



*All Saints, Newton Heath
in the City and Diocese of
Manchester*



All Saints, Newton Heath: Heritage, Community, and Renewal

Saturday, 12th September 2026, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Sunday, 13th September 2026, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm



*Compiled by the Reverend Andrew Wickens, LLM, FRSA, ARCM,
Rector, and sometime Minor Canon of Manchester Cathedral*





Photograph of All Saints, Newton Heath, pasted into the diary of Mary Letts, Ernest's eldest daughter. Note the buildings to the left, demolished in the 1970s, which were the school and institute. To the right, you can see the churchyard, closed by Order in Council in 1854, which is now used as a school playground. To the right of that, out of picture, is the Rectory Garden, the site of the new school opened in 1964. The large Rectory, demolished in the early 60s, used by Letts and his family, faced onto Droylsden Road, which runs past the ecclesiastical East of the church building, and is pictured below.



This photo dates from 1895. The site of the Rectory and garden to its rear is now occupied by the 1964 school buildings

Preface from The Rector

Welcome to our Heritage Open Days 2026. Our displays speak of more prosperous and optimistic times for Newton Heath, which some might describe as the halcyon days of the parish. I hope you can get a grasp of what the church building was like even in its present form. The balconies ran the full length of the nave, and there was no altar platform west of the chancel screen.

The present building is the second, recorded at any rate, on the site, replacing the chapel erected by the Dean and Canons of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, which we know now as Manchester Cathedral. At the time of its construction, 1814-16, it was the ecclesiastical building responsible for huge swathes of what is now Greater Manchester, and for a few decades thereafter the Dean and Canons still collected their duplicate fees.

It saw daughter churches come and go across Newton Heath, Clayton, Failsworth, Bradford and Droylsden. All the daughter churches and the chapel of ease in Newton Heath are gone, the last being St Wilfrid's, in 1998, which had already had St Ann's dissolved into it in 1974.

The present building is pretty much the last visible vestige of Newton Heath's 'greatness'. Economically things had been sliding since the Great War. Peace time after WW2, the 'loss of empire' and the apparent economic expediency – regardless of social cost – of importing product more cheaply from our former 'dominions' saw rapid de-industrialisation and the loss of those certainties of factory or mill, shop floor or clerks' offices.

Aspirational housing schemes and the demolition of handsome, reassuring civic buildings after Local Government Reorganisation in the 1970s saw the wrecker's ball "finish of what Gerry didn't" as some used to say. The result is arguably a portion of a ward within the city limits which lacks the cohesion it once enjoyed, even with all the social stratification of the pre-war years.

My deepest thanks to Newton Heath History Group, and Gail Spelman (Philips Park), who have contributed to the material on display.



The Reverend Andrew Wickens, LL.M, FRSA, ARCM.

Rector, Newton Heath.
September 2026

Contents

Preface from the Rector	3
A Brief History of Newton Heath	5
Newton Heath Football Club 1878 – 1893	8
Blackpool Tower	16
Heritage, Community, and Renewal	23
<i>Appendix</i>	
<i>Newton Heath Chronology</i>	30
Epilogue	35

A Brief History of Newton Heath

Newton Heath, or Newton as it was often known, is now an industrial and mainly working class residential area. The old township boundary ran along the present boundary with Failsworth to the River Medlock, along the river to a point beyond Hulme Hall Lane, along the now culverted Shooters Brook, (across what is now the Bradford Road area of Miles Platting), to behind the White Hart Inn on Collyhurst Street. It then followed Newton and Moston Brooks back to the Failsworth Boundary. There was also a small area of land called Newton, detached, known as Kirkmanshulme, which belonged to the township and this district included Belle Vue Gardens. There was a boundary stone stating this, which stood at the junction of Stockport Road and Kirkmanshulme Lane for many years.

The earliest evidence of man's influence on the locality is that of the Romans who built one of their roads through the area. Between 79-84 A.D. Agricola built forts at Castlefield, Manchester and Castleshaw, on the moors above Oldham. The road which connected these forts ran under what is now Briscoe Lane and Gaskell Street and went across to Roman Road, Failsworth. When excavations were made in Gaskell Street in 1856, the old Roman Road was found. It was 24ft wide, had a gravel surface and was supported by logs to give buoyancy over the boggy parts.

Little is known of the district for the next 900 years or so when mention is made of Newton in the records of Manchester Collegiate Church, now the Cathedral. The Collegiate Church owned a large part of Newton and still does to this day. Other major landowners were the Byron family, who lived at Clayton Hall, the Chetham family and later the Greaves family, who resided at Culcheth Hall.

The heath itself started at Miles Platting, near the White Hart Inn, and followed either side of the present Oldham Road. It then ballooned out until it reached the Failsworth boundary. There were four gates on the heath: Culcheth Gate, situated near the present Culcheth Gates Inn; Cheetham's Gate, which stood on Briscoe Lane, near the school; Dean's Gate, which was where the Dean Brook Inn now stands; and Greaves Gate, which was adjacent to the junction of Droylsden Road and Terrance Street. The heath was a very wild and lonely place and the only buildings on it were All Saint's Church and Parsonage.

During the 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries the population of the district was very small, and activities were mainly centred around the four village greens. Goose Green was off Dean Lane, near Warden Lane and was named from the large flocks of geese which grazed there. Bull, bear and badger baiting took place there together with games such as football, rounders and shinty, a type of hockey played with curved sticks. Hobson's Green was near Dob Lane Chapel and was mainly used by

Failsworth folk. Botany Green, near Greave's Gate was notorious for being very often waterlogged. A man used to charge one penny for carrying people across on his back. Crown Point Green, off Briscoe Lane, had a maypole.

