

June

A Short History of EMMANUEL PARISH CHURCH LEYTON

A moment in Time

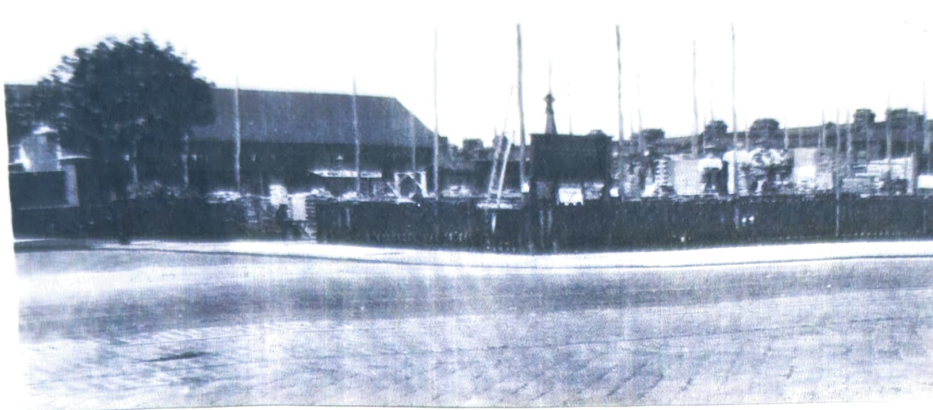


1906 - 2008

Foreword - Introduction

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Where it all began



Construction work carried out 1933

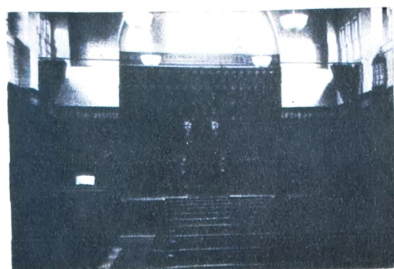
Emmanuel – the beginning

Though Emmanuel Parish Church Leyton is a mere seventy –two years old, consecrated on April 20th 1935, by the Bishop of Chelmsford assisted by the Bishop of Barking its history goes back over one hundred years.

The Church of Emmanuel, as it was originally called, is the only Church along the Lea Bridge Road, a three mile stretch of road in the East London running from Clapton Roundabout and the Whipps Cross roundabout. The church parish is sandwiched between the Markhouse Road/Church Road junction on one side and the Lea Valley on the other, consisting of over two thousand four hundred households. In *'The History of Leyton – an extract from The Victoria County History of Essex'* published in 1973, the Church of Emmanuel, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton - now known as Emmanuel Parish Church, Leyton - is reported to have originated about 1902 with mission services.

In these early years mission services were held at the nearby Sybourn Street School in connection with All Saints, Capworth Street, Leyton as at that time the area belonged to the parish of All Saints. It was at that time Sir T Courtenay promised to All Saints Church the use of a site for a church, school and vicarage. Efforts were then made to

raise sufficient money for the creation of a temporary church. At the Easter Vestry meeting in 1906, the Revd. E Davies (Vicar of All Saints) announced that he had £2000 towards the costs and that Sir Courtenay had given the site, valued at £1000, on the corner of Hitcham Road and Lea Bridge Road. A temporary brick building designed by E C Frere was built at the junction of Lea Bridge Road and Hitcham Road. This building served as a mission Church for the parish.



The Church Hall when used as a church

The foundation stone of the building was laid on 26th May 1906 by Mrs Benjamin Briggs of Clyde Place. The architect's Eustace C Frere, A.R.E.B.A., design was built by P.J.Coxhead using stock brick with stone dressings. It consisted of a nave with two aisles, arranged so that the aisles could be divided off by folding doors to form classrooms. There was a small chancel with a vestry on one side and a kitchen on the other. This building is now used as the Church Hall a grade II listed building.



