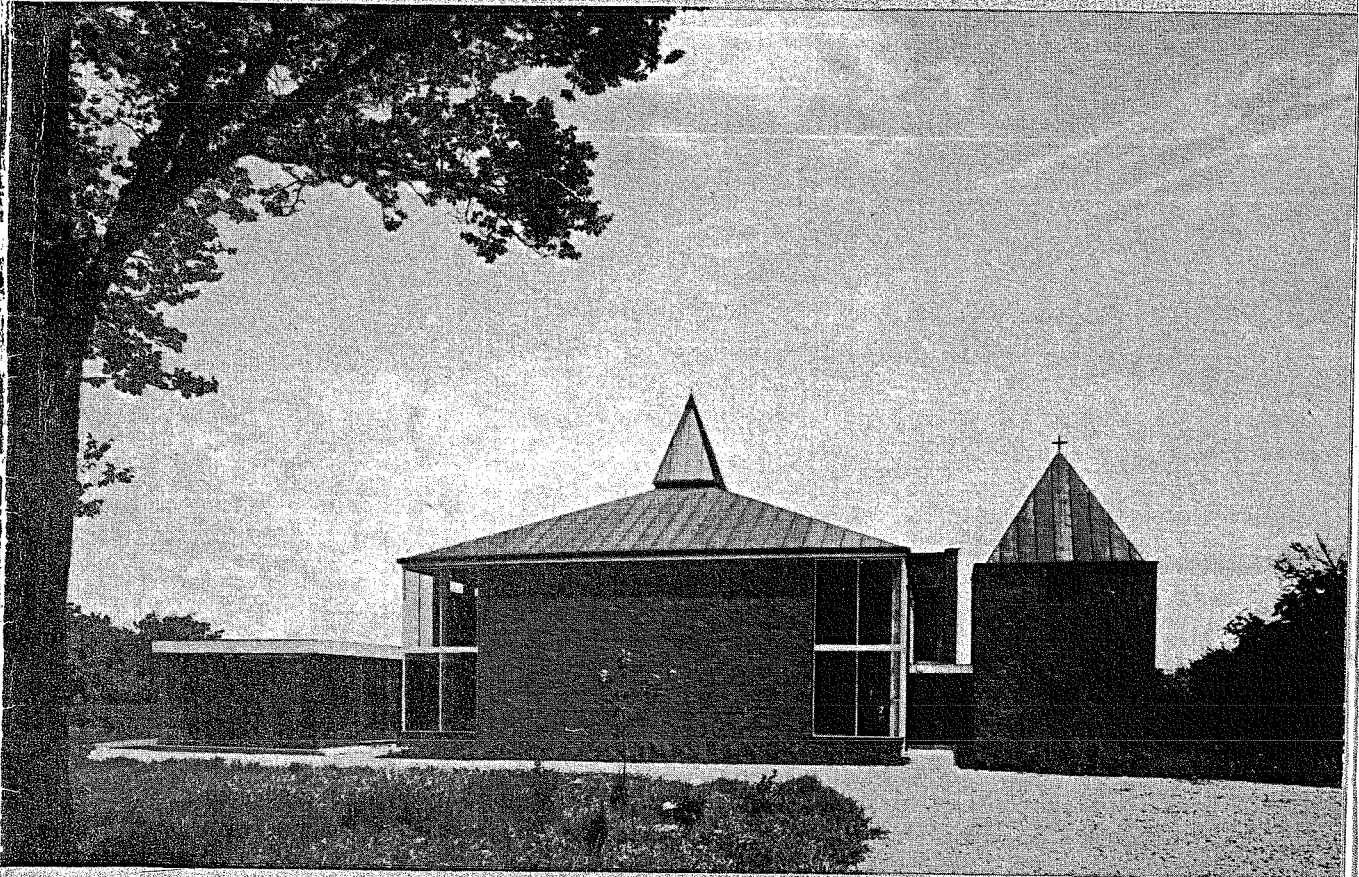


**1867**

**1967**

All Saints' Church  
New Longton



Centenary  
October 14th, 1967

# The Church in New Longton 1867-1967

by  
Rev. B. H. Williams & John F. Fairclough, B.A.

## Acknowledgments

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## List of Illustrations

Exterior of Church  
Lord Bishop of Blackburn  
Rev. T. J. Cunningham  
Rev. A. W. Sale  
Field Day 1914  
1960 Extensions  
Temporary Wooden Church  
Model of Church  
Consecration  
Interior of Church  
Baptistry Window  
Vicar, Headmaster and Churchwardens  
Deaconess Mary Bretherton  
Choir  
Latest School Extensions

## Cover

View of the Church from Station Road across the Green where the original wooden church stood



To the People of All Saints, New Longton.

October, 1967.

As your Father in God, I salute and congratulate you on your 100th Birthday, and wish you many happy returns of the day! I have read with great interest the story of the growth of the Church in New Longton; from that early beginning in a humble cottage at the rental of one shilling and fourpence a week in 1866, until the present day with your lovely new Church, which it was my privilege to Consecrate in 1964, and the new extensions to your Church School. Well done!

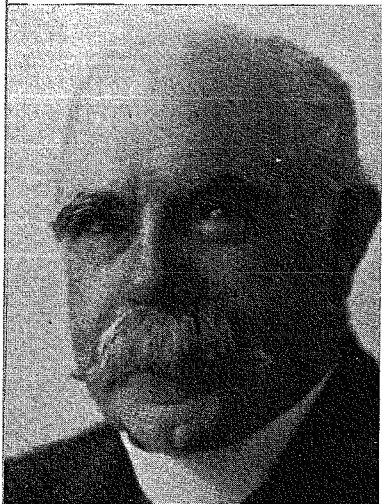
There is a text in Romans (4 v. 18)—“When Abraham was about one hundred years old . . . he was strong in faith, giving glory to God”.

You, at All Saints, are 100 years old. You owe your Church and School to those who were strong in faith: who, despite difficulties and problems, have pressed forward, undeterred, to build the Church and enlarge the School. For what purpose? To give glory to God: to ensure that the people had a worthy place in which to worship, a good School in which their children could be educated.

You have entered into a rich inheritance which you, strong in faith, giving glory to God, must seek to pass on, enriched and enhanced, to others.

May God bless your Church and School and you all.

✠ *Charles Blackburn*



Rev. T. J. Cunningham, MA (Oxon)—formerly Headmaster of Hutton School for nearly 30 years and generous Benefactor to the Parish and village of New Longton.



Rev. A. W. Sale, M.A. (Cantab)  
—First Priest-in-charge  
of the new district of All Saints'  
New Longton (1916-1923).

1866

Our task is to trace the history of New Longton Church and School from 1867 to 1967.

The strength of Christian witness in any place depends to a large extent on the quality of the parishioners and their devotion to Christ. This will mean that countless names will not appear in this brief history although they laboured so effectively for the truth of Christ in the Church of All Saints', New Longton.

For the origins of New Longton Church and School we must go back to 1866 when in the Magazine for "Penwortham, Longton and Farington" we find a reference made to New Longton Chapel. The entry stated that the Chapel would be open for Church Services on Sunday, 28th October. This Chapel was housed in the cottages which are very close to the present Church. The rent for the building was 1/4d. per week. In January 1867 "a School for little children" was opened in the same cottages.

There is a very interesting entry about the New Longton Chapel in the Penwortham magazine of October, 1866. We quote this entry in full:—

#### NEW LONGTON CHAPEL

We hope to open the above on Sunday, October 28th, at half-past six in the evening. It is a place of worship of the humblest possible kind—an ordinary cottage and nothing more, taken at a rent of one shilling and fourpence a week, payable in advance. It is none the worse for that, if it shelters earnest worshippers, and helps to do some portion of the work of God.

In starting this new enterprise, we are very anxious not to begin anything which we have not good hope of being able to carry on; so we fix our first measure rather low, and offer only a Sunday Service once a fortnight, and a Week-day Service once a fortnight—as below. If successful, we may advance farther afterwards.

Sunday, October 28th, at 6-30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6th, at 7-30 p.m.

Sunday, November 11th, at 6-30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28th, at 7-30 p.m.



Soon we hope to add a school for little children, to train them early in orderly ways, and to prepare them for the higher schools of the Parish. A night school also may possibly be contrived. We shall also establish there a division of the Parish Lending Library, from which we hope that the neighbours may derive amusement and instruction in the long winter evenings. And we hope to make the little establishment useful in various other ways.

When we say that we hope this, that, and the other, we would be understood to mean, that we intend to try, but that we keep in memory the truth that "except the Lord Build the house, their labour is but lost that build it", and therefore will make no great boasts or promises about what we are going to perform. For success we trust, first in God's blessing, which we do not think will fail us; for we shall be engaged in the two works which He has set his Church to do:—

1.—Drawing men's hearts to Him, and reconciling them to Him through Jesus Christ.

2.—Drawing those same hearts towards each other, and uniting them together, through the binding force of common prayers and sacraments, in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of the same Jesus Christ.

So we believe that we are engaged in God's work, and we, therefore, look confidently for His help and blessing. Our second trust must be placed in the people themselves, to whom we minister. We expect that they will help us. We shall make a collection once a month for our expenses; and we will find something to do for what willing hands there may be found amongst them.

"Prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper Thou our handy-work".

