

# A History of Mossley Hill Parish 1975 - 2000

compiled by Tom Whatmore



The Church of St. Matthew and St. James, Mossley Hill

## **Preface**

John Percy Baker wrote in his 'Story of Mosslake Hill' of 1935, that he hoped it may awaken gracious memories of Mossley Hill, and stir the imagination of new ones in the story of their Church on the approach of the Diamond Jubilee. He also goes on to say, that it may induce someone later to produce a more leisurely and authoritative account of the Church and Parish.

It did just that! In 1975 Ernest Hugh Smith wrote 'A History of Mossley Hill Parish' 1875 to 1975, the first 100 years. In his preface, Ernest writes. "In presenting this history I must acknowledge my debt to 'The Story of Mosslake Hill', produced by the Revd John Percy Baker in 1935". He goes on to say. "The task of writing this history was made considerably easier as a result of having a clear outline of the first 60 years of the parish story".

I am writing this history because Ernest Smith, who would have written it, died at the end of 1998, before it could be started. I have treid to continue the history for the next 25 years, into the new millennium, to the 23rd June 2000. I have read both of the above books with interest, and hope that I can continue the work that these two people started. This book has been written on a P.C. and recorded on a 3.5 inch disk, something neither of them could do. When I think of the 125 years and the millennium, our church in Mossley Hill having a web address and people using mobile phones, I wonder, what will be written, in the next 25 year history?

Much has happened during these 25 years, and to write this history, I have had to enlist the help of many people in the parish. I will acknowledge them at the end of the book, along with the list of printed materials I have used.

But here, I would like to acknowledge the help of my wife Peggy, without whose help I would not have been able to complete this history. Her continual overlooking of the script on these pages has kept them in some sort of order.

I would like to dedicate this book to the memory of Ernest H Smith M.A., a great friend of mine, and a friend of Mossley Hill Church. We all will miss him in the parish, for his help and great knowledge of the Church and local history.

February 2000.

Tom Whatmore.

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# MOSSLEY HILL CHURCH.

Mossley Hill Church, consecrated in 1875, will celebrate its fifth quarter century in 2000 A.D.

A merchant named Matthew James Glenton made a very generous bequest to be used for the construction of a church on what is now the site of Mossley Hill Church. He had never been a resident of Mossley Hill and had lived for many years in southern England, but he had never forgotten his visit to the place when he had a vision of a church on the hill.

The church, designed by the famous ecclesiastical architectural partnership Paley and Austin and constructed of local sandstone in thirteenth century Gothic style, is undoubtedly a gem.

One hundred and fourteen feet from base to the top of parapet and standing on a hill one hundred and eighty eight feet high the church can be seen not only from many parts of Liverpool but from the Cheshire Hills and the Wirral coast on the other side of the Mersey. In good weather and with the aid of binoculars the tower is seen from Moel Fammau and the Fylde coast. For those who travel into Liverpool from the South by road, rail or air and Mossley Hill Church can be seen on the skyline.

Mr Mahoney wrote of "a hill crowned by the stately tower of Mossley Hill Church which, after those of Durham and Lincoln, I consider one of the finest church sites in the kingdom. Who that has ever seen its fine proportions rising in massive strength above the woods from Sefton Park gates can doubt it?" (i).

An anonymous author wrote "Mossley Hill has a fine church tower rising magnificently on the fringe of Liverpool. The base of the tower forms a choir and the lofty arcade leads to it like an avenue." (ii).

- (i). M.Mahoney. 'Liverpool Ways and Byways. Daily Post Printers .1931.
- (ii). King's England -Lancashire. Ed. A.Mee. Hodder & Stoughton .1936.

Written by :- Ernest H Smith. M.A. before he died December 1998.

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#### **FOREWORD**

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## REVD. R. WILKES.

