

# THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, NEW LONGTON, 1963-1988

## FOREWORD

25 years is a minute part of the 2,000 years of the existence of the Church of Christ Jesus in the world, but every part is very important. 25 years is a bigger proportion of the 122 years of the existence of the Church of England in New Longton.

To commemorate this big event in the life of the Church in New Longton, we have commissioned this Silver Jubilee Brochure and we are delighted that Bob Iddon has been able to tell us what has happened to the Church in the village since the building of the present All Saints Church, which replaced the old wooden building. Bob is the ideal person to do this, as he has played such a major part in Church Life since he came to be Headmaster of our School in 1954. He was very much involved in the actual building of the new All Saints Church and has been treasurer of the Church for most of its 25 years. We are grateful to him for spending so much time looking through the records, books and magazines so that he is able to give us such a good account of those very important years in the life of All Saints Church, New Longton.

**Ian McMaster**  
Vicar

*(Any page numbers missing featured advertisements)*

Before our present Church building was erected, the parishioners of New Longton worshipped in a wooden building which had been dedicated in January, 1922, and named "All Saints". It was, however, always accepted as a temporary place of worship. The parishioners, encouraged by their respective Vicars, worked strenuously from that date, not only to pay for the running costs of the Church, but also to put monies into the "New Church Building Fund".





They had hoped to commence thinking seriously about building a permanent Church towards the end of the 1930s but, because of the outbreak of war, the matter had to be shelved; and after the war, the time was not immediately opportune for them to begin the project.

However, in July, 1950, the Rev. B. H. Williams was appointed to the Parish; and it was the intention of the Bishop of Blackburn (Dr. W. M. Askwith) that he should give priority to the building of a permanent place of worship. The Rev. B. H. Williams re-introduced the "Freewill Offering Scheme" which resulted in a rise in the Church's income. Collections taken in Church were then sufficient for the day to day running of the Church and monies from special efforts could be added to the "New Church Building Fund". The treasurer of this fund was Mr T. Bretherton who was also treasurer of the School Managers' Fund. The parishioners, too, were equally anxious to see something for their efforts and, by the end of the 50s, were beginning to register their feelings through the Parochial Church Council.

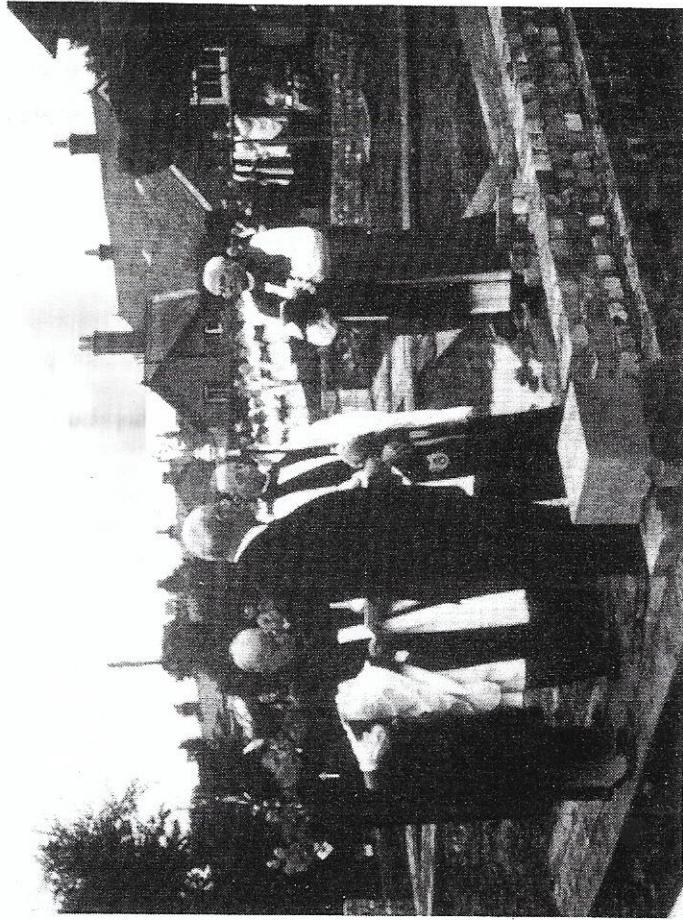
But still the time was not opportune for, at the Annual P.C.C. Meeting held on 24th March, 1959, the Rev. B. H. Williams told the meeting that the Lancashire Education Committee had approved plans for the first phase of the School extensions and that he and the School Managers had decided that this project would have to take priority over the new church.

However, good use was made of this period of marking time. In the early part of September, 1960, the Rev. B. H. Williams and Deaconess Mary Bretherton attended a conference of Church Architects and Clergy at Liverpool University and, on his return, the Vicar remarked that there was a change taking place in the idea of the position of the altar, which is, of course, the centre of worship. He also acquired and read many books on Modern Church Architecture and encouraged and arranged for members of the Parochial Church Council to visit modern and newly built churches in many parts of Lancashire.