One of the busiest areas in the district was Millhouses, situated on Millstream Lane between the Failsworth boundary and Clayton Bridge. There was a corn mill (one had stood on the site since the 14th century), an inn, butchers, grocers, tailors, cobblers and smithy. In 1757 a mob attacked the mill in the belief that the miller ground human bones to powder, which he added to the flour. At the annual wakes in August the rush bearing took place. This was one of the highlights of the year when the rushes were built up high on a flat cart and decorated with flowers, garlands, and silverware. The rushes were taken to the parish church where they were strewn on the floor for warmth. Other pastimes included wrestling and footracing, which took place on the heath.

The main occupation of the inhabitants was agriculture. Barley was grown pigs and cows kept. Coal mining also took place, this being mentioned as early as 1674. Refugees from the religious wars in Europe settled in the Manchester area and brought their weaving skills with them. The weaving of linen, imported from Ireland, became common, and with this industry came the bleach works. Linen bleach works were built along the banks of the River Medlock and Moston Brook and became an important part of the area's livelihood. As part of the bleaching process, the linen had to be laid out in fields to dry, and there were strict penalties for this linen. A 19-year-old youth, George Russell, was publicly hanged on Newton Heath in 1798 for stealing from a bleach croft.

With the coming of steam power during the 19th century, other industries developed. These included silk weaving, cotton spinning and weaving, heavy engineering together with glass making and the manufacturing of matches.

The population grew rapidly during this time. In 1801 it was 1,295, in 1841, 6,127 and in 1871, 18,079. With the breakdown of the agricultural system, people came into the area to find work in the mills and factories that were being built. They were mainly working-class people, and rows of cheap, small terraced houses were built to accommodate them. These were concentrated in the Oldham Road, Old Church Street and Droylsden Road areas. Some large houses were constructed in the vicinity of Clayton Bridge, particularly around Windsor Road, and these were occupied by mill owners and professional people.

This movement of population was aided by the improvement in communications. Oldham Road, then called Newton Lane, was greatly improved in 1803 and in 1804 the Rochdale Canal was opened. This made a great impact on the district as many

mills were built upon its banks in order to make use of its water for steam power and transportation of goods. In the 1840's two railways were laid through the area. They both connected Manchester with parts of Yorkshire. One line ran via Miles Platting, Park and Clayton Bridge stations and the other via Miles Platting and Newton Heath. As a result of these developments, a large engine repair depot, engine sheds and carriage works were erected by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co., which employed a large number of local people.

With the rise in population, Oldham Road and Old Church Street developed into a shopping centre of mostly small shops. Various churches and schools opened in their vicinity. There were three Methodist chapels: the Wesleyan, Hall St. and Culcheth, a Ragged School, a Salvation Army branch and various other places of worship. This population boom made the old method of Local Government impractical, and in 1890 the inhabitants of Newton Heath voted to go back into Manchester.

During the 1920's and 30's a large council estate was built on both sides of Briscoe Lane. In the 1970s, large-scale demolition of the Victorian small houses took place, and the sites have been taken up by modern housing and light industry. Coal mining, glass making and the textile trades have all disappeared from the neighbourhood.

Source: *Looking back at Newton Heath*, Newton Heath Historical Society (1993) Willow Publishing.

The Rector adds, some years later...

Newton Heath didn't benefit as much as other areas such as Beswick and Miles Platting (the other half of our electoral ward) from the urban regeneration associated with the arrival of the Commonwealth Games (2002: the building of the City of Manchester Stadium and the Sports Village. It's that little bit further away from the centre.

However, it's not all bad news, far from it. Former industrial sites on the north side of the Oldham Road contain sleek new offices and headquarters for none other than Greater Manchester Police and Fujitsu. These about the old Sharp Electronics factory and depot, which has been repurposed as a hub for businesses in tech, arts and media, known as *The Sharp Project*. Hollywood films have been mixed there; albums recorded and produced there; TV soaps filmed there. Dean Lane Station is now the Newton Heath and Moston tram stop with the city centre just over 10 minutes' away. The last year has seen the building of new social and entry-level housing; and the former Jackson's Brickworks site is due for hundreds of mixed homes with the promise of the provision of a new High School, to replace those lost in recent decades and which surely help community cohesion so much.



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGH III. REGIS.

Cap. 32.

An Act for rebuilding the Chapel of *Newton*, in the Parish of *Manchester*, in the County Palatine of *Lancaster*.
[4th May 1814.]

WHEREAS the ancient Church or Chapel in the Chapelry of *Newton*, in the Parish of *Manchester*, in the County Palatine of *Lancaster*, wherein Divine Service has been for many Years performed according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of *England*, has fallen down, and is now unfit for the Celebration of Divine Service: And whereas the said Chapelry comprises the Townships of *Newton*, *Failsworth*, *Droylsden*, *Moston*, and *Bradford*: And whereas the Warden and Fellows of the College of *Christ*, in *Manchester* aforesaid, are seised of the Advowson, Donation, and Patronage of and Right of Nomination and Appointment to the said Chapel of *Newton*: And whereas the Reverend *Abraham Aspinwall* is the present Curate of the said Chapel: And whereas it is highly necessary that the said Chapel should be rebuilt in a substantial Manner; but inasmuch as the same cannot be effected without the Aid and Authority of Parliament; May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Warden and Fellows of the College of *Christ* for the Time being; *Peter Richard Hoare*, *Edward Frere*, *George Matthew Hoare*, *Samuel Cheetham Hilton*, *Edward Greaves*, *Samuel Taylor*, *Joseph Hordern Clerk*, *Otho Hulme*, *Joseph Wright Hulme*, *John Hulme*, *Thomas Hulme*, *Robert Say*, *Sebastian Nash*, *W. B. Smith*, *Thomas Todd*, *Joseph Todd*,
[Loc. & Per.] 6 N

Appointment
of Trustees.

The Act of Parliament which caused the present church building to be constructed. It remains on the Statute Book as it is reckoned there are still some potential levying powers extant, including toll fees!