The Church tackled the task of mission in the last quarter of the twentieth century with considerable energy, imagination and commitment. The story of this period, after Fred Pryce Parry had handed on a thriving community and a new Church Room, is shaped by the leadership of two Vicars, Ken Riley and David Wills, who worked with a large number of lay leaders and staff colleagues. I arrived just in time to travel with the community into a new century.

During this time, the Alternative Services Book came out and Mossley Hill developed the Family Communion service, which developed into what is now the largest of our congregations. Ken Riley had been University Chaplain and the student links thrived in the 1970s and 1980s. David Wills led the vision to develop Kilimatinde House in a partnership with the Diocese now called Rift Valley in Tanzania, which was an inspiration to many in Mossley Hill. Meanwhile the Parish gained a new Vicarage. Much work was done to encourage the involvement of young families in the life of the Church.

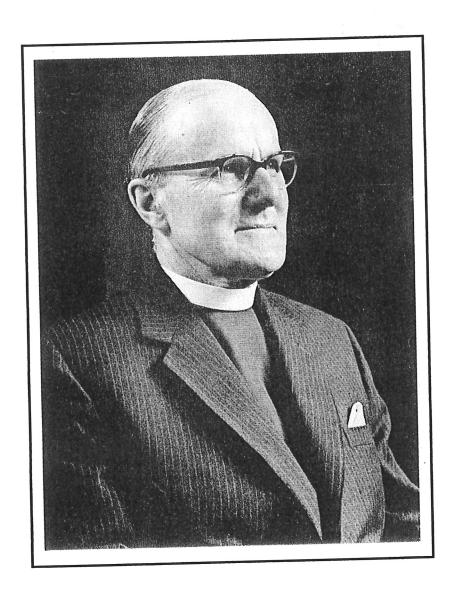
The result is that there is a large and active community at the Church ready to meet the calling to mission in the twenty first century. The "Vision for our Church" is a framework to take us forward in growth, in our connections with the community and wider world, in the involvement of young people and in making best use of the good premises entrusted to us. And yes: the Church of England is bringing out the successor to the ASB: "Common Worship", and so we will be reviewing and renewing our worship life.

Bishop James Jones arrived in Liverpool in 1998 with the reputation as a leader open to change and looking for the shape of the Church for the future. I pray that we in Mossley Hill will continue to be a community open to God, able to say: "For what has been: thanks. For what will be: yes!"

Warm thanks are due to Tom Whatmore for taking up the work of his good friend, Ernest Smith, who was so devoted to local history, by bringing the story up to the beginning of a new century.

**Bob Wilkes** 

February 2000



The Revd. F.R. Pryce-Parry, M.A, Vicar 1964 to 1974.

#### CHAPTER ONE.

Ernest Smith, at the end of his book about the first 100 years, was a bit ahead of the times. In it he states:- 'The church on the hill continues to bear witness to two thousand years of Christian belief'. Twenty five years ahead we will celebrate this 2000 years. He ends his book with this statement:- 'May the church, high on its hill, still be bearing witness to the Eternal Truth in a changing world 100 years from now'.

In March 1974 The Revd. Pryce-Parry in his foreword letter, to the book of the first 100 years, writes "A centenary is a time when people naturally look back and think of the good old days. It is right that we should celebrate and thank God for his many continued mercies. It is more important that we look forward in hope as we begin another chapter in our parish history".

"Privileged indeed to have survived these turbulent times, my prayer is that the parish church may grow and continue to be used as a power house for God".

"May it always stand for what is right and true; may it always welcome strangers into its fellowship; may it always seek to serve the neighbourhood and the church at large, and forever to extend its mission in this place".

He goes on to say, "The church itself, outwardly much the same as when built, was magnificently restored in 1952 after the destruction of the war years. Today a church hall is being erected on the south side of the building to cater for this great increase in population. It aims to serve the large number of visitors and regular members of our congregation who worship on Sundays, on special occasions, and on weekdays".

