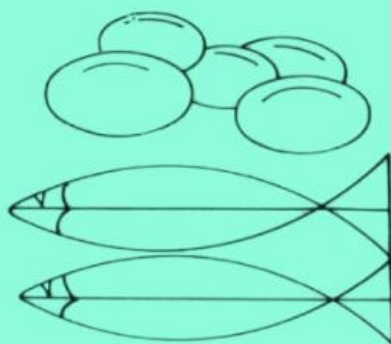
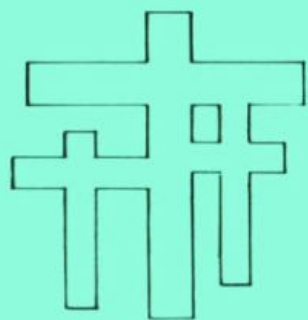


# OUR LIVING CHURCH

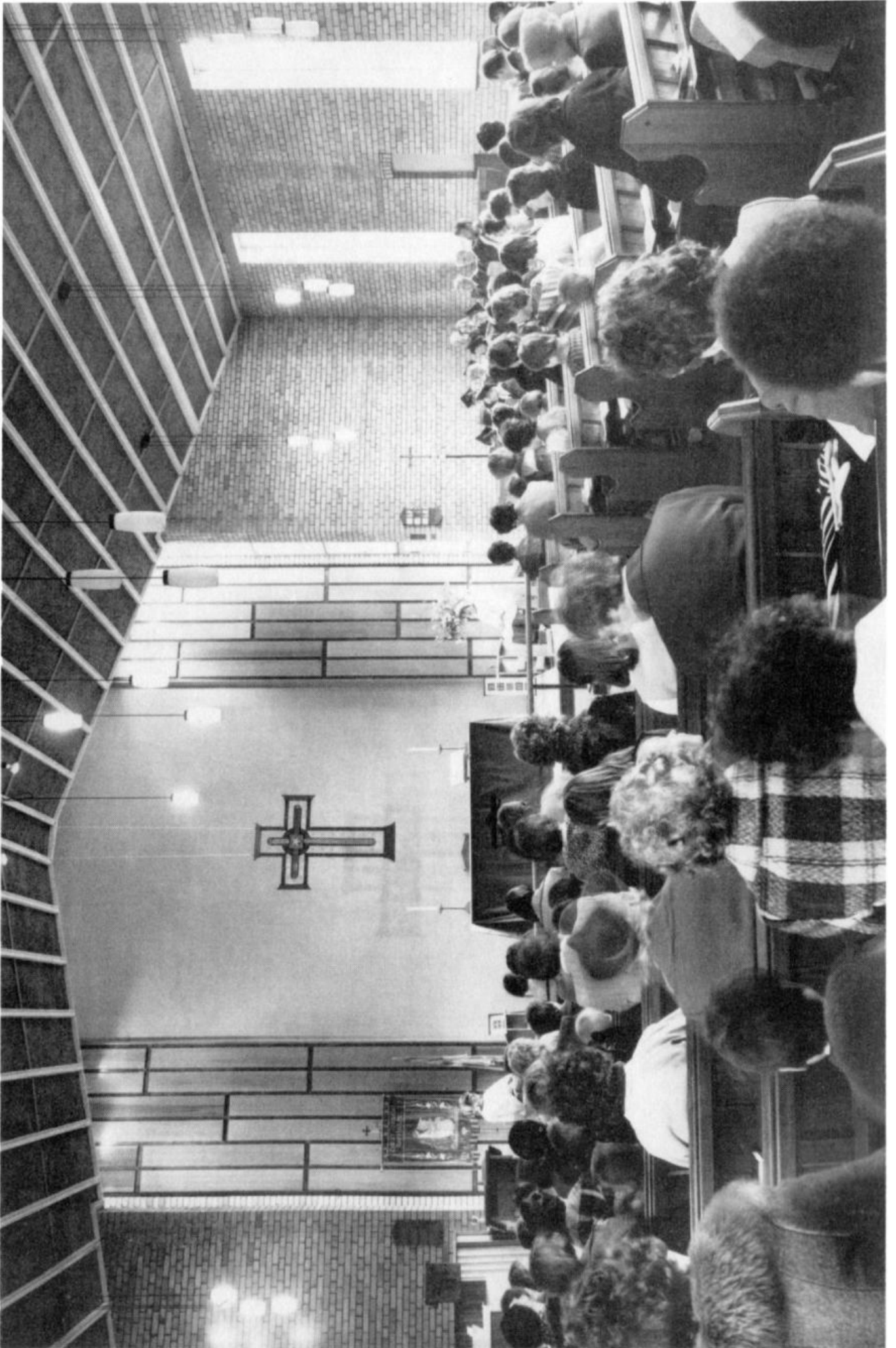


## A Short History of Christ Church, Davyhulme in the Diocese of Manchester



**OUR LIVING CHURCH**

**A Short History of Christ Church, Davyhulme  
1969 - 1979**



---

# **OUR LIVING CHURCH**

## **A Short History of Christ Church Davyhulme, in the Diocese of Manchester 1969-79**

Published 1979



Copyright  
All Rights Reserved

No part of this Publication may be reproduced  
or transmitted in any form without prior  
permission

Printed in Great Britain by:  
H. Duffy,  
110 Harriet Street,  
Walkden, Worsley,  
Manchester M28 5QA

This book was written on behalf of Christ Church by  
Margaret Holt and the printed edition was published in 1979.

This electronic version was produced in 2021 by  
David Hough from scans of a printed edition.

Minor typographical errors have been corrected and the  
photograph on page 31 has been replaced by a higher  
quality scan of an original photograph.

Copyright © 1979, 2021 Christ Church Davyhulme PCC  
All rights reserved.

Christ Church  
Lostock Road  
Davyhulme  
Manchester  
M41 0TD

# CONTENTS

## SECTION ONE

1.	AN OUTLANDISH COMMUNITY	9
2.	JOHN WESLEY COMES TO DAVYHULME	11
3.	THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME	12
4.	ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN DAVYHULME	13
5.	THE GROWTH OF DAVYHULME	14
6.	THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL	14
7.	THE NEW MISSION CHURCH	20
8.	THE ARRIVAL OF THE REV. PETER CAMERON	23
9.	PLANS GO AHEAD FOR THE NEW CHURCH	25
10.	FOUNDATION DAY	27
11.	AFTER TRIUMPH - DISASTER	31
12.	ANSWER TO PRAYER	33
13.	THE CONSECRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH, DAVYHULME	34
14.	A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CHURCH	35
15.	1970: ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR	38
16.	MORE PARISH ACTIVITIES	41
17.	MORE COMINGS AND GOINGS	43
18.	PLANTING TREES	44

19.	THE CHRIST CHURCH CROSS	45
-----	-------------------------	----

## SECTION TWO

20.	CHRIST CHURCH and its ORGANISATIONS TODAY	46
-----	---	----

Church Finances

The Street Warden Scheme

The Youth Organisations

The Sunday School

The Adult Organisations

The Music of the Church

The Administration of the Church



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

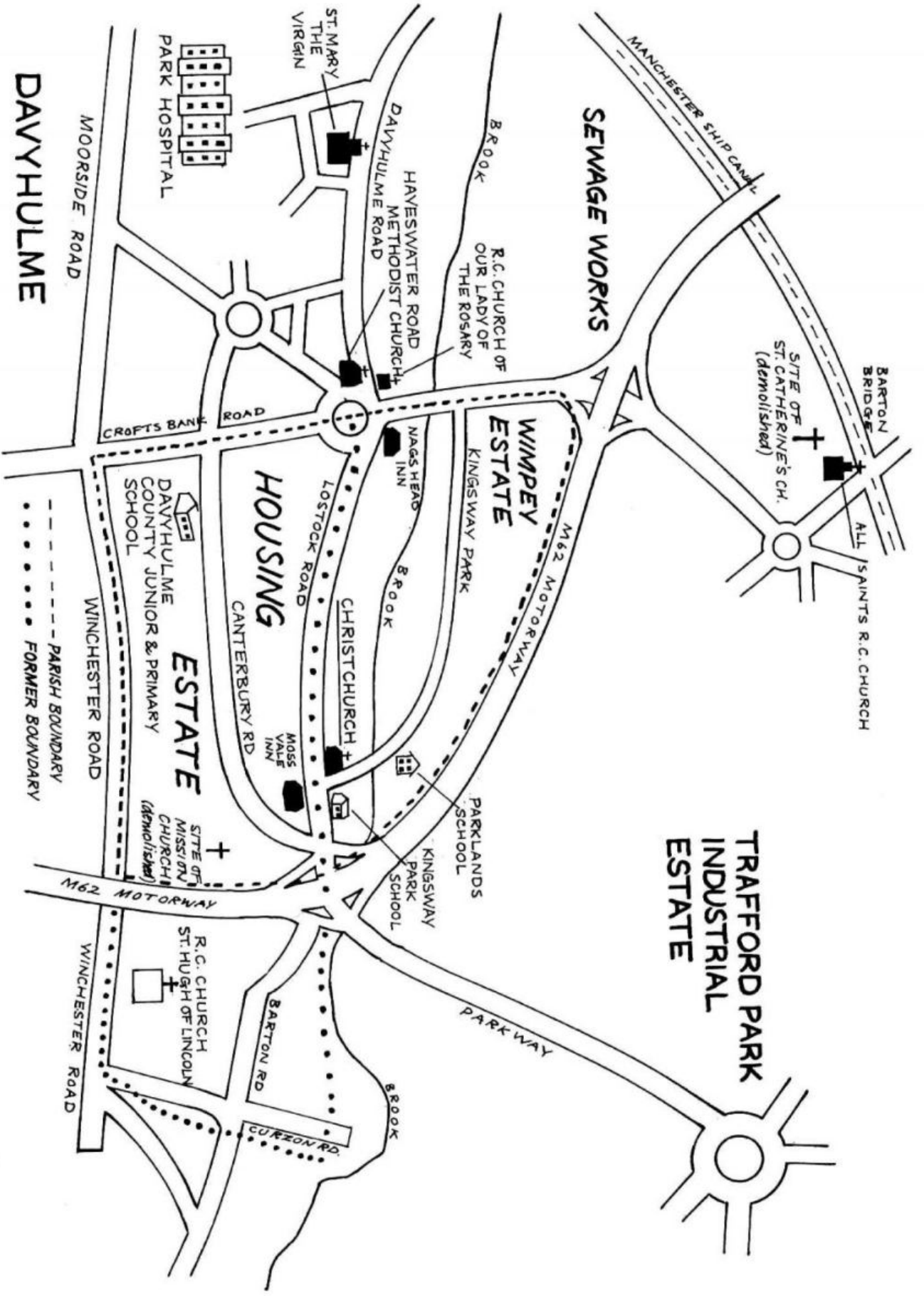
For information about the early history of Davyhulme and Flixton, the following sources were consulted :

"THE HISTORY OF DAVYHULME WESLEYAN CHAPEL"  
by the Rev. Allan Spencer, 1898

"A HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF FLIXTON"  
by David Herbert Langton, 1898

"A HISTORY OF FLIXTON PARISH - 800 YEARS IN THE LIFE OF  
A CHURCH AND HER PEOPLE" published anonymously in 1969 in  
aid of the Fabric Repair Fund of St. Michael's Parish Church, Flixton

For information concerning the history of Christ Church Davyhulme since the early days of the Sunday School in 1943, a great number of personal interviews were made with past and present members of Christ Church and some representatives of the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches in the area. Minutes of the Parochial Church Council were consulted, and past issues of the Parish Magazine. Very grateful thanks are extended to all who gave information towards the compiling of this Commemorative Booklet.



# SECTION ONE

## AN OUTLANDISH COMMUNITY

The Parish of Davyhulme, near Manchester, was a small hamlet of farms and cottages at the beginning of this century, adjoining the ancient parishes of Flixton and Urmston, though until the formation of the Urban District of Urmston in 1933, Davyhulme was in the township of Barton-on-Irwell, and came under the local supervising authority of Eccles and Patricroft. There are early references to Davyhulme from the 13th century onwards, and different accounts of the derivation of the name. A John de Hulm lived in the area during the reign of Henry II and a de Hulme family continued to live here until about the beginning of the 18th century, but nothing seems to be known about them. The old Saxon word "holm" means an "islet" or flat low-lying ground by the side of a river. "Davy", "deaffe", "dafe" and "dewi" are variants of the spelling of the first part of the word over the centuries, and may derive from the name "David", though an old Celtic word "dewi" also means "solitary" and/or "wet". A history of Flixton written in 1898 describes Davyhulme as "a hamlet standing south of Bent's Lane Brook, a tributary of the river Irwell." The centre of this hamlet was along "the Moorside", a path beside a ditch, now called Moorside Road. Davyhulme Road was then Davyhulme Lane, and the present parish of Christchurch was open country, with footpaths and bridlepaths leading across fields and meadows. A farm stood where the Moss Vale Inn now stands.

