

In 1955, there was a balance in hand in the Building Extension Fund of £205, and sketch plans were prepared for the proposed extension, and for a while it seemed a case of make haste slowly, but the incentive to go forward was the paramount aim of the Trustees and, through them, all the members of the Church and School.

1956 saw the end of the Salford Circuit after 106 years, and our older members had happy memories of the friends at St. Stephen Street, Irlams-o-th-Height, Ellesmere Street, and Happy Land, and now we became members of the Swinton & Pendlebury Circuit under the Superintendent Rev. John Illsley.

Around this time it was noted that the premises were troubled with mining subsidence and Mr. R. Ashton took over then, and for many years looked after our interests with the National Coal Board.

In May 1958, the income on the Extension Fund was £1,280, and the cost was in the region of £2,050, so that £770 was needed to cover the project.

The Trustees resolved to write to the Welfare Fund Committee, asking for an interest free loan of £200, and then it was suggested that Trustees individually should loan a sum, free of interest, so each Trustee present was invited to record on a slip of paper a figure he would be prepared to lend. The slips were collected and the Chairman, Rev. John Illsley, announced that a sum of £445 had been promised, whereupon the slips were destroyed.

Finally, on Saturday, 14th. June, 1958, two life long and honoured members, Mr. T. H. Winkley and Mrs. F. Warrender, were invited to act as Opener and Chairman at a little ceremony to this new extension to our premises, which is now called the Fellowship Room, and then on the Sunday a short dedication service was held prior to the evening service and conducted by Rev. John Illsley.

Later in the year, all departments of the Church and School, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Youth Club, made a great effort to raise as large a sum as possible with a Sale of Work, when a sum of £240 was raised. During the next two years, there were many meetings, most of them concerned with the clearing of the debt, but there was also the question of new heating arrangements, new lino for the kitchen and vestries, and there were many talks, letters and discussions with the Lancashire County Council over the terms for the letting of the school and vestries, and it was noted that once again through the efforts of our people, the debt on the new extension was cleared, for which we were all pleased and thankful. Then the Trust Board decided to open a Decorating and Renovations Fund, and the proceeds of a dance organised by the Girl Guides was the first donation to that Fund.

1961, and a decision was made in January that a Sale of Work, or its equivalent, should be held in December, and it was agreed that each Trustee be asked to donate or raise £10 as his personal effort, and with these and other efforts a total of £1,092 had been raised by the end of the year.

In June, the exterior painting of the premises was done by voluntary labour and what a magnificent turn up there was from the men of the Church, who, under the supervision of Mr. N. Critchley and Mr. H. Drury, did a really fine job of work.

For many years, possibly from 1900 when the Church was built, there had been a system of Pew Rents, and through the years the revenue from this source had been very helpful, but it was felt that the time had come for Pew Rents to be abolished and during those years there were only three secretaries - Mr. J. Bennett, Mr. F. Warrender, and Mr. T. Ainsworth.

Now we come to 1962, when the Church and School were decorated; there was new flagging to the Minister's Vestry, new fencing, the front of the Church was carpeted, while the aisles were fitted with 9" tiles, under the guidance of Mr. E. Hollinshead, and in the following year a new boiler was installed at a cost of £200, and there being insufficient funds in the Trust Account, the Trustees were invited to make interest free loans and one of our youngest Trustees offered to be responsible for a loan up to one half the amount, which was gladly accepted.

At the end of the year 1963, the Authorised Persons under the Marriage Act were Mr. F. Meadowcroft and Mr. F. Simcox, but it was their intention not to seek re-election and it was agreed that the Rev. H. Snowden-Enderby be the Authorised Person for our Church, and the Trustees expressed special thanks to the gentlemen for their services as Authorised Persons over a period of 18 years.

In 1964, the Treasurer drew the attention of the Board to the serious financial position having regard to outstanding accounts, and it was agreed that a Finance Board as recommended by Conference be formed to view the finances of the Church as a whole. Such was the beginning of a committee which has done such good work during these past years.

