

Holy Trinity Church Formby.

IN REMINISCENT MOOD.

By William Marshallsay

An invitation to glance backwards in time to one's childhood and youth is attractive, especially when that bygone period is charged with treasured memories.

When our Vicar requested me to make a chronicle of events leading up to the building of HOLY TRINITY, FORMBY and tell of its activities in the early years, I was at first hesitant; but after reflection realized that I personally was one of a diminishing number of survivors with first-hand knowledge of that early period.

In this and subsequent issues of the Parish Magazine, I will attempt, with the readers indulgence, to relate the happenings in those interesting times.

TRULY RURAL FORMBY.

Let us try, first of all to recall conditions in Formby at the middle of the nineteenth century.

The population was comprised, for the most part, of farmer folk and fishermen; together with the cobbler, the tailor, the carpenter, the wheelwright, the blacksmith and the Thatcher. All these worthy folk lived in picturesque farmhouses or cottages having thatched or stone-flagged roofs.

A few of the more important roads were paved, but the lanes had usually grass or hard trodden sandy surfaces, deep cart ruts and a running brook on one side. (Some what like Long Lane at the present time).

THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY TO FORMBY.

This important event in 1848 was a real awakening for our quiet village.

New residents arrived eager to benefit by our fresh sea breeze and health-giving air; and modern commodious houses sprang up to accommodate them.

The remarkable growth in population can best be judged from the following Census figures:-

YEAR POPULATION (Formby & Ainsdale combined)

1146

1594

1780

2016

3908

5937

5642*

Ainsdale was separated from Formby Parish in 1894

A SECOND CHURCH.

At the coming of the Railway in 1848 there was only one Anglican Church in Formby – that of St. Peter, in Green Lane; but consequent upon the growth in population a second Church – that of St Luke, at Formby Point (on the site of

the ancient Formby Chapel – was opened in 1855, to meet the needs of the southern end of the parish.

These two Anglican Churches, maintained the old custom of holding Evening Prayer services at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoons; and this arrangement continued until approximately 1890. Meanwhile the Nonconformist sections of the new residents had initiated Sunday evening Services in their Chapels and Mission Rooms which were supported with enthusiasm.

Then it was, in 1887, that the Church folk section of the newcomers began to urge for Sunday Evening Anglican services. They sought an interview with the Rev. Lonsdale Formby, who was Squire, and Parson of St Peter's Formby, combined. He was then a septuagenarian and had held the living of St Peter's since 1846, much revered and respected. He gave sympathetic consideration to the suggested Sunday Evening Service, but preferred not to make any change at St. Peter's in the few remaining years of his ministry. He recognised the soundness of their aims, however, and willingly agreed to their suggestion that a Sunday Evening Anglican Service might be organised at the newly built Jubilee Hall (now known as the Gild Hall) in Church Road Formby.

Thus there sprang to life and activity in July 1887 an enthusiastic congregation of Church folk under the scholarly and vigorous ministrations of the Rev. F. F. Grensted M.A., (then the Diocesan Inspector of Schools) and the Evening Service met with instant acceptance and keen support.

A THIRD CHURCH.

Before a year had passed it became evident that with the continuing growth in population there was definite need for the provision of an additional Anglican Church in the centre of Formby, and the possibility of effecting so desirable a result was eagerly taken up by the Evening Service leaders.

Again, the Rev. Lonsdale Formby met their hopes and suggestions with encouragement and support, and with characteristic generosity he offered to provide, free of cost, a suitable plot of freehold land on which to build the new Church. This practical and generous offer was gladly and gratefully accepted. In the spring of 1889, Robert Sutton's little croft in Rosemary Lane was placed at the disposal of the pioneer Church builders and on it eventually was to rise our own lovely Church of Holy Trinity, Formby.

JUBILEE HALL PRELIMINARIES.

When the Sunday Evening Anglican services began at the Jubilee Hall in July 1887, one worker stood out prominently among other keen pioneers. This was Mr. A.C. Winstanley Chate, who was very zealous in his efforts to make the new venture successful. Regularly every Sunday evening he attended the service and read the Lessons reverently and impressively. One of the earliest meetings to discuss the advisability of an additional Church in the centre of Formby was held at his house 'Savernake' in Cropton Road; at this meeting he

was elected Committee Vice-Chairman; which position he held until October, 1888, when he succeeded to the Chairmanship, Mr W. H. Bucknell, who was leaving the neighbourhood.

With determination the Committee started and steadily augmented a Building Fund; and aided by generous donations and a succession of social efforts, raised the sum of £1,153, by the spring of 1889. Then, encouraged by Mr Formby's approval of their project, and by his generous offer of a freehold for the new church, they commissioned one of their body – Mr. Chas. A. Atkinson, Civil Engineer and Architect of 'Long Yort' Freshfield - to prepare plans. These plans envisaged a very attractive looking village church with a central belfry tower. After careful consideration, however the Committee decided that their limited finances were insufficient for the full scheme, but they would go ahead in stages beginning with the Nave portion only.

THE NEW CHURCH.

Messrs. Brown and Blackhouse, Building Contractors, of Liverpool, was the firm selected to erect the new church, and soon building materials began to arrive at the site, including quantities of white Stourton stone and blue-grey granite stone from Penmaenmawr.

THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY.

In the presence of the Lord Bishop of Liverpool (Dr. J. C. Ryle) and several Diocesan Signatories, the foundation stone was generously laid by Mrs. Annie Lucy Harriet, the wife of Col. John Formby J.P., D.L., of Formby Hall, Formby on June 3rd 1889.

This eventful ceremony was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic company of pioneer workers and supporters. Their dream of a new place of worship was at last on the way to success.

THE PIONEERS.

The writer has not found it possible to furnish the names of all the 'Jubilee Hall Pioneers', but the following alphabetically arranged list which has been abstracted from the early Parish Magazine of 1891 and 1892 will include the surnames of most of those worthies.

- Ainsworth, Atkinson, Archer, Beauford, Bedlington, Beesley, Blood, Brandreth,
- Bright, Brockbank, Raffles Brooke, Buck, Bucknell, Bushby, Buston.
- Carr, Chate, Christiansen, Crosfield, Crouch.
- Dean.
- Earle.
- Fairfoot, Fox, Furness.
- Gill, de Glanville, Gould, Girvin.
- Harvey, Hayward, Herdman, Hewer, Hodge, Hoops, Horsfell, Hossack, Hughes, Hunt.

- Jack, Jackson, Johns.
- Lowe, Causer Lowe,

- MacIver, Mack, Mackenzie, Mackie, McCombish, Maddock, Melly, Morrell, Morrice, Moore.
- Prescott, Pugh.
- Rankin, Redburn, Remer, Remer, Reynolds, Rodgers.
- Shinkwin, Sidney, Smethurst, Spence, Spink, Stubbs, Sturley, Havelock Sutton, Sykes.
- Tate, Tamplin, Thompson.
- Walker, Wallworth, Welch, Woodfin, Wrigley.

INCIDENTAL TO FOUNDATION STONE LAYING.

A rather remarkable incident is to be related in connexion with the Stone laying ceremony.

On this particular afternoon (3rd June 1889) a young Waterloo curate whose duties included chaplaincy to the Forces stationed at Altcar Rifle Range Camp had visited the Camp and was returning to Waterloo. On Formby Railway Station he was astonished to see the Lord Bishop of Liverpool (Dr. J. C. Ryle) and an escort of clergy alighting from a Liverpool incoming train. He watched the party proceed towards Brows Lane and then, filled with curiosity, followed them. They turned into Rosemary Lane and he was presently a spectator of the open air Stone Laying Ceremony. Little did he guess at the time that the church to be built was destined to be his own sole charge for a period of 35 years. The name of the young curate was JOHN BROOKE

RICHARDSON.

Another relative incident, of lesser importance indeed, may perhaps be recorded. The writer of these lines was then a very small boy attending Mrs Blake's Preparatory School in Chapel Lane, only a stone's throw from the new church site. The ceremony was timed for 3 o'clock but school did not 'let out' until 4 o'clock. He was too late for the actual ceremony but he did see the wonderful stone within the hour of its being laid!

BUILDING PROGRESS.

After laying of the Foundation Stone of the new church on 3rd June 1889, good building progress was made. The grey-blue Welsh granite walls, with their inner lining of bricks, rose steadily and were ready in good time for the heavy timber beams and rafters which were to carry the big expanse of roof. All these activities were watched eagerly by the pioneer Building Committee, and very keenly by Mr. C.A. Atkinson, the Architect.

SURROUNDING AREA.

The surrounds of the new Church site in those early days were, of course, more open than nowadays. The Post Office and the District Bank Buildings did not then exist. Nor were there any Day School Buildings, Parish Hall, or Church Club buildings, as in the present day. Where the modern Post Office

now stands, there stood Charles Sumner's dwelling house, similar in design to 'Brown Lee' its next door neighbour across Rosemary Lane; and where the Day Schools stand was a one-storied, white thatched cottage which earlier had been the village Post Office, controlled by Robert Alexander, the first Postmaster. 'Glent Villa' in Rosemary Lane had not yet been built but Gilbertson's two pairs of semis (Eccles, Abrahams, Goulborne's and Mawdesley's) were of recent erection. Where the two pairs of modern semis now stand between the Parish Hall and the footpath leading to Long Lane, there stood an old attached pair of thatched cottages, known as 'Betty Draper's'. This old lady was an important personage in those early days. She was the possessor of a public mangle which was greatly appreciated by the villagers! What we call the 'Garden of Eden' was the orchard of one of those two cottages. The 'Priory' in Brows Lane, was of course, in existence; it is one of the oldest houses in Formby, but was known then as 'The Elms'. To digress a little, it may be of interest to record that a Roman coin, of the Constantine the Great period (A.D. 317 – 324) was dug up in 'The Elms' garden in the year 1866. The Bocquet family were then in occupation of the house; and about this period one of the daughters, Ada Bocquet, married Miles Roger Formby, grandson of Squire Formby of Formby Hall.

OPENING DATE OF THE NEW CHURCH.

Early in 1890 the roofing of the Nave was completed and work on the flooring and seating was proceeding steadily. Buoyed up with enthusiasm the Building Committee gave consideration to the fixing of an opening date. Their decision was that the fatal day should be TRINITY SUNDAY, 1st June 1890; and they decided further that the new church should be dedicated to THE HOLY TRINITY and should henceforth bear that name. The Committee's united efforts thereafter were focussed on being ready for the great day. Meanwhile, the Sunday Evening Mission Services were continued at the Jubilee Hall in Church Road.