The vicar in February 1975 reported the departure of the Revd Harry Mathews and welcomed to Mossley Hill Captain Ken Storey and his family to Mosslake Lodge. Before coming to Mossley Hill Ken had been appointed Polytechnic Chaplain in September 1974. Ken came to Mossley Hill at the invitation of Fred Pryce-Parry to run the Quest Group (Youth) with the assistance of Joe Steen and Colin Pope and give help on Sundays. Ken and his wife Elizabeth moved into Mentmore Road in August 1976. During the interregnum in 1975 Ken looked after the Parish.

After Ken Riley's appointment Ken became University Chaplain and part time with the Mossley Hill Church Staff. They continued to work in the parish until 1984 when Elizabeth was ordained Deaconess and they then moved to All Souls Springwood. Ken in the same year became Further Training Officer for the Church Army. Ken was appointed as Chaplain to Mission in the Economy working in Warrington from 1993 to 1998.

In March 1998 Ken was appointed to the post of Mission in the Economy Chaplain in Speke-Garston and Chaplain to Warrington. In this role he is working with the economy of the area to try to represent Christian interest and concerns there and, in turn, to bring interest in the agenda of the churches. He will, therefore, be working with the local businesses, community based economic development and regeneration projects, and measures to assist the unemployed back to work.

The centenary year 1975 was marked by many celebrations. Mr D. Owen and his committee had laid extensive plans for the centenary. A garden fete to be held in June 1975, was organised to take place on the Athletic Club grounds. This was to be a combined effort

of the Church, the scout and guide movements and the Athletic Club. The weather was gloriously sunny. The fete was opened by the actor Derek Nimmo who stayed all afternoon, signing photographs which were sold in aid of the funds. Derek whose mother lived in the parish, had been a member of the 2nd Allerton cubs and took the opportunity to visit the new scout headquarters and recall past pleasures and misdeeds. He also, f rom time to time, attended the Sunday morning service with his family. In February 1999 he died as a result of a fall he suffered before Christmas 1998.

A flower festival was organised to take place in the church, and it was arranged for the church to be open to visitors during the week of the flower festival.

The special Centenary Committee completed its work with a financial profit of £800.

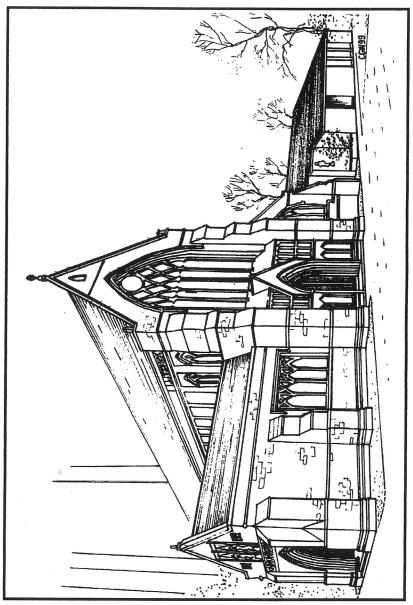
The church room had been promised to be ready by the end of May, and the dedication took place in June 1975, and was named 'The Pryce-Parry Hall'. The stained glass window is of St Matthew and St Luke by Sir Edward Burne-Jones. It was originally in the Congregational Church of Cheadle, Cheshire, and installed to the memory of John De Whurst. The window was given to Mossley Hill as a gift by the architect Donald Buttress M.A.

The new church hall was to be used by church groups and let to outside organisations. These are today, much the same as they were in 1975, i.e. Church Groups: Christian Contact Club, Cameo, Parochial Church Council. Youth Club. Community Groups: Mossley Hill History Society, Playgroup. Social Groups: Otters, Royal.Society.Protection of Birds, Liverpool Association of University Women, U3A Keep Fit, U3A Line-Dancing. Commercial Groups: Susan Melia School of Dancing, Slimming World, and Drama.

