CHURCH HISTORY
AND GUIDE

SAVIOUR'S

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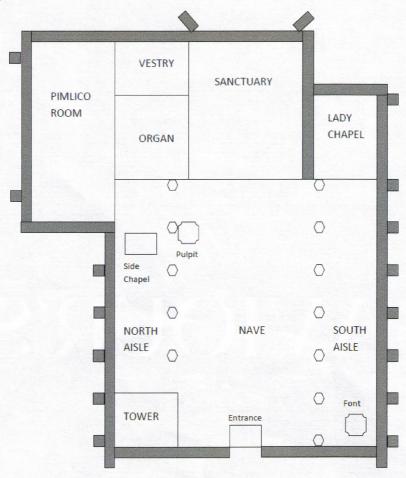
£ 2 SUGGESTED DONATION **Welcome** to St Saviour's, Pimlico, where we have been serving since 1864. We are part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England (Anglican Communion).

These days the Christian community includes people who come from a wide variety of ages, backgrounds and lifestyles, and from across the world. We hope that you enjoy your time with us and that we will see you again soon.

Father Mathem

Fr Matthew Catterick Vicar





A Short History



Until the 1800s the area now known as Pimlico was marshland, populated by market gardens and a few pubs. As the population of London grew during the 19th century, this part of the Grosvenor Estate was marked out for development by Thomas Cubitt, a leading master builder. Thomas Cundy Jnr was Surveyor of the Grosvenor Estate and designed a number of Pimlico's churches, including St Saviour's.

The Duke of Westminster gifted the site and funded much of the building work, and the foundation stone was laid on 20 June 1863. When it was consecrated on 16 July 1864, St Saviour's seemed incomplete and in the 1880s the first Vicar presided over a project to 'beautify' the Church. Galleries in the north and south aisles were removed. The Sanctuary was decorated with a new reredos and arcade work. The East Window filled with stained glass. The work of beautification was supervised by the Vicar's son, Mr Romaine Walker.



The actor Laurence Olivier's father was Curate here, and the young Laurence was a choirboy and boat-bearer. The founder of modern lawn tennis, Major Walton Clopton Wingfield was a regular worshipper and Sir Compton Mackenzie, the writer, was married here. Princess Diana worked as a kindergarten assistant in our church hall during her engagement to Prince Charles. The same kindergarten still operates from our hall today.

Today, St Saviour's is as active in the community as it is at prayer. Our doors are open to all who wish to join our worship and those who are seeking an opportunity for quiet reflection. All are welcome.

We are committed to working with other groups and institutions in the community, including the Cardinal Hume Centre, Chelsea College of Art, various choirs, and others supporting children.





Donations for the upkeep of St Saviour's are always gratefully received. We rely very heavily on gifts, and advice can always be offered on where your donation would help most. There is also contactless card machine at the church entrance, and it is possible to deposit cash and cheques too. If you give – then thank you so much!

North Aisle

The Tower is 190ft high and is a landmark that can be seen from much of Pimlico. In 2012, the porch at the bottom of the Tower was converted into an office and reception allowing us to be open during the day for the benefit of the local community and visitors. The higher stages of the Tower incorporate our ring of 10 bells, a training room for bellringers. The church clock was made by Smith of Derby in 1864.

In the North Aisle and stretching all around the church are the Stations of the Cross that depict Christ's Passion. The Stations were imported from Oberammergau in the 1930s by the then Vicar.



Beyond the Tower, there is an oil painting, after Michaelangelo's Deposition, and a window depicting three scenes from the Life of St Peter, by Clayton and Bell c. 1880. The Side Chapel was blessed in 1889 and the Mission Altar (c. 1910 and painted by one of the sisters) is from the old Mission House in Aylesford Street. The parclose screen was originally part of the Lady Chapel, but was moved to avoid damage from water ingress.



By the Altar is a Morris-influenced window of three scenes from the life of Dorcas, c. 1890, and behind is the entrance to the Pimlico Room. If you look up you will see a window also by Clayton and Bell from 1890 depicting the Resurrection.