THE FIRST MINISTER.

The selection of the first minister was indeed an important one. Here was a new Church starting with no fundamental assets; it depended entirely on the modest gifts of its local founders and their friends; and on the monetary profits from their organised social efforts. The leader needed for this optimistic young Church should be primarily man of God, a teacher and a pastor; but in addition he should be a builder endowed with courage, enterprise and sound judgement. Such attributes, the Committee were assured from numerous quarters, were to be found in the worthy young curate attached to St. John's Church, Waterloo. Discreet soundings in that direction produced satisfying corroboration. Diocesan approval was sought and obtained. Then the appointment of Curate-in-Charge was offered to the Rev. JOHN BROOKE RICHARDSON M.A., who accepted eagerly. From this moment the Church of Holy Trinity, Formby was vitalised.

NAVE DESCRIPTION.

Work on the Nave was completed in the spring of 1890. The interior walls were of plain brick, with window mullions and ledges of white Stourton Stone; and flooring and pews of pitch pine

The east end of the Nave was blocked from floor to roof by a temporary plain brick wall. At the base of this wall was a spacious platform about eighteen inches high and on this level in a central position touching the temporary wall, stood the Holy Table backed by dorsal hangings.

Two double rows of Choir Stalls, which faced each other on the platform provided accommodation for five men and six boys on each side. A small but effective reed organ was installed on the north side of the platform, between the end of the Communion Rail and the Choir Stalls. The Clergy prayer desk was positioned near to the Nave pews on the south side. The pulpit and lectern faced the congregation from positions on the north and south sides respectively.

THE TEMPORARY VESTRIES.

Two temporary wooden vestries (Clergy and Choir) were in the form of a lean-to against the exterior of the temporary east wall. Access to the Nave from the vestries was through a doorway at the southern end of the east wall. A temporary belfry was positioned at the same south east corner consisting of a heavy latticed frame which rose above the roof height and here the bell was hung. At the foot of the frame was a sentry box open on one side to the interior of the choir vestry; from this position the bell-rope was pulled.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPENING DAY.

As will be understood the requisites in the way of equipment, furnishings etc., for this entirely new church were many, but a wonderful spirit of generosity was evoked.

Here is a list of early gifts:-

Pulpit	– Mr. R. Tamplin, Long Yort, (father-in-law of Architect Mr. C. A. Atkinson)
Lectern	– Mrs. R. Stavely Shinkwin (Altcar Rifle Range)
Font	– The Children's Service Offerings
Bell	– Mrs R.D. Welch (Cairnie House)
Communion Service Vessels Set No.1	– Messrs Chate, Havelock, Sutton, Hoops and Fairfoot (a joint gift)
Communion Service Vessels Set No. 2	– Mr. and Mrs. David Inglis

Dorsal Hangings and Curtains behind Holy Table	– Mrs. J. S. Beauford (The Warren)
Fair Linen Altar cloth and Chorister Surplices	– Mrs. Wrigley (Brockholme)
Altar Frontal (White)	– Mrs. Chas Huson (Waterloo)
Altar Frontal (Violet)	– Mrs. Ashton (Firwood)
Altar Frontal (Green)	– The Building Committee
Altar Frontal (Red)	– Anon
Various Chalice Veils, Antependiums, Silk Bookmarkers and Alms Bags	– Mesdames Atkinson, Huson and Sykes and Miss Stubbs
Oak Credence Table and Glastonbury Chair	– Mrs. Sydney (The Hey)
Panel Carving on Font	– Mrs. E. Causer Lowe (Marsh Court)
Brass Ewer for Font	– Mrs. Ainsworth's children (Elleray)
Brass Altar Book Desk	– Rev. J. Brooke Richardson
Oak Hymn Board	– Mrs. J.S. Remer (Marienville)

PREPARATIONS FOR NEW CHOIR.

The nucleus for the new choir was the men of the Jubilee Hall Mission services among them Mr. Havelock Sutton and Mrs. Fairfoot; but as there was a general desire that the new Church Choir should be restricted to men and boys, steps had to be taken to find and train boys for the treble part. Timely action was taken in this direction Mr. James Pemberton Maddock of Waterloo, a competent musician had come to reside in Formby a few months prior to the opening of the new Church. Likely boys were sent to him for voice tests and diligent practising of the Responses, the Pointing of the Psalms and Hymn singing took place at York Villa, Mr. Maddock's residence in Cropton Road. As the opening day drew near the practises were transferred to the private chapel at Shaftesbury House in Raven Meols Lane by kind permission of Dr. Stanley A. Gill. Later the office of Organist and Choirmaster was offered to and accepted by Mr. Maddock.

THE FIRST VERGER.

A Verger's job is an important one. Any church possessing a worthy incumbent and a worthy Verger is doubly blest. At the period with which we are dealing (1890) the neighbouring Church of St. Luke at Formby Point had a very worthy Verger – John Aindow of Green Loons Farm – who had served his church devotedly for 35 years; furthermore he had sons fit and ready to succeed him at any time. The leaders of the new church of Holy Trinity were wise when they decided to appoint one of these sons John Edward Aindow – as first Verger, and his wife as their first caretaker. Another member of the family – Walsall was Holy Trinity's first bell ringer.

BUILDING OF THE NAVE COMPLETED.

Much interest was aroused in Formby as the building of the new Nave of Holy Trinity Church reached completion. Interior fittings and heating equipment and furnishings were installed; untidy debris was cleared away and the surroundings were laid out with lawns, flower beds, bushes, trees and hedges. Eventually all was ready for the great opening occasion. The new Church had seating accommodation for 384 persons.

OPENING SERVICE ON TRINITY SUNDAY 1st June 1890.

This day will be regarded as an important one in the annals of Formby for on it the doors of the new Church of HOLY TRINITY were first opened for the worship of Almighty God.

The first service was, most properly, the celebration of the Holy Communion at 8.0 a.m. and the celebrant, very fittingly was the Rev. F.F. Grensted, M.A., who had been leader in the preliminary mission services held in the Jubilee Hall in Church Road. He was assisted in this opening service by the Rev. J. Brooke Richardson M.A., the new Curate-in-Charge.

The special preachers at the other services on the opening day were:

- 11.0 a.m. Matins. The Rev. Canon Herbert Jones M.A. (St. John's, Waterloo)

- 3.0 p.m. Children's Service. The Rev. J Brooke Richardson M.A.

- 7.0 p.m. Evensong. The Venerable Archdeacon Clarke D.D. (Christ Church, Southport)

At each of these services the Church was filled to capacity and the recently formed choir of men and boys, vested in their new cassocks and surplices, acquitted themselves with credit.

SERVICES DURING THE OCTAVE.

So keen and enthusiastic were the pioneers of the new Church that there were Evensong services at 7.30 p.m. with special preachers on each day in the week following opening day.

The programme was:

Monday 2nd June: Preacher Rev. C de B. Winslow M.A., (St. Nicholas, Blundellsands)

Tuesday 3rd June: Preacher Rev. F.G. Smithwick M.A., (St Thomas' Seaforth)

Wednesday 4th June: Preacher Rev. F. J. Powell M.A., (St John's, Knotty Ash)

Thursday 5th June: Preacher Rev. T. K. W. Dickson M.A., (Christ Church, Waterloo)

Friday 6th June: Preacher Rev. J.G. Leigh M.A., (Rector of Walton)

Saturday 7th June: Preacher Rev. J. Denton Thompson M.A., (St Leonard's Bootle)

Visiting choirs from St John's, Waterloo; St Nicholas, Blundellsands; and Christ Church, Waterloo; sang the services and rendered special anthems on three of these week night services, to full and appreciative congregations.

On Sunday, 8th June the morning services were conducted by the new Curate-in-Charge, the Rev. J. Brooke Richardson M.A., and at Evensong, the special preacher was the Right Rev., the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, (Dr. J.C. Ryle). Full congregations attended the services.

WARDENS AND SIDESMEN.

The first Church Wardens were: Mr. A.C. Winstanley Chate, Col. (late Brig. Gen.) R.S. Shinkwin, O.C. Altcar Camp and Ranges.

The sidesmen were: Mr. Joseph Archer, Capt. H.C. Crosfield, Dr. Stanley A. Gill, Mr Mark J. Mackie, Mr. T.S. Pemberton and Major T.B. Walker.

(Not until the passing of the 1919 Enabling Act did Parochial Church Councils come into being)

THE NEW CHURCH IN ACTION.

The third Anglican church in Formby was now well and truly established. Right from the start the new Curate-in-Charge took a wholehearted grip on his job, and he met with ready and eager help. The services were bright and

attractive and the congregation numerous; particularly so on Sunday evenings when frequently it was necessary to bring extra chairs in the aisles.

PROBLEMS.

Problems arose inevitably – mainly financial ones. There was a debt of £800 on the day of the opening because the Mission Services nucleus fund of £1,153 (plus £300 additional subscriptions etc.) had proved insufficient to meet the costs of erecting and equipping the new Nave.

A very urgent need was a PARISH ROOM for Sunday School and parochial purposes. The lack of separate accommodation for Class work and social functions was a great handicap and called for early action.

The CONSECRATION of the Nave was another feature keenly desired, but before seeking this rite, the Church building must be free from debt; and furthermore, it was a Diocesan rule that before Consecration a new Church should raise an Endowment Fund of £1,000, which amount should be entrusted to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who would supplement the amount and refund interest annually.

Such were some of the problems which faced the new Curate-in-Charge, and his people.

How these difficulties were tackled will be dealt with subsequently.

EARLY PROBLEMS.

Records show that on 26th July 1890 within two months of the opening ceremony – the Curate-in-Charge and the Church Wardens circulated a public appeal in the following terms:

‘It has already become apparent that the new Church building is inadequate to supply the wants of the district; and there is furthermore, a growing demand for additional rented pews, which could be granted without undesirable curtailments of the present limited number of free seats. Before, however, any further steps could be taken towards enlargement and completion of the Church; by the addition of transepts and Chancel, the debt in connection with the erection of the present building, amounting to £800 must be paid off; it is necessary also that an Endowment Fund of £1,000 should be raised, so that Parish boundaries could be legally assigned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; furthermore it is a rule of the Bishop of the Diocese not to consecrate a new Church until it is free of debt.

The object of this circular is to ask for your sympathy, support and co-operation in the work which lies ahead. Much has already been done and many have contributed liberally. There are still, however, friends in the neighbourhood and outside the district who take an interest in all Church

work who have not been appealed to, and we trust that others will come forward and extend a helping hand to enable us to pay off, firstly the £800, building debt; secondly to raise the £1,000 Endowment Fund and eventually to complete the building of the Church.