Let us now go back over two hundred years, to the mid-18th century, before the Industrial Revolution. The Parish of Flixton and the adjoining village of Urmston were truly "outlandish" rural communities whose way of life had changed little for hundreds of years. It is very hard for us of the jet-age to picture a world where the fastest speed known on land was a horse at full gallop. People were born, grew up, married, lived their lives and died without ever leaving their native village, or travelling more than a day's journey away; consequently these obscure Lancashire villages retained many ancient customs until well into the 19th century, when the coming of the railways finally opened them up to the outside world. For example, bull-baiting, bear-baiting and cock-fighting were the popular sports of farmers and innkeepers, even after they were made illegal. Traveling "fairs" would come and set up their booths of wares, and the antics of itinerant jugglers and "tumblers" would draw all the inhabitants to stare and marvel. Such entertainments often ended in heavy

drinking, with resulting fighting and brawling, and the same scenes tended to occur at the special feast-days of the Church, from which the ale-house was not far away. Weddings and funerals alike were followed by long bouts of eating and drinking, even when the dead person's relatives could not afford a wooden coffin, and the body was buried in nothing more substantial than "sweet-smelling flowers," as sometimes recorded in the registers of St. Michael's Church, Flixton, the only Church in this area at that time. It dates from the 12th century, and is built on the site of an even older Priory. Imagine the long walk to St. Michael's across footpaths and unpaved, muddy roads for those farmers and cottagers, carrying their own lanterns after dark! In the course of its 800 years, St. Michael's has undergone many additions and restorations, and was desecrated during the Civil War in the 17th century. Although Church attendance was high in the 18th century (parishioners could be fined for non-attendance), there was a worldliness and materialism about the clergy that would never be tolerated by the small congregations of today. The buying and selling of "livings", absenteeism and pluralism (possession of more than one parish, and the incomes thereof), and neglect of pastoral duties was all too common, though of course there were very good and beloved clergy, as there always have been. The early 19th century saw a Vicar of a local church who was sometimes too drunk to take divine service, and the statements of church expenses regularly recorded "liquor for churchwardens" and even more for bell-ringers, which seems to have been particularly thirsty work. The poor of the parish were entirely dependant upon the benevolence of the clergy and churchwardens who were supported by such wealthy families as could be persuaded to give voluntary financial aid. Most parishes had their workhouses or poorhouses where the aged poor and orphaned children were looked after, and these varied enormously in quality. Flixton's poorhouse used to stand on the Moorside; there was no social security apart from "Parish Relief" derived from the Church funds. The outside world scarcely existed for these tightly enclosed rural communities, with the exception of a few more important families such as the Norreys family of Davyhulme Hall, now demolished - it stood on what is now Davyhulme Golf Course - and the Worthington-Wrights of Flixton House. These local worthies seem to have enjoyed their position as parish benefactors, and would have been treated with great respect by the clergy and such local farming folk and tradespeople who were dependent upon their patronage. Samuel Worthington-Wright in the late 19th century was known for his generosity to the Church and to the district. He paid for all the prizes at the School and Sunday School, and his help to folk in need earned him the reputation of being a friend of the poor. Mr. R. H. Norreys, on the other hand, is remembered at St. Michael's largely because he complained that the stove used to heat the Church during services was too near his pew. The Rector ordered the Churchwardens to move it, which they refused to do, and the long drawn out row that ensued finally ended in Court, with victory for the Churchwardens.

# JOHN WESLEY COMES TO DAVYHULME

The history of the Church in Davyhulme is largely the history of Methodism. Manchester was one of the first centres in England where the voice of John Wesley was heard. He first came in 1747, and at Salford Cross he began to preach in the street, opening with the words, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found ! Call upon Him while He is near !" (Can you hear echoes of our Lord's first words of preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"?). John Wesley got a mixed reception, and a big, burly man shouted out, "Bring out the fire engine !" - meaning to quench the flames of a hell-fire sermon. Wesley's friends urged him to move into a yard close by, which he did, and concluded his sermon in peace. From here he rode his horse straight out to "Davy-Hulme, 5 miles from Manchester, where I was much refreshed both in preaching and meeting the Society." The latter was a group of friends led by the Rev. John Clayton who met regularly to pray in each other's houses, inspired by John Wesley's preaching of the Gospel to working men and women as he rode around the country on horseback. He made five visits in all to Davyhulme, and stayed with a Mr John Wood who was in the bleaching business and gave hospitality to visiting preachers. Wesley gave a memorable sermon under an old yew tree which stood at the corner of Davyhulme Lane and Bent's Lane; it was cut down later when the road was widened, and pieces of its trunk and branches became scattered up and down the country as treasured family heirlooms. Cottage prayer meetings began to abound in Davyhulme, as newly converted men and women met together in the name of Christ for fellowship, prayer and praise. They met with a good deal of derision from some of their neighbours who "used to disturb them much," observed John Wesley; "but a Justice of Peace, who feared God, granting them a warrant for the chief of the rioters, from that time they were in peace." In 1753 Wesley was horrified by "what I had never heard of in England, a whole clan of infidel peasants. A neighbouring alehouse keeper drinks, laughs and argues into Deism all the ploughmen and dairymen he can light on. No mob raises against him, and reason good, Satan is not divided against himself."

In 1785 the Methodists of Davyhulme opened the first Sunday School in the district at the home of Mr. James Bent, a weaver who lived at his loomshop on the Moorside. Here children from the surrounding cottages gathered for religious instruction, some coming from quite long distances, and the loomshop became too small for the large numbers. In 1779 a momentous event took place in Davyhulme when John Wesley himself opened the first Wesleyan Chapel in the Manchester area. It was situated on the Moorside, where now Craig Avenue joins Moorside Road, and the large Sunday School moved to the new Chapel where it carried on very successfully for 60 years. At the

turn of the present century the original Chapel was demolished and the congregation moved to Brook Road, Flixton, where the Davyhulme Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was opened in 1905 and is in operation to this day.

The strong Methodist tradition in Davyhulme still survives today in a non-conformist, "low church," informal atmosphere that seems to suit Lancashire folk, and our own Anglican Christ Church certainly retains some of John Wesley's concern for ordinary people, and the feeling of belonging to a family; though whereas Wesley battled with sin and poverty, the Church today has to face apathy and materialism.

A Methodist Chapel, now demolished, was opened in Davyhulme Lane some time before the end of the 19th century, and later a Methodist Chapel existed in Higher Road, Urmston. These were superseded in 1959 when a pleasant, modern Methodist Chapel was opened in Hayeswater Road, Davyhulme. A close link has existed between this Chapel and our own Christ Church, both before and since our present building was erected. Reciprocal services have been held on Sunday evenings when Christ Church members have been guests of the Hayeswater Road Methodists, and they in turn have come to share worship with us, both at our former Mission Church in Whalley Avenue, and at our new building in Lostock Road

## **THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN**

As Flixton and Urmston began to expand, the need for another Church besides St. Michael's led to the building of St. Clement's Church in Manor Avenue, Urmston. The Foundation Stone was laid in 1867, and the building was consecrated the following year. Meanwhile in Davyhulme plans were going ahead for an Anglican Church to be built there also. The Rev. Thomas Dugdale Harland, M. A. was appointed as Minister in 1885, and he held Sunday services in the school, built in 1880, pending the building of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. The architect was a Mr. G. Truefitt of London, and the Foundation Stone was laid at a ceremony on July 13th 1889. The Rev. Harland became the first Rector, and must have experienced great joy at seeing his congregation move into their new Church, just as in 1969 the Rev. Peter Cameron was to see Christ Church, Davyhulme, completed and consecrated.

The stone at the east end of St. Mary's reads:

"The Church was built to the glory of God and to the memories of R. H. Norreys, Esq. , of Davyhulme Hall, and his sisters Mary Norreys and Isabella Bowers, wife of the Very Rev. G. A. Bowers, D. D. sometime Dean of this Diocese. The cost was defrayed chiefly

from bequests made by them to their nephew, J. B. N. Entwistle, Esq., of Foxholes, who founded the Church and gave the land."

Davyhulme residents today will note that these worthy folk are all commemorated in names of local avenues! Mr. Norreys died without issue, and his nephew was his heir.

## **ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN DAVYHULME**

Before the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, Roman Catholics were not officially allowed to hold public Masses, and this is why there are no Catholic Churches dating back earlier than the mid-19th century. The oldest Catholic Church in our area is All Saint's, just this side of Barton Bridge and the Manchester Ship Canal, where an Order of Franciscan brothers arrived about 125 years ago, to hold Masses, retreats and missions. At present they also run a hostel for twelve boys, and a small printing press on which they produce religious literature. About the middle of the 19th century an insignificant galvanised iron building was erected in Roseneath Road, Urmston, to be replaced in 1913 by the present Catholic Church of English Martyrs and its adjacent school. The Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary was opened in 1961 in Davyhulme Road, just off Davyhulme Circle, and the spacious, modern Church of St. Hugh of Lincoln was opened in 1964 in Glastonbury Road, having been a separate parish of St. Anne's, Stretford, since 1938. It, too, has its adjacent school. As yet there has not been much visiting between Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in Davyhulme, and inter'Communion is still in the future.

The history of the Roman Catholic Church over the past two decades is of great interest, as enormous changes have been made by the First and Second Vatican Councils and the world-wide influence of good Pope John XXIII who surely brought the day of unity nearer by opening up the Catholic Church, and encouraging a new spirit of questioning and dialogue with other Churches. The modernising of the liturgy and the use of English instead of Latin caused many Catholics and Protestants to be surprised at the close similarities between the Anglican and Roman forms of service. The rift (between us) is slowly, steadily closing - not dramatically, but in subtle and informal ways as we are all gradually coming to realise that we should be united in our witness of the One True God Whom we all worship.

# THE GROWTH OF DAVYHULME

The population of the combined parishes of Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme in 1935 was 25,000 which doubled to 50,000 by 1974 when the Urmston Urban District Council ceased to exist and the enormous Metropolitan Borough of Trafford came into being as the local supervising authority. The population of Davyhulme alone is roughly 20,000 at the present time.

Until 1930 Davyhulme remained a very rural area, abounding in country walks through fields and meadows; but during the 1930's an enormous amount of building took place, particularly on the Davyhulme estate (mainly private, but with a few council houses and flats) from which we now draw the main part of our congregation at Christ Church. Three long, straight roads run roughly parallel to each other, Lostock Road, Canterbury Road and Winchester Road, with a network of residential roads connecting them. The Second World War halted building for about a decade, and the estate was completed during the 1950's.

To the North-East of Davyhulme lies the Trafford Park Industrial Estate, the largest of its kind in Europe, providing employment for about 60,000 people of all grades of skill in its factories, ranging from heavy industries to packing and assembly lines, including sheltered workshops for the disabled. To the North-West lies the Manchester Corporation Outfall Works, a massive engineering achievement, planned and constructed in four stages during the 1930's and reconstructions and extensions have continued ever since. Gigantic pipes collect sewage from the greater Manchester area, and also collect a tremendous amount of trade waste from the Industrial Estate. After treatment the effluent is discharged into the Manchester Ship Canal. This necessary utility is not inside the Parish of Christ Church, but residents are reminded of its presence, especially in the evenings following very hot or very wet days.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1943 the Rev. F. Rideal (1932-45) was Vicar of St. Mary's and at the beginning of that year he placed an advertisement in the local newspaper and Parish Magazine, stating that he intended to start a Bible Class/Sunday School at the new Davyhulme Council School in Canterbury Road. This had been opened in 1940, under Mr. Shaw as Headmaster, and the log book for Sunday, February 7th, 1943, shows an entry by Mr. Shaw, "This afternoon a Sunday School (C. of E.) was begun in the Craft Room". He added that planning permission had been given before the War for a Church to be built on the School estate, by which he meant the new housing estate, and not the school grounds.





