

**St. John the Divine Lytham.**



**1849 - 1999.**



## **An Anniversary Prayer.**

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the 150th. anniversary of this church and parish: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship here; and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and being filled with the Holy Spirit may themselves become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Introduction

It is my privilege as present Vicar to write the Introduction to the history of our Parish on the occasion of the 150th. Anniversary.

The dedication of our church to St. John the Divine is unusual in so much that little is known of this Saint other than being the author of the Book of Revelation. St. John the Divine is not even afforded his own day in the Christian Calendar, therefore in recent times we have adopted the first weekend in October as our Patronal festival. On this festival weekend we hold a Gift Day on Saturday and special worship on Sunday, including Evensong which has not been a regular feature in Saint John's parish for some time now. However, worship is central to any church activity and is our primary priority.



**M**ission statements have become the “in thing”, in all walks of life, not least the Church and after considerable thought and discussion we have adopted the following as our Mission Statement - to worship God and to serve **all** God’s people. No doubt over years the emphasis on the type of worship has changed, in this parish during the Victorian era and early part of the century, Morning and Evening Prayers would predominate. As time went by there would be a gradual move to more Eucharistic worship which was certainly accelerated in the 1960’s to 70’s, with the experimental services leading to the Alternative Service Book. Now another 20 years on we are gradually introducing Common Worship 2000 for the new Millennium. The pattern of Sunday worship at St. John's usually follows a monthly cycle and hopefully provides adequate opportunities for all ages to worship God together.

Contrary to National trends and even local popular belief the number of people attending Sunday Worship at St. John’s has increased. However, this is not the be all and end all of a church’s ministry. Fortunately we are situated in a community which is fairly traditional and the church can still do a great deal of its work in long established ways. The church is still called upon and expected to respond on the three great occasions of life, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

About fifteen years ago our church made a significant step forward in its formal relationship with other churches in Lytham by joining the Lytham Ecumenical Partnership. This relationship is gradually growing and is now beginning to bear some fruit in joint community projects which we are able to undertake together.

**W**e have of course come along at a bad time as well. The building we have inherited is 150 years old with all that entails. However, some refurbishment has been undertaken in recent times. The bells have been rehung, the old heating system replaced and the interior reordered. However I look each day with concern at the poor state of the south facing part of the roof and although I know that old pews are most dear to local people I do wonder how many back problems can be attributed to our extremely uncomfortable pews!

Along with the revamping of the organ, I think that these are projects which will have to be dealt with in the not too distant future.

These problems apart we do thank God for our heritage - for this church building and people who for the last 150 years have worshipped here and given Christian service in this parish.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Carlisle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Carlisle.

B. Eng.

## The Church of St. John the Divine Lytham.

The first recorded beginnings of St. John's Church are found in a Minute Book of 1846 preserved for a long time in the church safe but now held in the County Record Office, Preston. It records that "At a meeting of Gentlemen held at the Clifton Arms hotel on Friday, 27th November 1846, the best means of providing additional Church accommodation for the rapidly increasing population of the town was taken into consideration. It was unanimously resolved that an additional church should be erected with a suitable endowment provided, with future funds to be raised by public subscription".

A footnote states that "Thomas Clifton consented to provide the necessary site and liberally to contribute towards its endowment".

Other Gentlemen included Mr. C. Swainson of Cooper Hill, Preston, Mr. J. Cummings of Carr Hill, Kirkham and Mr. James Fair of Warton Lodge, Lytham.

Building began in 1848, but during the following year extra funding was required. Consequently a bazaar was held in the newly built Market Hall to raise funds in August 1849.

The original church was designed to consist of a nave with side aisles separated from it by pointed arches and circular columns, a small chancel with a porch and a tower surmounted by a spire some 140 feet high.

Mr. J.W. Shellard (1815-1885) from Manchester was the architect and Thomas Darwen supervised the manufacture of the Screens at a cost of £12.10s.

The first vicar, the Revd. W.H.Self, lived at the Dower House and he conducted the very first St.John's Church baptism of Rachel Cookson, the daughter of Christine and Thomas Cookson a joiner, of Clifton St. in 1849, even though the church was not consecrated until November 1850.

After the church was assigned as an Ecclesiastic Parish in April 1851, the first marriage was conducted on the 18th. of July 1851 between Sarah Winstanley and Henry.W.Bell, a cabinet-maker of Wharf St. In honour of this occasion one of the witnesses was Mary Self, the wife of the Vicar.

The first burial was that of Arthur Lloyd aged 78 years on the 7th. of November 1851. In 1856/57 the church was enlarged and the choir stalls extended eastward, flanked by vestries. The transepts were extended out from the old chancel to form a crossing at a cost of £1500. A new heating system was also installed for £54.

