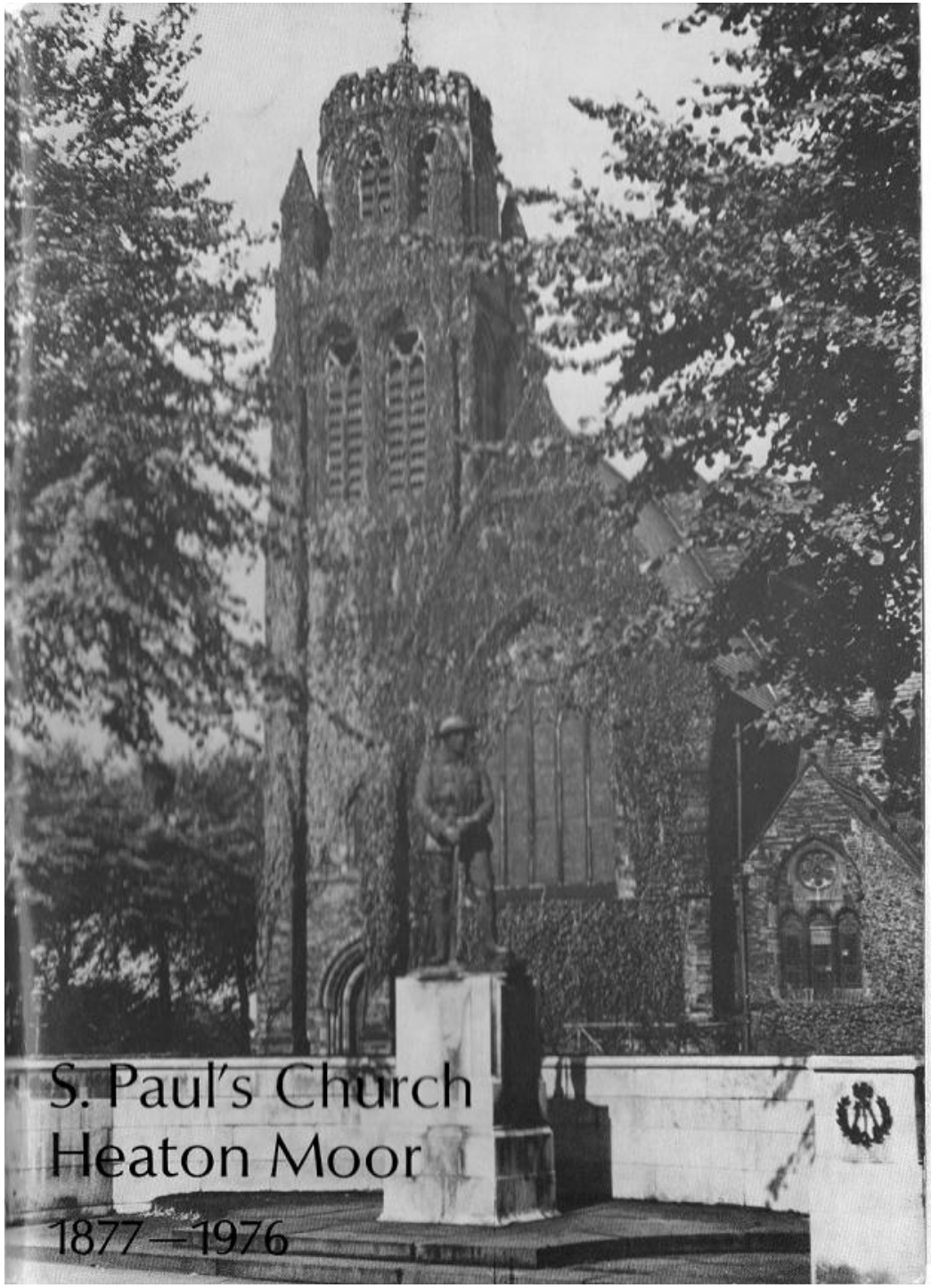

The Story of S. Paul's Church, Heaton Moor

WRITTEN BY
EUNICE M. OPENSHAW
SECRETARY OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

CENTENARY YEAR
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FOREWORD

Some 150 people are mentioned by name in this history. Their names are recorded in the minute books or in magazine articles, especially those who died in office, but there are, of course, hundreds of others through the years who have given of their skill, generosity and devotion; they are remembered in our hearts.

Many friends have helped to gather the material for this survey. Some have given personal reminiscences, others have written the accounts of the church organisations to be found at the end of the book and others, again, have helped with the typing and correction of proofs. The photographers, too, past and present, receive our thanks.

The Story of S. Paul's Church, Heaton Moor

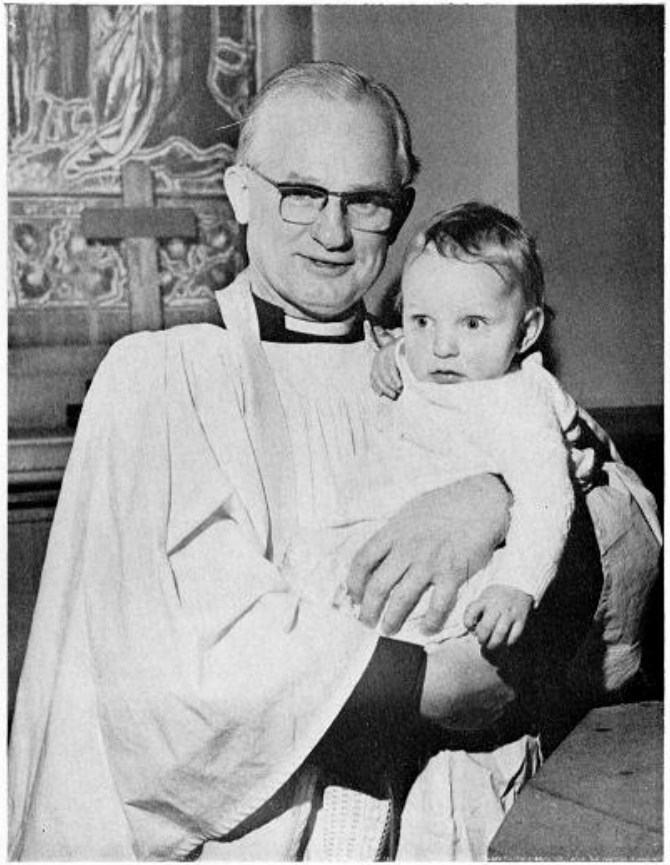
In the nineteenth century this district really was a moor. It was farming land and quite open, with views northwards over Manchester and southwards over Stockport to the hills. There were a few scattered houses and a hamlet at the corner of Heaton Moor Lane and Shawfold, now Shaw Road. The row of shops, of which the post office is one, used to be a row of cottages, the title deeds dating back to 1780. There were four farms, Norris Hill, Tythe Barn, Green Lane and Shawfold. Wellington Road was constructed after the Napoleonic wars and was opened with great ceremony in 1826. When the railway was opened in 1840 a bridge had to be built to carry Heaton Moor Lane over it. There was, however, no railway station between Levenshulme and Heaton Norris.

The nearest church serving the district was S. Thomas, Heaton Chapel, a church built in 1765 as a Chapel-of-Ease in the ancient parish of Manchester. The Rector of S. Thomas had at one time taught English at Manchester Grammar School. When an old pupil of his was appointed to be superintendent of the northern division of the London and North Western Railway he asked him to sanction the building of a station at Heaton Chapel. In spite of the difficulties of building this in a cutting, the work was done and it was opened in 1852. Now that there was a rail link with Manchester, business men began to move out from Longsight and Levenshulme; houses were built around the station and along Heaton Moor Road. The large houses set in gardens were built mainly in the period 1860 to 1890.

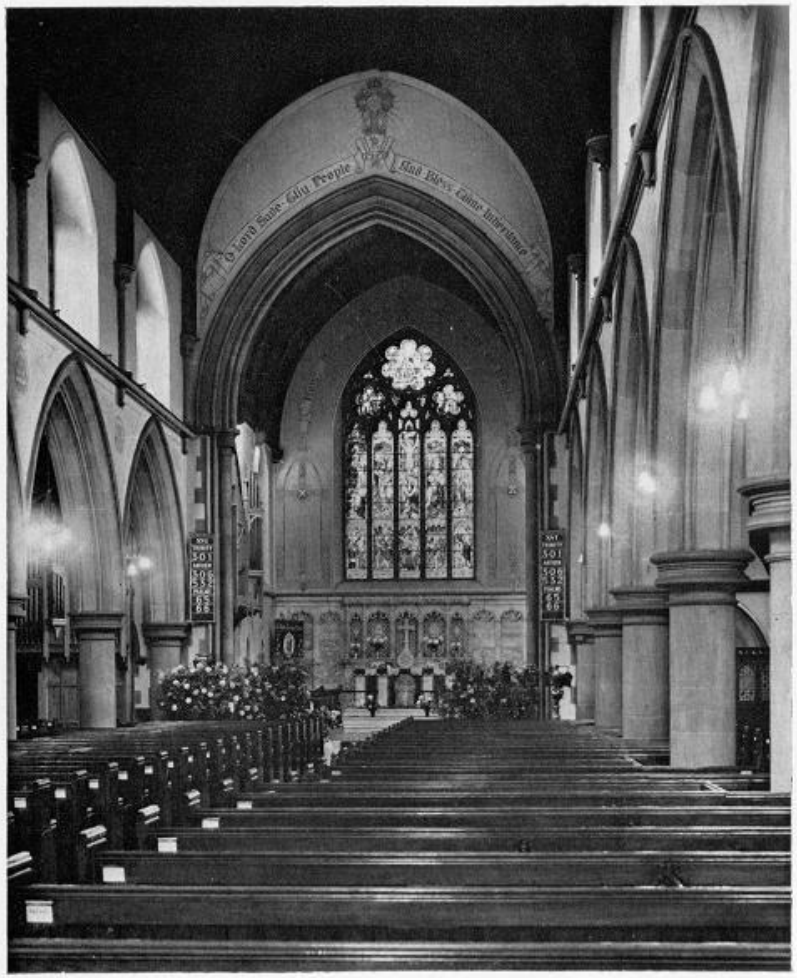
The *Manchester City News* recorded that in 1868, as the population was growing at the rate of 100 a year over the last dozen years, the rectors of Heaton Norris and Heaton Mersey and some other local gentlemen met to consider the best means of providing additional church accommodation. One thought there was nothing like bricks, or that a school would be most suitable; another thought there was nothing like stone, and nothing would satisfy him but a stone church; while a third contended there was nothing like iron—and so their lamps went out and they were put to sleep for four years! Early in 1872 they were again roused to a sense of their duties and on July 2nd a room was hired in Crawford's school, later renamed Heaton Moor College, to be used as a School-Church. It was opened by the Bishop and staffed by visiting preachers until Heaton Moor was constituted as a new Conventional District and the Reverend Richard Shepherd was appointed Resident Minister in 1873.

PUBLIC MEETING

He saw the need for a large parish church and so a public meeting was held on Wednesday, April 22nd, 1874 in the School-Church. The Chairman said the meeting had been called to give every parishioner an opportunity of expressing his opinion as to the advisability of raising a fund for the erection of a church, schools and rectory. The consent of the Bishop and the Archdeacon had already been obtained. Mr. James Collinge proposed the motion that it was desirable that such a fund should be opened and he added that above all things the promoters were anxious that it should be a gospel church throughout all time, and that it should be established on such a basis that it be impossible for it to become a temple for gorgeous, sensational and unmeaning display (*applause*). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Hence the church was built with a narrow chancel to discourage the practice of processions. Mr. D. Sanderson then proposed that the church be built of stone to seat 400 persons and be so constructed as to admit of enlargement. This was seconded by Mr. Hardon who asked for some estimate of the cost. It would presumably cost £10 per sitting if built of stone and only half that if bricks were used. They had the example of a very handsome stone chapel belonging to the Wesleyans next door to the School-Church. One gentleman argued for brick but Mr. Dean did not agree; he would like them to have a substantial building that would last for all time with very little repair. The motion was then passed, and also, on the motion of Mr. J. P. Staniar, seconded by Mr. J. Foulkes, it was resolved that the church be called S. Paul's. One gentleman proposed that they should not begin to build until the whole of the estimated cost was raised, but this was opposed by Mr. Shann who thought they should begin erection when the fund stood at half this figure. Mr. Dean asked if the Bishop would consecrate the church before the cost was paid off. The Chairman replied that he would not, but he would license it for worship, so that it could be opened as soon as it was built, provided the minister's stipend was guaranteed. Forms of subscription were then handed round and sums amounting to £980, were promised in the room. A building committee of eight was set up and it was agreed that as soon as £2,500 was raised building should begin. Lord Egerton of Tatton gave the land and £1,000 and he and his descendants were to be trustees of the patronage. A further £1,500 was collected and later Lord Egerton gave another £2,000.



The Rector baptises a child



Harvest Festival (early 1950's)

FOUNDATION STONE

In January 1875 Mrs. Shepherd turned the first sod and on April 3rd Mr. W. Romaine Callender, M.P. for Manchester, laid the foundation stone. The ceremony took place with full masonic honours and the residents assembled in considerable numbers, some to take part and some to watch. Shortly after 2 p.m. the scholars under Mr. Le Court and the choir, conducted by Mr. Blair, assembled at the School-Church where they were joined by the congregation, distinguished visitors and clergy of the diocese. The freemasons of the Egerton Lodge met across the road at the Wesleyan School, kindly lent for the occasion. At 3 p.m. they formed a procession and, led by the band of Barnes Home, Heaton Mersey, moved to the site. Four youths carried an open bible, no doubt protected by an umbrella as it rained incessantly. Each of these boys was later presented with a silver louise by Mr. Callender. On arrival at the site the hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell " was sung and the 122nd Psalm was chanted. Prayer was offered by the Reverend E. D. Jackson, Rector of S. Thomas, and by the Archdeacon and the Masonic Chaplain. Mr. James Collinge then spoke and presented Mr. Callender with a silver trowel to lay the stone and also in token of the esteem in which he was held. The M.P. laid the corner stone but had to cut short his speech because of the weather.