Newton Heath Football Club (1878 – 1893)



The aim of this section of the booklet is not to provide an exhaustive account of the flowering and withering of Newton Heath's football club during Letts' time, but to give an indication of what was happening within the parish boundary. The following text is not mine, but is taken from a blog page within StrettyNews <https://strettynews.com/category/history/> with this entry provided by iczster @iczster. Every effort was made to contact the HR department, but there was no reply. Thus, the material produced here is with acknowledgement but without explicit permission.

Manchester United football club was formed in Newton Heath, a district in the city of Manchester, by workers of a local railway yard in 1878. At the time, the

club was just a way for the workers to participate in their favourite sport and matches were arranged against workers from other departments or companies. What was to become the greatest football club in the world was known as Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Newton Heath LYR) and they played their matches at the North Road Ground. The North Road Ground was said to be a 'muddy bog' and players had to change in a local pub just up the road before and after matches.

It wasn't until the 1886/1887 season that the team had their first competitive match; a 2-2 draw against Fleetwood Rangers in the first round of the FA Cup in front of a crowd of 2000. Newton Heath insisted the match should have been replayed but the officials decided extra time should decide the winner. Newton Heath refused and the match was awarded to Fleetwood Rangers.

In 1888, the Football League was formed but several applications later; the team had still not been accepted.

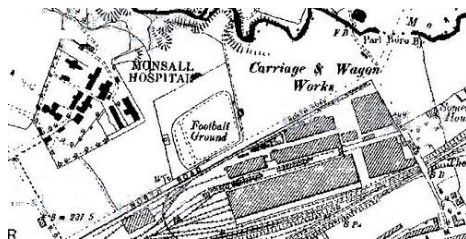
The 1891/1892 season saw Newton Heath progress to the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup where they were beaten by Blackpool 4-3. On route to the fourth round, Newton Heath LYR had dished out a 5-1 drubbing of local rivals Manchester City and the following season were accepted into the Football League.

On 3rd September 1892, in front of 8,000 fans, Newton Heath made their league debut away to Blackburn. Blackburn won the match 4-3. Newton Heath lost four of their opening six games of the season, including a heavy 6-0 defeat at the hands of Everton, and the remaining two matches were draws. On 15th October 1892, Wolves made the trip to the North Road Ground, and Newton Heath served up their first win of the season in a spectacular 10-1 victory. The season continued with a number of heavy defeats, and Newton Heath ended the campaign rock bottom with only 6 wins (all at home) out of 30. In the 30 matches, Newton Heath conceded a whopping 85 goals and scored 50.



This is the first known picture of the Newton Heath team. They were eventually to play in green and gold... see the connection to today?

Newton Heath Football Club initially played at the North Road ground. North Road was a football stadium and cricket field in Newton Heath, Manchester, England. It was the first home of Manchester United Football Club then known as Newton Heath Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Football Club – from its foundation in 1878 until 1893, when the club moved to a new ground at Bank Street, Clayton.



Aerial view of the original ground taken from land registry records

Initially the ground consisted only of the pitch, around which an estimated 12,000 spectators could congregate. The addition of stands in 1891 increased the capacity to about 15,000. The football club signed its first professional players in 1886 and began to break from its sponsoring railway company, but without the company's financial support it was unable to afford the rent on the ground and was evicted.

Following the foundation of Newton Heath LYR F.C., at the request of the employees of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (LYR) company's Carriage and Wagon Works, the club needed a pitch to play on. The chosen site was owned by the Manchester Cathedral authorities, but although conveniently sited next to the wagon works it was a "bumpy, stony patch in summer, [and] a muddy, heavy swamp in the rainy months". The railway company agreed to pay a nominal rent to the authorities and to lease the ground to the football club. As it was next to the railway line operated by the LYR, the ground was often clouded in a thick mist of steam from passing trains. Players had to get changed in The Three Crowns public house, a few hundred yards away on Oldham Road, as there were no facilities nearby.

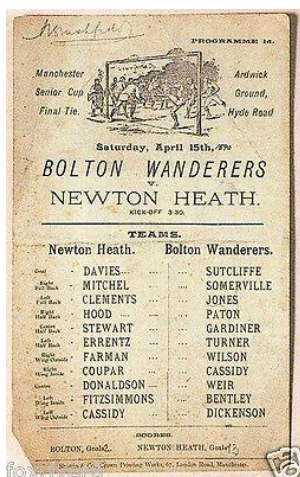


The Three Crowns (circa 1970) Used as an unofficial headquarters and changing facilities for Newton Heath L&YR FC in the late 1800s.

There may have been some kind of refreshment offered to supporters at the eastern end of the site (this is unconfirmed).

The first recorded matches at the ground took place in 1880, two years after the club's formation, most of them friendlies. The first competitive match held at North Road was a Lancashire Cup first round match against Blackburn Olympic's reserve team, played on 27 October 1883, which Newton Heath lost 7–2. Details of the attendance have been lost, but it is assumed that the ground must have been enclosed by then, as an entry fee of 3d was charged for the match. Football became a professional sport in England in 1885, and Newton Heath signed their first professional players in the summer of 1886. The club's

income was insufficient to cover its wage bill, and so the 3d admission charge was extended to all matches played at North Road, later rising to 6d.



This is the original programme for the Manchester Senior Cup Final played at Ardwick's Hyde Road Grounds versus Bolton Wanderers. Ardwick later became known as Manchester City. This original programme has the date written in as 1890, but it was 1892 when this game was played[on the same date]

