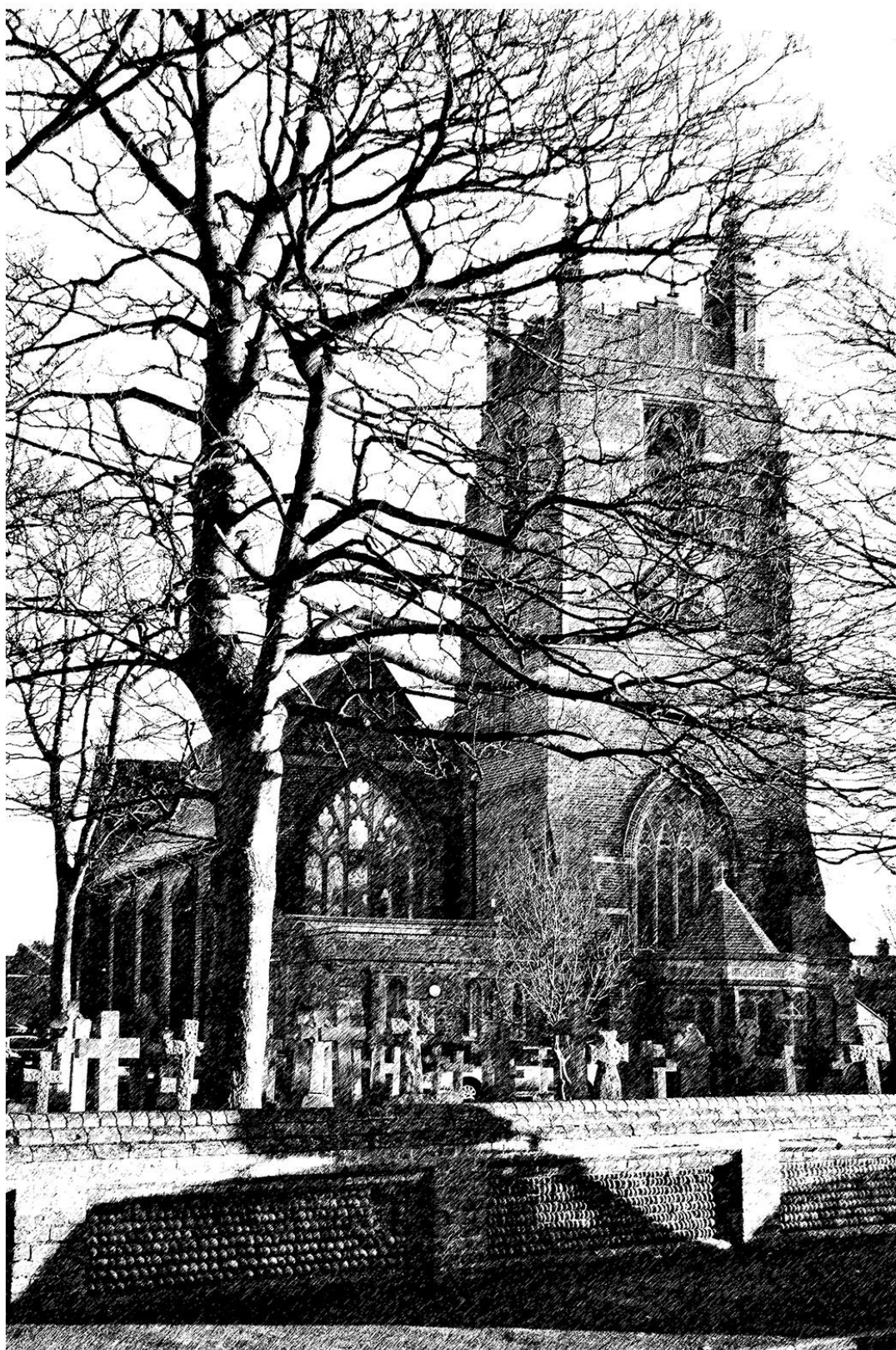


ST. ANNE'S ON THE SEA

Town Trail



St. Anne's Parish Church which gave the town its name



INTRODUCTION

Until the 1870s, present day St. Anne's was an area of sand dunes, fields and farms, known as Heyhouses. The Clifton family of Lytham Hall, owned all the land around. In the 1840s under the guidance of their Land Agent, James Fair, the Clifton's began their plan for a new town. In the 1850's they invested in the railway between Lytham and Blackpool, and in the early 1870s they laid out the road from Starr Hills (Fairhaven) to the present St. Anne's Square. A further road then continued to the Parish Church, built in 1873 with money provided by Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton. It was this building, the Parish Church of St. Anne, which subsequently provided the name for the new town.

