Home

Thomas Barnardo was born in Dublin on 4th July 1845 and at the age of 21 moved to London, to train as a doctor at the London Hospital. Alas he missed the entrance exam! But in that year of 1867 he worked at the hospital with victims of a cholera outbreak. He was an evangelical Christian and committed to service of the poor and the sick. There was no such thing as universal free education for children but by the mid 1800's 'ragged' schools had begun to be set up in the poorest areas by people who had a concern for the grave disadvantage a lack of education brought for poor children and the Ragged Schools Union was established in 1844. These were set up wherever possible - railway arches, stable or lofts. The focus was on reading, writing, arithmetic and Bible-study. It is estimated that about 300,000 children were educated in London in ragged schools between 1844 and 1881.



In October 1866 Barnardo worked in a ragged school in Stepney, becoming superintendent but resigned after two months. It was one of the young waifs, Jim Jarvis, who famously took Barnardo on a tour of the East End that he knew with children sleeping in gutters and alleyways and roofs. It shocked Barnardo to the core and the very next day he wrote to the Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, asking for his support in tackling this dreadful state of affairs.

In October of the next year Barnardo passed his entrance exams to the London Hospital having already passed entrance exams to Durham University the previous month and went on to study as a medical student at the London Hospital from September 1868 and qualified as a surgeon at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh in 1876 but his life's work had already begun. In March 1867 he opened his first ragged school and more and more his interest and zeal came to the attention of important people. He had been committed to dedicating his life to the China Inland Mission but in September 1868 he was offered the enormous sum of £1000 by an MP, Samuel Smith, to give this up and work instead for the poor children of the East End.



So much of his passion was driven by his religious evangelical zeal and he was committed to Mission. It was the summer of 1872 that saw the first connection with our parish. In Edinburgh Rd. (see (3) on the map above) was the notorious Edinburgh Castle Public House a renowned gin palace and music hall. It is shown here. Alcohol was the solace but also the undoing of the poor. But what were the alternatives and society as a whole had shown little practical concern at their plight? And so with an attitude of 'if you can't beat them then join them!' Thomas Barnardo set up an

enormous mission tent right next door to the Edinburgh Castle! Every night 2000 people would pack the tent to hear the preaching of the renowned Joshua Poole (himself once alcohol dependent) & his wife, Mary. People flocked there and it is reputed that 200 people per night were converted. Within a few months the effects on the Edinburgh Castle were catastrophic and it was put up for sale!

In October of that year Barnardo bought it and work began, with the support of a number of rich evangelicals, to create a huge mission church which could accommodate 3000 people at one time, with the 'British Workman's Coffee Palace' also set up, to replace the alcoholic refreshment of the past. These were officially opened on 14th February 1873.

A few months later, in June 1873, he married **Sarah Louise Elmslie**, better known as Syrie. They were given Mossford Lodge, Barking-side as a wedding present and this is where they immediately invited twelve orphaned girls to live.



The Edinburgh Castle People's Missions Church became something of a centre for Barnardo's work for destitute children and for the poor. There is no record I have found of how the neighbouring long-established churches viewed all of this, whether supportively and even with co-operation, or if there may have been suspicion or envy. One would have hoped that issues of church tradition – Barnardo's independent evangelicalism – would not have been a problem for the catholic traditions of both St. Paul's and St. Luke's but ecumenism had not yet been born!

In 1875 or 1876 that Barnardo bought up some warehouse space very near to his Mission Church, in Copperfield Rd. (see (5) on the map above) and opened the Copperfield Road Free School across the road from the already established St. Luke's Day School. Here, for over 30 years, tens of thousands of children received a free education and the chance of a better start in life.

By 1908 there were many more government schools established in the area for local families and so the Barnardo School was closed.



The buildings then went through a variety of industrial uses until, in the early 1980s, they were scheduled for demolition. At that time I was curate at the neighbouring St. Dunstan's, Stepney, and remember the strong outcry and movement by local people to save and reclaim the unique heritage which the schools represented. The Ragged School Museum Trust was set up and the museum opened in 1990.