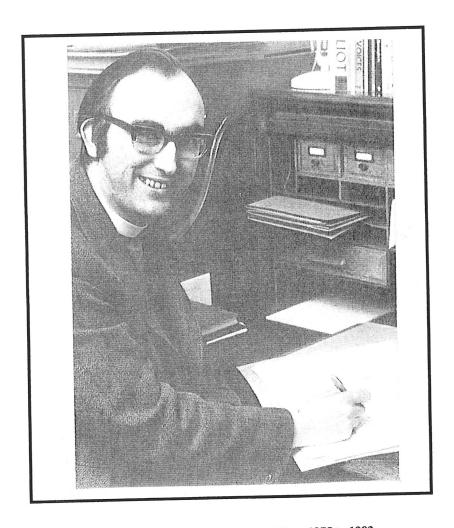
One of the fruits of the ministry in Pryce-Parry's time was a candidate for ordination. Colin Pope was trained for the ministry. Colin was a venture scout with the 2nd Allerton Group, having been in the group as a cub, scout, and as a scouter leader with the Cubs from 1971 to 1975. He is now the Vicar at the Church of Emmanuel, Southport.

The Christian Contact Club gave a farewell hot pot supper for the Revd and Mrs Pryce-Parry, at which they preseted him with a photo album.

The Revd Fred Pryce Parry retired in September after eleven years as vicar of the parish of Mossley Hill. He had been, for some time, suffering with acute arthritis, but this did not stop him from doing his duty in the parish. After his retirement he had an operation for his arthritis, and then led a full and active life until he died in September 1986. A memorial service was held in Mossley Hill Church in February 1987 to thank God for his life and ministry.



Mossley Hill Church and Church Room, from the West side.



The Revd. Kenneth Joseph Riley, B.A, Vicar 1975 to 1983.

#### CHAPTER TWO.

The Revd Kenneth Joseph Riley became vicar of Mossley Hill in 1975. He had graduated in 1961 with a B.A. from the University of Wales, continued his education at Linacre House Oxford and graduated with a further B.A. in 1964. He became deacon and curate at Emmanuel Church, Fazakerley, Liverpool. From 1966 to 1974 he was a chaplain at both Brasted Place College and Oundle School. In 1974 he became a chaplain to the Cathedral and to Liverpool University, before taking over from Fred Pryce-Parry as vicar of Mossley Hill in 1975. In 1982 Ken had been made Rural Dean, and in 1983 he became a Canon Treasurer at the Liverpool Cathedral, and subsequently Precenter. From Liverpool he went, in 1993, to Manchester Cathedral as Dean. Congratulations were sent to Ken on his appointment, and a number of the Mossley Hill congregation attended this investiture

One of Ken's first duties was the sale of the Church Institute. Terms were agreed for the sale to the British Legion for £32,500 with completion planned for the summer of 1976. The British Legion had received planning permission for their proposed use of the Church Institute.

It was proposed by the vicar at a meeting in 1976, that an appeal for loans be made from the parish members in order to wipe out the £20,000 bank overdraft. This was unanimously agreed. This money would be returned when the Church Institute was sold. Within a year this loan was repaid to all the lenders who required it. The reason for this very large overdraft was the building of the new Church Room, and the time taken in the completion of the sale of the Institute. By 1978 the Church Institute had been sold to the British Legion and the proceeds invested.

The Church Fellowship had another successful year in which Mrs Riley took over the chairmanship from Mrs Pryce- Parry in December 1995.

During the years between 1974 and 1998 the Christian Contact Club held a Centenary Fashion Show. They produced many revues, such as the Black and White Minstrel Show, Me Liverpool Home, Merry England, My Fair Lady, A Fashion Through the Ages, Kaleidoscope, The Four Seasons, Cinderella, Nativity Play with Music and organised the visit of the Dvorak singers and the Manchester Chorale. From these activities the Club donated to various charities the sum of £4,672.45.

Extension of the Luncheon Club idea on a parish basis 1974, as an occasion for meeting and instruction, was a suggestion. This was to be for business people, teachers from the local schools and retired people in the parish. This Luncheon Club became part of parish life. It was always well attended and lunch was followed by an interesting talk. It continued to run until about 1985. The reason for it closing was that the lunch times, both in business and in the schools, did not fit in with the catering arrangements.