In 1874 a group of eight Lancashire businessmen, led by Joseph Wood Whitehead, formed the St. Anne's Land and Building Company and negotiated 999-year leases with Thomas Fair, who had succeeded his father as Land Agent to the Clifton family, to develop what became known as the Square Mile.

When walking the trail please consider all the surroundings and 'look up' to take in the details and designs of the heritage and architecture.

The Trail starts at the Pier ①. It was built in 1885; the entrance was added in 1899. In 1903 a Moorish Pavilion seating 750 was added. It was destroyed by fire in July 1974. The Floral Hall suffered the same fate in 1982.

With your back to the pier, walk to the left into the Peace & Happiness Gardens, noticing the wide expanse of beach and sand dunes as you go.

There you see the statue of comedian Les Dawson, erected in 2008 ②.

①



②



Return to the pier and cross the promenade at the pedestrian crossing. Before you is the Town hall, originally built as the Southdown Hydro Hotel. ③ Note the decorative pebbles on the walls, a typical local feature. This is the finest of many buildings constructed with stone imported from East Lancashire and given the name 'Porritt Houses' after William Porritt, the man who built many of them.

The red brick flats on the opposite side of the road have replaced the magnificent Majestic Hotel. See the original entrance gates which carry the letters IH, as the Imperial Hydro was the original name of the hotel. ④

Walk towards the town centre, away from the sea. Then cross Clifton Drive to see the original tram waiting room with its Blue Plaque of the Blackpool, St. Anne's and Lytham Tramways Company which was designed to impress. ⑤

Turn left here along Clifton drive. Beyond the junction is the stone built United Reformed Church which opened in 1896 ⑥. Note the Aldi building which features design elements sympathetic to surrounding architectural styles.



③



④



⑤



⑥



Further on you come to an entrance to Ashton Gardens ⑦. Notice the crest of the former St. Anne's Urban District Council with the motto "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Est" (*The welfare of the people is the highest law*). Lord Ashton (a Lancaster linoleum manufacturer) gave money to allow the town to acquire these gardens, which were then named after him.

Walk into the park towards the War Memorial ⑧, unveiled in 1924, which was designed and sculpted by Sir Walter Marsden MC. It is made of white granite with bronze statuary and is one of the finest in Lancashire.

Turn right and walk through another set of gates, between the two original lodges ⑨

Before you is Garden Street. On the corner to the left you see the former Public Hall and Picture House, now a Masonic Hall, market and shops ⑩. This is one of several highly decorative town centre buildings; they have interesting faience and terracotta detailing in the art nouveau style, designed by John Dent Harker, a local resident.

The building to your right at the other end of Garden Street, above Edinburgh Woollen Mill, on the corner with St. Anne's Square, is the first block to be built in the Square, in the late 1870's ⑪.

⑦



⑧



⑩



⑪



Look towards the pier, the buildings on your right were originally houses with long gardens. On your left is the ornate classical frontage of the HSBC Bank. A listed building, of 1908 (12).

Nearby, at roof height is an mythical creature with a human head which is said to have been put there to face out a rival Builder across the road. Note the fine decorative tile work on the upper floors of the Boots Building of 1906 (13).

Turning back towards The Square, take the right fork over the railway bridge (The Crescent). Looking down from the bridge is St. Anne's Railway Station. Continue over and through the traffic lights and along St. Anne's Road East. You will pass the Roman Catholic Church Our Lady Star of the Sea (14) on your right, built 1890, with a gold weather vane in the form of a yacht.

(12)



(14)



(13)



On the corner of St. Anne's Road East and Headroomgate Road stands a lamp by the Lych Gate which commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. St. Anne's Parish Church (15), designed by Lancaster architects Paley and Austin, was built in 1873. A grave near the porch holds the bodies of five of the St. Anne's lifeboatmen lost in the Mexico Disaster in 1886.

To the rear of the Church is Heyhouses Infants School. In the grounds is a blue plaque marking the achievements of aviators Alcock & Brown. The building was designed by Maxwell and Tuke, the architects of Blackpool Tower in 1879. It is only one of two surviving examples of their work in St. Anne's. On the other side of the cross roads is Beauclerk Gardens where a hoard of English Civil War coins was found in 1961.



