

St John & St James Church of England Primary School

(previously St James)

Celebrating 160 years

JOHN SNELL

of Edmonton in the County of Middlesex

In 1847 John Snell left 1 acre in his will, to
be the site of a Church of England
school for the poor.



St James School Edmonton

A school for boys was therefore opened by Saint James's church in 1851. The boy's school was affiliated to the National Society.

Girls' and infants' departments were added in 1871 and there were further enlargements in 1879, 1885, and 1893. In 1906 752 children attended the school.



History of The National Society

The Society was founded on 16 October 1811. At the founding meeting, a statement about educational purpose was recorded: "That the National Religion should be made the foundation of National Education, and should be the first and chief thing taught to the poor, according to the excellent Liturgy and Catechism provided by our Church." The Society became highly active in many aspects of education, from the publishing of books and the provision of equipment to the training of teachers.

The mission of the Society was to found a Church school in every parish in England and Wales. By offering grants to prospective founders, on condition that development was fostered on chosen lines, the Society funded the construction, enlarging and fitting-up of schoolrooms. It was involved with the foundation of the majority of Church of England and Church in Wales schools, which were originally known as National Schools.

The Society trained teachers for these schools, starting from its Central School in London. Later the Society founded its own colleges and gave support to colleges founded by the dioceses.

From its earliest days the Society was also concerned that schools should have access to adequate, reasonably priced religious books for children

St James School and St John & St James School Community

The latter years of the nineteenth century saw a vast working class influx into Edmonton from the overrowded inner suburbs, attracted by the cheap workmen's fares. By 1914 large areas had been built over.

Since the 1960s Edmonton has been transformed from a predominantly white, working class industrial suburb into a multicultural area by commonwealth immigration.

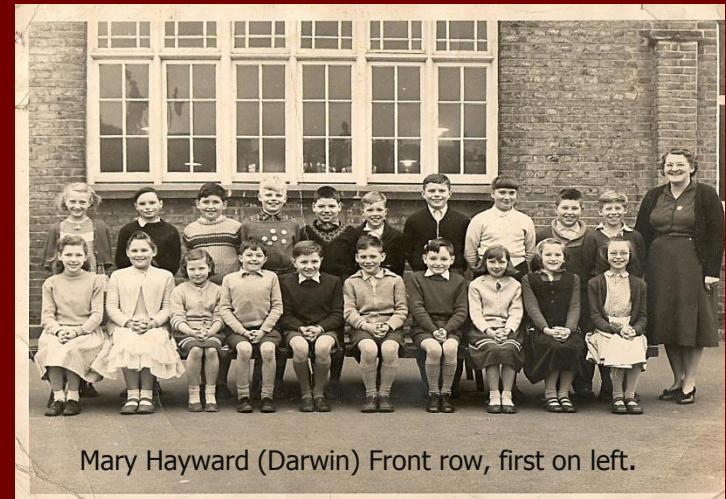
Today Edmonton has a young, ethnically diverse population.

MARY HAYWARD (DARWIN) came to St James school in the 1950s

Mary had a difficult childhood growing up in Edmonton. She has written about her experiences in a book entitled **Invisible Child ISBN 978-1-907294-75-4** It is "an inspiring and uplifting true story that shows how a damaged childhood can become an asset, in fighting back and winning against all odds."



"This is a picture of me in the Junior School, St James C of E. I must of been about 8 years old at this time. The teacher here was a lovely woman. She was very good with our class."



Mary Hayward (Darwin) Front row, first on left.

I must have been about 10 years old. This teacher was very strict, perhaps reflected on the serious nature of the children's faces. There were children from another class with us in this group "

Iris Hinklin's (Kearney) memories of school days in St James during World War II



Iris lived in Haslebury Road –

"I went to St James school when I was five until I was 15I must say I did enjoy my school days. The day started with prayers first, then we would start our lessons. We Had Mrs Belmont who took us for PT then we would have Mrs Stubbs for geography, then if you were caught talking you 'at to go to Mrs Kemp, you had the cane across the hand and it hurt you would not do it again."

" Every lesson we had you stayed in your classroom. Then we 'at to go too Raynham Road school for cookery lessons, that was good."

"When the war broke out we use to take our gas mask to school every day. You would be sitting there doing your work then the siren would you go, then we 'at to run to get into the air raid shelter and carry on with your lesson - when the all clear came on we went back to our class. We use to have a laugh....."



Memories of Shirley Driver

1959

"I remember Miss Kampkin (or similar name) was headmistress when I started at St. James followed by Mr Edmonds as headmaster.

In the winter we had a big open fire in Mrs Burlock's class and they always stood the milk crates around it, the milk got so warm it tasted awful.

We attended Harvest festival and other services at St James church I think it was Rev Miller at the time.

We had school teams named after explorers, I was in Scott & there were Livingstone, Cook, Drake, Rhodes & Hilary. Two of us would go around on a Friday collecting the points.

I am sure we had a Maypole which we used to dance around and really enjoyed.

I didn't stay to school dinners as I was a really fussy eater, I went home lunchtimes I don't think you were allowed to take packed lunches in those days.

In my last year I went on the school trip to Mundesley in Norfolk I think it was for a week we stayed in a house called Raxawa.

I have memories of playing marbles & lots of skipping, spinning tops & ball games in the playground.

We didn't really have homework I think if we asked the teacher they would give us some to take home which we quite enjoyed.

We had prize giving each year & two years running I had a book presented to me.

One of the other teachers I remembered was Mrs Harding I believe we had her for needlework & other subjects, my favourite was Mrs Burlock we went with her & the school once to the Royal Albert Hall on a trip."



"I attended St. James School but only from 1954 to 1957/8. I recall that Miss Campkin was headmistress and she was kind enough to give me a piano when I left! We kept the piano for 28 years!! Mr Miller was vicar at St. James Church and I was friends with his daughters Liz and Margaret Miller. The Miller family emigrated to Australia some years ago."

Desni Mahoney - 1957

" I started school at St James in 1948 when I was four years old and loved every minute of my time there. My father went to the same school and I was also christened in St James Church. My mother and father also got married there so it was a very familiar place to me. The school rooms had big open fires and outside toilets for us pupils which used to get frozen up in the winters. I have load of happy memories of the teachers and playing all sorts of games in the playground. What a different world that was."

**Gill Bennett
(Marchi)**



Pupils' Memories



Mrs Burlock – 1950s



Mr Hare – 1950s

St James Teachers

Acknowledgements

- Friends Reunited
- Pay Cryer (www.1900s.or.uk)
- The National Society (www.natsoc.org.uk)
- British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk)
- Mary Hayward (Darwin) www.maryharward.co.uk
- Pupils past and present from St James and St John & St James C of E Primary Schools
- Staff past and present from St James and St John & St James C of E Primary Schools
- Kate Godfrey and The Enfield Local Studies Centre & Archive