In the following month, Dr. Charles Robert Claxton was enthroned as Bishop in Blackburn Cathedral. He had participated in several new church building projects in the Diocese of Liverpool and he quickly gave his encouragement to the parish. A sub-committee of the P.C.C. was formed to discuss the question of architects and, in the early part of 1961, Mr Tom Mellor of Lytham was engaged to be the architect. By the

end of July, 1961, he was able to present a tentative design for a church to hold 250 people to the P.C.C. A year later, the plans had been finalised and a model of the proposed church was put on display so that the parishioners could see what their church was going to look like. Subsequently, at a meeting of the P.C.C. held on the 28th August, 1963, the tender of Eaves of Blackpool was accepted at a cost of £28,832. 8s. 7d. At this same meeting, Mr. S. E. Poynts was appointed the new secretary of the P.C.C. There was an inevitable increase in the secretary's work at this time, and the parish must be grateful for his efficient handling of the correspondence. The wardens, too, had an increased responsibility at this time. Mr. T. Bretherton had for many years wisely handled the finances of the New Church Building Fund, while Mr. J. S. Barwise undertook the work of advising prospective donors on the requirements regarding the interior furnishings.

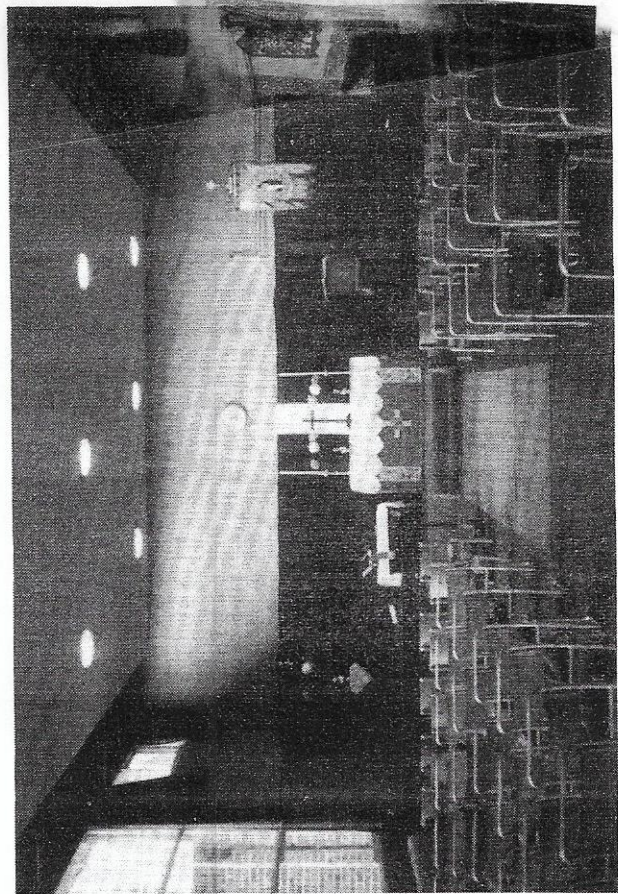
On Saturday, 7th September, 1963, the Foundation Stone of the new Parish Church was laid by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Blackburn and the four corner stones were laid by the Vicar, Mrs. Williams, Mr. J. S. Barwise and Mr. T. Bretherton. In the evening there was a celebration dance in the newly built school hall, organised by the Rose Queen Committee, and a special Thanksgiving Service was held on the Sunday.





Work on the building then went on apace and the Vicar, Wardens and P.C.C. were able to undertake other important duties. Shortly after the foundation stone had been laid, Archdeacon Hodd addressed the P.C.C. on the subject of "Christian Stewardship" which was being adopted in many parishes in the Diocese. Mr. Bretherton busied himself with the costing and layout of a Parish Magazine and, in January, 1964, our own magazine was printed. (Previously it was a joint venture with our Mother

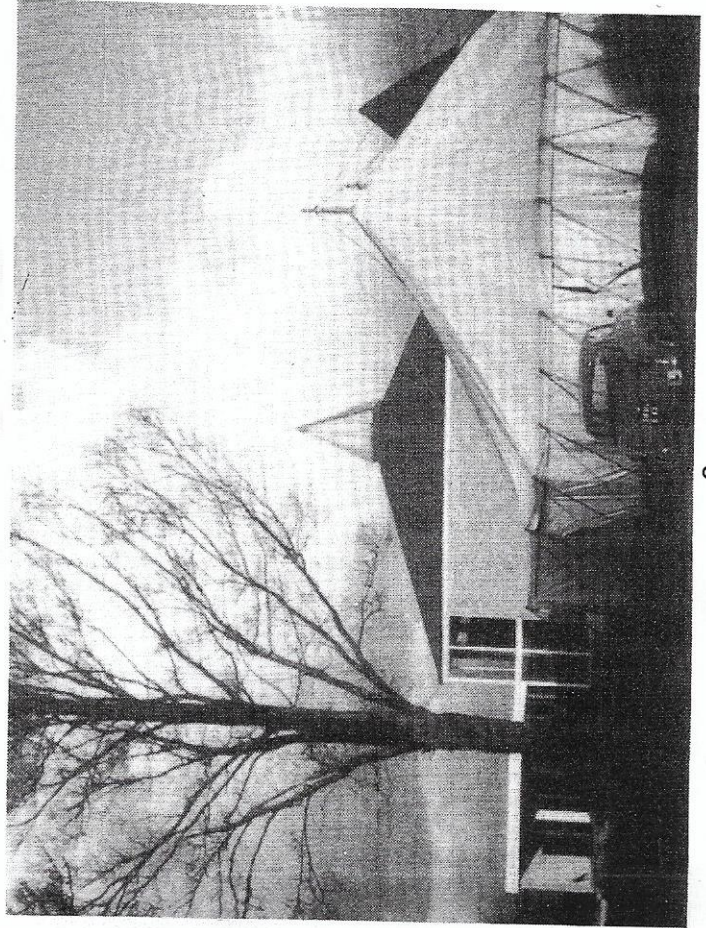
Church, St. Mary's, Penwortham.) The first cover was an artist's impression of the new church and was sketched by Mr Harold Olive of this parish. Mr. Barwise, too, continued to be busily engaged with his church furnishings; a list of which can be seen in the Gift Book which is displayed at the back of the Church. The reason for this inventory was that it had been decided that the interior furnishings should not be ornately decorated, nor were commemorative plaques to be fitted to gifts except in isolated cases where it had been a condition of acceptance of a bequest. Mr Poynts, as secretary, had much letter-writing to do on such problems as the steps being taken to protect exposed steelwork, the tannalising of the ceiling timbers and the style of the church pews. A replica of a section of the pews was even made so that the P.C.C. could pass opinions on its merits regarding, particularly, comfort.