It was felt that the draw curtains for the stage in the School were looking the worse for wear. They were hung when the School was built in 1933 and there was a little history concerning them as they were used at the World Economic Conference held in London in 1933 and purchased by Mr. Arthur Bennett, who was the Trust Secretary at that time, but now new curtains were required and were purchased from the Rank Organisation. At the September meeting of the Trust, the Chairman, Mr. A. Rothwell, informed the members that Mrs. D. Naylor, through Mr. H. Naylor, expressed a wish to defray the cost of the curtains from the estate of her husband, the late Mr. J. Naylor, who had never been a Trustee, but tribute was made to his warm support of the Trustees and the offer was gratefully accepted.

The closure of St. Paul's took place this year and while we all regretted the loss of this great Church we were pleased to welcome so many of its members to the worship and fellowship at Worsley Road.

A large number of seat covers and hymn books were given quite free of charge, for which we were deeply grateful.

In November 1964, the Secretary, Mr. Meadowcroft, welcomed Rev. Roger Tate to his first meeting of the Trustees and there were many more meetings, as there was trouble with mining subsidence and we pay tribute to Mr. R. Ashton, who did a great work and had done so for some years with visits, interviews and reports, and to see that justice should be done to our Church premises.

During 1966, it was found necessary to see that the premises were locked at night, and that all lights were out and the various rooms inspected. A rota was formed, each Trustee doing one week in turn, commencing Sunday night and carrying on until the following Saturday night, and this is still being carried out by some Trustees and others. Thanks a lot.

It was noted that Mr. F. Sincox did not desire to stand for re-election as Assistant Secretary, and it was resolved that we record our warm and sincere appreciation of his services over the past 21 years.

The old boiler was done away with and a new oil fired boiler installed, which proved very satisfactory; also the open fires in the two vestries were replaced by gas fires.

A gift of the fluorescent lighting and fittings was made by Mr. Cook, of Swinton, which was most thankfully received by the Trustees.

In 1967, Rev. Roger Tate brought before the Trustees a proposed building scheme and exhibited draft architectural plans for a two-stage scheme. The first stage to enclose the present Church entrance and build an extension at the side nearest to the East Lancs. Road to provide an enclosed vestibule and entrance to the Church. The second stage to build on a continuous extension to the Schoolroom to provide better accommodation for the Minister, the Choir and additional toilet facilities. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that the whole scheme be accepted in principle and immediate planning permission be applied for and the architect, Mr. N. Bennett, be requested to do this.

Mr. Tate asked permission to outline the proposed plans to the guests at the coming Stewardship meal and this was granted.

The Trustees were pleased to accept the gift of an oak lecturn from Mrs. G. Stewart in memory of her late husband, Mr. S. C. Stewart.

The names of visiting preachers on the Notice Board was raised and it was ascertained that no one had been officially appointed to do this duty each week, but it had been carried out voluntarily by Mr. V. Hollinshead, assisted by Mr. A. Barrett, and they would continue to do this duty.

There was a report on the repairs and re-decorating work to be done and it was agreed that the order of priority must be as follows :-
1: Repairs by N.C.B. 2: Decorating. 3: Extension to premises.

This altered the scheme previously approved. An appeal was made to all members and friends to assist in the cleaning and polishing of the Church during the week prior to the Chapel Anniversary, and when the day came how really wonderful the Church looked and how pleased and thankful were all the members of the congregation.

It is interesting to note that our Minister mentioned the possibility of obtaining a cinema organ at a reasonable price. An approach was made and we received a letter from ABC Cinema, but it was carried that the letter be received and lie on the table.

By the end of the year of 1968, we were informed that the Ministry of Transport proposed to acquire a strip of land for road widening which would in effect be up to the front entrance steps of the Church.

It was noted with gratitude that both the Ladies Afternoon and Evening Fellowship had provided curtains for the Fellowship Room.