The Sanctuary

The magnificent East window depicting Christ in Majesty and scenes from the Creation, and the reredos of the Last Supper are all from the 1880s and were designed by the Vicar's son, Romaine Walker.

The elaborate roof decoration was rediscovered in the 1990s during an intensive cleaning project. The choirstalls are original to the Church and the Rood Screen was added in 1911.





The Tabernacle at the centre of the High Altar depicts Jesus blessing us. This ornate, golden box contains the Body of Christ, communion that has been consecrated, and reminds us that Jesus is with us.

Lady Chapel

To the right of the entrance to the Lady Chapel is a statue after the Madonna of Bruges by Michaelangelo.

Two stained glass windows dominate the Chapel. On the East wall is a depiction of the Crucifixion from 1870. Note Mary Magdalene, with her red flowing hair. The window on the South wall depicts events from the fourth chapter of the Book of Revelation. The figure in the foreground is the first Vicar of St Saviour's, the Revd John Walker. The window was erected in his memory. The Tabernacle on the Altar is carved with a relief of St Christopher.

There has been damage due to water ingress at the entrance to the Lady Chapel. The problem that caused this has now been rectified and once the plaster has dried out sufficiently, it will be fully restored.



South Aisle

Near the Lady Chapel is a window depicting two scenes from the life of St Martin, dedicated to Sir John Tilley, Churchwarden, and a window depicting Christ appearing to his Disciples beside the Sea of Galilee, in memory of the second Vicar, the Revd Henry Washington.









The statue of St Saviour (another name for Jesus) was imported from Oberammergau. Although it is referred to as the Sacred Heart, the custom of displaying an open heart, often vividly, is not depicted here.

Along with the statues of the Madonna and Child and the Stations of the Cross, it was introduced here in the 1930s.

The window depicting Christ the True Vine is by Clayton & Bell , about 1890.



The font is of grey stone and is original to the Church. The handsome oak cover in the form of a light openwork spire was added in 1885 by a relative of the Walker family.

Beyond is the Children's window, which depicts a series of twelve scenes of angels and lambs. Panels were donated by members of the congregation and the finished window is dedicated to Henry Percy St John, Churchwarden.

Above, at the clerestory level, is a window made of pieces of broken glass collected by Colonel Hudson, a member of the congregation, after World War II.

The Nave

The Nave forms the main body of the Church and is nearly 80ft long. It is paved with red, black and buff tiles.

Each pillar is carved with a dragon, and the corbels (decorations) on the wall posts are carved with angels holding musical instruments.

On the left-hand side is the Pulpit. It is oak, octagonal and dates from 1913. It replaced the original stone and alabaster Pulpit. The Lectern, on the right, is a brass eagle, and is a replica of the standard late-Mediaeval types.





Facing the west door are two carved wooden statues of St George (patron saint of England) and St Edward the Confessor (whose shrine is at Westminster Abbey).

The holy water stoup at the entrance was gifted to the church in the twentieth century but appears to be from the eighteenth century.

Many people comment on the beautiful kneelers – made lovingly in the 1980s and now, like much else in our beautiful building, in great need of repair!

The Church Hall and Pimlico Room



A north vestry was added to the church in c.1910 in order to create more community space.

This was refurbished in the 1990s to become the Pimlico Room, a multi-purpose space, that is available for hire.



The Church Hall on the south side of the Church is a 1950s addition and home to many community groups and activities. The building is also available for hire.

We are hoping that Westminster City Council, who own the adjacent St George's Square Gardens, will develop the rather unsightly recycling centre next door, creating a facility that looks much smarter and can be enjoyed by all.

Vicars of St Saviour's, Pimlico

1864-1887	The Revd John Walker
1887-1912	The Revd Henry Washington
1912-1931	The Revd Francis Walter Boyd
1931-1944	The Revd Francis Langford James
1944-1951	The Revd Samuel Porter
1952-1970	The Revd Stanley Goodman
1971-1986	The Revd Geoffrey Pollard
1987-1996	The Revd Ron Rogers
1997-2003	The Revd Paul Jobson
2003-2010	The Revd Matthew Woodward
2011-	The Revd Matthew Catterick



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