The Church Hall 2008 as a community centre

In 1912 a Mission Hall, known as the Bloxhall Institute was erected in connection with All Saints and Emmanuel Churches. The site in Bloxhall Road was given by Sir Courtenay Warner and £250 was given by the Diocesan Funds towards the costs. This building was also designed by E C Frere, A.R.I.B.A., and the foundation stones were laid on September 1912, by Mrs Drummond, Mr Elliman (treasurer of the Building Fund, Miss Warner and Mrs Bartholomew.

Soon after the 1914-1918 war, efforts were made to get the area constituted as a parish, but these were not successful at this time, instead, it was made into a Conventional District. In about 1920 Emmanuel became a Mission District.

Following several meetings between prominent members of the Church and the Church Council and with all the distress and horror of World War One, it was not until 1933 that a permanent building as a Church was considered. *'It was in April 1933, that the Rev. B C Garcia arranged for a twenty four hour vigil of prayer in the Mission Church. During that vigil there was a strong feeling as of a call from God that the time was now ripe. He then wrote to Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Wilson and the reply indeed proved it was a call from God.'*

In 1934 the building of the permanent church began on a site adjoining the temporary building. The work was carried out under the supervision of a Building committee, which placed C.H.Hastings in charge of operations. Labour was engaged locally and the purchase of materials sanctioned from time to time by the Committee. This method was adopted to reduce expense, the total costs being about £7000. The architects was Martin Travers and T.F.W.Grant.

A short description of the Church of Emmanuel

By the architect

as reprinted for the order of Service of the consecration

20th April 1935.

The site of the Church is, roughly, a rectangle, with Lea Bridge Road on the South Side and Hitcham on the West.

On the North Side is the new Vicarage and its garden, between the Church and the Parish Hall.

The interior of the Church measures 89 feet from East to West and 52 feet.4 inches, from North to South, at its widest part.

The normal seating capacity, exclusive of Clergy and Choir stalls, is 336, but 50 seats could be added for special occasions.

The building consists of a Nave a Chancel without a Chancel arch, so that the main roof continuous from East to West.

A wide North Aisle terminating eastwards in a side chapel

A narrow South Aisle, in which there are no windows, the reason for this being the necessity of eliminating, as far as possible, the noise of passing traffic.

The Choir and Clergy vestries are on the south side of the Chancel east of the south side.

The Sanctuary and Side Chapel are connected by a low doorway in order that great festivals, when there are many communicants the communion rails of both may be used for one service.

The main entrance to the Church is at the West end, and opens into a large porch under the West gallery. There are also entrances at the West end of both aisles, and one at the east end of the south aisle, which also serves as an entrance to the vestries.

The organ is in the west gallery, where there are also seats for 30 people.

The church is built of multi-coloured Sussex stock bricks, with red brick dressings for copings, and round the window openings, reconstructed stone is used for the external doorways and window frames and mullions.

The Nave roof is constructed of wood, covered externally with copper

The aisle roofs are concrete slabs covered with asphalt.

It has, unfortunately, been found necessary to omit the cupola shown in the original design, owing to lack of funds, but this, together with a larger bell, could be added at a later date



The changing face of Emmanuel

The bell at the west end of the north aisle, is a gift, and once hung over the old schoolroom of the Church of All Hallow, Southwark.

The Nave and Aisles are furnished with chairs.

The Clergy and Choir stalls, Communion rails, Holy Table, Lectern and Pulpit are of fumed oak.

The Font and the Holy Table in the side chapel are from the former church.

The Reredos is incomplete. The large panel now in position, is merely the central portion of the original design and is entirely without decoration.

The Church has been build by direct labour. Mr J Hastings has employed and supervised the workmen, buying all the necessary materials on behalf of the Church Building Committee. By this method it has been possible to exercise the utmost economy.

The system of pipeless heating has been adopted, with electric heaters in the vestries, so that the latter may be used independently of the Church if so required.