The picture of the church interior (on page 7) shows the original gas lamps, the bosses of which can still be seen today. The old pew doors are evident, having been removed during the 1980's, also the old reredos with the Ten Commandments and the Lords Prayer which is now placed in the south transept.

During 1995/96, several rows of pews at the front were removed to create more space for weddings and funerals. Some rows of back pews too have been removed. This has left a large open area which is particularly useful for parish activities and allows the congregation to mix socially. The donation of a very fine red carpet, which together with a new heating system, has now contributed to give the church a more attractive and welcoming atmosphere. This is augmented by the unfailing help given by parishioners who generously give their services in the provision of flower arrangement and general upkeep and maintenance of the church interior.

*The Church of St. John the Divine about 1890.*



Note the position of the organ and the decorative brass gas-lamps.

**Past vicars of  
St. John's.**



**William H. Self.**

Priest in Charge 1849.  
Vicar 1850 - 1870.  
Retired to Torquay.



**John Gilbertson-Pritchard.**

Vicar 1897 - 1931.



**Leslie Minhinnick.**

Vicar 1966 - 1981.  
Retired to Anglesey.



**Thomas G. Smart**

Vicar 1870 - 1896.



**Arthur R. Allan.**

Vicar 1932 - 1965.

## The Church Windows.

Most of the stained glass windows in the Church were presented as Memorials. Inside the west door a memorial light to Mr. Bannerman depicts Our Lord with a child on his knee. This was suitably placed as the font was situated there at that time. The central feature of the west window, given in memory of James and Elizabeth Fair, is a Madonna and includes the Baptism in the Jordan, the Presentation in the Temple, the Visit to Jerusalem and the Nativity. The windows on the north aisle were designed at the Royal Academy and portray St. Paul and St. Stephen and the Apostles. The Rose window in the north transept is in memory of Thomas Miller of Singleton Park and dated 1865.

The east window has three lancet lights combining the Christian Graces with St. John the Evangelist, the latter carrying his book and with his Eagle emblem represents Faith. Hope stands

on one side leaning on her anchor and Charity is on the other side with a clinging child. This window is dated 1888 and was a tribute to Bertha LeGrade, Baroness Grey de Ruthyn, from whose portrait the face of Charity is designed.



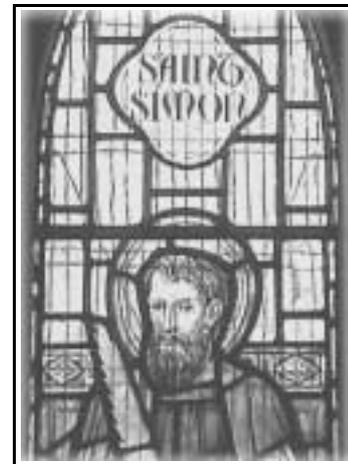
The east window of the Memorial Chapel was altered after the 1914/18 war when it ceased to be the old Scholar's Chapel. The two lancets were separated and a centre 'Crucifixion' was inserted designed by Mr. Dean Walmsley. The south window of the chapel represents the three synoptic Evangelists – the centre light depicting St. Mark being framed by lights containing the Arms of the Royal Artillery, the Royal Navy, the King's Own and the Loyal North Lancashire's plus the Lancashire Fusiliers.

The south transept's three lancets represent the call of the sons of Zebedee, the Master in the centre over a scroll bearing the words, "Follow Me". St. John is to the east and St. James to the west with Zebedee looking out of the boat. This window was given in memory of Thomas Clifton, the founder and patron of St. John's who died in 1851.

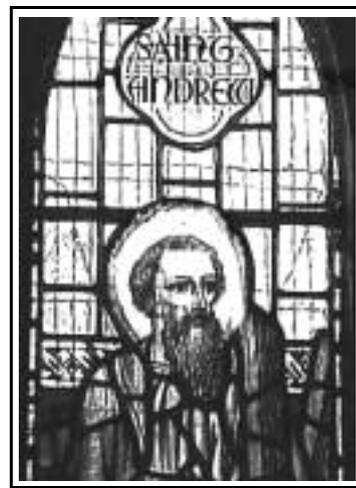
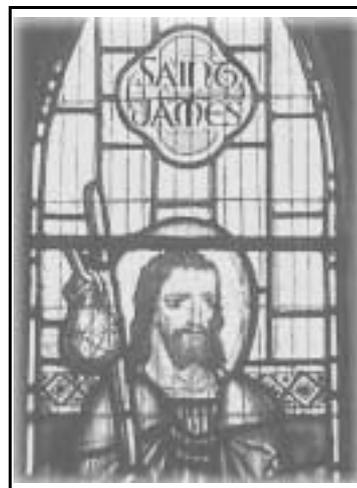
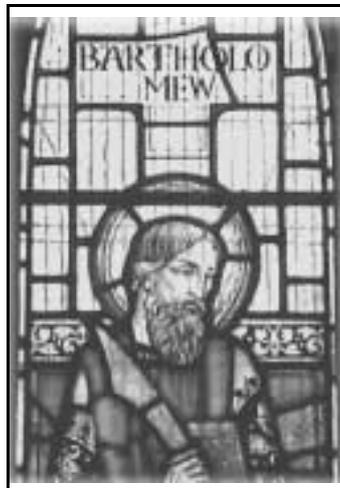