Donations will be most thankfully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr W.G. Hughes of Whalley Grange, Formby.'

The immediate financial response to this appeal was very encouraging; it amounted to the sum of £452. Prominent among these generous donations were:

Col. R.S. Shinkin £100, Mr W.D. Welch £100, Mr. T.H. Ismay £50, Lord Bishop of Liverpool £25, Rev. Brooke Richardson £25, Mr. J. Ainsworth £25, Mr. J.S. Beauford £25, Mr. T. Carlisle £10 10s., Mr. J.S. Remer £10 10s., Mr J. Bruce Ismay £10, Mr. J.H. Ismay £10, Mr W. McIver £10, Mr I.A. Bushby £10, Mr F.A. Tamplin £10.

Arrears of debt were still considerable, but plans were envisaged of a great Village Fair in July 1891.

THE PARISH ROOM.

When the Church first opened the available accommodation consisted of the Nave and two small vestries only. Parochial Meetings had to be held in private houses. A Parish Room was urgently needed for Sunday School work and for classes, Entertainments, Social events etc.. Effective help came in this direction from Col. Shinkwin, who was instrumental in obtaining the hire of a commodious corrugated iron army hut owned by Mr. Thomas Hough of Southport. This gentleman proved to be a good friend indeed, for, after re-erection of the building in the Church grounds – on its Eastern boundary – he contributed liberally to the furnishing of it. Later on, impressed by the good use being made of the building, he made a remarkably favourable offer to the Church officials. They could purchase it at their own chosen time for the very reasonable figure of £75. This offer was grasped eagerly and the Committee made a quick 'whip-round' among themselves and their friends, whereby it was possible to send a cheque for the requisite amount to Mr. Hough. He then, with characteristic generosity returned the cheque saying that he admired their good work and energy and directed that the £75 should be devoted to the Endowment Fund. The Parish Room was brought into use at the beginning of December 1890, with Mr. J.H. Havelock-Sutton as its first Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

GROWTH OF ORGANISATIONS.

With the helpful use of the new Parish Room parochial organisations began to grow, thanks to the energy of the new Curate-in-Charge and of his keen supporters.

The MOTHERS' MEETING Society came into being in December 1890. They met on Monday afternoons in the Parish Room with Mrs. Spink and Mrs. Atkinson in charge. In happy social atmosphere much of their activity was spent 'making garments for their families'. (The Society is still functioning, but now merged in the Mothers' Union.)

The MEN'S BIBLE CLASS was founded on the 2nd January 1891 and after these many years of continued existence this Friday evening class is still strong and vigorous.

The PARISH MAGAZINE began life on the 1st January 1891. Its first editor was Mr. J.W. Fairfoot (Schoolmaster) of Cropton Road.

Other parochial organisations founded in the spring of 1891 were:

THE C of E TEMPERANCE SOCIETY with monthly meetings and concerts by members. The Hon. Secretary was Mr. Daniel Webster.

THE SCRIPTURE UNION – encouraging daily systematic reading of the Bible. The Hon. Secretary was Mrs. Mark J. Mackie

THE COMMUNICANTS' GUILD with special preparatory monthly services on Saturday evenings. The hon. Secretary was Mr. H.C. Crosfield

REV. JOHN BROOKE RICHARDSON.

It is now time to write descriptively of the young clergyman who, in the spring of the year 1890, came to take charge of HOLY TRINITY FORMBY.

The writer hopes that he will be able to do this task adequately, for 'J.B.R.' – as he became generally known – was a remarkable man of many gifts and graces.

'J.B.R.' was an Irishman of good family. He was the son of John Richardson Q.C. of 'Summerhill', Clones, Co. Monaghan, a prominent barrister, known as 'father' of the Northern Irish Bar. His mother was one of the French's of Cloonyquin, Co. Roscommon, a kinswoman of General Lord French.

As an undergraduate at Trinity College, Dublin, 'J.B.R.' was contemporary with students who later acquired renown; among them was Edward Carson (later Sir Edward Carson, Politician); Charles Valier's Stanford Mus. Doc. (Church Music Composer); and Charles Manners (famous Operatic Bass vocalist and Grand Opera Manager)

'J.B.R.' graduated B.A. in 1881 and was ordained in the same year by the Bishop of Liverpool. He took his Dublin M.A. degree in 1883. Competent in many branches of sport he came down from Trinity College with several silver cups won in running, jumping, swimming and rifle shooting.

After nine years of appreciated service as curate at St. John's Church, Waterloo, Liverpool, he came to Formby laden with parting gifts; among them

were a handsome oak Library Table and a Glastonbury Chair. (These articles of furniture – all these years later – still do useful service in the Clergy Vestry at Holy Trinity, Formby.)

In addition to his own attractive personality ‘J.B.R.’ was fortunate possessor of private means, an advantage which made him independent of his small stipend; and he was able thereby to deal effectively with parochial wants and parishioners needs, which he did with untiring generosity. Furthermore his bachelor state allowed time for full exercise of his chosen work – the care of his church and people.

One of his first practical actions was to purchase ‘Green Lea’ in College Avenue as his own personal residence, thus obviating the expense of a Vicarage house.

His warm Irish heart and ready geniality quickly found him friends on all sides. Out of doors he had a cheery greeting for every soul he met. Illustratively let me quote a couple of episodes in the early days of his Formby ministry –

As fellow countrymen he and little Johnny Galligan the red whiskered Formby postman were soon on the best of terms. The usual dialogue when they met would be something like this:

J.B.R. An’ what’s yer fancy today?

J.G. Well, sorr, Oi think there’s nothing to beat Paddy O’Flynn in the 3.30!

J.B.R. Thanks, Johnny, I’ll bear that in mind.

It is very doubtful if he ever hazarded a wager on any of Johnny’s ‘certs’ but a warm and friendly contact was formed.

And there was the affable old James Heaton, the railway signaller of Bull Cop, who responded cheerily to J.B.R.’s greeting when they met in the Village:

J.B.R. I don’t know whether you are one of my flock or not, but all the same the top of the morning to you!

J.H. Good Morning, Sir, No; I am not one of your flock, I’m one of the Monsignor’s flock Sir.

J.B.R. And, me boy, you couldn’t have a better shepherd! (He had already met and established good friendly relations with the Right Rev. Monsignor Carr, Parish Priest of Our Lady’s Church, Formby, at that period) and St. Luke. Definitely it was Holy Trinity’s duty to help but the time was very awkward because of it’s own Church building and new Organ commitments for which large sums had still to be raised. It was agreed however that in the forthcoming St. Peter’s Village Fair, Holy Trinity would organise a stall and help wholeheartedly in the effort.

1895 A NEW SUPPORTER.

The Parish Magazine for December 1895 recorded the name of a new contributor to the Organ Fund. The name was that of young Dr. A.C.Wilson who had come to take up the Sissinghurst practice in succession to Dr. Hewer who was retiring.

(Note from 1959 “Ever since that time Dr. Wilson has been a staunch supporter of Holy Trinity Church and now – a nonagenarian – is a Trustee Patron of the living of Holy Trinity liked and respected by all, we rejoice to see him on Sunday mornings, weather permitting, in his accustomed seat”).

1896 CHURCH BUILDING PROGRESS.

Building operations continued steadily and by the end of 1895 the roofing Belfry and flooring were completed. The Building Committee say the possibility of full completion in the early Spring of 1896 and planned an opening ceremony with consecration in mid May. Much had, of course, to be done in the acquisition of fittings, furnishings, hangings, carpets, runners, hassocks etc.

NEW ORGAN COMMITTEE.

A New Organ sub-committee was elected on 5th February 1896 to proceed with the provision of a worthy instrument for the special organ chamber in the new Chancel. The gentlemen selected for this important task were:

Rev. J. Brooke Richardson M.A.	Chairman,
Col. Thomas B. Walker	Churchwarden
Mr Jas. P. Maddock	Organist
Mr. E. Causer Lowe	Hon.Treasurer.
Mr. T.W. Anderson	Hon. Sec.

Tenders were sought from five Organ Builder Firms of National repute. The firm chosen to build and install the Organ was Messrs. Norman Bros. and Beard of Norwich. The price agreed upon was £800 with delivery by mid-Summer 1896.

1896 SPRINGTIDE.

Springtime witnessed the finishing touches to the completed Church edifice and the clearance of scaffolding etc. Very noble and impressive were the lofty chancel and transept arches; and the interior walls of the new chancel were admirable in the freshness of their smooth red Ruabon brick lining.

The final operation was the removal of the temporary east wall which divided the old from the new portion of the building. To accomplish this work it was found to be necessary to close the Church for one Sunday (10th May 1896) on which day Services were held in the wooden Parish Room. A low stone mounted wall separated the nave from the raised chancel in the centre of which stood a handsome pair of Iron and Bronze gates subscribed for by some of the Communicants and the intention was to continue the Iron and Bronze decoration in the form of a screen

along the low wall. With the completion of the building the seating accommodation was increased to 524.

EASTER VESTRY MEETING 1896.

GENERAL SHINKWIN'S RETIREMENT and SUCCESSOR.

At the Easter Vestry Meeting it was reported that General Shinkwin's retirement from Army Service was imminent and that the family were removing to Romsey, Hants.

This was a very regrettable break in the councils of Holy Trinity because General Shinkwin in his office as Vicar's Warden had been a great strength and support. His family also had entered wholeheartedly in every parochial effort. As a parting gesture of affection and goodwill Mrs. Shinkwin asked that she should be permitted to provide the new East Window with worthy stained glass and this offer was eagerly welcomed.

The vicar nominated as his new Warden Mr. Edward Causer Lowe of Marsh Court and this appointment was received with much favour because of Mr Lowes's industry and effectiveness in the Building and New Organ schemes.

EASTERTIDE 1896.

EASTER OFFERING.

The Vicar's Easter Offering this year was £19 13s 6d. (£19.67), which amount he characteristically donated to the Church Building Fund. (As a matter of interest the total Sunday collections in these early days averaged (£5.50)

MAY 1896.

CONSECRATION OF THE COMPLETED CHURCH.

This important and long looked for event took place on Tuesday afternoon 12th. May 1896 when the Rt.Rev.Dr. J.C.Ryle, First Lord Bishop of Liverpool performed the ceremony. He was assisted by the Venerable Archdeacon Madden; the Rev. W. Millington, Rural Dean; The Rev. Canon J.G.Leigh, Rector of Walton, and supported by a numerous body of local clergy. Needless to say there was a full congregation of enthusiastic parishioners and friends.