Early Furbishing

A **vicarage** was built between the church and the hall in a style harmonising with that of the church. The wrought-iron arch and gates at the west entrance were made and presented by Albert Langdon, a churchwarden, and two ornamental trees were planted in the south churchyard by the brownies, to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

The **pulpit** was given in memory of Sidney James Lunday and the lectern in memory of Walter Johns, Snr., who died in 1924. The prayer desk was presented by John Lea Gulland in 1953 in memory of his wife and holds an In Memoriam book containing the names of all members of the church who died in the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 wars. On the south wall is a memorial bearing the names of those who fell in the 1914-1918 war and in the south churchyard, between the ornamental trees, a similar memorial stands in the form of a Cross, with the names listed on the base.

(picture of the pulpit)

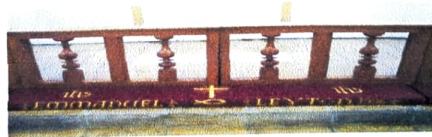
The **organ** is in the gallery at the west and over the main entrance and the console in memory of the fallen in the 1939-1945 war, is beside the chancel steps. The bell was installed in 1935 by friends of the Rev. B.C.Garcia.



The organ

The stained glass window in the north aisle bears the legend "***Chairman of the Church Building Committee 1934-1935***", but no name is given. The left-hand of a pair of stained glass windows above the Choir Vestry door in the south aisle ("Alpha and Omega") was presented by the chorister in memory of Albert David William 'Jack' Hodge and Albert and Reginald Lloyd who gave their lives in the 1939-1945 war. The right-hand window ("St. Andrew") was presented in memory of Alexander, Eliza and Jane McIntyre. The chrome candlesticks on the Lady Chapel altar were given in memory of Harry Rodd, Albert Philpott, Jane McIntyre and Leonard Wilmot for their services to the Parochial Church council over many years, and a small brass vase to the memory of Caroline Rodd. The brass Processional Cross was presented by Henry, John, Kathleen and Edgar in 1947, in memory of Maud E. Clisby, 1900-1961.

The original long kneelers at the alter rail were made by the people of the congregation. In 1996, it was thought that the long kneelers were getting a bit threadbare. Ann Deirmendjian organised sewing groups to cross stitch three new covers. Each week a cover was passed on to another member of the congregation until they were all completed. All of the congregation helped in some way or another with the covers. This was lovely and very useful. These kneelers are still in use today.



The central kneeler

The oil painting in the south aisle is of unknown provenance but was apparently torn from a larger canvas. It was cleaned and restored in 1978 by Mr S Dean.

Between 1976 and 1978 the copper roof of the nave was replaced with green tiles. The church was rewired and fluorescent tubes fitted in place of the original lights.

The interior of the church was redecorated and redesigned. Using the money received from the sale of the Bloxhall Institute, the west wall was brought forward to provide a small entrance, lounge, known as the Narthex. The **font** was moved to the north aisle to give unobstructed passage at weddings and funerals.



The font

The large wooden Cross on the Sanctuary wall was presented in 1978 by Mrs Jane Koshias and her brothers Bobby, Donald and Jim Western, in memory of their mother.

One of the two large wrought-iron flower stand was given by Frances and George Kidd and the other by the 2nd Leyton Scouts to commemorate their 70th anniversary. To commemorate their 50th Jubilee in 1959 the Scouts presented the brass candle-snuffer to the church.

At the consecration service on 20th April 1935 an article under the title 'Story of Divine Guidance' read

'If there be any who doubt the reality of God's guidance of human affairs such people should study the history of Emmanuel Mission.' He continued 'the Providence of God, that indeed is the true experience of the history of Emmanuel.'

The writer concluded "Truly all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord"

The Church has been built by direct labour. By this method it has been possible to exercise the utmost economy.'

This can be seen as a reflection of 2 Chronicles 34 - 'They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stones and timbers. The men did the work faithfully.'

