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This text is made available to readers in advance of its full publication. We welcome suggestions for improvement, references and, of course, we invite readers to point out errors.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT, HARLESCOTT

The detached northern part of the medieval parish of St Alkmund began to be industrialised and developed for housing in the early 20th century. The distance of this new population from the parish church required a local ministry. In 1924 Harlescott was constituted as a conventional district and the Revd John Edward Gordon Cartlidge was appointed curate-in-charge, as well as chaplain to HM Prison Shrewsbury. Cartlidge resided in the housing estate newly built for employees of the Sentinel Waggon Works, where he initially conducted services in the works canteen.¹ The register of baptisms began in 1924 and marriages in 1939.² Land was provided by the Sundorne Castle estate, on the south side of Featherbed Lane, for a temporary church building. Constructed of timber frame and asbestos cladding and dedicated to the Holy Spirit, it opened in 1925.³ A permanent church, by H. L. North and P. M. Padmore of Llanfairfechan, also dedicated to the Holy Spirit, opened at Roseway, on a generous site in the midst of newly built workers' housing, in 1936 at a cost of £2500 and a further £500 for fittings and other costs. It seated 240.⁴ The church was a mission church within the parish of St Alkmunds: for some reason it was never consecrated. By the mid-1950s with the continued growth of Harlescott as a suburb, the church was held to be too small and plans were laid for a new church

It was announced in 1957 that a grant of £10,000 had been made by the Bishop of Lichfield's Campaign Committee for Church Extension towards the cost of building a new church, the overall cost of which was variously reported at £30,000 or £35,000.⁵ On its closure, the 1936 church was sold to the Harlescott Social Club whose premises it remains.

The new church – the Church of the Holy Spirit - was built nearby on Meadow Farm Drive and consecrated on 21 June 1961. The architect was Bernard Miller. Its most obvious feature is a concrete entrance façade with hexagonal openings. There is a short bell tower. On the closure of Field Crescent Methodist Church in 1995, the

¹ *Crockford's Clerical Directory*. For this whole para., see Trinder, *Beyond the Bridges*, 25, 162–3.

² SA, P320/A/1–2.

³ Trinder, *Beyond the Bridges*, 162; OS 25", Shropshire XXXIV.3, revised 1925, published 1927.

⁴ HER Number (PRN): 31882; deposited plans 16 Aug. 1935: SA, DA5/710/59/106; SA, PH/S/13/H/1/38–9; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, 591. D. 97 v.f. (pages from an unidentified architect's magazine).

⁵ *Birmingham Daily Post*, 4 Dec. 1957, 3 Oct. 1959.

Methodist congregation joined the Anglicans of Holy Spirit in a local ecumenical partnership

In 1963 Harlescott achieved parochial status, independent of St Alkmund's and St Mary's, and endowed with a portion of the endowments of St Alkmund's.⁶ The vicar of St Alkmund's who had overseen the building of the new church, Laurence Edward Harrison Caller, became the first vicar of the new parish until he retired from ministry in 1967.⁷ Subsequent incumbents were mid-career clergy, staying at Harlescott for around 10 years. After the departure of Prebendary Martin Frank Walker in 2004, however, Mark Harold Salmon served as priest-in-charge and then vicar until his untimely death in 2019. The vicar of Harlescott has always been supported by a curate.⁸

Emmanuel church, on Mount Pleasant Road in the west of Harlescott parish, was built in 2000–1. A joint venture of the Church of England and the Methodist Church, Emmanuel church has seating for 80–100 people and a clergy house attached. Of brown brick and tile, the main entrance, in the centre of the west end, was originally flanked by pairs of round-arched windows, the gable above decorated with polychrome brickwork and a tall rectangular window incorporating the design of a cross within a circle, and surmounted by a bell-cote. Since 2012, a single-storey vestibule has been added to the front of this elevation and the west window filled in.⁹

Harlescott parish is served by a non-stipendiary vicar, the Revd Lisa Knight, appointed in 2021; the curate ('associate vicar') serves Emmanuel church and resides at the attached vicarage. Services are held every Sunday at both churches, with Holy Communion at each on alternate Sundays.¹⁰

⁶ Beavan, *Short History*, 6.

⁷ *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, The Benefice of Harlescott (Holy Spirit) (Emmanuel): [https://www.crockford.org.uk/places/10488/the-benefice-of-harlescott-\(holy-spirit\)-\(emmanuel\)](https://www.crockford.org.uk/places/10488/the-benefice-of-harlescott-(holy-spirit)-(emmanuel)) (accessed 30 Oct. 2021); *The Church Times*, 14 July 2017, Deaths.

⁸ *Crockford's*, The Benefice of Harlescott.

⁹ Google Street View, Nov. 2012; Harlescott Parish. Emmanuel Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit: <http://www.harlescottparish.org.uk> (accessed 30 Oct. 2021).

¹⁰ Harlescott Parish: <http://www.harlescottparish.org.uk>