There followed a Luncheon in the Schoolroom and, after the loyal toast to the Queen, the Duke of Lancaster, toasts were proposed to the Bishop, who was unfortunately not able to be present, to the Dean of Manchester and the clergy, to which the Dean replied. Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., then proposed the toast, " Success to S. Paul's Church ". He had in his hand a list of twenty-seven ladies who had between them raised £250 by collections. The schoolchildren, too, raised nearly £50. The toast to Lord Egerton and the Donors was proposed by the Rector and the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton replied. He said that he and his father had great sympathy with the work begun there that day. Mr. Collinge proposed the toast of the Visitors and expressed his regret at the absence of Mr. Shepherd through illness. It had been decided to carry the tower only up to the belfry stage thus postponing the erection of the spire. The whole of the work of building, including the massive brick foundations, was in the hands of Mr. James Terras of Gray Street, Ardwick and Messrs. Cordingley and Stopford of Stockport Road were doing the masons' work.

THE CHURCH IS OPENED FOR WORSHIP

In spite of the bankruptcy of the contractors which caused a slight delay the church was licensed for worship by Bishop Alford and opened on Friday, September 29th, 1876, on the Feast of S. Michael and All Angels. There were services on Saturday and Sunday and the collections for the Building Fund came to £509.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

On S. Paul's Day, Thursday, January 25th, 1877, the church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Manchester, Dr. James Fraser, who was the second bishop of the diocese. His statue stands in Albert Square. The first was Bishop Prince Lee whose palace was Mauldeth Hall and hence the names Leegate and Prince's Roads. Before his appointment, Manchester was part of the diocese of Chester. The geographical boundary of the River Mersey was used to divide the new diocese of Manchester from that of Chester. The Bishop preached from the text, " The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost " (Romans 14). He said that preaching at a Consecration gave him no little anxiety as this was a critical time in the history of the Church of England. He trusted, however, that we should come through this period prepared to contend for more vital and fundamental things than before. He pointed out that controversy about ritual, vestments, positions, rubrics and the like had its parallel in S. Paul's day. It is not surprising that this subject was much in the Bishop's mind. One of his clergy, the Reverend S. F. Green of Miles Platting, was soon to be imprisoned in Lancaster Castle for contempt of court. He had continued ritualistic practices which contravened the Public Worship Regulation Act after he had been warned by the court.

Afterwards, luncheon was served in the Schoolroom, the caterers being Messrs. Jennison of Belle Vue; the family lived at Heaton Moor. The Bishop spoke at length and, returning to the subject of his sermon, he remarked that he had seen a cross in the church today and he had seen a surpliced choir but he did not think they would ever become semi-popish at Heaton Moor. He then proposed a toast to Lord Egerton and the Donors to which the agent responded. Canon Tonge, a former rector of Heaton Mersey, proposed, " Prosperity to S. Paul's ", to which the Reverend R. Shepherd responded. He referred to the great difficulty of raising the Building Fund before a congregation had been gathered together. This was

an unusual task because most churches had been built by a patron. Later that year he was appointed Rector and on May 7th, 1878, Heaton Moor was established as an ecclesiastical parish formed from the parishes of Heaton Mersey and Heaton Chapel.

A very successful bazaar was held in the Lesser Free Trade Hall to complete the Building and the Endowment Funds. £1,000 was raised and this was more than enough. A suitable house was bought as the rectory, Thorn Bank, No. 150 Heaton Moor Road. However, in 1896 this was sold and the present rectory immediately opposite the church was bought. It is older than the church, having been built in the 1860's.

THE CHURCH IN THE 1880's

There was a long delay before the Sunday Schools were built and meanwhile the church had no hall except the School-Church which was used for a few years. However, in 1881 the Conservative Club building was erected, and the church was able to rent its large hall for Sunday School parties, concerts and bazaars. The Reform Club at that time used a small building in Portland Grove, now occupied by a leather shop and an antique shop. The club's large building opposite the church was not erected until 1886. The delay in building the Schools was caused by a long controversy as to whether or not they should be Day as well as Sunday Schools. Agreement could not be reached but eventually it was settled by Lord Egerton who gave the land on the understanding that they should not be used as Day Schools. A public Day School would be in competition with the numerous private schools in the district.

There is a glimpse into the past: In September 1951 the Rector received a letter from a lady in London explaining that a black marble clock had come into her possession and the inscription on it read " To the Reverend R. V. Buckley, D.D. from the ladies of his Bible Class at S. Paul's, Heaton Moor, as a mark of appreciation for his teaching, December 1886 ". Many clergy assisted during the illness of Mr. Shepherd and Dr. Buckley was one of them.

In 1889 Mr. Shepherd resigned the living owing to ill-health and the Reverend W. H. Smartt was appointed. All subsequent improvements in the fabric, as well as in the church's activities are mainly due to the zeal which the new Rector threw into his labours in the district. His first major task was the building of the Schools. £2,000 was collected and building began.

THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOLS

The foundation stone was laid on June 14th, 1890, by J. W. Maclure, Esq., M.P. Two of our parishioners remember the occasion and, indeed, one of them took part in it: then a little girl of five, Clara Shepherd, dressed in a white frock made by her mother and wearing a blue sash with a big bow climbed the steps of the rostrum and presented Mr. Maclure with a blue silk purse full of golden sovereigns, the contribution to the Building Fund from the scholars and teachers. At eighty-nine she remembered this day as clearly as if it had been yesterday.

The other little girl was Dora Taylor, now Mrs. Jackson, whose father was Superintendent of the Sunday School. She described how the children sat in rows with their teachers to watch the proceedings and how Mr. Maclure took a long glass bottle in which were inserted current copies of the *Manchester Guardian, Courier, Examiner* and the *Evening News* and also one each of the coins of the realm. This was placed in a space prepared beneath the stone which was then securely laid. The buildings, amongst the best in the district, were soon completed and provided accommodation for two hundred scholars. They were opened in December by Lord Egerton.

Dora recalled the activities of the Sunday School in the 1880's and 1890's. The entertainment held at the Conservative Club was a feature of the winter. She remembered being lifted to the platform by Mr. Joe Duckworth as a little girl of five to recite a poem and her brother, too, was in his class. He was a wonderful teacher; he entertained the boys a night a week at his home in the winter and in his big garden in the summer, teaching them many skills.

His friend, Mr. Walter Brownsword was also a teacher and was later to become secretary and treasurer of the School. It was Walter's elder brother, Frank, who asked his brother to deputise for him for a few weeks. This temporary appointment lasted sixty-four years. The women teachers, too, had the interests of the children at heart. Miss Lillie Bennett taught the infants' class and her sister, Edie, the first girls' class. There was a young girl in her class who had come to Heaton Moor as a maid. She wanted to be confirmed but could not afford a dress, so her teacher arranged for a sewing machine to be borrowed and put in the small classroom. Here every evening for a week, after her day's work in Manchester, she made a dress of nuns-veiling for the girl. She showed her class how to care for others by arranging exchange of letters and visits with the girls from a Waifs' and Strays' Home in Audenshaw. Miss Lockett and her sister, Lucy, were

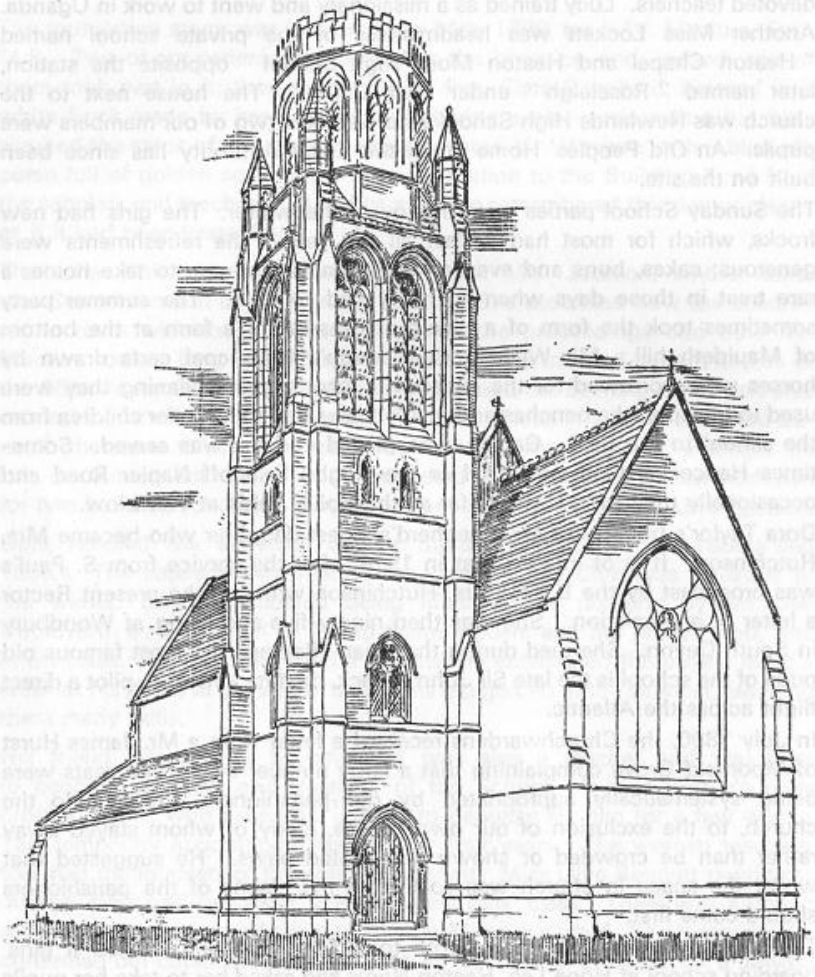
devoted teachers. Lucy trained as a missionary and went to work in Uganda. Another Miss Lockett was headmistress of the private school named " Heaton Chapel and Heaton Moor High School " opposite the station, later named " Roseleigh " under Miss Garrett. The house next to the church was Newlands High School where at least two of our members were pupils. An Old Peoples' Home under the Local Authority has since been built on the site.

The Sunday School parties were the joy of the winter. The girls had new frocks, which for most had to last all the year. The refreshments were generous; cakes, buns and even an apple and an orange to take home; a rare treat in those days when so many had so little. The summer party sometimes took the form of a picnic at Brassington's farm at the bottom of Mauldeth hill. Mr. William Myerscough's large coal carts drawn by horses were borrowed for the occasion. After a good cleaning they were used to transport the benches and trestle tables and the smaller children from the school to the field. Games were played and tea was served. Sometimes Hancock's field was used or the Rugby field off Napier Road and occasionally they even went as far as the Bollin fields at Wilmslow.

Dora Taylor's friend was Mr. Shepherd's eldest daughter who became Mrs. Hutchinson. It is of interest that in 1974, after the service from S. Paul's was broadcast by the B.B.C. Mrs. Hutchinson wrote to the present Rector a letter of appreciation. She was then ninety-five and living at Woodbury in South Devon. She died during that year. Perhaps the most famous old pupil of the school is the late Sir John Alcock, the first airman to pilot a direct flight across the Atlantic.

In July 1890, the Churchwardens received a letter from a Mr. James Hurst of Moorfield Grove complaining that a large number of the free seats were being systematically appropriated by non-parishioners, strangers to the church, to the exclusion of our own people, many of whom stayed away rather than be crowded or shown into rented pews. He suggested that whilst the space in church was so limited the claims of the parishioners should come first.

The Churchwardens promptly wrote to a Miss Salt who owned a girls' boarding school at Hope Lea, Heaton Norris and asked her to take her pupils to her own parish church. She replied that she could not accede to their extraordinary and unprecedented request. She had asked to rent pews but as none were available she had been told she could make use of the free seats and, except on the occasion when the bishop preached, there had always been room and none had been turned away. However, the wardens wrote



Architect's rough sketch for Tower, 1899

again asking her to remove the hassocks she had placed in the pews and offering to find seats for her school after the service commenced.

This second letter called forth a notable reply: her special reason for attending S. Paul's was because that portion of Wellington Road between her house and Christ Church was, on Sunday evenings, totally unfit for young ladies to walk. As her pupils and herself had been subjected to various indignities she only waited for there to be a settled clergyman at S. Paul's before joining that congregation. If, therefore, they forced her to leave that church she would have no alternative but to take her pupils to some dissenting place of worship. As most of her pupils belonged to the Church of England that was undesirable. She had always (as was customary with schools) come early and remained until the congregation had dispersed in order to give as little inconvenience as possible. At every collection her pupils, her governesses and herself had contributed and also the Rector had prepared several for Confirmation. She purposed, therefore, to attend S. Paul's as usual and hoped to meet with the courtesy and consideration she had received hitherto.

This correspondence was preserved in the minute book as no doubt it was used as an argument for the necessity of enlarging the church.

The great increase in population made this necessary. There were not nearly enough pews available for those who wished to rent them. Two hundred of the best seats were free and could not be rented. Subscriptions were again invited and were readily forthcoming. The enlargement which was planned in 1893 began in 1894 and, finished in 1896, took the form of an additional two bays seating an extra two hundred people. The total accommodation by this means was raised to six hundred and fifty.

During the alterations baptisms, etc. were taken at S. Thomas's but were entered in the registers of S. Paul's.