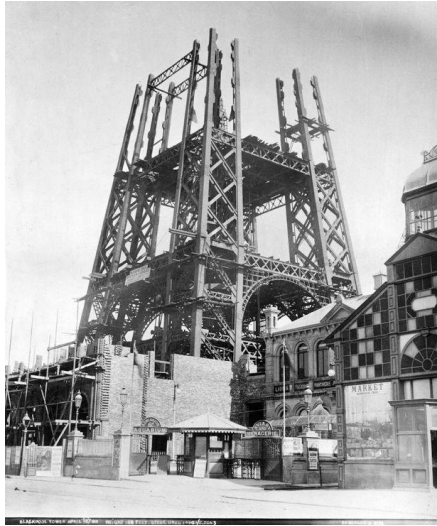
The ground originally had a capacity of about 12,000, but club officials decided that was not enough to give them any hope of joining the Football League. Some expansion took place in 1887, but in 1891 Newton Heath used what little financial reserves they had to purchase two grandstands, each able to hold 1,000 spectators. However, this transaction put the club at odds with the railway company, who refused to contribute any finance to the deal. The two organisations began to drift apart from then onwards, and in 1892 the club attempted to raise £2,000 in share capital to pay off the debts incurred by the expansion of the ground. The split also led the railway company to stop paying the rent due on the ground to the Manchester Cathedral authorities, who at about the same time decided to increase the rent. Under increasing financial pressure, especially as the Manchester Deans and Canons felt it inappropriate for the club to charge admission to the ground, an eviction notice was served on the club in June 1893. The club's management had been searching for a new stadium since the first eviction attempt in May the previous year, and they were able to move to a new ground on Bank Street, three miles away in Clayton. It

proved impossible, though, to take the two grandstands to the new ground, and they were sold for £100.

The stadium no longer exists, and North Road has been renamed Northampton Road. After a spell serving as playing fields for locals, Moston Brook High School was opened on the site. A red plaque was attached to one of the school's walls, marking the location of the old stadium, but it was stolen and not replaced. Following the school's closure in August 2000, the site was chosen by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) as the location of the North Manchester Business Park in 2002



The Fujitsu offices that occupy the location of Manchester United's former ground, North Road, in Newton Heath



Did you know the Blackpool Tower came from Newton Heath?

The Company was Heenan and Froude, and it once stood around the corner of the junction of Monsall Road and Oldham Road. Their story is typical of many businesses in that part of Manchester.

They began life as the Newton Heath Iron works in 1884; a partnership between Mr Hammersley Heenan, an engineer with the East India Railway and the Public Works Department and Richard Hurrell Froude, son of William Froude, English engineer, hydrodynamicist and naval architect who was famous for being the first man to formulate reliable laws for the resistance that water offers to ships and thus predicting their stability on the ocean.

The Company didn't remain for long in Manchester; indeed, within two years they opened a branch in Birmingham and would build the first Longbridge car factory. But their Newton Heath factory would continue to provide all the steel structure, including girders for bridges in Chile, the swing bridge over the Esk in Whitby and Folkestone Pier.

Their most famous exploit came in 1892 when they were appointed structural engineers to the Blackpool Tower, supplying and constructing both the main tower, the electric lighting and the steel front pieces for the aquariums.

Inspired by Eiffel's creation in Paris two years earlier, the Blackpool Tower Co was formed to erect a similar structure on Blackpool's seafront in 1891. It was designed by the Manchester architects Maxwell and Tuke.

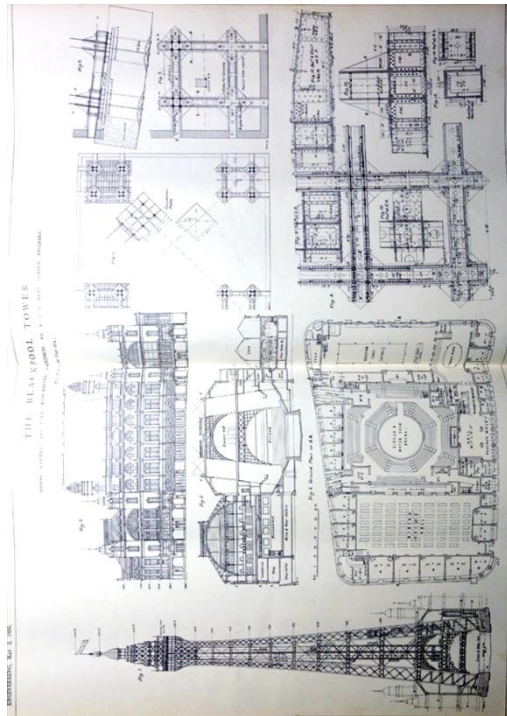
At a height of 518 feet 9 inches to the top of the flagstaff, it opened on Whit Monday in 1894, at the time the tallest building in Britain, and the second tallest in the world. Some 70,000 people queued to go in on that opening day.

As for Heenan and Froude, by the end of the First World War, they had been bought up by a Company in Worcester; the name continued, but by the mid 1930's they were no longer in Manchester.

Nigel Barlow

Source: <https://aboutmanchester.co.uk/did-you-know-the-blackpool-tower-came-from-newton-heath/> November 17th 2016

Accessed 17th August 2022



Cross- sections



Widdows & Co., Photo, Blackpool.

Bird's-eye View from the Tower.

The view from the top!

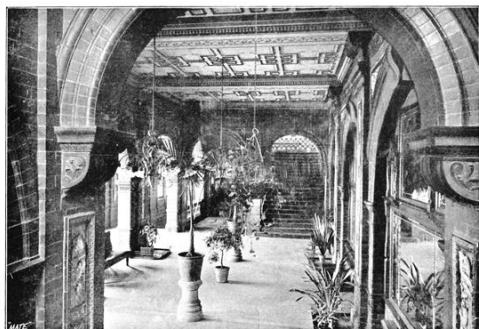
From: *An Illustrated guide to Blackpool Tower 1899*

The Blackpool Tower and Buildings—situated on Central Promenade—form one of the most imposing and interesting places of entertainment in the town. The site was originally occupied by an Aquarium, Market Hotel, and shops, and on these being demolished the present palatial buildings and Tower were erected to the designs of Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke.

The Tower proper is supported by four leg foundations embedded in concrete—each leg consisting of four pillars braced together with lattice girders, and further strengthened by being braced together with the main girders: The total weight of steel used in the construction is upwards of 2,400 tons.