One of the Church oldest family member, Mrs Lily Simms, who was around at the time the church was being built, writing for the church magazine in 2006, recalled, *"attending Emmanuel Church which is now the Church Hall since she was eight years old. She said, she was very excited when the new church was going to be built on the grounds which had been a tennis court. According to Mrs Simms, she and her sister laid a brick at £1. each. She remembers saving on a card (12 pennies – one shilling) at the post office towards it (buying her brick).*

She went on to say that, 'the wooden benches came from the old church. These are at the back of the church under the gallery. The font was moved to where it is now, at the side towards the Lady Chapel, because it was awkward for weddings and funerals being just inside the front doors. The toilet at the back was built with money left by Miss Elsie Butler when she died. This had been a blessing for us all because there wasn't a toilet for the congregation to use. As we read before, the long kneelers at the altar rail were made by the people of the congregation. This was lovely and very useful especially when you have painful knees.' The kneelers are still in use today.

(here insert something from Phyllis Lacon if possible)

The Church magazine, called the Lea Bridge Review, then at the princely price of two pence played an important part of the life of Emmanuel from the early years and



continue to do so today. There was and is always an ever presence of God. Our Lord's command – Love one another.

Extract from the Church magazine in September 1940 under the heading ***Air Raid***

Warning during Divine Service gave instructions what to do during an air raid -

'There may be some members of the congregation who have felt that they would not be able to reach shelter quickly enough in the event of a warning being given while a service is being held. For such people, and others who prefer to stay in the Church, we have not blocked-in the windows of the main porch, which, with the outer doors, will give protection against blast and splinters. In the event of a warning being received the service will immediately close with the Blessing, save in the case of the Holy communion, which will either conclude at the ante-Communion stage, or, if this has been passed, at the end of the ministration.'

Another article in November 1970 headed '***Love in Acton***' quoted 1 Corinthians 13 as how to recognise love, and setting out a check list for love:-

Love is Kind

Love always protects

Love always perseveres

Love is patient

Love always trusts

Love never fails

The article continued, 'We are the body of Christ.' This check list was followed by the aim of the Church. The Church to be where

everyone has at least one good friend,

who would notice they're not well, or in need,

*that they would be happy to confide in,
that would get others to help, where it is right,
where each of us knows what we're good at,
and we each know who's good at what!'*

This is a reflection of Emmanuel Parish church today.

Emmanuel Parish Church made headlines on the 10th January 1985, when it celebrated 50 years on the present building. Not wanting the milestone to go unnoticed an exhibition was organised with guest speakers. The celebration was extended into a month starting with a special birthday service followed by various activities.

By letter dated 5th February 1991, from the Court of Buckingham Palace the Queen approved the forming of the Leyton Group Ministry consisting of Emmanuel, All Saints, and St. Mary. The Group Ministry is currently under review.

On Thursday 21st November 2002, Emmanuel Parish Church, celebrated a new Ministry. On that day Reverend Canon Ade Ademola was instituted by the Bishop of Chelmsford, The Right Reverend John Perry and the Archdeacon of West Ham, The Venerable Michael Fox as Vicar of the Parish of Emmanuel Leyton.

Emmanuel in the 21st Century



The following is an extract from the Church website -

'Emmanuel Parish Church Leyton mission statement 'We exist to proclaim that Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the World' John 8:12

As a congregation we exist to:

- Share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Offer the best possible worship to God.
- Fellowship together in the name of Christ.
- Affirm our faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, publicly and privately.
- Shine and carry Jesus' beacon of light to those around us.
- Pray in the kingdom of God.

As a Church we have been serving our parishioners in Leyton and beyond for over a hundred years and by the grace of God will continue to do so into the next century and beyond. We are mission orientated and believe very much in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to those around us.