The windows of the south aisle represent the many saints of northern England, St. Cuthbert, St. Wilfred, St. Cradda, St. Hilda, St. Aidan, St. Oswald, St. Ethelburga and St. Paulinus. They are the work of a famous stained glass artist, Webb and several include his 'rebus' – a spider's web. They were installed in the early 1900's. The centre lancets of the three light clerestory windows depict scenes from the Gospel of St. John and over the approach to the south door, the symbols of Alpha and Omega from the Revelation of St. John the Divine.





The windows of Saints to be seen on the North side of church.





**The Saints of Northern England along the South side.**

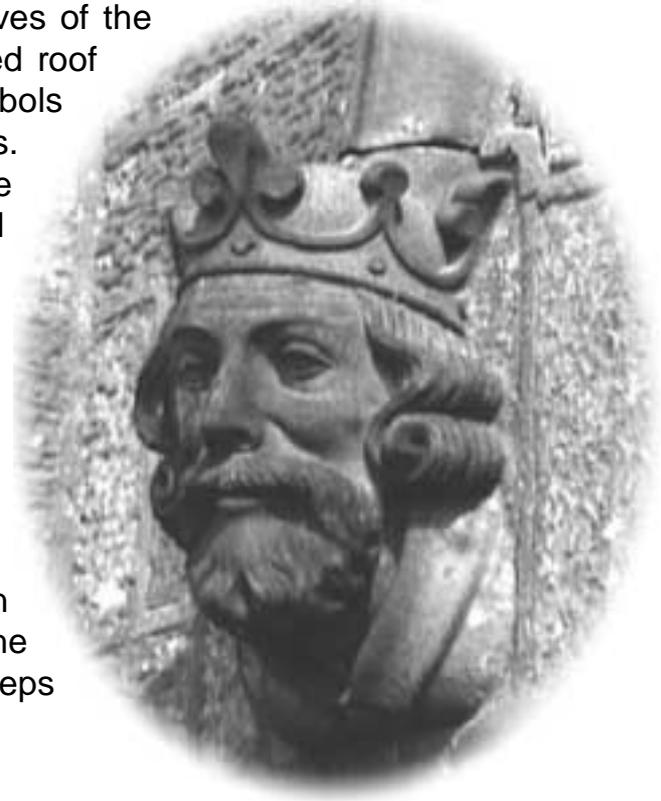


# Stone Carvings.

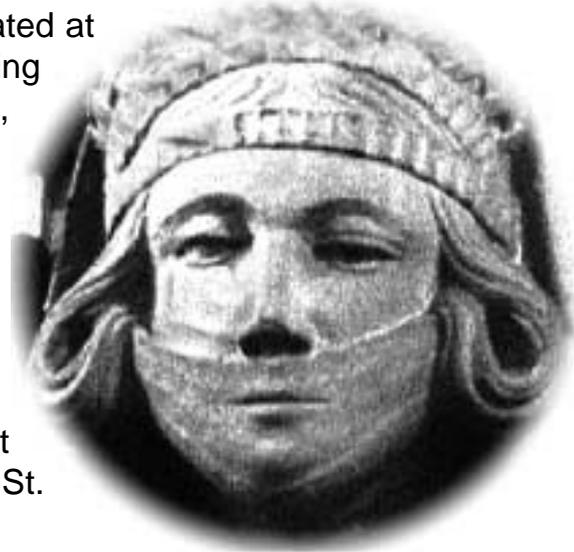
Few churches of the age of St .John's can boast so much carved stonework of a very high quality. Beneath the eaves of the clerestory the stone representations of the terminated roof spars are carved with early English and Christian symbols derived from the heraldic devices of kings and queens.

