

The Secretary had written to four Trustees who were away on active service and had received a reply from Mr. F. Meadowcroft which was read to the meeting. The Secretary was thanked for his interest in the matter.

April 1942.

The Secretary reported having written to W. A. Boardman, the organ tuner, to tune the organ ready for the Sunday School Anniversary, and had received a reply stating the organ was too dirty for satisfactory tuning, the mechanism was old and out-of-date, and suggested that we have the organ thoroughly cleaned and modernised. After much discussion it was pointed out that Ellesmere Street, Pendlebury, were contemplating disposing of their premises and there might be a chance of acquiring their organ.

Warship Savings Week. The School had been used for one week by two lady sellers of certificates. The Secretary had enquired at the Town Hall regarding payment for the use of the school and was informed that no places of worship had made any charge. Resolved that if the school is required during the war we help as much as possible in the war effort. At a special meeting of the Trustees, reference was made regarding the Chapel organ and the report of its condition at a previous meeting and the Secretary gave a report of his interviews with Mr. Joseph Walton, on behalf of the Ellesmere Street Church, which indicated that Ellesmere Street was definitely closing on 12th. July, 1942, and that there was a possibility of us being able to acquire the organ. After the matter was discussed for a little time, especially with reference to finances, it was proposed and carried unanimously that we negotiate for the organ. A recent account of a Wedding Reception held in our school was described in "The Journal" as being held at the Rydal Mount School (Miss Collinson). It was suggested that the Secretary inform wedding parties that the correct description is Worsley Road Methodist Sunday School. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Raymond Ashton, who is a Radio Officer, being a reply to one sent to him on behalf of the Trustees. Regarding coal and coke supplies, we read from a newspaper that Churches should combine their services to save fuel and light. Suggestion - Carry on.

It was decided to launch an Organ Fund and the Secretary then outlined the progress of the building of the organ and reported it would be ready for opening on Sunday, 22nd. November, 1942, and it was resolved that we have organ opening ceremonies on two Sundays, the 22nd. and 29th. November. Agreed that the afternoon services commence at 3.00 p.m. and that the preachers already planned shall conduct the respective services. It was agreed that the following organists be asked to officiate at the respective services :-

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|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday morning, 22nd. Nov. | - Mr. J. Rushton, former organist
Ellesmere Street. |
| " afternoon, " | - Mr. Alan Platt, Westwood Methodist Church. |
| Sunday morning, 29th. Nov. | - Mr. W. Warrender. |
| " afternoon, " | - Mr. F. Brockes, Worsley Road Congregational. |

It was agreed that to augment the Organ Fund we arrange a Bring & Buy Sale on 5th. December, 1942, and that the Committee for the organising of same

be two ladies from the Church, the School, the Choir, and the Ladies Afternoon Tea Meeting, along with some members from the Trust. At the meeting of this Committee, the provision of teas was left with the ladies, together with arrangements for supplying goods for the stall. It was agreed to have a Guessing Competition and this was left in the hands of Miss May Boothman and Miss Joan Aldred. The Chairman, Mr. W. Warrender, undertook to ask the brothers Hollinshead to promote games. The Chairman and Mr. S. Waite undertook to look after a Photo Display and also to get the Junior Choir to take part by singing.

December 1942.

The Secretary again appealed for help as Assistant Secretary during the absence on active service of Mr. Fred Meadowcroft, and Mr. S. Waite volunteered to carry on.

With the death of Mr. Albert Rawlinson, the Secretary pointed out that a deputy Authorised Person under the Marriage Regulations would be required and Mr. E. Johnson was appointed.

The Secretary read a letter and statement received from the Organ builder as follows :-

To taking down organ (Ellesmere Street)	
and re-building same in Worsley Road Church	£130. 0. 0.
Allowance for old Organ.	30. 10. 0.
	<hr/>
	Nett. £99. 10. 0.

Agreed that the Secretary be authorised to pay the organ tuner the sum of £50 on account.

April 1943.

The question of increasing the number of Acting Trustees was again considered and the following persons were invited to accept appointment and attend the next meeting :- Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. William Frost, Mr. S. H. P. Butler, Mr. J. Lee, Mr. J. H. Hollinshead, Mr. Joseph Collier, Mr. Ainscough, Mr. T. Ainsworth.