This important item of furnishing, in fact, caused a slight delay in the eventual date of the consecration. The manufacturer was finding difficulty in obtaining oak timber thick enough for this type of work due, of course, to the deforestation of deciduous woods in the first half of the century.

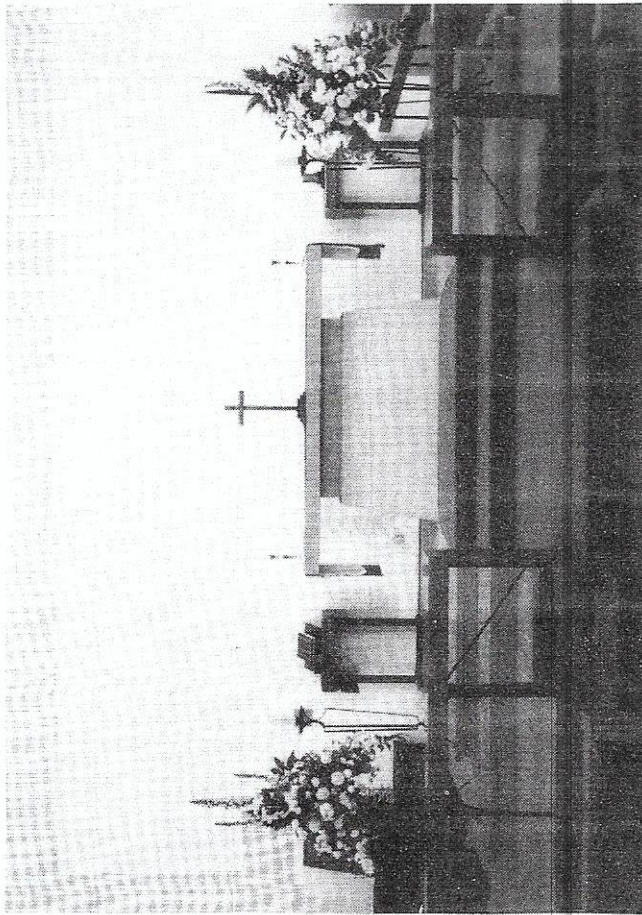
However, the date for the consecration was finally fixed for Saturday, 28th November, 1964, and the last Service in the temporary wooden church was the Harvest Festival Evensong Service on Sunday, 20th September. The dismantling of the wooden church began the following day and it may still be seen in its present role as a showroom at Messrs. Webster of Tarleton.

The following Sunday, services were held in the school hall and continued there until the date of the Consecration. A marquee was erected on the site, and close-circuit television installed so that people unable to get into the Church could at least see and join in the joyous and symbolic ceremony. The Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Reverend C. R. Claxton, D.D.





The parishioners were now able to appreciate fully the result of their efforts and to enjoy worshipping in their new Church. The large floor to ceiling windows at the two corners of the West end were designed to shed as much light as possible on the nave and yet give a certain amount of privacy by being joined by the large West wall. The sanctuary was



brought forward to the members of the congregation, and the Communion rails arranged on three sides so that worshippers could communicate round the altar as a true family in Christ. The altar, too, was brought forward from the wall and was of stone rather than the more traditional wood. The siting of the Baptistry is also different from that found in most older churches. It was placed next to the Lady Chapel and is stepped down from the main building so that, after baptism, the child symbolically steps up and is received into the main body of the Church. Also, the Church has neither tower nor spire; but a pointed lantern which is lit by

fluorescent lighting at night, shedding light on the surrounding community and proclaiming the Church's very presence. On the floor of the Church in front of the sanctuary is the Alpha Stone where the Bishop made the sign of the Alpha and the Omega with his Pastoral Staff to signify the taking possession of the church for the worship of God. Behind the altar on the East wall is the Stone of Consecration depicting the Cross of Consecration within a symbol of Eternity. This was cut from the Reredos of the temporary Church, and is of Bath stone.



At the Consecration of the Church it was impossible to install the old pipe organ in time and Mr. F. L. Treasure kindly loaned his own Wurlitzer organ. It had been intended that the old pipe organ would then be installed temporarily, but the electronic organ was received with such acclaim that it was decided at the outset that a new electronic organ must be installed. Several instruments of different makes were tested in the Church and finally it was recommended that a Hammond organ be purchased at a cost of £1,400. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Barwise immediately volunteered to be responsible for raising that sum and by October, 1966, they had achieved their target.