The stone rolls on the windows have elaborate foliated terminals and the pillars have dentil cornices of great craftsmanship. Three of the original Runic Crosses still surmount the more easterly gables, the fourth and fifth having crashed during gales in the past.

There are thirty-one masks of which some are exquisitely carved in Yorkshire stone. Six of the masks are on the exterior – Our Lord and His Mother at the West Door and King Ethelburt and St. Augustine on the south porch. St. Edward – the King and Patron Saint of England before St. George, is on the foot of the chancel gable, while Thomas Clifton, the Founder, keeps a watchful eye over the clergy vestry door.



Inside the Church may be seen twenty-five masks, one situated at the foot of each terminal arch of the nave and one supporting each of the fourteen flying columns. They are, in the main, mostly Royal and Saintly characters, St.Cuthbert and St. Chad, King Oswald and Queen Ethelburga and probably, Columbia, Aidan and Paulinus. In the Chancel on the great arch, Queen Victoria looks out across to William Musgrave (who was the Archbishop of York at the time of the Consecration). There is also Edward Prince Lee (First Bishop of Manchester) and St. Hilda.



Alongside the altar may be seen the mask of a woman whose mouth is closed with a gag (as per St.Paul's dictum – 'it is a shame for women to speak in church'). There is also the half length carving of the Angel Gabriel which is particularly noteworthy and pictured bottom left of this page. There are also two other masks of members of the Clifton family in church which are not depicted.

# The Church Organ.

The first organ was presented to the church by William B. Swainson in memory of his mother Catherine. It was installed more than two and a half years before the church was consecrated and built by Messrs. Conacher of Huddersfield. It was moved into the original choir vestry when extensions were made to the church in 1874. The cost of this was £400, including a water turbine. Further improvements were made fourteen years later with money from the Baroness Grey de Ruthyn's subscription. By 1932 the water turbine became unsatisfactory by fading out during services and also caused a reduction of water pressure in the neighbouring houses. The original hand-blower thus had to be used. An electric blower was provided in 1934 and although the tone of the organ was excellent, it remained a "tracker" to the end of its days, that is, the action was purely mechanical, operated through a system of rods and slides.

The new two-manual organ was built in the transept with the detached console in the chancel and the old organ chamber reverted for use as a vestry for the choir. It cost £2,730 and its "balance" is considered to be ideal. Action is all electric and a "discus" blower provides the necessary supply of air. It employs a 16 volt generator for the operation of the action. Following the dedication of the new organ it was first played in public by Dr. Francis Jackson, organist of York Minster.

A splendid demonstration of the range and quality of its sound was given in the first of the 1999, "150th Celebration Concerts" by Malcolm Archer, the organist of Wells Cathedral. Malcolm commenced his career of organist at this very instrument while still a schoolboy in Lytham. The position of the organ in the early days can be seen in the photograph of the church interior on page 7.

## The Vicarage of St. John the Divine Lytham.



**An ivy - clad view of the vicarage  
taken during the 1890's.**



**The cobble - built house in 1966, sadly  
awaiting demolition in the following year.**

## MEMORIALS AND FURNISHINGS

**E**nglish oak was chosen for the Lych gate which was erected in 1897 as a memorial to the Revd.T.G.Smart, who was the vicar of St.John's for 26 years. A copper scroll to this effect may be seen fastened inside, along the inner arch. The two oak gates were stolen one night during 1997 but by good fortune were soon discovered in a local antiques fair and recovered.

**A** glazed partition at the south entrance was presented in 1887 as an attempt to control the severe weather conditions from that side of the church and the brass plate states that it was presented by Thomas Bowling.

**T**he font has been moved twice. It originally stood by the main door but was then moved to the newly formed Baptistry. In 1995 it was placed centrally in line with the altar, when alterations were made at the rear of the church with the removal of a number of pews. The canopy of the font was given by the teachers and scholars of the Sunday Schools in 1920 but a supplementary plain canopy made by Tom Stringer had sadly to be added in 1996 for security reasons. The litany desk was given in 1921 by the men of the St. John's Bible class in memory of their fellow students who fell during the Great War.

**T**he handsome Eagle Lectern is bound around the eagle's foothold by a brass band bearing the inscription "To the Glory of God. In memory of Hannah Biddell. Presented by her daughter Margaret Ellen Clifford Self, 1867".

The screen between the Choir and War Memorial Chapel was dedicated by the first Bishop of Blackburn (Dr. Percy Mark Herbert). This was on Whitsunday, 1934 and in memory of the vicar, John Gilbertson-Pritchard who had overseen the making of the War Memorial Chapel. This was consecrated by William Temple the Bishop of Manchester who became Archbishop of York and finally Archbishop of Canterbury.