The Secretary submitted a letter from Miss Collinson giving notice to terminate tenancy of the two classrooms as from the week before Easter, April 15th. 1943. As this matter involves the Harrowby Street Paving Account and also the rates levied on the vestries, the Secretary interviewed the Borough Treasurer, in the absence of the Town Clerk, which culminated in an agreement being submitted by the Corporation for three of the Trustees to sign. The Agreement, which was read, showed a balance in the Paving Account of £45.3.9d., which would be discharged provided the Trustees carried out the terms of the Agreement. After a lengthy discussion it was decided, in order to keep within the terms of the Agreement, that the word DANCE be deleted from advertisements and admission tickets for any social held in our Schoolroom.

June 1943.

The Secretary reported that in connection with the new organ, the Rev. H. Cecil Bishop had called on him with a form to be filled up and then returned to the Synod Secretary ready for submitting to the May Synod. The Secretary had filled up the form which was signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, and then returned to the Synod Secretary. The Secretary read a copy of the form which follows this Minute and after discussion it was agreed that the action of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary be endorsed.

A Form of Application to the Methodist Chapel Committee for permission to erect an organ dates 8th. April, 1943.

Worsley Road, Swinton, Chapel in the Salford Circuit.

- 1: What is the amount of debt on the Trust Current Account? - £1. 6. 2d.
- 2: What number of hearers will the Chapel accommodate? - 260.
- 3: What will be the entire cost of the Organ? - £249.10.0d.
- 4: Will the entire cost be raised prior to or in connection }
with the opening so as to bring no debt on the }
Trust estate? } - In connection
with the opening, also prior
to and subsequent
to the opening.
- 5: How much is raised already? - £95. 4. 8d.
- 6: By what means do you intend to raise the remainder? - Various efforts.
- 7: What will be the annual expense of playing the organ? - £4.
- 8: Have the Trustees met and conferred on these points
and all others connected therewith and have they
given their unanimous and formal consent to the
proposal in all the above particulars? - Yes.

We hereby certify that to the best of our knowledge the foregoing Statements are correct and that the engagements are made in good faith.

(Signed): H. Cecil Bishop, Superintendent.

Edward Johnson, Robert Peel, Arthur Bennett.

Agreed we pay the balance due to the Organ builder - £49.10.0d.

The Secretary, Mr. Bennett, pointed out that the Trustees of the Ellesmere Street Church had not pressed for payment at the time of the installation of the organ in November, 1942, but had recently hinted that an instalment would be appreciated. Resolved unanimously we pay £50 on account.

Reference was made to the handing over of £52 by the Sunlay School to the Organ Fund, being rent paid for the years 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946, and it was resolved to accept such amounts in advance in lieu of separate yearly payments.

It was decided to have a Bring & Buy Sale for the Organ Fund on Saturday, the 20th. November, 1943.

It was further agreed to promote a Gift Day to be held on 15th. January, 1944, at 6.00 p.m., followed by a Social Evening.

Harrowby Road Paving: The Secretary reported having received a further assessment form and his visit to the Town Hall where everything was satisfactorily explained, the Secretary being assured that the matter was now at an end. It was resolved that we place on record our warmest thanks and appreciation of the efforts recently made by Miss Mabel Jeans and Mr. S. Waite in aid of the Organ Fund.

April 1944.

Mr. R. Peel paid fitting tribute to the memory of the late Mr. E. Johnson, who had been the Chairman of so many Trustees Meetings, to which words of endorsement were made by Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. S. Waite.

The Secretary reported receipt of the Electricity Account for £4.13.6d., to which was attached a printed slip drawing attention by the Minister of Fuel to the increase in consumption and stating that the need for economy was greater than ever.

The Secretary reported having written to the Coke Supplier for an additional supply but at the Fuel Office at the Town Hall it had been stated that Churches had been banned from obtaining extra fuel and it was resolved to accept the position.

A letter was considered from the Town Clerk, asking for the use of the school for two weeks for the purpose of distributing new Ration Books. Agreed it be left with the Secretary.