The East Window was a memorial gift put in by the congregation at a cost of £350 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. In 1898 interior decoration was carried out for £200. The building was now complete, except for the tower, and had cost £7,000.

When the building was designed it was intended that it should have a spire. Indeed, old copies of the parish magazine show it with a spire, but one was never built as its upkeep was considered to be too difficult and expensive. The Rector was very anxious to have a tower and eventually Mr. Frank Oakley's design was chosen. The design was accepted for exhibition at the

Royal Academy of Art, a rare distinction. The tower was completed in November 1900 at a cost of £1,980 raised by " copper collections " and by a very successful bazaar at the Conservative Club. Three years later a new organ by Benson was installed at a cost of £980. Altogether the church fabric including the furnishings cost nearly £12,000, and the schools an additional £2 000.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE CHURCH

The original architects of S. Paul's were a Manchester firm, Bird and Whittenburg. The building is of Pennine limestone. It was not designed in an imitative Gothic, but in—for the time 1876—a very free early English style. The church was finally completed after a nave extension of two bays in 1896. It now has six bays, widely spaced on round pillars, with a total internal length of 130 ft and a width with the aisles of 50 ft. The nave has a cradle vault and the aisles lean-to roofs, the general effect is of great spaciousness. Each bay of the aisles has a pair of trefoiled lancets and a group of three plain lancets in the clerestory. Decorative stonework is limited to strong moulding of the nave arcades and the bases and capitals of the pillars. The chancel is 30 ft long and 22 ft wide. The east-end is filled by a five-light " decorated " window, beneath which is now a grey reredos extending the whole width of the wall. The west-end is finished with a pair of tall two-light windows. On the North side of the chancel is an organ chamber and the clergy vestry. On the South is the lowest stage of the tower which forms an entrance porch. The tower with an octagonal top stage is a fine piece of work by Frank Oakley.

In 1901 the west-end windows, designed by Mr. A. L. Moore, were given in memory of Mr. Alfred Baynton, a former churchwarden, by his widow. It is of interest that the picture in the window contains portraits of his two daughters, one of whom was Mrs. Jeff.

In 1907 a correspondent to the *Manchester Courier* wrote: "As is customary in suburban churches the largest congregation is in the mornings though the church is also well attended at night. The Rector speaks highly of his congregations, their loyalty and liberality. The church gives a lot of money to the Missions to Seamen; to the Waifs' and Strays' [now the Children's Society]; the Church Missionary Society and the Church Pastoral Aid Society. The church supports a Young Men's Club with twenty-five members; a Young Women's Club with the same number; a Boys' Brigade with forty members,

besides a Mothers' Meeting and a Gleaners' Union. All these are in a very satisfactory condition. The parish also has its S. Paul's Choral Society, a musical association of more than usual merit."

A study of the accounts of that period shows that about one-third of the income of the church was given to organisations outside the parish. It is perhaps surprising, and certainly a cause for thankfulness, that the proportion is only slightly lower today in spite of the escalating costs of maintenance.

During the Edwardian days the church was full every Sunday. The families walked along Heaton Moor Road to church, a road renowned in the neighbourhood for its beauty. The fine houses set in gardens full of flowers and especially the flowering trees made it a most pleasant place. It was free from litter, too, as it was swept twice a day. In those days, however, it was paved with the big Lancashire setts so the horse-drawn traffic made a great deal of noise. Mr. Brassington's grandson recalls that the milk round had to finish by ten o'clock on Sunday mornings so as not to disturb the families on their way to church. If families were late with breakfast they would walk across the fields to S. Margaret's, Burnage or to Christ Church rather than be late at S. Paul's. The time of service at the neighbouring churches was later than 10-30 a.m.

Most families rented their own pews so that they could depend on sitting together. In many pews there was a kneeler box from which the children took out hymn and prayer books and into which father then put his tall silk hat for safety during the service. The boys from Crawford's school sat in the north aisle. The reredos had not yet been erected so there were dark green curtains behind the altar which was shorter than it is now. The choir wore long surplices to the ankles but not cassocks and the seven ladies in the choir did not sit in the stalls but on chairs between the stalls and the sanctuary.

The picnic for the adult members of the choir was first held in 1895. They went by train, often into Derbyshire, and were met at the station by horse-drawn wagonettes. On their return the ladies' hair looked as if it had been powdered from the lime-dust of the roads.

One Sunday morning, in 1904, there was a notice on the church doors that the services were cancelled as the verger had smallpox. Next day the children who had not been vaccinated were done at school. Following the death of King Edward VII in 1910 a memorial service was held at S. Paul's. Mr. Daniel Dale was appointed as the verger or apparitor and he wore a gown as his badge of office. He loved his work and attended every service,

seeing to all the details so that the proceedings went smoothly. He was responsible, too, for the heating and cleaning of church and schools and for the grounds. He held his office for thirty-five years and was a familiar figure to several generations of parishioners.

The next year, with the help of the legacy of Mrs. Hannah Foulkes, a handsome reredos and piscina of alabaster and marble were erected. The carved medallions left and right of the Cross represent the Pascal Lamb and the Pelican in her Piety, pecking her breast to feed her fledgelings. Electric lighting was then installed and the church was redecorated. In 1914 the font cover was provided by the legacy of Mr. Robson. Then the terrible years of the First World War began. Soon after hostilities started the wedding took place between Arthur Wilson and Ada Hadley in October 1914 at S. Paul's. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and been honoured by a telegram from the Queen.

Nearly all the younger men were away in the Forces, a great many never to return. Canon Smartt wrote to every member of the parish who was serving away from home, and the later years of his ministry were saddened by the loss of so very many of the young men of his congregation. The few who did not go overseas were working by day and taking on duties at night in the Red Cross hospitals set up locally at the Wesleyan School at Heaton Mersey and later at the Reform Club; Mr. Brownsword, himself, was the commandant. The men went to the station at night to meet the trains and load the stretcher cases into the waiting ambulances. They did hospital tasks; cleaning the wards, making the tea, helping the nurses, then, leaving at six in the morning, cycled home for an hour's rest and breakfast before catching the train to work in Manchester.

A vast quantity of work was done by the ladies for the Red Cross; rolling bandages, making shirts, knitting and serving in the hospital canteens and, of course, many became nurses, the famous V.A.Ds. The wounded men, in hospital blue, would hobble out from the Reform Club on fine days and rest on benches provided against the walls and in the church garden. Church work was fully maintained and intensified and large sums of money were contributed for the work of the hospitals. The church launched a " National Mission of Repentance and Hope " and a special effort was made to witness for God and His truth. More ladies joined the choir to maintain the numbers. An item in the church accounts for 1917 of £5 for prayer books for soldiers shows that the church was looking to the spiritual needs of the men temporarily living in the parish as well as to their

material needs. Often there were men in uniform in the congregation, men home on leave, and sometimes cousins from the Commonwealth countries over here with their detachments. It is of interest that the khaki dye was manufactured by Mr. Leeman who lived at West Bank, Heaton Mersey.

Another item in the accounts was insurance against damage by aircraft. A large premium for those days of £2 was first paid in 1915 but by 1917 this was halved as the danger from Zeppelins diminished. The church continued to be well filled and there was a great desire to pray for victory and peace. When the end of hostilities came there was great thankfulness, but great sorrow for so many families. A service of thanksgiving was held in the church on the evening of Armistice Day. A War Memorial was erected inside the church below the west window to all those of S. Paul's congregation who had been killed. It contains thirty-nine names. A chalice and paten were presented to the church by Mrs. T. Robinson as a thank-offering for the safe return of her two sons from the war. This is the communion plate in regular use today and the inscription may be seen on it.

The following year the Rector was presented with a handsome cheque by the congregation at the Parochial Church Meeting to defray the expenses of the quinquennial repairs at the rectory. He was delighted at this token of goodwill and affection and it was a great encouragement to him in his work.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 1920

In 1919 the " Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act " was passed by Parliament. This dealt with the representation of the laity in the Church Assembly and the setting up of Church Councils in every parish. This directive was promptly put into effect at Heaton Moor and on April 15th a general parish meeting of the voters on the Electoral Roll was called with the object of electing a Parochial Church Council. It was decided to elect twenty-three members, who, with the seven *ex officio* members, would make a council of thirty with power to co-opt.

The first meeting of the P.C.C. was held on Thursday, May 13th. The Rector was in the Chair and twenty-five members attended. Opening the meeting, the Chairman emphasised the importance of P.C.C.s since they gave the laity the power of making religion a living force in the world, and enabled them to share with the clergy in the government of the Church. He mentioned the present-day indifference of younger men to the service of the Church.

The council decided, at the suggestion of Mr. Tacon, to elect a committee to set up a social club for young men; consequently a Young Men's Club was formed that year and its secretary, Leslie Bowden, was co-opted on to the council. Also a committee, comprising all the ladies on the council, was set up to be responsible for the floral decoration of the church at festivals, the expense of the flowers to come out of the church expenses fund.

The poor condition of the Sunday School building was mentioned and at Mr. Cooper's suggestion a committee was formed to deal with that and it was also agreed to hold a Garden Party in aid of Sunday School expenses and that Mr. Duckworth be asked to lend his garden at " Highfield " for that purpose. Just before the meeting closed Mr. Binns and Mr. Judd spoke strongly on the need to improve the Rectory which was in a bad condition. As a beginning it was suggested that electric light should be put in!

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following year the P.C.C. was able to report that they had set up four sub-committees and had raised a large sum towards the improvements they had contemplated. On the whole they were satisfied with the first year's experience and thought that the affairs of the parish would be further stimulated when statutory powers were granted to councils the next year.

During 1921 a " Young People's Guild " was formed consisting of a Badminton Club and a Literary Club. The latter had only fair success but the former has continued for over fifty years. Also a Sale of Work was held in December and so began the tradition of a Christmas Fair. It will have been noticed that, so far, the Council had not discussed Church Services. However, at the tenth meeting, Mr. Folkard suggested that the choir should sing a hymn as they entered. This was not agreed to except under special circumstances. Next it was decided to have an additional board to show the numbers of the psalms but that the amount of the collection for the previous week should not be displayed on it!

The following year saw the death of Mr. R. A. Edgar, a trustee of the church, and on the same day the death of Mr. William B. Foulds, aged seventy-five, the oldest member of the choir and auditor of the church accounts. He died with tragic suddenness within an hour of leaving the church after choir practice. Two service books in the sanctuary were given in his memory by Frank and Ethel Foulds.

In May 1924, to the regret of all, the much-loved Rector, Canon Smartt retired. To spare him the ordeal of a public occasion, the presentation was made privately, of an illuminated address and cheque for £585 and gifts

to his wife and daughter. The Sunday School made further gifts, one being a wool rug made by the Y.P.U. boys. The Canon was quite overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of his parishioners. In his letter of thanks he asked them to welcome his successor, Mr. Jeff, who was coming to them with a fine record of work well done in other parishes and to his wife, the daughter of his old friend and churchwarden, Mr. Baynton.

The Induction of the new Rector, the Reverend A. H. Jeff, M.A., took place on Saturday, June 28th, 1924. The following year the Blackburn diocese was carved out of that of Manchester. The Council subscribed to the Blackburn Bishopric Fund and also to the appeal to build the new church of S. Crispin's at Wilbramton, the Manchester housing estate which preceded Wythenshawe.

THE JUBILEE OF THE CHURCH

Plans were made for the celebration of the Jubilee and an appeal was launched to build a Choir Vestry. The raising of the money led to great activity, much enjoyed by all. A circular letter was delivered to everyone and subscriptions came in; books of bricks were printed and sold at a shilling a brick; collecting boxes were distributed and the Sunday School organised a Mile of Pennies. Mr. C. Watson Hagger, Organist and Choirmaster, arranged two concerts and the Reverend H. P. V. Nunn gave a series of six lantern lectures in the church on the " Catacombs ", a subject on which he was an authority. Mr. Selkirk Chapman wrote a history of the church which was published as a Jubilee Book. The Choir Vestry was finished in time and dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Manchester at the Jubilee service which was held on January 29th, 1928. Canon Smartt was invited to preach at the afternoon service and he travelled from Surrey for this occasion.

The end of that year saw a most elaborate effort. The Ladies' Guild, formed three years previously, suggested a " Village Street " for the Christmas Fair. It would have been too expensive to hire the scenery, so men and boys, led by the Rector, worked hard and, in four days, a village sprang into being for the expenditure of under £5. It was a street of shops: Bon Marché, Stationery, Greengrocery, etc. and even a Gypsy Caravan where fortunes were told. The big effort was a financial success and a considerable sum was paid into the Jubilee Fund. By October 1929, Mr. Estill was able to report that the debt was cleared; this fund was closed and a Fabric Fund was opened into which the balance and further monies could be paid. Hence began the stable financial position which the church has enjoyed for many years.

THE 1930's

So passed the first decade of the Council's life during which much good work was done and the parish went forward into the 1930's free of debt. The Rector told his Council that, now the debt was cleared, he hoped they would not become apathetic but would be alive and try to arouse enthusiasm both in Church and Sunday School work. Happily this proved to be so and the decade saw progress in the life of S. Paul's. Two new trustees were appointed, Mr. F. Tacon and Mr. R. N. Carter.

Two faithful members died in 1931. Just after Easter, Mr. Estill, the Rector's Warden for nearly twenty years, died in office. All loved, respected and admired him and in his zeal and love for the Church he gave a lead. He paid scrupulous attention to the details of his office never seeking to avoid work but cheerfully tackling all that fell to him. The Parish Church, however, did not take all of his time for he also served the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Dramatic Society and various local clubs. A window was placed in the screen in front of the Wardens' pew in his memory and also lighting was fitted above the lectern from which he had regularly read the lesson.