During these middle years of the sixties much thought was being given to the pastoral side of the Church's work. Deaconess Mary Bretherton had returned to the parish in 1960, after serving as a missionary in India, and immediately she became an invaluable Parochial worker and a dedicated worker for the Church both at home and abroad. Besides doing clerical work, she also assisted the Vicar in visiting people. But by the early part of 1965 the population of our parish was increasing so rapidly that the Vicar and Deaconess Bretherton were finding difficulty in making contact with all the newcomers to the parish, and they suggested that members of the P.C.C. might assist in this work. Suitable attractive leaflets listing the Church's activities were therefore prepared for distribution. Canon Hodgson also addressed a meeting on the subject of "Parish Missions".

There was concern, also, at the number of children who were absent from Sunday School because parents were going out in the afternoons, but as yet no answer to the problem appeared to be forthcoming.

A "Young Wives" Group was formed at this time. This proved to be an invaluable way of giving the young married people who had moved into the parish an opportunity to meet one another and exchange ideas.

Then there was the problem of attracting young people to worship at the Church; and the P.C.C. considered and adopted changes in the form of liturgy to be used at services, in the form of the "First Series" and the "Second Series".

The Church and Mr. Mellor, the architect, were honoured in 1966 when Mr. Williams was invited to attend a Lunch and Ceremony at County Hall in order to receive the Commendation from The Civic Trust Award for "the contribution the New Church makes to the local scene."

In June of the following year the beauty of the Church was further enhanced when the Baptistery window was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Lancaster at the Sunday School Anniversary. The window had been designed by Mrs. Hazel Titherley of Woodside Avenue and depicts the baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It is in memory of the many people who worked so hard for the new Church but did not live long enough to see it built.



Also in June, 1967, the second phase of the School Extensions was completed with the building of two new classrooms at the East end of the school along Station Road. Cloakrooms, a Staff room and a separate entrance hall for the infants were also built.

Later in that year the Centenary Celebrations were held to mark one hundred years of Christian witness in the parish, dating from the time when a few people were "inconveniently thruted" in one of the cottages in Station Road to participate in worship.

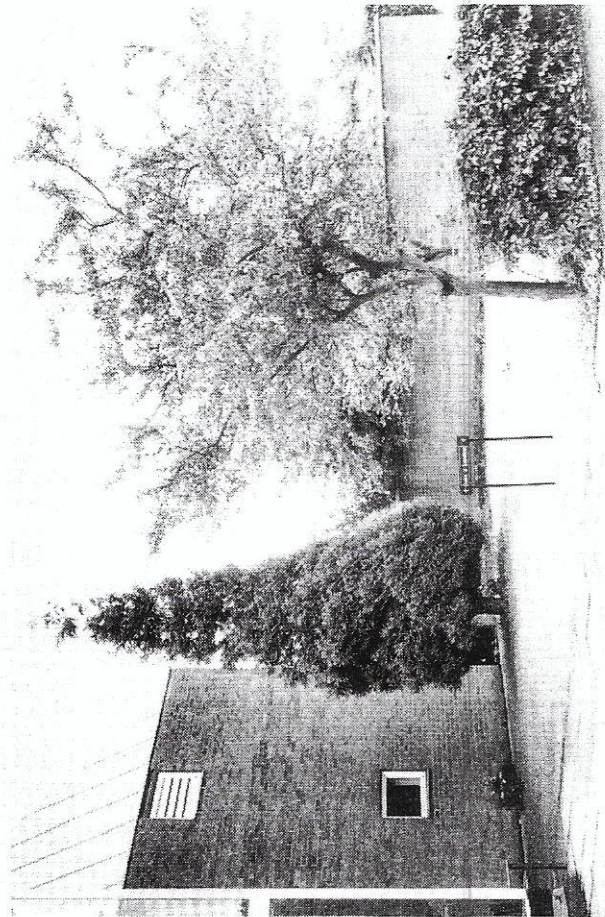
Also at this time discussions took place with representatives of the Methodist Church with a view to having a joint Procession of Witness and a dual crowning of the Anglican Rose Queen and the Methodist Sunday School Queen on the newly seeded school field.

The year 1968 began with the Vicar announcing that he had arranged for a Sunday School to be started at Police Headquarters with 70 children on roll. Little did the parishioners know then that this would be one of his last achievements in the parish; for at an emergency P.C.C. meeting on



the 17th May he announced that the Bishop had agreed to his vacating the Benefice of All Saints'. He was inducted as Vicar of St. Hilda's, Billsborough, on Friday, 19th July. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. G. Grimes who was inducted on 27th September, 1968.

A few days later, on 1st October, the Rev. B. H. Williams died tragically in Penwortham, and so close to the beloved Church he had had the privilege of building. Only six days later, at a P.C.C. Meeting, the Rev. W. G. Grimes and the members of the P.C.C. discussed the question of a memorial to the Rev. B. H. Williams. It was noted that he had always



wanted a Garden of Remembrance and Mrs. Williams had expressed a wish that the ashes of Mr. Williams should be interred at New Longton. At the same meeting the Rev. W. G. Grimes explained that he had had experience of organising a "Good Neighbours" scheme, which had been considered by his predecessor. The established prayer and discussion groups were to continue and the meeting agreed to implement the Bishop's desire for Christmas cards to be sent to every house in the parish. Also at Christmas, the Vicar announced to the congregation that he would be pleased to give Communion to Methodists and Roman Catholics if they wished.