A further screen which was between the Baptistry and the North Aisle was presented by the Revd. William Pilling in 1881. It had originally been the Chancel Screen and was moved again during the recent refurbishment of the Church and placed in a new position across the nave.

In 1899 the High Altar was given in memory of John and Elizabeth Sharples, the original altar then being placed in the Memorial Chapel.

Behind the main altar may be seen the Reredos, which is a memorial to those who fell



during the Second World War. It was refurbished and added to in 1980 in memory of John Leathley, who had been a former churchwarden.

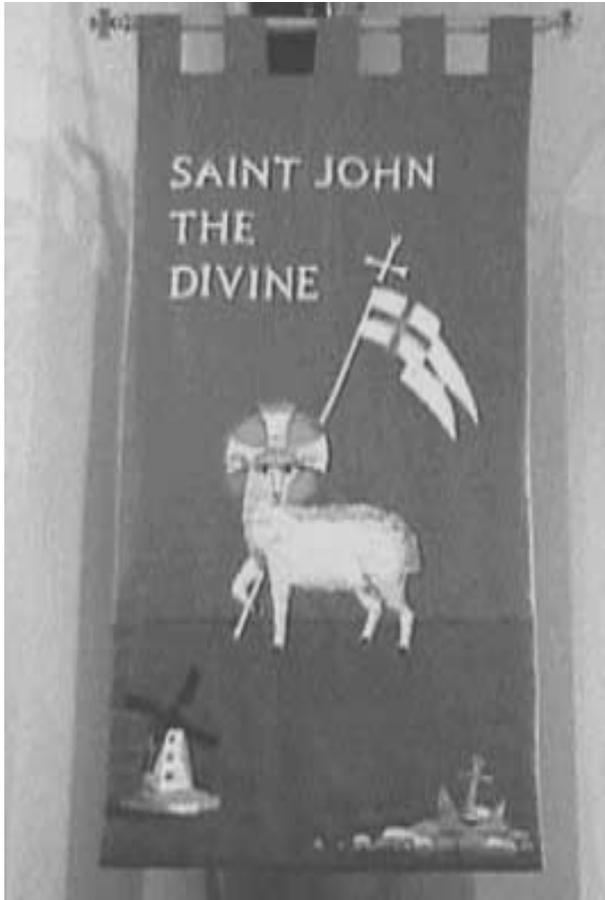
Attached to the front pew on the south side is a Mace Table on which the Borough Mace is placed on visits by the Mayor. Four mayors from the parish have their names inscribed - Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Bill Lloyd, Mr. Norman Utley and Mrs. Christine Hodgson.

Processional Cross was presented by the vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Canon A.L.J. Shields in 1949 to mark the first 100 years anniversary of the Parish.

New west door was given in memory of Bill and Margery Parkinson and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pedder. This is now noticeably enhanced by the ornamental gates which were donated by the Tipping family.

The Resurrection Banner portraying the resurrected Christ and also a sanctuary lamp are to the memories of Arthur and Mabel Tomes; an altar service book was provided by Bill France and an icon of the Madonna and Child was donated by Chrystine Butcher.





Other recent gifts have been two Lectern Bibles, one given by the Eastham Bequest; the other by Barbara Kippax in memory of her parents Sam and Ellen Mitchell. A Book of Remembrance and stand was given in memory of Maud Kippax and a bookcase and bench donated in memory of Peter Fretwell. A corner stand was provided in memory of Elizabeth Leathley. The picture of the Last Supper is in memory of Eva Leathley; processional torches in memory of Bill Richardson and a sanctuary lamp given by the family of George Whitehead.

The fine new red carpet has noticeably improved the appearance and comfort of the church as also have about 50 kneelers. These have been carefully worked and donated by individual members of the congregation. Details of the many other artefacts and memorials given to the church since its consecration are listed in the "Terrier" document which may on request be examined for research purposes. The picture shows the lovely banner, worked and presented by Mrs. Green.

## The War Memorial Chapel.

The decision to build a War Memorial Chapel after the 1914 - 1918 War clearly entailed a considerable reorganisation of the church.

A temporary choir vestry was put in the north aisle and the screen dividing the choir vestry from the south transept was used to construct a Baptistry at the foot of the north aisle. (This is now positioned at the centre rear of the Church).

Mr. Frank Mee was the architect working with Mr. Ernest Flower who designed the moulded, carved and traceried screens of oak and installed a third lancet window.