1969, and Rev. R. Tate attended his last Trustees Meeting in June and expressed his sincere thanks to the Trust Board for their co-operation and assistance during his ministry at Worsley Road. The Secretary, Mr. F. Meallowcroft, on behalf of the Trustees, replied and quoted statistics amongst which was the fact that Mr. Tate had attended 22 meetings of the Trustees and gave instances of improvements in which he had taken, wholly or in part, the initiative. The Trustees wholeheartedly supported the Secretary's remarks and moved that their thanks and appreciation be recorded in the Minutes, and the motion was carried with acclamation.

At the next Trustees meeting in October, the Secretary welcomed to the meeting Rev. John Hully and Rev. Charles New.

1970 and it was considered that the time had arrived for preparatory work to begin in readiness for the road widening scheme, which would necessitate repairs and alterations to our Church premises, and so a committee was formed from the Trustees who were members of the building and architectural professions with power to co-opt.

The committee appointed was Messrs R. Ashton, E. Hollinshead, H. Smith, H. Drury, H. Naylor, N. Critchley, and the Secretary, with the Rev. C. New as Chairman.

They were soon at work and put forward tentative proposals which were passed on to the architect and by the end of the year it was estimated that the total cost of the alterations and extensions would be £9,373.

Mr. R. Ashton reported an agreement with the National Coal Board for a payment of £4,500 in respect of damage caused by mining subsidence, so his many meetings with their representatives were finally settled.

It was reported that damage to the organ was being caused by mice and arrangements were made for an inspection to take place immediately.

There was a little flurry of excitement when it was reported that one of the Baptismal Registers was missing, but fortunately by the time of the next meeting the Register had been found.

The Play Group came into being through the efforts of Rev. C. New, and, at the end of October, was doing exceedingly well, with an average attendance of 25 children each day.

In 1971, there were more meetings with regard to the cost of the repairs and alterations, but the Trustees still planned ahead and knew that in the end all would be well.

In May, it was noted with great pleasure by the Trustees that Mr. Meadowcroft had completed 25 years as Secretary to the Board and, prior to this appointment, had been Assistant Secretary for 17 years. Such service and devoted work was beyond all praise and it was agreed that a tribute be written in the Minute Book to Mr. Meadowcroft for such faithful service.

At the end of the year, the architect, Mr. N. Bennett, expressed a willingness to relinquish the commission due to pressure of work, but stated that he proposed to make no charge for his services since 1967, and the following resolution was passed:- "That Mr. Bennett relinquish the post of Architect for the scheme and that a letter of thanks be sent to him."

It was then agreed that Mr. Wright Musker be invited to take over from Mr. Bennett, and having accepted the invitation soon met the sub-committee, who were impressed by his approach to the undertaking.

Tenders were received from four Building Contractors, and finally the tender of Messrs G. Atkinson was accepted, and so much progress had been made that in April, 1973, it was decided that the provisional date for the ceremony of the re-opening of the Church with a service of dedication should be Saturday, 23rd. June, and the following persons were invited to officiate at the Opening Ceremony:- Chairman: Mr. F. Meadowcroft, Opener: Mrs. D. Naylor, supported by Mr. W. Warrender.

A large crowd gathered, and later in the Church a really fine service was held, which was inspiring and made one feel that there was a great future in store.

There were other items which had to be dealt with - the heating system, carpets for aisles, fluorescent lighting, and organ repairs, and all after a time were satisfactorily dealt with.

The members of the Board paid tribute to Rev. Charles New for his services to the Trustees, especially for his interest and work in connection with the alterations and extensions, and expressed their good wishes to him and to Mrs. New and their family on removing to another Circuit.

November, 1973, and we welcomed Rev. E. Paul Coupland to his first Trustees meeting at our Church. It was a lengthy meeting as there was a long agenda with many items dealing with improvements to our Church premises; also a letter was read from the organist, Mr. W. Warrender, expressing his desire to retire from the position at the end of the year, which he had held for 43 years.

