

the  
centenary  
of the  
consecration  
of

June 30<sup>th</sup>

All Souls' Church  
Bolton

1881



1981

a short history

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**a short history**

**of**

**All Souls' Church  
Bolton**

## A FOREWORD FROM THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending warm greetings and congratulations to the congregation and parish of All Souls with St. James on the occasion of your centenary.

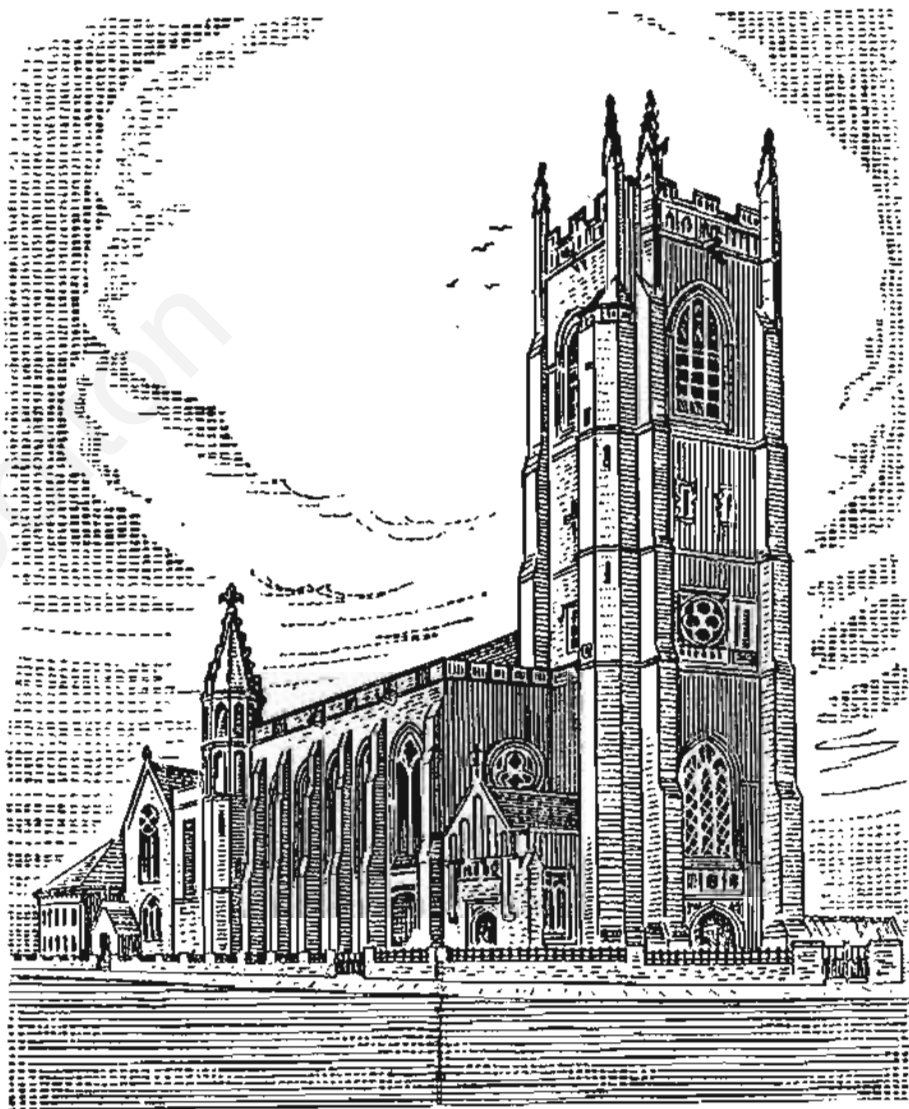
1881, when the Church was consecrated, seems a very long time ago, and indeed it was a different world in the year that Disraeli died. Your Church was built as a witness to the love of God in Christ to a growing population who worked in the cotton mills around, and who lived in those long streets which we know so well from the old photographs. It has been served for 100 years by a succession of hard working pastors and keen lay people.

Now much has changed. Most of the mills have gone, and we are all concerned about unemployment. Bolton's streets have also seen sweeping changes, some for the better and some (according to your point of view) for worse. But the purpose of All Souls remains the same, and we must all remember that the Church is not really the building, but people - people committed to trying to follow our Lord and showing his love to others.

The Church needs the full support of many in order to do its work effectively - to maintain our worship of God, our witness to others of what the love of God means, and our service to the community around - regardless of the colour of their skins or their religious traditions. We need people who are committed to give of their time and money.

So, I hope that your Centenary year will make many who read this booklet think of the importance of Christian witness in these days, and do all that they can to ensure that All Souls has a splendid future as well as a worthy past.

S.E.F. BOOTH-CLIBBORN



All Souls, Bolton.

## AN INTRODUCTION BY THE VICAR

The occasion of the Centenary of All Souls' Church will evoke many memories of the past in the minds of many parishioners. No doubt many will remember with much nostalgia the great moments and events in which they participated. For happy memories of times past there will be much thanksgiving.

Recalling the history of the Church leads us on to comparing the past with the present. Each age - and not least our own - has its own particular difficulties and challenges, and the faithful, patient manner in which each deals with its own situation leaves a legacy for future generations to build.

We of the present generation look back on the past with thanksgiving and look forward to the future with hope. We trust that the legacy we leave for the generation yet to come, is one that is marked with praise for God, adoration for our Blessed Lord, and faithful service to His Kingdom in the power of the Holy Spirit.

To the praise and glory of His Holy Name we dedicate ourselves anew.

John Chapman

It must have been a very exciting time on that Thursday, 100 years ago, when Dr. Fraser (the Bishop of Manchester) came to Bolton to consecrate our beloved Church, and what pictures we have in our minds of what it must have been like. Imagine no further, the following is a full description of what it was really like. Note too, the weather behaved traditionally - it rained!

#### CONSECRATION OF ALL SOULS' CHURCH Taken from the Bolton Chronicle of July 2nd, 1881

The new church of All Souls', Astley Street, which will take a large part in the spiritual improvement of a rising portion of the Borough, was consecrated on Thursday by the Rt. Reverend the Lord Bishop of Manchester in the presence of a large body of local clergymen and people.

All Souls' Church and Schools have been established and completed most satisfactorily by Thomas Greenhalgh of Thornydykes, Sharples, from means bequeathed to him by his late brother, Nathaniel, of the same address, who died on February 14th, 1877 and who was, for many years, engaged in the cotton spinning industry in Halliwell, and, with his family, had been ardently attached to the Church of England, and was very desirous to promote the spiritual and moral welfare of the poorer classes around him.

Nathaniel Greenhalgh, however, died rather suddenly, but his brother Thomas, knowing of his brother's thoughts and ambitions, determined to raise, from the bequests made to him by his brother, the Church and Schools of All Souls on their present site, which he had purchased some years previously.

We believe that Thomas Greenhalgh, in pursuance of his brother's aims, proposes to construct another Church and School near Pikes Lane. (This was, of course, the Saviour's Church on Deane Road, Ed.)

#### DEDICATION

When Thomas Greenhalgh had purchased the site he also decided upon the dedication of the Church and Schools. All Souls' Schools were erected first, these being commenced in the spring of 1877. They were built from the plans of Mr. J.J. Bradshaw of this town.

The building of the Church commenced in the autumn of 1878, and, as in the case of the Schools, in a most unostentatious manner and as speedily as its substantial character and splendid proportions would allow. Mr. Greenhalgh took great interest, and rendered valuable assistance in supervising the details, in order to carry out his deceased brother's ideas. The architects were Paley and Austin of Lancaster.

The new Church is of the late decorated period of Gothic architecture. The plan is very simple, consisting of a nave, which is a rectangle 86 feet long and 52 feet clear span, without aisles or arcades, but with a massive tower at the West End 26 feet square, and at the East End a chancel 40 feet long with a polygonal end, and with North and South aisles.