***Above: The early Sunday School, held at Canterbury Road School, Davyhulme. In this group of teachers are Mrs Maud Healey, Mrs Joyce Jackson, Miss Edith Wood, Mrs Nash-Eaton and Mrs Park. Mrs Dorothy Roper, now Mrs Attack, is seated in the middle of the front row. The gentlemen from left to right are Mr John Follows, Mr Castle and Mr William Humphries. The Sunday School banner is still in use.***

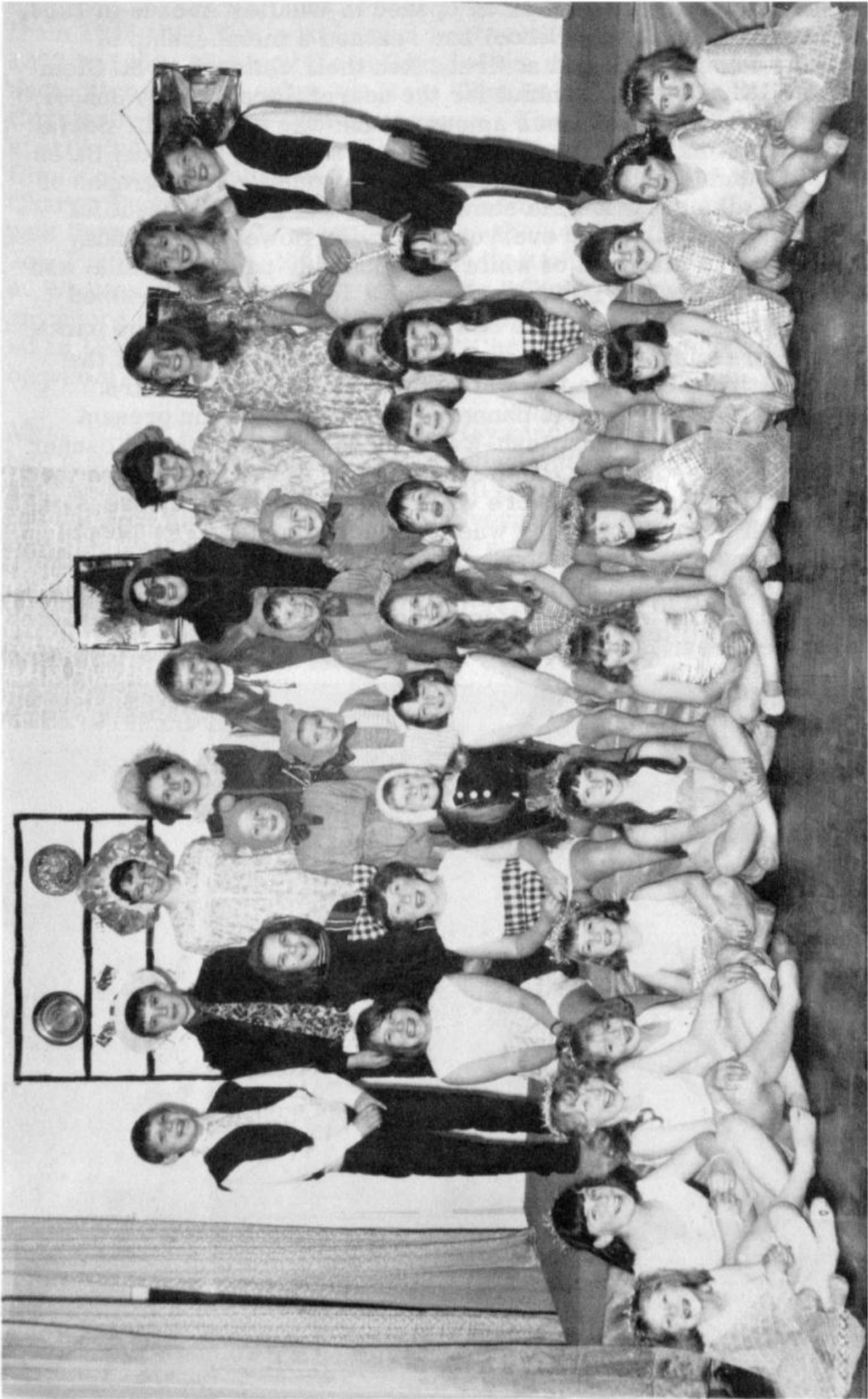
***Below: The Parish Walk, July 8th, 1945.***



Among those present at the first meeting were Mrs. Maud Healey and her young daughter, Dorothy, and Mrs. Lilian Pennell and her son Eric. Then, as now, Sunday School teachers were recruited from among parents of Sunday School children, and Mrs. Healey became the first Superintendent, with 12 children of varied ages. In a very short time the Sunday School rapidly increased, and must have amazed even the Rev. Rideal with its success. Mrs. Pennell, now in her 70's recalls some amusing details of those early days. She was willing to teach Sunday School, but believed that all such teachers should receive training and be given instruction as to what and how they were to teach the children. Mr. Rideal agreed, and after each Sunday's lesson, the teachers stayed behind while he gave out the lesson for the following Sunday. At that time Mrs. Pennell had not been confirmed, and several other teachers confessed that they too were not confirmed members of the Church of England. Undeterred, Mr. Rideal arranged for them to attend Confirmation Classes, and a group of them were duly confirmed at St. Clements Church, Urmston the following year. Today's parish-ioners still have great pleasure in meeting a few of those early teachers - Mrs. Pennell; Mrs. Roper (now Mrs. Atack); Mrs Nash-Eaton who has kindly supplied photographs of Parish Walks with the Sunday School in those days, Mrs. Joyce Jackson and Mrs May Walker, now living at Congleton. Two teachers who were not parents were the Misses Edith and Ada Wood, now living at St. Anne's-on-Sea. Sadly Mrs Healey died in 1977, as did Mrs Olivia Hesketh. Three Churchwardens also became teachers at Canterbury Road Sunday School, Mr. William Humphries; Mr. Castle and Mr. John Follows, all now dead, but much loved and respected in their time. Mr Follows in particular was an indefatigable worker for Christ Church for over twenty years, until his death.

***Below: Mrs Maud Healey with Miss Edith Wood (left) helping to raise funds for the Mission Church, 1952.***





*Above: The first Sunday School entertainment in the new Parish Centre, "Little Red Riding Hood", 1971.*

By the time the new Mission Church opened in Whalley Avenue in 1954, the Canterbury Road Sunday School had reached a membership of around 200. Parents who had at first taken their children to St. Clements and St. Mary's were thankful for the nearer, local Sunday School, and it sounds as if a tremendous amount of fun was had by all. Social evenings, Christmas parties, Harvest suppers and all the usual Sales of Work and Jumble Sales were used to raise money. Photographs of the "Parish Walks" at that time show all the little girls in beautiful white dresses and veils, and everyone carrying flowers. A Sunday School banner was made out of white silk (possibly parachute silk) and beautifully painted by Mr Dobson, showing a full-length, life-sized picture of Jesus, standing by the Sea of Galilee with hills in the background. The resourceful artist made a fringe for the bottom of the banner by cutting the fringe from his wife's bedspread, and Mrs. Pennell made a smaller velvet banner. She also made the present Sunday School Banner. Mrs. Nash-Eaton made an embroidered banner for the Primary section. In those austere days of the 1940's with food and clothes rationing, people were willing to give up their possessions for the Church's benefit; nothing was too much trouble. Few people had cars, and no petrol to drive what cars there were, and before the Mission Church was opened, people in the eastern half of Davyhulme either walked all the way to St. Mary's, or attended the now demolished St. Catherine's near Barton Bridge.



The Rev. Rideal was succeeded by the Rev. J. Lowry, Vicar of St. Mary's from 1945 till 1952, who in turn was succeeded by the Rev. A. Noble, 1952 to 1960, who saw the building of the new Mission Church and its dedication in 1954, when the Rev. Tom Robinson was installed as Curate-in-Charge at Whalley Avenue. The Vicars of St. Mary's were also Vicars of the Mission Church until November 25th 1959, when Christ Church became a Conventional District, with its own Parochial Church Council. It is difficult to determine when the title Christ Church was first used, but it must have been the name planned for the eventual new Parish Church, though at the dedication of the new "Mission Church" at Whalley Avenue in 1954, the words "Christ Church" do not appear anywhere on the Service Sheet. Yet on the Sunday School banner painted in 1945 at the latest, the words "Christ Church Sunday School" can be plainly seen in the photographs.

Mrs. Winnie Reece, Mrs. Gladys Hayward and Mrs. Mona Ralph and her sister were also involved in the early days of the Sunday School, and many of the parents of their pupils worked very hard to make it the success that it was. One of the young teachers, Beryl Norman, married the then Curate of St. Mary's, Mr. Stephenson.

***This page and opposite: Some teachers and pupils of the Sunday School, 1979. The Superintendent, Mrs Winifred Hill, is central in both pictures.***



# THE NEW MISSION CHURCH

On Saturday, July 10th 1954, the dual-purpose "New Mission Church" in Whalley Avenue was dedicated by the Venerable A. Selby Bean, M. A. B. D. , O. B. E. , Archdeacon of Manchester. This was a temporary building (it was in use for 15 years as a Church) built of brick for two-thirds of its height, with windows set in a timber frame-work above this, and a corrugated iron roof. Its purpose was to act as a "Daughter Church" to St. Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme, thus supplying a place of worship for residents in the eastern portion of the Parish. Most people agree that it was a well-designed building, with a Chancel at one end containing the Altar, Pulpit, choirstalls and organ, and a large hall that did double duty as a Nave and a Church Hall. A substantial screen could be pulled across the Chancel, completely cutting it off from the body of the Hall, which could then be used for functions of varying kinds from dances to Spring and Autumn Fairs; Social Club meetings and Guide and Brownie activities. At the opposite end to the Chancel was a stage with curtains, which could be used for concerts, Nativity Plays, etc. A good-sized, four bedroomed Vicarage was built close by in Welbeck Avenue as a permanent building, and is still used by the Vicar of Christ Church, though it is about a quarter of a mile from the present building.

The first Curate-in-Charge was the Rev. Tom Robinson, (1954-56) who became closely involved with the flourishing Sunday School, which now transferred to the Mission Church after eleven years at Canterbury Road School. The Superintendent was Mr. Morris at this time, who had begun as a teacher at Canterbury Road, and took the 18-month training to become a Parochial Reader. He carried on his work for the Church for several years before leaving the district in connection with his work in industrial Insurance, and is still warmly remembered by many, especially for the way he and two Churchwardens virtually ran the Parish during the interregnum in the Ministry in 1959-60. Mr. John Follows and Mr. Bill Humphries continued as Churchwardens, and many people from St. Mary's attended the Mission Church because it was much more convenient for them. Mr. Humphries became the first Treasurer and Mr. Wilfred Park the first Choirmaster. Mr. Dennis Williams, a man completely dedicated to Church music and choral singing, became the organist. Among the then choir members were Mrs. Dorothy Roper Mr. Pass, who sang well into his 80's and was a much loved Church member, Mrs. Doris Gadd whose husband Charlie was a Churchwarden for many years; Mrs. Healey and her growing-up daughter Dorothy, the Ralphs family, the Foulkes family, Mrs. Enid Clack, and many others. In fact the choir was a thriving family concern. This family atmosphere developed even further with the marriage of Mrs. Dorothy Roper to Tenor, Mr. Norman Atack. Christ Church also benefitted by the partnership as Dorothy and Norman proved hard and loyal workers for the Church.

Mrs. Dorothy Atack well deserves a special mention in this field. Born over 60 years ago near St. Mary's, she attended that Church as a child and occasionally sang solos there as a girl, although the choir was all-male. She taught at Canterbury Road Sunday School as Mrs Roper, played the piano for the hymns and started a girl's choir. In 1943, sadly, Dorothy's husband died suddenly, leaving her to bring up her son Colin. She had to give up some voluntary Church activities and go out to work full-time.

The quiet, Miss Dorothy Buckley was also a great worker for the Church, though always modestly in the background. For many years she cleaned all the Church plate, and was a faithful member of the Parochial Church Council. She donated the two Altar candlesticks and the small gold Altar cross, which are still in use today. Miss Buckley no longer lives in the Parish, but in her unobtrusive way she has served the Church well, and will be affectionately remembered by all who perceived her good qualities - a real lady, in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

Mr George Green and his wife Mollie were among the early members of the Mission Church. George had formerly worshipped at St. Cath-erines, Barton, and Mollie was confirmed into the Church of England following instruction from the Rev. Robinson, at the same time as Mrs. Enid Clack. They became Sunday School teachers during the Curacy of the Rev. J. Brooks (1957-59). Mollie taught for six years, taking the boys classes whilst Enid was in charge of the girls. There were several other teachers assisting them; Mrs. Josephine Newton (Jo) who moved into the district at this time taught for two years, until the birth of her first child, and Miss Dorothy Healey began teaching in 1953 and continued for 13 years. The Rev. Brooks himself was Superintendent, and happy memories remain of taking the children on their annual Summer Outing to Southport, in a hired double-decker bus.

At that time joint functions used to take place between the Mission Church and St. Mary's. The Annual Parish Walks would set out from each Church and met together on the Davyhulme Golf Course, where a picnic would be held, with sports and games for the children. Mrs. Elaine Pennell, daughter-in-law of Lilian Pennell, remembers spreading the sandwiches all the morning and lining up for the egg and spoon race in the afternoon. A friendly rivalry seems to have existed between St. Mary's and the daughter church.

The status changed however, when the Conventional District of Christ Church, Davyhulme was officially formed in the eastern part of the Parish of St. Mary's on November 25th 1959. The Rev. Brooks who left the Parish immediately after this event, was not replaced by the Rev. Bulliman for about four months, and St. Mary's played little or no part in the affairs of Christ Church from then on.