Additional Authorised Person for Marriages: Resolved that Mr. F. Sincox be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. E. Johnson.

1944.

Mrs. Aldred wished to spend a sum of money in remembrance of her late daughter, Joan, who was a teacher in the Primary Department, and as a memorial had offered to decorate the Primary Vestry at her own expense and the sanction of the Trustees was now sought. Resolved that permission be given with thanks, and it was further decided to decorate the adjoining vestry at the expense of the Trustees.

Consideration was given to the question of the holding of the Trust Party. The Secretary reported his interview with the local Food Officer, who supplied a form to be filled in, but was disappointed as only Tea, Sugar and Milk were on the list as likely to be sanctioned by the Regional Officer. It was decided to consult the ladies but after they had made some suggestions it was decided that it was not feasible to have a Tea Party. It was then decided to hold a Bring & Buy Sale on the 2nd. September.

October 1944.

At the outset of the meeting, the Secretary, Mr. A. Bennett, informed those present that it was his desire to be relieved of the post of Secretary. It would facilitate matters if an assistant was appointed at this stage so as to acquaint himself with the work. He paid tribute to the valuable work that Mr. Fred Meadowcroft had done as Assistant Secretary up to his joining the Forces and would like to see him taking over the duties of Secretary when convenient on his return.

It was decided that the outstanding balance of £50 be paid to the Trustees of Ellesmere Street Church.

March 1945.

A letter was read from the Worsley Road Congregational Church expressing their appreciation for our help in loaning our Sunday School during the time when their school was taken over by the Government.

The Secretary reported that Miss E. Winkley (Sunday School Secretary) had told him that the teachers had decided to decorate the Sunday School and the Minister's Vestry, and wished to know whether it would be approved by the Trustees. He had told her that he was personally agreeable and the Trustees gratefully accepted the offer, and it was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to the teachers.

August 1945.

Before commencing the meeting, the Chairman, Mr. J. Walton, on behalf of the Trustees, expressed sincere sympathy to the Secretary, Mr. A. Bennett, J.P., on the great loss he had sustained by the death of his wife and, as a token of respect, the members stood for a moment in silence. Mr. Bennett briefly replied.

Soon after the last meeting, Mrs. W. Royle, Secretary of the Ladies Wednesday Afternoon Teas, asked the Secretary if it would be in order if they (the ladies) undertook the work of decorating the Church cloak rooms and kitchen at their own expense. The Secretary told her he was personally agreeable and felt sure the Trustees would gratefully accept the offer. The work had been carried out and a letter of thanks was sent to the Ladies for their generosity.

It was resolved that we hold a Trust Party on November 10th., the people to bring their own teas. A Concert Party from Bolton was approached and agreed to come at an inclusive fee of £6.6.0d., and the Trustees agreed to accept the offer.

November 1945.

It was resolved that we invite the Rev. J. Morgan Williams, B.A., the new Superintendent Minister, to our Trustees meetings and that he shall be the Chairman at such meetings.

In connection with the names of Acting Trustees, it was resolved to proceed in getting their names added to the Deed and that we approach Mr. Richard Boothman, who is employed in the office of a well known Manchester firm of Solicitors, to enquire if it is possible to have the Acting Trustees names added to the Deed.

December 1945.

Mr. Boothman, who, in the meantime, had examined the Deeds, explained that a completely new Deed would have to be drawn up and then gave a lengthy explanation about the various Deeds and answered many questions. Resolved that we invite Messrs Parkinson, Slack & Needham to prepare the new Deed.

Agreed we invite the following to become Trustees :- Messrs H. Gilmore, R. Boothman, A. Barrett, P. Jeans, and T. E. Ainsworth.

1946 - February 8th.

The members of the Trust Board were pleased to welcome back Mr. Fred Meadowcroft and during the meeting he was elected Secretary and the Authorised Person under the Marriage Act.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. W. Royle, the Ladies Secretary, stating that they had decided to give the £30, which they had loaned to the Organ Fund, as a gift in order to cover the debt. Resolved we place on record our appreciation of the Ladies offer. Mr. Bennett informed the meeting that he had cleared off the outstanding debt in memory of his wife, and the Chairman thanked him for his kindness.