Mr. Coupland reported that he had received an offer of a re-conditioned piano at a cost of £125, towards which he had received donations in excess of £100. A sub-committee was appointed to view and have the power to purchase, and this was done and the piano brought into Church.

It was agreed that we invite three members of the New Property Committee to the next Trustees Meeting, to act as observers.

Our Chairman, Mr. Coupland, reported that, in order to commemorate their Golden Wedding, Mr. and Mrs. W. Thorpe hoped to provide a loud speaker system in the Church. This gesture met with the appreciation of all the members and at the next meeting in July a loud speaker system was tried out and tested and was unanimously approved. The cost was £381, and Mrs. Meadowcroft joined with Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe in paying for the installation, and a letter of thanks was sent to them for their generosity and thoughtfulness for such a welcome addition to our Church.

Mr. F. Southern had been very busy and had done a great job of work in the old Minister's Vestry, and the Trustees wished to place on record their thanks and appreciation for the time and talents that had gone into the work.

On the 10th. August, 1974, we were all profoundly shocked to hear that our Secretary, Mr. Fred Meadowcroft, had passed away, and it was resolved that the following tribute to him be entered in the Minute Book :-

" The Members of the Board of Trustees for Worsley Road Methodist Church are united in their appreciation of the courtesy, judgement, and interest that Mr. Fred Meadowcroft had shown throughout the past 28 years in the position which he has held with distinction as Secretary to the Trustees.

We cannot possibly realise the amount of time and energy that has been given to our Church and Sunday School during these past years, for these have been good times and also difficult times, which have required tact, diplomacy, courage, tolerance and kindness, and these qualities have not been lacking.

There is no doubt that the principles of the Christian Faith have been the guiding standard of his life and that his leadership, his sacrificial service, and his loyalty to Jesus Christ, mark him, not only as a notable Secretary, but also a great Christian gentleman. "

The War Memorial required cleaning, and our Minister, Rev. Paul Coupland, had obtained an estimate for this to be of £20, and an anonymous donor had wished to meet the cost, for which we were very grateful.

Arrangements were made for the windows of the premises to be cleaned, and an appeal was made to the men to do this work, and there was such an excellent response of volunteers that the task was soon completed, which brightened up each part and each room of the Church and School.

There are a few items that are being arranged for and others being discussed, such as the lagging of the boiler, the coverings for Church pews, also publicity and security rota.

Mr. Eric Ripley has taken on the work of Secretary to the Trustees. The appointment was made of Miss Jane Coupland as our organist for the next twelve months.

Following the death on 9th. May, 1974, of the late Mrs. Judith Atkins, of Kirkburton, Huddersfield, who was a personal friend of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ashton, the Trustees were indeed pleased to learn that under the provisions of the will of the late Mrs. Atkins the Trustees were to receive a very substantial bequest.

This bequest consisted, in equal joint shares with the Trustees of Hackton Methodist Church, Huddersfield, of :

- 1: Four modern houses situated in Swinton, Wardley, and Little Hulton, and
- 2: Equal half shares in capital invested with a Building Society.

In all, the total bequest to Worsley Road is expected to be in the region of £9,000. Following discussions, a division of the four houses has been agreed between the respective Trust Boards and solicitors have been instructed to proceed with and implement the agreement to vest two of the houses in the sole name of the Worsley Road Trustees.

Many years ago, the late Mrs. Atkins resided in the Swinton area and was a very valued client of Messrs Reginald Cook & Co. In recent years, Mrs. Atkins only came to Swinton on rare occasions, staying at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ashton. It was very gratifying indeed to learn that the kindness and assistance extended to Mrs. Atkins over the years by Mr. & Mrs. Ashton without thought of reward had been appreciated so much by Mrs. Atkins that she showed her thanks in such a tangible form that will benefit this Trust and Church in general for many years to come. The Trustees have given some thought to mark the occasion and finally it was decided to improve the Church seating. Orders were placed for the new covered foam cushioning, the work now being completed.