The Flower Festival "Harvest Glory" was an important milestone in the Church's history. It was held during the period 26th to 29th September, 1969, and was organised by Mr. John Hayton, members of the Lancon Flower Club and the Church Flower Ladies. It gave many people much pleasure and an opportunity to see the beautiful modern Church.

Further co-operation with our Methodist friends continued in 1970, when we joined with them for a celebration of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. There was a united concern to organise Christian Aid in the area, and the two churches supported each other at their respective social and fund raising functions.

April 1st also saw the beginning of a healthy association with the Lancashire Constabulary. The Vicar had recently been appointed Chaplain to the Lancashire Constabulary and on that date the Chief Constable, Mr. W. J. H. Palfrey, led members of the Force to the Church where the Bishop of Blackburn dedicated the Police Colours. Later, the Church was pleased to accept from the Force the cross which is to be seen on the outside of the West wall. In the same month, the first Children and Parents Service was held even though Mr. Alan Barber still had a flourishing Sunday School at Hutton Hall. Also, the Roman Catholics of the parish were invited to participate in the forthcoming Field Day.

There were now over seventy Good Neighbours doing a good job in the parish. The Vicar's pastoral work was further increased at this time with the building of the Approved School, Meadowcroft, within our parish boundary. He was a regular visitor to the school and took a caring interest in the welfare of the girls who regularly worshipped with the staff at the Sunday morning services.

The early 70s saw the completion of the landscaping of the grounds in front of the Church. The Garden of Remembrance was completed and dedicated as a memorial to the Rev. B. H. Williams, the drives were surfaced and the large lawn laid.

Further efforts were also held to raise the parish's share of the third phase of the school extensions. This consisted of a classroom and resources area and was designed particularly for infants. The school was now large enough to accommodate the increased child population of the parish.



Another interesting innovation of the early 70s was the introduction of "Coffee on Wednesday". This was begun by Mrs. Libby Grimes and Mrs. Peggy Young in the Church Porch. It was quickly accepted as a welcome means for people to call and chat with their friends. The porch was not large enough and plans were set in motion to make a larger room at the side of the Church. Wednesday evenings also became the time when parishioners could participate in a Service called "Parish Prayers". At this Service they could pray especially for those who were sick and troubled.



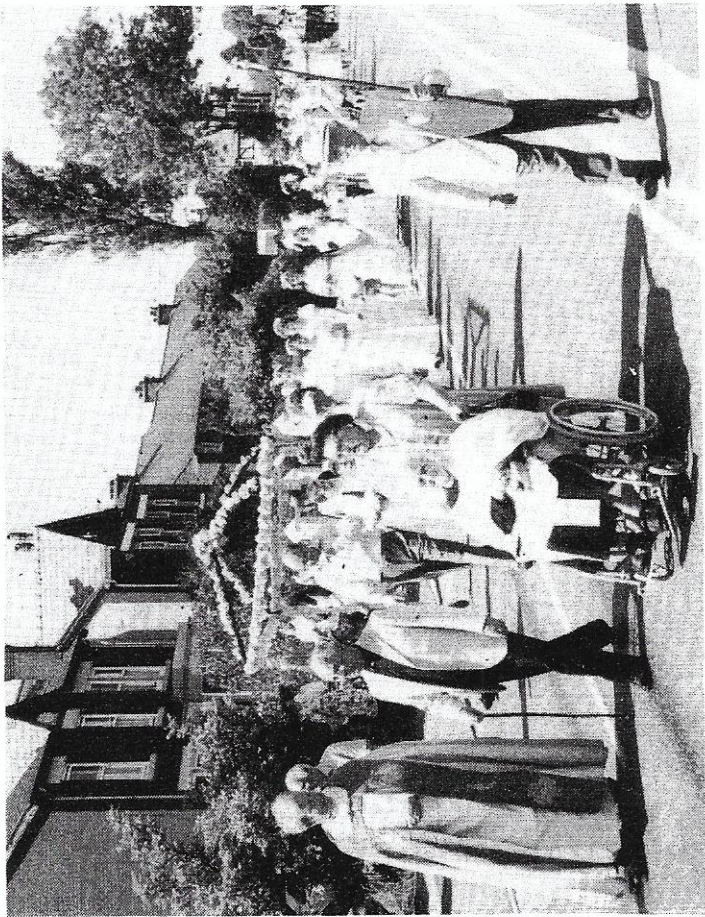
Some members of the Church were interested in the idea of Christian Stewardship and in 1975 four people attended a Conference at Whalley Abbey. A report of the Conference was outlined to the P.C.C. but the members felt that the parishioners should not be canvassed for their support. In the same year Mr. David Ryan was engaged as the architect to draw up plans for the Church extension and the Vicar appealed for gifts or loans of money in the parish magazine. Unfortunately, the Rev. W. G. Grimes did not remain to see the project completed. He resigned from the living during the summer of 1976 to take up a full-time profession in Social Work. During the inter-regnum, Deaconess Bretherton and the two wardens, Mr. Ken Ellis and Mr Reg. Swindlehurst, were responsible for the efficient running of the parish.

