

The Church that was never built

As part of the laying out of the Charlotteville estate Thomas Sells' had planned to build a church at the top of Jenner Road on the left hand side (when going up the hill) at its junction with Harvey Road. The church was to be called St John the Evangelist and it was intended that the house on the opposite corner would be the rectory. For whatever reason, quite possibly the lack of willpower and money, the church was never built and the plot was sold on in 1896 to become a set of semi-detached three story villas which still stand on the site today (2016).

And the one that was

In October 1888 the Poyle Estate completed the purchase of 67 plots of building land from Lord Onslow, these would become the extension to Addison Road which had been started some 20 years earlier. In 1896 the Poyle Estate sold plots 61 to 67A to Cyril Fletcher Grant who was the rector of Holy Trinity and St Mary's for the sum of £160. These were the plots at the furthest end (from the town) on the right hand side of what is now Addison Road.

Philip Charles May who lived in Waterden Road appears to have been a very early Design and Build architect for he submitted the ground plan for a church and hall on the site and in September 1897 was awarded the contract to build the same for the princely sum of £1,118.



The Church and Mission Hall later known as St Luke's and The Institute

At the time the buildings were referred to as the Mission Church which was built from corrugated iron and the Mission Hall which was brick built. Later on the church would become St Luke's (the patron saint of physicians) also known locally as the 'Tin Tabernacle' and the hall became known as The Institute.

The reason for construction of these building at the extreme of the estate was that it had been expected that Charlotteville would expand even further along the Addison Road far into the fields beyond. This was something that never happened and so the two building were always remote from the core population. Even so the church was used for baptisms from 1897, confirmations from 1925 and marriages from 1937.

St Luke's Church survived until 1966 when the rector of Holy Trinity, Michael Hocking, saw the fruition of plans he had made back in 1963. Both buildings were razed over a weekend much to the dismay of many locals. Opening in 1967, Addison Court had 36 flats to house the elderly from Holy Trinity ward. Michael Hocking rather vainly named the small chapel in the block 'St Michaels'. It is little used and is licensed for baptisms adding a further cruel twist to a building designed to house the elderly rather than those just born.