

Free Church 100

The Free Church in Hampstead Garden Suburb was constituted on 18 February 1910. This was due to a decision to hold services separately from the Church of England being taken in May 1909. In November of that year a covenant had been established pledging those presently involved, to work towards becoming a self-governing congregation. This was achieved in February 1910 and Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church came into being.

The first minister, Rev James Henry Rushbrooke was inducted later that year and the building was erected in 1911. One hundred years later, the Free Church continues to be an active and enthusiastic supporter of the Suburb community while at the same time remaining true to the principles that guided its founding 'fathers', as a people gathered by God to maintain consistent witness to the Christian Faith as expressed within the tradition of the Free Churches.

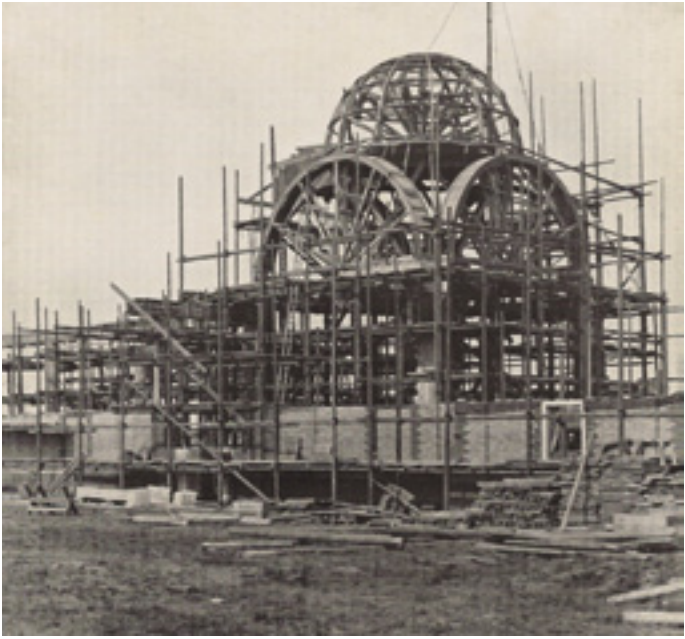
So, what is the 'Free' Church? Originally meaning 'free from the establishment', it was founded by Protestant Christians dissenting from the proposition that there could or should be a 'state' or 'established' church – what we know as the 'Church of England'. Their roots can be traced back to the 'Separatists' who 'separated' themselves from the Church of England during the late 16th Century. The Free Church tradition argues for the 'separation' of church and state, both in terms of the activities of the church, and the affairs of state; each should be free to be a constructive critic of the other.

HGS Free Church has developed over its 100 years. Now, the notion of 'Free' is understood more widely, maybe even more deeply. It is a congregation that acknowledges that every individual member ought to be free to contribute to the life of the church as they are able, and that as far as is reasonable, the church should be able to accommodate the contribution each can make while at the same time creating a 'whole' that really is 'greater than the sum of the parts'. And so, we don't tell you what to believe, but we expect your belief to find meaningful expression within the life of the church and the wider community.

We are a self-governing congregation, if there was no congregation there would be no church. We raise all our own money and pay all our own bills, often with generous help from others of you. We maintain our own buildings.

We are conscious that we are a part of a particular, even peculiar community that is Hampstead Garden Suburb and we are becoming increasingly conscious that all of us need each other if this sense of community is to be maintained. If there is a vision for the next 100 years it is exactly that, to build community, among, within and beyond the congregation; among, within and beyond the Suburb. If you want to be part of anything in which we are involved, please get in touch. Thank God, and thank you for this last 100 years. Here's to the future...

REV. IAN TUTTON



Building starts on Lutyen's Free Church

Katharine Cheng makes fantastic cakes for the Traidcraft sale and Church Bazaar. Here with Rev Ian Tutton



Toddlers group meets in the vestry



Free Church Christmas Tree Gift Service

The Christmas Tree Gift Service took place in the Free Church Hall on 13 December and the children and young people acted in a play 'Follow the Star'. In the play the Wisemen research the meaning of the bright star and they send their servants to buy the presents to take to the new born King.

After the play a speaker from Family Action spoke about their 'Young Carers' service in Islington. £370 was collected for the charity for activities like ice skating and cinema trips for the young carers.

Then the children lit candles on the Christmas Tree and sang 'Away in a Manger' by candlelight.

JENNY STONHOLD



A childrens' service in the Hall

SUBURB NEWS IS PRODUCED AND DELIVERED TO YOU BY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB FREE CHURCH

Celebrating 100 years of faithful witness at the heart of Suburb life

Please join us at any or all of our Centenary Celebrations:

7.30PM SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Gala Charity Concert given by the London International Orchestra

11AM SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving

7.30PM SATURDAY 15 MAY

'Come and Sing' Messiah

3PM SUNDAY 16 MAY

Service of Thanksgiving & Praise, followed by a picnic on the Square

FRIDAY 9 JULY - SUNDAY 11 JULY

Centenary Flower Festival

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

An evening of entertainment for all the family in conjunction with Garden Suburb Theatre

11AM SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Service of Rededication



For further information please contact
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