#### NAVE

The chancel opens into the nave with three lofty arches being 36 feet to the highest apex. The main object in the plan has been to secure an unobstructed space as far as possible - the whole church, with the exception of the tower, forming a complete rectangle. The entrances are by a richly molded western door and north porch.

The roof has an unusually wide span (52 feet) and is one of the best features of the Church and will, no doubt, be greatly admired. It is of carved oak of varied design, and semi-groined from the stone wall piers from which the sides of the roof spring. The main walls of the entire structure are of red brick, with Longridge stone dressings outside and Stourton stone dressings inside.

The ground floor of the tower is devoted to a baptistry containing a massive font in yellow Mansfield stone. (Since then a font cover in oak is also utilised which was given by public subscription in 1930, this contains a silver plate stating "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of the Rev. William Popplewell, M.A., first vicar of this parish 1878-1923, Ed).

#### CHANCEL

The chancel floor is white marble, relieved with Dent black marble, diamond shape. (Many years later the baptistry was given a tessellated floor which complements the chancel floor. This was given by J.S. Ainsworth in memory of his wife, Ruth, Ed.) The sacred monogram I.H.S. in raised gilt letters surmounts the reredos and below are the Apostles' Creed, the Decalogue, and the Lord's Prayer done likewise. The pulpit, choir stalls, organ screen, and lectern are all of oak, neatly embellished with carving.

There is no Gallery, and the absence of pillars and arches gives the body of the Church an entirely novel appearance, and the extreme loftiness at once impresses itself to the beholder.

Seats and all other woodwork in the nave are of pitch pine and varnished. All the sittings are free and unappropriated.

## WINDOWS

The east end of the chancel is in the form of an apse, with one large central window and, one on each side, two other similar windows. All these are filled with beautiful rich stained glass. The principal window is in eight compartments, some of them representing incidents and ministrations of Christ upon Earth. The two side windows represent incidents from the Acts of the Apostles. Beneath each window is the appropriate text. At the foot of the large window is the inscription: "This church was erected to the Glory of God and in memory of Nathaniel Greenhalgh, who died February 14th, 1877, aged 61 years".

(The principal window at the west end in the Tower building used also to be of stained glass and depicted the Creation, but due to severe vandalism the remains had to be removed. Another window replaced it which is not of stained glass except the Cross in its upper portion - it is, however, a very pleasant window and allows more light into the Baptistry, Ed).

All the other windows in the Church, except two wheel windows on the west walls, are filled with small glass panes in lead in patterns and these allow much light into the Nave.

In 1887 two more stained glass windows were added. First a window was placed in the south-east wall over the vestry, which bears the inscription: "This window is erected by the congregation of All Souls' Church as a thank-offering to Almighty God for that He put into the hearts of two of his servants to build this house to His Glory and for the spiritual benefit of Thomas who shall worship therein." (This window is based on Corinthians 1-13, Ed.) Mr. Greenhalgh was so pleased with this that he had the north-western window, over the organ, to be placed stating: "This Church is erected to the Glory of God and in memory of Nathaniel Greenhalgh who died February 14th, 1877 aged 61 years." This window depicts David holding the Ark.

## BELLS

An excellent peal of eight bells, founded and fitted in the tower by Messrs. Taylor and Sons, of Loughborough, have been provided for All Souls' Church. The whole weight of the entire peal is 90 cwt. A number of young men connected with the Church and Sunday School have been kindly allowed to learn the campanalogian art upon the bells of the Parish Church in this town and had attained such proficiency as to be able to ring off on the morning of the consecration of the new edifice.

The gas pendants, which form a striking feature in the interior of the Church, consists of 12 coronas, in black and gold, suspended from the longitudinal beams in the ceiling. (These lights have been replaced first by electric flood lighting and secondly by electric light pendants. Other alterations are being considered at the present time, Ed.)

The organ, constructed by Abbots of Leeds, is placed in such a position as to be kept back from the line of arcades, so as not to block up the arches with the pipes and confine the sound. The case is of Dantzig oak in the Gothic style and was designed by the architects Paley and Austin.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Sunday School for boys and girls was also opened on the 21st December, 1879, when there were about 180 scholars in attendance, and this important adjunct to the Church has been conducted with increased usefulness and success since that time. The average attendance is now nearly 600. On the 5th July, 1880, middle-class schools for boys and girls were commenced at All Souls', and this institution is also in a flourishing condition, the number of pupils on the books being at present about 220. One of the schoolrooms, which has hitherto been used as a temporary church, will now be devoted to the purpose of a lecture hall.

## CONSECRATION

The consecration took place on Thursday morning under unfavourable conditions so far as the weather was concerned, rain falling freely for the greater part of the forenoon. Preparatory to the service the church bells rang out cheerfully at intervals, sounding very sweetly and to great advantage, whilst a few banners were displayed from contiguous residences.

The Bishop arrived shortly after eleven, and was at once escorted to the vestry of the church. About 20 minutes past eleven, the clergymen and lay gentlemen processed from the school along Astley Street to the west entrance, the former wearing their surplices and distinguishing hoods. At the head was the Ven. Archdeacon Anson M.A., the Rev. Canon Tonge, M.A., Manchester and Secretary to the Diocesan Societies, and the Rev. Canon Powell M.A., Vicar of Bolton and Rural Dean.

The others present included the Rev. William Popplewell, M.A., vicar of All Souls', the Rev. George Murton, curate of Cromer, Norfolk and nephew of Mr. Greenhalgh, and 24 other clergymen. The lay gentlemen present included Thomas Greenhalgh, Esq., T.L. Rushton, Esq., J.P., W. Nicholson, Esq., J.P., W. Tristram, Esq., Thomas Thwaites, Esq., Lewis Murton, Esq., (Birkdale), Henry Murton, Esq., T.W. Hewitt, Esq., Captain G. Hesketh, Captain Tristram; Messrs. J.B. Wareing and G.A. Clegg, churchwardens, and Messrs. T. Hilton, A. Holt, A. Whitehead, J. Bleakley, and W. Forrest, sidesmen of All Souls'. The Rev. G. Williams, pastor of the Baptist Chapel, Astley Bridge, was also present.

The church was completely filled as the Bishop received the procession at the west door, where Mr. Thomas Greenhalgh presented to him the formal petition praying him to consecrate the Church. The Bishop immediately intimated that he had read the petition and acceded to its prayer. The Bishop and clergy then processed up through the centre of the nave to the chancel, whilst the 24th Psalm was chanted by the clergy and choir.

From his position at the Altar the Bishop immediately proceeded with the preliminary part of the service, which was impressively gone through. The shortened form of the Mattins succeeded; the first lesson, St. John 17, being read by the Rev. George Murton. The prayers were said by the Vicar of All Souls' and the Rev. Canon Powell, Vicar of Bolton, read the epistle of the day, Ephesians 2-13, and the Ven. Archdeacon Anson and the Rev. Canon Tonge also took part in the service. One of the most interesting features was the musical part: the organ was heard to good advantage, especially in the Te Deum and in the hymns which consisted of the well known "The Church's One Foundation" and "O God, who lovest to abide".

The deed of consecration, read by J. Burder, Esq., the Bishop's Secretary, recited the object in view by the erection of the Church was to meet the wants of a largely increasing population. The total cost of the Church was £20,000 and would be designated "All Souls' Church, Bolton-le-Moors".

### SERMON

The Bishop took for his text Luke 21, 6, "Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth".

"From time to time," he said, "In the chequered history of the Church, they found how men's hearts failed them with fear and how they thought that the end of the world had come because there were wars and rumours of wars and disaster by sea and land". But the Bishop also hoped that in the hearts of those who loved Christ there was growing an increasing purpose to make His Church more and more answer its great purpose, which was to convert and win souls for Christ.

