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CLASSIFICATION	SUBJECT	SOURCE	DATE
H.S. J	C.E. St. James (Docks)	S.D.E.	7.9.56

Another Southampton Church rises from its ashes, in ultra-modern form

"Echo" Staff Reporter

IN 1940, Black Year of the Luftwaffe, bombs destroyed the Church of St. James in the heart of Southampton's Dockland, but a small group of parishioners stayed on. They worked, and prayed that they would get a new church some day.

The end of dream will come true for them by the consecration of the new St. James's (Docks) on Saturday, September 29.

They will worship in a fine modern building in Bernard-street that is linked with the old church (it was on the same site) by the restored altar and font, which were saved in the blitz.

Roof and west wall are tiled throughout with acoustic tiles, but this is just one of the features of this ultra-modern church.

There will be no stained glass windows, for the glass—as in the new Coventry Cathedral—will be carved; the church is, in fact, believed to be the first in Europe with this technique.

NO ADDITIONS

Saints connected with the sea, and the arms of the shipping companies, will be depicted in the windows of this, the sailors' church. No windows are to be added (as is often the case), for this building is to be completed as a whole.

The west window will depict Christ in Glory.

Also to be shown are the Ocean Terminal, the Docks, the Queen

Mary and the Queen Elizabeth, and the arms of Winchester and Canterbury.

Out-of-the-ordinary feature will be the hand-wrought iron high altar ornaments. There are, too, no side aisles as such—just procession aisles on the right and left of the building, "so that," in the words of the Vicar (the Rev. F. W. Marshall), "everyone will be able to see what's going on."

Four loudspeakers in the tower, with a range of a mile, will relay tape-recorded bell peals and special services. The organ is electric.

The new church of St. James's (Docks). This picture was taken from College-street, and gives an excellent side view of the building, entrance of which (beneath the tower) is in Bernard-street.

embroidery work, have been made by them in their spare time. Many of the workers had no previous experience.

When the Hoglands development scheme, with its blocks of multi-storey flats, is completed, the parish will be one of the most densely populated in the town, and the new church of St. James, with its clean, modern lines and tower topped by a skylon-type cross, has been designed to blend with the scheme.

The Vicar says that credit should go to the Winchester diocese for seeing that the new church is here before the new homes. This is a variation on a post-war feature of religious life, where the houses go up first and the church is added later.

Here the church has gone up before a hall. Often a hall-church is built first to serve a two-fold purpose; then comes the new church and the hall-church reverts to a hall.

St. James's hall will, when completed, adjoin the church.

After the old church was bombed services were held in the bricked-up south aisle for years. Then came the time for the work on the new building to begin. The ruins were pulled down and services were held in the Chapel of St. Julian—God's House—in Winkle.

OLDEST PARISHIONER

The consecration service by the Bishop of Winchester (the Rt. Rev. Dr. Alwyn Williams) will begin at 10.30 on the morning of September 29. He will conduct the first ceremony of sung Eucharist as the conclusion of the consecration.

Taking part, too, will the Bishop of Southampton (the Rt. Rev. K. E. N. Lamplugh).

Among those in the congregation will be the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. K. E. Cawte, JP).

The vicar is hoping that the oldest member of the congregation, 93-year-old Mrs. White, a parish worker for many years, will be present. Her son, Mr. W. H. White has been a churchwarden and head server for over 30 years.

Most of Southampton's town parish churches were destroyed or severely damaged in the autumn of 1940. St. Mary's was among them; and now the consecration of what Mr. Marshall wants to become "the church of the back streets" swiftly follows that of Southampton's Mother Church.



The vestments and frontals, with intricate gold thread and