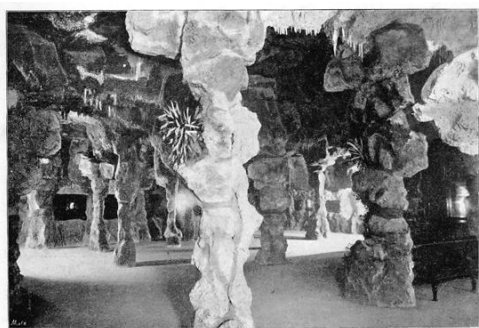
The two elevators start from a picturesque feature of the main building set out and fitted up after the manner of an " Olde Englyshe Village." The lifts, which run independently of each other, are each capable of holding 45 passengers, but, with full regard to safety, no more than 30 are taken up at one time. The weight of the cars and passengers combined can never exceed 10 tons, and against this the seven steel cables attached to each car have been tested to carry at least 100 tons. As a further precaution, safety brakes, which would come into automatic operation if anything were to happen to the descent of the cars, are attached to each lift.

The main balcony, where the car stops, is 380 feet from the ground. This balcony—which is protected by glass surroundings—has an area of 40 feet. Starting from this level, two staircases lead to open-air platforms at the respective heights of 390, 400, and 420 feet. Two further staircases lead to higher platforms, and two single ladders finally lead to the top basket, or "Crow's Nest," situated over 500 feet from the ground, the summit being crowned with a fine steel flag-staff. The high altitude of the aerial balconies, together with the Tower's commanding location, furnishes a unique opportunity to obtain marine, town, and landscape panoramas such as no other erection can offer. The lifts run every few minutes during the season.



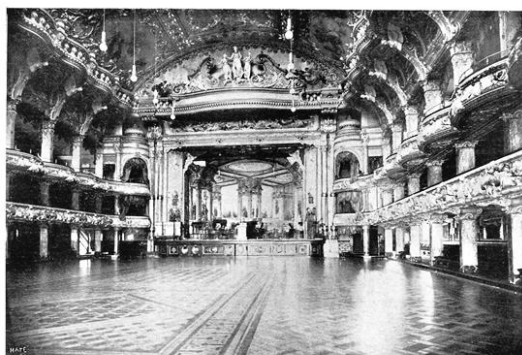
Dearden, Photo, Blackpool.

Entrance Hall, The Tower.



Dearden, Photo, Blackpool.

Aquarium, The Tower.



Dearden, Photo, Blackpool.

New Ball Room, The Tower.

The Entrance

The Tower buildings—at the base of the Tower itself—are noted for their compact design, unique allocation, and beauty of decoration. The exteriors are of fine red brick and terra-cotta, with an ornamental balcony running around three sides of the block.

The main entrances, on the promenade, lead into a grand entrance hall, set out with seats, mirrors, plants, etc., and decorated with beautiful Doultton ware. Two wide staircases give access to the upper rooms. To the right, on the ground floor, is the entrance to the Aquarium.

The Aquarium

This section is fitted up with artificial rock-work, columns, stalactites, etc., in imitation of the celebrated Poole's Cavern at Buxton, Derbyshire, and, so well has the model been copied, that it is almost impossible to detect where the artificial begins and the real rock ends.

The fish tanks, illuminated with electricity, are placed in the centre and around the sides of the aquarium, and these are kept well stocked with rare and interesting specimens. A powerful and very valuable orchestration supplies choice music.

The Ballroom

This renowned room has lately undergone a wonderful transformation, in accordance with designs prepared by Mr F. Matcham. The old room has been lifted 15 feet in height and given an additional 15 feet in breadth, 7 feet 6 inches on either side. The balconies have been raised, and at the west, or seaward end, an admirably sloped gallery capable of seating 600 people, and of accommodating some 200 more at the back, has been introduced. The roof arrangements are another special feature of the reconstruction. The oval archings converge towards a central roof-opening-50 feet by 20 feet—and over this opening a sliding roof, the only one in Blackpool, has been constructed for use in warm weather. The roof slides in two halves and

is arranged so as to be opened or closed in half a minute. The new proscenium, constructed at the east end, is 40 feet wide, 30 feet deep, and 35 high from the ballroom floor. In its construction many architectural improvements are shown. The plastic mouldings and scroll work ornamentation, which is all in the Louis. XV. (the Renaissance) style, has been specially designed for the Tower Company by Mr. Matcham and carried out with marked skill by Messrs. De Jong and Co., of London. The colouring is in the delicate shades of cream, green, blue, grey, and old gold of the Renaissance period, relieved with pure English gold.

The ceiling is squared with ornamentation surrounding six large picture subjects allegorical of a *bal masque*. Surmounting the proscenium is an elaborate scroll pediment, centred, by three terpsichorean figures and backed by another allegorical painting. The pillars on either side of the stage and the whole of the columns supporting the roof are covered with green marble. The ground floor promenades are covered with superior velvet pile carpet on a foundation of cork, linoleum and felt. The draperies are of specially designed light terracotta silk brocatelle, trimmed with silk borderings; the side boxes being draped with beautiful pink terra-cotta velvet. The capping of the balconies and the seating generally is upholstered in horsehair and covered with terra-cotta Utrecht velvet.

The room has a superb parquet floor, resting on springs, and polished to mirror-like reflectiveness. The lighting arrangements, also, are of a most excellent character. The ballroom is at once a palace and a work of art, and the Tower Company have every justification, therefore, for declaring it to be the most magnificently decorated ballroom in Europe. During the season, afternoon vocal and variety concerts are given; the evenings being reserved for dancing and other intermediate attractions. An orchestra of high-class reputation is engaged for the musical portion of the season's programme.

OUR PROJECT: Phase1 2027-2030

Heritage, Community, and Renewal

What are its aims and outputs?

Our overall aim is to remove All Saints, Newton Heath from *the At Risk* Register, and present it as a versatile place of worship which also celebrates itself as the epitome of the social, industrial and religious histories within the City of Manchester. Initial outputs will be largely capital and structural works, as follows:

We will preserve its historic fabric by restoring architectural features to ensure the building remains secure, windproof, and watertight. A major component of this is the repair of the tower stonework and replacement of the tower roof.