We are a very busy and active Church as you will see as you from our website. We currently offer weekly:

Sunday and Daily Services

- Bible Study and Prayer Meetings
- Children and Adult Choir Ministry

The list is endless and as you continue to browse through our website, I hope you will see all that we have to offer. Emmanuel is a growing Church, and through experience has learnt to listen to the voice of God in all that we do, through a life of prayer and fellowship together.

We believe God has called us to share the good news of his kingdom to all we are in contact with, and to be His ambassadors to the world. If we can be of help, please do get in touch with us or just come and join us in our Sunday or daily worship.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Ade Ademola - Vicar 2002'

www.emmanuelleyton.org.uk

The Church as a Family

Emmanuel Parish Church exists as a family and over the years different ministries has evolved bringing people together - preaching, teaching, healing, sharing, educating, fellowship, pastoral care, pilgrimage

At Emmanuel to day the seed that was sown in the early years is still bearing fruits.

Time moves on. Society changes. Community changes but the Word of God remains the same and so at Emmanuel today there are different cultures, people of different backgrounds still eager to hear God's word. Like on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

when everyone heard the message in their own language – Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia etc etc, so it is at Emmanuel today, congregation members from the five continents. speaking different languages serving the Lord in **one language**.

While it is of the general opinion today that church attendance is falling, at Emmanuel we see a steady growth in the family. A growth in young families joining the larger families. We pray that this will continue.

The Apostle Paul travelled to many lands, preaching, educating, building churches, spreading the Good News. Over the years Emmanuel had undertaken many projects, adhering to our Lords command - ***'Go out and train everyone you meet, near and far. In this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of age. Matthew 28***

v 19-20 (The Message). Members from Emmanuel Parish have over the years graduated within different of the Ministry. Emmanuel is now a training parish and has a home grown curate in training, healing and pastoral team.

Emmanuel tries to live up to its bold mission statement. An example of this is the Jesus Video Project, where members of the church family went out into the community to spread the Word, enlightening, praying, reminding and teaching parishioners about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This was backed up by offering a video, ***'Jesus, the moving account of a life still causing controversy'*** and ***The Jesus Magazine*** which accompanied the video. As a result of this there are now new faces attending church. Walking in the footsteps of the apostles is an amazing feat.

At Emmanuel there is always the feeling of personality - personality in the sense that opportunity is given everyone to use the gift God has given them. The pilgrimage to

Turkey in 2005 was another life long experience of walking with the Lord . Visiting the sites of the seven churches in the Book of Revelation chapters two and three was an adventure of a lifetime. Standing, walking or sitting in those places, pondering on the lives of the people who lived there at the time the books were written, of the early Christians and also about the writer was a revelation in itself.

The story of the 'Good Samaritan' is yet another story that is prominent at Emmanuel as the congregation is reminded over and over as to 'who is our neighbour'. To that end, and always remembering that 'we exists to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the light of the world' - John 8 v 12 . Emmanuel Parish Church supports the modern day term 'making poverty history' by supporting impoverished communities in such places as Malawi, Madagascar and other far off countries where people are lest fortunate.'

At the 70th anniversary celebration on 23rd April 2005 the Vicar Rev Ade Ademola wrote 'The Church has been relatively unchanged since 1935 apart from few cosmetic changes. The Reredos is now decorated with a large cross in front of the central panel. We are still without a cupola 'owing to the same lack of funds as in 1935. We hope and pray that perhaps, in the not too distant future, by the grace of God we will eventually finish the building work began in 1934 by Martin Travers.'

The congregation at Emmanuel thrives as one family. This was mirrored on Mothering Sunday 2006 when the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Rowan, presiding and celebrating the Eucharist with the congregation drew on the importance of family referring to the gospel reading John 19 v 25b - 27.

The Venerable Michael Fox, Archdeacon of West Ham, preaching and sharing Toy Sunday service 2006 with Emmanuel Parish Church family remarked 'we were a lively singing congregation.'