It was agreed by the Trustees that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent by the senior Trustee, Mr. Wilfred Warrender, expressing the sincere thanks of the Trustees to Mr. & Mrs. Ashton for their friendship over the years with Mrs. Atkins, which had resulted in such wonderful benefit to our Trust and Church.

The Trustees have been the recipient of an unexpected gift of £50 from the estate of the late Mr. Harry Chadwick, who for many years was the Managing Secretary of the Moorside Co-op. Society. Upon his retirement, he many times called upon Mr. Richard Boothman for advice and help in conducting his business affairs, and our Church and others have benefited through the esteem in which he was held by Mr. Chadwick. Mr. Chadwick was born in Moorside and lived in the area all his life and died at the ripe old age of 96 years.

1976.

February. There were several items that had been completed and others were being dealt with, such as floor coverings for the New Room, curtains for Minister's Vestry, non-slip tiles for Harrowby Road entrance, Waste Paper Store, repairs to Heating Boiler.

A communication from the Church Family Committee for the following :-

- 1: Dividing the Schoolroom - not practicable.
- 2: Installation of telephone - not approved.
- 3: Removal of Church Pews - not necessary or desirable.

The Secretary, Mr. E. Ripley, to advise Mr. Hollows, the Secretary of the Family Committee, accordingly.

May: The Legacy - The Stock Certificate lodged with the Bank and receipt for same placed in the Church safe.

The question of modernising the Kitchen was brought forward and it was agreed that it be considered in the near future.

Donation to Manchester Road re-building Fund. The Trustees had now no separate income but recommended the Finance Committee to donate £50 as soon as possible.

August: It was agreed that the pointing of the Church be arranged by Mr. R. Ashton, at a cost of approximately £100.

Agreed that a new door for the Harrowby Road porch be obtained.

Exterior Cross: Mr. Ashton agreed to investigate the cost of an illuminated Cross for erection outside the Church; also a new light fitting to be erected over the Pulpit and dedicated to the memory and faithful service of past Trustees.

October: Agreed that four Notice Boards be erected (three for Sunday School and one for the Fellowship Room).

Community Service, under the jurisdiction of Mr. D. A. Lane, Community Service Probation Officer, was approved.

Miss Jane Coupland had relinquished the post of Organist on proceeding to University. Members expressed appreciation of Miss Coupland's musical contribution to the services and it was agreed that this be recorded in the Minutes.

It was also agreed that an appreciation be recorded of the services given by friends who from time to time officiated as deputy organists.

Methodist Church Bill: The Chairman formally confirmed Press reports that the Bill had received its third reading and was now awaiting Royal assent.

Exterior Cross: The Minute under this heading to be deleted from the record of 6th. August, 1976, and the following be substituted - "That the Cross on the exterior of the Church be painted white."

Sale of 9, East Meade: Mr. Ashton stated that this was in progress but had not yet been completed.

1977.

February: Harrowby Road Railings and Gate: This work had now been completed but the path through the smaller gate be flagged or concreted and Mr. T. Knight agreed to arrange for this work to be done.

Mesh to School Windows. This was left in abeyance until effectiveness of locking Harrowby Road yard gates had been assessed.

Rainwater Pipe Diversion - Boiler House Wall: Mr. Ashton agreed to arrange for this work to be done.

Central Heating: Agreed that a seven-day time switch be installed and sited in the old Minister's vestry over the Boiler House. Mr. Lang agreed to obtain and arrange installation after heating was switched off for the summer season.

Community Service Scheme. Mr. T. Knight reported that one person serving a Community Service order was helping the Drama Group and was working well and no problems had arisen to date.

The Chairman, the Rev. Paul Coupland, reported that the Methodist Church Bill had received Royal Assent and that the Trustees would retire on 16th. April, 1977. The Conference letter of thanks to all Trustees was read by the Chairman.