At the present time the Church of England had opportunities such as it had never had before. He asked the laity and clergy were they rising in their hearts and consciences to an adequate conception of that. They must not think that because the Church of All Souls' had been built and endowed, and because it was fair in its proportions - and beautifully fair to the taste - that the work had been done. It was but just beginning. They all - clergy and people - ought to be embarked on one great cause, and there was nothing that ought to gladden their hearts so much as when men came willingly forward to offer themselves in the service of God.

### THE LUNCHEON

A luncheon, in school, followed the service - for about 200 people. Not only was the repast excellent itself, but the attractiveness of the room was enhanced by a number of bannerettes and a variety of foliage plants.

Following the meal there were several toasts: Mr. Greenhalgh proposed the Queen; the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal family; Ald. T.L. Rushton proposed the Bishop and clergy of the Diocese; the Rev. A. Birley, Vicar of Bolton-le-Sands proposed the architects of the Church; Messrs. Paley and Austlin and also Mr. J.J. Bradshaw, architect of the Schools; Capt. George Hesketh proposed the health of the Vicar of All Souls'; the Ven. Archdeacon Anson proposed the health of the trustees of All Souls'; and the Bishop proposed the health of the Chairman, Mr. Thomas Greenhalgh.

In replying to the toast to him Mr. Greenhalgh said that the occasion was a great incident in his life, and one he had anxiously looked forward to for several years. The idea of that scheme was long the subject of conversation between him and his brother. He had bought the land seven years ago when the population was rapidly increasing and building land was being quickly absorbed.

Eventually, came the opportunity to carry out the noble scheme. It was almost useless for him to state that it had been purely and entirely a labour of love. Had it not been that he could not have done what he had done. He had had the advice of numerous friends - his Lordship on one side and his friend Mr. Ruston and others, on the other side. He took no credit for himself in the matter beyond being the servant of God; he had only done his duty; nothing more, and he wished for no further reward beyond being the Servant of God.

### DESIGNATION

The designation of the Church was his own suggestion. The title of All Souls' was new in the locality, and there were but few churches so called in the country; but as the style of architecture and internal arrangements were of a new character he thought that its title ought also to be new. All the seats were free and unappropriated. (In churches those days, worshippers were allowed to sit in their own private pews which they rented from the Church - the poor people who could not afford to do this were pushed into the background. Free and unappropriated pews throughout a church were then almost unheard of. Ed.) That was a point he and his brother often talked about, and agreeably their wishes had been carried out. He was very happy and contented.

### EVENING SERVICES

Following the luncheon a service was held in Church in the evening, again it was full to its capacity, indeed, in order to afford sufficient sitting accommodation, forms had to be placed down the aisles.

The prayers were read by the Rev. William Popplewell, M.A., vicar, and the Rev. G. Murton, vicar and Rural Dean of Bolton.

The Bishop, who again occupied the pulpit, took for his text part of the 14th verse of the 12th chapter II Corinthians: "I seek not yours but you". He told the congregation this evening service had been arranged because it was known that at the main Consecration Service in the morning many people could not be present by reason of their occupation.

## FROM THE PAST

He hoped that the 30th June, 1881, would be remembered in that neighbourhood as a day on which that beautiful House of God was set apart by a liberal minded Christian man for the benefit of God's Christian people within the new parish of All Souls'. The founder's object was to build a church which should be specially useful to the people among whom it was planted.

Mr. Greenhalgh had said he wished the church to be one in which everybody could see and hear, and he wished it to be a church in which there would be no uncomfortable draughts to send people away with colds. (Those last words will, no doubt, raise a few little chuckles, Ed.)

The Bishop proceeded and said that in too many cases people seemed to stand aloof from our churches, and the problem was, how were they, as a church, to get at the heart and affection of the people of this land? The question might also be asked why did they wish to see larger congregations?

The answer was because they trusted that if they did their duty they would win even more souls. They did not want their money so much as their hearts and hands to help them on in every good work. They wanted them in order to teach one another that they must love their God, and serve him, and that they should do to their neighbours as they would have them do unto themselves.

In conclusion, his Lordship exhorted his hearers to lead Godly lives, so that they might be prepared to meet God when he called them to account.

\* \* \* \* \*

### LIST OF INCUMBENTS

The Rev. William Popplewell	1878 - 1923
The Rev. J. Hill Marlin	1923 - 1928
The Rev. Alfred B. Harris	1928 - 1934
The Rev. G.A. Harper	1934 - 1943
The Rev. Wm. Ratcliffe	1943 - 1947
The Rev. Robt. R. Wilson	1947 - 1950
The Rev. A.T. Richards	1951 - 1961
The Rev. K. Newton	1961 - 1964
The Rev. B.H. Kelly	1964 - 1973
The Rev. G.N. Higham	1973 - 1978
The Rev. J. Chapman	1978 -

### CURATES

Rev.J.H.Barnett, June 1884-June 1886	Rev.T.W.Allen, May 1905-June 1906
Rev.F.D.Brookes, Oct 1886-Aug 1887	Rev.P.B.Jackson, Jun 1907-Nov 1914
Rev.J.H.Wolfenden Feb 1888-May 1890	Rev.J.R.Armitage Oct 1915-Feb 1918
Rev.C.Heaton, Oct 1890-Oct 1892	Rev.A.Robinson, Jun 1930-May 1934
Rev.G.Matthews, Apr 1893-Feb 1895	Rev. L. Morley, Oct 1937-Apr 1940
Rev.J.D.Woodhall, Jun 1895-Mar 1903	Rev.R.Ladds, Sept 1962-Dec 1969
Rev. G.R.Davies, May 1903-April 1905	

Before the Parochial Church Councils' Act of 1919 the administration of the Church was carried out by what was known as the Vestry. This was composed in law, of persons who were rated for the relief of the poor in the Parish, but, in practice it was usually composed of the Vicar, the Churchwardens and Sidesmen. The following is an example which was probably the first meeting of its kind ever to take place at All Souls'.

### MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 29th 1882

The Rev. W. Popplewell, M.A., was in the Chair. A meeting of the Vestry was held on this date to consider the advisability of engaging assistance for the Vicar in the work of the Parish, either in the form of a Curate or Scripture Reader.

Moved by Mr. Crook, seconded by Mr. Mather and supported by Mr. Hiton and carried unanimously that Mr. March be appointed Secretary. Moved by Mr. Forrest and seconded by Mr. Hiton that Mr. I.H. Rostron be Assistant Secretary.

A sub-committee was formed consisting of the Vestry, the whole of the Sunday School teachers and certain members of the congregation, with power to add to their numbers, to carry on and further the above object.

Signed, W. Popplewell

### THE FIRST PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, APRIL 13 1920

The Vestry had now lost much of its power through the Parochial Church Councils' Act of 1919, and following are the minutes of the first Parochial Church Meeting, held annually, and which was formed to elect the members of the Parochial Church Council for the coming year. Affairs were now of a more democratic nature, and became even more so by the introduction of the Synodical Government Act of 1969 when the Vestry meetings were dispensed with.

The Vicar, the Rev. William Popplewell, M.A., was in the Chair. It was resolved that the Parochial Church Council be composed of 38 elected members. The following were then elected: Mrs. Archer, Mrs. Chase, Sister Farnsworth, Miss E. Kay, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Lancaster, Miss B. Popplewell, Miss Rylands, Mrs. E. Thornley, Mrs. White, Miss Willis, Miss Williams, Mrs. Hargreaves, Mrs. A. Kay, Mrs. T. Archer, Mr. J. Collier, Mr. W. Fletcher, Mr. F. Hampson, Mr. N. Jones, Mr. F. Knowles, Mr. J.A. Margerison, Mr. Markland, Mr. H.E. Norris, Mr. J. Parr, Mr. J. Partington, Mr. A. Pollit, Mr. A. Shepherd, Mr. C.W. Stones, Mr. A. Trett, Mr. J. Turner, Mr. G. Watson, Mr. F. Williams, Mr. J. Woods, Mr. P. Entwistle and Mr. J. Norris.