The Consecration celebrations were continued next evening (Wednesday) when the preacher was the Rev. C.C. Elcum of St. Agnes, Liverpool, on the following evening (Ascension Day) the Preacher, the Rev. W.J. Adams of St. Augustine's Liverpool, and on the next Sunday evening when the Preacher was the Rev. Canon Blundell, Rector of Halsall.

SPRINGTIDE 1896.

MOTHERS' MEETING.

When it became known that Mrs. Hewer, a lady who had devoted much time and goodwill in the interests of the Mothers' Meeting Society was approaching her Silver Wedding Day, the members decided to show their appreciation of her loving work by making her a present of a pair of silver dishes. "But" states the Parish Magazine of that period, "Mrs. Hewer had her little secret too, for at a special gathering each mother was presented with a silver thimble as a memento of the occasion together with a needle case and a delicious piece of wedding cake made by Mrs. Woodfin".

SPRINGTIDE 1896.

LAST WEDDING SERVICE IN THE NAVE.

The current Parish Magazine records that the last Wedding Service to be conducted in the early Nave portion of the Church was that of Alfred Morrell Spink and Marie Maud Mack on the 28th. April 1896. The Service was fully choral, and more than ordinary interest was evoked for the young couple had been connected with our Church from the very first.

MID SUMMER 1896.

DEBTS!

It was indeed satisfactory to have our church enlarged, completed and equipped but there were necessarily troublesome debts in the background; approximately £1,250 on the Church Building Fund and £400 on the Organ Fund. We shall see however how these obstacles were overcome steadily and surely by resolute leadership.

JUNE 1896.

AID FOR ST.PETER'S VILLAGE FAIR.

As promised Holy Trinity parishioners aided St. Peter's in the special effort to raise money for the enlargement of St. Peter's Church Schools and Burial Ground. This very successful four day event was held on 24-27th. June 1896. The distinguished opener was the Rt. Hon. George N. Curzon M.P. for Southport Divisions (later Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India). Holy Trinity's people headed by Mrs. J.S. Beauford ran a stall which netted the worthy sum of £125.

MIDSUMMER 1896.

NEW CHANCEL GIFTS.

Three useful and pleasing gifts for the new Chancel were received about this period.

- 1) Mrs Charles Huson of Waterloo who had already embroidered and presented the Festal White Altar Frontal provided an Oak Litany Fold Stool which she personally had carved decoratively. (This stool is still in regular use.)
- 2) The Sedilia and Credence Ledge in the Sanctuary were originally of plain white stone; these were chiselled artistically at the expense of Mr. and Mrs. S.T.Simpson of Southport, warm friends of the church and parents of three boys singing in the choir.
- 3) A miniature Evangelist window (in memory of Jane Ashton who died in 1894) in the Chancel wall behind the pulpit. This beautiful little window contains medallion portraits of the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) together with their respective symbols, a Man, a Lion, a Calf and an Eagle.

JULY 1896.

THE NEW ORGAN.

After a month of diligent work the Foreman and two assistants of Messrs Norman Bros. and Beard of Norwich completed their skilled task of assembling and fitting the new organ in its special chamber in the new Chancel. A special dedication and opening service took place on Tuesday evening 25th. August 1896 in the presence of a full congregation. The opening expert was Mr. H.A Branscombe the renowned organist of St. Margaret's, Princes Road, Liverpool. According to the report in the current Parish Magazine "We have got an organ of which we may be proud and it

was a wise move going to first class builders like Norman Bros, and Beard. This firm was responsible for the new organ at Norwich Cathedral and had quite recently reconstructed the famous Temple Church Organ in London. The great feature of our new organ is its magnificent foundation, especially its full diapason tone.”

In its make up the new organ include:

Great Organ = 10 stops

Swell Organ = 11 stops

Pedal Organ = 3 stops (all throughout)

with the usual combination of pedals and manual couplers. The wind pressure is obtained hydraulically, and the action is pneumatic.

Later there was a series of organ recitals given by skilled local organists including Mr I.H. Stammers of St Agnes, Ulet Road, Liverpool, Mr Wm. Foulkes of St. Margaret’s Anfield, Mr. Thomas Rimmer of Southport, Mr.W. A. Roberts of St. Paul’s, Princess Park, Liverpool and Mr. Gilbert Legge of St.John’s, Waterloo. All these able organists expressed satisfaction with the new instrument. Collections at these recitals went to the Organ Fund whose deficit was reduced steadily, (standing at £140 in July 1897.)

It was originally planned to site the console upstairs at Organ Chamber level but on reconsideration – because pneumatic action permitted it - the keyboard was located at ground floor level. This action marred the symmetry of the choir stalls somewhat, but provided readier access to the organ stool.

(Time has confirmed the excellence of our organ. In 62 years that have elapsed since erection its tone has mellowed wonderfully – particularly the diapasons for which the builders have always been renowned (note in 1958). In the opinion of the writer 75% of the stops are of really good standard and worthy of effective preservation. Only once in the long period of service has it been necessary to renew delicate leather parts in the action but there are occasional warning signs that another overhaul will be necessary ere long (further note in 1958).

OCTOBER 1897. THE SHINKWIN EAST WINDOW.

On the Harvest Festival Sunday in 1896 a beautiful Memorial East Window, the gift of the Shinkwin family was unveiled and dedicated by the Rev.Canon Armour, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors School at Crosby, Liverpool. This was indeed an important addition to the beauty of our new Chancel and the donors were warmly thanked for their generous gift and for the worthiness of the stained glass and picture. The design suggested by the donors was to bring forward thoughts connected with the life on earth of our Blessed Lord.

The lower panels depict scenes representing – The Annunciation, The Salutation, the Nativity and visit of the Magi, Jesus in the Temple amid the Doctors, and the Baptism in Jordan. In the upper lights on either side of our Lord are the Apostles – St. Peter, St.John, St.James, and St. Luke. Uppermost is the Rose Window in which

is typified the Ascension with accompanying angels. At the foot of the window is the inscription "To the glory of God and in beloved memory of the Rev.J. Ambrose Wall, D.D. and Julia Henrietta his wife, this window is erected by Julia Henrietta and Brigadier General R. Staveley Shinkwin. 1st October 1896" The window was executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell of London.

AUTUMN 1896. BOY CHORISTERS PAID.

About this period it was decided that the choir boys should be paid a small fee quarterly; hitherto their services had been voluntary. It was hoped that more regular attendances at Services and Practices would result. The custom of "J.B.R." had been to reward the six best attenders each quarter by an outing to places of attraction such as Henglers Circus at Liverpool, the Pantomime or the Botanic Gardens at Southport, but the tendency was found to be that these little parties usually consisted of the same six little boys.

NOVEMBER 1896. CLERICAL ASSISTANCE.

The Church officers had by this time realised that their Vicar was overworked and that he must have clerical help, particularly on Sundays. An excellent opportunity presented itself when it became known that Mr. George Brocklehurst B.A., the worthy Headmaster of the Formby Institute School for Boys was desirous of Ordination. With offer of a title to Holy Trinity, Formby, Mr. Brocklehurst was able to secure Ordination and to take up duty as Sunday Assistant Curate on and from 1st.January 1897. This was an excellent appointment which afforded "J.B.R." well deserved relief. Mr. Brocklehurst carried on his normal school duties on weekdays, but shared the Sunday Services and indeed made himself very useful and popular in parochial work.

SPRING 1897. THE VICTORIA HOME FOR WAIFS AND STRAYS.

Mention has already been made of the substantial help given by Formby people to the Waifs and Strays Home at Seaforth including the furnishing of the FORMBY ROOM - this support was well maintained thanks largely to the devoted influence of Mrs. John S. Beauford and her friends. When the Society found it necessary to build an additional 'Home' for its growing work no surprise was felt when Formby was chosen for its location. The result was the building of the VICTORIA HOME in Andrews Lane, Formby, which was opened on the 24th.April 1897 the architect being Mr. J.H. Havelock Sutton a prominent Holy Trinity Church supporter. Formby's care for the society was henceforth transferred from Seaforth to the new Victoria Home. (The Organisation is now known as "The Church of England's Children's Society").

SPRING 1897. NEW WINDOWS.

At Eastertide 1897 a picturesque glass panel was put into the Choir Vestry door in memory of ANDREW SCOTT MOORE who died in 1896 and who had been musician to the Holy Trinity Men's Bible Class from its creation in 1891. The picture represents St.Cecilia (The Patron Saint of Music) along with Angels and Choristers and was designed by Edward Frampton the renowned London artist.

On 2nd May 1897 the “Children’s Window “on the North side of the Chancel was dedicated by the Vicar. The cost of this beautiful window was met by an accumulation of Children’s Offerings. The chief figures are St. Nicholas and St. Ursula- the patron saints of Boys and Girls. The glass made by Messrs Clayton and Bell of London who also supplied the East Window.

SPRINGTIDE 1897. MEN’S BIBLE CLASS.

This organisation is well supported - 90 names are on the Register and average attendance on Friday evenings is 60. The first hour of each meeting is devoted to Prayers, Bible reading, hymns and an address. Afterwards the members enjoy the games of bagatelle, draughts, dominoes, ring board and the reading of illustrated magazines. So popular are these gatherings to the members that the Parish Room has been open for games on two additional evenings, Wednesdays and Saturdays. This arrangement may, it is hoped, lead to the formation of a Men’s Club. The Hon. Secretary is Mr.R.T. Ellinson and the quarterly subscription is one shilling! (5p).

THE NEW VICTORIA HOME.

Many useful gifts were made by Holy Trinity supporters to the new Home in Andrews Lane. Among the gifts were ‘cots’ from Mrs. Brockbank, Miss Bushby, Mrs. Carr, Miss. F. Carr, Mrs. MacIver, Mrs. Spence and Miss Ivy Tate. China and Crockery from Mrs. Rathbone and Mrs. Roughton; Sheets and Flannelette from Mrs. Duranty and Miss Jack, Gas fittings from Mrs. Layborn, Playroom furnishings from the Children’s Service Lenten offerings. Monthly “POUND DAYS” were instituted when people were invited to send “pound weights of useful provisions to the Victoria House. In the month of May no less than 1315 lbs. weight of groceries etc. were contributed.

EASTER VESTRY.