An important Christ Church member at this time, and ever since, is Mr Warren Partington, a Solicitor, and family man who came to live in Lostock Road, later moving to Derby Road and Winchester Road. He started as a member of St. Mary's and changed to the Mission Church when it was built. He became People's Churchwarden, Vice-Chairman of the Parochial Church Council and for many years Treasurer to the P. C. C.

John Follows and Warren Partington were the Churchwardens during the above-mentioned 'gap' when the Mission Church had no clergy at all, and it fell to their responsibility to find a preacher every Sunday. Mr Morris was the Parochial Reader and did a good job, but could not of course administer the Sacraments or give Absolution. Mr Partington was very thankful for the services of Canon Preston, a retired clergyman who lived at Monton Green.

The Rev. John Francis Bulliman moved into the Vicarage early in 1960 to become Curate-in-Charge for the next three years. He had entered the Ministry via the Church Army, and then went on to ordination. He had been a Chaplain to H. M. Prisons before coming to Davyhulme, and was a married man with two children, John and Anne. He is remembered for his evangelical zeal. Unfortunately Mr Bulliman's health was not good, and it was mainly because of this that Captain Gerald Gould of the Church Army came to be his assistant from 1962 until 1965. He was a very energetic young bachelor, and Mr Bulliman found him lodgings with Miss Dorothy Buckley, who looked after him well and worried about the irregularity of his meals.

Mr. Bulliman began the "Pram Services" for young mothers one afternoon a week, and these are affectionately remembered by many older women today, who were pushing prams twenty years ago, when the presence of young children at the Sunday services was unusual. This group formed the basis of what later developed into the Women's Fellowship at Christ Church, with Mrs. Lazenby as the first Leader, Nan Kay the Secretary and Merle Partington, Treasurer. This Fellowship still provides monthly meetings, talks, demonstrations and varied activities for women of all ages and status.

A sad event in January 1963 was the sudden death of 20 year old Sunday School teacher Hilary McIntyre. On May 26th 1963 the Bishop of Hulme came to preach at the Sunday School Festival, and at the same time dedicated the new Sanctuary Light in the form of a cross which has shone out ever since, both in the Mission Church and in the present Church, in memory of Hilary, given to the Church by her parents.

In February 1963 the Rev. Bulliman left the Parish to become Vicar of Fishlake in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and his departure was followed by another interregnum of five months, during which time Captain Gould managed the Parish with the help of the two Churchwardens Warren Partington and John Follows, who once again were responsible for finding clergy to take Communion services. Canon Preston was again



brought from Monton Green to take Sunday Communion whenever possible, and the Rev. Bould of St. Mary's came to take the mid-week Communion. Help was given by clergy from All Saints, Stretford. The Parish Magazine at this period contains a regular letter from the two stalwart Churchwardens, as well as the monthly letter on much more spiritual matters by Captain Gould. The news got around that the Vicar coming to take Mr. Bulliman's place in August 1963, was the bachelor Chaplain from King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

## THE ARRIVAL OF PETER CAMERON

The Rev. Peter Samuel Griswold Cameron, M. A. visited Davyhulme in March 1963 to look over the Parish, and stayed with the Partingtons. Following this, he agreed to take over as Curate-in-Charge, knowing that he would see the building and consecration of a new, permanent church - Christ Church, Davyhulme. Peter Cameron was a bachelor aged 32, a scholar and a theologian. He had a cool, well-disciplined mind, and a lively sense of humour - though he himself was heard to hint that his loud, rollicking laugh covered a certain degree of shyness. His father had been the Queen's chaplain at Hampton Court, and the Rev. Cameron came to Davyhulme fresh from his own chaplaincy at King's College, Cambridge. Previous to that he had held two curacies since ordination.

*The Rev. Peter S. G. Cameron, Vicar 1969-72*



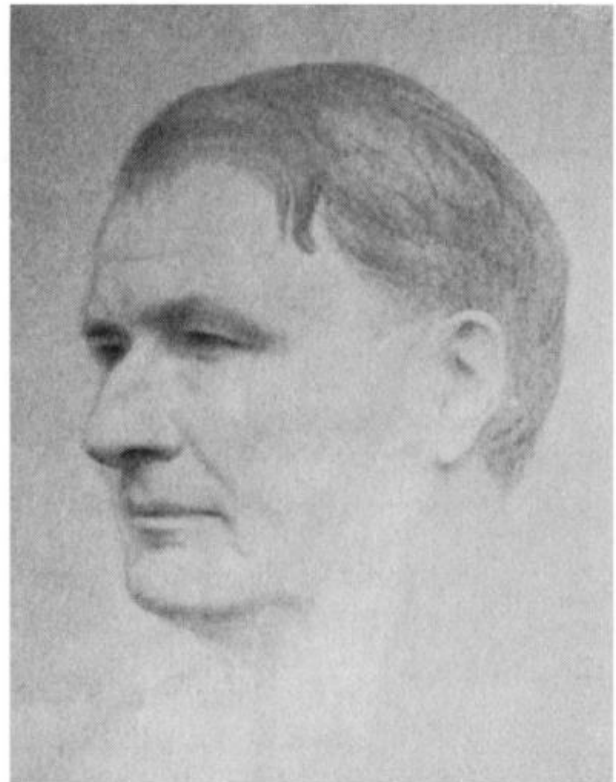
The various Parish organisations flourished. The Sunday School was re-organised under the Superintendentship of Mrs. Enid Clack, and the classes were now held in the mornings instead of the afternoons. Several new teachers were welcomed into the Sunday School at this time and Jo Newton returned, and became Treasurer. A group of talented and industrious ladies formed a Sewing Guild - which is still going strong today. Their skill did not go unnoticed by the Vicar when he had to think about the Altar cloths for the projected new church.



**Left: Rev. Richard (Dick) J. Gilpin, Curate 1970-74**

**Below left: Rev. William (Bill) S. Brison, our present Vicar since 1972, with his wife Peggy**

**Below: Rev. Edward N. Downing, Honorary Curate 1975-77**



# PLANS GO AHEAD FOR THE NEW CHURCH

On November 4th 1963, the first full-length meeting of the New Church Committee took place, and endless discussions ensued about finance, design, lay-out and siting. Everybody in the Parish was invited to express their views. By July 1964 the New Church Committee hotly debated the rival merits of concrete and brick, and various plans and models were being considered. A coach outing to the new church of St. Nicholas at Fleetwood was organised for all interested parishioners.

In October 1964 the caretaker Mr. Hall had to retire because of ill-health, and his place was taken by Mr. Charlie Atherton who became a reliable and much-loved character of Christ Church, with his cheery manner - he was "Father Christmas" at many Sunday School parties and Christmas Fairs - and his dignity as our Verger. His wife, Emmie was also a loyal Christ Church member, and helped Charlie with the care-taking both of the Mission Church and the present building, until his death in 1974.

In January 1965 Captain Gerald Gould announced his engagement to Miss Sheila Osborn, and the wedding was fixed for June, when he also said he would be leaving Davyhulme to take up a new post at Mexborough in Yorkshire. He preached a farewell sermon on June 20th, when a presentation was made to him. Mr. Cameron praised the Captain's sincerity, good humour and hard work in the Parish for three years, during which time he had helped many people. He and Sheila were married on June 26th at Nuneaton, and quite a few Christ Church members attended. Captain Gould is now at St. Elizabeth's Church, Horwich.

In 1965 Mr. Cameron approached Mollie Green with an idea of starting a group for the elderly of the Parish, and in June the first meeting was held on a Wednesday afternoon. It has continued ever since, and has been one of the Church's most consistently successful organisations, with a membership of around 80, and a very good attendance. Many people, especially the widowed and single, have found fellowship and interest, fun and friendship at the Social Club. Membership is by no means limited to Church members, or even to the Church of England, though many people have been introduced to the Church by it. The Social Club performs a real social service to the retired members of the community.

It was in 1965 that Mr. Cameron went to see the District Surveyor regarding the site of the new church. It had at first been envisaged near to the Mission Church, but the coming of the M62 Motorway made this undesirable, and the same objection was raised to a suggested site at the eastern limit of Canterbury Road where there is quite a large grassy area. It was Peter Cameron himself who suggested the final site in Lostock Road, near to the Hartford Road bus-stop and not far from the Moss Vale Inn opposite. Mr. Potter the Surveyor agreed

to put in for planning permission for a Church, Hall and Vicarage to be built on the Lostock Road site. Planning permission still exists for a Vicarage or another Church building.

By July 1966 a Diocesan Building Sub-Committee was formed, of five members from the Diocese and five from Christ Church. The Chairman was the Bishop of Hulme. At the Joint Building Committee meeting held that month, an architect was commissioned to produce plans of the combined Church and Hall. At about this time the Parish Boundary was altered. It was thought that the M62 Motorway would provide a strong natural boundary, and so the part of Christ Church parish to the east of the M62 became part of All Saint's Stretford.

The Kingsway Park area and the Moss Lane estate (the Wimpey estate) to the north of Lostock Road and the grassy area on each side of the brook (see the opening section of this booklet) were added to the Parish. The Wimpey estate was only just beginning to be built, but it has since expanded and developed into a considerable residential area with its own Primary School and Parklands School. The hope that these new parishioners would be drawn into our Christian fellowship is now being more and more fulfilled. Baptisms from this area lead to Sunday School membership and thus some of the parents are drawn in; while the Street Warden Scheme is rapidly gaining strength in the area. It is a gradual but steady progress.

On September 21st 1966 an Extraordinary Parochial Meeting was held to which all parishioners were invited to take a final look at the architect's plans for the New Church, and to make criticism, comments and suggestions. There was also an opportunity to meet Mr. Bunton, the stained-glass artist, and to see his provisional designs for the new church's windows. On October 2nd, the Christ Church General Appeal was launched, and in preparation for this effort, Peter Cameron began to hold Holy Communion at 8 am as well as at 9.15 am every Sunday. Groups of volunteers took copies of the Appeal to every house in the Parish, following the Harvest Festival Evensong. Trafford Park firms and local firms and businesses received copies of the Appeal by post on Monday, October 3rd. All the proceeds of the Autumn Fair that year went to the New Church Fund, and it was opened by Father Forrestall of St. Hugh of Lincoln, Stretford. Plan-making now went ahead swiftly. The Diocese approved the plans, and Peter Cameron then took them to the Church Commissioners. Soon the architect's drawing of the envisaged dual-purpose Church was in most people's houses. Mrs. Healey and her daughter Dorothy that year sold over £600 worth of Christmas cards, and handed in over £100 profit. Meanwhile Peter Cameron was busy with special plans for the laying of the Foundation Stone, fixed for May 1967. Eventually the exciting news broke - Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent was to come and lay the Foundation Stone on Thursday, May 25th 1967, the Feast of Corpus Christi, at 3 pm. An enormous amount of preparation was then put into action. The Duchess' Secretary, Commander Buckley, worked in collaboration with Mr. Victor Lloyd, Christ Church member and Headmaster of Barton Clough School, and a

whole team of people shared in working towards the achievement of a truly happy and exciting occasion.

## FOUNDATION DAY

The accompanying photographs tell the story so accurately. Among the guests present were: The Lord Bishop of Manchester- the Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster; the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester; the Chairman of Urmston District Council; Council Officials and Public Works Committee; Dr Ernest Davies M. P. all the former clergy of Christ Church; the Reverends Robinson, Brooks; Bulliman and their wives; Captain and Mrs. Gould with their daughter Joanne; members of the Old People's Homes nearby who came in coaches; the children from Parklands Special School; the 3rd Davyhulme Scouts and their Band led the Guides and Brownies in procession; and the Band of the Lancashire Regiment and the colourful Trumpeters of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry further enhanced the scene.

***Below: Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent lays the Foundation Stone of Christ Church, Davyhulme.***



The timetable for that afternoon reveals fascinating facts and details of organisation; it was the first time the Duchess of Kent had laid a Foundation Stone, and 38 years since the last Royal visit to Davyhulme when Princess Mary, the Princess Royal opened Park Hospital. The Duchess had been married in 1961 to Edward, Duke of Kent, the Queen's cousin. She was formerly Miss Katherine Worsley of Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire. Her father, Sir William Worsley, was Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding.

Foundation Day was blessed with a sunny day for the occasion. At 2.40 pm the Duchess of Kent, Commander Buckley and Miss Pilkington the Duchess' Lady-in-waiting, arrived at Manchester (Piccadilly) Station, to be met by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester and the Deputy Lieutenant of Lancaster. They travelled by road to the New Site, arriving just after the Lord Bishop of Manchester. The Duchess was greeted by the Chairman of Urmston District Council, and then by the Reverend Peter Cameron, who presented the Bishop to Her Royal Highness. She met Dr. Davies the Member of Parliament and

***Below: "In the faith of Christ we lay this stone."***





*Above: The Duchess meets representative parishioners.*

moved along the line of official guests. Then followed the Service and the laying of the Foundation Stone. This was of Portland stone with a polished surface, 2'6" x 1'3" x 5", and bore the words in gold leaf Roman lettering:

"This stone  $\text{X}\text{P}$  was laid by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 25th May, 1967".