Mr. Duckworth, who died in July, was a trustee of the living, he had taught in the Sunday School for many years, was a keen sportsman, a friend of boys and a true Christian gentleman. The memorial to him is a sum of money invested so that the interest would provide a shilling for every choirboy on Christmas Day. The bronze hymn boards, too, are a visible monument to his memory. A small inscription is placed near them. His house and extensive grounds were sold and Highfield Park was built on the land.

It is of interest that a letter was received thanking members who had offered hospitality to delegates to the centenary meetings of the Congregational Union held in Manchester that year.

We are reminded that 1933 was a year of industrial depression, for a letter was received from the Mayor of Stockport asking the churches to find work for unemployed men. It was agreed that the church should be redecorated as it was last done in 1911. When the work was completed everyone was delighted with it.

In January 1934, after nearly ten years of retirement, Canon Smartt died. A fund was opened and later a tablet to his memory on the chancel wall was unveiled and dedicated. A photograph of it was sent to Mrs. Smartt who was unable to make the journey from the south.

In 1936 S. Paul's was asked to raise a sum towards the new churches in Wythenshawe. The parish was canvassed by members of the Council and

the sum was raised by direct giving. It was appropriate that a quarter of a century later our new rector had previously served at a Wythenshawe church. So great were the numbers in the Sunday School that an extension was contemplated but the war came before the money could be raised. Mr. J. E. Mayo retired from his post as secretary of the P.C.C. and was presented with a standard-lamp. Mr. J. I. Hughes, his son-in-law, was elected in his place.

A special service was held in May to mark the King's Silver Jubilee and the next year a United Service was held on Coronation Day and a flag was erected on the green in front of the church. The following year a silver paten was presented by Miss Stella Thompson and her father and brothers in memory of her mother—a larger paten than the one in use and specially suitable for festivals. Also a piano for choir-practice was purchased in memory of Mr. Hagger.

Social life was enjoyed to the full. On Saturday afternoons there was tennis on the rectory lawn and tea was served at a cost of sixpence each. There were hot-pot suppers; whist drives and concerts arranged by the Ladies' Guild; choir picnics; long walks for the Y.P.U.; a thriving badminton club with over fifty members and a growing Sunday School. In 1939 Mr. J. I. Hughes became Peoples' Warden and Mr. E. O. Browne was elected secretary. This was the end of an era and the war began.

WARTIME

The declaration of war was announced by Mr. Jeff to the congregation during the morning service on September 3rd. A churchwarden handed him a note during the singing of a hymn and as it ended he told us we were at war with Germany. We all knew that life would never be quite the same again. As the winter of 1939 drew on the young people began to leave Heaton Moor, called up for military service. The black-out made evening services impossible in the winter and they were held in the afternoon. Social activities were very limited; some afternoon meetings were held but, of course, the Sunday School continued.

In 1940 the church boiler burst and the Council had to find the cost of a new one. An " Imaginary Christmas Fair " was held because provisions were too scarce to hold a normal one. Each member of the congregation brought the sum they would have spent if a Fair had been held and £80 was raised. The cost of renewing the silk cover for the Communion Table was met by a donation from a young member of the parish then serving in the Forces.

Then came the crippling blow that the Schools were requisitioned by the Army. The buildings had to be completely cleared and it was difficult to know

what to do with the piano. However, it was eventually arranged that Nield and Hardy should store it for the duration. The Red Cross Working Party met in the choir vestry. This large room was of great value during the years the Schools were out of use and an air-raid shelter was made in the cellars under it. The following year a Services' Club was set up at the Congregational church and a sum was contributed by each church towards its upkeep.

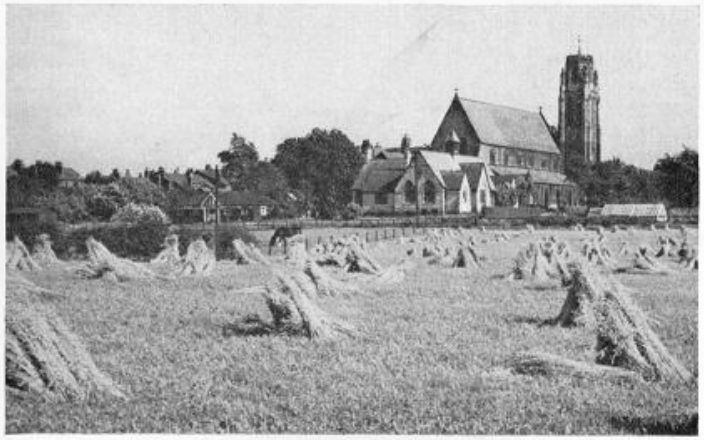
The P.C.C. secretary joined the Forces and Mr. A. H. Howard replaced him. Christmas parcels were sent out to the men from our parish on active service and many letters were received in reply. After the bombing of the district in December 1940, the Rector wrote in the magazine, " We have passed through trying and difficult times but have emerged with heads erect, confident in the ultimate victory of our cause. Even those who have suffered loss and damage to homes or business premises are wonderfully cheerful. Our losses might have been greater but for the devotion of the A.R.P. and other workers and their prompt dealing with incendiary bombs. Some indeed landed on the roof of a hospital in the parish but were successfully dealt with. There have been splendid examples of ready help and sympathy with those who have suffered."

Tribute was paid to the ladies who bravely kept the services canteen going throughout the " Blitz " and only ceased when ordered to by an officer who closed it and sent soldiers to escort the ladies home.

On Sunday, September 7th, 1941, a National Day of Prayer, inaugurated by the King, was held. The Girl Guides, Home Guard and a Military Detachment reinforced our numbers and every seat was occupied. The following March there was an even greater crowd when the Royal Artillery Band played the troops to church and then took up different instruments and became an orchestra. The effect of this and the organ playing and the singing of a large congregation was truly inspiring.

As the war progressed our own troops left Heaton Moor and were succeeded by Americans, highly trained men who were waiting to go to Germany as administrators at the end of hostilities. They were very much liked and received hospitality in the district, especially from families whose own sons were on active service. Many attended the church where they found comfort in their exile from home and strength for the work they were called upon to do. Indeed, one of them, Morgan Sheldon, decided to enter the Church, and, on his return to the U.S.A. he went to a Theological College and was ordained. In the years which followed three of our own congregation were ordained, Gordon Jeff, John Forrest and John Dever.

So forward-looking was the Council that in the dark days of 1943 they purchased a new set of Prayer Books and the next year were negotiating for



Church and School from Shaw's Fold Farm

Badminton Club, 1924

Two photographs taken at the reopening of the Sunday Schools in 1946

an old army hut which is still in use today. In 1943 the Mothers' Union branch was founded. Sadly some of our old Sunday School scholars lost their lives in the war. In 1944 Mr. J. I. Hughes was appointed as Trustee of Church Funds in succession to Mr. R. N. Carter.

POST-WAR

In the summer of 1945 there was great rejoicing at the end of the war and plans were made for restarting the full life of the parish. The men and women began to return home from the Forces and the Council had the happy task of planning the renewal of church life. A Sanctuary Guild was formed and plans were made to equip a Children's Corner near the Font. Mr. Selkirk Chapman was appointed a trustee.

All the churches co-operated in a comprehensive visitation of the district and as a result many more families joined the church and sent their children to the Sunday School. The Schools were repaired and redecorated, the colour schemes being chosen by the Council. At the end of the summer holidays all was completed and on Sunday afternoon, September 15th, 1946, (most appropriately it was Mr. Tacon's birthday) the School, led by the Choir, processed from the South Door of the church to take possession of the Schools. A photograph was taken on this happy occasion. The Social Activities Committee was formed and the Badminton Social held on Shrove Tuesday became a feature of the social life. The Council was pleased to accept gifts. The bill for repairs to the Hut was paid anonymously and two new Altar Frontals were given.

THE 1950's

The decade began sadly with the deaths of devoted workers for the Church—Miss Ball who was a Sunday School teacher and leader of the Y.P.U. for many years and Mr. Tacon, a Trustee and Sidesman, a Sunday School teacher since 1900 and a member of the Council since its formation in 1920. The Rector spoke of his influence in church and Sunday School during fifty years of service. He would be remembered as a lovable, joyous man who stood for righteousness. Memorial Funds were opened and the Council consulted an architect who produced drawings and specimens of tiles for the reflooring and plans for relighting the sanctuary and for new altar rails. The pavement was in memory of Miss Ball and the rails in memory of Mr. Tacon. An inscription was placed at the right-hand end of the rails. In May 1951, the Rector spoke at the Council meeting of the death of Mr. Tacon's sister, Mrs. H. Openshaw, and of her work and enthusiasm for S. Paul's. She had been a

Sunday School teacher and member of the choir and on the Council since 1924. Two months later the memorial pavement and altar rails were dedicated at the morning service.

The church was floodlit for the Coronation and new lighting was installed in the porches and passages. The appeal for the Organ Rebuilding Fund was launched, with Mr. Bishop as Honorary Treasurer, and, for the first time, money was raised by means of covenanted gifts extending over seven years. The order for the rebuilding was placed with Messrs. Walker of London. A brochure was sent to parishioners and former worshippers and gifts came in from all over the world, even from as far away as New Zealand. This appeal was so well managed and successful that by May 1954, £2,384 had been collected and £2,500 promised in covenants and envelopes. The work was completed so quickly that payment had to be made earlier than expected so the gap was bridged by interest-free loans from members of the congregation. The Lord Bishop of Manchester was present at the Dedication Service of the new organ at 6-30 p.m. on Sunday, March 20th, 1955.

In the magazine, *The Round World* published for " Discoverers " there was a photograph in May 1955, showing a procession of boys and girls carrying Discoverers' banners in S. Paul's cathedral. Inspired by this, Mrs. C. W. Wilson designed a banner for S. Paul's based on the Discoverers' badge. Every child in the group put a stitch in it. So beautiful is it that, when it was displayed at a cathedral rally, a group from Lichfield asked to borrow it for use at a festival. It is now on display in the Children's Corner in the north aisle of the church and is carried when Discoverers are enrolled during a morning service.

The Christmas Festival was enhanced by the gift of a large tree each year to stand in the sanctuary, gay with its coloured lights. The Toy Service was held, the toys being placed round the tree and then distributed to children's homes and hospitals. This was followed by the Nativity Play. One such play was described by a member of the congregation: " Those of us who were privileged to see the play experienced something of the wonder and mystery of the first Christmas at Bethlehem. We were certainly moved to adore and worship. The wonderful lighting effects as seen from the back of the church, the subdued tones of the organ and the hidden choir gave one the impression of being in a vast cathedral. To have trained fifty performers, some of them quite young, in addition to the choir was a great achievement. The Christmas story was most reverently portrayed and the scripture passages clearly read." A Toy Service and Play or Mime has been held ever since on a Sunday afternoon before Christmas.

A great deal of thought and skill went into the Harvest Festival. A most elaborate floral display decorated the pulpit, font and choir stalls. Bunches of grapes hung from the lectern and baskets of fruit filled every corner. Cottage loaves were specially baked and put on the altar and bread made in the shape of a sheaf of corn, complete with mice on the stalks, was placed on the altar steps. The Harvest Services were very well attended and enjoyed. Hospitals and invalids at home were delighted to receive the gifts.

The Council was concerned about making the church better known in the district and many useful suggestions were carried out. It was also felt that they wished to discuss the furtherance of the gospel at their meetings as this was often neglected in favour of materialistic matters. It was decided to form Bible Study Circles to meet at regular intervals and two large groups met for two years. It proved to be very helpful and we really got to know each other. Among the books studied were, *The Family at the Eucharist* by Howard Porter and *The Creed and its Credentials* by Lumsden Barkway and *Preface to Bible Study* by Alan Richardson.

The Men's Fellowship was a feature of the decade and many happy meetings were arranged. The programme included a Brains Trust, lectures by members and factory visits. At one meeting Gordon Jeff came to speak about his travels in the Far East during his years of service in the army.

The Council next debated the advisability of abolishing paid sittings. A questionnaire was sent out and most agreed to join a Free-will Offering Scheme instead of paying pew rents. A resolution was passed, " That all seats be made free and all tickets and labels be removed, to be effective after March 1956." A Free-will Offering Scheme was to be organised and the Council was to compensate the Rector for the loss of pew rents.

In January 1956, the death occurred of Mr. Walter Brownsword, M.B.E., aged 84 years. He was secretary of the Sunday School for forty-two years, a member of the choir, founder of the Badminton Club, treasurer of the C.M.S. and a member of the Council since 1923. He remembered the room at Heaton Moor College where church services were held prior to the building of the church and he also remembered the consecration of the church. A choir cross was purchased as a memorial to him and a bible was placed in the church and a plaque in the Sunday School.

A memorial window to Dr. and Mrs. Jordan, given by their son, was placed near to the vestry door, depicting S. Luke, the Evangelist. The work was done by Messrs. J. Powell and Sons (Whitefriars) Ltd. That year forty-seven names were added to the Electoral Roll. Miss F. A. Jackson became secretary

of the Church Council, the first woman to hold that office at S. Paul's; later, she was to become secretary of the Deanery Synod. Mr. George Aspinall took her place and held the office for six years.

In March 1958 the first broadcast service took place on Palm Sunday. Following the broadcast, letters came to the Rector from former members of the Church living in many different parts of the country and from the invalid and elderly at home. Their expressions of pleasure and thanks were most touching.

In January 1959, Professor Wright Baker of Manchester College of Science and Technology, who personally opened the Dead Sea scrolls, came and gave a lantern lecture in the Schools on this fascinating subject.