It is a precious resource in the local area and far beyond, with school coaches always parked outside in term time as countless young people connect with the heritage of this area and with the broader social history of the East End in the 19th century. It is excellently run, at present, by the admirable Director, Erica Davies (www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk). To quote from their website:

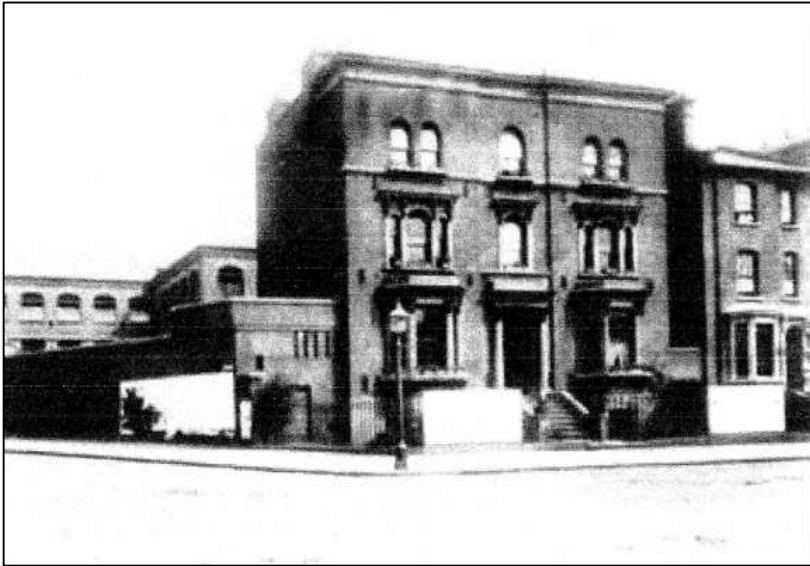
'In an original setting, an authentic Victorian Classroom has been set up where each year some 16,000 children experience a school lesson as it would have been taught more than 100 years ago. We have also recreated a Victorian East End Kitchen from the 1900s, demonstrating what life would have been like in a simple, one-room home with no electricity or running water. The museum has several gallery areas, a reconstructed Victorian Classroom and a Victorian East End Kitchen displaying its own collection of historical objects, all designed for hands-on inspection. This is a museum where you can sit at the school desks, use the tin bath and experience what life was like for the Victorian poor of the East End of London.'

Both of these major Barnardo sites were in St. Luke's parish, but in January 1883 a major Barnardo enterprise was set up just yards from St. Paul's, Bow Common at 199 Burdett Rd. This was **Leopold House** (see (5) on the map above).

On the corner of Burdett Rd. Today stand one of the two tower blocks in the parish – **Elmslie Point**. Before the destruction of World War II this was the site of a major enterprise of Thomas Barnardo, **Leopold House**. This following account is gratefully taken from:

http://www.goldonian.org/photos/photo_archive_homes/pages/leopo1d_house.htm

'LEOPOLD HOUSE, 199 Burdett Road, Stepney, London E3



*Leopold House was opened in **January of 1883** for orphaned boys aged 10 to 13 years. In 1887 the property was extended and in 1908 re-opened for school boys and provided bell ringing training. The property had a courtyard to the rear with further buildings. Leopold House Closed in 1912 on the opening of new larger home on the Stepney Causeway Site. Mr. Armitage the Superintendent of Leopold House moving to Dame Margaret's Home with the rest of the boys.*

Leopold House was then acquired by the Salvation Army as a refuge for the homeless of the area. There then followed a protracted dispute between the Salvation Army and Stepney Borough Council on the intended usage of the building. Stepney Borough Council finally in 1915 refused permission for the use as a Homeless Refuge. Leopold House then become a factory being used to make shoes and clothing. Leopold House was finally destroyed when hit by a German Bomb in 1941.

