

PRESS RELEASE
August 29th, 2023

Treasures Revealed: An Exhibition

September 16th- October 15th

PRESS PREVIEW: Saturday 9th September, 2-5pm.

St. James' Church, Clapham

Part of: Heritage Open Days

A SELECTION OF PHOTOS ARE CONTAINED IN THE ACCOMPANYING APPENDIX

This September, as part of this year's national Heritage Open Days programme, St. James' Church, Clapham is opening its doors to welcome visitors to *Treasures Revealed*, a unique exhibition that documents both the building's inspiring story, as well as the remarkable work of the church architect (and architect of St. James' Church) Nugent Cachemaille-Day (FRIBA).

This is the fourth major exhibition that St. James' Church has staged in recent years; in 2020 its photography exhibition, *Hope*, was featured by the BBC. This new exhibition has been created and curated by Jim Grover, the award-winning Clapham-based social documentary photographer whose 2023 exhibition, *Windrush: A Voyage through the Generations* received extensive national media coverage.

***Treasures Revealed* is in two parts:**

The St. James' Story (1829-1958) brings to life with vintage photographs, maps, prints, architect drawings, documents and other archive materials, the remarkable story of St. James' Church from its original construction in 1829, through to it being destroyed by bombs in 1940, and the many challenges confronted by the Parish and architect in the 1950s to build the new St. James' Church which was consecrated and re-opened in 1958.

The work of architect Nugent Cachemaille-Day, brings to life the work of this innovative, creative and award-winning church architect through a photography exhibition comprising over 75 photographs of 24 of his 50 churches that were built either side of World War II. The 24 churches are also exhibited along a timeline from 1932 to 1963, enabling the visitor to see how his work evolved. This is the first time that such an exhibition of his lifetime's work has been created and presented.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a presentation at 4pm on Saturday, September 16th by Clare Price, Head of Casework at 20th Century Society, and an expert on the work of Cachemaille-Day.

Revd. Kit Gunasekera, Vicar of St. James' Church, said: "I am so pleased to be opening our doors, once again, to welcome in our local community and to reveal and experience the fascinating and inspiring story of our beautiful church building."

Jim Grover, exhibition creator and curator said: "This year's Heritage Open Days theme is 'Creativity Unwrapped'. The creativity of our church architect, Nugent Cachemaille-Day, is remarkable and I know that visitors will enjoy seeing examples from some twenty bold and radical churches that he designed, including our own which is one of the finest examples of his post-war work."

Listings Info

Title: Treasures Revealed

Exhibition venue: St. James' Church, Park Hill, Clapham, SW4 9PB.

Dates: Saturday 16th September – Sunday 15th October.

Exhibition opening times:

Saturdays: 10 - 5pm (light refreshments/home-made cakes available)

Sundays: 2-5pm

Tuesdays and Fridays: 11-2pm.

PRESS PREVIEW: Saturday 9th September, 2-5pm.

Admission: Free

Media enquiries:

Revd. Kit Gunasekera (Vicar):

E-mail: kit.gunasekera2014@gmail.com

Phone: 0207 652 0882

Jim Grover (Exhibition creator and curator; images for media use are available):

E-mail: jim.grover@mac.com

Phone: 07803 855889

www.jimgroverphotography.com

About

St. James' Church, Clapham.

St. James' Church is a Church of England church in Clapham, South London and a diverse faith community serving the spiritual and practical needs of its parish.

The building is Grade II listed. It was designed by the architect Nugent Cachemaille-Day and re-consecrated in 1958 following the destruction of the previous church building by bombs in September 1940.

This will be the fourth photography exhibition staged in St. James' Church. The last exhibition it staged was 'Hope' in March 2020. It was featured by the BBC.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-51720294>

<https://www.stjamesclapham.org.uk>

Nugent Cachemaille-Day (FRIBA).

Nugent Cachemaille-Day was born in South Woodford, Essex, in 1896. His early architectural career included a partnership in Welch, Cachemaille-Day & Lander from 1928-1935; the firm designed a wide variety of buildings in London and the south East, including houses, shops, hotels and churches. One of Cachemaille-Day's first churches was St Nicholas in Burnage, Manchester in 1932 which was described by Pevsner: "A sensational church for its country and its day", as well as "revolutionary".

In 1935 Cachemaille-Day set up on his own, specialising in church commissions. Between 1932 and 1963 he designed some 50 churches up and down the country, many as part of rebuilding and restoring churches following the devastation of World War II. His designs were bold, radical and innovative. 21 of the churches he designed, some 40%, are now Grade II or II* listed.

Cachemaille-Day was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1926, and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1935. He was awarded a RIBA gold medal for his work (1932-33) at The Church of St Saviour's in Greenwich. He died in Brighton, Sussex in 1976 aged 79.

For a short article on his life and work:

<https://www.modernism-in-metroland.co.uk/blog/the-bricks-of-faith-the-churches-of-nf-cachemaille-day>

For images of some his churches (enter Cachemaille-Day' in the search box)

<https://www.ribapix.com>

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days (8th-17th September 2023) is England's largest grass roots heritage festival involving over 40,000 volunteers and 5,000 events.

This year's theme is Creativity Unwrapped inviting local organisers to explore England's history of creativity in all its forms.

This is the first time that St. James' Church has participated.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/about>

ENDS