Two changes of Churchwarden were necessary this year. Colonel Walker was leaving the Formby district and Mr. Causer Lowe wished for health reasons to reduce his many local activities. “J.B.R.” chose as Vicar’s Warden his good friend Mr. Mark Jas. Mackie of “Heathfield”, Cross Green, and for People’s Warden DR. Stanley A. Gill a generous and zealous supporter, was elected. The Sidesmen chosen were: Messrs Aindow, Archer, Crosfield, Earle, F. Hayward Kent, Causer Lowe, Phillips and Sole.

An interesting discussion took place as to the best method of clearing the Church Building debt of £1,250. This amount, by the way, had already been paid to the Building Firm by means of a Bank overdraft on which interest had to be paid. There was also the remaining debt on the Organ of £150. The meeting decided to hold a third Village Fair in 1898 whereby the debts might be liquidated.

PAROCHIAL ACTIVITIES.

Quiet but steady work proceeded in the many parochial organisations at this period. “J.B.R” was by nature an industrious personage and the welfare and progress of his

parish was ever uppermost in his mind. He had furthermore “a way with him” which encouraged his helpers to similar activity. The various organisations with their leaders working under his general surveillance were as follows:

Sunday School	– Mr. Manning Broad
Children’s Service	– Mr. Wm. Beesley
Mothers’ Meeting Society	– Mrs. Havelock Sutton
Girls’ Friendly Society	– Mrs. Duranty
C.E.Temperance Society	– Miss Beesley
Mersey Mission to Seamen	– Miss Kate Carr
Society of Propagation of Gospel	– Mrs. Brandreth and Mrs. F. Brockbank
Waifs and Strays Society	– Mrs. Beauford
Parish Magazine	– Miss Bushby
Organist and Choirmaster	– Mr. Jas.P. Maddock

The Men’s Bible Class “J.B.R” controlled personally and delighted in securing notable speakers for the Friday evening meetings. Numerous dramatic plays, concerts, Lantern lectures and Social evenings were arranged from time to time for the benefit of the various parochial needs.

A PROMISING YOUNG MUSICIAN.

A Concert in aid of Parish Magazine Funds was arranged by Miss Bushby aided by Mrs. Ainsworth and Miss Kate Carr with Mrs. Raffles Book as Accompanist. “J.B.R’s” relatives comment in the next issue of the Parish Magazine is of interest:

“Edith Horsfall our little girl violinist played two solos with much spirit and was encored heartily. If only she keeps up her practice and works hard she should in days to come develop into a really good player.” How accurate was the prophecy! Miss Horsfall’s friends rejoice to know that she did practice and work hard. She duly qualified and became an active and skilled member of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

AUTUMN 1897. DR. WILLIAM DICKSON.

At this period there came to Formby a new inhabitant who was soon to become known and esteemed. This was the Rev. William Dickson LL.D a recently retired Naval Chaplain who was brother to the Rev. Canon T.K. Dickson Vicar of Christ Church, Waterloo.

Dr. Dickson and "J.B.R." were at once on good friendly terms and the Dr. preached his first sermon in Holy Trinity Church on Harvest Festival Sunday of 1897. All sections of the congregation learned to appreciate the Dr.'s cheery, breezy personality, and especially the members of the Men's Bible Class who delighted in his forthright addresses.

PARISH ROOM EXTENSION.

The Parish Room (an ex. Army Canteen) had proved to be lacking in size and accommodation for many of the parochial functions. Work on its enlargement was put in hand whereby a larger and loftier stage extended the structure by 24 feet. A small wooden dressing room was also provided alongside the new stage. (The added portion still exists and is now used as a Tennis Pavilion. Note in 1958).

CHRISTMAS 1897.

The Holy Trinity Branch of the Mersey Mission to Seamen, under the leadership of Miss Kate Carr, collected and packed a Christmas Hamper of seasonable gifts for the crew of the Formby Lightship which in those days lay anchored in the Mersey Estuary. A letter of hearty thanks was received from the Master of the Lightship for the very acceptable Christmas fare, and especially for the knitted comforters which the crew warmly appreciated.

FEBRUARY 1898. VILLAGE FAIR PREPARATIONS.

The forthcoming Village Fair was the third big effort to liquidate Building Debts. A preliminary General Meeting elected the following Executive Committee:

Chairman	Rev. J. Brooke Richardson
Vice – Chairman	Rev. Geo. Brocklehurst
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. C.A. Earle
Hon. Secretary	Messrs. J.S. Beauford and E. Causer Lowe
Committee	Drs. Gill and A.C. Wilson, Messrs. Crosfield, Mackie, Pugh, Rowe and Sole.

The dates fixed for the Fair were 29th and 30th June, 1st and 2nd July.

Miss Emily Richardson gave a good start to the effort by donating £50 to the Building Fund.

SPRINGTIDE 1898. SUNDAY SCHOOL LOSS.

The Sunday School suffered a regrettable loss in the departure of Miss Elizabeth Hodge to take up a teaching appointment at Middlesboro. Miss Hodge had been a

devoted and efficient teacher of the little ones from the opening of the School. Good wishes went with her on her new work.

EASTER 1898. ORGAN DEBT. CLEARED.

At the Easter Vestry Meeting, the heartening news was received that the remaining debt on the Organ had been cleared. Warm thanks were offered to Mr. Causer Lowe for his persistent energy in organising many little efforts and in collecting donations from supporters. By patient endeavour he had gathered in the total cost of the Organ (£825) within 3 years, despite other conflicting demands. When the Organ indebtedness had been reduced to £100 it was felt desirable that a “spurt” should be made to clear this debt leaving the forthcoming Village Fair to have as its main target the liquidation of the Building debt. The “spurt” was successful with the following Organ Fund donations:

“J.B.R.” £20; (His Easter Offering); Dr. S.A.Gill £15; “A Friend” £60; smaller donations £5, Total £100.

SPRING 1898. WILLIAM PERCY FRENCH.

Much anticipatory satisfaction was felt when it became known that the Vicar’s cousin,

Mr. William Percy French, the renowned playwright poet, artist, musician and entertainer was coming to help at the forthcoming Village Fair. This was an attraction indeed for Mr. French had recently been honoured by inclusion in a Command Performance at Sandringham. Best known of his songs are “The Mountains of Mourne”, “Phil, the Fluter’s Ball “and of his poems“ “An Irish Mother,” “The Road to Ballybay” and “Later on” are replete with native humour and pathos.

JUNE 1898. THIRD VILLAGE FAIR.

This entertaining four day effort to wipe off the Church Building Debt of £1,200 was duly held at the end of June on the Poverty Field near Freshfield Station. Much preliminary organisation had been done, and the provision and erection of Marquees, Tents, Boundary Canvas etc. was a formidable task. There were seven stalls in the big marquee; a Refreshment marquee, a Café Chantant tent, a Rifle Shooting gallery; and various sideshows etc.

The successful “Formby Chronicle” of earlier Village Fairs was resurrected again edited by Mr. J.W.Fairfoot and it was published each day as a Programme containing topical Fair gossip and local advertisements by Mr. S.B.Reynolds.

Enthusiasm reigned for four days and the final result was very gratifying:

Gross takings	£1,312
Expenses	£ 227
Net Profit	£1,085

Mr. Percy French's sessions in the Café Chantant were very popular and keenly enjoyed. He made lightning sketches with coloured crayons to illustrate his accompanying witty tales and talks; sometimes when these sketches were turned upside down an entirely different picture was revealed. He held china plates or saucers over a lit candle until the surface was smoky black, then with matchsticks for brushes, etched beautiful pictures in black and white. He would burst into songs or monologues accompanying himself on his banjo.

Of his own verses and parodies he had an apparently inexhaustible store. His water colour paintings of Irish bogs, lakes, coast scenery and skies together with his delightful pictures of corners of the rose garden at "Green Lea" found ready sale on the Vicar's stall at One Guinea a time! (£1.05)

JULY 1898. SCHOOL SITE OFFER.

The small thatched cottage on the South side of the church owned by John Formby Esq., and occupied by the Manley family was about to become vacant at this period. Mr. Formby, doubting its fitness for continued habitation and remembering his late father's wishes, offered the land to Holy Trinity Church at a nominal rate. This favourable offer was accepted eagerly. The plot of 1,110 square yards was eminently suitable for a much needed Church School, and for providing a direct opening from Chapel Lane to the Church. Accordingly the site was cleared and reserved for subsequent use.

AUGUST 1898. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CONGREGATIONS.

A thought provoking snippet from the current Parish Magazine of that period: "A heavy thunderstorm broke out just before Evensong on Sunday 21st. August 1898 causing a record small attendance. There were not more than 60 people in church for Evensong Service."

SEPTEMBER 1898. MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

The Friday evening Men's Bible Class which also meets for games in the Parish Room on Wednesday and Saturday evenings has been provided by an "Anonymous Friend" with a corrugated iron Club Room and a full sized Billiard Table. This action proved to be the nucleus of a vigorous church Club in later years and the identity of the giver was never in doubt!

OCTOBER 1898. REV. GEORGE BROCKLEHURST'S DEPARTURE.

Much regret was felt by the departure of Mr. Brocklehurst our Sunday Curate, to take up an important Educational appointment as Clerical Organising Secretary of Church Schools in the Archdeaconry of Birmingham. He had been a great help to the Vicar in Sunday Services and his work in the Sunday School had been most acceptable. Pending the filling of the vacancy the Rev. Dr. William Dickson kindly agreed to preach at Evensong on two Sundays in each month.

DECEMBER 1898. THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALE OF WORK.

There having been a surplus of articles left unsold at the Summer Village Fair it was decided to have smaller Sale in the Parish Room in the month of December. The

effort was called the "Christmas Tree Sale". The Vicar, Mr. Causer Lowe and Mr. Mellor organised the affair. Mrs. Beauford helped by Mrs. MacIver, Mrs. Causer Lowe, Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Layburn took charge of the Christmas Tree Stall. Mrs. Ainsworth and Miss Earle undertook the musical entertainment and dramatics. Mrs. Havelock Sutton supervised refreshments in the new Billiard Room. Gentlemen were permitted to smoke during the music and drama provided they bought their tobacco at the Christmas Tree Stall.

Mr. Percy French came again and delighted his audiences with his artistic skill, songs and wit. There was an excellent financial result - £120 cleared leaving only about £50 left owing on the Building Debt.

CHRISTMAS 1898. THE CHILDREN'S BANNER.

For some time there had been a keen desire that the Children's Services should have a banner for use on Festival and Special occasions. This desire was fulfilled on CHRISTMAS DAY 1898 when a beautiful "GOOD SHEPHERD" Banner was dedicated.