The floor was planned to be of Italian mosaic and the walls panelled to seven feet and inscribed with the names of every Lytham serviceman who died during the 1914 War. The work was undertaken by Messrs. Cartmell and the stonework was carved by Mr. J. Stother. This was finally paid for by Easter 1925 at a cost of £1,828, the number of hours of work charged for was 6,738. The dedication in 1921 was by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Manchester, Dr. William Temple.

The Reredos stone carving may now be seen embellished with vivid panels painted by Margaret King of St. Annes following the memorial theme with red poppies and the Holy Spirit.

Two parclose screens were dedicated at a cost of £98 in 1934 by the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, Dr. Percy Mark Herbert, as a memorial to the then late vicar of St. John's, the Revd. John Gilbertson - Pritchard.

In March of 1984 the chapel was enclosed by glass panelling and blue velvet curtains at a cost of over £1,000 and in 1995, separate heating was installed to increase comfort and practical usefulness for Services.

## THE BELLS

**F**or the first twenty-two years of its existence St. John's had only one bell and this was sold off in 1875 for £22.7.6d. The ring of six bells was then installed at a cost of £518.3.6d. Bells 1, 2 and 3 were purchased by public subscription. Bell 4 was donated by the churchwardens Robert Rainford and Andrew Whiteside; Bell 5 by the Vicar, Gregory Smart and Bell 6 by William Pilling who had been the late vicar of Arnesby, near Leicester.

The weight of the tenor bell exceeds one hundredweight.

**T**he inscriptions on the bells are:-

- No.1. Devotion, death and happiness bid us sound..
- No.2. O Lord, open Thou our lips.
- No.3. And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.
- No.4. Grant Thy people salvation.
- No.5. Lord have mercy upon me.
- No.6. The glory is to God.



The first peal of bells ever to be rung in Lytham in eight “ methods”, was in February 1911. The band comprised - H.Kerr, D. McClellan, R.Cardwell, J. Tipping, J. Hardman and T.Allinson. Similar peals were rung in 1911 and 1913. These bands included John Fell as captain and E. Tipping.

During the 1960 -70’s the bells could only be chimed but ringing did commence again in 1984 though the bells were far from easy to ring.

The bells were rehung in 1992 by Messrs. Eyre and Smith at a cost of £15,000. This is when ball bearings were inserted which made them easier to handle. Rededication took place in December 1992 by the Revd. John Carlisle who had helped to train a most enthusiastic band of ringers. They are now under the leadership of Sid Lloyd, who is the Steeple keeper.

There are a set of sixteen hand bells which were given in 1885 and are still used.

The church today has a strong band of regular Sunday Service ringers with a group of learners who are under tuition.

They include Sid Lloyd, Dave Barr, Chrystine Butcher, Joan Knowles, Janet Lloyd, Diana Mitchell and Dave Willis.



# St John's Choir.

There are no known continuous records of the church choir, although local memories have provided information from the 1920's to the present day.

During the 1920's Mr. William Holden was Organist and Choirmaster, a post which he held for many years. In those days the choir was typical of its time, consisting of men and boys only. The choir took part in local music festivals and enjoyed an annual outing which was usually to Southport.

Mr. Holden was succeeded by Mr. Bloomer who was very keen on entering choristers in local music festivals. About this time the unheard of happened when two ladies were allowed to help out with the choir so long as they kept out of sight! It was not until Rev. Minhinnick's time that ladies became full members and were robed.

Over the years St. John's has been served by a number of organists and choirmasters. Major Harold Walker served for 14 years, followed by Mr. Blackshaw, Mr. Coomber and Mr. Davies. Perhaps our most famous organist so far is Malcolm Archer (at present the organist of Wells Cathedral), who, with James Bonney ran the choir in the early 1970's.

Following on were Stewart Hankinson, Mary Temple, Patsy Whittle, and Darryl Nottingham who have all provided invaluable service to the church. Our present organist is John Simpson to whom we are grateful, along with all those before him who have provided music for the worship at St. John's over so many years.

Of course there have been countless others, men, women, boys and girls who have sung in the choir and we hope that voices will always be raised to praise God in this way.

## Sunday School.

A well supported Sunday School has always been enjoyed at St. John's which was formerly held in the nearby Parish School building. During the 1960's and 1970's there were three departments. The infants were led by Jennifer Coates, the middle school by Sarah Whittaker and later by Joan Knowles with the seniors led by Nell Prior.

During the late 1970's Sunday School was run by Susan Holman and Wendy Parr and in the early 1980's by Jean Hirst and then by Ann Eccles.

At present school is mainly held for the under-fives led by Audrey Barr assisted by several helpers. Sunday School joins in the first part of the Service and then meetings are conducted in the choir vestry after which they enter church to receive a blessing and join in the last part of the Service.