The Rev. R. I. McMaster was inducted on 28th February, 1977 and immediately busied himself with the completion of the Church extension. A tender of £10,350 was accepted in July, 1979 and on 2nd January, 1980, the extension was consecrated by the Bishop of Lancaster and was in future referred to as "The Church Room". The Vicar was congratulated on its completion and presented with a framed photograph taken at the Consecration Service. Later in the year, the new service books were brought into use.



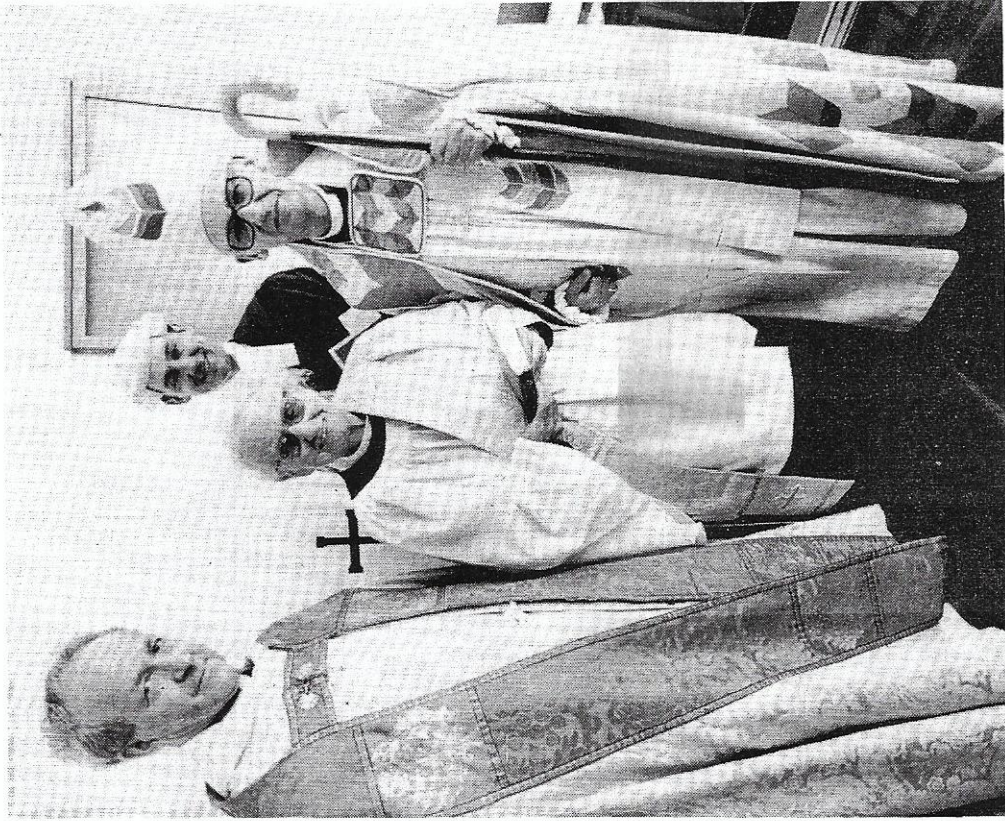
In 1981 the parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee. A Celebration Dinner was held at the Pines Hotel, Clayton-le-Woods, at which the Guest Speaker was the Provost of Blackburn Cathedral, the Very Rev. Lawrence Jackson. A number of Commemorative Glass Goblets were made and a new banner purchased. In that year the treasurer had also reported that the Church's finances were in a critical situation and that our expenditure was outstripping income even when all fund raising efforts were being used for the day to day running of the Church. A letter was prepared and sent out to all the parishioners informing them of the situation. The Church struggled along for a further three years, but by 1984 a Stewardship Campaign was finally accepted as being the only solution to the problem. It was launched in the Autumn and immediately its beneficial results became apparent. Not only were the finances made secure, but the parish was able to give more help to the Third World and to people who were in need. But, more important, the parishioners were asked to think seriously about the stewardship of their own talents. They were given an opportunity to volunteer to help in the promotion of God's Kingdom in many ways.





During the early 80s our good relationship with the other denominations continued to grow. Christmas and Easter Greetings were sent out jointly with our Methodist friends and in 1981 the parishioners of St. Oswald's Roman Catholic Church were invited to include their greetings also. The frequency of worshipping together continued and inter-denominational study groups were held during Lent. In 1982, ten members of the Mothers' Union link branch of St. Jude's, Belfast, visited our parish. The linking of parishes for their mutual benefit was further advanced in 1987 with our association with the Church of St Anne, Moor Nook, which is a deprived area of Preston.

September, 1986 marked the occasion of the Rev. R. I. McMaster having completed 25 years in the Ministry and the members of the P.C.C. were pleased to present him with a new ivory stole. Less than twelve months later, on 1st July, 1987, Deaconess Mary Bretherton was honoured by the Bishop of Blackburn visiting the Church in order to ordain her as a Deacon. Her official title from then was to be the Rev. Mary Bretherton.



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Further honours were received by members of the community when the Bishop was pleased to appoint Mrs. Nancy Greenwood and Mr. Jack W. Jenkins as Pastoral Auxiliaries to help the Vicar in his pastoral work.

So, the parish can reflect with gratitude on its achievements during the past twenty-five years. In that period a Church has been built and the School extended and modernised; and the Anglicans, Methodists and Roman Catholics of the area have grown closer in the understanding of each other's points of view.