The New Churches Appeal was launched and we were asked to contribute £200. The Council, however, decided to pledge us to £1,000. This sum was not forthcoming so on a summer day in July, the Rector supported by the Wardens, sat in the church grounds all day long receiving gifts. A total contribution of £957 was made.

This decade had been a time of expansion at S. Paul's. The numbers in the Sunday School reached over 350. The congregations were large and the financial position satisfactory.

RETIREMENT OF CANON JEFF

After thirty-eight years at Heaton Moor, Canon Jeff retired. The farewell service, on Sunday, July 22nd, 1962, was described in the magazine by Mr. Harold Ackroyd. The choir sang the anthem, " Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee," and the Canon preached from the text, " Follow thou Me ". It is, one feels, what he had been striving to do all his life. We must see that our following of Christ is not merely a matter of regular attendance at church but a sense of positive Christian stewardship in the wider service of God.

The presentation was made of a Ronson Table Lighter and a cheque for nearly £600. The Bishop of Hulme recalled that when he came to the Deanery in 1948, Canon Jeff was already its elder statesman. He had raised the money for the choir vestry and the organ but he would be remembered as a real parish priest who lived among his flock all this time, finally getting to the position where he was marrying the children of those for whom he had earlier read the banns. It was a ministry which represented a great Anglican tradition. Mrs. Jeff had pulled her weight no less than her husband in the parish and diocese.

Trinity Sunday was not only the fiftieth anniversary of Canon Jeff's ministry, it was also the occasion of their son's ordination as a priest. A fortnight ago they had become grandparents. Some send off!

Mr. John Dickens recalled that he had sat under Canon Jeff as youngster, youth and man. He paid a warm tribute, mentioning his helpfulness to young people, his leadership which resulted in one of the most flourishing Sunday Schools in the diocese and in the present standard of the choir. He had borne the rough with the smooth, the requisitioning of the Schools by the authorities with fortitude and, when National Service came, he saw, without demur, his son sent far away. All would wish Canon and Mrs. Jeff, " God speed and God's blessing ".

Canon Jeff was a wonderful teacher, Sunday by Sunday he taught his congregation from the pulpit and no one could be left in doubt about a calling as a Christian and where duty lay. Those who were fortunate enough to attend his Confirmation classes were instructed in great detail and everything was made crystal-clear. The similes he drew to make his meaning plain are remembered by many today.

Many of his congregation he knew so well that he could sum them up in a few words. To give just two examples, on a visit to a Sunday School pupil who had just had a serious illness which would leave her a semi-invalid for life he said, " In future, Mary, it will be quality from you, not quantity." To another he said, " I know you enjoy doing a job which is difficult because it is a challenge."

His rich and well-modulated voice made it an aesthetic pleasure to listen to him read the liturgy and the scriptures. He was a good chairman and a good administrator, keeping a watch on every organisation in the parish. A study of his letter to the magazine each month shows how he planned ahead so we were not suddenly faced with some unexpected financial burden. He was thoroughly supported and helped by Mrs. Jeff to whom the parish owes a debt of gratitude. Fortunately they lived, for part of their retirement, within easy reach of Heaton Moor so many were able to visit and express their personal appreciation of his ministry.

CANON MITCHELL'S MINISTRY

After the Interregnum the Induction of the Reverend Canon Stanley Mitchell took place on Wednesday, October 24th, at 8 p.m. by the Venerable A. Selwyn Bean, Archdeacon of Manchester. Many of the members of his previous church, S. Luke's, Benchill, came to show their affection for the

Canon and Mrs. Mitchell and some six hundred people packed the church. The reporter described the procedure within the church—the procession of visiting clergy and of the choir to the east door when the office of admission was read; the tolling of the bell by Canon Mitchell to signify his taking possession of the benefice; the words of the processional hymn, " Christ is our Corner-stone "; the symbolic procession to the Font, Prayer-desk, the Lectern and the Pulpit to signify the priest's duties; the unaccompanied singing of Psalm 121, " My help cometh even from the Lord ". The Archdeacon preached from the text, " Ye have not passed this way heretofore." Afterwards the visitors were entertained in the Schools. S. Paul's congregation met their new Rector and his wife after Evensong the following Sunday.

The Rector suggested that a Social be held at the weekend of the Patronal Festival in addition to the one of the Harvest. This does provide an opportunity for members of the congregation, especially new ones, to get to know each other and enjoy themselves.

Next a bookstall was set up in the church with the help of a journalist from the *Guardian*, Mr. Geoffrey Moorhouse, who was a member of S. Paul's before he went to London. Also the Council was pleased to accept a new green carpet for the Chancel as a gift from the Mothers' Union and new Altar Frontals, Communion Bourses and Veils from anonymous donors.

The next year Sidney Ball made a Faldstool for the Sanctuary and Ronald Fawkes arranged the pulleys for raising and lowering the hymn boards. The bell rope was extended to the porch to make it easier to ring the bell.

The same year it was agreed that elected members of the Council serve for a period of three years, one-third retiring each year but eligible for re-election. Six meetings a year were to be held instead of four to allow more time for discussion of church matters other than buildings and finance. This has greatly increased the scope of the work carried out by the Council.

It was decided to put in hand the redecoration of the interior of the church as this had not been done for thirty years. The services of an architect consultant, Mr. Cecil Young, were sought, an Appeal Fund was opened and soon the work of decoration began. Painting was done at the Rectory and a brick garage built. Also two hundred stacking chairs were bought for the Schools, and later, new crockery and cutlery and a new gas stove. Part of the church grounds was set aside to become a Garden of Remembrance and a Book of Remembrance was also suggested and later was provided as part of the memorial to Canon Jeff, as also were the Cross and Candlesticks. A vase of flowers is always placed beside the book at Harvest and at other festivals in

his memory. The silver bowl, too, is filled with roses in memory of Mrs. Seddon.

A worthwhile piece of work carried out was a United Visitation of the district arranged with the other churches. The number on the Electoral Roll increased and stood at 518.

The year 1965 was a memorable one in this decade. In March the Archdeacon of Manchester came for the service of rededication to mark the completion of the decoration of the Church. In June the Garden of Remembrance was consecrated by the Bishop of Hulme. In October, Mr. J. I. Hughes, who had been People's Warden for over twenty-five years, was presented with a pen and standard-lamp at the Harvest Supper. Now, in this centenary year, he has achieved the distinction of thirty-seven years as Churchwarden.

Sadly, on October 5th, 1966, the funeral of Canon Jeff took place at S. Paul's attended by the Bishop of Manchester, the Bishop of Hulme and a large congregation. He had enjoyed four years of retirement and was within a week of his eightieth birthday.

Mr. Geoffrey Barber retired in 1967 from his post of Organist and Master of the Choir after eighteen years of most distinguished service. He was presented with a leather travelling case by the Council and with a gold wrist-watch by the choir. The following year the Reverend Vernon Lester and his wife retired to the parish from Warburton and we were glad to welcome them. Mr. Lester has often assisted at the services.

In 1969 sound amplification was fitted in the church and also the work on alterations to the North Aisle was begun. The organ, too, was cleaned and repaired. The Heaton Chapel Literary and Philosophical Society began to use the Schoolroom because of a fire in the heating installation at the Reform Club. Their large white screen was fitted in the Schoolroom. The members enjoy meeting at S. Paul's because there are no stairs to climb.

1970's

The new decade began well. A Sub-committee of the P.C.C. was set up to consider the involvement of youth in the church. Mr. Gordon Viney was appointed Organist and his place as Secretary of the P.C.C. was taken by Mr. Love. Mr. Peter Downes, a master at Manchester Grammar School, became Lay-reader.

A new time structure for services and Sunday School was worked out and this was put into effect in February 1971. Mrs. Ada Boardman was presented with the Bishop's Testimonial for her work in the Sunday School, over twenty-six years, in December 1971 during a Morning Service. Two years later Miss F. A. Jackson was similarly honoured.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes offered their garden for a Church Garden Party in June and this happy social occasion has taken place ever since. The Thursday evening work on building maintenance led by Mr. S. Ball and Mr. J. A. Darbyshire has been carried out by a team of men of the parish. Even the re-wiring of the whole building has been undertaken by Mr. R. Lewis, Mr. W. F. Tacon, Mr. R. Flowers, Mr. D. Forster and others.

THE NORTH AISLE

Alterations to the North Aisle took place in order to provide a suitable area for the Book of Remembrance and to make it possible for those attending Holy Baptism to face the Font. The Children's Corner was moved from the west to the east end of the aisle. Space was left for chairs to be introduced when necessary, or to be used for exhibitions.

Shepherdsons of Stockport built the section containing the Remembrance Book and G. Ball and Son built the section near the vestry door, for the housing of the Altar Frontals and vases. This section was given by Mrs. Wilde in memory of her husband. The remaining panelling for the Baptistry and Exhibition section was fitted and polished by a group of men who spent many hours doing this work.

Meanwhile, the Council learnt with regret that Canon Mitchell had decided to retire in the autumn. At the September Meeting Mr. Hughes was able to report that the Trustees had appointed the Reverend Edwin Norman Taylor, M.A., to the benefice of S. Paul's. The Bishop had also appointed him as Rural Dean of Heaton. The Rector said that Mr. Taylor, who had served with him as Curate at S. Luke's, was Chairman of the Manchester Adoption Society and had a great interest in Sunday Schools and work for children. In reference to his retirement the Rector thanked the Council for all its support and help and said how happy he had been to work with them. Mr. John Coffey, on behalf of the Council, thanked the Rector for his excellent Chairmanship of the Meetings, He said," As one of the more vocal members I thank him for his patience, firmness and tolerance. As this is the last occasion on which you will act as our Chairman I think it is appropriate that we should offer you our thanks and gratitude and our best wishes for your retirement." The Members supported these words with enthusiasm.

The farewell took place at the Harvest Supper 1971. The Bishop of Hulme was able to add the farewell from the Diocese to that from the Parish, and as an old friend of the Rector, he expressed so well our feelings of esteem and friendship to Canon and Mrs. Mitchell. He told us of the Rector's earlier ministry and he mentioned his work both as Rural Dean and as a Member of the Diocesan Committees concerned with the welfare of young people. He echoed our appreciation of the work done by Mrs. Mitchell, both in support of her husband and among the women of the parish. As the photographer's bulbs flashed the Bishop made the presentation of a garden seat and a cheque for £507. Canon Mitchell replied with a witty speech which raised a laugh and broke the tension concealing what must have been deep feelings. Mr. John Coffey thanked the Bishop for coming and was glad it gave him such evident pleasure to be there. So great was the crowd that there was little room to move and people kept their seats at the tables whilst refreshments were brought to them. The food was delicious, all being made at the local shops, and our thanks went to those who worked so hard beforehand to make the occasion a success.

CANON TAYLOR'S MINISTRY

During the Interregnum structural alterations were done at the Rectory and central heating installed. All was ready for the new Rector and his wife and family to move in by December 17th, 1971. The Institution usually takes place at the Cathedral but in this case it was performed by the Bishop of Manchester at S. Paul's. Later in the service came the admission as Rural Dean of Heaton. Then the Induction by the Archdeacon followed—" We saw our Church filled to the doors, with latecomers standing and one wonders where they all came from. Some came from Radcliffe to wish their Rector well in his new parish. Others were representatives of public life in Stockport but by far the majority were parishioners and friends of S. Paul's, coming to greet their new parish priest. During the service the principals moved among us, firstly in procession from the West End to the Altar, then out again to the Font and back to the Altar and all the while for every undertaking of the new Rector, there was support in a corresponding undertaking from the people. Truly the parish welcomed their Rector and in the presence of God took him to themselves."

Very soon the ecumenical side of the Church's activities was being developed. The Archbishop of York launched the " Call to the North " campaign. We had been used for many years to meeting members of other churches and we had been to a party at S. Winifred's and taken part in United Services. However,

we were soon to know the other churches much better as the House Groups got under way studying the book *Probe into S. Mark*. These Groups have continued each year deepening our own faith and helping us to understand other points of view. As a direct result of the " Call to the North " Groups, the Heatons Christian Council was inaugurated. By acting together with the other churches the scope of social work undertaken can be extended. The formation of a Luncheon Club for the over sixties depending on a rota of voluntary helpers is an example.

Another move of great significance was the setting up of a Worship Sub-committee of the P.C.C. Series 2 version of Holy Communion had been used once a month since 1968 but by Advent 1973 it was decided to make this the main service for a limited period. After a year this experience led on to the use of Series 3 version. Booklets were bought and marked appropriately to help the congregation follow the new form. As some of the older people do not feel they can worship fully through this new medium, two of the Sunday celebrations each month and the Wednesday celebrations are according to the old rite.

The advantages of Series 3 are that the modern words are nearer in meaning to the original as some of the words used in 1662 had now changed their meaning. It is now widely used at Church schools and colleges so young people going to these places will already be familiar with the new liturgy. It is acceptable to members of the Free Churches and some who were worshipping at S. Paul's on Sunday evenings during August were able to partake with us at our evening celebration on August 24th, 1975. This is a significant change in our centuries-old custom. Series 3 is also similar in form to the new Roman Mass in English and this too will be a help in future relationships. Its use has done much to unify the different traditions of High and Low within the Church of England. A new set of hymn books " 100 Hymns for Today " was given in memory of an old Sunday School Teacher, Miss Lillie Bennett.

The Youth Club was re-formed in 1972 under the able guidance of Mr. David Williams and his helpers. The earlier time of Morning Service has made it possible to have coffee served in the school, this being provided by the Youth Club. We are very grateful as it gives more opportunity for Christian fellowship.