From these small beginnings the Church of England commenced its work and witness in New Longton under the supervision of the Vicar of Penwortham. A priority at this time was the acquisition of a suitable building for both worship and teaching, so in February, 1867 a Building Fund was opened. Older Parishioners may be interested to know that an Alder tree suitable for a clogger was on sale in aid of the Building Fund. A promise of land which formed part of the Fielden property was received in March.

It is praiseworthy to note the enthusiastic response of the people of New Longton to this appeal. Also it must be recorded how the example set by these pioneers has been maintained by successive generations of Christian people in this place.

The new building which is now the nucleus of the present School was situated on the corner of Station Road and Hugh Barn Lane. Its total cost, including furnishings was £420. The Magazine for May, 1867 records that "we have thirty chairs and we need eighty more". However in September of that year the Building Fund had reached £333 11s. 7d. and an entry in the Magazine adds the pertinent comment—"We must now consider the spiritual work of the Church". To assist in the work of the Church we learn that a Superintendent

## 1867 - New School Dedicated

for the Sunday School was appointed along with Sunday School Teachers and an Organist. It must be remembered that the Church of England pioneered the movement to educate the children of ordinary men and women. Besides learning the basic stories of the Gospels and passages from "The Book of Common Prayer" the young were taught elementary reckoning, reading and writing. By July the New Building was ready for use but the date of dedication was uncertain because there had been a new appointment to the Archdeaconry of Manchester. The new appointment was necessary because Archdeacon Mather had recently died as the result of a train accident. However it was soon decided that the new Archdeacon of Manchester, the Ven. R. Durnford should dedicate the new School Chapel and preach the sermon on 15th October, 1867. On that day two loaded omnibuses brought people from Penwortham and Middleforth. It was estimated that the number attending the dedication was over 200.

On the day of the dedication the cost of the building (£420) had almost been met when the Building Fund stood at £416 11s. 6d. Thus in October, 1867, the Church of England in New Longton was seen to be an organised movement, ready to deal with the pastoral needs of the district.

May, 1868 saw Mr. Thomas Carr appointed as Chapel Warden. In 1870 the first Inspection of the School took place. It is recorded that of the 40 scholars present most of them only attended in the Winter. Many of the children were obviously a good source of labour during the Summer months when children of seven and eight years were employed cutting up turf on the moss.

The care and concern of the Vicar of Penwortham for this new venture in New Longton is apparent in 1871 when he invoked the Blandford Act by insisting that New Longton School Chapel remained under his control. He stated that "he would not leave hold of that child until it was strong enough to run alone".

## Expansion begins

By 1879 there were pleas for an additional classroom with a gallery so a Classroom Fund was opened. This was the beginning of School extensions and modernisations which have proceeded right up to 1967. Even as early as 1888 a second classroom was added to the school building.

### **Extract from Parish Magazine September, 1888.**

New Longton Chapel School is rather younger than Middleforth. The first beginning of it was a room, or rather two rooms knocked together, in a cottage in the row. This was opened for worship on October 28th, 1866. The neighbours around were pleased with the service; and very soon the worshippers found themselves unbearably warm in summer, and inconveniently thrutched. Hence, the idea arose of building a School and Chapel of their own. The neighbours, with the encouragement and aid of more distant friends, entered very warmly into the project, and collected nearly all the money required; so that the Chapel was built within a year of the first commencement of the work, and was opened for divine service, October 15th, 1867. The first sermon was preached by Archdeacon

Durnford, who has since become Bishop of Chichester, and is still living, the oldest bishop on the bench. The School was opened about the same time, the first teacher being Miss Margery Woodcock, now Mrs. M. Singleton. Thus the congregation is near completing its twenty-second, and the building its twenty-first year. During the whole of this time, the Sunday service has been continued, with increasing attendance from the neighbourhood; and the Holy Communion has been administered four to six times a year, in the evening, with a body of communicants, who cannot be called numerous, but, who, for steadiness and consistency, may compare advantageously with many larger bodies. The Day School and the Sunday School have each advanced and improved, though depending entirely upon the self-help of the members of the congregation: and each of them is now at its best.

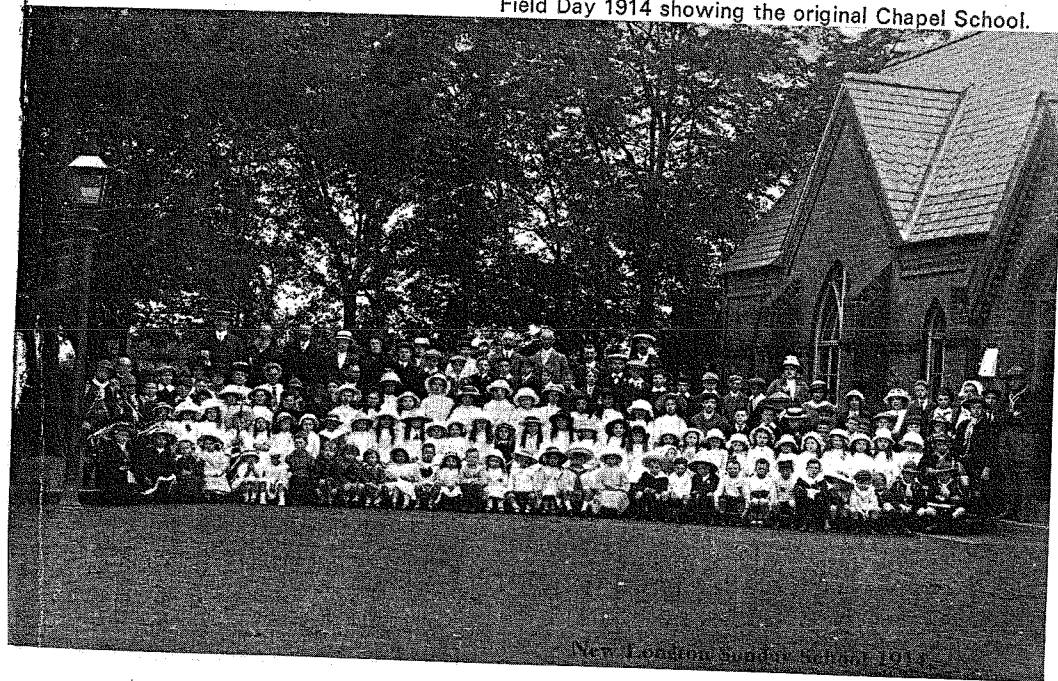
In the magazine of April 1883 there is a reference to the appointment of Miss M. E. Jardine to be Headmistress of New Longton School on 7th November, 1882. Miss Jardine remained in her position until December 22nd, 1919, a period of no less than 37 years. During this time she endeared herself to her scholars and to those who were members of the congregation. She played the organ for church services, she produced plays; there was hardly anything in the village scene in which Miss Jardine did not have a part. There is no doubt that she played a very important part in shaping the destiny of the future Parish.

There are two contemporary dates which are of interest to the people of New Longton district. Firstly, on the 23rd September, 1886 the foundation stone of Longton Parish Church was laid, and secondly, in 1890 the Rev. T. J. Cunningham, M.A. was appointed Headmaster of Hutton Grammar School.

On 6th December, 1891 the first Baptism was held at New Longton by the Rev. C. F. Winter, Vicar of Penwortham, when George Bamber

## First Baptism

Field Day 1914 showing the original Chapel School.



New Longton Church, 1914.



View of extensions to the original chapel school which were completed in 1960.

### “The Banquet Fund”

of Longton was received into the Church of Christ. The next Baptist recorded is Margaret Jane Cardwell, of Newgate Lane, on 17th January, 1892 who is still in the Parish, now Mrs. Taylor, of Wham Lane.

Of building projects there seems to be no end. In 1894 plans were passed for a new Cloakroom and a fund was opened to pay for it. Again in 1904 further extension projects were envisaged. As a result of efficient fund raising the Infants' Room, a new Classroom, new Outbuildings and a new heating chamber were paid for and dedicated by November, 1905. Special services and a Tea Party were held to mark the completion of these extensions.

The Field Day has by now become part of the Village life of New Longton. Its origin lies in 1906 when the first Banquet was held. To this very day the Fund for the Field Day is called “The Banquet Fund”.

A significant advance in the Church life of New Longton took place in 1915. In September of that year a Meeting was held to consider an offer by the Bishop of Manchester, in whose Diocese the District of New Longton then was, to provide a resident Clergyman for New Longton. This Meeting was chaired by the Lord Bishop of Whalley. There was also present The Rev. Oliver Burton, M.A., Vicar of Penwortham, Churchwardens, several Sidesmen and forty parishioners. The Bishop explained the scheme and invited those present to give their names as subscribers who would guarantee a sum of £70 per year for five years. This was to be a contribution towards the stipend of the future Priest-in-charge of New Longton.