Resolved that enquiries be made regarding the cost of an electric blower.

At this stage, Mr. W. Warrender proposed a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation to Mr. Bennett for his long and faithful services as Trust Secretary. The Rev. J. Morgan-Williams also spoke in praise of Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett suitably replied.

Resolved that the date of the signing of the new Deed be Friday, February 22nd. at 7.30 p.m.

Special Trustees Meeting 22nd. February.

The meeting opened with Hymn 386 and prayer. The following resolution, typewritten and hereinafter pasted in the Minute Book, was proposed by Mr. A. Bennett, seconded by Mr. R. Peel, and carried unanimously:-

" At a special meeting of the Trustees of the Methodist Chapel at Worsley Road, Swinton, in the Salford Circuit, duly convened according to the provisions of the Model Deed and held in the Vestry of the said Chapel on the 22nd. day of February, 1946, the Rev. J. Morgan-Williams, Superintendent Minister in the Chair.

Resolved that it is expedient to increase the number of Trustees to 29 and the following Trustees being willing to continue in the Trusts, viz:- Arthur Bennett, Robert Peel, Frank Warrender, Daniel Savage, John W. Meadowcroft, S. George Hopwood, Wilfred Warrender, Jack Collier, Fred Meadowcroft.

The following persons, being members of the Methodist Society, having been nominated are hereby appointed to be Trustees:- Mark Jeans, Samuel Waite, Frank Sincox, Raymond Ashton, Vincent Hollinshead, Eric Hollinshead, Ernest Boardman, Thomas Worsley, John Lee, Joseph Walton, Joseph Collier, John H. Hollinshead, Samuel H. P. Butler, William Frost, Hugh Gilmore, Richard Boothman, Percy Jeans, Thomas Ainsworth, Arthur Barrett, George Collier.

(Signed) J. Morgan-Williams, Chairman. "

The Minutes and Form of Consent were then signed by 28 Trustees present. In the absence of Mr. Jack Collier, his signature was obtained two days later by Mr. Boothman.

The Memorandum of Choice and Appointment was then read to the meeting by Mr. Boothman and was then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting and two independent witnesses - Messrs N. Fish and J. Parton.

The Chairman moved a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Boothman for his work in connection with the business, and this was carried with acclamation. Thanks were also expressed to Messrs N. Fish and J. Parton for their services in signing the memorandum as witnesses.

On the 8th. February, Mr. Arthur Bennett relinquished the position of Hon. Trust Secretary, a position he had held for 46 years. A movement to make a presentation to him in appreciation of this record was originated by older Trustees and Messrs D. Savage and M. Jeans volunteered to obtain the views of all Trustees on the question. The response was unanimous and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary were asked to undertake the work of purchasing a suitable gift. Through the agency of Mr. T. Oldfield, of Worsley, a solid silver cigarette case was purchased and the following inscription engraved inside :- "Presented to Mr. Arthur Bennett by the Trustees in appreciation of the 46 years service as Trust Secretary at the Methodist Church, Worsley Road, Swinton - March 1946." The ceremony took place at a supper, preceded by a social hour, held on Friday, the 22nd. March, 1946, and to which all Trustees and members of the household were invited. Mr. Robert Peel occupied the Chair and was supported by Messrs F. Warrender, J. W. Meadowcroft and D. Savage, and all these gentlemen paid their tribute to Mr. Bennett. In addition, Messrs R. Boothman, M. Jeans and the Rev. Morgan-Williams also spoke. Mr. Bennett was obviously moved by this presentation made by Mr. Peel, and suitably replied, and, in the course of his remarks, gave a short history of the Church since its inception.

F. Meadowcroft,
Hon. Secretary.

1946.

A Repairs Sub-Committee was appointed as follows:- Messrs R. Ashton, V. Hollinshead, J. Walton, R. Peel, E. Boardman and E. Hollinshead. The first meeting was held on the 10th. May, and the Chairman stated the object of the meeting was to examine the Church and School buildings and have all necessary repairs effected, viz:- Water under School Platform, Cracks in School Wall. A comprehensive inspection of the Church and School was made.