The Banner was the skilful work of Mrs. Frank Powell the wife of Canon Powell, Vicar of Knotty Ash, and its cost was defrayed from an accumulation of the Children's Service collection. (Note in 1958 - the Banner is still in use in our Church.)

1899. BUILDING DEBT.

At the opening of the year 1899 the Building Debt stood at approximately £50. Surely this moderate sum could be cleared by Easter! A suggestion was made that the grown ups might impose upon themselves a self-denying Lenten Saving scheme, similar to the one undertaken by the children each year on behalf of the Waifs and Strays Society. Mr. Edward Causer Lowe undertook the organising and collecting of the suggested scheme; and, as in the clearance of the new Organ debt, he was once more successful for he collected £47 by Easter Sunday. To this amount was added the collection in Church on Good Friday morning and at last the Church was free from debt.

May 1899. ASCENSION DAY SPECIAL SERVICE.

A thrilling experience was provided for the Holy Trinity congregation on Ascension Day (Thursday 11th May 1899) when the Evening Service was rendered by the choir of St. Nicholas Parish Church, Liverpool. The "Old Church Choir" as it was often called was one of the best in Liverpool and its worthy Organist Mr. Jas. W. Waugh was present in full command. The choir entered the Church at the main door and in procession sang:

"Hail the day that sees Him rise."

The Canticles were sung to the well known service, Garrett in D; the soprano solo being sung with beautiful effect by Miss Mary Langdon. In Barnby's Anthem "King all glorious" the full power and tone of the choir was apparent. The tenor solo by Mr. Tom Barlow sounded forth willingly and one could well understand it was one of the soloist's favourite anthems. The fine bass voice of Mr. Wynn Jones was also most effective and the chorus voices were perfectly together, each lead

being taken up with precision and effect. The Festival Te Deum at the close of the service, (Buck in E flat) again brought out Miss Langdon's fine sympathetic voice; and the perfection of quartet singing was heard. It was indeed a beautiful service and Mr. Waugh in both his accompaniments and voluntaries was at his best. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. Leonard J. Rich M.A, vicar of St.Thomas, St.Helens on the "joy of Self-service". It was an admirable sermon containing many beautiful thoughts bearing upon the relation that sacrifice bears to ourselves and others.

After the service the visiting choir adjourned to the Parish Room and enjoyed a good meal with a number of local friends and the adult members of Holy Trinity Choir. Suitable speeches were made by the Vicar and Mr. Waugh and games were played until train time. It was an evening to be remembered with pleasure.

JUNE 1899. THE NEW SUNDAY CURATE.

When the Rev. G. Brocklehurst left to take up his Birmingham appointment, his private school in the Jubilee Hall – known as the Formby Institute – was taken over by Mr. W. J.G.Lasseter a graduate of Queens College, Oxford, and student at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Mr. Lasseter being desirous of Ordination and keen to follow on Mr. Brocklehurst at Holy Trinity, the Vicar offered him the title of Sunday Curate. He was ordained on the 11th. June 1899 and took up the appointment forthwith.

JUNE 1899. THE CAUSER LOWE'S LEAVE FORMBY.

It was with sincere regret that the parishioners had to say goodbye to this loyal and helpful family. Mr. Lowe had been the life and soul of the Village Fairs; keenest of all to liquidate the building debts; the main raiser of funds for the new Organ, and its practical engineer when the hydraulic blower gave trouble in early days. Mention must be made of his wonderful work as instructor in woodcarving to the men of Formby generally. Mrs. Lowe also took warm interest in the church and its work, identifying herself closely with the running of the Victoria Home for Waifs and Strays.

MIDSUMMER 1899. NEED FOR A DAY SCHOOL.

Not for long did the comfortable feeling of solvency remain. Holy Trinity needed a day school of its own. Children of Holy Trinity Parish were being educated at the two neighbouring church schools of St. Peter and St. Luke but with the steady growth of population these schools were becoming overcrowded. Up to now Trinitarians had, besides giving substantial personal help at St. Peter's Sale of Work in 1896 made periodic payments to the representatives of both schools, aided chiefly by the devoted collecting activities of Mr. Fred K.Hayward.

There was imperative need for a third Church School in Formby.

If Holy Trinity did not provide a day school of its own there was danger of a Board School coming to Formby and this was considered to be a very undesirable eventuality.

To look into the matter seriously a Sub-Committee was elected consisting of the Vicar, Dr. Stanley A. Gill, and Mr. Mark J. Mackie (Churchwarden); Mr. J.S.Beauford, Mr. C.A.Earle, and Mr. F.E.Kent. This body's eventual report agreed on the urgent need for a new school, and recommended that effective action should be taken forthwith.

The site for the school building (Manley's Cottage) was already available but money would have to be raised and the amount involved was reckoned to be in the neighbourhood of £1,500. The Sub-Committee were of the opinion that if an initial sum of £500 could be raised they would be justified in proceeding with the venture. One suggestion was put forward that donors might be willing to spread their contributions into separate payments in the next two or three years. Ten generous friends agreed forthwith to this suggestion, and very soon afterwards forty other donors promised single gifts totalling altogether £577. Another subscriber foreseeing a Bank borrowing of £1,000 promised to pay the interest thereon for the first year.

The supporters of the scheme, it was very gratifying to find, were not all adherents of Holy Trinity. The Subscribers List included the names of several donors from neighbouring parishes; and unexpectedly, perhaps, but nevertheless welcomed and appreciated were generous donations by the Rev. Monsignor Carr, Mr. Francis A. Rockliffe and Mr. James Morgan, all of Our Lady's Church, Formby.

AUTUMN 1899.

Invitations were issued to a number of Liverpool and District Architects to submit designs for the proposed new building. These plans were sent to a renowned Liverpool Architect – Mr. W.E.Willink FRIBA – for adjudication. The design chosen was that prepared by Messrs. Haigh, Marmon and Thompson of Liverpool and these drawings were submitted to the Education Department in London for approval.

JANUARY 1890 THE NEW CENTURY.

The year 1900 opened under a cloud of national anxiety caused by the Boer War. In the Formby contingent of twelve volunteers who sailed for South Africa were three members of Holy Trinity Men's Bible Class; one of these three praiseworthy men, Peter Patten, did not return. He died on Active Service for Queen and Country.

JANUARY 1900. HOLY TRINITY'S NEW DAY SCHOOL.

London's approval of the Architect's plans having been obtained, estimates were sought from various Liverpool building firms. The tender accepted was one of £1,825 towards which sum donations totalling £600 had already been promised. After making necessary allowances for school equipment, a Bank loan of £1500 was arranged; and local authority having been received, perspective drawings of the new building were exhibited in the Church porch.

JANUARY 1900. EFFORT FOR FORMBY ST. LUKE'S DAY SCHOOL.

A special effort was organised in aid of St. Luke's Day School, where, pending the opening of our own school, a proportion of Holy Trinity's children were receiving education. This was another attractive entertainment by the Vicar's renowned cousin, Mr. Percy French. A full audience packed the Parish Room and greatly enjoyed Mr. French's freely given items of sketching, reciting, singing and humorous stories. The proceeds, helped by a few donations, reached a total of £20 for the worthy cause.

EASTER 1900. MONEY VALUES IN THE YEAR 1900.

Comparisons are sometimes odious but they can be interesting. Just compare present day costing with the relative items taken from the Easter Balance Sheet in the year of Grace 1900:

Receipts: Plate Collections for the year £367 (No Free-Will Offering Scheme yet).
Pew Rents £142

Expenditure: Vicar's Stipend £200, Clerical Assistance £44, Organist £35, Apparitor £33, Bell ringer £5, Gas £16, Coal and Coke £24, Insurance £6, Organ Tuning £9.

JUNE 1900. NEW DAY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRESS.

The school is nearing completion and the general opinion is that, architecturally the erection will be a handsome one. It was a matter of regret, however, that the Education Department insisted on there being a solid dividing wall between the two main rooms. It had been hoped to have a sliding wooden partition which would have provided more accommodation on special occasions than was possible in the existing small Parish Room.

The School Committee is now very busy on the responsible work of selecting suitable teachers and preparing for the opening early in the new year. Holy Trinity is in debt once more but great satisfaction existed that the right thing had been done for the parishioner's children and for Formby. Personal subscriptions had now raised the sum of £700 but there was still the £1,500 Bank Loan and the Interest to be borne in mind.

Memo.

The writer of these 'reminiscences' has been very gratified to know that they are being read and appreciated not only by our own parishioners and home-country folk, but also by old 'Trinitarians' dwelling in various parts of the Commonwealth and the U.S.A.

Suggestions have been made that a list should be compiled and published of the names of the young folk of the first decade of the Church's life. Many of these youngsters are now, of course, grandparents and some have, alas, passed on. But such a list would perhaps be a 'Call to remembrance' of youthful, carefree, irresponsible happy days. (Note in 1959)

DECEMBER 1900. RT. REV. FRANCIS JAMES CHAVASSE D.D.

The new Lord Bishop of Liverpool made his first visit to Holy Trinity Formby on the 13th December 1900 and in the course of a stirring sermon expressed his admiration of the church's building efforts and its active parochial work in the neighbourhood. To show his practical sympathy and appreciation the Lord Bishop donated £50 to the Day School Building Fund.

DECEMBER 1900. THE NEW DAY SCHOOL.

Building work was now finished but there was some delay in the fixing of the heating apparatus. Meanwhile the Committee proceeded with the selection and appointment of teachers, and with the other preliminary clerical work.

About this period there were several small social efforts made on behalf of the School Building Fund but one novel contribution will perhaps be read with interest. Mrs. Bushby of Trap Hill, sold four beautiful Persian Kittens to her friends and passed on the money obtained – Four Guineas (£4.20) – to Mr. C. A. Earle the treasurer of the fund! Mr. Earle, furthermore, had organised a 'Card System' which was proving quite successful in the collection of modest contributions from parishioners and friends.

DECEMBER 1900.

MRS. FLINN OF SUSSEX HOUSE.

At the close of the year a valued friend of Holy Trinity Church died in the person of Mrs. Flinn of Sussex House. This lady was in actuality a loyal member of the neighbouring Wesleyan Church where she worshipped regularly and which she supported liberally. But she had a special love for Holy Trinity's Children's Service, and for the Vicar's active ministrations thereat. Her generosity was experienced in many parochial efforts at Holy Trinity and particularly in the decoration of the church at Festival times when her choicest greenhouse plants and flowers were always at the Church's disposal.

JANUARY 1901.

THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA.

The following momentous announcement appeared in the Parish Magazine for February 1901.