On April 28th, 1916, at the Annual Vestry Meeting, The Rev. Oliver Burton expressed his regret at having to officially sever his connection with New Longton, but he extended a warm welcome to The Rev. A. W. Sale, M.A., the newly appointed Priest-in-Charge of New Longton. The Vicar of Penwortham

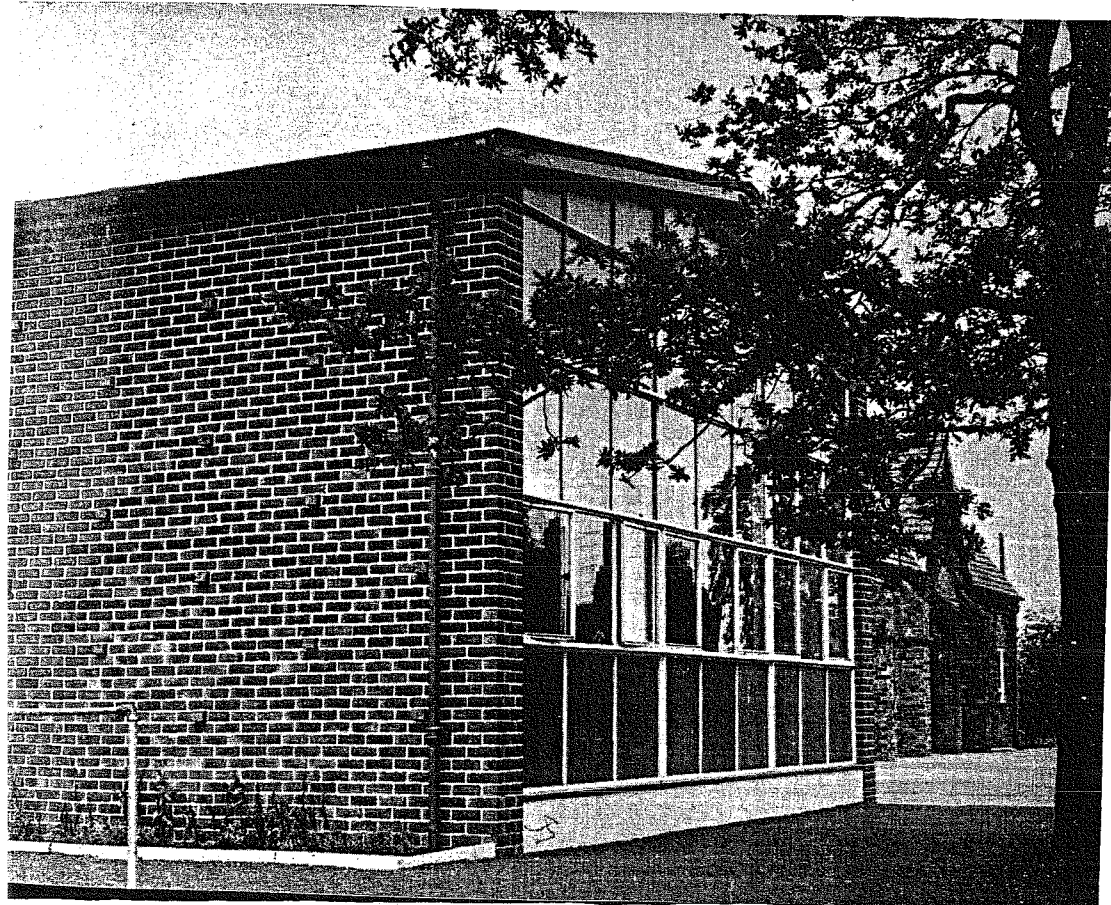


continued to explain that although the Parish of Penwortham was sorry to lose New Longton as part of their Parish it would be a distinct gain to the spiritual life of New Longton district to have a resident Priest whose task was solely to minister to their pastoral needs.

## First Priest-in-Charge

When the Rev. A. W. Sale began his ministry in New Longton the first World War had already been raging for two years. As a result of this war The Rev. A. W. Sale left for France in August, 1917, only two months after moving into a house in Royalty Lane, from a Railway Carriage at the back of the School, which had been their first home. His departure for France was in response to an appeal launched in March asking for Clergy to volunteer for active service. On his return from active service The Rev. Arthur Sale and the Parish worked with real determination to see the erection of a temporary wooden Church. This building served the district and later the Parish of New Longton for over forty years. Mr. Sale, writing in the Penwortham Magazine of October, 1921 makes the following observations:—"The result of our united efforts is now before us. Starting in 1916 with £248 13s. 11d. bequeathed by the Penwortham Extension Fund, the following additions were made—an average of £63 9s. 0d. for the years 1916 and 1917, £56 16s. 0d. in 1918, £110 10s. 5d. in 1919 and £220 16s. 9d. in 1920. To-day with our "Sale of Work" our assets are £850

1960 extensions showing the original chapel school in the background.



## All Saints' Named

on the strength of which a building has been commenced . . . . at a cost of £1,100".

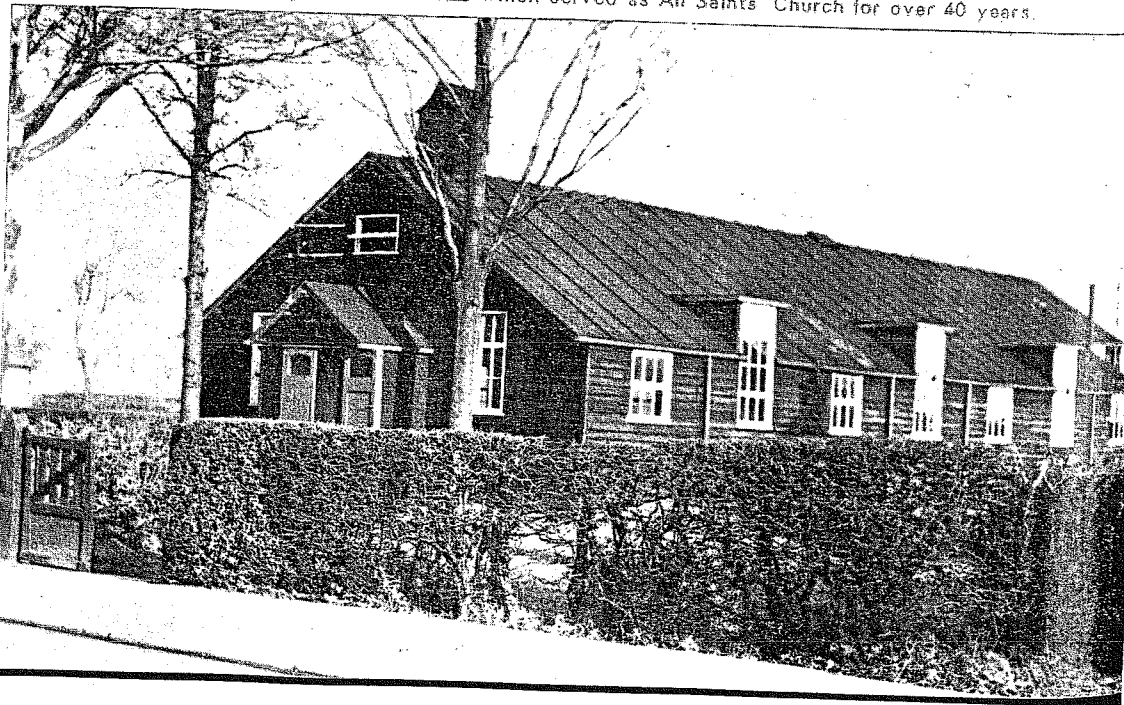
In January, 1922, Mr. Sale could write in the Magazine, "We look forward with lively anticipation to the eventful day of the Dedication of our new Church on Thursday, January 26th as a crowning of the efforts of those who since February, 1918 have looked forward to this and named it "All Saints". The dedication service (3 p.m.) will be followed by a reception in the School and by the presentation of Church workers to his Lordship". His Lordship here referred to is Dr. William Temple, bishop of Manchester, and it is worthwhile paying tribute to this great leader of the Church of England. Throughout his life he showed an intense interest in educational and social work and throughout the troubled thirties he spoke out on international questions. His untimely death in 1944 after only two and a half years as Archbishop of Canterbury produced tributes not only to his independent thought and philosophy but also to his great Christian humanity.

The actual dedication of the wooden church by Bishop Temple was, as Mr. Sale anticipated, an occasion of great rejoicing. The Priest-in-Charge was obviously deeply moved by the occasion and in a subsequent magazine he comments on the enthusiasm of choir, church officers and congregation which he observed that day. In the same magazine Mr. Sale paid tribute to Robert Porteous, Church Warden and School Manager, who died on January 8th. Writing of this man, Mr. Sale says, "He exercised a real Ministry and was a good example of the Priesthood of the Laity. The source of his ministry was prayer by which he found his bearings and steered a course straight and true".

## Endowment

Appearing in the same edition of the Magazine is reference to the Ada Cunningham Benefaction towards the Endowment of the

Temporary wooden building erected in 1922 which served as All Saints' Church for over 40 years.



Benefice of New Longton. The Benefaction reads:—

“To the Glory of God, and in memory of his loved wife and helpmeet, ADA ELIZABETH WELLINGTON (second daughter of the late N. T. Menneer, Esq., of Edginswell House, Devon), the Reverend T. J. CUNNINGHAM, M.A., Ch.Ch.Oxon., formerly for nearly 30 years Head Master of Hutton School, in this district gave £540 11s. 11d., £5 per cent. War Stock 1929—1947, to three Trustees, viz. The Right Reverend Atherton Gwyllym Rawsthorne (Lord Bishop of Whalley), Francis Edward Swindells, Esq., of Longton Hall, Near Preston, and George William Archer, Esq., of Oak House, New Longton, to be by them administered for the benefit of the Incumbent of All Saints, New Longton, as they in their wisdom shall deem best.