Sale of Property. Mr. R. Ashton reported that the sale of 9, East Meade had now been completed. A Committee comprising Messrs R. Ashton, E. Ripley, and H. Naylor, was appointed to arrange investment of the net proceeds of the sale.

Rent for hiring of Rooms. Agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. R. Ashton, H. Naylor, E. Ripley, and J. Steel, be formed to review and establish up-to-date and more realistic charges.

Old Minute Books. In accordance with the Methodist Church Act, it was confirmed that the Secretary should hand over all Minute Books in his possession on the 16th. April, 1977, to the Church Council.

Mr. J. Steel, the Church Treasurer, on behalf of the Church, expressed thanks to all Trustees, past and present for the work done in developing and maintaining the premises and the carrying out of their duties from the inception of the Trust.

The Chairman closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving for the service of the Trustees, past and present, and whose duties would cease on the 16th. April, 1977, after which all joined in saying the Benediction.

Below are the names of the present Trustees, together with their years of service to Worsley Road Methodist Church and Sunday School. They have each served faithfully and well through many varied and even difficult times. We are glad to place on record our appreciation of the time, talents and service they have rendered through these many years for the upkeep of our premises and the knowledge that the work of God was being fulfilled :-

W. Warrender	- 50 years.	R. Ashton	- 43 years.
V. Hollinshead	- 40 "	E. Hollinshead	- 40 "
H. Smith	- 40 "	E. Peel	- 40 "
P. Jeans	- 32 "	A. Barrett	- 31 "
A. Rothwell	- 28 "	N. Critchley	- 27 "
H. Naylor	- 27 "	E. Ripley	- 24 "

From 1867 to 1977 there have been only five Secretaries of the Trust Board, and it is worth reminding ourselves of the excellent and really faithful service that each one gave to the interests of our Church and members :-

Mr. James Holland	-	1867 to 1870	-	3 years.
Mr. George Higham	-	1870 to 1900	-	30 "
Mr. Arthur Bennett	-	1900 to 1946	-	46 "
Mr. Fred Meadowcroft	-	1946 to 1974	-	28 "
Mr. Eric Ripley	-	1974 to 1977	-	3 "

It is only fitting that the following, who were Trustees and who have passed away since 1950, should be mentioned, for all of them gave years of service to the Church, which has benefited from their interest and their endeavours, and we are grateful and place on record our thanks and appreciation for such stalwart and valued service :-

Samuel Henry Butler	-	Died	1950.
Frank Warrender	-	"	1952.
Arthur Bennett	-	"	1952.
John W. Meadowcroft	-	"	1953.
Daniel Savage	-	"	1955.
John H. Hollinshead	-	"	1955.
Robert Peel	-	"	1957.
Mark Jeans	-	"	1960.
Ellis Royle	-	"	1961.
Fred Davies	-	"	1963.
Joseph Walton	-	"	1968.
John Lee	-	"	1968.
Walter Warrington	-	"	1971.
Thomas Ainsworth	-	"	1971.
Frank Sincox	-	"	1973.
Harold Drury	-	"	1973.
Fred Meadowcroft	-	"	1974.
Samuel Waite	-	"	1976.
George Collier	-	"	1976.
Richard Boothman	-	"	1977.

Mention should be made that Mr. Fred Meadowcroft was appointed to the Trustees in September, 1927, and became Assistant Secretary in May, 1930, and then in 1946 became the Secretary of the Trust until his death in 1974.

Mr. Harold Drury became a Trustee in October, 1934, and carried out some excellent work for the Trustees until his death in March, 1973.

We are grateful to the Ministers who have chaired our Meetings, given help and encouragement, led us in prayer, and have joined joyfully as progress was made for the beauty of our Church premises and enriching in every way our Worship.

Mention should be made that always the Trustees Meetings opened and closed with a hymn, and some of them became great favourites. Here are three :-

- " A Charge to keep I have. "
- " O Thou who camest from above. "
- " Be it my only wisdom here. "

It was good to sing these hymns for they gave tone to our Meetings and brought blessings to the Members of the Board.