The Sunday School also takes part in various local and diocesan young peoples activities.

## Church Organisations.

Detailed records of so many Church activities are sadly lacking over the past 150 years.

They included a strong Bible Class, Dramatic Society, Rambling Club, Flower Guild, Mother's Union, Boys Brigade, Boy Scouts and Cub Pack. There may be others, lost to memory, but it is reassuring that the old tradition lives on.

There continues to be a lively Social Committee, who organise fund raising and arrange the popular outings and events. The St. John's Women Tuesday Circle meets every month and is well supported with their own speakers and outings. The church runs a Guide company, two Brownie Packs and a Rainbow Group.

Club Day is very well supported and St. John's has proudly provided no less than sixteen Rose Queens since 1894.

**St. John's**

**Sunday School.**



**Club-Days.**



**St. John's Sunday School 1999.**



## THE CHURCHYARD

A great deal of work has always been required and has continued during the last few years to facilitate the upkeep of the churchyard. New tools have been provided and many of the congregation have helped in the work though this is an ongoing task and attention is constantly required.

Three new oak gates have been made and given by Mr. Hardman for the northern entrances to the churchyard. Several new trees have been planted as all of the original Elms have been lost following the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease some years ago.

The first flag pole given by Mr. R.W. Clarke in 1934 stood by the Lych Gate. This was replaced by Mr. Bill Lloyd in his Mayoral year of 1963. Recently yet another new flag pole has been erected by the main door, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Utley by their family.

A tragic accident is recorded in the south-western part of the churchyard where a gravestone records the sad deaths by drowning of seven children while trying to walk across the Ribble from the southern shore in December 1863. All were from the Manchester area and five were the only children of Richard and Ann Sugars. They were aged between 10 and 20 years.

**B**urials had now begun to occupy the area on the southern side of church at this time. Note also the doorway behind the grave on the right.



St. John's churchyard in the 1890's

# The Parish Schools.

The original school was erected on a site given by Mr. Clifton and enrolled in Chancery on 11th. June 1851. This was under the authority of the Schools Act, to the Minister and Churchwardens of St. John's. The stone tablet which stood above the school door had the following inscription - "These schools were erected by contributions from the inhabitants of Lytham and other friends aided by grants from the Committee of Council on Education and the National Society ". The funds raised provided an area of 8 square feet per scholar. There were three rooms, one for the Infants, one for the mixed department and a small room only 10 ft high. Miss Bardsley was the Headmistress and in 1862 the school had good reports from the Inspectors, despite many absences reported in the register for such activities as shrimp picking, potato planting, a ship wreck or 'shoot' or even a visit from the circus. There was even a day off on the occasion of the opening of the Lowther Gardens.

In 1879 it became part of the 'Lytham Charities' and £50 was given by them annually until 1863 when this was increased to £100. The Trust attempted to take over the school in 1880 but this was resisted by the people of Lytham, as they wanted it to remain the preserve of the parish of Lytham. By 1894 the school was in need of repair and more discussions took place with a public enquiry in 1898 when a Scheme of Administration was published and a body of Managers set up, separated from the Trustees and allotted £450 per annum.



The managers were well known and respected members of the community - Charles Birley of Bartle Hall, Wykeham Clifton of Warton Lodge, Robert Crozier, chemist of Park St. Lytham, Thomas and James Fair, agents of the Clifton Estate, Dr. Luke Fisher, first physician of Lytham Hospital, Edward Mellor and James Needham from Lytham, Thomas Miller of Singleton Park and James Parkinson of Moss Hall Farm.

In 1899 the School was enlarged, £1000 being provided by the Trustees and a further £730 raised by the congregation and friends of St. John's. Very soon the old Master's House was demolished to provide a new building for the Infant Department, which was opened in 1913 at a cost of £2700. Nos. 22 and 24 Warton Street were purchased for £700 and eventually demolished for the sum of £60. The Architect, Mr. T.C. Grimble, was paid 105 guineas and the school itself, built by W.J. Cartmell cost over £1750. The new heating system cost £50 and the playground £35.

Consideration had to be given to the erection of new premises and consequently the new School on Park View Road was built in 1977. The old buildings were demolished and their



former site is now occupied by sheltered accommodation – St. John's Court. The church thus lost its former accommodation for Sunday School and other activities, but the new School is a very happy place with excellent facilities. More recent heads of the school have been Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. J. Barker, Mr. Shone and the present Head, Mr. Michael Eatough.

St. John's School about 1926.