The sign  $\text{X}\text{P}$  represents the Name of CHRIST, X and P being the Greek letters for CH and R.

The Service was fairly short, conducted by the Reverend Peter Cameron and included the hymn, "Christ is our Corner Stone". The Lord Bishop of Manchester blessed the stone, where upon the Duchess disposed to utter the words, "In the faith of Jesus Christ we lay this Stone; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." However, before she could begin, the trumpeters of the Duke of Lanc-

aster's Own Yeomanry sounded proudly and prematurely forth with the Fanfare which was scheduled for the conclusion of the Duchess' short speech ! (There is a rather good photograph of the Rev. Peter Cameron looking grimly in their direction, while the discreet Duchess waits to say her piece.) At the conclusion of the Service, 6 year old Miss Suzy Partington stepped forward to present the Duchess with a bouquet of flowers, after which the Duchess met some representative parishioners the Rev. William Bould, then Vicar of St. Mary's. The whole party then moved to the Mission Church in Whalley Avenue where tea awaited and speeches were made. Peter Cameron presented the Duchess with a New Testament (New English Bible version), and at 4.15 pm she departed by car to Manchester (Exchange) Station to travel to Leeds where she was due to confer an honorary degree on her own father at the University of Leeds, of which she is Chancellor.

The event was recorded in the local press and also in The Times and the Daily Express. Peter Cameron no doubt summarized the parish's feelings when he said that the Duchess of Kent performed her symbolic task with a seriousness that brought home the weight of the enterprise which Christ Church had undertaken, and at the same time her cheerful friendliness gave all present happy memories of the day.

*Below: The Duchess meets representative parishioners.*







*Above: The Duchess is interrupted by a premature fanfare from the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.*

## **AFTER TRIUMPH – DISASTER**

There followed not a rapid going-ahead of building plans, but a serious set-back to the whole project. Two weeks after the Foundation Stone was laid, it became all too apparent to Mr Cameron that the plans drawn up by the architect would never materialise. A new architect had to be found, and a much more modest building designed. Mr Partington recalls anxious discussions with Mr Cameron, with papers and account books spread over the table. A circular was printed and sent out to every home in the Parish, which is quoted below:-

### Autumn 1967

After the excitement of our Foundation Day on May 25th, it is sad to have to report two set-backs in our arrangements for the New Church at Lostock Road.

The first is, that the scheme so far accepted has proved, on accurate costing and on receipt of tenders, to be beyond our means by about £10,000/£15,000. The second set-back is that the alternative uses of our present building in Whalley Avenue turn out to be so limited by the Town and Country Planning Acts, that we are extremely unlikely to get a proper price for it, and the Diocesan Authorities can no longer recommend its sale.

These facts have only come to light by stages in the past six months and even until August it still seemed possible that solutions could be found. But it is now quite plain that fresh plans will have to be made for the new site, devoting all available money to the new Church and merely leaving space for a new Hall, since we shall be retaining the present building in Whalley Avenue as our Church Hall for a while yet.

As you will understand, it is only with great reluctance and after a prolonged examination of the position that the Building Committee and the Church Council have decided that the accepted scheme be abandoned. It is realised what a let-down we shall feel in the

Parish, to have to wait until a fresh scheme is drawn up. At the same time you will agree this is better than proceeding with a scheme we cannot afford; and it is hoped that the fresh scheme will put money available to the best possible use - that is, all towards the New Church, with none diverted to the New Hall, since we shall now be retaining the present one.

Thank you for your continued support, which makes it possible to look ahead with hope, both to completing the fresh scheme which will now be drawn up for the new Christ Church, Lostock Road, and to putting it into effect as soon as possible.

God Bless you !      P. S. G. Cameron, Minister

There was a longer version of this circular in the Parish Magazine, exhorting Christ Church members to pray for fresh ideas, and the vision and energy to carry them out. This is where Peter Cameron's tenacity was shown. On May 27th he sat outside the Canterbury Road shops enrolling friends and members of Christ Church as Christ Church Builders. Ten shillings or more for each adult and half a crown for each child, bought a Builder's Certificate and a place in a permanent book of signatures. Peter Cameron and his Church Officers (he had no curate at this time) were not averse to sitting outside the shops on more than one occasion for "Buy a Brick" day. This brought about a certain amount of criticism, but all Peter Cameron ever complained about was the chilly breeze that blew his robes around him.

On the 20th September 1967, an important event took place, though most people scarcely noticed it. The Rev. Cameron, Minister and future Vicar was instituted to the Independent Statutory District and eventual Parish of Christ Church, Davyhulme. This meant that the last legal ties with St. Mary's were cut.

# ANSWER TO PRAYER

In the New Year of 1968 a new architect was recommended by the Diocese - Mr. Whyman of Thorpe, Whyman and Briggs of Oldham. Mr. Whyman was a recognised Diocesan architect. He set about drawing up new plans very quickly, and Mr. Bunton, the stained-glass artist, was retained and his designs were used for four windows of the new church. The cost of the second design was reckoned to be about £36,000, in contrast to the £66,000 of the first design, though a separate Parish Centre would have to be built later. In fact the final cost of the Church was £40,704. Early in 1970 the Whalley Avenue Dual-Purpose Hall, about which there had been such gloom, was sold to the National Council for Young Enterprise for £7,700. The adjoining car park was also sold for a further £2,400, which so pleased the Church Commissioners that they donated a further £4,000 (because of the addition of the Moss Lane Estate to the Parish), thus providing £14,000 which paid for the new Parish Centre opened on December 5th 1970. So the problem of the Hall was solved more quickly than anybody had expected.

The Annual Parish Walk in June 1968 was an expedition into the Kingsway Park area and Moss Lane Estate, returning across the meadows to cross Lostock Road and take up positions on the site of the New Church, standing where we would expect to stand when the Church was completed - Vicar, Parochial Reader Mr. Roy McNichol, organist and choirmaster Mr. Dennis Williams, choir and congregation in their places. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon as all stood on the grass - but when Mr. Cameron, who suffered from hay fever, began to read the prayers, he was seized by an uncontrollable fit of sneezing, and finally had to hand over to Roy McNichol.

In September 1968 the building finally began, and the foundations were dug; the contractors were Ashton, Smethurst Ltd. The edifice seemed to rise extraordinarily quickly, and it was a beautiful building that arose.

While in building, a Church remains the property of the contractor. Not until Consecration Day does the building become legal Church property. Autumn came, and Winter; February 1969 brought a little snow which held up building for a while, but the outline of the Church had by now materialised, and by May the walls supported a roof. The Parish Walk that June ended with an exuberant gathering inside the nearly completed building, and Mr. Cameron joyfully announced a series of forthcoming dates:

Saturday, October 4th - Consecration Day  
October 4th to 13th - Thanksgiving Week, not only for

the completion of our New Church, but for 15 years of worship and fellowship in the Mission Church, which (it was then thought) would

continue to be the Church Hall for some time. This week would also mark the Visitation from a team of theological students and their Chaplain from Wells Theological College, Somerset.

October 5th - Thanksgiving Sunday  
Saturday October 11th - Harvest Supper and Social Evening  
October 12th - Harvest Festival

September 28th, 1969 was "Farewell Sunday", the last Service in the Mission Church, and of course there was a certain feeling of sadness, as many people had very happy memories of those 15 years.

## **THE CONSECRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH, DAVYHULME**

At 2.40 pm on Saturday October 4th 1969 a procession lined up outside Christ Church, for the culmination of years of endeavour. As well as the Vicar and Churchwardens, Bishop of Hulme and visiting Clergy; Choir and P. C. C. , it included the Architect Mr. Whyman, the Artist Mr. Buntton and the General Foreman of the Building Contractors. At 2.50 pm they moved into the Church and took their places while a hymn was sung. Intercessory prayers followed, and at 3.00 pm precisely the Lord Bishop of Manchester, accompanied by his Archdeacon and the Rural Dean of Stretford, came to the main door and knocked upon it three times with his staff, saying "Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in."

All within the Church replied "Who is the King of Glory?"

"The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory" answered the Bishop. Then the doors were opened wide by the Churchwardens, who said: "Right Reverend Father in God, we pray you to consecrate this Church" And so the Dedication and Consecration proceeded, culminating in the Bishop's solemn pronouncement, all the company standing.

"By virtue of our sacred office in the Church of God we do now declare to be consecrated, and for ever set apart all profane and common uses, this House of God, under the dedication of CHRIST CHURCH: in the name of the ever blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen".

Then the Church bell rang out loud and long, and the Vicar received the keys. The Te Deum was sung, followed by prayers for all who would worship and work in the Church, and for all the community which it would serve. Finally the procession left the Church to the singing of the hymn "Now thank we all our God".

At 8.00 am the next morning (Thanksgiving Sunday) the first Holy Communion was celebrated by the Bishop of Hulme. The life of the New Church had begun! Many regular worshippers were apprehensive about worshipping in a modern Church, but such fears were soon dispelled.

Thanksgiving Week is remembered by many for the cheerful, friendly presence of nine high-spirited young men who seemed to be all over the Parish, and did not seem at all like pre-conceived ideas of theological students! With their strange attire, assorted hair styles and beards, they stirred up the residents of the Kingsway Park and Moss Lane Estates, and caused a riot at the Harvest Supper with their "Country dancing" and rendering of "Don't tell Oi, tell Ee"! Their visit had a particularly significant result for the Church, for they took back a good report of it to Wells, where one of the 3rd year students there, Richard Gilpin, became interested and as a consequence he accepted an invitation to take up a first curacy at Christ Church following his ordination.

The joy of the consecration of the new Church was, however, tinged with sadness. Norman Atack, Secretary of the Building Committee and one of the hardest workers for the new Church was too ill to attend the Consecration Service. Two weeks later his Funeral Service was held in the new Church. The sight of Norman's choir robe laid over the front of the stall he was expected to occupy was a sad sight indeed.

## **A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CHURCH**

We enter by the main door, facing south, and step into a good-sized entrance hall. To the left is the Vicar's Vestry/Office, and next to this, also to the left, is the Council Room which also acts as a Choir Vestry with storage space for robes and music, a large table, chairs and a piano. A tiny kitchen and a back-door with steps leading down to the car park leads off this room, and behind the Vicar's Vestry and also connecting with the Council Room is a small Parish Office where the Church Secretary (at present Mrs. Sheila Golding) works and where Church records are kept in filing cabinets, and there is also a safe for money and valuable items. Ladies' and gentlemen's toilets are accessible from the entrance hall, facing north.

We enter the Church itself from the entrance hall, to the right, and immediately face the altar at the east end. This, with the lectern, two altar rails, and four choir stalls, were transferred from the Mission Church in Whalley Avenue. They are all in light oak, as is the rest of the Sanctuary furniture. A Pulpit with steps was the gift of St. Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme; the Font was the gift of the Sunday School. Two additional altar rails with metal posts were given by the Social Club.

The fine Processional Cross was an anonymous gift, and the Mothers' Union Banner was contributed by the Christ Church branch of the M. U. There are ten beautiful woollen altar rail kneelers showing the arms and badges of persons and institutions connected with the Church, designed by Peter Cameron and George Green, and executed by ten members of the sewing guild, who also supplied the materials. The late Mr. and Mrs. Mylecraine gave two photo-stands, describing these kneelers thus:

1. Red shield bearing a royal crown and the crossed keys of St. Peter - THE PROVINCE OF YORK
2. A black anvil (for industry) upon a gold circle (for commerce) set on blue and silver waves (the Manchester Ship Canal) - TRAFFORD PARK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
3. Red shield with three triangular gold flags each bearing a red rose - LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
4. A white lily of St. Mary - OUR MOTHER CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME
5. A purple shield bearing a gold cross - CHRIST CHURCH, DAVYHULME
6. Two letters K, back to back, surmounted by a ducal coronet, the cipher of THE DUCHESS OF KENT, who laid the Foundation stone of the Church
7. Silver shield, bearing a red cross - ST. GEORGE, PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND
8. A red griffin, with gold talons and claws - DE TRAFFORD
9. Gold shield, bearing three mitres - THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
10. THE RED ROSE OF LANCASTER

The Compton electro-static organ was bought specifically for the new Church, as the one in the Mission Church was "on its last legs", as Mr Dennis Williams said. The architect wanted to have the organ to the right of the Sanctuary, on the same side as the choir-stalls, but Mr Williams insisted that it should be placed on the left, on the same side as the pulpit and lectern - and as he was Organist and Choirmaster, his wishes prevailed. However, the Rev. Cameron and Mr Whyman conspired to have a little conduit made underneath the Sanctuary, through which an electric cable could be run if at a future date it should be decided to move the organ over to the right, in which case the choir-stalls could be moved forwards to make room for it.