We will prevent further heritage loss and safeguard the building from structural failure.

We will enhance its community Use by transforming the building into an active, flexible, accessible, and inclusive community hub inside and outside of divine worship.

We will improve accessibility, especially to the gallery and balconies, by removing physical barriers and hazards to ensure the building is open and safe for all members of the public.

We will progress its environmental sustainability, thereby reducing its carbon footprint.

We will enhance its long-term resilience by increased usage, which will strengthen the financial and operational capacity of the site, meaning we will be able to manage future repairs more independently in the medium to long term.

Additional outputs will be increased footfall and curiosity and engagement; more frequent cultural and social events as the work progresses and beyond. Educational materials will enable visitors to see and interpret restoration and conservation in progress. To cater for this,

signage and displays will be dynamic interpretations of the building's past, present and future.

How our project will help people connect with, enjoy and benefit from the historic environment

This project aims to bring All Saints Church and Garden back into active use as more accessible, welcoming and pleasurable community assets at the historic heart of Newton Heath. The Grade II listed church is one of the area's most important surviving historic buildings, and together with its garden and churchyard provides an opportunity to reconnect local people with a place that has served the community for centuries.

Conservation repairs will secure the historic fabric for future generations, while improvements to access, lighting, heating, toilet, kitchen and internal spaces will make the building more welcoming and usable. At present, damaged railings, uneven paths, poor signage and limited facilities make the church appear closed and restrict community use. The project will address these barriers so that people can enter, explore and spend time in the building and garden comfortably and safely.

The aforementioned facilities will enable All Saints to be used more often by the wider community. The upgraded kitchen and toilet facilities, alongside flexible internal spaces, will make it a practical and pleasant venue for community functions, meetings, cultural activities and events. The church is unique in this part of Newton Heath as a historic venue capable of hosting a wide range of activities. Its character, excellent sightlines and acoustic qualities already lend themselves to performances and concerts.

We anticipate that increased community use will also encourage more volunteers to become involved, helping to keep the building open on more days of the week. This will give local people an active role in caring for, sharing and sustaining their heritage.

A new accessible gallery and exhibition space will help residents, schoolchildren and visitors discover the history of Newton Heath through displays about the people, industries and institutions associated with the area, including Manchester United, AVRO, Heenan and Froude and Mather

and Platts. Interpretation will also encourage exploration of contested histories, including local exploitation and the economic and cultural consequences of the British Empire.

More signage and information will help all visitors understand the building in its own terms from its architecture and history to its role in Newton Heath, and how it connects to the wider history and heritage of the area. This will be particularly valuable for people connecting with the Clayton Vale heritage trail. Improved routes, signage and interpretation will also strengthen links with nearby heritage places such as Newton Silk Mill and Clayton Hall.

All Saints Garden will provide another way for people to enjoy the historic environment. Improved paths, seating, lighting, planting and interpretation will create a safer, more attractive green space for people to meet, relax and enjoy nature. The establishment of wildflowers and new habitats will also benefit biodiversity on the site.

The project will create opportunities for people of all ages to learn, volunteer, attend events, meet others, enjoy green space and discover local stories. It will help build pride, participation and a stronger sense of connection to Newton Heath's heritage, ensuring that All Saints is not simply preserved as a historic building but becomes a living and valued part of the community's future.

How our project will improve civic pride, prosperity and wellbeing

All Saints is held in high and affectionate regard by the community, but its current appearance and condition can make it seem forbidding and closed. The project will transform this perception by repairing and enhancing the building and garden, creating a more welcoming, beautiful and accessible place at the heart of Newton Heath. In doing so, it will help people feel more positive about an area of the city, which is often maligned, strengthening civic pride and a sense of belonging.

The building will connect people with the place where they live and help them discover the stories that have shaped Newton Heath. Through exhibitions, interpretation and community activity, the project will explore

both popular and lesser-known histories, including stories and experiences that have previously been underrepresented. This is particularly important given the rapid demographic changes in Newton Heath during the 21st century. By enabling different communities to see their histories and contributions reflected in the story of the place, the project will encourage greater shared ownership and belonging.

All Saints is currently an underutilised community asset. Improved internal spaces, kitchen and toilet facilities will allow it to become a welcoming meeting place for people from across the community, including both established and transient communities. Events, cultural activities, meetings and informal gatherings will create opportunities for people to meet, forge friendships and reduce isolation. This will build on the church's aim to provide opportunities for young people, families, adults and those at risk of loneliness.

The project will also support local prosperity and skills. Conservation work will provide opportunities to use traditional building and craft skills and develop relationships with local training colleges. This will demonstrate the value of traditional skills while creating opportunities for people to learn and develop skills through the care of a significant historic building.

Greater use of All Saints will bring increased footfall into Newton Heath. Visitors attending events, exhibitions and community activities will have opportunities to use nearby shops and services, with increased activity supporting the vitality of the 'Old Church Street' quarter during and beyond the project.

The improved garden will provide a beautiful, peaceful and accessible environment where residents can sit, meet, relax and enjoy nature. This will contribute to quality of life and wellbeing, particularly for those experiencing economic disadvantage and with fewer opportunities to access attractive spaces elsewhere.

The church's close proximity to schools provides further opportunities for wellbeing and connection. Children and young people will have opportunities to learn, rest and spend time in an historic environment that many residents describe as 'their church', including those who do not worship there. The project will strengthen the relationship between the

church and neighbouring schools and its role as a shared community resource.

Ultimately, the project will not simply restore a historic building; it will help restore confidence and pride in Newton Heath. By making All Saints more beautiful, active, inclusive and useful, it will strengthen community connections, support skills and local economic activity, and create a restorative environment that improves residents' wellbeing.

How will our project achieve a positive change and sustainable future for historic places, including buildings and landscapes?