The Rector invited Mr. Pollard, the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, to come to speak to the P.C.C. Following this talk there were Wine and Cheese parties arranged in February 1974 and as a result the number of people contributing

to the Church's finances by means of covenants more than doubled. This was just in time to pay the bills for the vast increase in the price of oil.

In March the Reverend Gordon Jeff preached at the morning service. It was a delight to have him and his young son Richard at S. Paul's. They came to coffee in the School and Gordon renewed old friendships. His visit was short as he was due back in his own church at Raynes Park, Surrey for Evensong.

We were saddened by the untimely death in April 1974 of Mr. Geoffrey Barber. Crowds attended the Memorial Service for this brilliant and much loved musician who had done so much for church music throughout the country and especially for S. Paul's.

A Flower Festival was held in June as part of the first Heatons Carnival. It was organised by Mrs. Jarman and all the churches took part each being responsible for one flower set—the portrayal of an incident in the life of a Saint. We chose S. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music. Some 800 people visited the Church and also refreshments were available in the Schools. The proceeds were given to Saint Ann's Hospice and to Children's Homes in the district.

The Council sent representatives to the Diocesan gathering at Owens Park, a Conference on " The Kingdom of God and the Church ". Delegates went to the Diocesan Garden Party at Crawshawbooth and in March 1975 to the Manchester Town Hall for the presentation and farewell to the Bishop of Hulme. The Rector and Mrs. Taylor also gave a party for the Bishop, inviting the other clergy of the Deanery.

The Council discussed the Ordination of Women and were overwhelmingly in favour of such a move.

Meanwhile, a Play Group had been using the basement of the Schools in the mornings during term time. The Hut too was renovated most beautifully by voluntary labour for the use of our Primary Department of the Sunday School. At long last the Church lane was surfaced on the completion of the flats—now called S. Paul's Road.

A Parish visitors' group was formed to assist the Rector in visiting housebound or lonely people of the parish, or indeed anyone who would welcome a chat in their own home with a fellow member of the Church. Visiting, of course has always been done, but it is a help to have a Group who can be called upon by the Rector when he finds a need.

The North Aisle is now used for exhibitions. Farm implements have been displayed on Rogation Sunday and work done by the pupils has been

exhibited during the Sunday School Festival. On Missionary Sunday pictures painted by the children of the Y.P.U. as part of the C.M.S. Lent project 1975, showing how the famous Persian carpets are produced, were on display. In previous years there were exhibitions showing the customs, conditions of life and the needs of the people of Zaire and Nepal.

So many sub-committees of the Council were set up that it was becoming impossible to find enough evenings for them all to meet. In May 1975, therefore, we adopted the " umbrella committee system " outlined by the Vicar of Guildford. The Committees are now classed under four headings—Buildings; Internal Affairs; External Affairs; Finance.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Priestnall School to S. Paul's for an afternoon Carol Service; their orchestra and choir maintain our high musical tradition. The Bishop of Manchester was present at the Service in 1975 as he was visiting the Heaton Deanery that week.

The Rector was installed as an Honorary Canon of Manchester on Sunday, January 4th, 1976 at the Cathedral. A large party from S. Paul's and many other friends were present on this occasion to offer their congratulations and good wishes. The previous September our first woman Reader, Miss Joan Bleackley, was instituted and we are delighted to have her among us.

S. Paul's Church and the War Memorial have been listed by the Department of the Environment as buildings of historic interest. If ever the Church passes out of ecclesiastical ownership there will be restrictions on any alteration.

EPILOGUE

S. Paul's people have been led by dedicated men and women: rectors, churchwardens, sidesmen, councillors and many others have given of their best in the service of God and His Church. We trust that the hundred years of worship and witness has had an influence for good in this neighbourhood; that Heaton Moor is a place where people can live happily together and from which they go out in the strength of their Christian faith to do their work in the world.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the long existence of S. Paul's Sunday School, although there have been many changes, the work has remained constant and the aims the same. These are to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ Crucified, the Risen Lord, and to train and prepare the children in the hope that they will become full communicant members of the Church.

The Bible is studied; there is a reading from it at the opening service each Sunday in the School, usually read by one of the children, and they are encouraged to continue its reading at home. The importance and value of regular prayers are stressed and certain well known prayers are said and learnt. The Creed and the Lord's Prayer are studied so that the children are helped to understand their meaning. Children are encouraged to enquire when they do not understand and the teachers explain difficult or old-fashioned words.

The school has always been orderly and well-disciplined; a carefully planned system of marks helped to foster this orderliness in former years. Each child was given 5 marks when the attendance was taken but only 4 if late. Another mark was lost if the verses set the previous Sunday had not been learnt, and, for bad behaviour, the remaining 3 were taken away. The loss of 20 marks during the year disqualified for a prize. When pupils were on holiday they were expected to attend a church service, and this earned an attendance mark. As this entailed bringing a letter from home it could become complicated so it was suggested that the letter H, for holiday be entered instead. A separate register was kept for each class and the attendances were added up in each book. Prize days were held, with parents and teachers present, and the prizes were greatly valued as few children owned books and libraries were inadequate and remote.

The pupils worked their way, class by class, up the School until the goal was reached, to be a member of the Young Men's Class under Mr. Tacon and later under Mr. T. Carter, and then Mr. Scott or of the Young Women's Class under Mrs. Jeff and then Miss Nicholson. These classes were attended for perhaps ten years, usually until marriage. It was very seldom that the School was short of teachers because the classes were a constant source of supply.

During the war the classes were held in the church but the Christmas parties took place in the schoolroom at the Congregational Church.

After the war was over it was a wonderful moment one sunny afternoon when a triumphant procession of children, choir and congregation went from the church into the Schools and Hut. Children of all ages used to meet under the same roof but from then on it was possible to form a Primary Department which met in the Hut and was ably run, first by Miss Katherine Stanley, who was the Headmistress of Longfield Open-Air School, and then by Mrs. Ada Boardman, assisted by Miss Mary Simpson and many others. They trained hundreds of young children in the elements of the Christian faith. The older ones continued in the School building, using the basement, kitchen and committee room as well as the main hall where they sat round the walls in little groups, packed tightly together, some on backless forms. Still the numbers of pupils increased until there were over 300, and twenty-five teachers. Mr. Frank Boardman was Secretary of the School and held the office for nineteen years.

After much consideration, and with the consent of the parents, it was decided to change the time of Sunday School from the afternoon to 10 a.m., the time of morning service. When this change was put into effect in 1971 it meant that the Rector could only be present occasionally, so the duties of Superintendent had to pass into lay hands. Miss F. A. Jackson took on these duties and, on her retirement, Mrs. Ursula Griffiths succeeded her. It was decided that the children from the main school should attend the Communion Service on the third Sunday of the month. They grow accustomed in School to using parts of this service so it is not too difficult for them. The children from both departments attend church together on special Sundays and a Sunday School Festival is held each year. The aim is to make all the children feel that they belong to one family, that of the church, all worshipping God even though we may meet in different buildings.

At the time of writing, there are eighty-six children in the Sunday School, thirty-two in the Hut and fifty-four in the main building. These numbers are much reduced from former years and children tend to leave at an earlier age than before. However, the numbers have remained fairly constant for some years and the change of time from afternoon to morning does not seem to have made any appreciable difference to this.

Many people have served S. Paul's Sunday School long and well and we remember them with gratitude as we try to continue in this very responsible work.

THE ORGANIST AND CHOIR

There has always been a fine musical tradition at S. Paul's. Over the years the Friday evening choir practice has been an occasion looked forward to with pleasure and enjoyed. At one time the choir stalls were full twice each Sunday, the choir numbering twenty-four boys, twelve men and seven ladies. Today, too, the attendance is good. In the old days the members of S. Paul's Choral Society were ready to join the choir when space was available.

Mr. Frederick Handel Woodward was organist and choirmaster for twenty-six years and during the whole of this long period he maintained the music at a high standard. He came of a musical stock and musical expression came to him with ease. As a soloist he was thoroughly reliable but it was as an accompanist that he excelled. It is said that he never played a false note and he was well content to do his part without undue obtrusion. To be associated with him was a privilege.

He resigned in 1924 and his place was taken by Mr. Charles Watson Hagger. This brilliant young musician soon endeared himself to the choir, to adults and boys alike. They sang carols on the Sunday before Christmas and on Palm Sunday sang " Olivet to Calvary " by Maunders or " The Crucifixion " by Stainer. There was an annual Choirboys' Concert and monthly Organ Recitals. He took the boys into camp for a week at Whitsuntide and again in August. They camped at Adlington and the next year at Cemaes Bay. They went to Anglesey by sea from Liverpool and, as the rail strike prevented the delivery of tents, they slept in a granary.

The first choir picnic since before the war was arranged in 1925. The adult members and the church officers went by train from Heaton Chapel to Alsop-en-le-Dale and walked through Dovedale. After negotiating the stepping stones, the merry party, mounted on ponies and donkeys, rode to the Isaac Walton Hotel for lunch. The early afternoon was spent playing peaceful old English games on the lawn and then they visited the model village of Ilam and were shown round the church. After dinner they took the arduous walk over the shoulder of the Cloud to Thorpe-Cloud station and arrived at Heaton Chapel at 10-30 p.m.

In 1926, because of the strike, they hired a motor coach, Some of the ladies were a little apprehensive of this novel form of transport but found it comfortable and convenient and were glad to be all together so some did not miss the fun evoked by the jolly members of the party, the songs, the jokes, the funny stories. The party went to Chatsworth and on to Rowsley for lunch. The coach put them down at Alport and picked them up again at Over Haddon

Sunday School Anniversary, 1937

Members of the Mothers' Union on an outing

The Choir, 1960

A Nativity mime by the Y.P.U.

so enabling them to walk through Lathkil Dale where they had great fun pushing the more portly members of the party through the very narrow stiles. After dinner at Bakewell they arrived safely back at the church at 9-30 p.m. In the following years visits by coach were made to Ruthin, Alton Towers, the Dukeries and to Llandudno by train. A spirit of happiness and good fellowship prevailed.

The sudden death of Mr. Hagger on July 13th, 1933 was a great sorrow and loss to the choir and the whole church. He was a gifted musician, a faithful friend and a beloved companion; Mr. Vincent Hams took his place at the organ. In September, Mr. James S. Wright was appointed. He had been organist in Salford and had worked under Mr. Harold Dawber at S. George's.

The choir first wore cassocks on Christmas Day 1933. Previously they had worn long surplices because there had been no room to robe in the old vestry. Mr. Wright worked happily with the choir for nearly five years and on his resignation, Mr. H. G. Kirkham, who had once been a choirboy under Mr. Woodward, was appointed. He was very well-liked and it was a great disappointment when his work was interrupted by war service. On his return he was appointed to Sandbach School and resigned to become organist at Nantwich Parish Church, a post he has filled with great distinction.

Mr. John Snow was appointed and all admired his brilliant playing and teaching abilities. He, too, took the boys to camp in August 1948 to Benllech Bay. When he resigned in 1949, Mr. Geoffrey H. Barber was appointed and the choir flourished under his inspired leadership. He, too, had worked under Mr. Dawber and was conductor of the Maia Boy's Choir and Director of Music at Stockport School. Boys came to S. Paul's from other parts of Stockport to sing under his tuition. All boys are admitted at a simple ceremony during the church service. First they become Singing Boys and then Choristers. One has recently been presented with the " Bishop's Chorister Award " by the Dean of Manchester in the Cathedral. The boys who lead the choir wear badges made by Mr. Maurice Poole, whose son was once a leading chorister. They are in the form of crossed swords, the emblem of S. Paul, surmounted by a cross. The Choirboys' Instrumental Scholarship, financed by private donations, was instituted in 1955 to provide three years' free tuition on the piano or organ to the choirboy who won the competition. The first Scholar was David Jepson, who is now Director of Music at Eccles College and of course a choirman at S. Paul's. He was followed by Graham Hoskins, David Dutton, Adrian Jessett, Francis Birch, Philip Britten, Bruce Connell, David Gordon and Paul Summers, the present Scholar being Jeffrey

Hewitt. In 1967, at the time they were returning to Australia, the Birch family with three boys in the choir donated £200 to inaugurate a Birch Scholarship Fund, as a thank-offering for the influence which Choir membership had had on their sons. The interest from this fund has been mainly used to support the Instrumental Scholarship. The choir is also affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and the custom has grown that an Annual Three-day Course for choristers takes place on the last days of the year at S. Paul's. Hospitality is offered to boys from many parts who are attending this course.

The scope of the work increased: we began to have Sung Communion whereas before we had always had a Plain Celebration at S. Paul's. The choir also sang two anthems a week instead of just occasionally. The Palm Sunday music undertaken was more ambitious. The S. Matthew Passion by Bach was sung, the role of the Evangelist on two occasions being undertaken by a lay clerk from the Cathedral. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was adopted and has become the best attended service of the year.

The organ, which was fifty years old, was completely rebuilt and was dedicated by the Lord Bishop in March 1955. Whilst the work was in progress the choir was accompanied on the piano. Evening recitals were then arranged on the new organ. Then, in 1958, the service was broadcast by the B.B.C., a great honour for the choir.

Camps have taken place every summer at Llanddulas and the younger men have taken part as well to ensure that the boys have a good time. They regularly sing Evensong at Llanddulas church and have also sung at S. Asaph Cathedral. Many parishioners have visited the camp and spent happy hours there. The Rector of Llanddulas has helped the boys in many ways over the years and deserves our thanks.