It was agreed that the repairs needed were urgent and fell under three main headings:- (1) Pointing and Guttering, (2) Painting, (3) Joinery. Messrs E. Boardman and E. Hollinshead volunteered to deal with the joinery work.

Report of work done May 14th. and 15th.

On Tuesday, water under the School platform was pumped out by means of a petrol pump hired by Mr. W. Warrender. Trustees assisted in this operation. On Wednesday, an examination was made and water was found to be entering at the right-hand side of the cellar. Agreed to seek permission from Mr. Reginald Cook to excavate outside the school wall in an endeavour to trace and divert the water. Arranged for this work to be done on Wednesday, 22nd. May.

Messrs E. Boardman and E. Hollinshead repaired doors as necessary and did other work.

Mr. Walton cleared the grids and assistance was rendered by many Trustees.

Agreed that the best policy would be to try and procure a licence for new guttering as required. Decided to carry on with the idea of painting the Church and agreed to order through Mr. R. Ashton 10 gallons of under-coating and 10 gallons of varnish paint.

Work on excavating and relaying drain on the 22nd., 23rd., 24th., 27th. and 28th. May.

Permission having been obtained to excavate in search of water entering the school basement, the work, as follows, was accomplished on the above dates.

Excavating behind School and Vestry found field drain to be broken and sagged badly in the middle; traced drain to source; drain taken out; new foundation of hard clay laid; drain relaid with uniform slope. This work was done by Trustees with the assistance of Mr. J. Naylor.

June 1946.

The quarterly meeting opened once again with Hymn 306, and after prayer the Chairman, the Rev. J. Morgan-Williams, welcomed back to civilian life Messrs H. Meadowcroft, E. S. Peel and H. Smith, released from the Services since the last meeting.

Restrictions on lettings. The Secretary pointed out that unless something was done at once there was a danger of the School being booked up each Saturday by outside sources to the exclusion of our own Departments. Resolved as from 31st. August, two Saturdays at least per month be reserved for the use of the Church affairs and that all lettings be made through the Secretary.

A letter was read from Mr. Sam Waite giving particulars of an offer by a Mr. Taylor to clean the Church and School windows free of charge. Resolved that this offer be accepted and Mr. Waite asked to convey the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Taylor.

July 1946.

The Chairman welcomed back Mr. Harold Drury to civilian life.

Work under the school platform had only been partially successful and further consideration was given to the matter. Mr. E. Longworth was consulted and offered to render all help in the work.

August 1946.

Finally, after almost every night from July to August, work was spent in making a sump hole laying a drain right round the basement and connecting it to an existing channel in the coke cellar.

At the September Quarterly Meeting, Mr. R. Peel gave a report of the work accomplished during the summer in connection with the drainage of water in the school basement and in the adjoining car park, and also the painting and pointing. Resolved that an announcement expressing the thanks of the Trustees be made at the Harvest to all who have helped in the work.

Mr. H. Drury was invited to join the Repairs Committee.

December 1946.

At the December Quarterly Meeting, there were 29 Trustees present, and apologies were received from Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. J. W. Meadowcroft.

A notice of motion from the previous meeting re Acting Trustees, and it was resolved that a new Deed be prepared incorporating Trustees and Acting Trustees, arrangements to be left with the Secretary and Mr. R. Boothman.

1947.

There were several estimates for an electric blower but one more to come from Messrs Jardine. At this juncture, the Chairman, the Rev. Morgan-Williams raised the question of a special fund as the possibility existed of a grant being received from the Trustees of St. Stephen Street Church if such a fund were in being. After discussion, the following resolutions were adopted :-

- 1: That the Rev. Morgan-Williams approach the St. Stephen Street Trustees for a donation towards the cost of installing an electric organ blower.
- 2: That we open a Decorating Fund.

Agreed that the visitation of friends with tickets for the Trust effort be resumed and the following asked to pay visits :- Messrs H. Drury, R. Ashton, W. Warrender, F. Meadowcroft, H. Gilmore and V. Hollinshead, E. Boardman and H. Meadowcroft.