This gift is made in the assurance that the Parishioners of All Saints, New Longton, will strive to meet it with an adequate amount so that the total sum thus increased may be handed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the permanent benefit of the Incumbent of All Saints, New Longton.

A. W. Sale, M.A., Emm.Coll., Cantab., Curate-in-charge.

W. B. Barton, Esq.,

Robt. Porteous, Esq., Churchwardens.

Rev. W. Shepperd In the Magazine of December, 1922 the Rev. Arthur Sale announced the name of the Rev. William Shepperd as his successor at New Longton. Mr. Sale was to maintain throughout the rest of his life a real interest and support in the work and progress of All Saints, New Longton. The present Vicar recalls how Mr. Sale regularly wrote letters of encouragement to him and prayed for his first charge. He also received gifts of “old silver” which were sold to provide funds for the present Church building. Mr. Sale died in 1963. The Rev. A. W. Sale conducted his last Sunday services at New Longton on 19th January, 1923. During the Interregnum the Rev. T. J. Cunningham, M.A., Headmaster of Hutton School took charge of All Saints. Mr. Cunningham’s interest and pastoral concern for this Parish is well-known and he took no small part in the foundation of the Village Institute.

The Rev. William Shepperd commenced his ministry on 4th March, 1923. The Eagle lectern which has since been modernised and was a gift of St. Jude’s Church, Preston, was installed on S.S. Simon and Jude’s day, 1923. Also a small pipe organ, which everyone will remember, was purchased in the following year for £50.

This instrument served the church for about 40 years and by the end its life countless initials, of many young men engaged as organ blowers, could be found carved on the organ seat or thereabouts. Later, when the pipe organ in Farington Church was dismantled, All Saints acquired the electric blowing apparatus.

Rev. L. Evans Mr. Shepperd’s time at New Longton was short—March, 1923 to the late summer of 1925. In June, 1925 it was announced that he was to be Vicar of St. Paul’s, Blackburn, and that the new Priest-in-Charge of New Longton would be the Rev. Lewis Evans. Present parishioners will be interested to know that at this point

is recorded the fact that Miss Mary Bretherton, now Deaconess, is at work in South India.

The Rev. Lewis Evans writing in 1927 notes the population of the district of New Longton as being 2,000, and that a Bazaar raised £600.

One can only conclude that the people of New Longton were as active and generous then as they are now. By this time there was about £2,100 in the Church Building Fund.

An important visitor to New Longton in June, 1927 was Dr. P. M. Herbert, Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Blackburn.

He visited the parsonage and met the Building committee in the school. The present Vicar, the Rev. B. H. Williams, was ordained by Bishop Herbert, Trinity, 1934, and remembers him with deep affection for his acts of generosity and kindness.

By 1927 All Saints was on the threshold of realising the cherished hope of becoming a properly constituted Parish.

In June, 1928, it was reported that New Longton had now the power to become a Peel Parish. A Peel Parish was a district taken out

of another Parish (in this case Penwortham) which could with the bishop's consent be constituted a separate parish. The actual benefaction consisted of £1,333 6s. 8d. and a similar amount was

promised to be added later. Along with the Ada Cunningham Bequest of £540 (already referred to) and a further donation of £100

from the Rev. T. J. Cunningham lay the hope of the ultimate establishment of All Saints' becoming a Parish.

The Rev. Lewis Evans' short ministry at New Longton came to an end in the autumn of 1928 when he announced his acceptance of the living of Etherley, Co. Durham.

He was succeeded by the Rev. H. C. Pope who was inducted to New Longton on 20th December, 1928, when electric lighting was used for the first time. So began a long and faithful ministry of 22 years.

One of the most important documents in the possession of the church is a copy of "The London Gazette" of Tuesday, 25th August, 1931.

In this document is found the approval of His Majesty King George V. to the scheme for "The District of All Saints, New Longton . . ."

Then follows a very detailed description of the boundaries of the district.

The early thirties saw the formation of several church organisations. In June, 1931, the 1st New Longton Girl Guide Company was started.

In 1932 the Mothers' Union was restarted. In January, 1933 the first Enrolment service was held. In March of the same year 31

members were admitted to the New Longton branch. June, 1934 saw the inauguration of the 1st New Longton (All Saints) Wolf Cub

Pack by the Divisional Scout Commissioner. The Pack started with 14 boys between 8 and 11 years of age. In September their

Colours were dedicated. Soon followed the first meeting of the newly formed 1st New Longton (All Saints) Boy Scouts in October and

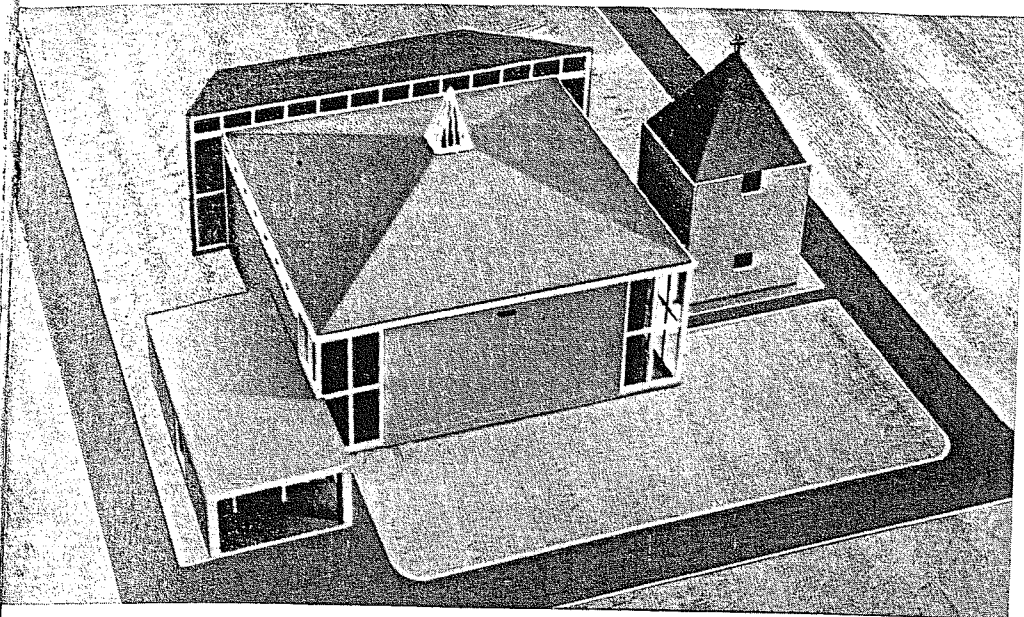
the Brownie Pack consisting of Girls between 8 and 11 years of age had its first meeting in December, 1934. The Scouts had their colours dedicated in May, 1935.

## Peel Parish

Rev. H. C. Pope

## Uniformed Movements





Model of the new Church which stood for over 2 years in the temporary wooden building.

**War Years** Two years before the outbreak of the second World War the Rev. H. C. Pope announced at a Parochial Church Council meeting that the sum of £4,000 was in hand towards the building of a new Church. Even as early as November, 1933, Mr. Pope had outlined at a Parochial Conversazione a scheme for the building of a new Church at the end of five years.

This scheme, he said, involved the raising of about £3,000. However by 1938 political tension and unrest was widespread in Europe and plans for the building of a permanent Church in New Longton had to be shelved for the time being. When Britain finally declared war on Germany on Sunday, 3rd September, 1939 the possibility of building a new Church was remote, and the Parishioners turned their attention to the war effort. Daily services of Prayer and Intercession were held in church at 11 a.m. Several mothers and children, and children under 5 years of age arrived in New Longton under the Evacuation Scheme. Owing to the "Black-Out" the time of Evensong was put at 3 p.m. in October, 1939, but evidently this proved unsuccessful because we find in October, 1940 a reference to poor attendances at the afternoon services. Consequently it was decided to "black-out" the Church and resume Evensong at 6-30 p.m.