'The great and good Queen Victoria died on the 22nd January 1901.

This startling news brought sorrow to the hearts of millions of her devoted subjects in all parts of the world. It can be said that a whole world mourns for a good Queen, who amid all the cares, anxieties and worries of state ever found opportunity to enter into the joys and sorrows of her people in the course of her long reign of 64 years.'

SPRING 1901.

OPENING OF THE NEW DAY SCHOOL

All structural, heating and furnishing operations being completed and the Education Authority's inspection having been satisfactorily carried out, arrangements were made for the opening ceremony.

The Head Mistress appointed was Miss Clara Duckworth of St. Helens, Lancs. Who possessed high credentials and whose previous scholastic experience had been under the Rev. Canon Willink, Vicar of St. Helens. Her assistant teachers were:

Miss Mayers in charge of the Infants and after local examination conducted by the Head Mistress,

The Misses Edith Moseley and Alice Jenkins were engaged as Candidate Pupil teachers.

The School opening took place on Monday morning, 15th April 1901 in the presence of the Manager, the Teachers and interested members of the congregation. The proceedings were opened by the Vicar, who offered up prayer and by the singing of the Doxology and the National Anthem. The scholars, who numbered 53, were exhorted to be regular in attendance and diligent in their school work.

Memo: (Six months later the number of scholars had risen to 112, which figure included 50 Infants. This increased total of Infants necessitated a change of Assistant Mistress, whereby Miss Mayers was succeeded by a higher qualified Miss Cresswell who came from Londonderry with excellent credentials.)

SPRING 1901.

ANOTHER VILLAGE FAIR?

The building of the new Holy Trinity Day School having been completed and the school duly opened it was now time to size up the financial position once again.

The total School Building cost, together with the purchase of the land, the legal fees, Architects, commission, furnishing etc. was computed to be in the neighbourhood of £2,200. Towards this amount £800 had been subscribed or promised by parishioners and supporters, and the Bank had agreed to allow the Church an overdraft up to £1,500.

Once again the Council realised that another big Village Fair in the summer was the effective answer to their financial problem.

Earlier Village Fairs had produced these successful results:-
1891 - £1,073 1894 - £1,126 1898 - £1,035

If Village Fair No. 4 could equal these earlier efforts a substantial reduction of the debt would be achieved.

A working Committee was appointed with Mr. J.S. Beauford as Hon. Secretary which went into action straight away.

SPRING 1891.

IN MEMORIAM.

It was with feelings of sincere sorrow that the people of Holy Trinity Formby heard of the death of Mr. Edward Causer Lowe at his home in Sunninghill, Berks.

Mr. Lowe had been one of our most energetic and practical workers in the Church's early years. He was particularly interested and active in the installation of the new Organ and in the subsequent raising of money for its cost. He did very worthy and successful work also in his teaching of the art of wood-carving to a class of keen young men of Formby. Some of his pupils acquired rare skill in that art. Failing health led to his retirement in 1899 from his office of Vicar's Warden at Holy Trinity, Formby and to his removal to Berkshire.

On news of his demise there was at once a general desire among parishioners who had known and admired him to have a worthy tablet in the church to his memory. Subscriptions came readily to the Vicar's hands and as a result the very handsome brass tablet by a renowned London artist found place in the South Transept of our church.

Later on Mrs. Causer Lowe gave us the beautiful South Transept 'Resurrection' window in memory of her late husband and young son.

MIDSUMMER 1901.

VILLAGE FAIR No.4.

26-29 JUNE 1901.

Following much preparatory work this important four day effort towards liquidation of School building debt was – by kind permission of Mr. Edward Sutton of Freshfield Farm – held on Poverty Field alongside Freshfield Station. The specially invited openers were:

Wednesday	- Col. John Formby J.P. D.L.
Thursday	- Rev. William Dickson L.L.L.
Friday	- Hon. Arthur Stanley M.P.
Saturday	- Mr. Edward Marshall Hall K.C. M.P.

The Grand Marquee contained eight stalls and in the spacious grounds were the Refreshment Tent, the Café Chantant, the Variety Tent, the Shooting Gallery and Rifle Range; the various Side Shows, Swings etc. Outdoor music was shared by the Formby Prize Band, Leadbetter's Band and the Lancashire Artillery Band.

Operations hummed briskly throughout the four days. The stalls in the main marquee did gratifying business. Mrs. Earle and her helpers catered admirably in the Refreshment Tent. The clever and genial Mr. Percy French was in great form in the Variety Tent; and Mrs. Ainsworth triumphed in the Café Chantant with the distinguished help of Mr. Paul Rubens the famous light opera composer and some of his artiste friends.

Eventually this ambitious Fair produced a very satisfactory net profit of £1,100 which some of money added to the £800 already subscribed reduced the School building debt to approximately £300.

AUGUST 1891.

A CHORISTER'S DEPARTURE.

One of Holy Trinity's original choir boys left Formby in August 1891 to take up an appointment as Assistant Architect at Hong Kong. This was CHARLES GUY BLOOD, son of Mr. Charles Blood, Chemist of Chapel Lane. A quiet boy of sterling worth and promise he had by the help and influence of 'J.B.R.' been articled to a prominent firm of Liverpool architects with whom he duly qualified. So strong was 'J.B.R.'s' faith in his ability that he entrusted to him the job of remodelling and enlarging the 'Green Lea' vicarage house in College Avenue. Thoughts of severance from his happy associations with Holy Trinity were painful but the offer of a lucrative and attractive appointment abroad could not be rejected.

Memo. There was, alas, a sad ending to this migration. Seven years later, now a junior partner in the firm, 'Guy' was engaged in his favourite recreation of yachting when a sudden storm prevailed in those Far Eastern waters, overturned his boat and he was drowned. His death was a severe blow to 'J.B.R.' as may be seen by perusal of the Brass Memorial Tablet affixed to the Chancel Wall alongside the Vicar's Reading Desk in our Church.

AUTUMN 1901 to SPRING 1902.

BUILDING DEBT.

Now a series of determined efforts to wipe off the remaining £300 debt on the Day School.

The Vicar made another special appeal which brought in the following donations:- Mrs. Hesketh Formby £25; Mr. Walter MacComman £25; Two Friends £20; 'J.B.R.' £10; Mrs. Richardson £5 and several smaller sums.

A December afternoon Sale of Work in the Parish Room produced £93

Dr. Stanley A. Gill's Dramatic Entertainments at Shaftesbury House £26

Mr. Fred Hayward's Card Collecting Scheme brought in £70

Mr. Mellor's Rummage Sale netted £30

Two Lectures in the Parish Room made £10

Thus it was that in June 1902 the Vicar was privileged to report solvency once more.

EASTER 1902.

MR. CLEMENT A. WALLWORTH'S DEPARTURE.

There was keen regret when it became necessary for Clement Wallworth to remove from Formby. This cheery, vital personality – a young Bank of England official attached to the Liverpool Office – had come to our neighbourhood in Holy Trinity's opening year, finding comfortable lodging with old Mrs. Stone in Chapel Lane. Being an ex-Boy Chorister of the Savoy Chapel, London, and now possessing a pleasing tenor voice, he was at once an acquisition to Holy Trinity's newly formed choir. 'J.B.R.' recognised his qualities straightaway and pressed him into service as server at Holy Communion, as Choir Treasurer, as Boys' Brigade Leader, as Entertainment's Organiser etc., etc. Mr. Wallworth found his bride in the parish – Miss Adelaide Marian Atty of York Road – and they were married at Holy Trinity Church in the year 1895. At the farewell gathering at Eastertide 1902 presents were exchanged; from the Communicants a handsome Carriage Clock suitably inscribed and from the Choir and Men's Bible Class a Silver entrée dish. At Mr. Wallworth's own especial wish he presented to Holy Trinity Church a handsome Service Book for the Holy Communion. Mr. Wallworth's successor in the post of Choir Treasurer was Mr. Geoffrey Earle.

SEPTEMBER 1902.

ANOTHER CHORISTER MAKES A MOVE.

This was our leading boy, Clayton W. Reynolds whose singing of treble solos had given much pleasure. His parents thought it advisable that he should accept an advantageous offer from an important church in Scotland, whereby his maintenance and education were assured. Before leaving, 'Clayton' organised a little concert and entertainment by himself and friends, which resulted in a contribution of 36/- (£1.80) to the Choir Fund. Mr. J.P.Maddock, the Organist, presented him with a silver pencil as a memento from his fellow choristers. (Memo. 1958 – Later on 'Clayton' transferred to a well known London Church Choir, and at the present time (1958) 57 years later – he is still an effective tenor chorister in Toronto's Cathedral Church)

OCTOBER 1902.

ANIMATED PICTURES!

A noteworthy extract from the 1902 Parish Magazine reads 'On Thursday evening 9th October 1902, Mr. R. Gardner Williams and Mr. Robert D. Richardson took nine 'best attending Choirboys to the ANIMATED PHOTO SHOW at St. George's Hall, Liverpool. The boys enjoyed this novel treat very much indeed.'

The earliest 'flick' Show, surely!

JANUARY 1903.

JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN EARLY YEARS.

The following attendance figures will doubtless be of interest:

1899 - 77 children
1900 - 82
1901 - 84
1902 - 98

The Teachers were

Mr. Manning Broad - Superintendent assisted by
Misses Beesley, Broad, Stone Sykes, Woodfin and Mrs. Williams.

The Children's Service at 3pm. on Sunday Afternoons in the church was of course, separate from the aforesaid figures. Furthermore, Miss Alys Rodgers of the Girls' College, conducted a Sunday Morning Bible Class for Boys at 10am. In the Day School; and Miss Florence Carr held her Class for young women at 3.15pm on Sunday Afternoon.

JANUARY 1903. DAY SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.

It was a great relief indeed when the School Building Debt was liquidated but financial responsibilities arose in the maintenance of the new school. At the period under review, grants from the Education Authority were less generous than in later times. For example the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year 1902 disclose that £297 was spent on Salaries, Books and Stationery, Furniture, Fuel, Lighting, Cleaning, Rates etc. Whereas, the amount of Ministerial Grants received in that year totalled only £132. A continuous need had thus arisen, to meet which, a Second School Maintenance Fund Committee was inaugurated, with Mr. W. A. Young of The Elms, Browns Lane, as its active Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Persistent appeals resulted in the organising of small social efforts and the formation of a roll of regular subscribers to the Fund. The number of scholars at this period was 130.

JANUARY 1903. NEW YEAR'S LETTER.