The Liturgy

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) was used until 1928. A shorter prayer book was introduced (possible 1950's) and an alternative service book has been in use since 1980. The Book of Common Prayers liturgy is used for week day and common worship

Whilst it is not clear which hymn book was in use in the early days of the mission church or at Emanuel, the church has used Songs of Praise, Ancient & Modern Revised, The New English Hymnal Service Book, the Anglican Hymn book, Hymns of Today's Church and also Hymns for Today's Church, augmented by Jesus Praise, and a collection of the modern worship songs entitled '*Emmanuel Praise*'.

For morning and evening service Common Worship – the Order for the Celebration of Holy communion also called The Eucharist or The Lord's Supper is now used.

The combined Songs of fellowship - volumes 1,2 and 3 is also used today

Emmanuel Today

Over the years Emmanuel has seen a growth in its ministry. Sunday worship has increased from 100 to approximately 124.

'Where two or three are gathered together in my name I will be in the midst' – The Monthly Thursday fellowship is an active reflection of this. Members meet share God's word, share their skills and be in fellowship with each other.

Emmanuel Parish Church is definitely not a Sunday only preaching Church. Pray walk around the parish is a regular feature. Emmanuel family embraces and are embraced within a wider prayer circle. In 2006 some members were accepted into the fellowship of St John and Mary Magdalene.

In the society we live in today the emphasis is on 'user friendly.' At the main entrance where once was an intimidating step to be negotiated by the elders, is now

not only wheel chair accessible but the sign of the Christian faith is embossed within the concrete slab in the walkway. The earthy green front door is now shining black.

Although the structure cannot be changed, the inside had a new facelift. The work was carried out by members of the congregation, men, women and children. The walls are painted soft and bright. This gives a warm and welcoming atmosphere to everyone especially to those attending for the first time or after a long absence.

On 17th August 2006, the chairs of seventy two years ago, woodworm eaten and worn were replaced by solid oak chairs, paid for by monies raised by the congregation.



The new chairs

Overhead almost directly the alter painted within the framework of the ceiling is the Cross. This aligns with the cross on the slope at the entrance. Emmanuel Parish Church is a visible beacon along the Lea Bridge Road. Travelling from Hackney, crossing over the Lea Bridge looking ahead in the distance one is welcomed by the cross reflected by blue neon light. It is like a guiding light along the King's highway. The heating was replaced with an oil fired boiler, which is now replaced by gas central heating. The Cross in the Lady Chapel was actually the one used when the Church was consecrated seventy three years ago.

Seventy three years of Emmanuel Parish Church building; one hundred and two years of Emmanuel Church ministering to the community, yet the church is not complete in accordance with the original architectural plan. The Copula is still missing.

One day, in God's good time the missing *Copula* will be in place. Meanwhile Emmanuel Parish Church goes on walking in the Light of God

The Curate-in-Charge at the start of the project was the Rev.G.H.Long who was followed by Rev. J.C.Taber, 1912 -1914. the Rev J Conelay, B.A., 1914-1915, the Rev. A.Whitehouse 1915-1917, and the Rev. H Hanshaw 1917-1920. Later Curates were the Rev. J Sykes and the Rev. M (Pa) Trudgett.

Vicars through the Years

The first vicar of the present church was the Rev B.C.Garcia. He left in 1937 and was followed by the Rev. C.A.Fox who served as a Chaplain to the Forces during the 1939-1945 war. When he left in 1958 the next vicar was the Rev. D.P.Harlow, 1958-1963. He was followed by the Rev.R Armstrong, who left in 1965 to become full-time Chaplain at Whipps Cross Hospital. He was followed by the Rev. J W Best. 1965 to 1974, the Rev. G.T.Barber 1975 -1981 and **Rev. D J Lee who came in July 1982.** Trevor Jones then followed leaving in 1999