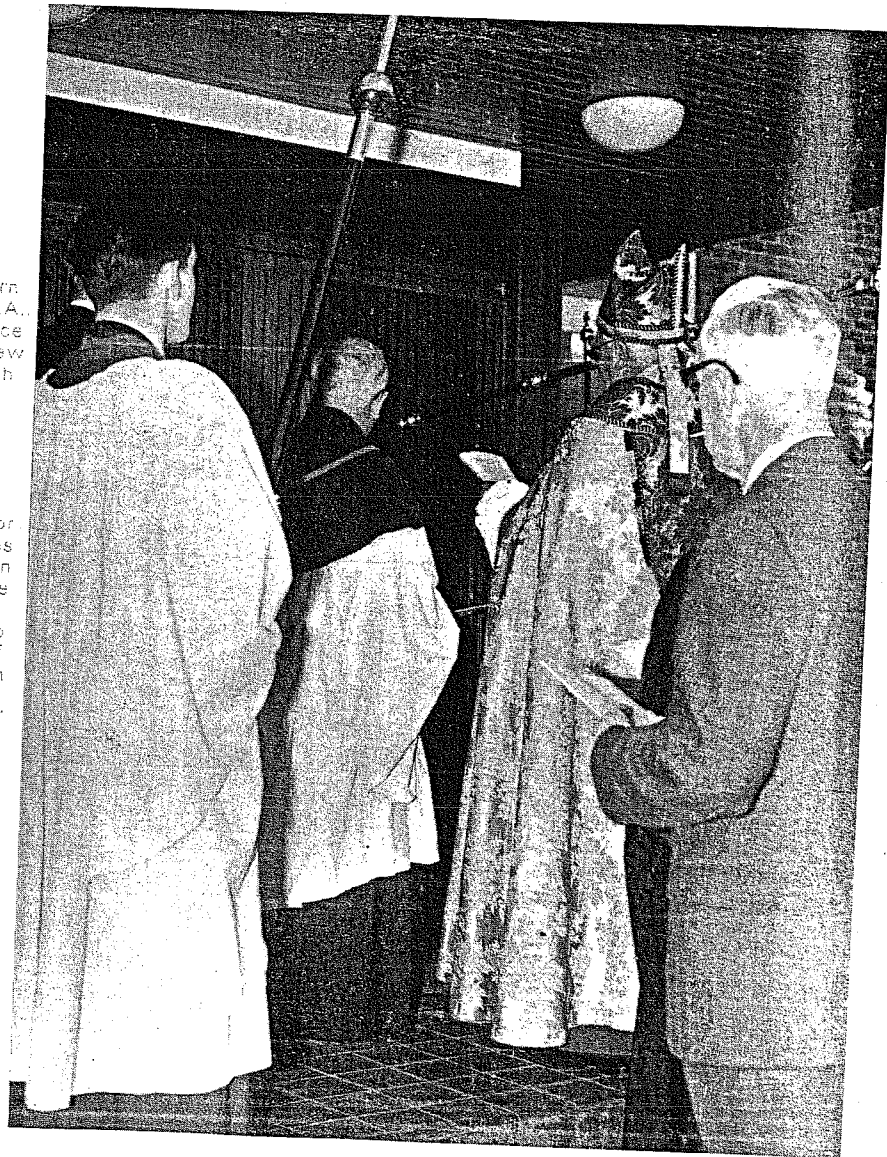
The Parishioners assisted the servicemen in a practical way. In December, 1939, Working Parties were started to knit socks, mufflers and scarves. In October, 1940, 63 parcels were sent to members of H.M. Forces. In 1941 an Easter gift of 88 parcels was sent to men and women of H.M. Forces.

July 24th, 1950 begins a new chapter in the history of All Saints', New Longton. It was on this day that the present Incumbent, the Rev. B. H. Williams was Instituted and Inducted by the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, Dr. Wilfred Marcus Askwith with the Rev. J. C. Carpenter acting in the place of the Archdeacon.

Rev.  
B. H. Williams

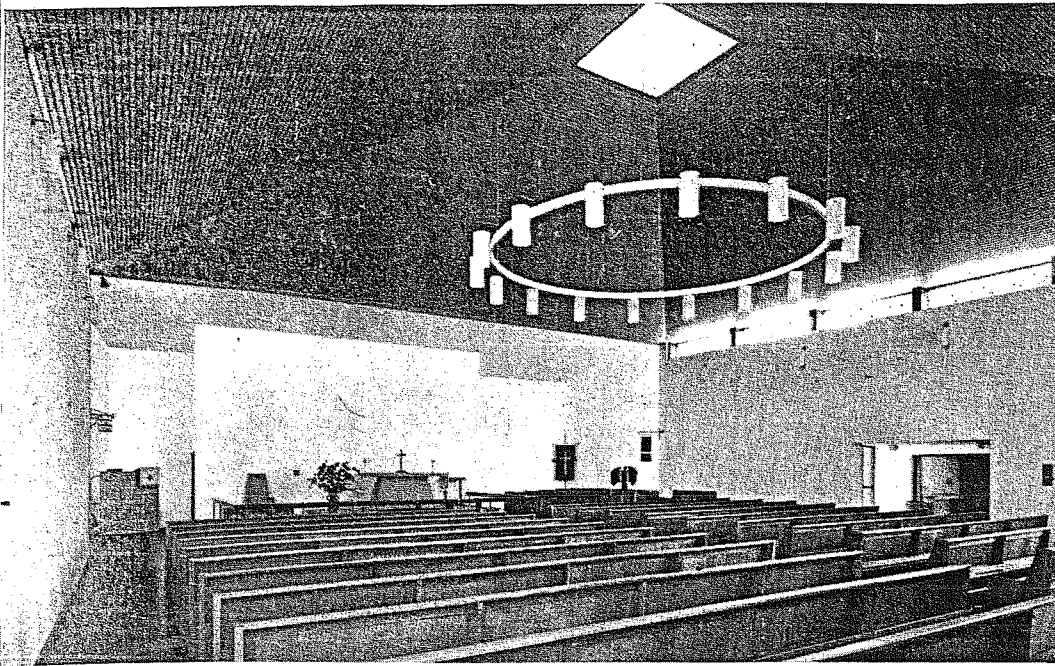
It was the Bishop's intention when appointing the present Vicar that his priority task should be the building of a permanent Church. It was also considered that building could perhaps commence in the very near future. However after a financial study it was found that such a step was entirely out of the question for some time to come. It was very important that great care and thought should be brought to bear on deciding the best starting date for this most important project. If an unsatisfactory starting date had been accepted the Church would have been burdened with overwhelming financial obligations.

However the vision of a new Church became a guiding light throughout the 50's and early 60's. We have already recorded how the Members of New Longton Church in the past had laboured so devotedly for the work of the Kingdom of God in this place and at this particular point in the development of the Church of New Longton



The Bishop of Blackburn  
The Rt. Rev C. R. Claxton, M.A.,  
D.D., knocking for admittance  
at the consecration of the new  
Church

"The knocking at the door  
by the Bishop several times  
before he is granted admission  
demonstrates the persistence  
and patience of God  
the Shepherd of Souls who  
ever waits at the door of  
the human heart with  
penitence and prayer, the  
soul moves towards him"



*View of the interior of the Church.*

the people rallied round in a real concerted effort.

"The Free Will Offering Scheme" was reintroduced and resulted in an immediate rise in the amount of Collections. The Scheme was introduced so that a real advance could be made in obtaining a sufficient amount in the New Church Building Fund to warrant the calling in of an architect. It was planned that all collections taken in Church would be sufficient for the day-to-day expenses of the Church while the proceeds from any special efforts could be devoted entirely to swelling the New Church Building Fund.

Although all thought of actually starting the building of a new Church had to be shelved for the time being, improvement and alterations proceeded on the School. From the origins of Christian witness in New Longton there has been an interest and concern in the education of its young people, in the best possible environment.

It had been necessary for some time to improve the toilet facilities and the Managers took an accident as an opportunity to deal with the problem. A lorry belonging to Messrs. J. Bretherton & Sons Ltd. arrived with a load of ashes to be laid on the school playground. Suddenly the wheels of the lorry broke through a cover over a Septic Tank which had never been used. From then on the improvement of the School Toilet facilities was fairly straightforward. Until an opportune time for building the new Church arrived, thought had been given to repairing and decorating the old Church. The Vicar called for volunteers for the exterior repairs which needed to be done and help was forthcoming without delay. The interior decorating was undertaken by a firm of Decorators and the result was to everyone's satisfaction.

It was not known until 1964 that the Reredos was Bath Stone because it earlier had been coated with paint which by then looked rather faded and dirty. Consequently a fresh coat of paint was

## A King Dies

applied (the first of many) and in future the appearance of the Reredos did much to enhance the beauty of the Church. The "Register of Services" records the death in his sleep of His Majesty King George VI on 6th February, 1952. Further reflection on the life of this man has shown him to be a man of great faith and perseverance in ill health. During the second World War he had put the service of his country first and in doing so had shown himself to be a man of humble spirit.

## A Robed Choir

Another entry in the "Register of Services" in 1952 records a collection being given to providing "Choir Robes". Until this time the Choir had sat in their places in their ordinary clothes. The Choir at this time was composed mainly of Youth Club members who had volunteered "en masse" for leading the worship and served the Church effectively in this roll for some years.

The original Choir Cassocks were made by Mrs. Prescott of twill sheeting given by Mr. J. Brown of "Elgin", Station Road. These Hugh Barn Lane and Mrs. Whittaker (then Miss Langfield) from original Choir Robes are still in use but are now coming to the end of their life.

A change of Headmaster occurred in 1954. The "School Log" records that permission was granted to Mr. S. E. Thomas to absent himself from School on the 30th June, 1953. This allowed him to attend an interview for the post of Headmaster at Longton County Primary School. His application for this post was successful and he was to leave New Longton in the following December. The present Headmaster, Mr. R. Iddon, then an assistant teacher at Lostock Hall County Primary School took up his duties on 11th January, 1954.

During these days in the 50's there are recorded frequent visits to New Longton of the Rev. P. A. Schofield, then Vicar of Penwortham, now Canon Domestic to the Bishop of Blackburn. Canon Schofield's genuine interest, friendship and encouragement played a significant part in the development of All Saints' Parish during these years leading to the commencement of the new Church. Another visitor and friend whose name appears frequently in the records is the Rev. L. N. Forse, Rector of Tarleton. His name was a household word and legend in New Longton and he is remembered with great affection. He died in November, 1961, as he wished, in harness, and lies in Tarleton old Churchyard. A friend of many years the Rev. T. G. Watkins, Rector of Hoole, is also numbered amongst the frequent visitors. Indeed the Parishes of New Longton and Hoole have often co-operated in confirmation arrangements, experiments in worship and pulpit exchanges.