The tender of Messrs Jardine & Co. of £81 for a Discus Organ blower was accepted and the order for same was placed and acknowledged.

A letter from the newly formed Dramatic Society, making application for permission to make certain alterations to the stage and lighting.

Mr. F. Simcox explained the needs, after which it was agreed that permission be granted.

1948 - September.

It was reported that difficulty had been experienced in obtaining lettered metal plates for Preachers appointments. Mr. M. Jeans offered to try and obtain these.

Re extra accommodation, it was agreed that the matter be discussed and placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that the Repairs Committee be asked to explore the possibility of an extension to the premises.

The Chairman expressed thanks to all who had assisted in blowing the organ prior to the installation of the electric blower.

1948 - December.

Carried that a letter of thanks be sent to the Dramatic Society for their donation of £40 to the Renovation Fund.

Carried that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. A. Stafford for supplying the concrete posts to the notice board, free of charge, and also for his good offices in enabling a purchase of 6-doz. cups to be made.

Mr. R. Ashton outlined a suggested scheme which the sub-committee had found acceptable in principle with regard to a proposed extension to the school premises.

Resolved that the matter be referred back with instructions to further explore the question, approximate cost, etc.

Resolved that Mr. M. Jeans be thanked for obtaining metal plates for the notice board.

1949 - March.

The Repairs Committee reported that measurements had been taken and a rough sketch prepared of the proposed new extension to the School. The sketch was handed round to the members and it was resolved that the matter be brought before the Circuit Annual Trustees Meeting and permission be asked to approach the Chapel Fund Committee for a grant. Mr. R. Ashton and Mr. J. Walton to be our representatives.

1949 - June.

It was reported that the Standing Joint Committee had met and formed a Welfare Fund, with Mr. Percy Jeans as Secretary and Treasurer, and that each department would be asked to promote an effort during the winter months, one quarter of the proceeds to be given to the Welfare Fund. Agreed that enquiries be made with regard to distributing collecting boxes to be handed in at a Gift Day proposed to be held in 1950 to commemorate the 50th. anniversary of the building of the Church premises.

1949 - December.

The Secretary gave a detailed report of the activities of the various sub-committee meetings, and also reported that a letter of thanks had been sent to Mr. Fred Hollows, who had repaired the Serving Hatch and also connected hot water from the geyser.

The Caretaker reported a leakage in the heating boiler and also in the pipes in Church. Agreed it be left with the Repairs Sub-Committee.

In May 1850, we at Worsley Road held Centenary celebrations, for it was in 1850 that the Wesleyan Methodist Association began its career in Moor Lane (now named Worsley Road), where John Chapman, with the aid of James Johnson and his two sons William and Joseph, soon gathered a few friends together by holding cottage meetings. Camp meetings were also held in a field near the Dacca Twist Mill and a large number of people came to hear the Gospel preached.

The success of the work led to service being transferred to larger premises. A Dr. Dorning was at this time building two cottages, numbers 1 and 3 in Bold Street (now Shaftesbury Road) and after being visited by some of the friends, they considered they could be so constructed as to be very useful as a Sunday School and a room for Divine Service. As a result of an interview with the Doctor, he consented to alter the property as to meet the requirements at a rent of £9 for the first year and £10 per year afterwards. As a guarantee for the rent had to be given, 6 members of St. Stephen Street Church, Salford, promised £1 each year, the remainder being made up by collections.

In 1857 the Protestant Methodist, the Wesleyan Methodist Association, and the Wesley Reform Associates united together and founded the United Methodist Free Churches, and the preaching room in Bold Street becoming too small owing to the increase in numbers, the old school and Chapel were built in 1865 on the present site. It was a two storey building with the school on the ground floor and the Chapel above.

In 1891 the need for a more commodious and convenient Chapel was felt, and the energy and self-denial displayed by the adherents of this small Church was recognised by and received the sympathy of members of other Christian communities and the present Church was dedicated on Tuesday evening, 15th. May, 1900. The front gates and doors were formally opened by three stalwarts of the Church- Mr. J. Hardy, Mr. G. Higham, and Mr. C. Parkinson. The cost, including furnishings, was £1,320. In 1910 the old vestries were demolished and two new vestries were erected at a cost of £308.