*Why was the house named Leopold House? Why should this little corner on the Boundary of Poplar and Bow have such a name that is not in keeping with its environment. The name comes from **Prince Leopold**, Duke of Albany, the youngest son of Queen Victoria. Although he suffered from ill-health throughout his life, he did pay a genuine interest in poor communities and in particular the disabled, he attended the opening, in January 1883, of a new Dr. Barnardo home for young boys. This home was named in his honour and was where Elmslie Point a story (tower block) is now. Soon after the Opening the existing **Edward Street** was **renamed Leopold Street** to commemorate the visit.'*

Dr. Barnardo's own account is then offered:
Reproduced from the GUILD MESSENGER
August 1976 page 22

*'FROM SOMETHING ATTEMPTED
SOMETHING DONE!*

By T. J. Barnardo

Leopold House Orphan House, 199 Burdett Road, East London. (A Voluntary Home for Little Boys aged 10 and 13 years of age, accommodating 420 inmates in good health, who are capable of giving their whole time to education.)'



'While the average residence of boys at Stepney is only about twelve months, that at Leopold House is usually two or three years. The majority of the occupants go in at about 10 years of age, and only pass on to Stepney in due course when they have attained 13. Few, if any, emigrants are selected from the Leopold HQ use boys, and there are no industries taught there. Hence an uninterrupted course of school training can be carried on. With these younger boys I act more fully than it is possible to do in the Homes for older boys upon the principle that the Christian family sitting-room is the best Reformatory, and further, that a family without a mother is like a parlour without a fire in winter. Indeed, the education of boys, however orderly and well-disciplined must, in many respects, be one-sided which does not admit of kind womanly influence.

Especially would this be the case with very young boys like the inmates of Leopold House. Here, accordingly, the residents are placed specially under womanly care. Many of these young boys, of 10 or 11 years of age, have been taken from very evil as well as from very squalid surroundings; but, admitted as they are at such tender years, they very soon throw aside their burdens of care and suffering, and become the happiest and most natural and boyish little fellows imaginable. Leopold House is thus really the homeliest of all the large Homes under my care, and when the inmates leave its family circle, I find that for the most part they look back to it with a store of pleasant memories.

Considerable attention is always paid to musical training at Leopold House. All my little Handbell Ringers, whose music is universally appreciated, are from this Home. Five or six of these little fellows, with their table of bells, have attended public meetings in connection with the Homes for several years past. To these were added in 1887 a party of half a dozen little Scotch Bagpipers. The latter, gay in their tartans, and tuneful in their kilts, have become at once the most attractive of all my wee musicians.

Here, as elsewhere throughout the Homes, the work has been greatly furthered during the bygone year by the result of large extensions and alterations of premises, upon which the builders were engaged during 1886 and 1887. The remainder of the lease of the old premises of Leopold House, with eighty-one years to run, was acquired by purchase in autumn of 1884 at a cost of £4,000 and extensions were only delayed by the lack of funds. A new House has now, however, been built at the rear of the old premises, which accommodates 400 little boys, in lieu of only 100 previously.

The new structure is roomy, and although plain and without ornament, it is fitted with every improvement which the experience of many years has suggested as necessary. Adjoining this building there is a very useful detached cottage, in which, in case of sudden illness arising, patients may be isolated, thus minimising the risk of contagion.

The following are the various rooms included in the new Leopold House; a large top Dormitory, containing 200 beds, with linen room attached, and apartments for the master and matron; lower Dormitory, with 70 beds, containing also a matron's room; Dining Hall, with 450 seats; plunge Bath; in which 80 boys are daily bathed; spacious Swimming Bath (with dressing-room); School and two smaller classrooms, with accommodation for



resident schoolmaster. In the old building is the Kitchen, in which the food for the whole household is prepared; six small Dormitory rooms; superintendent's and matron's Apartments; Office; and a Playroom. All these, of course, in addition to various offices and a very commodious playground.'

Unknown to almost everyone who lives in this area, the 'Barnardo Connection' still continues in two place names! We have already heard above why 'Leopold Street' is no longer 'Edward Street,' but renamed to honour Prince Leopold who opened Barnardo's 'Leopold House', also named after him. The 22-storey 'Elmslie Point' which stands today where Leopold House once stood (seen to the left) is named after Sarah (Syrie) Elmslie, the beloved wife of Thomas Barnardo!

