St Saviour

Closed
Church of England
Copleston Road, SE15 4AN

St Saviour, Copleston Road exterior

Historical summary
In 1871 an old lady died in a private Norfolk asylum. Her father had died in 1814 and his estate, lying between Peckham Rye and Grove Hill, went into Chancery. In 1872 it was sold to the British Land Company and the area, with convenient access to Peckham Rye station, was gradually developed. It was a comparatively small church seating 650 and built by Weeks & Hughes. Francis Peek had headed the list of subscribers to build Emmanuel, West Dulwich. He then, in 1877, paid for Holy Trinity, Beckenham to be built in memory of his parents together with a school and vicarage to house the first incumbent, his son-in-law, and paid for St Clement's, Friern Road. Peek's second daughter married John Stephenson, a curate at St. John's Penge and he approached the bishop once more, this time offering funds to build St. Saviour's. He engaged William Hughes, 27 years old, who had only designed a Methodist chapel. The Stephensons moved into the eight bedroomed vicarage and the church was consecrated in 1881.

St Saviour’s Church is housed in a building erected in 1914 to serve as the church hall. When the church was demolished in the 1980s, the hall (1914) was consecrated and took on the dual role of church and hall. The building was extensively remodelled and converted into a community centre with a central worship area shared by the Anglicans and the nearby Hanover United Reformed Church. Joined with St Paul, Herne Hill.

Historical background
Saint Saviour's church and vicarage was built and founded by Francis Peek (1836-1899) in memory of his parents William and Mary Peek. Building work on the church

began in 1880 and the church was consecrated on February 22nd, 1881. The parish was extended in 1931 to include Dog Kennel Hill and part of Campion Hill. The original vicarage was badly damaged during the Second World War and later sold, with a house on Oglander Street being purchased instead.

The original trustees of the church were members of the Peek family, later the trustees were the Southwark and Rochester Diocesan Trust. In 1959, at the suggestion of the remaining patrons (Revd Canon Roxby and Mr Daukes) the patronage was invested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Patronage.

In 1978-1879 the building was extensively remodelled and converted into a community centre with a central worship area shared by the Anglicans and the Hanover United Reformed Church, which joined together in 1981 to create the Copleston Centre Church, a local ecumenical partnership. Plans for the re-modelling where designed by the architects Weekes and Hughes, with the re-modelling being done by Thomas Ford and Partners.

Sources: London Archives. AIM25. See also Richard Olney, 'Church And Community in South London St Saviour's Denmark Park 1881-1905', 2011