## A Queen Crowned

A great day was June 2nd, 1953 when Princess Elizabeth, daughter of His late Majesty King George VI, was crowned Queen in Westminster Abbey. A Coronation ceremony is an occasion of splendid ritual and wonderful symbolism which is essential for any true expression of religious sentiment. This being so it is not surprising that New Longton Church should install two large Television screens in the School so that many people could witness this most moving act.



Also in the Summer of 1952 the Youth Club accompanied by Mrs. Betteridge of the School teaching staff and the Vicar went on a ten day holiday to Jersey. This was a most enjoyable venture and the fact of all living together in the same hotel gave an opportunity for real community living and allowed everyone to get to know each other a little better.

Many will remember with deep affection and gratitude Mrs. E. Gregson who for many years played a large part in the Mothers' Union in this parish. It was in October, 1957, that she was called to her Lord. The Chandelier in the new Church is to her memory.

## A New Bishop

Thumbing through the "Register of Services" we find the signature of Walter Blackburn who administered confirmation at All Saints' in March, 1965. This reminds us that Wilfred Marcus Askwith had by this time left Blackburn to become Bishop of Gloucester.

He was a very able man of great spiritual insight and the Church in this Diocese gained much from his Episcopate. A gift day at which the Bishop preached increased the New Church Fund by £209.

Walter Baddeley had a relatively short period as Bishop of Blackburn.

The Bishop of Lancaster writing in "The Crosier" of April, 1960, is found writing, "Since the last number of The Crosier was published the trumpets have sounded on the other side for Walter our Bishop. We will remember him in the context of the hope and joy of Easter".

The Vicar recorded a real appreciation of this humble man of God who had the knack of making friends, inspiring confidence and being at home in anyone's house. About this true Father-in-God the Vicar wrote, "He was our friend, one who came into our homes and instantly made himself one of the family. He came into our Churches and we were warmed and encouraged by his cheerfulness and sincerity. It seems but a short time since he became our Bishop and yet he came right into our hearts. From a purely personal point of view I can only record his kindness, sympathy and understanding and his readiness to do all in his power to help".

A note in the magazine of 1958 points to the growing need for more accommodation at the Day School. Also in the School "Log Book" there are several references to the boiler fire being put out by the rising water. The present Vicar recalls a few occasions when, with the help of Mr. T. Bretherton, the School cellar was bailed out, bucket by bucket. Sometimes this had to be done between the end of the Morning Service and the beginning of Sunday School.

The same problem occurred in the boiler house of the wooden Church and water had often to be bailed out by the Vicar first thing on a Sunday morning before the boiler could be stoked. There must be many men in the Parish who can remember performing this service.

## Expansion Continues

The need for more accommodation in the Day School began to be met in March of 1960 when loads of bricks for the extensions appeared on the site. Writing in the magazine the Vicar observes that "The arrival of several loads of bricks and the commencement of the preliminary work of demolishing the cottages next to the School has caused quite a little excitement both in the School and amongst

interested bystanders. The cottages mentioned were at one time one house and had been erected primarily for the use of the Headmistress of the School. Many will remember these cottages as the place of their first first home after marriage".

The translation of Dr. Charles Robert Claxton from Warrington to Blackburn was fortunate for the Church of All Saints'. The new Bishop had inspired many new Church building projects in the Diocese of Liverpool and he was not slow to add his encouragement to the plans for a new permanent Church in New Longton. The date of his enthronement at Blackburn Cathedral is recorded as 6th October, 1960.

A New Church?

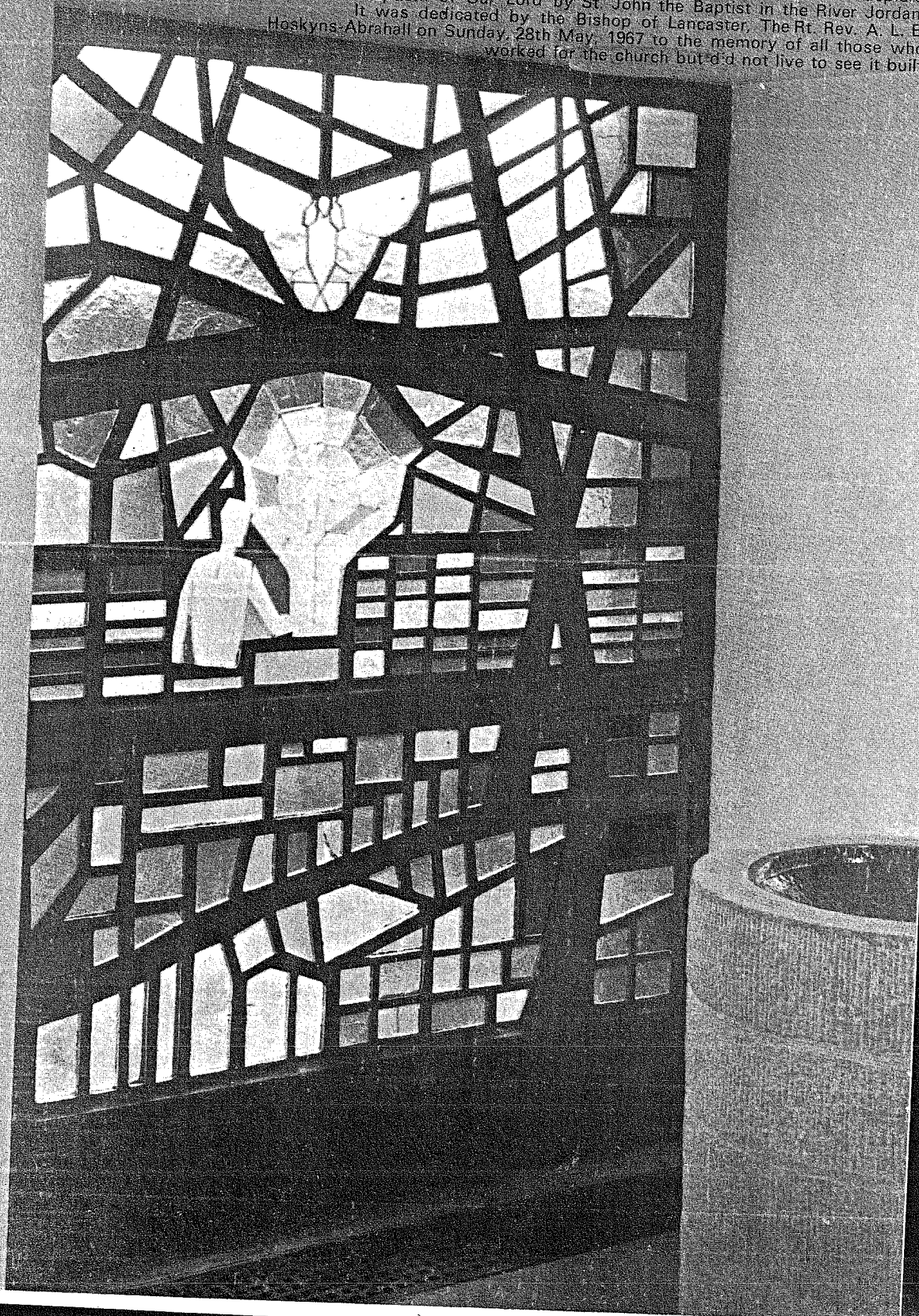
It was this same year that serious thinking began on the subject of actually starting to build the new Church. In connection with this the Vicar in September attended an extra mural course at Liverpool University, arranged by "The Institute for the study of Worship and Religious Architecture". The Subject of the course was modern Church architecture, and the lectures, seminars and slide shows gave the Vicar an opportunity to see the latest developments in this sphere.

Deaconess Mary Bretherton, known by everyone in the parish as an indefatigable worker for the Church, retired from her work in the Diocese of Dornakal in South India in 1960 and returned home. On 15th December in the same year The Bishop of Blackburn licensed Deaconess Bretherton to the Parish of New Longton as a Parochial worker. From that time she has continued to give valuable assistance to the Vicar in the Sacristy, the Sunday School and the Day School. Indeed she has relieved the Vicar of much of the routine correspondence which has been necessary with the building of a new church and its maintenance. Mr. Thomas Bretherton, the brother of the Deaconess, has played a large part in church and school life in that he has been Treasurer of the New Church Building Fund and the School Managers' Fund. One may record without fear of contradiction that the wise conserving and investing of the Church's money has been a major factor in the success of all the building undertaken by the Church. In this Mr. Bretherton was continuing the good work started by his father, Mr. James Bretherton, who donated land behind the vicarage for the use of the church.

By December of 1960 the extensions of the School were in an advanced state of completion. These extensions included a new Assembly Hall, a Classroom, a Kitchen, Corridors and Ancillary Buildings . . . . Most of the cost of these new buildings was met by the £1,000 and interest in the "Save the School" Fund, the sale of the cottages and land around them to the County Council and the School Managers' yearly contribution to the "Barchester Scheme". In February there is a report that the New Church Building Fund had gained a net increase of £320. At the time there was an announcement that it was hoped to commission an architect before long. However it was not until September that the Vicar's letter recorded that the P.C.C. had commissioned Mr. T. Mellor, of

Church Building Fund

Baptistry Window, designed by Mrs. H. Titherley of New Longton and executed in French hand-made glass. The window depicts the baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Lancaster, The Rt. Rev. A. L. E. Hoskyns-Abrahall on Sunday, 28th May, 1967 to the memory of all those who worked for the church but did not live to see it built.