The Edinburgh Castle Mission Church (no 3 on the map above, in St. Luke's Parish at the time), had the honour of being the final one of Dr. Thomas Barnardo's buildings to feature in his story.

He died in September 1905 and it was in the Mission Church that his body lay in state for 5 days before his funeral. In the 'Postcard of the Month' no. 104 for January 2009 in the 'East London Postcard' site the following account appeared:

DR BARNARDO DEAD.

FRIEND OF THE WAIFS.

Dr Barnardo, the well-known founder of the Barnardo Homes, died on Tuesday. Dr Barnardo, who was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, was the founder and director of philanthropic institutions, by which over 55,000 orphan waifs were rescued, trained, and placed out in life. Nearly 16,000 of these were despatched as emigrants to Canada and the Colonies.

Dr Barnardo was born in Ireland in 1845. He first had his attention directed to the condition of waif children on the streets while studying at the London Hospital in 1866. He began to investigate the subject and labour in his spare hours on their behalf and first boarded out the children from 1866 to 1869. He established his first home in 1867. He was the author of a variety of magazine articles and small books on the rescue of waif children.

For some years Dr Barnardo had been suffering from angina pectoris. A severe and unexpected attack overtook him last week whilst he was abroad, and after his return home his condition appeared to become worse, and he died at his residence at Surbiton.

The news of Dr Barnardo's death, which was unexpected, has created a painful impression among the officials at the headquarters of Dr Barnardo's Homes.

A meeting of the Council of Dr Barnardo's Homes will be held on Friday to decide upon the future course as to the management of the Homes.

In the meantime the work of the Homes will be carried on as heretofore.

At present no definite arrangement has been made in reference to the funeral, but the suggestion is made that it might appropriately take place in the East End of London.

Dundee Courier: 21st September 1905

Edin-burgh Castle for the Funeral, swelled by children given the afternoon off from **Dr Barnardo's Ragged School** nearby. The Funeral Procession started off at noon, with two mounted policemen leading the Procession, followed by 1500 boys from Barnardo's Homes. Next came the hearse bearing the coffin, filled with flowers.

The coffin had a simple inscription that read: Thomas John Barnardo - died 19th September 1905. The hearse was flanked by twenty-two pallbearers, who were Dr Barnardo's co-workers. His empty hansom cab comes next led by his coachman of many years, Peer. In the next two carriages were members of his family and people from other organisations caring for children.

The Funeral Procession proceeded along Burdett Road and then Commercial Road. The whole route was lined with people, many taking advantage of windows and door ways. The Funeral Procession stopped at Stepney Causeway, so that members of his staff and children from the Home could also pay their last respects. It moved off again down Commercial Road, then turned into Middlesex Street and arrived at a packed Liverpool Street Station.

Here a special train waited to convey the Funeral Procession to Barkingside Station. The Funeral Procession then proceeded to the Barnardo's Girls' Village Home at Barkingside. After remaining a few days in the Village Church, giving time for others to pay their last respects, the body was cremated and the ashes buried in the grounds of the Girls' Village Home on Wednesday 4th October 1905.'

'Dr. Banardo's Funeral Procession, Commercial Road



The Funeral of Dr Barnardo was held on Wednesday 27th September 1905. The Funeral Procession is seen here nearing Stepney Causeway where Dr Barnardo's had his Headquarters and Boy's Home, opened in 1870. In 1866, he had become a medical student at the London

Hospital and started his work with homeless boys in the East End soon after.

Dr Barnardo had died of a heart attack at his home in Surbiton on the 19th September 1905. On Friday 22nd September 1905, his body was moved to the Edinburgh Castle, Rhodeswell Road, Limehouse, where it lay in state for several days, allowing thousands of people to pay their last respects.