The project will move All Saints Church and Garden from a state of vulnerability and under-use towards a sustainable future as active, valued community assets. The Grade II listed building remains on the Historic England At Risk Register, while the Garden and its separately listed wrought-iron railings are in poor condition. Rather than simply patching these problems, the project will address underlying structural and environmental issues and transform both into vibrant, accessible and sustainable places for the community.

The structural repairs are critical to the long-term survival of the church. Works will address outstanding fabric and roof issues while allowing the building to breathe properly, reducing condensation and damp which have contributed to many of its problems. Thermal performance will be improved wherever compatible with the requirements of a Grade II listed building. Adaptive reuse of parts of the building, alongside improved accessibility, will ensure that its remarkable historic fabric is retained while enabling much greater public use.

Increased public use is central to the building's sustainable future. Improved facilities will allow All Saints to host more community activities, events, exhibitions and functions, creating a building that is regularly used rather than simply preserved. More frequent use should also encourage

additional volunteers to help keep the building open, strengthening local stewardship of the heritage asset.

The Garden will also be transformed into an attractive, safe and biodiverse green space. Improvements to paths, planting, maintenance and design will promote ecological balance while providing a peaceful setting around the historic building. Wildflowers and habitat features will support biodiversity, while improved access, seating and interpretation will encourage greater community use and appreciation of the historic landscape.

Although the church and Garden are outside the Clayton Vale Pride in Place area, they immediately abut it and have potential to support future revenue-generating programmes. Income generated, after costs, will be allocated to designated funds supporting the ongoing maintenance and development of the building, helping create a more sustainable financial model beyond the capital project.

Sustainability will also be supported through planned maintenance. In association with our insurers, we have developed short- and long-term maintenance plans, informed by the most recent costed Quinquennial Inspection. This will allow future repairs and maintenance to be planned rather than allowing problems to develop into emergencies.

The project will support the continuation of local heritage skills through conservation work and relationships with local training providers, particularly as apprenticeships are undergoing a revival. In this way, the project will help sustain not only the building but also the skills needed to care for historic places in the future.

This is vital work for a parish experiencing significant deprivation. The project will secure historic fabric, improve environmental performance and biodiversity, create sustainable patterns of use and maintenance, and place All Saints at the centre of community life. The ambition is that it will no longer be experienced primarily as an 'at risk' building, but as a well-maintained, actively used and valued heritage asset capable of serving future generations.

How we will achieve this increased sense of pride for Newton Heath.

We will reconnect local people with their heritage through the place and space of All Saints Church and Garden. Both, but especially the building, will become more integrated into everyday life: no longer an imposing vestige of the past, but a welcoming and active part of Newton Heath's present and future. Increased use will create a stronger sense of pride, belonging and ownership.

Newton Heath's historic fabric has been decimated over successive generations. All Saints is now one of very few substantial historic buildings remaining at the heart of the parish which can express the scale and ambition of its former industrial and civic life. The magnificent town hall and library on Oldham Road, with their late-Victorian public facilities, were demolished in the 1970s. All Saints is therefore one of the few remaining places where people can experience the physical scale and character of the Newton Heath that once existed.

Newton Heath was a centre of engineering and manufacturing, associated with firms including Mather & Platt, Heenan & Froude and AVRO. It was also the birthplace of Manchester United, which began in 1878 as Newton Heath LYR, formed by workers of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway. These stories demonstrate that Newton Heath was not simply an industrial district, but a place of innovation, ambition, skilled employment and community.

All Saints provides a setting in which these stories can be brought together and understood. Its scale is exceptional: once the gallery and balcony are made suitable for public access, it will be capable of seating around 650 people. Its architecture, sightlines and acoustic qualities also give it the character of a Georgian theatre, creating opportunities for performance, education, exhibitions and large-scale community events. The potential of All Saints as a community and cultural venue is considerable.

Through physical displays, online materials and social media, alongside work with local schools and community groups including Newton Heath History Club, we will celebrate the stories which connect the building with

the people and industries that shaped the area. These will include engineering, aviation, football and civic life, as well as the experiences of communities whose stories have previously been less visible. The project will also encourage people to explore the more difficult aspects of Newton Heath's history rather than presenting an uncritical version of the past.

This will help challenge the perception of Newton Heath as simply a deprived or overlooked part of the city. Residents will be able to see their neighbourhood as a place of invention, industry, ambition and community, with a history of national and international significance.

Although All Saints is outside the Clayton Vale Pride in Place target/delivery area, it immediately adjoins it and supports its ambition to enrich some of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. By bringing a major surviving historic place back into everyday public use, we can create a catalyst for pride: a building that people know, use, talk about and increasingly regard as belonging to them.

Our ambition is not to recreate a vanished past, but to use what survives of Newton Heath's remarkable heritage to build confidence, connection and pride in its future.

Appendix A Newton Heath Chronology

79-84	Roman Roads built
14th Cent.	Corn Mill known to exist at Millhouses
1556	First All Saints Church built
1625	Shears Hotel was "A House of Call and General Resort"
1639	Whitworth Hall Lamb Lane built
1674	Coalmining known to exist in the district
1689	First All Saints School in use
1697	Clayton Bridge first mentioned replaced Old Ford
1698	Land bought for Dob Lane Chapel
1733	John Greaves — High Sheriff of Lancashire
1750	Botanical Society met at the Shears
1757	Mob attack on Millowner at Millhouses
1772	New All Saints School built
1790	Elijah Dixon born
1798	Public hanging on Newton Heath for Stealing Cloth
1801	Population was 1,295
1803	1) Improvements to Newton Lane (Oldham Road) 2) Military colours of Newton and Failsworth Volunteers raised
1804	Rochdale Canal (passing through Newton Heath) opened
1806	Lt. Col. Robert Keymer commanded the Newton Heath and Failsworth Volunteers
1808	All Saints Church collapsed
1816	All Saints Church rebuilt
1820	Map of district made
1821	All Saints School enlarged
1826	Newton Silk Mill opened

