



# INTRODUCTION





St Saviour's School has a long and rich history stretching back over 150 years. During this time, the school has mirrored many themes and local and national events which have shaped Poplar life since Victorian times: from being founded in the 1860s to help the poor, to suffering bombing during the first half of the 20th century and being rebuilt at a time of hope in the 1950s. In creating this guide, we hope to inspire our pupils, families and community to learn about our shared heritage and to support the learning which takes place in our school.

However, this book is just a start. If you or any family members and friends have memories of the school and the local area, we would love to hear them so that they can be added to this living history.

Fanoula Smith, Headteacher

A view of Chrisp Street, c.1900. Some of the people pictured probably attended St. Saviour's School.

#### A history of St. Saviour's School



# TIMELINE

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Accession of Queen Victoria.	
Richard Redfearn Goodlad (1809-1880) sells half an acre of his estate to the church.	
Foundation stone of St. Saviour's School laid.	
School opened by the Earl of Harrowby.	
St Saviour's Church built to the east of St. Saviour's School.	
Area around St. Saviour's recorded as being 'the poorest part of Poplar'.	ton
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Death of Queen Victoria.	A CONTRACT
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Nearby Upper North Street School bombed during First World War, killing 18 pupils.	
External corridor added to the school.	C
Old school destroyed by Nazi bombs during the Blitz.	
Lansbury Estate, including Chrisp Street Market, built as part of the Festival of Britain.	
Remains of old school demolished and new school built on Chrisp Street.	
Infants department opened by HRH Princess Margaret.	
St Saviour's Church declared redundant.	
St Saviour's Church severely damaged by fire.	8
Creation of the Victorian Wall, to commemorate the school's 150th anniversary.	A States
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#### EARLY HISTORY AND VICTORIAN POPLAR

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The outline of the Goodlad estate placed over a map of 1894–6 showing the streets forming the St. Saviour's Parish. The red rectangle outlines old St. Saviour's School.

The land upon which old St. Saviour's School was built (now Bartlett Close, Bartlett Park) belonged to Richard Redfearn Goodlad (1809-1880), who inherited it from his father Richard Goodlad (1755-1821), a merchant for the East India Company in Bengal during the late 18th century. The land during the early 19th century, known as Poplar Fields, was open land used for market gardening and pasture. ase Control St Lindfield St Lindfield St Hind Grove

A contemporary map of the former St. Saviour's parish, now Bartlett Park. The red rectangle marks the location of old St. Saviour's School.

urban. Streets of houses were built rapidly; by 1859 there were around 200 houses and by 1868 around 400 had been built in this area.

Demand for a new school and church soon increased and Reverend Thomas Nowell, rector of All Saints' Church, Poplar, led a committee to plan a building project to support this increasingly poor area of Poplar.

> In 1863 Goodlad sold half an acre of his land to the church for £1,208 6s 8d and in the following year, the foundation stone of St. Saviour's School was laid.

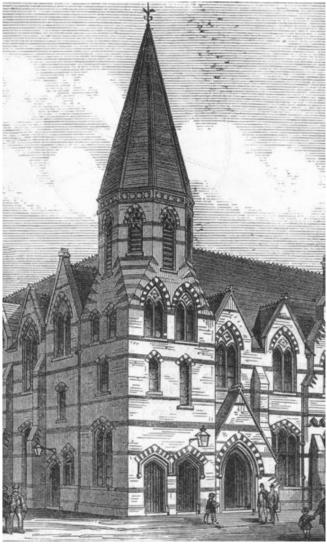
St. Saviour's Church, south front from Northumbria Street, 1947.

A history of St. Saviour's School

However, from around 1850, Poplar witnessed a huge expansion in population growth, and the character of the area fast changed from rural to increasingly



# ST. SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL



St. Saviour's School, north elevation from Arcadia Street.

The school was designed in a grand Gothic style by the architects F. & H. Francis. The design, which included brick and stone elevations and an imposing steeple, reflected its function as a beacon of learning and advancement and to look impressive from the three streets which surrounded it: Arcadia Street, Northumbria Street (now Northumberland Street) and Hill Place Street. The school was constructed by builder William Howard of Covent Garden at a total cost of £3,687. It was opened on 1 December 1865 by Dudley Ryder, 2nd Earl of Harrowby (1798-1882).

Harrowby was a prominent figure in Victorian society. He was a politician, MP for Tiverton and Liverpool, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lord Privy Seal. He was also regarded as among the most stalwart and prominent defenders of the Church of England.