It is sometimes claimed that in the present age church attendance is not as good as in the olden times. We venture to make an extract from the Vicar's NEW YEAR LETTER to his flock, in the year 1903 which would seem to cast doubts on this cherished belief:

'The congregations in Church have not been as good as they might have been, and I do wish more men would make an effort to attend at least once on every Sunday. Habits are easily formed, and it is a mistake to neglect public worship, and to say in excuse 'I work so hard on week-days and must have Sunday to rest.' Let me quote 'No man liveth unto himself; and no man dieth unto himself' and THE CHILDREN MUST BE THOUGHT OF. I have no doubt in my mind that it must be almost impossible for a mother to train up her children in the good old ways unless she is backed up by father, and so I earnestly appeal to family men to set a good example, and to think of what is due to Almighty God on His own day of rest.'

Dare we venture to suggest reflection on 'J.B.R.'s' little homily! Is it still applicable in these our own modern times?

JULY 1903. THE SUNDAY CURACY.

The Rev. W.G.J. Lasseter relinquished his Sunday Curacy at Holy Trinity in September 1902, after doing three years' useful service. He gave valuable help to the Vicar both in the Sunday Services and to the junior Organisations of the Parish; one especial benefit was his granting of two scholarships at his own private school (The Formby Institute) to two Holy Trinity boy choristers. After leaving Formby, Mr. Lasseter accepted a living in the Chester Diocese.

Mr. V.M. Pooley B.A., an assistant Master at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby was offered the title, but had to wait for Ordination until Michaelmas 1903. In the meantime our greatly valued friend the Rev. Dr. Wm. Dickson (retired Naval Chaplain) undertook to give liberal Sunday help to 'J.B.R.' as also did the Rev. Hawley Sharpe, Clerical Secretary of the C of E. Waifs and Strays Society who had come to live at Havelock House, Formby.

JULY 1903. THE YOUNG CHAVASSE'S AT FORMBY.

Two young undergraduate sons of our reverend Bishop, Noel Chavasse and Christopher Chavasse, were keenly interested in the Industrial School attached to Holy Trinity, Toxteth, Liverpool and they organised a four weeks summer camp for 200 boys at the Altcar Rifle Ranges in the month of July 1903. Holy Trinity, Formby was the venue for Sunday worship and led by the two young undergraduates there were attendances of 'Confirmed' boys at 8am. Holy Communion; and in the evenings by the full school who marched from camp to our church to the stirring musical accompaniment of their own band. 'J.B.R.' at once organised local help for the boys in the way of hospitality, sports games, cricket matches etc. for which Mr. Harold Taylor generously allowed use of the Holmwood School cricket ground. A very appreciative letter was later received from the Governor of the Industrial School, thanking Holy Trinity folk for their generous hospitality to the boys, which would long be remembered.

This Summer Camp visit is specially recalled in the light of later happenings. Noel Chavasse after graduating became a Medical Missionary. In the 1914-18 Great War he earned the exceptional distinction of DOUBLE V.C. for rescuing wounded soldiers while under enemy fire. In the course of his second venture he, alas, was killed himself.

His younger brother Christopher, after graduating was ordained and took up parochial work. In the same 1914-18 Great War he won the M.C. and was awarded the Military O.B.E. and the Territorial Distinction. (Note from 1959. He is the Bishop of Rochester).

May not we, remembering these outstanding young men who showed us such worth and promise in those early days claim to 'glory in their reflected light', because we

were privileged to know and help them just a little in their early efforts in our own belief!

NOVEMBER 1903.

NEW PORCH MOOTED.

It was, of course, bound to come; our Porch was only a temporary affair of wood and corrugated iron. When the Architects Messrs Woolfall and Eccles joined the Chancel to the Nave, they prepared plans for a worthy stone porch in keeping with the rest of the building. These plans were exhibited in the temporary porch and everyone felt that sooner or later we would tackle the much desired completion of the edifice. So once again a small 'Porch Committee' was appointed to look into the possibilities of early action.

As promised earlier in this article I have collected a list of names of the younger folk in the first decade of our church's life. The names are taken mainly from early issues of the Parish Magazine current at that period; in some instances from Sunday School and Children's Services attendance records; from Lenten Box Savings records; from Choir Attendance Lists; from the programmes of the many concerts, plays and entertainments organised amongst the juniors themselves, and also from Baptismal records.

The idea of this list arose from suggestions from early 'Trinitarians' who are living in other parts of the country or who have gone abroad to settle in other lands but who have never lost interest in the church of their childhood and are reading these 'Reminiscences' with very keen interest. The writer is being constantly assured that tender memories are being awakened.

ABRAHAM	Mary
AINDOW	Ted, Fred, Ernie, Bessie, Emmie, Nellie, Margaret, Amy
AINSWORTH	David, Gwen, Tom, Reggie
ALDERSON	Willie, Joe, Allan, Elizabeth, Annie, Elsie
ALEXANDER	May, Annie
AMBROSE	James, Chas. John
ARCHER	John H
ARDRAN	Katie
BAND	Arthur, Jessie, Bob, Billie
BEARD	Fred, Dora
BEARDWOOD	Fred, Harold, Sidney, Edgar
BEDLINGTON	George, Bessie
BEESELY	A.M., Lucy
BELL	Cissie, Winnie, Gertie, Jim
BENSON	Lance, George, Amy, Edith, Annie
BIRD	Kenneth
BLOOD	Guy, Tom, Johnny, Willie, George, Miriam, Dorothy, Florence
BOLTON	Frank, Dora, Emily, Lottie
BRIGHT	Madge, 'Chicky', Edith
BROAD	Dick, Vivian, Violet
BROOKE	(Raffles) Dorothy, Beatrice, Eleanor, Barbara
BROOKS	John, Jane, Kate, Annie, Alice
BUCK	Elsie, Dorothy, Evelyn
BUTCHER	Minnie, Constance
CARLILE	Mabel, Daisy, Eileen
CARTER	Edwin
CARR	Nellie
CHRISTIANSEN	Adolph, Albert, Fred, Annie
CLEGG	Wallace
COTSWORTH	C & S

COTTIER	Harry, George, Lucy, Annie, Mabel, Evelyn, Nora, Nina,
Dorothy	
CORDNER	Blanche
CROSFIELD	Jas., Margaret
CRYER	Willie, Beatrice, Maud, Florence
DEAN	Willie, Tom, Mary, Doris, Gladys
DERBYSHIRE	Ollie, Ernie, Fred, May, Zoea, Flo, Lily, Elsie
DICKINSON	John, James, Marjory, Alice, Jane
DURANTY	Emmie
EARLE	Geoff., Dorothy
ECCLES	John
ELDER	Douglas, Archie, Charlie, Max, Jean
ELLIOTT	Gilbert
ELLISON	Gilbert, Mabel, Sybil
EXLEY	Elizabeth, Willie
FOX	Charlie
FRAZER	Gerald de C., Maud, Gertrude
FRODSHAM	Harold, George
GILL	Eustace, Violet
de GLANVILLE	Kathleen, Bertram, Lionel
GORDON	Rita
GRACEY	Olive, Edith
GRANT	Geo. Douglas, Alex, Leslie
GUNSON	Douglas
HARVEY	Louisa, Emily, Jessie, Dick
HAGGIS	Selina
HARTLEY	Willie
HAYWARD	Fred, Gill
HODGE	John, Arthur, May, Elizabeth, Harriet, Jessie
HOSKYN	John, Walter, Herbert, Abigail
HUGHES	Muriel, Ethel, Dora
JACK	Katie
JACKSON	Willie, May
JAMES	Clara
JENKINS	Jim, Alf, Ernie, Alice
JONES	Stanley
KNOWLES	Cissie, Dick
LAYBOURNE	Ida
LITTLER	Amy
LOWE	Jim, Frank, Dorothy, Gladys
LUNT	Madge
MACKENZIE	Ida, Gladys
MACKIE	Winifred, Marjory
MacIVER	Donald, Flora
MACKERELL	Isabella, Ann, Ellen, Alice
MADDOCK	Mabel, Winifred, Connie

MADDOCKS	Alice, Jane, Jessie, Abigail
MARSHALLSAY	Willie, Bert, Cissie
MAXWELL	Violet, Agnes
McCOMBICH	Edward, Daisy, Dora, Dulcie, Sybil
MELLOR	Dudley
MONTAGUE	Elsie, Ethelbert, Eustace
MOORHOUSE	Ethel, Constance
MOSELEY	Edith
MUNRO	Angus, Hector
NICHOLSON	Lizzie
NIELD	Mannie
OKELL	Jessie, Nellie
OUTRAM	Evelyn, Raphael, Arthur, Willie
PALMER	Edith, Ted
PEMBERTON	Harold, Hugh
POCKLINGTON	Jack
PORTER	Geo., Annie
PHILLIPS	May, Netta, Stella, Kitty
PRANGLEY	Noel, Bernard, Brenda, Ruth
PUGH	Stanley
RATHBONE	Sylvia
RANKIN	Kenneth
REDBURN	Hugh
REDFERN	Noel
READHEAD	Fred
RENNIE	Basil, Enid
REMER	Rumney, Hannah
REYNOLDS	Clayton, Eddie, Marie, Lucy
RICE	Tom
RIMMER	Bessie, Alice, Jane, May, Edward
RIMMER	Margaret, Janet, Agnes, Dora
ROUGHTON	Roger, Humphrey, Tommy
SHEPHERD	Ian, Jack
SHINKWIN	Ion, Aline
SIMPSON	Tom, Artie, Joe
SKUCE	Tom, Carrie
SMETHURST	K
SMITH	Ethel, Florrie, Nellie, Mabel, Jessie, Hilda
SPEERS	Kathleen
SPENCE	Mrray
SPINK	Ella
STAINES	Sam
STEVENSON	Beatrice, Maggie
STURLEY	Harry, Mabel, Jenny
SUTTON (Havelock)	George, Mabel, Walter, Dolly

SYKES	Lawson, Jack, Rex, Gordon, Kathleen, Maggie, Eva, Kitty,
Doria	
THOMPSON	Gus, Mannie, Ethel, David, Jonathan
TATHAM	Meredith
WARNOCK	Jessie
WEBSTER	Arthur, Sydney, Bertie, Millie
WELCH	Maud, Amy
WESTRY	Tom, Arthur, Isabel, Amy, Lottie
WHITEHEAD	Flo., Lily

The Thought the Word and the Deed

The End and the beginning.

**Please forward any comments to the Church Office for the attention of Stephen Griffiths. They will be added to this document for future reference. Thank you.
November 2005.**