R. Iddon, Esq., Headmaster  
 Rev. B. H. Williams, Vicar  
 J. S. Barwise, Esq. and  
 T. Bretherton, Esq., Churchwardens.

Lytham St. Annes to design a Church for All Saints', New Longton. The same magazine also contains the important news of the formation of a branch of the C.E.M.S. and the C.M.S. organisation for the children called "The Discoverers". At the first meeting of the C.E.M.S. Mr. Barwise was appointed the first chairman and Mr. J. S. Baxter the first secretary. Mr. Barwise had been Vicar's Warden since 1956, when he accepted this appointment. The year 1962 brought the new Church a little nearer. This year found Mr. Mellor making slight alterations to his plans at the request of the Diocesan Advisory Board. Even though the old wooden Church was coming to the end of its life, February saw an appeal to give it a "lick of paint" to tide the Parish over until the new Church was actually in existence.

## Model Church Displayed

By August, 1962, plans for the new Church had been finalised and a model was on display in the Church. This model did much to commend the modern conception in Church architecture to the parishioners of All Saints'. This model also made it possible for the Parish to know what their new Church would look like long before construction began. In all it was over two years from the finalised plans to the completion of the Church.

The estimated cost of the building was in the region of £35,000 including the furnishings.

## Foundation Stone Laid

The Diocesan Advisory Board approved the final draft of the plans so the way was now open for building to commence. Saturday, 7th September was a great day in the life of All Saints' Church, for that day saw the laying of the Foundation Stone by the Lord Bishop of Blackburn. During this ceremony four Corner Stones were laid, one each by the Vicar and Mrs. Williams, Mr. J. S. Barwise and Mr. T. Bretherton, who were afterwards each given the mallets they used at the ceremony. It must be noted that the date of the laying of Foundation and Corner Stones was the Silver Wedding of the Vicar and his wife. A large gathering witnessed this ceremony; among them being local clergy from St. Oswald's Roman Catholic



## New Parish Magazine

Church and from the Methodist Church, also many neighbouring Anglican clergy.

January, 1964, heralded the beginning of a Parish magazine for All Saints'. Previously the magazine had been a joint effort with St. Mary's Penwortham. The new magazine had a bright appearance, a new size and an attractive cover design featuring the new Church. The design was produced by Harold Olive of New Longton. In the second edition of the All Saints' magazine—the one for February, 1964—there is an obituary notice and tribute to the Rev. Arthur W. Sale, M.A., first Priest-in-Charge of the district of New Longton. The testimony of those who knew him is that he laboured in every possible way to bring his people to God and cared for them at every turn of their road through life. Many tell of the days when Mr. and Mrs. Sale lived in a Railway Carriage, behind the School. Since leaving New Longton he continued fervent in prayer for the well-being of All Saints'.

## Church Furniture Donated

It was at this time that letters from Mr. J. S. Barwise began to appear in the magazine. He had been asked by the P.C.C. to undertake the task of advising would-be donors as to the kind of gifts required for the furnishing of the Church and the possible cost. A Gift Book has now been compiled and contains the names of those who have defrayed the cost of certain articles of furniture. It is a great tribute to the friends and parishioners of New Longton that most of the major items of Church furniture as well as many smaller articles were donated independently of any other subscriptions. A note in the March issue of the magazine contains some observations from Mr. S. E. Poynts, Secretary of the P.C.C. on the subject of building progress. Mr. Poynts became Secretary of the P.C.C. at a very important stage in the history of the development of the Church and Parish and it was inevitable that there should



Deaconess Mary Bretherton.

be a considerable volume of correspondence in connection with the new building. Throughout this time Mr. Poynts dealt with all these matters in an efficient and business-like manner. Appreciation must also be recorded to the Churchwardens, Mr. J. S. Barwise and Mr. T. Bretherton who with the P.C.C. attended many meetings and visited several Churches, assessing the merits of the various buildings, the heating arrangements, layout, decor and furnishing. It is a tribute to the efficiency of the various committees that there was a solid measure of agreement amongst them on most matters concerning the Church. For instance, in the matter of heating there had been considerable research in the various methods and their merits. The final arrangement whereby most of the heating is located at the back of each pew plus a certain amount of supplementary heating under the floor in certain places has made a most efficient heating system without maintenance cost and without any discolouration to the decorations.

It was hoped that the Church would be completed and consecrated by July, 1964, but a comment in the magazine of August, 1964 sounds a warning note. The Vicar writes "It seems we must accustom ourselves to the idea of a much later date for the Consecration of our Church. The difficulty of obtaining large oak timbers for the pews is now very apparent and so we must accept a new date. After consultation with the Bishop the Consecration has been fixed for Saturday, 28th November, at 3-0 p.m.

## The End of an Era

The last Services in the temporary wooden Church were those of the Harvest Festival on 20th September, 1964. Many who came to the services were deeply moved when they realised that demolition was to start on the old building the very next day. It is not surprising that such feeling and sentiments should be present since many of the congregation had actually had a hand in building it. Evensong that day was an unforgettable experience and the Church—now at the end of its life—was packed to the doors. There were mixed feelings when the actual demolition started but the building which had been the spiritual home of all the people of All Saints' for forty years was not pulled apart by irreverent hands. In fact all the members of the demolition group were from the Church and there was present a feeling of loving care in parting with an old friend.

By late autumn, 1964, all the arrangements for the consecration of the new Church were complete. It was planned to have a marquee to accommodate an expected overflow congregation. Installed in the marquee would be a closed circuit television thus making it possible for all to witness in full the events of this great occasion.

Towards the end of October the space occupied by the old Church had been cleared and the grounds and paths laid out. The weather at this time was very wet and for some time the whole area in front of the new Church was a sea of mud. Nevertheless last minute preparations for the consecration service proceeded.

## The Consecration

At last the great day dawned—Saturday, 28th November, 1964.

From the weather point of view it was disappointing and it proved to be very cold for the overflow congregation in the marquee. This however in no way prevented a solemn and majestic atmosphere pervading the whole of the consecration ceremonial. The "Sentence of Consecration" which is in the possession of the Church points out the meaning and the purpose of this ceremony performed by the Bishop of Blackburn on that cold afternoon.

". . . . We would be pleased to set apart and separate the said new Church together with the site thereof from all common and profane uses whatsoever AND CONSECRATE AND DEDICATE SOLEMNLY the said new Church together with the site thereof to the honour and worship of Almighty God and Divine uses according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by the name and style of "THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS NEW LONGTON" NOW THEREFORE WE CHARLES ROBERT by Divine permission LORD BISHOP OF BLACKBURN DO by Our Authority . . . . SET APART AND SEPARATE . . . . AND WE CONSECRATE AND DEDICATE SOLEMNLY . . . . "THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS NEW LONGTON . . . . AND WE HEREBY expressly reserve to Ourselves and our successors the right of visitation of the said new Church and all other episcopal rights and privileges in and over the same GIVEN under our hand this twentyeighth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and sixty four in the Nineteenth year of our Consecration and in the Fifth year of Our Translation".

The Bishop arrived at the Church accompanied by his Chaplain (the Rev. Canon P. A. Schofield, M.A.) where he was met by the Vicar, the Rural Dean of Leyland (the Rev. William John Sawle, B.D.) and the Registrar of the Diocese (Mr. Leslie Ranson, LL.B.). The rural Dean's procession then proceeded into Church. Present in this procession were the Chairman of Longton Parish Council (Mr. E. W. Iredale), a Marshall (Mr. R. Bamford), members of the P.C.C., the General Foreman, the Master Craftsman, the Clerk of Works (Mr. P. A. Brook), the Architect, the Choir, Deaconess Mary Bretherton, the following Clergy—the Rev. Canon T. A. Rockley, B.A., the Rev. Canon R. F. Bateson, M.A., the Revs. D. F. Rees, M.A., H. A. Reid, A.K.C., F. Seddon, M.A., G. Bartlett, T.W. Baverstock, B.A., F. Mitchell, M.A., J. E. Thornber, T. G. Watkins, A.L.C.D., A. Williams, B.A., and the Rural Dean.

Once inside the Church with the doors closed the Rural Dean began "The preparation" which was in the form of a Litany. While this was going on, the Bishop's procession was making its way round the outside of the Church. This symbolises the Grace of God laying siege to the natural man. Present in the procession were the Cross Bearer, a Marshall (Mr. E. Giles), the Archdeacon of Blackburn (the Venerable H. N. Hodd, M.A.), the Vicar, and the Registrar, the Churchwardens, the Bishop's Chaplain and the Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Blackburn. On arriving at the West Door one of the Churchwardens (Mr. T. Bretherton) presented to the Bishop "The Petition to Consecrate" and the Bishop acceded.

He then knocked three times on the door and was admitted. A fanfare of trumpets by the Buglers of the Junior Soldiers Company Depot, the Lancastrian Brigade heralded the Bishop as he entered the Church to perform the consecration.