The architect's plans show the organ console on the right. The organ speaker is a large oaken structure above the west entrance door which has a pleasingly nautical appearance like the stern of an old sailing ship. Peter Cameron used to call it Captain Hornblower's Cabin. In

all the organ cost £1,815 to which several generous gifts were made, and for which a special Organ Fund was formed.

The fine old Church Bell, which rang out loud and long at the Consecration was the gift of the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, where it was rung for services from 1615 till 1946. It can be heard in all areas of the Parish.

The pews of pitch pine were a gift from All Saints, Hale barns (from St. Mary's Ringway, now demolished), and are arranged in a gradual curve across the nave, so that all worshippers face the altar. Extra seating is provided by wooden chairs on the north side. The church is built to accommodate 250, though extra chairs can be brought in when necessary - for example, at Confirmation services, well-attended Christmas and Harvest Festivals, and when there are half-a-dozen Baptisms at Family Communion. The Women's Fellowship gave the long woollen carpet for the centre aisle, coloured "burnt copper" and with step attachments. Many of the gifts are around the Church, and a list is obtainable from the Vicar or Church Secretary. There are many beautiful flower vases, mostly from individual donors, but eight of them in pottery designed and supplied by the Manchester School of Art were paid for by the Youth Club members, who worked very hard to raise the £20 required - and ten years ago that was worth a good deal more than today. Hilary McIntyre's Lighted Star, given by her parents with an inscription plate below, shines above the north aisle.

Four south-facing windows let in the light through plain glass; and four north-facing windows fill the Church with rich, symbolic colour; these were designed by Mr. K. G. Bunton, A. M. G. P. and each one represents one of Our Lord's sayings from St. John's Gospel. From left to right they are:

1. I am the Good Shepherd: The Good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The abstract design shows the contorted Body of the Shepherd, pierced with flaming spear heads of pain. This window was the gift of the Sunday School.
2. I am the Bread of Life. The green and yellow pattern represents a growing field of wheat. This window was the gift of the Womens' Fellowship.
3. I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. The design indicates a curving, upward road. This was the gift of the Mothers' Union and Mollie Green said they chose it because it was the only one they could understand.
4. I am the Resurrection and the Life. The design shows radiant colours surging upwards and outwards. This window was the gift of the Sewing Guild.

Mr. Bunton also designed the altar cloths. A Gold one used at the Consecration was made by a Manchester firm, Diana Textiles Ltd. It was made of Italian brocatelle, with a matching Communion set. It was given by Mrs. V. Jones and Mrs. Smith.

A Green Altar Cloth, given by the Womens' Fellowship and made by Diana Textiles, shows the five loaves and two fishes of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, with a "sun-burst" for the Lord's creative power.

A Blue Cloth, given by the Mothers' Union and made by the same firm is for the Virgin Mary, and shows the sword which Simeon predicted should enter her soul, represented by a lily.

A Purple Cloth, given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, was made by members of the specially formed Altar Cloth embroidery Group, headed by Mrs. Jo Newton, who asked a professional embroidress, Mrs. Davison, to come and teach them. It shows the three Crosses of Calvary, and has its matching Communion set, pulpit fall and book-mark.

A Red Cloth, given by Mrs. Girdwood and representing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit, was entirely the work of Jo Newton, the rest of the group making the accessories for the set. She found it very hard work, but the resulting product is of a very high standard of needlework. Jo Newton gives credit to Mrs. Archbald and Mrs. V. Lloyd who worked particularly hard on this project, and she has a vivid memory of the cloth spread out on the floor beside the stained glass windows, with the ladies all kneeling round it, sewing. Everyone worked harmoniously together, enjoying the work; nobody complained though sometimes they grew very weary. There is in fact still a White Altar Cloth to be made, which will depict a Crown (as on the Parish Magazine cover).

## **1970: ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR**

It seems appropriate at this point to refer to another important event, primarily for the Rev. Peter Cameron, but a source of pleasure for the Parish. Mr. Cameron announced his engagement to Miss Joan Lambert of Knutsford. Although a stranger to many of the parishioners, she was known to a number of teenage girls in the Parish through her work as Head of the History Department of Urmston Grammar School for Girls. Friends of the Vicar were delighted to think that he would now be able to establish a family life of his own with a charming young wife.

In January, 1970 the sale of the Whalley Avenue building was on the verge of completion; and the total cost of the New Church was finally named as £40,704. At present (1979) the Parish pays £375 per annum on the New Church Repayment Loan, to the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance, and within three more years the loan will be completely repaid.



With the Whalley Avenue building sold, the Sunday School moved into the New Church. This disrupted morning services considerably, and Enid Clack the Superintendent could hardly wait for the proposed new Parish Hall to be built. Sunday School classes were held in the Church at 11 am after a brief opening Service, and adults and teenagers then withdrew to the Council Room for discussion on the Christian Faith and Life. A system of escorting the children safely across the busy Lostock Road was made possible by a rota of Sidesmen who have faithfully performed this task every Sunday for the last ten years. Various attempts have been made to get a zebra-crossing outside the Church, but it has never materialised.

Mr. Neil J. Austin was appointed as Parish Hall Secretary overseeing the building of the Parish Centre, as Peter Cameron had done for the Church. Mr. Norman Price was Treasurer, and again many organisations and individuals gave gifts and donations towards the furnishings of the Centre, ranging from chairs to curtains, dustbins to fire extinguishers, clocks to cutlery. Those indefatigable organisations the Mother's Union and the Women's Fellowship contributed an electric oven and £100 respectively. As with the Church, once the building started, it seemed to progress quite quickly, though the October deadline was not met, and the building was eventually opened on December 5th.

On April 4th 1970 the wedding took place at Christ Church between the Reverend Peter Cameron and Joan Lambert. The Vicar of Knutsford, Joan's home Church, came to perform the ceremony at 2.30pm and it was an entirely happy occasion, attended by a great many friends and Christ Church members. Peter said how deeply touched they were by so many good wishes, and expressed thanks for the Parish wedding present, plus presents and cards from individual members. Mr Dennis Williams and the Choir provided beautiful music, and the Church was ablaze with Spring flowers lovingly arranged by the Flower Guild, of which Mr. Fred Jackson, Parochial Reader, was then President.

Mr. Fred Jackson, who joined Christ Church in 1966, did a great deal of work in several fields, including taking over the Editorship of the Parish Magazine from Mr. Cameron in 1971. He himself wrote a very good, thoughtful series of articles on "The Changing Church".

The present Reader is Mr. Roy McNichol, who joined Christ Church in 1965 and became Sacristan, replacing Mr. P. Clough. On January 27th 1968 he was commissioned by the Bishop of Manchester as a Parochial Reader, at the Cathedral. A Reader helps to lead worship, preaches sermons and can actually take services where no Sacrament is involved but cannot give Absolution. The presence of the Reader made it possible to run a Morning Service and Sunday School at Parklands Special School beginning in the Spring of 1968. Throughout his time at Christ Church Roy's wife, Pamela, has given her support to his Church activities. Pamela's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cooper are also regular worshippers at Christ Church, Bill singing Tenor in the choir and Mrs. Cooper providing a drama interest at numerous Services.

Two new ecclesiastical bodies were formed in 1970. One was the Stretford Deanery Synod, which replaced the old Ruri-decanal Conference, and to which each Church in the Stretford Deanery sends representatives. "Synod" means "A body composed of clergy and laity having EQUAL responsibility for making decisions and carrying them out".

The other new body was the Urmston and District Council of Churches of all denominations that have a seat on the World Council of Churches - it was set up to encourage co-operation between the Churches - Anglican, Non-conformist and Roman Catholic.

Mr. & Mrs. Gilpin arrived in September 1970, to take up residence at the Curate's house at 42, Shetland Way, in time for Wendy Gilpin to start work as Mathematics teacher at the then Lymm Grammar School. Dick was ordained Deacon at Manchester Cathedral on September 27th and preached his first sermon to us as Curate at the Harvest Festival Family Service. Dick and Wendy quickly became involved in the life of the Parish, and proved to be much loved members of the community of the Church.

By now Mr. Warren Partington had resigned as People's Warden, his place being taken by Mr. Norman Price. Mr. Vincent Moss had taken over the Treasuryship of the P. C. C. from Mr. Partington, who had held the two offices for fifteen years.

By November the building of the new Parish Centre was complete. Designed by Mr. G. P. Whyman, and built by the contractors Gill and Collier, it forms an elegant and well-placed addition to the Church. The occasion of the Christmas Fair, 1970, on December 5th was the Opening Day. In the absence of the Bishop of Hulme (Chairman of the Building Committee), the building was blessed by the Rural Dean of Stretford, and opened by Mrs. Joan Cameron, Mr. Neil Austin, who had been Chairman of the Hall Committee, became the first Parish Centre Manager.

At the east end of the Parish Centre (nearest the Church) there are two good-sized store-rooms, one each side of the boiler room. Next comes the Parish Hall itself, facing south on to the car park, and north to the meadows and Kingsway Park estate. As you enter the Parish Centre by the front door, you step into an L-shaped hall, which gives access to the Parish Hall on the right, the kitchen straight ahead, ladies' and gentlemen's toilets to the left, and further left there is a "Parish Room" a much smaller hall which has a little kitchen and store-cupboard, also another exit door. This room has proved to be invaluable for smaller functions, e. g. the Snooker Club, tea-parties, a refreshment room when a large function is being held in the main Hall. Both buildings are set back from the road. It was George Green's idea to have a Garden of Remembrance on either side of the path leading down to the Church entrance, and to fill this garden with roses, given in memory of the departed. There will be over 100 rose-trees by the time the 10th Anniversary of Christ Church takes place in October, 1979. The Social

Club provided the fine Garden Seats.

The Sunday School thankfully moved into the Parish Centre; the younger children holding their classes in the smaller hall, under the guidance of Mrs.Elaine Pennell, helped by young girl assistants; Junior and Senior classes were held in the larger hall.

The third Sunday of each month continued to be "Family Parade", with the uniformed organisations and Sunday School children all attending Church with as many of their parents as will attend.

At the close of 1970 Enid Clack decided that after seven years as Sunday School Superintendent, the time had come for her to give up this office. Increasing demands at home and at work were demanding her attention. Her exit from the Sunday School was marked by a splendid Pantomime on January 21st and 22nd, 1971, which she organised in collaboration with her successor Mrs.Lilian Flint, with help from teachers and parents. It was "Little Red Riding Hood" and a tremendous amount of work went into making it the success it was.

As a result of the Pantomime, Mrs.Roberts became the Sunday School pianist. Other Sunday School teachers at this time included Mrs.Winifred Hill - the present Superintendent - Mrs.Lil Long, much loved and admired by her Sunday School pupils and adults alike. Mrs.June Walker; Mrs.Brenda Hones and Mrs.Margaret Holt, all still teaching at the present time.

Mr. John Sleigh did much to contribute to the instruction of the older children of both sexes.

Mrs.Lilian Flint, the new Sunday School Superintendent, shared Enid's love of the children. She was particularly kind and understanding towards those who has personal difficulties. She was an active member of the Women's Fellowship. Her time as Superintendent was extremely happy. Following the death of her husband in October, 1972, Lilian moved out of the Parish.

## **MORE PARISH ACTIVITIES**

On November 8th 1971 a Pre-School Play Group commenced at the Parish Centre for children aged 3 to 5 years, under the supervision of Mrs. Winifred Hill. A Play Group had started in January 1968 at the Mission Church with Mrs.Allsobrook in charge, and this continued to 1971 very successfully, fulfilling an obvious need. The new Play-group flourished under Winnie Hill, and later Supervisors were Mrs.Brison, Mrs.Irene Smith and the present one, Mrs.Sue Morford, who took over from Irene in June 1978. Play-groups are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 9 to 11. 45am 40 children attend 2 mornings a week. Mrs.Morford has two permanent staff, Mrs.Ballam and Mrs. Hunter, and these three ladies are paid officials. They get additional

help from a rota of mothers. Two or three mornings a week at a play-group is of enormous benefit to young children, giving them confidence and the ability to socialise with other children. For the first half of the session the children enjoy creative play, and after a refreshment interval they have organised activities and a story.

In September 1971 the Thursday Night Club was opened at the Parish Centre, as a friendly get-together for husbands and wives, though single folk and widowed are welcome. It was begun by Mrs. Elsie Hayter assisted in recent years by her husband. The organiser felt that there seems to be no organisation that husbands and wives could join together. The Social Club on Wednesday afternoons caters for retired men and women, but of course working people could not attend. Mr. Cameron agreed, and asked Mrs. Hayter to organise the Thursday Night Club, which she did very successfully. There are now 75 members.

