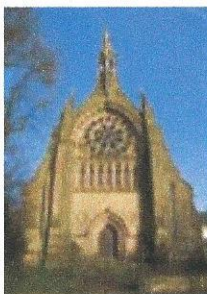


The de Trafford mansion itself was eventually demolished at the end of the war, although one of the gateways remains. But otherwise, All Saints is the main relic of the family's many centuries of association with the area. It's a stunning church whose interior is dominated by alternating red Runcorn with white Painswick stone. It was the historian Nikolaus Pevsner who described it as the masterpiece of its architect, Edward Welby Pugin, who designed more than one hundred Catholic churches in all, including the Church and Friary of St Francis in Gorton, Manchester, known as Gorton Monastery; Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire, and Wrexham Cathedral.



CHANGES

But the park's transformation into an industrial heartland, and the decision to build a swing bridge across the ship canal adjacent to the church, meant the original vision of Sir Humphrey de Trafford to build a church for the growing Catholic community petered out. The residential population of the area dwindled and All Saints has not been a parish for almost sixty years. Since 1962, the church has been in the hands of the Franciscan Friars Conventual of Great Britain and Ireland, who have cared for its legacy.

Those who are interested in its history and the history of the area are hopeful that All Saints could become better known in the future: it was recently given an important boost in the form of a grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, with an award of £85,000 for repairs to its roof and to the de Trafford family chapel located within the church.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of
all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

FIRST READING Apocalypse 7:2-4. 9-14

PSALM Psalm 23

RESPONSE Such are the men who seek your
face, O Lord.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. R.
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. R.
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they
shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for
the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Next Sunday's Readings:

1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

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A CATHEDRAL IN MINIATURE: ALL SAINTS,
BARTON-UPON-IRWELL, MANCHESTER

It's been called "a cathedral in miniature" – but sadly, the masterpiece of architect Edward Welby Pugin in Manchester is a church without a parish.

Its fascinating story is set against the backdrop of the Industrial Revolution: the church was originally built between 1865 and 1868 and funded by the area's Catholic landowner, Sir Humphrey de Trafford, and his wife Annette – he paid for the building costs, which were £24,000 (around £3 million in today's money), and Annette paid for the high altar. The de Traffords had, since 1200, been based at Trafford Park in Manchester: they were recusants who had faced persecution through the years of Catholic repression, which is why their coat of arms to this day features a wheatsheaf thresher – it's believed it's because during the English Civil War a member of the family escaped the Puritan Roundhead army by pretending to be a farm worker.

The de Traffords' fortunes changed after Catholic emancipation in the nineteenth century and in 1841 the then head of the clan, John Trafford, was created a baronet by Queen Victoria. The next few years were the family's heyday and their home was a breathtakingly beautiful park with deer, meadows and grassland – a tree-lined avenue led up to a large house.

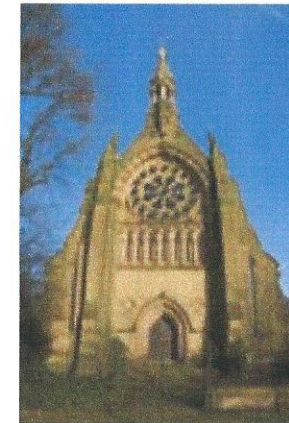
In 1781 the Bridgewater Canal had been built along the periphery of the park; but it would be another canal one hundred years later that would lead to the departure of the de Traffords. The Manchester Ship Canal, opened in 1894, brought industry much too close for Sir Humphrey's liking: the idea that factories, terraced houses and pollution would soon encroach on the family's rural idyll threw him into despair. He offered Trafford Park to Manchester Corporation to develop as a park for the city, but the council dithered; so he sold instead to a developer, who went on to create the biggest industrial park in Western Europe, not to mention the site that became home for Manchester United Football Club.

During the Second World War, Trafford Park was an important centre of manufacturing, with bomber planes and engines built there. Unsurprisingly it was targeted by the Luftwaffe, especially during the Manchester blitz of 1940.

Houses
of God



Joanna Moorhead looks at the forgotten church which has been described as "Pugin's masterwork".



31 OCTOBER 2021

ALL SAINTS

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III