The Rural Decanal Conference Representatives were: Mr. H. Norris and Mr. C.W. Stones. The Diocesan Representatives were: Miss B. Popplewell and Mr. R. Lord. It was also agreed that Sidesmen be elected from the members of that body.

On a general discussion on Parochial matters it was recommended to the Council, at its first meeting should consider the wage of the Apparitor, and the Wardens be asked to present a statement showing approximately the amount earned by way of 'extras'.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the singing of the Doxology and the Blessing pronounced by the Vicar.

Signed, W. Popplewell, April 5th, 1921

#### THE FIRST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 27th 1920

The Rev. W. Popplewell in the Chair.

The following were elected:

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Lord

Secretary: Mr. George Watson

Treasurers: Mr. R. Lord and Mr. J.S. Ainsworth

Sidesmen: Messrs. T. Archer, F. Hampson, N. Jones, F. Knowles, J.W. Kay, H.E. Norris, J. Partington, C.W. Stones, J. Turner, A.R. Trett, F. Williams, and J. Woods.

Procedure of Meetings: It was decided that a quorum should be nine and that meetings should be held once a month - the first Tuesday in each month, and that notice should be given in all departments of School and Church the Sunday before the meeting.

The Apparitor's wage was again brought up and after much discussion was again left over to the next meeting, a motion being made that if any advance was given it should date back.

Mr. Stones, cricket club, and Mr. Trett for the Tennis, made applications for the loan of crockery for use on the Rec. field. It was decided to loan the crockery, and two persons on each committee should stand responsible.

The Council objected to waxing the floor for dancing (Lecture Hall) as unnecessary and dangerous to children and old people, and it was decided that the offenders should suffer.

Signed, R. Lord, June 8th, 1920

(To the curious regarding the Apparitor's wage, it was eventually fixed at 10/- extra per week. Ed.)

It is perhaps worthy of note that among the people elected to the first Parochial Church Council, was a lady who, as a baby, was the first to be baptised in All Souls' Church.

#### THE OPIUM OF THE PEOPLE

Some years ago on TV., Adam Faith told the Archbishop of Canterbury that the Church was out of touch with the working class. The Archbishop seemed to agree that this might have been true twenty years ago.

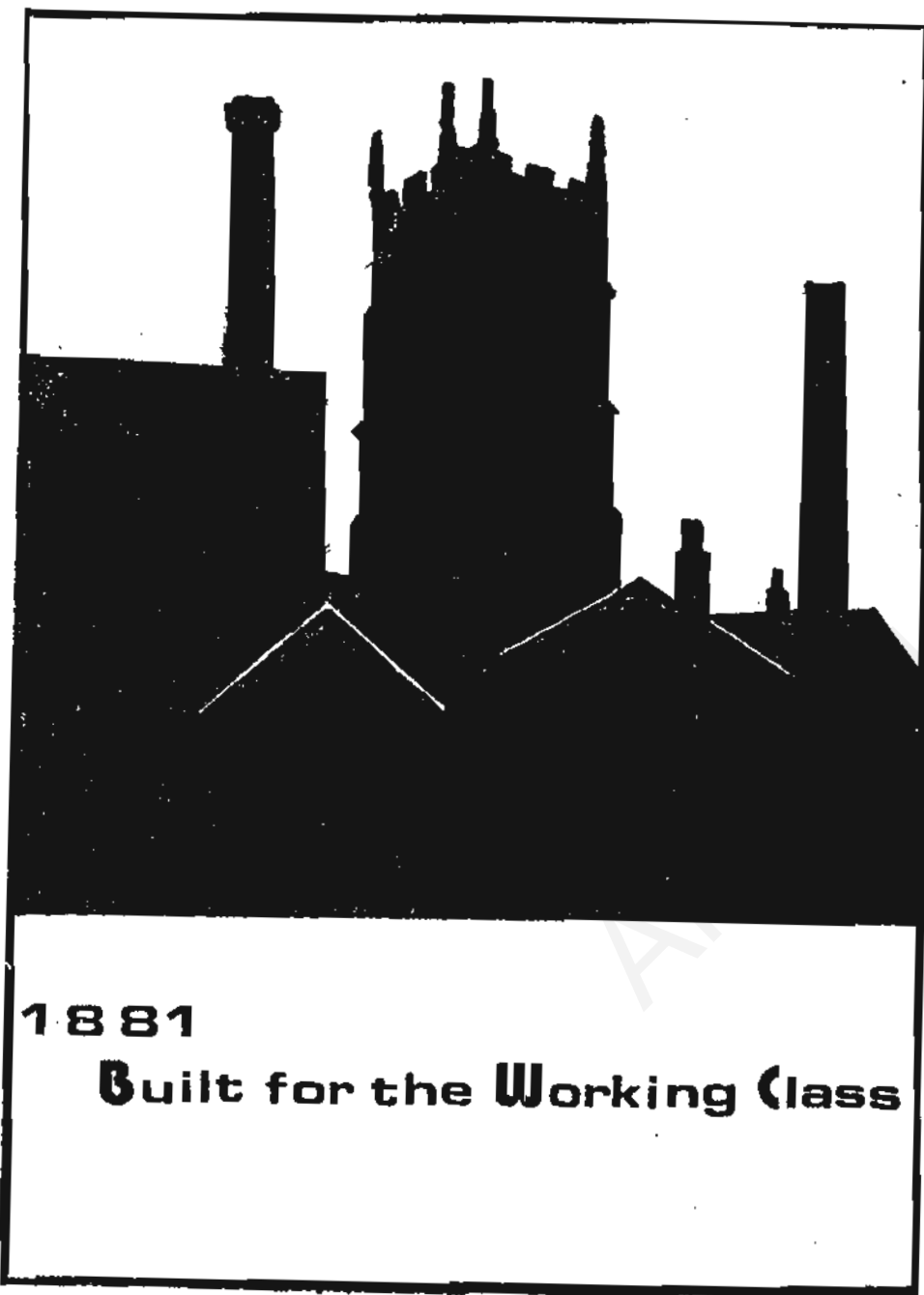
It certainly wasn't true in the parish of All Souls', Bolton seventy years ago. As we did not then have industrial chaplains taking the Church to the worker, the workers went to Church, and Sunday School. The Church and Sunday School and the North End Mill (now demolished), all of generous proportions, towered over the hub of the long rows of two-up-and-two-down which spoked out to the parochial boundaries. You would be hard put to find a dozen parishioners you could call middle class and that would include the Vicar himself, the doctor, a clerk or two, and perhaps a mill overlooker, or under-manager whose class status would be doubtful.

Six days a week most of the other parishioners over the age of twelve scoured the flag pavements with their iron clad clogs as they hurried to mule, loom or foundry floor before the six o'clock buzzer sounded. They returned home well after sunset in winter and not much before it in summer. But on the seventh day they polished the pavements with their leather soles and rubber heels. They would be no more likely to go to church in clogs than a Moslem would go to his Mosque in shoes.

No one did more polishing than old Bob. His bare feet had polished the oily floorboards, as he walked between a pair of mules which had spun fine Egyptian cotton yarns for fifty six hours a week for almost as many years. On Sunday he polished his boots till they looked like patent leather. His bald head looked like ivory. His linen collar and dickey had a shining whiteness produced by wifely care and attention with soap and water, starch and iron. His chin and cheeks had been scraped with his cut-throat razor till they were as smooth as a baby's. Then, dressed in his well cared for black suit he would tread the path where no primrose or even a privet grew, to early morning Communion, back for breakfast, then to morning Sunday School and Mattins, home for dinner, then to afternoon Sunday School, home for tea and then to Evensong.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for most of us was almost as compulsory as day school. There was a Sunday School of about 200 boys and a similar one for girls. There were others for babies up to five years, young ladies' and young mens', separate, not co-ed of course, the mother's class and the men's class about 30 to 50 strong. Mothers were excused morning attendance to attend to the Sunday joint or the lobscouse, or the suet dumpling broth according to the state of the wage packet on the previous Friday.



