



St Theresa Stansted

th 25 September 1970 - 2020

Golden Jubilee

Brief History of our Parish

St. Theresa of Lisieux, Stansted Mountfitchet

In 1933, a Chapel of Ease was erected on a piece of land in the village of Henham on the Hill, given by the De Steene family, and named after Saint Anthony of Padua. The Chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Brentwood, Bishop Doubleday, on 24th September, 1933.



The chapel would be served from the adjacent parish of Saffron Walden from 1933 until 1958, when a property adjacent to the Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill was purchased and converted into a church. Named after Saint Theresa of Lisieux, it was dedicated by Bishop Patrick Wall of Brentwood on 5th October 1958.



Both buildings would continue to be served from Saffron Walden until 1970, when our first Parish Priest, Father Donald Mills, arrived shortly before Stansted became a separate parish in its own right. The installation of the new Parish of St. Theresa's with St. Anthony's in Henham took place on 25th September 1970 and was presided over by Bishop Patrick Casey of Brentwood.

In 1982, a group of parishioners, together with our parish priest, Fr. Joe Tuohy, travelled to the old Wembley stadium to participate in the Papal Mass, celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, on the occasion of his visit to the UK. In 1999, a report on the condition of St. Anthony's Chapel in Henham resulted in its closure and subsequent demolition. A final service was held in the grounds on 13th June 1999, the Saint's feast day, after 66 years of faithful service to the community.



In 2000, proposals were prepared for a new church complex on land off High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, donated by the Braeckman family. It would consist of a new church, a parish centre and a presbytery.

The church is in the style of an Essex barn and the architect is a local man, Jim Boutwood. The interior of the church is modern, and the liturgical layout and artwork was created by the artist Stephen Foster.



The parish centre was completed first and from December 2000, after the last Mass had been said in St. Theresa of Lisieux, Millside, the new parish centre was used as a church until early 2003.

The dedication of the new Saint Theresa's church building took place on 5th October 2003 and was conducted by the Bishop of Brentwood, Thomas McMahon. In 2010, we celebrated 40 years of our new parish, and in 2020, our parish will complete half a century of service to Saint Theresa of Lisieux – 50 years!



Blessings on our Parish as we celebrate this special milestone.

If anyone can add further to this history, please contact Clair in the office. It would be helpful to have a definitive copy to publish on our website. Thank you.