1971 ended with the very happy and welcome arrival of a son, James, to Peter and Joan Cameron. The marriage has since been further blessed with a daughter, Alexandra.

In May, 1972 Peter Cameron announced that he would be leaving the Parish in October, after nine years. He, Joan and James were off to the Parish of St. Mark's Worsley - not a great distance away, and still in the Manchester Diocese. All too soon it was October 8th, his last Sunday at Christ Church. Mr. Green organised a collection for a presentation, and an evening Parish Communion on that day was followed by a gathering to wish the Camerons farewell. A cheque for £60 was presented; the Sunday School said goodbye with flowers for Joan and a long serving dish for Peter's "butties." A couple of weeks earlier the Guides organised an Edwardian Evening with a hot-pot supper, at which Peter gave a splendid 'turn' himself. He was instituted to the Benefice of Worsley at Manchester Cathedral on October 19th, and his induction took place at St. Mark's on November 3rd. So passed Peter Samuel Griswold Cameron from the annals of Christ Church, after nine important and profitable years, both to the Church and to himself. He came to us a bachelor in his early 30's and left us a family man with many years ahead of service to God and the Church of England. After six years as Vicar of St. Mark's he went in January 1979 to take up another incumbency at Landbeach and Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire, the County from which he had come to Christ Church. His farewell sermon before departing thence was preached at Christ Church, Davyhulme.

In September 1972 the Parish heard that the new vicar was to be a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, the Reverend William S. Brison, aged 42, married with four children, Paul, Daniel, Sarah and Martha. He was duly instituted and inducted to the Benefice of Christ Church on November 13th 1972. Following University, Bill had served two years in the United States Marine Corps, ending up with the rank of Captain. After working in industry he trained for the Ordained Ministry at Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, and at Westcott House, Cambridge,

England. Ordained in 1957, he served as Rector of Christ Church, Bethany, Conn. , for 12 years. For the latter part of this time he was Archdeacon of New Haven, Conn. Since 1968 he had been rector of Emmanuel Church, Stamford, Conn.

In November 1974 the Parish sadly said goodbye to Dick and Wendy Gilpin and baby David. The time had come for him to gain further experience and he chose to work in a completely different tradition of the Christian Church. He went to Germany, to a West Berlin district called Charlottenburg, a Parish in the Protestant Church of Germany. Berlin, of course, is entirely surrounded by East Germany, the Communist-controlled bloc, and Dick knew that he and his family would be 100 miles away from the border with West Germany. West Berlin is therefore an "island" separated from East Berlin by a great Wall built in 1961 to prevent any movement of people from one section to the other. Dick could speak some German, and Wendy a very little when they set off on this new chapter in their lives, taking with them the thanks, love and prayers of Christ Church for their happiness and safety.

## **MORE COMINGS AND GOINGS**

The Rev. Edward Downing, B. A. , M. A. , arrived in August 1975 as Honorary Assistant Curate, and took up residence with his wife Sybil at 42, Shetland Way. Educated at Worcester College, Oxford, and Westcott College, Cambridge, he had given a lifetime of service to the Church, having served various parishes in England and Scotland, and was an Army Chaplain attached to a Parachute Unit in the Second World War. His last appointment before Christ Church was at Christ Church, Heaton Norris, Stockport, which later amalgamated with All Saints, Heaton Norris, forming one Church of which the Rev. Dick Gilpin is now the Rector. Mr. Downing was of retirement age when he came. His wife did not enjoy good health and he was only able to stay with us 18 months. During his time however, he made many contributions to the worship at Christ Church. A competent musician, he wrote a music setting for the Series 3 Communion Service, which is still used. On numerous occasions he played the organ for Services.

At this time another strong and valuable musical tie was broken with the retirement of Organist and Choirmaster, Mr. Dennis Williams. Having come to the Mission Church in 1954, he served the Church in many ways (P. C. C. , Deanery Synod, Worship Committee). Mrs. Williams ran the Flower Guild after Mr. Jackson's resignation. Mr. Williams is remembered above all for his skill in getting a joyful noise from a handful of local singers. Mr. Williams had a Cathedral Choir background, and was a stern taskmaster. "A village choir can be as good as a Cathedral choir" he used to say. Strong and unyielding in his views, Mr. Williams

was an ultra-conservative with an undisguised dislike for the new forms of liturgy. When someone once remonstrated with him that he cared more about the Choir than the Congregation, Mr. Williams replied loftily that this was quite true.

With no organist the Parish had to call more often upon the services of its assistant organist, Dr. Stuart Campbell, a busy local G. P. who looks after many Christ Church families, but whose hours of course are extremely awkward. Mr. Downing sometimes had to play as well as preach, and assistance was also given by Mr. Rosier.

On March 1st 1976 Mr. Norman Litherland was offered the post of organist and choirmaster. He was in charge of post-graduate teacher training at the Elizabeth Gaskell College of Education; his wife Elsie was a teacher at Parklands School.

January 23rd 1977 was the Downings' last Sunday at Christ Church. A reception followed the 6. 30pm Service, and a presentation was made. Mr. Downing was not in the Parish for very long, but he made a firm impression on many Christ Church members. Letters from him in his new rural Parish at Roslin, Midlothian, assure us that he is continuing to serve God in the Church of Scotland.

In February 1977 Tony and Joan Brant, aided by others, put on a truly splendid production of "Alice in Wonderland", performed by the Sunday School children. Weeks of hard work went into making this event the success it was, given on two consecutive evenings to a packed Parish Centre. A few weeks after this, the Brant Family moved to the South of England, where Tony took up a post as Social Worker.

## PLANTING TREES

In early December 1976, following Morning Service and Sunday School, a number of young trees of six different species were planted along the Church boundary line to the North, by Christ Church members under the supervision of the Trafford Borough Council's arboricultural services. The trees were the generous gift of Major William Lloyd, Secretary to the P. C. C. and his wife Joyce. An equal number of trees were planted by Trafford Borough Council in Kingsway Park adjacent to the Church, as a joint project. Spades and packed lunches were produced, and a good job was done. The trees were intended to act as a definition of the Church ground, and to give pleasure to all who saw them growing to maturity, forming a grove of trees around the Church. Sadly and predictably many of the trees have since been vandalised, but the majority are still flourishing, and Trafford Borough Council has agreed to fill in gaps with replacements during the planting season of 1979.

# THE CHRIST CHURCH CROSS

There was another new arrival at Christ Church in March 1976, in time for the Easter services in April. This was the fine, large Cross which hangs above the altar (see photograph of the interior), and for which the Parish is indebted to Mr. Downing who, along with Major Lloyd, arranged for its transportation.

Made of wood and perspex, a transparent plastic material, the Cross was designed by the sculptress Mrs. Josephine Banner and made, under her supervision, by five boys in an approved school. It hung for several years in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in London, and was exhibited in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral and also in Liverpool Cathedral; finally Mrs. Banner, an old friend of Mr. Downing, offered it to Christ Church as a permanent ornament. Large and solid the Cross has dominated our Church ever since, and most have grown fond of it, though the word "plastic" puts some people off. However, plastic is a 20th century material, and Christ Church is a 20th Century Church. A few do not admire it, while others have come into the Church specially to photograph it.

# **SECTION TWO**

## **CHRIST CHURCH and its ORGANISATIONS TODAY**

### **Church Finances**

A real financial crisis in the 1970's affects the Church of England as a whole, and Christ Church too feels the pinch. A special Service was held in March 1977 to pray for guidance in money matters, followed by a discussion at which our then Treasurer, Mr. David Worley, spoke about our position and Mr. Partington urged us to consider covenanting, if we were not already doing so. The position of Treasurer to the P. C. C. is a most unenviable task; it is highly responsible unpaid work.

Mr. Vincent Moss took over the Treasuryship from Mr. Partington, and he was succeeded by Mr. Worley, who left the District in August, 1977, when the present Treasurer, Mr. Peter Briggs, took over.

Back in 1961 Mr. Partington started the "New Way of Giving" scheme at Christ Church. This is a nationwide movement now adopted by most Churches, and variously called Christian Stewardship and Free-will Offering. Each Church member, and as many people living in the Parish who wish to join, gives a weekly contribution in an envelope which is provided for this purpose, given out in batches of 52 every year, and they are either taken to Church and placed in the collection, or the Offering is collected from members homes by one of a team of collectors. The contributor's name does not appear on the envelope, and the amount given is confidential. Every few years the scheme has been 'pushed' with varying success, particularly at the time of the New Church Appeal. At the launching of this appeal in 1963, Mr. Partington put forward his campaign of Covenanting, which he had introduced earlier with very little response. This means that if a contributor signs a statement to the effect that he will give X amount of money to the Church annually for a period of seven years, the Church may then claim a substantial Income Tax rebate from the Inland Revenue, being about half as much again as the annual contribution. Following the 1977 Appeal there was a distinctly better response. Church members worked hard at visiting homes of contributors, persuading them to covenant their offerings and the number of covenanters has substantially increased. Mr. Terry Morford is at present Treasurer's Assistant for Covenanting. He and Peter Briggs anticipate something like £1,100 in April 1979 in rebates from the Inland Revenue.



The present Treasurer's "Switch it off" campaign to save lighting and heating bills has resulted in a slightly lower bill for these amenities. Tremendous fund-raising activities - the Summer Garden Parties; Auctions; Annual Christmas Fair and waste paper collections all help to keep the Church solvent.

Christ Church has to pay an annual Diocesan Quota based on its income, and this was £2,050 in 1978. The Parish has to pay the mortgage on 42, Shetland Way and pays £375 per annum on the New Church Repayment loan - only three more years to go. The Parish also pays the caretaker and church cleaners out of the church funds, and the salary of the Church Secretary Mrs. Sheila Golding (part-time) who has worked in the new building since its completion and before this at the Mission Church. Any Curate or Vicar's assistant is paid partly by the Diocese and partly out of Church funds. Contrary to some beliefs, the difficult task of the Parish Centre Manager, responsible for the Centre and all bookings of activities in it, whether Church organisations or other, is entirely voluntary. Mr. Neil Austin was the first Parish Centre Manager followed by Mr. Ron Leech, who was followed by Mr. J. Ralph. Now we have Mr. N. Clark.

Mr. Peter Briggs, P. C. C. Treasurer, an accountant by profession, a bachelor and keen cricketer, having been "press-ganged" into being a sidesman, and elected into the P. C. C. is happily entrenched at Christ Church now.

## **The Street Warden Scheme**

After many unsuccessful attempts over the years to organise a system of regular lay visiting to the elderly, sick, housebound and lonely in the Parish, the scheme finally limped off to a slow start towards the end of 1976. Mrs. Joan Brant agreed to draw up a list of all the roads in the Parish, and invite volunteers to become "Wardens" or Visitors to their own or nearby roads. She was discouraged by the initial lack of response, although an increasing amount of unofficial lay visiting was being done. By degrees the scheme began to take shape, greatly helped in 1977 by the Vicar's involvement of the Hospital Visitor, who began to notify Mrs. Brant of any patients discharged from Park Hospital who might appreciate a visit. When Mrs. Brant left the district at the end of 1977 her job was taken over by Mrs. Susan Morford. Under her supervision, 54 listed Street Wardens now fulfil a real social need, able to turn to her at any time for help and guidance when they run into problems. Maternity patients, especially first time young Mums have been added to the list of people to be visited, at least for a temporary period. This is a two-way service, of benefit to both visited and visitor; for example, Mrs. Morford has some quite elderly ladies among her Wardens, who visit "old people" perhaps younger than themselves, with satisfaction to both parties.

The Hospital Visitors over the past ten years have been Mrs.Heap; Mrs.Hockley and Mrs.Holt. Maturity and experience of illness and sorrow is an asset in this work, which can be emotionally demanding but is extremely rewarding. The Visitor assists the Vicar, who visits regularly. The Team Chaplaincy takes Holy Communion to patients who request it.

## The Youth Organisations

THE CHURCH LADS BRIGADE. Whit-Sunday, May 29th, 1977 marked the arrival at Christ Church of Captain John Bowers of the Church Army and his wife Rosemary and baby son Andrew. They took up residence at 42, Shetland Way, and Captain Bowers ministry was exercised until October 1978. Captain Bowers started a branch of the Church Lad's Brigade at Christ Church in March 1978. It is growing and flourishing, and under the leadership of Terry Morford it is becoming well established as a strong organisation, for boys, in close association with the Church.

3rd DAVYHULME SCOUTS. Although not attached to the Church, the 3rd Davyhulme Scout Group has been part of the life of the Parish from pre-Christ Church days. Regularly the Sunday peace has been interrupted by the sound of 3D Band, and the sight of nearly 200 children marching to Church, both at the Mission Church and the New Church. The Group has been in regular attendance at the Parade Sunday Services and two recent special "Scouts Own" Services, led by former Group Scoutmaster Colin Street. The Band, and a good number of Scouts and Cubs have taken part in the Parish Walks over the years.