The polishing of Bob's person and clothing was an outward sign of his inward pride in his superintendency over the boy's Sunday School. But he disdained to polish his speech. He had a rich, Lancashire accent and to hear him say the Lord's Prayer in the 'vulgar' tongue was a rare example of simple dignity. We older boys who had just passed our scholarship exams for the Secondary (not modern) School and were trying to lose our accents before going there, might titter as he would say "Neh lads, shut your een and look this way" previous to prayers, or, when he announced the hymn, "Onward Christian Sowdgers". And when most of the young men's class and even a few of the boy's school had marched to war in Flanders and the Dardanelles he would say with genuine emotion "Let's prey for our sowdgers, sailors and airmen, by land or air and t'watter". And when one of our number emigrated he would lead us in singing "God be with you till we meet again".

#### RESPECT AND LOVE

We might titter occasionally at old Bob but he could hold us by his homilies and at bottom we respected and loved him. Much more so than the Vicar whom we feared. The Vicar had been there since long before Queen Victoria departed this life, and he carried with his mutton chop whiskers (now again in fashion), a belief in strict discipline and a propensity for very long sermons, well into the twentieth century. He would clip a lad over the ear in Sunday School for misbehaving, and "spare the rod and spoil the child" was one of his favourite mottos.

The boy's Sunday School was divided for instruction purposes into about sixteen groups. Each had a teacher whose main qualification was that he should be a "God fearing man" and whose main duty was to see that each boy read aloud from a portion of the Scriptures. The teacher I best remember was often absent for several weeks, but on his return would interest us with stories of his travels in Russia, France or Germany where he had been erecting textile machinery for Dobson and Barlows. His theology, however, was rather weak and his patience a little short. Once, when we were rather restive he said "When good lads go to 'eaven they get golden harps, but t'way as some o' yo' carryin' on yo'll be lucky if yo' get penny whistles!"

The large Sunday School buildings were by no means idle on weekdays. Dances and whist drives were forbidden by our stern vicar: The Band of Hope listened to lectures on the evils of drink and many signed the pledge never to touch, taste nor handle intoxicating liquor. No doubt many have since broken the pledge, but there is also no doubt that they have been restrained from excess by the exhortations of that time. The Lads Brigade drilled with their dummy rifles, leapt over the vaulting horse and contorted on the parallel bars. The 'Players' presented strong drama and if they occasionally lost an aspirate or even a line of their parts; the evils of gambling; of drink and wife beating came no less vividly across the footlights. But if drinking was an evil, eating was not and we had enormous suppers of potato pie and pickled red cabbage.

The great event of the year was the Annual Sermons and the walk round the parish. Proceeding it were months of planning by thrifty mothers of large families who, by hook or crook or more likely by clothing club coupons or carefully hoarded Co-op "divi", dressed her brood in a manner fit for the occasion.

There was much coming and going to the dressmaker, milliner, tailor and hatter. Much pondering of questions, "Can we afford to put Jack in long trousers and, if so, will Willie accept Jack's obsolete knickerbockers", and "What is the latest in women's hats?" or "What are you getting Mary for L'sermons Mrs. Jones?" And then the sorry thought that "We can't keep up with that". There would, also, be more speculation about the weather than there is now for a test match.

A fine day would bring rejoicing and freedom from fear that the hard come-by finery would be ruined by rain. There would also be some anxiety as to whether fit and style were right, and whether the new shoes might pinch on the "walk". But once donned, the new clothes gave a sense of prosperity and well-being after six days in a weaver's clogs and shawl, a foundryman's moleskin trousers or a cotton spinner's greasy overall.

#### PROCESSION

Old Bob, resplendent in silk hat and frock coat, marshalled the procession. The bugles and drums of the Lads' Brigade would sound, and re-echo from the mill walls and bring mothers from their lobsouse pans to their front doors. The Primitives, Independents, Wesleyans, Baptists, Zionists and Romans, would risk lateness at their own chapels by stopping to see us pass, and perhaps comment on the unusual appearance of Joe, the mill stoker, now in a blue serge suit and bowler hat.

We would halt in one of the longest and meanest streets. Old Bob would stand on a hard cart, raise his umbrella, announce "Th'owd 'undreth" and lead us in singing to the Lord with a cheerful voice. Then on to the crowded church to hear the special preacher, the special hymns, and to contribute to the special collection. Silver threepenny bits had been hoarded for the occasion.

It did not seem quite the same again when we came back from the first world war. We seemed to find other pursuits, hiked or biked over the moors, experimented with "cat's whiskers", or lent an ear to the prophets of a new religion who said that religion was the opium of the people.

I wonder too, if the Archbishop and Adam Faith had lived in our parish during the first two decades of this century, whether their meeting point on T.V. would have been rather different, perhaps more vital. Or am I looking back at the past through nostalgic tinted glasses.

T.S. BENSON

#### Extracts From the Council Minute Books

Ap 23 1889 A vote of thanks given to the Temperance and Sick Societies.

Ap 4 1893 Recorded in the Easter Vestry minutes that Thomas Greenhalgh was now convalescent following a serious illness.

Ap 16 1895 A resolution was passed expressing the regret of the parishioners and congregation at the severance of official connection with the parish of Mr. Thomas Greenhalgh and wishing him long life and happiness in his new home. (This was at Silverdale. Ed.)

Ap 7 1896 New classroom opened (This was the ante room. Ed.)

Mar 9 1897 Miss Green was appointed as pastoral visitor.

Mar 31 1898 A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Musgrave and Barnes for the use of a photomicroscope in School.

Ap 26 1898 The account of Messrs Harker and Sons for cleaning and painting the Church was presented, this amounted to £175.18.0.

Ap 26 1898 The vicar announced the details of the "Greenhalgh Bequests" .1. The repair of the Church and School; 2. The fund for providing hats and dresses for the little singers at the Annual Sermons; 3. The Benevolent fund for distribution on December 24th in each year.

Ap 17 1899 The tender of a Mr. Bradbury for pointing the boundary walls of Church and School was accepted this was £26.14.0. Also a tender from Messrs. J. Harker and Sons of £10.0.0. was accepted for painting the exterior iron work of Church and School.

Jun 14 1899 The Vestry decided that a brass plate be placed in church to commemorate the donors of the Church, the late Messrs. Nathaniel and Thomas Greenhalgh.

Nov 7 1901 Miss Green's stipend be raised from £10 to £30 per annum.

Ap 7 1906 Vote of thanks passed to Mr. George Harwood for his kind gift of a hand-rail to the pulpit steps. Also a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. James Arrowsmith for his kind gift of oak gates for the Communion Rail.

Ap 13 1909 Parishioners admitted to the Easter Vestry meeting for the first time.

Ap 9 1912 A resolution was unanimously passed strongly protesting against the proposal to disestablish and disendow the Church in Wales.

Ap 8 1913 Reference was made to the impending levy on the parish for finances of the Diocese. The parish, it was said, would no doubt discharge its obligations in this respect when the time came. (This was the beginning of what is now the Diocesan Quota - a real headache in these days. Ed.)

Mar 30 1920 Resolved that the male members of the Parochial Church Council be asked to take the duties of Sidesmen. (This was the beginning of the Parochial Church Council Act of 1919. Ed.)

Ap 13 1920 Election of first Parochial Church Council at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Jun 8 1920 The first Electoral Roll compiled. Also the first attempt to encourage the congregation and parishioners to give weekly.

Jun 8 1920 The Apparitor's house purchased at a total expense of £209.

Jul 12 1920 Parish magazine running at a loss. Mr. F. Benson appointed Secretary.

Jan 18 1921 Decided to shorten the Church Services by avoiding long hymns, psalms and sermons.

Nov 15 1921 Letter from Col. Hesketh reminding the Council they had not yet paid anything towards their levy for the year.

Jan 10 1922 The first financial budget presented to the Council and Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Coke, Water and Gas was £145, Church Levy (now Diocesan Quota) £38.

July 24 1923 Another letter from Col. Hesketh re the Church Levy. It was left over.