## Quarter of a century of All Saints Church Wardens

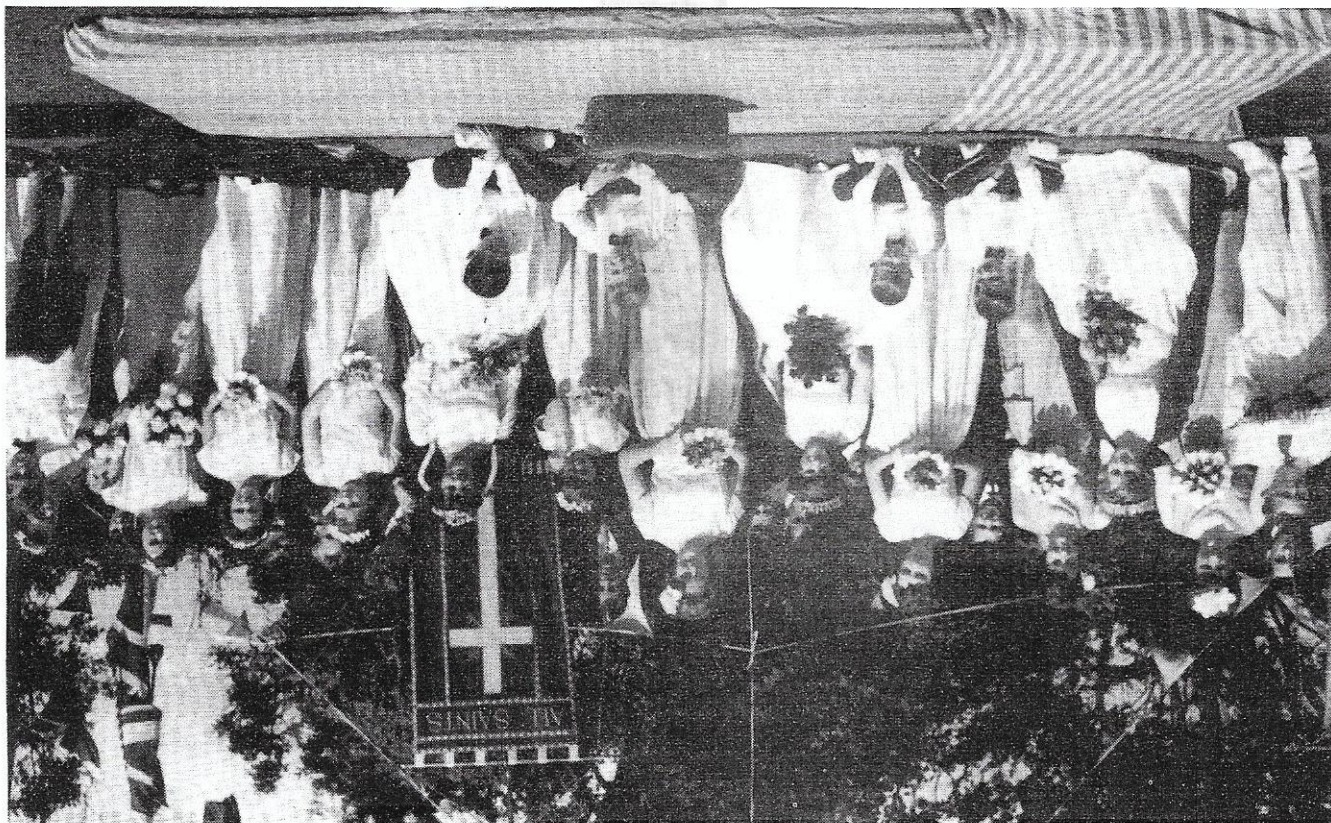
1963 to 1968	J. Barwise T. Bretherton
1969 to 1971	T. Bretherton T.N. Threlfall
1972 to 1973	T. Bretherton A. Barnes
1974 to 1977	R.E. Swindlehurst K. Ellis
1978 to 1979	K. Ellis A. Barber
1980 to 1981	A. Barber W.A. Watkinson
1982 to 1983	W.A. Watkinson A.H. Davies
1984 to 1985	W.A. Watkinson J.D. Winter
1986 to 1988	W.A. Watkinson Mrs M. Atkinson