Rev. J. Morgan-Williams	- 1945-1951.
Rev. G. S. D. Knapp	- 1951-1953.
Rev. Percy Wild	- 1953-1956.
Rev. John Illsley	- 1956-1958.
Rev. Cecil G. Reeve	- 1958-1963.
Rev. H. Snowden-Enderby	- 1963.
Rev. Roger Tate	- 1964-1969.
Rev. Mathew Haygarth	- 1965-1969.
Rev. Charles New	- 1969-1972.
Rev. John Hully	- 1969-1975.
Rev. E. Paul Coupland	- 1973.

O U R C H U R C H .

I would like to tell you a story that fills me with joy and with pride,
It's a story that has a beginning, but never an ending in sight.
It began in the year 1850, when some people whose hearts God had touched
Decided to hold cottage meetings and then to build up a Church.

There wasn't much money in those days, but their faith it was strong
and true,
And soon there appeared on this very place, A Church and a Sunday School.
The work of the Church grew and prospered and many found happiness there,
And families gathered for worship, their names to this day are revered.

There were Hardys, and Highams and Parkinsons there, Bennetts, Winkleys
and Gillinghams too,

While old Joseph Whitehead, a wonderful saint,
Tho' poor in his means, was so rich in his faith,
Such beauty of character, such faith, trust and love,
Were the foundations upon which our Church has been built.
So all honour to those who served in the past,
And built for the future, a Church that should last.

In 1891, a new Church was desired,
And the people worked gladly for the money required.
They gave and they gave with devotion and love
And after nine years they opened our Church.
Its position and place was a wonderful thought,
And many found friendship and comfort and joy.
It stands as a landmark in this year of grace,
While all round about us, people travel apace.

New vestries were needed to further the cause,
And we find the Trustees engaged in the work,
For they demolished the old vestries,
Then dressed all the bricks,
Which were used in the building, a great saving in cost,
And in a very short time the debt was paid off.

A new School was needed, there were scholars in plenty,
And the first donation given was in the year 1920.
Again there was giving to make up the funds,
But it took 13 years to find all the money,
Then in September that year, amidst great jubilation,
The new School was opened, before a large congregation,
So we look back with pride to our fathers and mothers,
Who prepared for us such an inestimable treasure.

The new School was opened just at the right time,
For many new people were living nearby,
And soon all departments were as busy as bees,
And thankful for the foresight of the Board of Trustees.

In all the re-planning and work that's been done,
The Board of Trustees has done all that it can,
And since the first board in the year 1867,
There have been only five Secretaries in the next 109.
James Holland came first and served for 3 years,
George Higham was next and served 30 years,
While we pay tribute to Arthur Bennett's record of service,
For he continued as Secretary for 46 years.
His successor, Fred Meadowcroft, continued the work,
And we mourned his loss after 28 years.
We acknowledge our debt to such men as these,
Who have laboured most faithfully, with fervour and zeal,
And who at the beginning could never have foretold
The fine lot of buildings it's our joy to behold.

The Trustees were quite a mixed lot,
Who gave their time and got on with the job.
There have been meetings galore and inspections in plenty
To keep our Church premises as they were intended.
Our ministers have always been proud of our Trust,
And rather enjoyed their meetings with us.
They gave their advice and kept us in order,
And made us realise that we must go forward.
We were all very happy to serve in this way,
And leave for our children a great heritage.

With thanks for the past days and the people we knew,
Who have served this cause faithfully, with a love strong and true,
With thanks for the Ministers who have given of their best,
And have christened us, married us, and laid us to rest.
With thanks for the teachers, who taught us when young
To lift up our voices in praise and in song.
But thanks most of all to our Father above,
Who inspires men to serve Him by the power of His love.
And thro' prayers and thro' service, we know that there'll be
A Church here at Swinton, that will grow and increase.

Written by Mr. W. Warrender.