Retrace your steps along St. Anne's Road East to The Crescent. Turn left onto St. Andrew's Road South, on the left you will see a stone memorial and Blue Plaque dedicated to 'Alpha House' the first permanent tenanted home in St. Anne's, built in 1875 (16).

Turn right onto Wood Street and proceed to Clifton Drive where you will see directly opposite one of the most iconic buildings in town, The Public Offices (17) of 1900. A Blue plaque commemorates this as the first public building to be erected in St. Anne's and is a visible statement of early civic pride. (It is currently no longer in use).

(15)



(17)



Turn left, cross the road at the zebra crossing, and continue to walk left. At the next corner is The Drive Methodist Church (18), built in 1891. Behind it to the right is the Chapel in the Dunes, built in 1877, the first non-conformist place of worship in St. Anne's. The Chapel was conceived by James Maxwell, better known for designing Blackpool Tower.

Turn right down East Bank Road and on the right you will see The Old Lifeboat House (19), which was home of the 'Laura Janet' that set out on the storm of 9th December 1886 to give help to the crew of German ship the Mexico. All the crew were lost, together with most of the crew of the Southport lifeboat. It is still the worst disaster in RNLI history – 27 crewmen died in total, leaving 50 orphans.

Retrace your steps to Clifton Drive and turn right. On the next block you will pass the District Club, on the corner of Hornby Road, built in 1875 and formally Kilgrimol School (20).

Continue along Clifton Drive to St. Anne's Library (21), also designed by John Dent Harker. This opened in 1905, and had the benefit of a £3,500 grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

(18)



(19)



(20)



(21)



Next to the Library is the former St. Anne's Technical School (22), designed by County Architect Henry Littler, with a date stone of 1907. The St. Anne's crest can be seen in stained-glass above the entrance doors. This building was saved from demolition by English Heritage and the Lytham St. Anne's Civic Society.

On the opposite corner is St. Thomas's Church (23), which was opened in 1900. It too was designed by Austin and Paley.

On the corner of Links Rd and South Promenade is the Grand Hotel (24). Built in 1896, it is still largely unspoilt – note the cobble boundary walls.

(22)



(23)



(24)



Directly opposite are the Edwardian promenade gardens (25) with a historic waterfall and pebble decorated bridge. There are several structures in the gardens worthy of note, including shelters, an octagonal pavilion, amphitheatre, fountain and Victorian bandstand.

The New Lifeboat House (26) is now on the promenade and can be reached by turning towards the sea from the gardens. It houses the present Lytham St. Anne's ocean-going lifeboat and a small museum and shop. Its interesting modern design is echoed by the café at the far side of the boating pool.

Lastly, as you approach the pier to end the trail, you will be walking the Lancashire Coastal Way. It leads you past the impressive stone memorial to the crew of the 'Laura Janet' (27), designed by Edinburgh architect W.B. Rhind.

(25)



(26)



(27)





CREDITS

The Town Trail was revised and produced by St. Anne's on the Sea Town Council in 2017 and was based on the 2010 edition produced by St. Anne's on the Sea Town Council & Lytham St. Anne's Civic Society.

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Lytham St. Annes Civic Society

KEY:

1. The Pier
2. Les Dawson Statue
3. Entrance Gates to Majestic Hotel
4. Town Hall
5. Tram Waiting Room
6. United Reformed Church
7. Main Entrance to Ashton Gardens
8. War Memorial
9. Twin Lodges
10. The Palace Masonic Hall
11. First Block built in St. Anne's.
12. HSBC Bank Clock Tower
13. Gargoyles and Tile Works
14. Railway Station 'Sir Nigel Gresley'
15. Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
16. St. Anne's Parish Church
17. St. Anne's Parish Rooms
18. Heyhouses School 'Captain John Alcock'
19. War Memorial Hospital
20. Alpha House
21. Frank Dickinson Optometrist
22. Public Offices
23. Drive Methodist Church
24. Old Lifeboat House
25. District Club - Kilgrimol School
26. Carnegie Library
27. Technical School
28. St. Thomas's Church
29. Queen Mary School for Girls (AKS Lytham)
30. George Formby home
31. Promenade Gardens
32. Grand Hotel
33. New Lifeboat Station
34. Laura Janet Memorial

CODE:

- RED = Places of Interest
- BLUE = Commemoration Plaques



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