Mar 6 1924 Permission was given to hold Whist Drives in School by our organisations on condition that money so raised be not employed for any spiritual purpose.

Mar 24 1924 Permission was given by the Council to place a cross in the Sacrament. 23 votes for, 10 against.

Aug 14 1924 Resolved that after a Dance the Schoolroom floor be cleaned with wet sawdust by the Apparitor and that a fee of 1/- be paid him by the organisation concerned.

Dec 19 1924 Another letter received from Col. Hesketh acknowledging our contribution to the Levy, but it was not the full amount.

Feb 17 1925 Another letter received from Col. Hesketh - received without comment.

May 6 1925 Council gave permission to Wedding, Christmas and Birthday Parties to drink one wine glass full per person, and no more, of wine, on the premises of All Souls'.

July 18 1925 Col. Hesketh still writing letters for Levy Money.

Dec 3 1925 Price of coke 31/8 per ton.

Dec 3 1925 Letter read from Col. Hesketh. Council decided to pay £15 making the total for the year £25 for the Church Levy.

Mar 9 1926 Council informed that the Church Balance Sheet gave a very unsatisfactory picture. The deficit was £27.6.9.

Sept 23 1926 Permission received to lay cinder tennis courts at Rough Meadow.

Sept 23 1926 The Mothers' Class had purchased two potato pie dishes and said that as they seemed to be in general use in the kitchen would the Council purchase them. Council agreed.

Jan 27 1927 Minute passed that in future, dance bands receive a maximum of 31/-.

Jan 27 1927 Coke, Gas and Water for the year was £150.

Mar 7 1927 Ways and means discussed of how to improve the poor financial situation.

Jun 2 1927 Resulting from the construction of Crompton Way, which necessitated another branch road being constructed to the Bleachers' Association works near 'Rough Meadow', the Council decided to make a new entrance at the top of the slope with steps leading down to the 'Meadow'.

Jun 2 1927 Another letter received from Col. Hesketh regarding the Church Levy. The matter was left over.

Aug 11 1927 The Council passed a resolution congratulating Col. Hesketh, a trustee of the All Souls' Benefice, upon his election as a Freeman of the Borough of Bolton.

Sept 15 1927 The Council decided that the workers conducting the children's services be allowed £5.15.0 for purchasing books of hymns and prayers.

Feb 23 1928 Inauguration of P.C.C. £1000 Consolidation Fund.

Feb 23 1928 Estimated expenditure for 1928 was £571.2.11.

Mar 29 1928 Tennis Club decide to change one of the grass courts to shale.

Apr 26 1928 Great concern about the 'falling off' of choir members.

Aug 9 1928 Football club formed.

Feb 14 1929 Estimated expenses for 1929, £537.1.3.

Mar 8 1929 Sub-Committee appointed 'with a view to ascertaining the cause of the many draughts and air currents in Church and to report some remedy'.

May 9 1929 The Council protested against the new assessment for the Diocesan Levy of £70.14.0. This was then reduced to £66.6.0.

May 9 1929 Contract of £183.6.0. placed with Dobson and Barlow to install electric flood, and other lighting in Church. (This replaced the old gas fittings. Ed.) At the same time a comprehensive scheme of renovating to take place in the church and schools, including heating apparatus in Church, organ blowing to electric, repairs to School yards, pointing of Schools, decoration of Girl's room and staircase and the electric lighting of the Schools, at a total cost not exceeding £500.

Oct 10 1929 Schools decorated inside and out at a cost of £46.10.0.

Feb 13 1930 Budget for the year was £906 expenditure.

Mar 16 1930 Complaint that the Organist was introducing too many new tunes at once.

July 17 1930 Duplex envelope system of regular giving introduced.

Aug 14 1930 Complaint sent to the police reporting damage to boundary walls and windows.

Mar 19 1931 P.C.C. decided that the choir be robed, with 20 persons for and 15 against. Cost £35 for 30 members.

Mar 26 1931 Decision made to hold a Parochial Mission.

Mar 26 1931 Account received for replacing a broken window in School, of 8/6. The account given to the boy responsible, for payment. It was also decided that the plumbing work be placed elsewhere in future.

Nov 12 1931 Charges for admission to Dances in School raised to 9d per person.

Dec 17 1931 50th Jubilee Bazaar held in School and raised £636.

Jan 28 1932 Dry rot in School roof.

Mar 17 1932 Full time caretaker's wage, £2.7.6. weekly.

Aug 18 1932 Lecture Hall and ante-room completely and fully decorated at a cost of £18.

Apr 20 1933 Appeals made for an increase in attendance at Divine Service.

Apr 20 1933 Long debate on the question of whether or not the great number of Socials in School were beneficial both financially and spiritually.

Apr 20 1933 Report given re a united procession of witness in the Parish.

Apr 26 1934 Diocesan Quota for 1934 £75. £30 only donated to Diocese.

Mar 11 1935 Complaints that the congregation were not 'pulling their weight' in the hymn singing in Church.

Mar 11 1935 The first wearing of liturgical stoles in Church.

Oct 29 1935 Tiled step built in Sanctuary to raise the Altar higher.

June 20 1938 Estimated expenditure for 1939 £662.

Mar 7 1939 Church roof to be examined by a competent architect.  
 Sep 11 1939 School windows blacked out due to danger of air raids.  
 Jan 1 1940 Dry rot accidentally discovered on the Astley St. side of the church roof.  
 Jan 14 1941 Decision made to buy six steel helmets for the use of volunteer fire watchers.  
 Feb 4 1941 Dry rot on Astley Street side of church roof had been repaired but rot had now been discovered on the South Side of the roof.  
 Jun 30 1941 Diamond Jubilee of consecration of All Souls' Church. Bishop of Manchester preached at a special service on July 13, 1941.  
 Feb 15 1944 Estimated expenses for 1944, £836.  
 Jun 6 1944 New boiler plus additional radiators installed in the School at a cost of £154.  
 Feb 12 1946 Estimated expenditure for Church and School, 1946, was £885.  
 Feb 12 1946 Young communicants fellowship formed.  
 Jan 23 1947 Proposal by the vicar to sell the old vicarage on Blackburn Road and to buy a suitable house in Harpers Lane, rejected by the Council.  
 Feb 4 1948 Decision made to put screen on each side of the chancel behind the choir stalls, also that we have a side chapel in the north choir aisle which would be in memory of all those who served and lost their lives in the second world war. Additional wood-work to be utilized from redundant pews.  
 Nov 29 1949 Our Diocesan Quota dropped from £69 to £50 per annum!  
 May 31 1950 Work commenced on the bond beam, which had dry rot, on the south side roof. Also other drastic repair work to be done on the north side of the roof.  
 Oct 4 1950 Duplex envelope scheme for church collections commenced.  
 Mar 27 1951 Estimated expenditure for Church and Schools 1951, £1060.  
 May 1 1951 Bishop to preach a special service in connection with the 70th Jubilee on July 25th.  
 Dec 2 1952 Church weather vane on roof of tower, which bore the figures 1881, had been blown off and destroyed!  
 Apr 7 1953 Estimated expenditure for Church and Schools, £1213.  
 Jul 20 1954 Baptistry floor paved with tiles.  
 Jul 20 1954 Thanks given to the men who had cleaned the Church.  
 Nov 1 1954 Upstairs room let to a table tennis club on two evenings per week at a charge of 10/-  
 Jul 12 1955 Extensive repairs and renewals due on School roof.  
 Aug 9 1955 Parish bible study group formed.  
 Sep 13 1955 70th Jubilee of our sister church the Saviour's.  
 Nov 30 1955 School boiler and kitchen geyser causing trouble.  
 Jan 11 1956 £1281 raised for pointing of the church tower.  
 Feb 1 1956 Complaints of the church being cold due to broken windows.  
 Mar 14 1956 Estimate of £1440 received for complete pointing of the church tower. Application to the Diocese for a loan. £550 loaned plus grant of £50.  
 Jun 19 1956 75th birthday, June 30th, 1956 and plans made for celebrations and a special service in church.  
 May 14 1957 Youth Club formed.