## .....and of Rose Queens

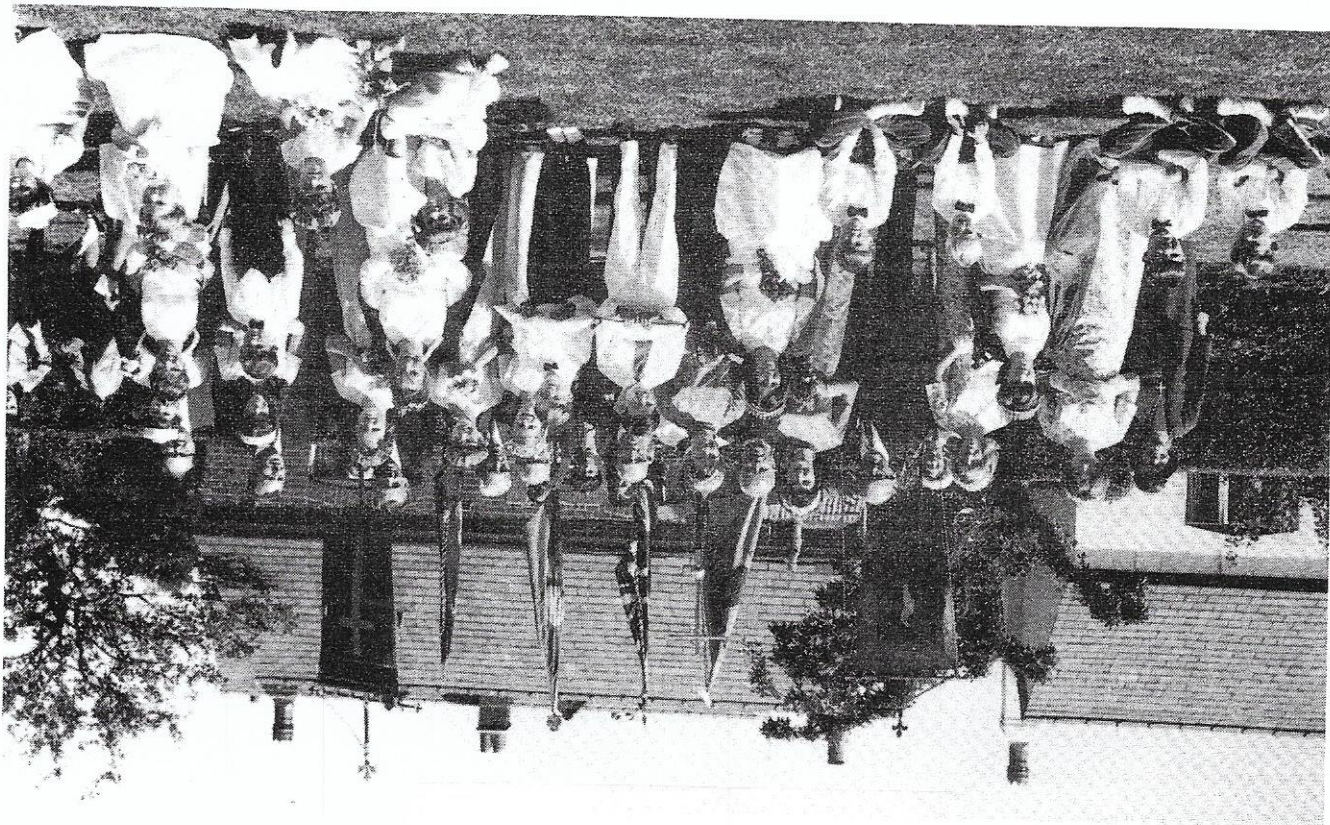
1963	Miss June Wilson
1964	Miss Yvonne Sadler
1965	Miss Lillian Brewer
1966	Miss Susan Iddon
1967	Miss Kathleen Wilson
1968	Miss Lynda Mason
1969	Miss Margaret Pilkington
1970	Miss Rosemary Mason
1971	Miss Kay Swindlehurst
1972	Miss Anne-Marie Lathom
1973	Miss Mary Caunce
1974	Miss Elizabeth Wood
1975	Miss Anne Billington
1976	Miss Karen Benson
1977	Miss Melanie Barber
1978	Miss Mandy Ross
1979	Miss Janet Harrison
1980	Miss Suzanne Maddocks
1981	Miss Elizabeth Jones
1982	Miss Andrea Lund
1983	Miss Sarah Riley
1984	Miss Tracey Green
1985	Miss Joanne Kennerley
1986	Miss Elizabeth Slorick
1987	Miss Lynda Simpkins
1988	Miss Lucy Horritt



1963 Miss June Wilson  
All Saints Rose Queen (25 years ago)



1968 Miss Lynda Mason  
All Saints Rose Queen (20 years ago)







1973 Miss Mary Counce  
All Saints Rose Queen (15 years ago)



1978 Miss Mandy Ross  
All Saints Rose Queen (10 years ago)





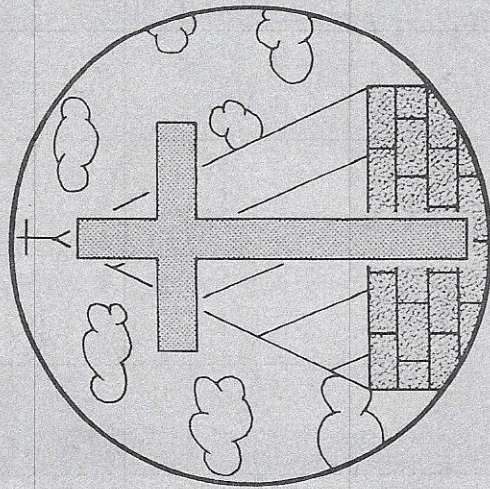
1983 Miss Sarah Riley  
All Saints Rose Queen (5 years ago)



Miss Lucy Horritt  
All Saints Jubilee Year Rose Queen



# All Saints New Longton



# SILVER JUBILEE

## Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to the following who have allowed me to make use of their photographs:-

Lancashire Evening Post Limited, Mr. George Dixon, the Rev. Mary Bretherton and Mr. Don Lang whose late wife Marjorie took photographs during the building of the new Church.

I am also indebted to Miss Elsie Bell who typed the script for me, and to Mrs. Jean Billington who has worked so hard to produce this Brochure.

**R. Iddon**