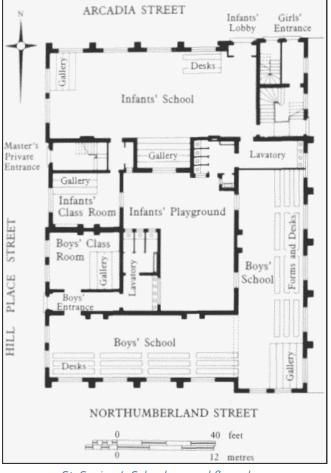
Dudley Ryder, 2nd Earl of Harrowby, opened the school in 1865.





A contemporary photograph of St. Saviour's School, from Hill Place Street, shortly after it was built.

Note: the height of the surrounding terraces of houses, which would have further emphasised the height of the school.



Internally, the school could accommodate up to 900 or 1,000 pupils and was laid out in a quadrangular plan.

The boys and infants were on the ground floor, around a small central yard (or infants' playground), with the girls on the first floor, together with two residences (each of four rooms plus domestic offices) for the master and mistress.

The image above shows the Master's Private Entrance to the left and the Boys' Entrance to the right.

St. Saviour's School, ground floor plan.



## FATHER DOLLING



The legendary Father Robert William Radclyffe Dolling (1851–1902), known as Father Dolling, was an Anglican priest whose life work was to serve the poor, and improve living conditions in deprived areas. Born in Northern Ireland to a wealthy family, he was educated at Harrow School and Cambridge University.

He worked in Stepney during 1883 -85 and then Landport in Portsmouth from 1885-95 - at the time considered to be one of the worst slums in England. From 1898 to 1902 he worked as vicar of St. Saviour's Church and worked for the children and local community.

Having always suffered ill health, he visited the United States in 1897 in the hope of improved fitness. During his time there, his preaching made a deep impression and inspired the



Bishop of Chicago to offer him the Deanery of the Cathedral. Dolling would have probably accepted this offer had he not accepted to take charge of St. Saviour's Church in Poplar 12 hours earlier!

Dolling returned to the UK and the following year he

became vicar of St. Saviour's Church in 1898 - at a time when parts of the district had developed a distinctly grim character. The area around St Saviour's was thought to be 'the poorest part of Poplar' with 'rows of mean and small houses of that dreary sameness so usual in the East End'.

Every year the employment of the inhabitants had become increasingly unskilled and casual. The men would pick up odd jobs at the docks, but often would be out of work for days or weeks at a time.

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H. Haviour'	No. of the second se	ar, E.
The Parish consists of 44 acres and 1,104 houses, of which 649 have six ro four rooms,—two, three, and even four	oms, 157 have five	e rooms, and 200 have
<ol> <li>The Schools, in which 900 Child in which 1 and six men live, were closed declared it " an abomination" and "a s was completed, so that 1 was forced to o the Schools.</li> </ol>	by order of the Sau ink of iniquity," un	nitary Authorities, who til the drainage system
Estimated Cost of the Work.	Collected.	Required.
£918 I must raise this £351 at once.	£567	£351
So I had to buy Five Houses at at To make them sanitary and habitah A very generous friend gave me	le cost	£1,474
I had to borrow the rest. I want e borrowed from the Bank.	specially to pay o	£1,174 off the £500 which I
III. Every day the destitute and of work, the sick and dying, need help. T	his means money.	
I want Workers, District Visite		hool Teachers.
I want money for my special as I want Clothes to sell in the S Letters for my Sick.		my Houses, Hospital
I want you to take my Magazina	, 2/6 post free. App	ply to Miss G. DOLLING.
	R. R. DO	LLING.

A public notice written by Father Dolling, c.1900.

Dolling worked tirelessly to improve the living standards, health and sanitation for the people living in these slums and wrote public notices appealing for money to help increase the support the church could provide:

'Every day the destitute and out of work, men and women too old to work, the sick and the dying, need help. This means money.'

Ironically, Father Dolling's own health continued to suffer and, despite taking plenty of rest, he preached his last sermon at the afternoon Children's Vespers at St. Saviour's on Easter Sunday, 1902. He cared for the children of St. Saviour's so deeply and it was fitting that this should be his final public act. He died a month later on 15 May.





A group of clergy, St. Saviour's Church, c.1920, some of whom may have assisted with organising the school's residential trips.



St. Saviour's School Camp at Old Tree, 1938.



A group of St. Saviour's School pupils at the seaside during Old Tree Camp, 1938. Such experiences would have been a revelation to pupils.

St. Saviour's School continued its good work within the community after Father Dolling's death. The school found much favour with school inspectors during the first forty years of the 20th century with numerous positive comments, as this example dated 13 October 1908:

'This is a pleasant school to visit, the children and their teachers understand each other thoroughly and work goes on smoothly and vigorously.'