On the Wednesday, a large crowd had gathered out-side the



This extract of dramatic events of national importance within the parish of St. Luke is taken from:

MEMOIRS OF THE LATE DR. BARNARDO

By Mrs. Barnardo & James Marchant, Secretary of the National Memorial to Dr. Barnado

With an Introduction by W. Robertson Nicoll

Hodder and Stoughton London 1907

'The body was removed from his home on Friday, 22nd September, to the Edinburgh Castle, the scene of his early ministry, where it lay in state for several days, whilst thousands of people – rich and poor, old and young – passed before the flower-strewn coffin, paying their last tribute of affection. Three ragged urchins who had put their mites together and made a shilling went into a florist's to buy a wreath. The surprised shopman asked, "Who do you want it for?" "To put on Dr. Barnardo's coffin, sir," was their reply. "He was a friend to chaps like us."

On Sunday, 24th September, a memorial service was held in the Edinburgh Castle, attended by a vast concourse of the poor amongst whom and for whom his whole life was spent. The following Wednesday, 27th September, through streets full of mourners, according him an unpremeditated public funeral, such as no man had received for generations, the long and mournful procession wended its solemn way to Liverpool Street railway station, where it was met by Mrs. Barnardo, borne up in the moment of her intense grief by the reverent sympathy of a world. The procession included 105 boys from Sheppard House, 235 from Leopold House, 30 from the Norwood Home, 81 from Epsom, 355 from the Stepney Homes, 56 from the Youths' Labour House, 288 little boys from the Watts Naval School, a representative group of 20 youths and young men formerly in the Homes, about 300 boys from various Homes and branches in the provinces, and 91 boy emigrants (who left the following day for Canada): some 1500 boys in all.

Following the hearse was the empty cab which Dr. Barnardo was wont to use, led by his coachman. Peer, who had been in his service for 25 years. Then followed personal relatives, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Homes, representatives of the General Council, distinguished friends of Dr. Barnardo, and supporters of his work, representatives of numerous societies (N.S.P.C.C., C.E.W. and S., Dr. Stephenson's Homes, Stockwell Orphanage, etc. etc.), members of the staff, matrons, wardens of the T.H.L., nurses and deaconesses, clerks of the London and country Homes, and members of the 'Edinburgh Castle' Mission.

As they bore his body through the streets of East London, lined by tens of thousands – merchant, clerk, and crossing-sweeper, with heads uncovered in mutual respect – an old woman in rags pressed through the crowded lines, and stretching out her bare arms and lifting her tearful face to the sky, cried out in a loud voice, "God, God, give him back to us!"

The whole traffic of the station was suspended as the body, flanked by pall-bearers, according to his wish, of his co-workers in the Homes, was borne to the funeral coach to the muffled sound of drum and the audible weeping of ten thousand sorrowing souls. Thence it was conveyed to the Village Home at Barking. The public service, conducted by the Right Reverend the Bishop of Barking, the Rev. H. Newton (vicar of the church at Surbiton where Dr. Barnardo attended), and the Rev. Canon Fleming B.D., was held in a large marquee, crowded, in spite of a deluge of rain.

A touching sermon was delivered by Canon Fleming:- "He takes his place" (he said) "to-day at the side of John Howard, the friend of the prisoner; at the side of Elizabeth Fry, the friend of the fallen; at the side of Grace Darling, the friend of the perishing; at the side of William Wilberforce, the friend of the slave, of whom it was beautifully said, 'He went up to God bearing in his hands the broken fetters of 800,000 slaves.' That we all know, Barnardo has gone up to God, saying, in the words of Toplady: - "Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy Cross I cling." "To know him was to love him; to work with him was to catch a breath of the spirit of Christ. His Christlike work won our gracious Queen Alexandra to be its Royal Patron, and with her characteristic consideration for all around her, she has sent a touching message to Mrs. Barnardo, which she will always treasure, as she will also the message of Princess Henry of Battenberg. Let us and all his devoted friends in Britain, in Canada, in the Colonies, in the whole Empire, and in all the Churches, arise and dry our tears. 'He, being dead, yet speaketh.' This is what he says to us: 'It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.' And his 8500 children speak to us. They say: "We are orphans, fatherless or motherless, or friendless, and now that we are doubly orphaned, O England, take care of us."'

Finally ... some glimpses in and near the parish comparing how things have changed – or not!



