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100 YEARS OF BORDESLEY GREEN HISTORY AT LAST!

St. Paul's Crossover, with the aid of a grant from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** has commenced on a project to capture the history of our area for the first time. The centre piece of the project is The Ideal Village, which forms the heart of Bordesley Green but we are keen to capture memories and photographs of the surrounding roads.

We are looking to recruit volunteers to help with the project on various tasks we are seeking to complete:-

- Interview people on their own history or agree to be interviewed themselves.
- Help mount exhibitions and displays.
- Scan in documents and photographs and take pictures of the area today.
- Help organise the digital archive.
- Upload pictures and information to the internet.

If you would like to get involved in any way then please get in touch with the project leader, **Chris Sutton**, at the address above.



St Paul's Church, with the distinctive metal spire, stands at the heart of Bordesley Green. It was opened in 1968 and replaced the original Mission Church.

An Ideal Village for all

The so called Ideal Village in Bordesley Green was built between 1910 and 1914 by Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin. It was the first of several to be built and the idea was to provide quality homes built to high standards. The two men credited with the project were from very different social backgrounds – a schoolteacher and a Lord Mayor. The schoolteacher was Francis Daniels who was born in Ebley near Stroud in Gloucestershire. Daniels came to Birmingham in 1891 and soon recognised a need to provide affordable social security for ordinary working people. Among those who were impressed by Daniels was the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman William Kendrick. With Kendrick as president and Daniels himself as general secretary, the Ideal Society was formed.

By 1910 the society had moved into housing provision and commenced the building of the Ideal Village. The village was designed for artisan workers and included amenities such as shops, a park and a school. The houses were bigger and built in a variety of styles and contrasted greatly to the terraced housing that made up the other nearby roads. Five roads make up the Ideal Village: Belchers Lane, Daniels Road (*named after Francis Daniels*), Drummond Road, Finnemore Road (*named after Society Chairman William Finnemore*) and Marchmont Road. The first houses to be built were in Drummond Road.

Bordesley Green Board School was built as part of the Ideal Village project. It was opened in 1902 by the Birmingham School Board with accommodation for over a thousand children. Also built was St Paul's Mission Church in Finnemore Road. This was opened in 1912 as a chapel of St Margaret's Ward End. It was finally consecrated as a parish church in its own right in 1929.



FACEBOOK GROUP

Bordesley Green History is a page on Facebook which has been set up for members to comment on the history of the area and their lives there. It has got off to a fast start with **222** people already signed up and sharing anecdotes.

You can see the pictures and posts if you are *not* a Facebook member but if you do join you can also comment and upload your own images. Come and join us!

CHURCH ALTARATIONS

The original church still stands across the car park from the new church. Since 1993 it has been home to the nursery and there are still some features of the old church in place. The foundation stone is still in place, although so badly weathered that it is unreadable. The metal supporting beams for the roof are still there too but the rest of the insides were gutted and replaced. The biggest loss must be the two roundel stained glass windows at each end of the church. These were bricked in, with the glass either removed or left in situ. It seems a great shame these were not left as a design feature but luckily someone had the presence of mind to photograph them at the time of the renovations (*see below*).

The outside brickwork looks to have been re-pointed and the small tower with the bell in it was taken down. A new porch was built on to the altar end of the church. Some fixtures were moved to the new church, including the bell, the Second World War memorial and some of the furniture. There does not appear to have ever been a First World War memorial but this is almost certainly because the church was a chapel of St Margaret's in Ward End at the time. The men of Bordesley Green should be found listed there.