Dec 2 1958 £120 paid to our Quota for 1958.  
 Jan 6 1959 Rural Dean paid a visit to the Vicar (Rev. A.T. Richards) to inform him that the Quota fell short and that we owed £31. P.C.C. resolved to make special efforts in future to pay in full.  
 Jan 6 1959 Poor attendance in Church causing concern - house to house visiting suggested.  
 Aug 4 1959 Teenagers Group formed. Young People's Fellowship.  
 Oct 6 1959 Church organ taken down for a full renovation.  
 Nov 17 1959 Concern regarding the shortage of teachers and scholars in the Sunday School.  
 Dec 8 1959 Total of Diocesan Quota paid for the year, £140.  
 Feb 2 1960 Bad condition of School roof causing concern.  
 Aug 2 1960 Complaints about the untidy condition of the Church surrounds. Huge cleaning-up job decided upon.  
 Sep 26 1960 Preparatory work commenced for the amalgamation of All Souls' and St. James's parishes.  
 Nov 1 1960 Decision made to sell All Souls' old vicarage, with the vicar of All Souls' using St. James's vicarage.  
 Dec 6 1960 Cost of heating and lighting causing concern.  
 May 9 1961 Diocesan Quota now £177 per annum.  
 Jun 6 1961 Decision made to the forming of a side-chapel in the north aisle of the Chancel.  
 Oct 10 1961 Decision made to have the Church interior painted for a cost of £313.  
 Jun 5 1962 New carpet laid in centre aisle and chancel.  
 Dec 10 1962 The old floodlighting in church taken out and a new system of chandelier lighting installed.  
 Jan 6 1963 The Vicar introducing meetings in homes of people who could not get out.  
 Feb 12 1963 New boiler installed in School at a cost of £237.  
 May 7 1963 System of junior sidesmen introduced.  
 Sep 7 1963 Stewardship system of raising money introduced.  
 Jan 14 1964 Pigeons causing damage in the belfry and arrangements made to exterminate them. Heavy mesh netting fixed to prevent further trouble.  
 Feb 28 1963 Service of meals for aged people introduced in School.  
 Dec 1 1964 Diocesan Quota for 1965, £347.  
 Sep 14 1965 Our own Street Warden system introduced. Each warden had a card in the window for people who were in difficulties of any sort to go there for help.  
 Dec 14 1965 Diocesan Quota for 1966, £494.  
 Dec 14 1965 New carpets laid down the two side aisles.  
 Feb 1 1966 A long revision of the book of common prayer was commenced, the result of this is the Alternative Service Book.  
 Mar 25 1966 Full time apparitor resigned. Decided to appoint a part time cleaner.  
 Jun 7 1966 Church and School boilers converted to oil fuel.  
 Sep 13 1966 Decision to fix a brass cross on the east wall, replacing a portable cross, and that the Altar be free standing. It was also decided to make a children's corner in the south east corner of the nave.  
 Oct 10 1966 Complaints the Council meetings were dragging on too long.

Nov 17 1966 All Souls' and St. James's officially a united parish.  
Nov 7 1967 Decided that the Alternative Service of Holy Communion (Series II) be tried as an experiment.  
Dec 5 1967 Permission was given to the Astley Bridge branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for free use of a small room for their meetings once a week plus space for storage.  
Dec 5 1967 Decision made to have an amplification system used in Church.  
Aug 6 1968 Alternative Service of Holy Communion (Series II) now adopted as a regular Service.  
Oct 1 1968 Parish Visitation being held. Parish divided into three areas and each area visited in turn.  
Dec 3 1968 Social Committee formed to formulate events and functions.  
Dec 3 1968 Anglican - Methodist unity discussed.  
Mar 4 1969 Diocesan Quota now £410.  
Jul 29 1969 Appeal made to the Diocese of £1000 for repairs to the Church.  
Aug 26 1969 Appeals delivered to the homes of the parish for donations to the Church Repair fund.  
Feb 9 1971 Re-development taking place in Boardman St. - Draycott St. and Wolfenden St. area.  
Mar 9 1971 Diocesan Quota now £434.  
Jul 27 1971 Birthday Party held in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Church.  
Jul 27 1971 Bad behaviour of children in and around the Church causing concern.  
Nov 16 1971 Extensive dry rot discovered in Lecture Hall and ante-room.  
Jan 18 1972 Parish mission being arranged. (Church Army)  
Nov 29 1972 Council getting very concerned about the serious financial situation.  
Mar 28 1973 Sale of School considered and the creation of a dual-purpose church building.  
Sep 11 1973 School cellar flooded and causing worry.  
Nov 13 1973 Diocesan Quota for 1973, £565.  
Oct 11 1973 Ordination of women to the Church Ministry being considered.  
Mar 5 1974 Architects report regarding converting the Church to a dual-purpose building, put to the Council. The matter was left in hand.  
Jun 11 1974 Re-development taking place on the Cobden Mill and North end Mill site.  
Sep 24 1974 Costs of landscaping the Church surrounds being considered.  
Oct 14 1975 Diocesan quota for 1976, £775.  
Oct 14 1975 Parish magazine losing money.  
Jan 27 1976 Church boundary walls in Astley Street and Wolfenden Street being lowered to the ground but with the copings being placed on top.  
Jun 15 1976 Dry rot discovered in Church on the walls and windows over the organ chamber.  
Jun 15 1976 Job Creation Scheme accepted for the Schools this involved comprehensive repairs being done such as: re-slating, re-wiring, and decorating, etc. This was a Government Scheme to provide work for people out of work.

Nov 30 1976 Broken windows on South side of the Church being repaired, and guards fixed over the windows. Cost £865.  
Sep 13 1977 The Bolton Model Railway Circle allowed the use of the whole School for a week-end. The exhibition was open to the public.  
Nov 29 1977 Diocesan Quota for 1978, £1706.  
May 2 1978 Breaking of Church and School windows by vandals now causing great alarm.  
Jun 13 1978 Late comers to Church services asked to stand at the back of the Church until the opportunity arose in the service to go to their respective pews.  
Jun 13 1978 School charges increased substantially.  
Jan 23 1979 Quota for 1979 was £1866.  
Mar 27 1979 New gas fired boiler being installed in Church cellar at a cost of over £3000. A grant was made from the Diocese of £100.  
Jun 19 1979 Extensive dry rot discovered in the timber fan vaulting in the roof of the north wall.  
Sep 18 1979 School charges substantially increased.  
Aug 19 1980 Exterior of Church cleaned at a cost to the P.C.C. of £558.  
Nov 11 1980 Report by the Vicar on the recent Parish visit.  
Nov 11 1980 Decision made to install new lighting in Church.  
Dec 2 1980 Preparations being made for Church Centenary in 1981. Celebrations to be held on August 8th and 9th.  
Feb 24 1981 Centenary Bazaar, Saturday 17th October.  
Feb 24 1981 Diocesan Quota for 1981, £2874.

FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we put a few thoughts into words as a contribution to the Centenary handbook.

100 is a great achievement no matter how it happens, whether it be attained in sport, business, trade, or whatever. To people, 100 is a magic figure, and each one added to the 100 gives extra invigoration of achievement.

All Souls' Church has stood for 100 years as the spiritual centre of the parish, and many people through those years have given their support to the Church to maintain this magnificent building - in return they have received the spiritual reward which enabled them to overcome the burdens of every day life, and enjoy more fully the joys of life.

What about the next 100 years? Well, here is an extract from a letter written by the Rev. A.B. Harris for the 70th Anniversary handbook, which reads: "The two good brothers (Thomas and Nathaniel Greenhalgh) who did so much to build All Souls' Church must have been whales of good fellows. They found the bulk of the money but were too wise to find it altogether, rather they encouraged and helped every effort so that the parishioners might say 'this is our Church, we all helped and we will maintain it'."