By 1920, it was apparent that the school buildings were totally inadequate to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing population in which the Church now found itself the centre and the first donation towards the proposed new school was made by the family of Mr. & Mrs. E. Gillingham. The venture was enthusiastically received, and members, scholars and friends inspired one another in their endeavour to raise the huge sum of £2,000 which at first seemed overwhelming. In point of fact, the cost of the new school exceeded £2,300.

In the words of the scripture, "the people had a mind to work" and by faith, enthusiasm, perseverance and, not least, hard work, the ceremony of stone-laying took place on 20th. May, 1933, and the following Saturday over 100 bricks were laid by scholars and adults, and on 23rd. September, 1933, the School was completed and Miss E. E. Higham opened the school gates, and Mr. Edward Johnson opened the Schoolroom.

Thanksgiving Services to the glory of God were held and taking part were Ald. J. Rothwell, J.P., the Circuit Ministers Rev. H. C. Renshaw (Super), Rev. H. Jones, Miss M. Sunman, B.A., and a former Minister - Rev. H. Cook.

The work in the Church and in the Sunday School flourished in a wonderful way, for in 1900 we had 49 Church members and 120 scholars on our books. In 1950, the membership had increased to 140 members and 250 scholars, and some credit for this state of affairs should be given to the teachers who made house-to-house visitations on the new housing estates, inviting children and adults to join us in worship, with surprising results.

1850 to 1950 - 100 years, and on Saturday, 20th. May, 1950, our Centenary Celebrations began with a Gift Day in the afternoon, followed by tea in the schoolroom and an evening meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robert Peel, with addresses by Ministers and Local Preachers of the Circuit, interspersed with some well known and much loved hymns. On the Sunday, the Preacher was Rev. G. I. J. Cushing of Chesterfield, who was previously the Superintendent Minister of our Circuit (Salford). He was a great preacher and thrilled the large congregation which gathered at both morning and evening services.

In our Church Newsletter in June, 1950, the late Mr. Fred Meadowcroft summed up the Centenary Celebrations in the following wonderful article :

1850 - CENTENARY - 1950.

"How pleasant, how divinely fair
O Lord of Hosts, Thy dwellings are
With strong desire my spirit faints
To meet the assemblies of Thy Saints. "

The week-end of 20th. and 21st. May, 1950, will surely remain in the memory of all who were present for the rest of their lives. A high note was sounded on the Saturday from 4.00 p.m. onwards when past and present members, teachers, scholars and friends gathered together in happy reunion. It was a delight to behold the pleasure with which stalwarts of bygone years greeted each other with unmistakable joy. Typical of this was the meeting of two members of an older generation who on greeting each other gripped hands in silence for a moment or so, neither capable of speaking.

At 5.00 p.m., tea was served. Tea, did we say? Nay, rather a banquet! The ladies had been asked to provide for about 250 people, and right royally they rose to the occasion and there was meat, salad, fruit and custard, teacakes, and all manner of sweet and fancy cakes in abundance - all for 1/6d. No praise is too high for those who worked, gave, or made such sacrifices in order that material needs might be satisfied.

The evening programme commenced with the singing of the hymn "All hail the power of Jesu's Name" to the rousing tune of "Diadem". Mr. Robert Peel, the Chairman, in well-chosen words spoke of the joy it gave him to preside and mentioned many names, bringing back old memories and linking the past with the present.

Mr. A. Bennett, J.P., spoke of the humble beginnings of the Church and detailed its history and progress to its present dimensions, even now inadequate to calls made upon it. Mr. J. Rothwell, J.P., and Mr. J. A. Whitehead, local preachers of over 50 years' service, both gave inspiring addresses and the Rev. Luke Hicks delighted with two excellent recitals. A skilful display of the conjuror's art was given by Mr. R. Bunby and thoroughly enjoyed. Past and present Superintendent Ministers, the Rev. G. I. J. Cushing and Rev. J. Morgan-Williams, B.A., also addressed the gathering. Earlier in the evening, Gift Boxes and Donations had been received by the Minister, assisted by Messrs F. Davies, J. Lee, A. Barrett, and E. S. Peel, and the President of the Trustees, Mr. Richard Boothman, announced that these offerings had totalled over £102. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to all who had helped in any way, proposed by Mr. J. Walton, and seconded by Mr. F. Warrender.