Sources of information

- * The History of Leyton – an extract from the County History of Essex published in 1973
- Copy of church magazine page 1940
- The front cover of the Church magazine 1958 (called **Lea Bridge Review – The Magazine of Emmanuel Parish Church**)
- Workmen working on the site of the church 1934
- Front page of the Magazine (September 1940 –then called Church of Emmanuel Magazine)
- Readers contribution to the Church magazine July 1970
- Interview with parishioners

Emmanuel Parish
149 Hitcham
Leyton, London



Church Leyton
Road
E17 8HL

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30AM - Morning Services

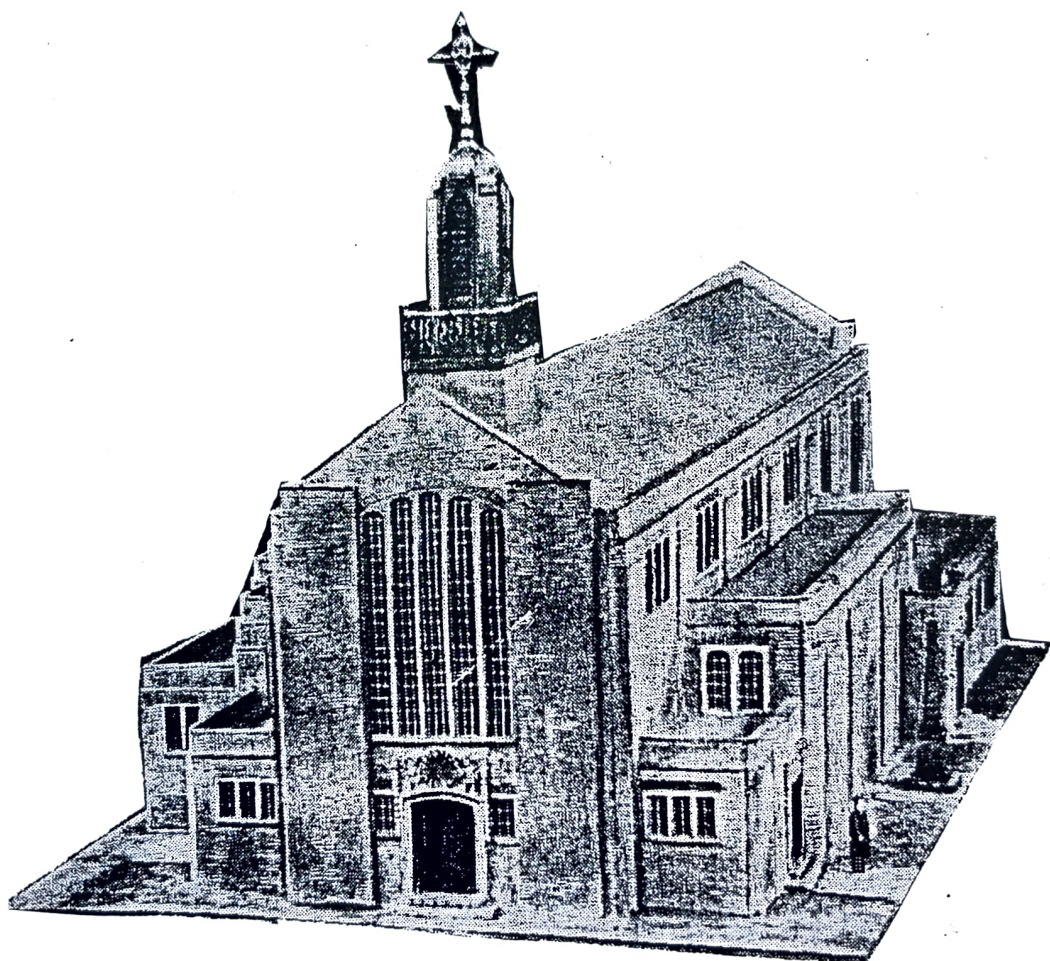
6.30PM - Evening Services

MID-WEEK PRAYERS

10.00AM - Morning Prayer

6.00PM - Evening Prayer

THE STORY OF
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LEYTON



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