The northern end of Burdett Rd. in the days of the first St. Paul's, Bow Common in 1908 ...

And in 2010 ...



In 1953 ...



A

In 2002, a landscape of buildings which could never have been imagined in East London even 50 years previously ...



Burdett Rd., just before the railway bridge near the church in 1953 ...



B

And in 2002



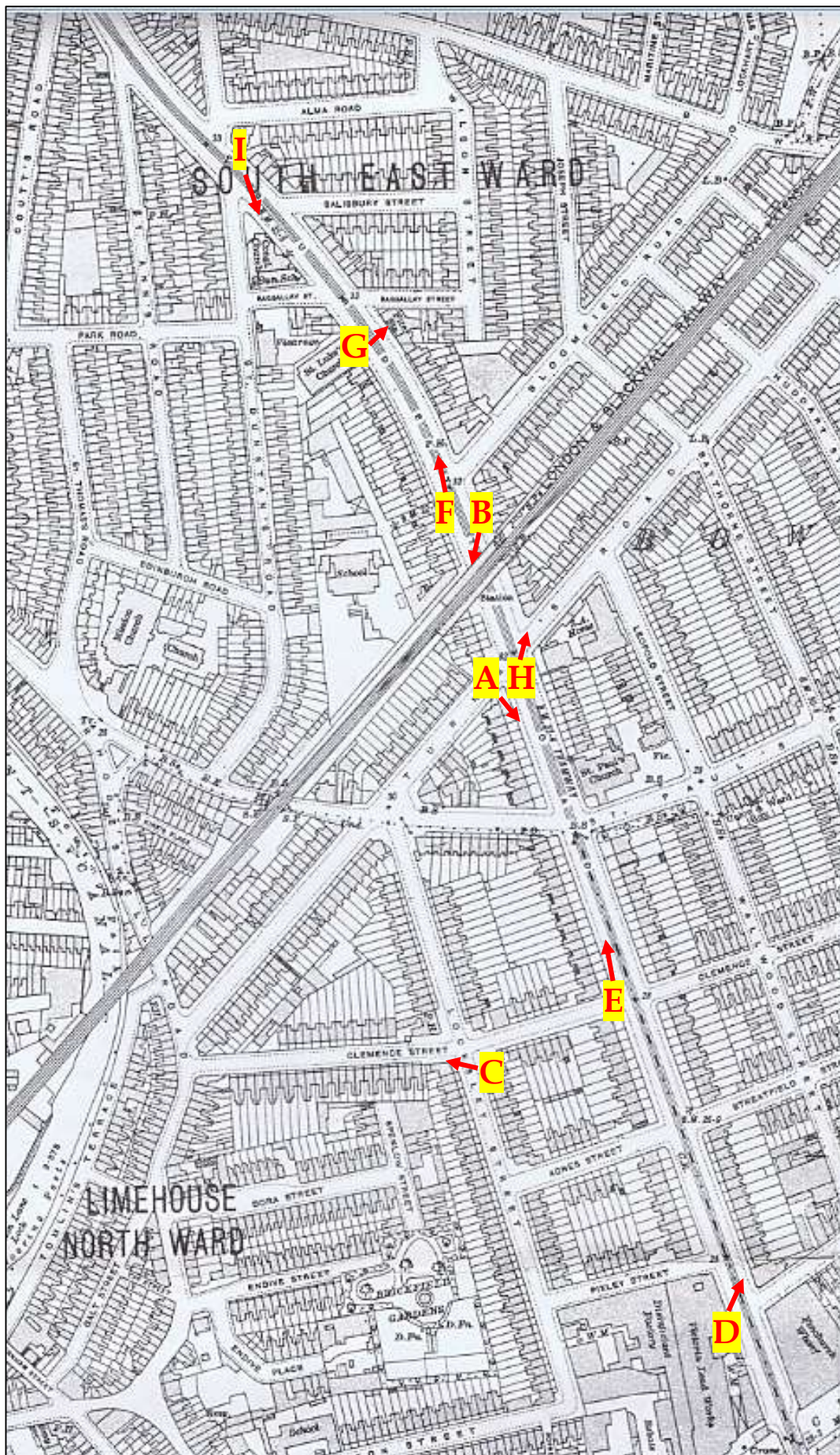
In 1941 this was the northern end of Burdett Rd. at Mile End, with ruined buildings all around.