We will live up to this and 'maintain it'. We certainly trust and pray that we shall, but the fact is, much more effort will have to be made to achieve this.

Times have changed from days gone by, and costs are so much greater. Whilst we have a band of good givers, they are not sufficient, so we must look to the residents in the Parish, both old and newcomers who are outside the Church, for your support. We would ask you to bring your gifts to Church where you will receive a welcome, and in return receive the spiritual blessing which so many of us are lacking today, and then no doubt All Souls' will go on for another 100 years.

Yours sincerely,

E. CROSSLEY AND T.J.DAVIS

REV. WILLIAM BALDWIN - OUR OWN PRIEST

There is no purpose in celebrating the centenary of All Souls' Church unless the reason for which it was built still has a relevance to those it is to serve.

I can claim to know a great deal about All Souls' Church and parish. After all I was born and bred under the shadow of the church tower and within a few yards of the church door, in a house that no longer exists. From the beginning of my life, All Souls' has been part of me. Yet, when I return to visit, it becomes clear that I now know very little about the parish. For it has changed, almost beyond recognition. Apart from a few streets the parish has been demolished and re-built. People I knew have moved away and have been replaced by others making new lives in new homes. Yet All Souls' remains the same, standing firm in its prominent position for all to see. This serves to remind us of the one we seek to serve: Jesus Christ the Saviour. No matter how much the world may change, He is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Our centenary reminds us that the Church is not the building that stands in Astley Street, but it is the body of Christ that meets under its roof. It is part of that greater Corpus that meets throughout the world in buildings of all shapes and sizes, even in secret, e.g. behind the Iron Curtain, which unites with the Church in heaven in the service of Almighty God and to the praise of His Holy Name. All Souls' is thus intended to be the power house of prayer and sacramental life that generates to those who live within the parish, the living faith of our blessed Lord and Saviour. The living faith is that relevance to which I earlier referred. A new parish within our old parochial boundary is where that relevance is to become manifest. This is the challenge.

WILLIAM BALDWIN  
(St. Anne, Royton)

REV. CANON L. MORLEY - Kent

It is now well over 40 years since I left Bolton, and it amazes me that I am still remembered at All Souls'. I cannot join with you in person as you hold celebrations but I shall think of you and join with you in spirit.

Never can I forget the amazing kindness that I, and later my wife, received in my first parish as a Curate. But my greatest pleasure was in my associations with the younger people of the Parish. I would like to think that all of these and others of my Bolton friends are still active.

Many thanks for all that you are and have been and my very sincere congratulations to you all.

Yours ever,

Leonard.

REV. R.R. WILSON - Carlisle

Dear Friends,

Although it is over 30 years since I was your Vicar, before the link with St. James's Church and Parish, I am pleased to be associated with your 'Centenary'.

All Souls' Church has borne witness to a positive faith in God, in the midst of changing circumstances, not least many new houses replacing those which were occupied by workers of the nearby mills.

My wife joins me in expressing best wishes throughout your 'Centenary Year' and for a rich and blessed future.

Yours sincerely,

Robert R. Wilson.

REV. CANON B.H. KELLY - Isle of Man

I am delighted to add my personal congratulations, as well as those of my family, to the many that will come to the people of All Souls' Church in the course of this Centenary Year. A hundred years of activity in the Lord's service is a proud record and one to be rightly celebrated.

All Souls' Church has occupied a significant place in the local community. It has stood out as a familiar landmark for miles around, and in doing so has witnessed to that other and spiritual dimension where life assumes a deeper sense of purpose and achieves a richer fulfilment in God. It is a proud story that could be told of the many who have responded to the Good News of Jesus Christ by the agency of All Souls' Church, and I feel honoured to have been associated in some small way in the telling of the story.

A Centenary is a time for looking back, but also a time for looking forward. I am sure the people of All Souls' will be as ready in the years to come as their fathers were in their generation to seize and act upon the many opportunities that will surely come their way. This is my hope and prayer.

Brian H. Kelly.

REV. G. N. HIGHAM - Middleton

Like other incumbents before me - All Souls' with St. James's was my first incumbency, and it will always, therefore, have a special place in my memory. Much of what I do in my future ministry will be as a result of the co-operation and guidance I received during the five years I was Vicar of the Parish.

One event that was unique to my time with you was the birth of Rachel, our first child, and also the first child to be born to a 'reigning' incumbent in what was then 93 years.

Val and Rachel join me in wishing you Many Happy Returns, and in praying that the Parish may continue to flourish. As you reach 100 not out, it is time to 'take guard' and settle in for the 2nd centenary.

May God bless all that you undertake in His Name and for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Gerald. N. Higham.

That then is the story of All Souls' Church down the years. Since the church exterior was cleaned a short time ago, it has given us an inkling of how beautiful it looked on June 30th, 1881. How then must the interior also have looked on that memorable day. We cannot really compare because there is so much cleaning and decorating needed today. We would have loved to have done this for the centenary, but although most of what the Bishop preached at the consecration services also uncanilly applies to the present day, in one respect there is a great difference - and that is in the financial situation.

In the days when the Church was consecrated, labour and materials were very cheap, e.g. note how much the cost was to build the Church (£20,000) and think what it would cost in these days of very high inflation and severe depression.

Repairs and renewals, too, arise much more frequently in a Church that is 100 years old compared with an entirely new Church - again in these expensive days it is extremely costly. Diocesan Quotas (money we have to pay the Diocese) have rocketed within the last few years. In 1923 the Church Levy (now the quota) was £38, in this centenary year it is a staggering £2874! Gas and electricity costs are also sky high. The average weekly cost, this year, of keeping our church door open for the worship of God is £211 per week, and this excludes the costs of exceptional repairs such as dry rot, vandalism, etc.

All churches these days are finding it hard to keep 'alive' financially: Parochial Church Councils, for instance, whose main purpose is to develop, along with the Vicar, the Kingdom of God, are spending 90% of their time in grappling with financial matters.

Yes the financial situation is extremely difficult indeed to bear, but let us not forget - this is our Centenary Year, and naturally we are very grateful for the work, thought, and devotion of the Greenhalgh brothers, and what they did for us so long ago. Remember, Thomas Greenhalgh, in building a large church, was not to know of our staggering high expenses today in this mad world.

Our Church is extremely beautiful, and down the years it has been served by devoted incumbents, curates, and lay people. Let us then be thankful to Almighty God for all He has given us through those two brothers, and for the many Christian people - loyal, devoted, loving, and greatly spiritual, who appear before us like shadows, within our memories, and to whom we owe so much. It would be wrong to name names, there are so many of them it would be very easy to leave someone out. We all can, however, look back with gratitude, and great love, to some Christ-like person, or persons, who gave us such a wonderful example in the days of the past. Let their devoted love and work be not in vain, and let us keep our Church alive.

The idea of a Church in Astley Street was not, originally Thomas Greenhalgh's own idea - it was given to him from the heart of God. The purpose of building a Church in the neighbourhood was 'because the population was rapidly increasing'. The population in All Souls' Parish is much higher than it was in the days when the Church was built. The need therefore is greater and God needs a Church in the Parish even more than He did in 1881.

Note, that throughout the description of the consecration, although much has been written about the Church building the story is concerned largely with people like you and me - we are the Church, we are Christ's body. Let us then make it our resolve that we shall go forward into the second century and unselfishly give ourselves and our hearts to building up a great Church of people in this place. We shan't be alone - God will go with us.

In our celebrations let us, too, spare a thought for those of us who originally belonged to St. James's Church and who, in the 1960's had to lose their Church to the hands of the demolishers. That was a very sad time, but many of those people joined All Souls' church and together we all became the Church of All Souls' with St. James's - again a Church of living people.

We sincerley hope, indeed we know, that they will join us in our prayers of thankfulness and rejoicing and together we shall, with great resolve, face the second century with thankful hearts.

A.L.H.