**St. John's School  
in 1985.**



## ST. ANDREW'S MISSION HALL

Little is known of the beginnings of St. Andrew's Mission except that it was built in the time of the Vicariate of the Revd. J. Gilbertson-Pritchard with the help of a Mr. Cornford of Mythop. The building was provided to form a place of worship for people who lived on the outskirts of the parish around Saltcotes and beyond.



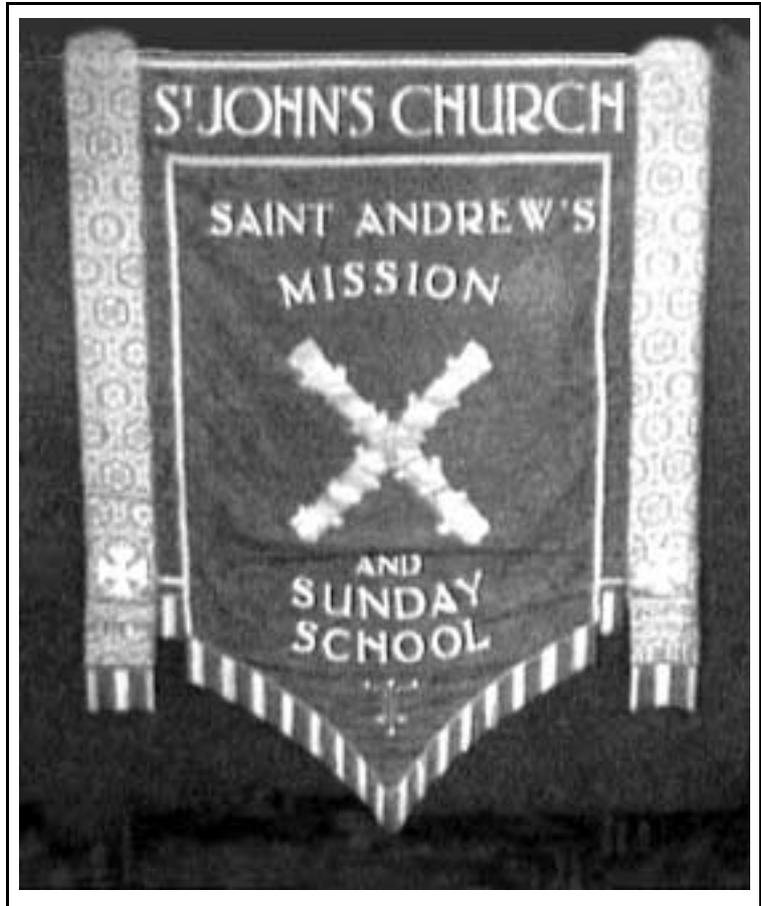
The outer construction was of corrugated iron with an inner wooden lining, the site being leased to the Church by Mr. John Talbot Clifton for a peppercorn rent. The hall measured 50 feet by 20 feet and there were anterooms in addition so that it could actually accommodate up to 100 people. The entrance porch had a turret containing an old ship's bell. The earliest record of it to be found was a Fire Insurance policy dated 1901 for £200 on the building plus another £50 for the furnishings.

## ST. ANDREW'S MISSION HALL

The services were taken by the clergy and curate and later, by Church Army officers and Lay Readers. There was also a Sunday School whose banner was dedicated in 1932. It can be still seen inside the church.

The building was used as a centre for evacuees from the Manchester area at the start of the 1939 war and then used as a school for them. For many years until its closure it was used as the meeting place for St. John's Women Tuesday Circle Group.

The site was sold in 1986, after protracted negotiations and is now the site of four flats standing in Victoria St. behind Lytham Hospital.



## **Churchwardens from 1966.**

<b>1966-69</b>	<b>Messrs. Bowles and Leathley.</b>
<b>1969-73</b>	<b>Messrs. Loose and Croker.</b>
<b>1973-75</b>	<b>Messrs. Croker and Sawer.</b>
<b>1975-79</b>	<b>Messrs. Sawer and Woodrow.</b>
<b>1979-80</b>	<b>Messrs. Woodrow and Wilson.</b>
<b>1980-85</b>	<b>Messrs. Wilson and Hankinson.</b>
<b>1985-87</b>	<b>Messrs. Wilson and Williams.</b>
<b>1987-90</b>	<b>Messrs. Wilson and Macklin.</b>
<b>1990-94</b>	<b>Messrs. Wilson and Barr.</b>
<b>1994-</b>	<b>Messrs. Wilson and Cadd.</b>

## Notes.



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**We hope you will enjoy reading it and keep it as a souvenir of our 150th. Anniversary.**

**PRICE £3.00**

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