At the Thanksgiving Services on Sunday, there was a splendid gathering of scholars and adults at the Morning Service, when the scholars sang "Children of Jerusalem", and the choir rendered the anthem "Blessed be Thou", whilst the preacher, the Rev. G. I. J. Cushing gave the congregation much food for thought, both in his address to the children and later in his sermon.

Mr. S. Waite, President of the Men's Class, presided at a Special Session of the Sunday School when the Church was full. An interesting feature was the receiving of Scholars' Gift Boxes by Miss A. Gillingham, who later made an impressive appeal to the Congregation for the financial and spiritual support. The Primary delighted with a favourite hymn "Sing a Song of Maytime", and the older scholars sang "Thou didst leave Thy Throne". The Superintendents, Mr. W. Warrender and Mr. F. Meadowcroft, spoke to the older and younger scholars respectively.

"Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be". These words of John Keble seemed to possess a deeper meaning than ever before at the Evening Service, when a crowded congregation joined in the singing of favourite hymns set to cherished tunes. Throughout the service one felt conscious of a tremendous spiritual atmosphere and the fine singing of Mr. T.S. Rothwell, who rendered Bantock's setting of the 150th. Psalm - "Praise ye the Lord" and "Oh Lord my God I will exalt Thee", together with the inspiring message of the Rev. G. I. J. Cushing, combined to make the service a memorable one. The choice of the Anthem which the choir sang, the immortal "Hallelujah" chorus could scarcely have been more appropriate. The lasting impression in the minds of those privileged to attend is perhaps epitomised in the words of one of our oldest members, who said "This has been the finest week-end in the history of our Church". Be that as it may, certainly it was an unforgettable experience. Following an announcement that the gross thank-offerings for the week-end had exceeded £150, the seal was set by the singing of the Doxology with its moving words, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow".

1950 - 1975.

What has happened during these 25 years? Well, the work has gone forward and there have been changes in different ways. There have been losses to the Board of Trustees, as many of our devoted and long serving members have passed on to their reward.

After the Centenary Celebrations, at the June quarterly Trustees Meeting, Mr. Meadowcroft, the Secretary, reported that there was a balance in hand from that source of £127, and it was resolved that a Building Extension Fund be opened, the first entry to be the credit balance of the Centenary, so once again the Trustees were looking ahead for the future work of the Church.

In the following year, after many meetings and interviews with the Lancashire County Council, the school was let to them as a Junior Training Centre and they made use of our premises until December, 1968, when their new school was ready for use.

The Harvest Services were always a festive occasion, but after the evening service and the flowers had been distributed to the sick and aged, the fruit and vegetables were taken into the schoolroom and then on Monday night were sold by auction, and this had been the practice from the commencement of Harvest Services. The late Mr. Tom Worsley acted as auctioneer for many years, with wit and humour, doing the job in such a manner that he pleased and delighted all the friends who came, but in 1951 it was decided that the fruit and vegetables should be distributed to the sick and older members of the Church, a practice which has continued to the present day.

Prior to the Centenary, a Welfare Fund was started with Mr. P. Jeans as Secretary, the object being to raise funds, so that every department would benefit, and each one was asked to promote one effort during the winter months, one quarter of the proceeds to be given to the Welfare Fund, the remainder for their own use. This proved a great success for quite a few years and gave a reserve of cash that could be used in time of need.

In 1953, it was arranged that the Church should remain open all day during Holy Week, so that any of the friends could call for prayer and meditation. It was during this year that a special meeting of the Trustees, Mr. R. Boothman representing the solicitors, read details from the memorandum of choice and appointment of new Trustees; 21 were willing to continue and ten new members were added to the Trust Board.

They were soon busy, for it was felt that the Church, Minister's Vestry, and the ceiling and upper portions of the school walls should be decorated and an estimate of £257 was accepted, and so on 28th. March, 1954, re-opening services were held in the Church, whose appearance pleased everyone.