It was with great sorrow that in 1967 we learnt that Mr. Barber was resigning to take up further work with the Royal School of Church Music. He had led the choir with distinction for eighteen years. Mr. T. J. Longstaff was appointed and maintained a high musical standard. When he resigned, the deputy-organist, Mr. Gordon Viney, fortunately agreed to take on the position and he has worked hard to maintain the fine traditions of the choir. Twice in 1973 the service was broadcast both on the Overseas and on the Home Service of the B.B.C.

The Choir is a fellowship of men and boys, using their musical gifts in the worship and praise of God. The veteran is Mr. Sidney Ball who has been a member as treble and tenor for over fifty years.

THE WORKING GUILD

The Working Guild meets on Wednesday afternoon through the winter and it has a long history. In Canon Smartt's time it was the Sewing Meeting with Mrs. Smartt as its leader. The members make articles for the Missionary Sale and for the Christmas Fair and run one of the most financially rewarding stalls. As the members say, " The men have ready cash to give to the church but we give our work." For the materials they rely on gifts and coffee mornings. During the war, as the Red Cross Working Party, they made hundreds of comforts for those in the Services. They have also helped with the provision and maintenance of church linen and accessories. The Guild has been a source of companionship for many members through the years.

THE BADMINTON CLUB

The game derives its name from Badminton House in Gloucestershire, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort. It is said that one wet day someone rigged up a net in a big empty room and brought battledore and shuttlecock from the nursery. By the end of the afternoon the sport had been so good that the game was called Badminton; an odd beginning for one of the best indoor athletic games. It is the game which has been thoroughly studied and practised and played with great success at S. Paul's for over fifty years.

The club, founded in 1921, grew and prospered under the wise guidance of Mr. Brownsword. The two Leslies, L. Bowden and L. Clay, as joint secretaries worked indefatigably, helped by many others, too. The evening membership was limited to forty but the ladies, who were free to do so, played in the afternoon. The subscription was only 10s. 6d. a year and only 7s. for Sunday School members. It took half the income to cover the cost of shuttles. Not surprisingly the club was in debt by £10 in the fifth season. To clear the debt a Finals Night was arranged with exhibition games by Lancashire County players. Tickets were sold and crowds of spectators came. This popular entertainment was held for many years and as many as 120 attended. Some of the Finals Nights were very exciting. There were three club nights a week and also table tennis and billiards were played. Thirty matches were played in the season and the club lost only seven. Two years later, in 1928, they lost only five. That year they were affiliated to the Badminton Association. Ten successful years followed until the club was forced to close for the duration of the war. The secretary, Mr. E. O. Browne, joined the R.A.F. and rose to the rank of Flight Lieutenant and won the D.F.C. but, sadly, he was killed in a flying accident in 1944.

In the autumn of 1946 the club reopened with twenty-three members and Leslie Clay as secretary. He was determined that the standard should again be high so he did not let new members play on the court until they had practised for several evenings against a wall to learn the correct strokes. He read articles from the Badminton Association leaflet and carefully coached the players. It was a great loss to the club when in 1950 he suddenly left Heaton Moor to take up a new post in London. He was sent a wrist-watch as a mark of appreciation. Mr. G. Dixon became secretary for a short time followed by Mr. R. Browne; Mrs. Irene Bowden was Match Secretary.

Again the club prospered and new features were introduced; the Shrove Tuesday Social and the American tournament held on a Saturday when play continued all afternoon and evening. The side-shows at the Christmas Fair were organised with great success. Mr. N. Robotham became secretary and in 1957 the club joined the South Manchester Churches League. The First team was placed in Division II and the Second team in Division III. The next year the First team won the championship and the Second team was the runner up. The championship was won in 1959 and again in 1963. Mrs. Joan Lewis was secretary.

The club is now supported by the younger members of the church under the leadership of Mr. D. V. Williams and Mr. B. Tomkinson. Coaching takes place and the standard of play has improved so much that a dozen members have won Bronze Awards in the English Schools' Badminton Association, and in the Stockport Schools' Championships.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

When Canon and Mrs. Jeff first came to S. Paul's in 1924, the Y.P.U. was already in existence, its leader being Miss M. K. Ball but it was then only open to boys. Mrs. Jeff started a similar organisation for girls in 1927 which was then called the Missionary Service League (M.S.L.). Both organisations worked for the Church, at home and overseas lending their support to the Church Missionary Society. When the war came, both organisations closed down because of the difficulties of children coming out in the " Black-out ".

In 1951, the Y.P.U. was reopened just for girls by Mrs. Jeff. They met, as they do now in the Schools on a Monday evening learning about people of other countries and working for the church here and abroad. Many " old girls " remember with pleasure their time in the Y.P.U. and some have returned to become helpers. During Canon Mitchell's time, boys were also able to join and although the members, known as C.M.S. Discoverers are

mainly girls, a small number of boys have continued to join, taking part in all the activities and enjoying them to the full.

The needs of the Missionary Societies have changed considerably over the years and so goods are no longer sent by the Y.P.U. because the money is needed more. At one time the children made little vests and small blankets and other things for children in overseas countries and these were sent for distribution to the C.M.S. Nowadays, the children do a certain amount of handwork for sale at the Christmas Fair and the Missionary Sale and money is raised for the C.M.S. by the performance of a Missionary Play.

The Y.P.U. meets from September to May and during the months towards Christmas, the handwork done by the children to sell is for our own Christmas Fair and so benefits our own church and that done after Christmas is for the Missionary Sale and so benefits the C.M.S. The children give a Nativity Mime in church at Christmas as well as the Missionary Play in the Schools in May and we believe that they learn much by doing these two. Each spring the children share in the C.M.S. Lent Project which takes a certain country or part of a country needing help and support from the C.M.S. They learn about that country, its people, its difficulties and problems and also how they can help them; a film about this is usually shown at one of the meetings and parents and friends are asked to join us. Each meeting opens with a little service and there is a Discoverers' Prayer which is always used and sometimes the children contribute their own prayers. They promise to keep the five aims of the Discoverers at their Admission services which take place from time to time in church. The aims are:

To Pray, To Learn, To Work, To Give and To Interest others in the work.

The Y.P.U. is a very happy group; the children play many games, learn simple cookery and handwork for their own pleasure, act charades and generally enjoy the friendly if boisterous spirit which is always with us. The season ends each May with an energetic and noisy party. We are so glad that the children keep coming each September as we open our doors to start again.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Several attempts having been made over a period of years to form a branch of the Mothers' Union, the situation in 1943, when so many mothers had husbands in the war, seemed an ideal time at last to achieve success.

In October 1943, after three preliminary meetings, an Admission Service was held in Church, when forty-five became members under the presidency

of Mrs. Jeff. Some of these founder members are still attending S. Paul's. The membership later rose to 150, and today is around 100.

At first, meetings were held monthly in the Church as the Schools were occupied by American troops, but as soon as the war was over and the Schools made usable again, the Branch met fortnightly. The first of many coffee mornings took place at the home of Mrs. Coffey to raise money for the M.U. Banner, which is still in good condition. Picnics soon became an annual event and members had the chance of visiting many cathedrals, Chester, Liverpool, York, Ripon and Coventry. Visits to Stratford-on-Avon and other interesting places were also made.

The Mothers' Union Choir was formed which sings on Mothering Sunday and at other special services. Our Overseas' Link was established in 1951 with Henley Beach, Adelaide, and three times members from Australia have visited Heaton Moor. It is interesting to record that when Nigel, the son of Mrs. Wayne, the present Enrolling Member, went to Adelaide with his lacrosse team, three members from the Linked Branch met the 'plane and presented him with a book about Adelaide and sent good wishes to S. Paul's Branch. On the tenth anniversary in 1953 there was a service in Church at which Canon Mitchell, who was to become the Rector of S. Paul's in 1962, was the preacher. There is a photograph of the two rectors and their wives with Mrs. Wrigley, the oldest member, sitting at the supper table in front of a large two-tiered cake with ten candles! The smaller portion was sent to the Linked Branch.

During the Lambeth Conferences in 1958 and 1968, when the Mothers' Union emphasised their world-wide interests, several members visited London and attended inspiring services in S. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Albert Hall and other large halls.

The Branch was responsible for equipping the Children's Corner and members still arrange the weekly flowers. Later, equipment was bought for the Play Group, which first used to meet in the hut on Thursday afternoons and has now transferred to the Schools. The monthly Prayer Group was formed also at this time. In 1968, on the twenty-fifth anniversary, members from neighbouring churches were invited and now regularly come to special gatherings.

Space prevents any further remarks but it is a pleasure to say that the Branch continues to be a very happy and live organisation in the parish.

Mrs. Jeff, the first President, served in the diocese as:

Diocesan Overseas' Representative	1951–61
Central Overseas Committee member	1961–64
Diocesan Links' Representative	1967–73
Hon. Life Member of Diocesan Council	1973–75.

S. PAUL'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Y.F. was born during the war years. Older members of the Sunday School and some teachers who had previously been meeting in Church decided to start a new organisation for those not in the Choir or any other Church activity.

The first recorded meeting was Wednesday, October 2nd, 1946, when fifty young members attended with some Church officers. A Committee was elected on which Sheila Bickerton, J. N. Coffey and P. Massey served. The Club was very active and popular and in the Parish Magazine there is continual reference to talks by various interesting people, carol singing, rambles, Bring and Buy Sales (which raised a very noble £70 in the war years). A minimum fifteen year age limit was imposed but the membership still touched the fifty to seventy mark.

Many socials and dances were held, and new Committee members were elected every year. The year was basically September till April/May.

The Reverend A. H. Jeff attended many of the meetings until Mr. and Mrs. Bruce became more involved and took over in May 1950 and the aims of the Youth Fellowship were re-affirmed as Fellowship in Worship, Service and Recreation. The general pattern of events continued, with Brian Hughes now the Treasurer. The opening Social in September 1951 showed a record attendance of ninety. A later Hallowe'en party drew in over seventy-five.

Towards the end of 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce emigrated to Canada and Joe and Marian Scott took over. The Club now entered its third phase and its longest with the same Leaders. Joe and Marian were a little older than the previous leaders which caused some members to wonder . . . . It soon became obvious that the new Leaders were something different. Meetings were now being held on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights. Wednesday was generally spent on play rehearsals, debates, talks, or visits to other Dramatic Societies. Friday was recreation night, and Sunday evenings were spent at the home of the Scotts. Generally thirty to forty turned up for these Sunday evening chats that are still being talked about.

A new venture also started—the band! Drums, clarinet, trumpet and piano. A show was put on for Nab Top Sanatorium in Marple and was an outstanding success. Easter plays were put on with the Y.P.U. and plays were also a regular feature of the Christmas Fair. Talks, socials, rambles, works visits continued and, more naturally, many members of the Youth Fellowship finally paired off and " a marriage was arranged ". Membership was in the seventies and the main highlight of the year soon became the holidays on the Thames. About twelve members generally went and talked about it for the rest of the year! In May 1954 the attendance at socials had risen to 125. Plays were still being put on and in October 1954 *The Paragon* was performed in aid of the Organ Fund. Members were all members of the Church or personal friends and Sunday evening chats were always held after Evensong. 1951 soon turned into '61, '62 and '63 and so, after eleven years, Joe and Marian retired as Leaders. The numbers started dropping.

In August 1964 an attempt was made to start the Fellowship moving again. Canon Mitchell enlisted Mike Sisson, and a fourth era started. This was the age of the Beatles, the age of sing and shout, a teenage revolution. It was agreed the new look should allow the Club (now the Youth Club) to become open, the philosophy being to help all Youth, not a selected few from one walk of life, to get together and find companionship in a Church organisation. The new look was something completely different. Youth was pop music and long hair; often talked about and often misunderstood.

The usual pattern of talks and discussions was tried and failed as being out of date. There was still the always popular table tennis, billiards and darts. Some rambles and one memorable charity walk, twenty-two miles from Buxton to S. Paul's, raised £70 from over thirty members. David Salvage and Bill Armstrong assisted and the numbers grew and grew. The Club ventured into Drama and twice entered the Stockport Youth Play Festival. A good time was had by all and the numbers kept growing. Within a few years the membership exceeded 250 and was well on its way to 300. The only period during which the Club was closed was for four weeks in summer. Exuberance accounted for the odd window but the income was putting over £200 per annum into Church funds.

It was obvious the Club would have to find alternative accommodation or explode. The Local Authority became very interested and realised the need for more meeting places for the teenager. Without these outlets Youth would generally be on the streets.

The Club was closed for a " breather " in 1969 to allow things to settle down and to allow the Local Authority club to start in H.M. Primary School. When opened a month later the membership had dropped dramatically and the snowball went into reverse. The five years produced a batch of marriages, many happy memories for many people, and the close in September 1969 of another era.

The Reverend E. N. Taylor had now taken over and in September 1972 the Club started again with the assistance of Bert Lewis. Club night was now Sunday and numbers crept up again to the forties. The emphasis came back on to sports and with Linda Jenyon and Judith Higginbottom a new Committee was formed. Early in 1974 David Williams took over and added more activities. Works visits, the Air Display, the Duke of Edinburgh award and snorkelling are all now on the menu, plus a keen Badminton section. The Club is alive and well and rolling on towards another twenty-nine years. What new names, sports and adventures are in store for tomorrow's adults?

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On March 29th, 1963, in response to Mrs. Mitchell's open invitation, ten ladies met at the Rectory to discuss the need for, and possibility of inaugurating, a parochial fellowship for women. It had been felt for some time that such an organisation might attract those who did not come within the scope of the Mothers' Union but who could nevertheless appreciate an opportunity of meeting together periodically. It could help to restore to the Church's fellowship some who—often for very good reasons—had for a time been unable to join in the various activities and now felt a little " out of it ". At the same time it would provide a meeting ground where members' friends, or newcomers to the district, would find a welcome.