The words said and the ceremonies performed during the consecration were a reminder to God's people that Christ reigns as Lord over all life. For instance at the end of the invocation of the Holy Spirit the Bishop made the sign of the Alpha and the Omega on the floor of the Church with his Pastoral Staff thus signifying that every faculty belongs to Jesus Christ. This includes the field of learning, of science and art. God's people were also reminded of His initiative in coming to man and His availability in both Word and Sacrament. To meditate on this Service is a religious experience of real depth. In the December magazine of 1964 the Vicar wrote "We shall live for some time in the light and wonder of the Consecration of our Church". Further comment on this theme is superfluous, but having ascended the heights there are always the valleys to be negotiated when the view is neither clear nor inspiring. We can hardly expect it different since this is life.

## Organ Purchased

At the consecration we sang the hymns accompanied by a Wurlitzer Organ loaned by Mr. F. Layton Treasure. This gave impetus to the idea that a similar instrument would be a real asset to the worship in the new Church. Many will remember the old pipe organ already mentioned. It was originally intended to install this temporarily in the new Church but popular clamour soon decided that a new organ must be installed. Consequently various electronic organs were inspected and tested. Finally the latest instrument made by "Hammond Organs" was approved and installed. Mr. J. S. Barwise and his wife made themselves responsible for the raising of the necessary £1,500 required to purchase it.

Lest it should be thought that our sole occupation was that of raising money and this is a real danger in a Parish at this stage of its development, it is worth recording that a course of study entitled "No Small Change" was organised by Mr. S. E. Poynts.

The first month of the new year brought the death of Sir Winston Churchill and the March magazine records a tribute by The Archbishop of Canterbury:—"The great man whom we mourn to-day is one whom posterity will connect with particular days, hours, moments of crisis for this country and mankind, and yet in the particular day, hour, moment, he struck something universal in humanity . . . in leading a nation he touched those chords of humanity which belong to all nations, a lover of men, women and children, a reconciler; nothing human, in grief or in laughter, was outside his quick sympathy.

. . . . Wherever men and women believe in God they will want to thank God for giving such a man to the world. For him we thank God with all our hearts, for what he was, and for what he is and will never cease to be". (From a Speech in the House of Lords, January 25th, 1965).  
Any one returning to New Longton after an absence of six or seven

years would hardly recognise the village which virtually remained unchanged from year to year, except perhaps for the erection of an odd bungalow or house. Apart from the building of Dickson Hey in 1952 there had virtually been no change until 1960 when building started in earnest. New houses are fast appearing behind Station Road and on the whole length of Sheep Hill Lane off to the right hand and to the left hand, while Hugh Barn Lane has been developed beyond recognition. The result has been a great increase in the School population and the need for more classrooms to be added to the School.

The School Managers had not however been unaware of this situation and negotiations for further extension to the School started. At least two applications for approval were rejected by the Ministry of Education but approval was received in December, 1965. There was however further delay when it became known that the sum of money granted by the Ministry (£8,000) was insufficient to carry out the proposed alterations and extensions. However work was begun in September, 1966 and was completed by June, 1967. This new extension at the East end of the School consisted of two classrooms together with cloakrooms, corridors, a staff room and a separate entrance hall for the infants.

Looking at the School in its present state it is difficult to realise that it started its life as a Chapel and School for the people of New Longton in the reign of Queen Victoria. Here children now take their first steps in learning about God's wonderful world and man's responsible role within this world.

One of the teachers who had given loyal service in this Church

Some members of the choir taken after Church one Sunday morning.





School was Mrs. E. Carr who retired at the end of the Summer Term in 1965, after 22 years. The Vicar wrote in the September magazine—  
"There will be many who will look back on their school days at New Longton and remember being taught by Mrs. Carr and will be grateful to her for the thorough grounding they received while in her care".

A social was held on 3rd September when the Vicar presented Mrs. Carr with a nest of tables and a gold bracelet on behalf of the School Managers, members the P.C.C., staff and scholars past and present.

"A Young Wives Group has been formed". These words appearing in the magazine of March, 1965, gave no indication of the enthusiasm displayed by these young married women when they met together for the first time.

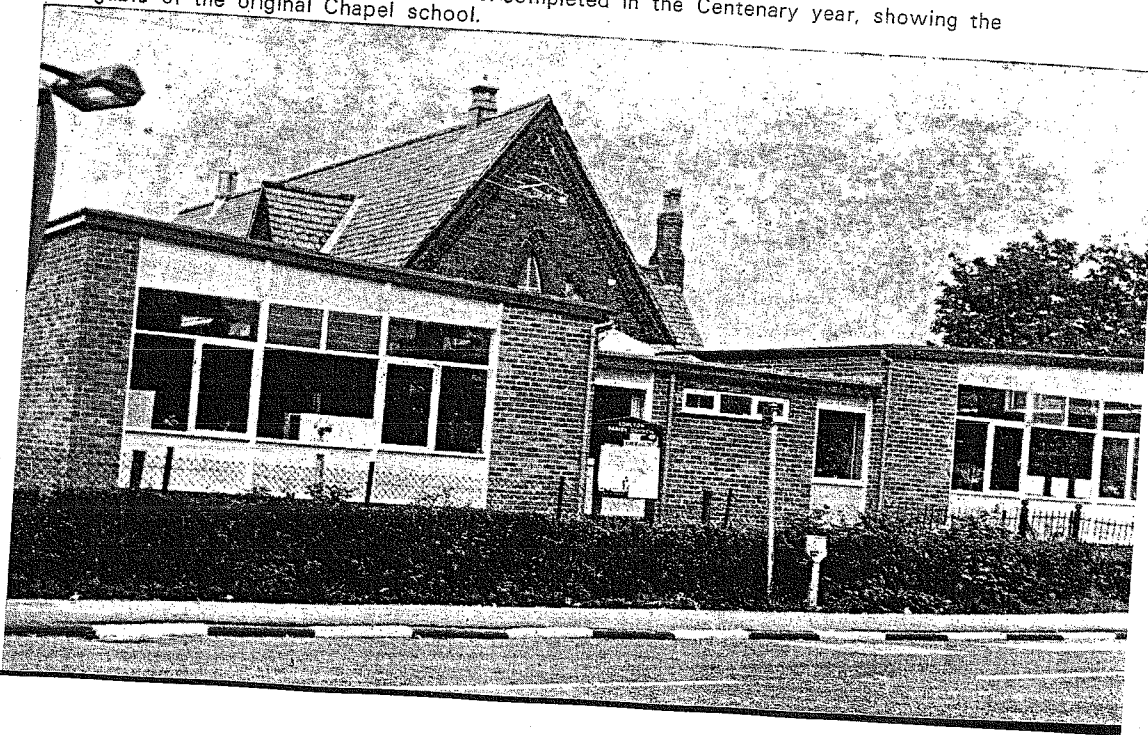
## Civic Trust Award

An honour of some importance came to the Church and to Mr. T. Mellor, the architect, when the Civic Trust had the new Church in its list of awards, in January, 1966. A quotation from the award reads "The Church makes a successful contribution to the village scene. The Architect is commended for his sensitive and imaginative approach, tempered with a respect for the village scale and character.

Also at this time there appears in the monthly bulletins of the magazines the progress of the Organ Fund. The Hammond Organ had been installed and was being used to its full advantage. On January 6th, 1966, an Organ Recital was given by Keith Sedgbeer. The Organ Fund was wound up in November, 1966, when the target of £1,400 had been reached.

On June 12th, 1966, The Lord Bishop of Blackburn was present at Evensong at All Saints'. On this occasion Mr. John Fairclough, B.A., was licensed in the office of Reader.

The most recent extension to the school completed in the Centenary year, showing the East gable of the original Chapel school.



## Baptistry Window

In the February 1967 Magazine, the School was again the topic of a short article about the land forming part of the School Playing Fields. A note from the Lancashire Education Committee recommended "the whole of the land extending from the new playing fields to Meadow Grove should be acquired for the School Playing Fields". This will make possible further extensions to the School.

The Sunday School Anniversary in June, 1967 saw the Dedication of the new Baptistry Window by the Lord Bishop of Lancaster. Executed in French hand made glass, it depicts the baptism of our Lord by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The design is an original idea of Mrs. Hazel Titherley and represents an entirely new approach to the subject of Stained Glass Windows in Churches. It has been named the Harry Ingham Memorial window and was given in memory of the great many good people who laboured for this new Church, but did not live long enough to see it built. "Others laboured and ye have entered into their labours". It is good to remind ourselves from time to time of the privilege which has been ours to build our Church and School.

October, 1967 sees the Centenary Celebrations to mark a hundred years of Christian Witness in Longton. The world of 1967 bears very little resemblance to that of 1867. The last one hundred years has seen outstanding advances in many fields—science and technology, education, medicine and the welfare services—and this has made inevitable the process of secularization. Man has "come of age"; he shapes his own destiny. The Technological Revolution has given a man a new and deeper understanding of his environment and with understanding comes control.

This process of secularization is in itself neither good nor evil, and certainly the Church and the Christian faith is neither out to fight it nor put the clock back. What the Christian Faith pleads in such a situation is that responsibility—both social and moral—should be taken seriously by man at this turning point in his history.

The Christian Faith has much to say on the subject of man's social and moral responsibility and equipped with these insights the Christian is called to live fully in the world as the servant of humanity.

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