A particularly admired aspect of the church's involvement was the work of successive vicars in arranging holidays for the children, such as to Old Tree camp. Such opportunities for the children to escape the grind of their daily lives proved hugely beneficial.

During the war years - World War I (1914-18) and World War II (1939-45) - life for the residents of Poplar became even harder. In addition to the extreme poverty, people had to endure the fear of terrifying bomb raids. On 13 June 1917, Upper North Street School (now Mayflower Primary School), a short walk away from St. Saviour's, was hit by a bomb from a German plane called a Gotha. Eighteen pupils were killed, sixteen





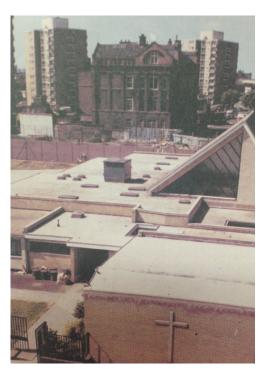
Clearing the devastation, North Street School, 1913.

of which were aged between 4 to 6 years. The impact of this event was felt across the country and the funeral, held a week later, was one of the largest in London.

Sadly, St. Saviour's School suffered the same fate during World War II. One night during the Blitz of 1940/41, where heavy air raids targeted industrial areas and ports, the school was destroyed by Nazi bombs. The derelict remains were eventually demolished some ten years later in or after 1953.

Around the same time in the mid-1950s, the new school was built in its current location on Chrisp Street.

The building followed the popular architectural style of the period which had been first used for the



A view of the new St. Saviour's School, probably taken from St. Gabriel's Church opposite (since demolished).

Festival of Britain development on the Lansbury Estate and Chrisp Street Market. It was a light, modern, single storey structure which was in complete contrast to the towering Victorian building of the past and the devastated the post- War landscape

surrounding it.

The school expanded further in 1969 with the building of an infant's department opened by HRH Princess Margaret on 31 October.



A cutting from the Church Times reporting the school's opening by Princess Margaret, 1969.

Our Father, which art in learns, Hallowed be they there, They Kington come. They will be doe in earth, As it us in heaven que in this is a mir deally been that pope the is a mir deally been that pope the is a mir deally been that pope the is a mir deally been that pope

A selection of Victorian clay pipes discovered during building work at the school.

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### VICTORIAN WALL: OUR LIVING HISTORY

Today, we are very lucky to have some wonderful artefacts and documents from the school's past. To commemorate the school's 150th history, artist Sara Heywood, in association with Bow Arts Trust, created the *Victorian Wall*, a Victorianinspired installation displaying many wonderful pieces from the school's archive along with items found during building projects. The interactive exhibition brings the school's history to life for our pupils and provides many valuable learning opportunities.

Included in the Victorian Wall are public notices and appeals which are a testament to the incredible dedication of men, such as Father Dolling, to helping raise the living standards of the poor of the area. They also make wonderful reading. The log books chart the coming and goings in the school of both pupils and staff, and a constant theme is how to advise the local families in matters of health and sanitation. The logs also record the punishments meted out to hapless pupils, and the protestations of outraged parents!

Please be assured that the cane on display is no longer in use today!

List of School Jongs he etterry Belle. ome lasus and la The breeze bee Jele of Beanty the steer my book to Enirs ide Good bye Three blind mile ] Rounds y clecked rear

St. Saviour's School Log Book, 1879.



The cane: a well used St. Saviour's School behaviour strategy during the late 19th and early 20th century (not in use today!).



Pupils celebrating the school's 150th birthday in 2015.



#### ST. SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL OPENED IN 1865... What else happened that year?

6 February	Death of Isabella Beeton, the legendary Victorian writer known as Mrs Beeton.	Mirs. Beeton's Book or Book of Book of Housekold Management
4 July	Lewis Carroll publishes his children's novel <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.</i>	nagement
5 July	Introduction of the first speed limit in Great Britain - 2 mph in towns and 4 mph in the country.	Alice in Wonderland
28 September	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson graduates as Britain's first woman doctor.	
November	Publication of Charles Dickens' novel <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> concludes.	Charles Dickens (1812–1870
4 December	Birth of celebrated British nurse, Edith Cavell.	
30 December	Birth of Rudyard Kipling, author of <i>Jungle Book</i> .	Edith Cavell (1865-1915)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Queen Victoria (W. & D. Downey, Royal Collection / Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II); Earl of Harrowby (National Portrait Gallery); Father Dolling (Edward Arnold / Project Canterbury); Princess Margaret (Getty Images); 1894-6 map (British History Online); contemporary map (Google); school plan (British History Online); Upper North Street School (Mayflower Primary School); all other images (St. Saviour's School Archive).



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