GUIDES AND BROWNIES. Because of demand for the type of activity provided by the Girl Guides Association it is necessary to have two Guide Companies and two Brownie Packs, which carry the names "4th Davyhulme (Christ Church) Guide Company", "5th Davyhulme (Christ Church) Guide Company", "4th Davyhulme (Christ Church) Brownie Pack" "5th Davyhulme (Christ Church) Brownie Pack". Under their Guiders, Mrs.Davina Greening, Mrs.Jacqui Knowles, Mrs.Brenda Clarke and Mrs.Wainwright the units take part in many Church and District activities, as well as those provided within their own units. 4th Davyhulme Brownies and Guides celebrated their 21st Birthdays in 1978.

THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP. Under the leadership of Mr.Paul Knowles this lively group of young people meet on a Sunday Evening after the Evening Service. The members are strongly encouraged to attend Church regularly and take part in a wide variety of interests ranging from indoor games to camping.

# The Sunday School

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. Under Mrs. Winifred Hill's dedicated and determined supervision, the Sunday School flourishes numbering nearly 200 children. Junior classes are held in the main hall of the Parish Centre, Primary classes in the smaller room, Infants in the Council Room of the Church, and a Senior class in the Vicar's Vestry; in fact the chief problem now is shortage of space. Mrs. June Walker takes the Infants and Mrs. Brenda Jones the Primaries, with Mrs. Irene Greaves. Both groups are assisted by young teachers recruited from ex-pupils. Seven teachers share the Junior classes, and Mrs. Peggy Brison is at present in charge of the Seniors. Confirmation classes are held for children and adults, and if a child is considered to be ready, he or she is confirmed at 13 - 14 years of age, ideally having completed a thorough tuition in the Christian faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ, throughout childhood. Mrs. Lily Long is the longest serving Sunday School teacher.

Monthly meetings are held for the teachers, at which Bill Brison leads a discussion on the forthcoming lessons, and guidelines are laid down, each teacher adapting the lessons to the age-group she teaches. The Sunday School enjoys the expertise of one male teacher at present, Mr. John Pierce, who is also a Lieutenant in the Church Lads' Brigade.

The Summer Outing is still a regular annual event - in fact there are three Summer Outings, for Juniors, Primaries and Infants. Because of the large numbers the Christmas party has been replaced by an outing to a Pantomime every January, and Sunday School ends each year with the Parish Walk, followed the next week with "Anniversary Sunday", when a special afternoon Service is held to which parents are invited and every child receives a book or book token, signed by the Vicar. Bibles are given to the 4th-year Juniors.

## The Adult Organisations

THE MOTHERS UNION. The Mothers Union Branch at Christ Church came into being in 1954, when the Mission Church was dedicated. A few ladies got together to form a Branch, and Mrs. Noble, wife of the Vicar of St. Mary's came to give them advice on starting. Mrs. Tom Robinson, wife of the Curate-in-Charge of the Mission Church became the first Enrolling Member, followed by Mrs. Brooks and then Mrs. Bulliman, as this position was traditionally - though not always that of the incumbent's wife. With the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Bulliman and the coming of the bachelor Peter Cameron, the Enrolling Member's position fell to Mollie Green and then to Mrs. Clarice Worthington. For a short time there was no Enrolling Member at all, and the Secretary Mrs. Broadbury kept the organisation afloat until Mrs. V. Foulkes became first Secretary and then Enrolling Member. Mrs. Foulkes continued until Mrs. A. Lloyd, wife of Mr. Victor Lloyd, took over from her in 1971.

Mrs. Maud Healey was Treasurer for many years. The present Enrolling Member is Mrs. Margaret Williams, with Mrs. Partington as Treasurer and Mrs. Newton as Secretary. The present membership is 70.

The hub of the Mothers Union at Christ Church is of course strongly allied to Christian Worship, not only within the Parish, but participating in events further afield.

Great fund-raising efforts were made to purchase a Mothers Union Banner for the Christ Church Branch - dances, raffles, sales of a varied nature. On one occasion a M. U. member made orange juice and another member went round on her bicycle selling it! Eventually the Banner was obtained and proudly placed in the Mission Church at Whalley Avenue, from whence it moved to the New Church. Beautifully embroidered on a blue background, it shows the Blessed Virgin Mary with the infant Jesus on her lap, and a border of lilies. The Mothers Union also has two treasures in the form of hand-embroidered tablecloths with the signatures of many past and present members of Christ Church.

THE WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP. The present Leader in 1979 is Joan Mastin, a member for 14 years and a Committee member for 12 years, previous Leaders have included Ellen Morrison, Winifred Hill, Sylvia Tiffin, Jessie Everett and Nan Kay. The first leader was Edna Lazenby when the Fellowship grew out of the group of young wives who attended Mr. Bulliman's "Pram Services". The name "Women's Fellowship" was chosen in preference to "Young Wives" so as not to exclude older ladies and the single, widowed and divorced. The present membership is 160, and the monthly meetings in the Parish Centre include talks and demonstrations, film and slide shows, fashion parades and a few outings in the course of the year. Monthly Committee meetings discuss policy and coming events. The present Secretary, Gillian Prideaux, likes to book the programme well in advance, to maintain variety and momentum. Nan Kay, a member of long standing of the W. F. started a Scottish Dancing Club and Badminton Club within the Fellowship. The Scottish Dancing was a great success, with demonstrations to the aged and handicapped and it is not surprising that although the W. F. is non-profit-making, they do in fact make quite a lot of money and have been able to make some generous gifts to the Church and to local Charities. The W. F. is undenominational and church attendance is not obligatory. It is a happy positive organisation with a lot to offer to women who need friendship and mental stimulation, a change from the daily routine.

THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL CLUB. As previously mentioned, this Club was started by Mollie Green to cater for the leisure time needs of retired people. It is a lively group, with a wide variety of activities provided - talks, demonstrations, musical entertainment, outings, holidays. Mollie and her team of helpers work extremely hard to provide a varied programme - the weekly attendance averages 80.

THE THURSDAY NIGHT CLUB. This Club has been covered elsewhere in the booklet, and after quite a few years, is still flourishing, and providing a pleasant evening out for its members.

THE MONDAY AFTERNOON DANCE CLUB. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph were the founder members of this Club for people who enjoy Ballroom Dancing. As its name suggests the meeting day is Monday and the Club is open to people of all ages, and provides a very pleasant pastime for its members.

THE MEN'S SNOOKER CLUB. The membership of the Snooker Club is small, but the group of men who meet on Tuesday evenings in the small hall enjoy their quiet game of snooker. Unfortunately some of the founder members have passed on. There is an annual competition for the Reg. Bradburn Trophy, given in memory of a founder member.

Quite a number of these organisations, though not money making ventures in themselves, have been able to make some very generous donations to the Church over the years. The aim of the group is to provide leisure time interests for a wide variety of ages, but they are always willing to take part in the life of the Church. The donations made are valued very highly, but even more so is the service they provide for people within the Parish.

## **The Music of the Church**

Under the splendid leadership of our Choirmaster and Organist Norman Litherland, the Choir remains a hardworking and enthusiastic group. Ron and Joyce Leech have been an asset for many years, and other husband and wife teams are Norman and Elsie Litherland, Colin and Eileen Street and Paul and Jacqui Knowles. More male support is given by Bill Cooper, Svend Larsen and when he is able to be present, Roy McNichol. Ill-health has sadly forced Dorothy Atack to retire from the Choir, and our present leading soprano chorister is Barbara Sparling; a new and versatile voice is that of Margaret Styles.

Rosemary Bowers, the wife of Capt. John Bowers, inaugurated a Christian Folk Group named "Unity", the present leader being John Jones-Davies. Several Choir members are also members of "Unity", and others include our Vicar's wife Peggy who both sings and plays the guitar. The style of music has become very diverse; the Choir enjoys singing the well-known anthems and traditional hymns from Ancient and Modern whilst the "Unity" group (and the Sunday School) has introduced a wider selection of modern music.

In September 1978 Norman Litherland commenced training for Ordination on a part-time scheme, as a mature student. His course will take three years, and because he has to attend frequent week-end courses, the help of a number of volunteer organists has been enlisted - Mrs. Edna Moss, Margaret Styles, Mrs. Riley (who also plays the piano for the Sunday

School) and Trevor Street. We are extremely fortunate to have such ability at the disposal of the Church.

## **The Administration of the Church**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL. Every Church of England Parish has a P. C. C. a body of 25 elected members who are all on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. The Chairman is the Vicar, and there is also an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. The two Churchwardens, People's and Vicar's, are automatically on the P. C. C. , and it is of obvious benefit to all the Church organisations to be represented on it - the Sunday School, Mothers' Union, Women's Fellowship, Church Lads' Brigade etc. All matters relating to Church affairs are discussed and decisions are made at this local Parliament - forms of worship, special services and events, directives received from the Diocese, finance, upkeep of the Church building and other property like the Vicarage, Parish Centre, Curate's house and all adjacent ground - safety measures, cleaning and repairing, heating and lighting, complaints of any kind, every matter of spiritual and material concern to the Church and Parish comes up sooner or later at the P. C. C. and the discussions and eventual decisions are all recorded in the P. C. C. Minutes.

There is in addition a sub-committee of the P. C. C. called the Standing Committee, which is composed of the Vicar, the two Churchwardens, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, a small group of individuals called the Senior Wardens, who have held office as Churchwardens, and a variable number of P. C. C. members.

The Standing Committee hold meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, mid-way between the P. C. C. meeting on the 1st Monday of the month. The duty of the Standing Committee is to deal with any interim situations which may occur, or to discuss matters too lengthy for discussions at the usual P. C. C. Meetings, and make recommendations which must be accepted, or rejected, by the P. C. C.

The present Secretary of the P. C. C. and the Standing Committee is Mrs. Barbara Sparling, a tireless worker for the Church ever since her arrival in Davyhulme in 1968.

THE SERVERS. It is pleasing to see a group of very young men and young ladies offering their loyalty to God by Serving at regular Services. Many of these young people have attended Sunday School and following Confirmation continue their worship by helping to prepare the Bread and Wine for Communion; carrying the Cross; receiving the Offertory; and tidying up after the Service has ended.

In 1978 Mollie Green became the first woman at Christ Church to be licensed to administer the Chalice at Holy Communion Services, for which she will have to be re-licensed every year. Mollie's assistance

particularly at the Wednesday morning Communion, is of great value to the Vicar, especially when there is no assistant clergy and Mr. Mc-Nichol and Mr. Norman Price, the laymen licensed to give the Chalice, are at work.

## HOW DOES A HISTORY END?

Christ Church is very much a 'Living Church'. From the pioneers twenty-five years ago to the present time a great many people have given dedicated service. A few have already been mentioned, but there are so many others who have worked quietly in the background. The contribution of every single person is greatly valued, whether as a regular worshipper, or participating in a much more noticeable way.

The family of Christ Church has shared many emotions, joy, sadness and at times differences of opinion. The joy can be seen and heard around the Church and the Parish Centre. The differences of opinion are usually ironed out, and hopefully, forgotten. The sadness has been shared upon the death of its members, whether an elderly person who has worked hard and long for the Church, and has become a well respected member of the community, or the premature death of a dearly cherished young person. Great inspiration of faith has been given by the way families have picked up the threads of their lives after such tragedies.

There can be no tidy ending, because the life of Christ Church will go on into whatever future lies ahead. Parishioners living now will all be gone from this life when Christ Church celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

All that has gone before illustrates very clearly that Christ Church members are no different from anybody else in Davyhulme. Yet at any time, in all their doings they can turn and re-turn to Jesus Christ in the sure and certain knowledge of Salvation and forgiveness which He has promised to all who truly turn to Him. Church attendance acts as a discipline, a regular reminder of Faith, a constant refreshment of the spirit and renewal of strength in the Sacrament of Our Lord's Body and Blood. It also gives friendship and fellowship, an extended family to which we all belong. No Christ Church member need be lonely. Christ Church is God's House and a spiritual home in Davyhulme; those who worship here are his "living stones".

However, human weaknesses and shortcomings are common to all of us, and there is a stock phrase in school reports, "Tries hard but could do better". This applies to the members of Christ Church as to all Christian communities. Some of the members have broken all the ten commandments in their time, while others possess all the Christian virtues

except charity and humility. Although great effort is made to be truly Christian and caring, when failure becomes known, it is sincerely regretted. Hopefully, in time, through prayer, the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit working through the regular worshippers, every stranger who enters Christ Church will be given a warm and cordial welcome; every person in need will be cared for.

THANKS BE TO GOD











**PRICE**  
**£1-00**