

## Crowning achievement

The chapel's mural, The Apocalypse of St John, was painted in 1964 by Polish-born artist Adam Kossowski.

SEE BELOW



## Grade II listing for domed chapel

"We're surrounded by noise and traffic – the Underground even rumbles beneath us – but the chapel somehow remains a peace filled, quiet haven for anyone who wants to pray or be still."

QMUL CHAPLAIN, THE REV JENNY PETERSEN

## News

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Kossowski's The Apocalypse of St John mural fills the chapel's interior at Queen Mary, University of London in Mile End

## A haven from city bustle

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

**AN unusual domed chapel at Queen Mary, University of London in Mile End has been recognised as an important East End landmark, receiving a grade II listing from English Heritage.**

Described as "a distinctive contribution to the streetscape", the St Benet's Chaplaincy building on Mile End Road is used by university staff and students for social events, quiet study and interdenominational services of worship.

QMUL chaplain, the Rev Jenny Petersen, said: "I'm delighted that English Heritage has recognised the significance of our beautiful chapel.

"That grey, quirky exterior barely does justice to the treasure within. We're surrounded by noise and traffic – the Underground even rumbles beneath us – but the chapel somehow remains a peace-filled, quiet haven for anyone who wants to pray or be still."

Owned by the Church of Eng-



The chapel's dome, as seen from Mile End Road

land, the chapel was designed by university architect Edward Playne (1907-1997) and built in 1961.

The dome was designed to imply a place of worship without the symbolism of any particular faith group or denomination, and reflects the chapel's inclusive outlook of a university place of worship.

It occupies part of the site of

the Victorian St Benet's Church and Mission Hall, which was built in 1872 but heavily damaged by World War II bombs in 1940.

The chapel's 1964 mural, The Apocalypse of St John by Polish-born artist Adam Kossowski, is noted as "the principle claim to interest in St Benet's" by English Heritage. It is widely regarded as Kossowski's

crowning achievement.

Painting the design himself, Kossowski revived an ancient technique called sgraffito, which involves scraping off a light-coloured surface layer to reveal the dark background figures in outline.

St Benet's is open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday during term-time. Visit [www.faith.qmul.ac.uk/StBenets](http://www.faith.qmul.ac.uk/StBenets)



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