In 2003 this is the same view – the great expanse of Mile End Park to the right was once housing from end to end of Burdett Rd.



KEY to the 'Then and Now' photos:

The **red letters** on this map of 1914 indicate the approximate viewpoint with the **red arrow** indicating the direction of view





C

This is on the western boundary of the parish, showing the Victorian Prince Alfred pub and Clemence Street, possibly in the early part of the 20th century

The same view in 2010 – clearly one side of Clemence Street (including the Prince Alfred pub) survived the War and the southern side did not.



The Lovat Arms pub around 1900 at the junction of Thomas Rd., and Burdett Rd. The spire of the old St. Paul's, Bow Common can be seen in the distance.

This pub was destroyed in 1941 and then rebuilt post-War – I remember it being there in my first years in the parish – an undistinguished modern building. In the general decline of the old public houses it was then closed and demolished in 2004. The view below shows what has

replaced it.

D

Taken in 2015 this view shows none of the visible buildings remain, though on the opposite side of Burdett Rd. facing these the Victorian buildings still remain intact.

Rather wonderfully, almost certainly the young trees seen in the old view are the same as those in the modern view though over a century older – silent witnesses to all the changes and chances of life in Bow Common. The present church is hidden in the tree growth but located by the glimpse of the highest floors of Elmslie Point.

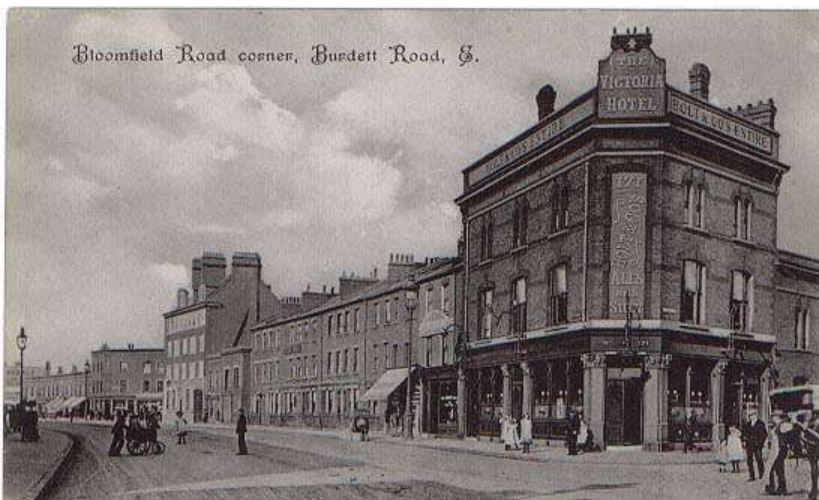




E

This view of Burdett Rd, likely dates from the early 1900's.

In this view of 2015 no buildings remain, on either side of the road. However, the trees are almost certainly the same as those seen above. The modern railway bridge still crosses the road where the Victorian bridge once spanned Burdett Rd.



F

Again, from the early 1900's this view shows what lay on Burdett Rd. across the road from St. Luke's Church. The Fire Station (below) was directly opposite the church and the large Victoria Hotel just some yards to the south.

In 2015, new housing completed in 2013 is visible on the same site.





G

Directly opposite St. Luke's Church in Burdett Rd. stood the Fire Station. This view is from about 1904 and this building seems to have survived war-time bombing as it was closed only in 1968.

The view below in 2015 shows a totally different appearance with one of the new pieces of housing opened in about 2013, tacked on to existing older housing stock. Our forebears could never have imagined how their world would one day be transformed!