1832	Newton Silk Mill enlarged
1839	1) Wesleyan Church built 2) Lancashire Constabulary policed Newton Heath until 1890 3) Opening of Manchester to Leeds Railway through Newton Heath
1841	1) Population was 6,127 2) Match/ Matchbox Factory opened by Elijah Dixon
1844	All Saints Church extended
1845	1) Ten Arches Railway viaduct built 2) Land bought for Philips Park
1854	New (3rd) All Saints School built
1856	Roman Road discovered under Gaskell Street
1859	Newton Heath Cricket Club first used present ground
1860	1) Wesleyan School built 2) £40 stolen from Taproom of Woodman Inn
1865	1) H.C. Wilson bought small brewery 2) First branch of Co-op in Newton Heath opened at Daisy Bank/ Droylsden Road corner
1866	Ragged School established
1867	Culcheth School opened
1869	Saint Marys Hall built
1871	Population was 18,079
1874	Culcheth Military Band's first public performance
1875	Alexian Brothers buy Saint Marys Hall
1876	1) Elijah Dixon died 2) Railway Steel and Plant Company closed down
1877	1) N.H. Traction Maintenance Depot built 2) Butterworths Glassworks opens in Barker Street

	3) Second Culcheth Chapel built
1878	1) Additional extensions to All Saints Church 2) Saint Wilfrid's Day and Sunday School opened
1879	1) New Dob Lane Chapel erected 2) Bridge on Church Street over canal rebuilt 3) Loco shed workers form "Heathens" Football Team
1883	Saint Ann's church consecrated
1888	Saint Augustine's Church built
1889	1) Saint Cuthbert's Church opened 2) WM. Trevor became first representative on Lancashire Cricket Club
1890	Newton Heath becomes part of Manchester Borough
1891	1) Newton Heath Town Hall opened 2) Oldham Road Police Station also used as Fire Station until 1912
1892	"Heathens" (Loco Football Team) win league
1893	"Heathens" Football Team move to Clayton
1894	1) Blackpool Tower opened after construction by Heenan and Froud of Newton Heath 2) Wilsons Brewery Ltd. established
1897	City Mission opened in Barkworth Street
1898	Co-op at Oldham Road/ Church Street opened
1899	Gale blows factory chimney top down onto house
1900	Mather and Platt buy Park Works
1902	Bridge on Droylsden Road over canal rebuilt
1903	Electric Trams introduced onto Oldham Road
1904	Land purchased for Brookdale Park
1906	"Heathens" Football team changed name to Manchester United
1908	Co-op buys laundry in Lytham Street

1909	Co-op gives two houses to Newton Heath Sick Nursing Association
1910	1) Military Col. of Newton Heath and Failsworth volunteers restored 2) Saint Wilfrid's Church consecrated
1911	Brookdale Park School opened
1918	A.V. Roe starts to build factory on Briscoe Lane
1920	Oldham Road Police Station becomes Post Office
1922	232 Locomotives allocated to Newton Heath Loco Depot
1924	Hannah Mitchell elected to Manchester City Council
1930	Graver Lane Toll House demolished
1938	Magnet Cinema opened
1939	1) King George VI visits A. V. Roe, Newton Heath 2) Christ the King School opened
1940	Mathew Swain factory works nearly destroyed in blitz
1941	German bomb destroys two houses on Briscoe Lane estate
1944	Organ donated to Ragged School
1952	Rochdale Canal through Newton Heath closed
1956	Ariel view taken
1957	Butterworths Glassworks closes
1960	Christ the King Church opened
1962	Rothwells Brewery sold out
1963	All Saints School transferred to present premises on Church grounds
1972	Culcheth Chapel rebuilt
1976	All Saints Old School demolished
1989	Alexian Brothers original home demolished
1990	Alexian Brothers Care Centre opened
2005	Construction begins for <i>Central Park Metrolink</i> Stop

2011	<i>The Sharp Project</i> opens in the former Sharp Corporation warehouse Phase IV Restoration of All Saints: cleaning of stained-glass in the Chancel, and extensive renovation of Chancel and vestry roofs, and vestry refurbishment. Completed 2013
2012	Phase 3a of Metrolink's expansion activates Central Park and Newton Heath and Moston.
2015	Phase V Restoration of All Saints: Reroofing of the Nave and remedial work to timber structures in the Narthex and Tower

Epilogue

This is not a scholarly work. It's a patchwork of largely borrowed material, reformatted. However, I hope by bringing together places and people it gives some idea of what life was like here as an ecclesiastical parish and ward within the City of Manchester at the turn of the last century. To refer to these former times as 'halcyon days' and this place as a once industrial power-house is not to imply that it is all 'decline and fall' and there is no industry; to talk of the social cohesion then, much of it to do with the parish church, is not to imply that people are disconnected now. It is true that the place is not as prosperous as it once was. It is true that it is one of the most deprived parishes in the Church of England. Where 1 is the most deprived and 12,154 is the least, we sit at 70¹. The people of Newton Heath are differently busy now; work and careers are 'portfolio', employments often transient. It is the age of the 'gig economy'. We are differently connected, 'virtually', yes, but in person, at the drop of a hat, when those we care for (and even those we don't) are in need. We are generous and open. The last twenty years have seen huge changes in the range of skin tones and languages, but racist and 'phobic' we are not. We are decent if you're not especially decent to us, and yes we're working hard on our appearance and décor. I am extraordinarily proud to serve as its Clerk in Holy Orders, its Rector, its Vicar, its Pastor, or its Padre. I'll answer to anything polite, including 'Mate' or 'Love.' Here is a good place to be. We're glad you came.

¹ <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/240128> Church Urban Fund data.

If your in-person or virtual visit today has aroused an interest in our past, present and future, please stay in touch, and consider supporting us practically and financially.



Type All Saints Newton Heath into your Facebook browser, or follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063759301856>



Call up the site and tap in M40 1LR, and we will come up as the nearest church. The link is

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15869/>



Or use this QR code

This is the most comprehensive resource and is, in effect, our website for now.

To receive our news and pastoral letters, sign up in church or drop us a line at

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