Since its inauguration the Fellowship has appeared to meet a real need. Membership has always been around the forty mark but since it was decided at the outset not to have any membership subscription but merely to pay for a cup of tea and a biscuit at meetings, many have felt free to come just when they would and to bring friends along who might not be so closely connected with S. Paul's.

At the beginning it was decided that meetings would be " either serious or entertaining " and a balance has always been kept between the two. Some excellent speakers, both men and women, have been heard over the years on many topics including social, welfare and charitable work of various kinds; also women's work on the Bench and in higher Courts, in Nursing, W.R.V.S., Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance, etc. Each Lent one or more

devotional evenings have always been arranged. On the lighter side, travel talks with colour slides never fail to provide an enjoyable and relaxing evening. This is true also of the purely social occasions such as the annual Christmas Party and the summer coach and garden parties.

Members have always been willing to help other organisations when asked to do so, and co-operation with the Mothers' Union has happily grown with the passing years until now it is understood that they are welcome at our meetings and we at theirs, to our mutual benefit as our activities are frequently complementary. The Bathroom Stall, provided and staffed by the Fellowship, has become an institution at the Christmas Fair and gives everyone the opportunity of helping the Church and at the same time enjoying the experience of working together.

Though comparatively small in numbers, the Women's Fellowship should always have a part to play so long as it lives up to its title and truly offers the spirit of fellowship to all-comers.

The Parish Magazine

The magazine has a circulation of 450 and its price is 8p. It has been published continuously since the days of the first rector and forms a valuable record of events. Bound copies are available in Stockport library and are most useful to students of local history.

Over the years, not only has the magazine been a calendar of forthcoming events, but each month has contained a personal message for the congregation from the rector. During the last two Interregna it was the means of bringing up-to-date information to the parishioners. Important occasions, too, have been reported in it, written by members of the church. For instance, on three occasions, the farewell to the rector at the close of his ministry has been recorded.

The magazine is delivered to the house by a willing band of distributors and it is hoped that members will purchase their copies and keep themselves informed of the work done in parish and diocese as every copy contains the diocesan inset, *Crux*.

Church Accounts

As we approach our Centenary Year, mounting costs have posed many problems to all Churches in the land and we here in Heaton Moor have not been immune from these problems. In 1950 heating and lighting cost £223, but in 1974 the cost had risen to £1,243; during the same period our contribution to the Diocesan Levy had increased from £65 to £659 and unfortunately these items of expenditure continue to rise. On a more cheerful note, our income has progressively improved over the years—£1,300 (1950), £6,440 (1974)—indicating that our parishioners have responded to the challenge during the past twenty-five years.

Various items of expenditure arose during the same period. In 1951 Chancel improvement scheme £475 and internal cleaning of the Church £356, followed by a major overhaul and rebuilding of the organ in 1953–55 at a cost of nearly £7,000. The Church and Schools were completely redecorated and repairs to stonework around the East Window undertaken in 1965, the cost being £3,000. The Garden of Remembrance was also completed during 1965 (£203) and repairs to the Tower cost £323 in 1969. A number of efforts and appeals enabled us to raise the necessary money to meet these extraordinary items of expense and " Bridging Loans " (interest-free) were kindly provided on two occasions, by the parishioners, during the rebuilding of the organ and more recently the modernisation of the Rectory in 1971.

It should be noted that over the years the Accounts have been kept by the Churchwardens, acting as treasurers. In this capacity Mr. Hughes, who has been a Churchwarden for thirty-seven years, has been directly responsible for the Accounts for nearly thirty years.

We go forward to 1976–77 believing that we will continue to " pay our way " and ensure that the lovely Church which we in turn inherited from former members of the congregation will remain a heritage for a very long time.

St. Paul's Church.
Heaton Moor.

Consecration.

Thursday, January 25th 1877.

Morning: Manchester, Bishop, £ 227 s 15 d 1

Communicants 61.

Evening: Thomas H. Cross. LLB. 21 . 15 . 6

Vicar of Sandiews Southport & Preb: of Conspect.

Sunday, January 28.

Morning: Richard Shepherd. 3 . 15 . 8½

Evening: R. Holgate Brown Boxes 5 . 19 . 3 6½

Communicants 9.

Wednesday, Jan: 31.

Evening: Jas. McGranowick. 2 . 12 . 9½

£ 261 . 18 . 10½

The above Collections are for the Endowment Fund and the debt.

A page from the first Service Book

The Rectors

RICHARD SHEPHERD

Student of St. Bees' Theological College, Cumberland.

Ordained Deacon, 1866, and Priest, 1867, by Bishop Prince Lee, of Manchester. Curate successively in Preston, Ripon and London; Resident minister of Heaton Moor, 1873; Rector of S. Paul's, Heaton Moor, 1877–89.

Retired 1889. Died 1889.

WILLIAM HANBURY SMARTT

Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Divinity, of Trinity College, Dublin.

Ordained Deacon, 1877, and Priest, 1878, by the Bishop of Limerick. Curate of Tralee, Co. Kerry, 1877–84; Curate of S. George's, Chorley, 1885–89; Rector of S. Paul's, Heaton Moor, 1889—1924; Rural Dean of Ardwick, 1907–12; Rural Dean of Heaton, 1912–24; Honorary Canon Manchester, 1918.

Retired 1924. Died 1934.

ALFRED HENRY JEFF

Master of Arts of the University of Cambridge (Fitzwilliam Hall). Theological student of Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

Ordained Deacon, 1912, and Priest, 1913, by the Bishop of Manchester. Curate of S. Thomas's, Blackburn, 1912–14; Curate of S. James', Higher Broughton, 1914–18; Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 1916–18; Vicar of Tunstead, 1918–24; Rector of S. Paul's, Heaton Moor, 1924–62; Honorary Canon of Manchester, 1958.

Retired 1962. Died 1966.

STANLEY MITCHELL

Student of Egerton Hall, Manchester, 1933.

Ordained Deacon, 1935, and Priest, 1936; by the Bishop of Manchester. Curate of S. Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme, 1935–38; Curate of All Saints', Elton, Bury, 1938–40; Vicar of Crawshawbooth, 1940–48; Vicar of S. Luke the Physician, Benchill, 1948–62; Honorary Canon of Manchester, 1957; Rector of S. Paul's, Heaton Moor, 1962–71; Rural Dean of Heaton, 1965. Retired 1971. Canon Emeritus, 1971.

EDWIN NORMAN TAYLOR

Master of Arts of the University of Oxford (Trinity College). Theological student of Ripon Hall, Oxford.

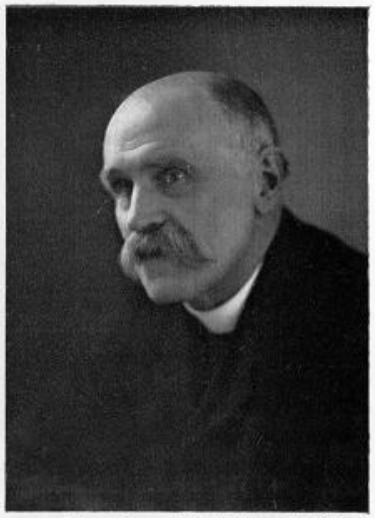
Ordained Deacon 1951, and Priest 1952, by the Bishop of Manchester. Curate of S. Luke the Physician, Benchill 1951–55; Vicar of S. Mary, High Crompton, 1955–59; Vicar of S. Thomas's, Radcliffe, 1959–71; Rector of S. Paul's, Heaton Moor and Rural Dean of Heaton, 1971; Honorary Canon of Manchester, 1975.

Trustees of the Patronage

January 17th, 1876 Statutory Agreement.	Bishop Fraser. Rev. E. D. Jackson. Hon. Wilbraham Egerton (Second baron 1883). William Henry Houldsworth. Matthew Curtis.
January 25th, 1889 By Deed.	Bishop Moorhouse. Rt. Hon. Wilbraham, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Sir William Henry Houldsworth, Bart. Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton. Robert Ashburn Edgar.
September 15th, 1909 By Deed.	Sir William Henry Houldsworth, Bart. Baron Egerton (Alan de Tatton Egerton). Bishop Knox. Robert Ashburn Edgar. Hon. Maurice Egerton.
March 29th, 1921 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Robert Ashburn Edgar. Bishop Temple. Joseph Duckworth. James Norcross.
January 29th, 1924 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Robert Ashburn Edgar. Bishop Temple. Joseph Duckworth. Samuel Josiah Bradwell.
June 27th, 1924 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Bishop Temple. Joseph Duckworth. Samuel Josiah Bradwell. Walter Brownsword, M.B.E.
December 24th, 1931 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Bishop Guy Warman. Walter Brownsword, M.B.E. Roger Neale Carter. Frank Tacon.

June 5th, 1945 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Bishop Guy Warman. Walter Brownsword, M.B.E. Frank Tacon. Selkirk Chapman.
October 18th, 1948 Appointment.	Bishop William Greer.
September 20th, 1950 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Bishop William Greer. Walter Brownsword, M.B.E. Selkirk Chapman. John Idris Hughes.
April 30th, 1956 By Deed.	Maurice, Baron Egerton of Tatton. Bishop William Greer. Selkirk Chapman. John Idris Hughes. William Roger Carter.
May 1st, 1958 By Deed.	Bishop William Greer. Selkirk Chapman. John Idris Hughes. William Roger Carter. Canon Hedley Hodkin.
July 12th, 1971 By Deed.	Selkirk Chapman. John Idris Hughes. William Roger Carter. Bishop Patrick Rodger.

Rev. R. Shepherd



Rev. Canon W. H. Smartt, B.D.

Rev. Canon A. H. Jeff, M.A.

Rev. Canon S. Mitchell

By courtesy of The Stockport Express Ltd.

Presentation to Mr. J. I. Hughes in recognition of twenty-five years as Churchwarden

A new generation

Churchwardens

	Rector's Warden	*People's Warden*
1876–78	William Messenger	Thomas T. Shann
1879	William Messenger	Henry Brownsword
1880–81	Henry McNiel	J. R. A. Smith
1882	Henry McNiel	J. M. Taylor
1883–84	Henry McNiel	James Hurst
1885	T. T. Shann	M. Spencer
1886–87	T. T. Shann	F. W. Jordan
1888–89	J. Harcombe	F. Hood
1890	William Messenger	F. W. Jordan
1891–92	Robert Scholes	A. W. Reynolds
1893–95	C. T. Smith	A. Hilton
1896	Alfred Baynton	H. Robson
1897—1900	Alfred Baynton	John Stones
1901–05	A. Hilton	John Stones
1906–07	J. T. Wainwright	John Stones
1908–11	J. T. Wainwright	Frank A. Ward
1912–18	E. L. Estill	Frank A. Ward
1919–23	E. L. Estill	J. H. Judd
1924–28	E. L. Estill	C. Newton Pratt
1929–30	E. L. Estill	J. H. Clay
1931–38	J. E. Simpson	J. H. Clay
1939–40	J. E. Simpson	J. I. Hughes
1941–42	H. Driver	J. I. Hughes
1943–44	C. Gattie	J. I. Hughes
1945–49	J. F. W. Ravenhill	J. I. Hughes
1950–53	F. B. Robertson	J. I. Hughes
1954–55	R. E. Bishop	J. I. Hughes
1956–69	F. B. Robertson	J. I. Hughes
1970–	J. I. Hughes	J. H. Dickens

Christian Teaching

Canon Smartt's sermon (S. Matt. 13, v. 27)

Evening Service 1907.

The Rector discussed the existence of evil in the world. There was no satisfactory solution forthcoming why it should exist at all, nevertheless, it had always been present. There were two ways of viewing its presence; the indifferent standpoint of indulgence and self-seeking and the serious standpoint from which the Christian looked with hope towards an ultimate solution, striving to conquer it. Life to this type of person would ever be a battle, the only peace being that which came from within and resulted in choosing the right path whenever two courses offered themselves. The power of choice was a great gift possessed by man.

Canon Jeff's sermon (S. John 21, v. 22)

June 1962.

" Follow thou me " was the first word Jesus spoke to Peter. He spoke it again when Peter's training was half-way through and it was our Lord's last word to him.

Our Lord's first words to Peter called for his personal allegiance. The effect of his first interview with Jesus would work in his heart. He listens to Christ preaching the word of God from his own boat and then sees Christ's power displayed in his own trade as a fisherman, in the miraculous draught of fishes; feels his own unworthiness in the presence of one so great. His mind was made up; he left all and followed Jesus. So the fisherman was turned

into a disciple . . . . So S. Peter, who became one of the greatest and gentlest Christian characters, learnt to follow his master truly, even to martyrdom and death.

In the life of Peter we may see much of our own—good intentions, weakness and fears and perhaps at times, denial. Well for us if at every stage of the road we hear the master's word, " Follow thou me ".

Canon Mitchell's letter in the magazine, August 1964. (Gal. 5, v. 22)

There are many beautiful gardens in Heaton Moor. Summer is the time when we enjoy them. A well-kept garden involves a lot of planning and hard work. Beds must be prepared, plants chosen and ordered, grass cut, trees and shrubs pruned. Then, and only then, we have a garden we can enjoy and into which we are proud to take our friends. So it is with life. It must be planned, it must be prepared and planted with the right thoughts and activities. Many gardens are neglected and so are many lives, they are untidy, full of weeds. In a planned life the fruits of the spirit make life worthwhile; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control. If you say them over to yourself they sound like flowers, one is even conscious of the scent of them. Let your garden speak to you of life.

Canon Taylor

A prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr quoted frequently in sermons and used in prayers.

O God, give us
Serenity to accept what cannot be changed
Courage to change what should be changed
And wisdom to know the difference
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*