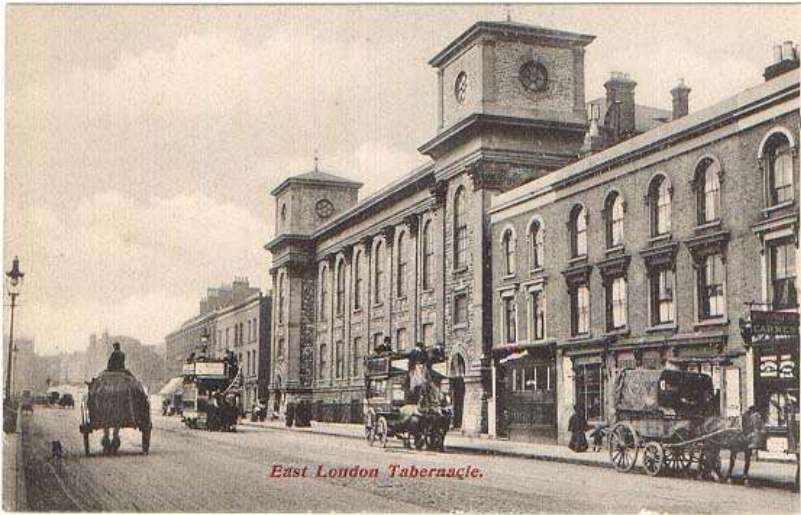


H

In another view from the early 1900's three 'Barnardo boys' who lived in Leopold House on Burdett Rd., very near to the old St. Paul's, Bow Common, are larking about opposite the Home (with pillared portico) in which they lived. Beyond is the railway bridge and, as the title of the postcard suggests, Burdett Rd. station, though it is not entirely clear which building this is.

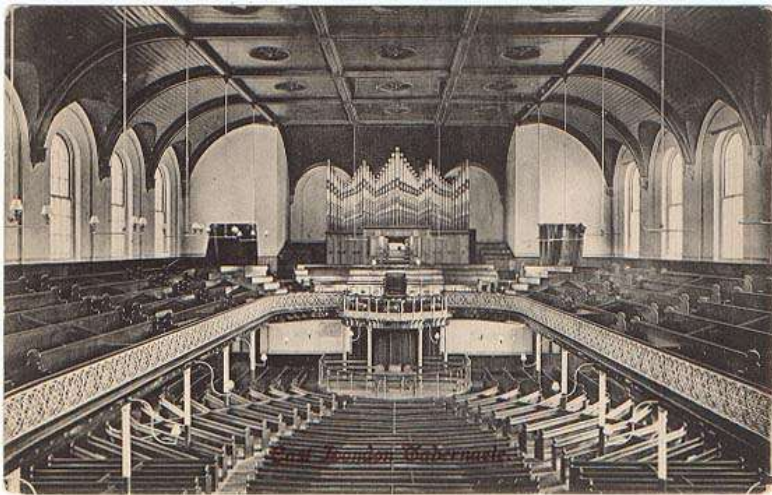
The modern day view of 2015 has the 22 storey Elmslie Point rising where Leopold House once stood but, apart from the modern railway bridge spanning Burdett Rd., nothing else remains from those days more than a century ago.





Probably in the early 1900's again are these external and interiors views of the very grand East London Tabernacle at the north end of Burdett Rd., near to Mile End.

The modern building sits on the same footprint and so must be of similar size, though nothing like as grand externally!



This view of Burdett Rd. in 1900 is likely to be also of the northern end of the road - though the large building seen beyond the end of the road is not identified.





I

This view of 1908 shows St. Luke's, Burdett Rd., with the street lined on both sides with housing and some shops. In the distance is the ghost of the spire of St. Paul's, Bow Common behind the railway arches.

This view of 2015 is such a huge contrast with the earlier view. All the earlier buildings have either been destroyed in the War or redeveloped. In fact there is a major Sports Centre behind the trees and bushes on the right and a very full housing estate behind the trees on the left. Where St. Luke's Church once stood is a large mound with most people, perhaps, having no idea that a large church once stood there. In the distance beyond the railway bridge no spire reaches skywards but instead the tower block of Elmslie Point and then, just after that, the modern church of St. Paul's, Bow Common.



←1900

2015

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