At a meeting in 1975 there was disagreement on the need for a curate. Some felt that the work was bound to suffer with one less pair of hands (or feet) in the parish. Others felt that to pay a man to do the visiting, caring, etc, was merely to let the laity off their own responsibility in this matter, and in the light of the needs of the whole Church, a curate would be a luxury for Mossley Hill. However in June 1977 we welcomed a new curate,

the Revd John Malcolm Courtie and family to Mosslake Lodge. John was with us at Mossley Hill until 1980. He is now a vicar in Woodford Halse, Devon.

In 1976 a play-group started in the Church Room, and still continues to this day. This is not a church group, but for many years a number of church families have used it. It meets four morings a week for pre-school children.

A report from the Worship, Witness and Care Committee, in 1977 under the heading 'Worship' stated :- "Currently the parish is split into four distinct worshipping congregations. The vicar commented that these congregations were too large to be proper communities. It was agreed that we should all be prepared to give a little so that we can all get together. Doing things together is better than simply meeting together. A Biblical and prayerful ministry appears to be a key requirement for growth and attractiveness".

As a result the 10-15am Family Communion Sunday service started. With a generous donation of £400 new Pew Bibles were provided in 1978

From the Lent house-groups in 1979 came suggestions that social events should continue in the same direction as at present and that there should be more lay participation in worship. The vicar reported that he had asked Ann O'Neil to assist in Communion, and that other women members of the church would also be asked.

In November 1979 it was agreed to administer communion at three points in the church. The vicar said that an extended list of 15 persons to administer communion would be sent to the bishop and that this approved list would be presented to the next P.C.C. meeting. As far as possible each lay person administering would be accompanied by one of the ordained clergy, and the lay persons ( students representatives being possible exemptions ) would be known to the congregation generally.

A Celebration of Faith had been planned for 1980 and, in preparation, approval was given for visiting, prayer groups at various homes, outreach meetings, dance and music groups, and the publication of 3,000 copies of a 16 page booklet for distribution to every house in the parish. This booklet called, "Jesus Lives", described the life of the parish.

On the first page it starts by saying:- "IN MOSSLEY HILL The purpose of the church is to be a living body of Christ's followers, committed to worshipping God, witnessing to our neighbours, caring for the community. As such, we seek to be a family growing and developing in loving relationship with each other and with God; we seek to be a focus for Christian life and action in the area; we seek to be an affective force for spreading the message of Jesus in Mossley Hill and the wider world." And goes on to say, "A Church building can be beautiful- and dead, it only comes alive when the people come alive" "in MOSSLEY HILL we are a lively body of Christ's followers", "committed to worshipping God", "witnessing to our neighbours" "Mossley Hill reaches out", "caring for the community", "meets the family" "We know where we're going....we're going to church" Is this true of us today?

The booklet ends with this inspired statement by Ken Riley.

"You have met people from many walks of life in these pages dockers, doctors, students, mechanics, teachers, the old and the very young. Many differences, yet one thing in common, they are all committed to Jesus Christ and all he stands for, seeking to live out their faith in this crazy world of ours.

You only have to watch the news on the telly or read the headlines in the newspapers to realise that the human race is in a mess. We have lost our way and can't get back.

At least, that is what many people feel these days. Some people long for the good old days because they are frightened of where we are heading, and with good reason. In the face of this, some people try to bury their heads in the sand and hope that the nightmare will just go away. They have switched off and are now engaged in merely passing the time between the cradle and the grave.

Others have jumped on the bandwagon of "Every man for himself and to hell with everyone else!" They try to lose themselves in a mad social whirl of bed, booze and bingo, or Volvo, vodka and voodoo, depending on your social strata!

For them, the good life is the comfy life, the maximum of personal gratification for the minimum of effort. Is there a way of facing up to the reality of our predicament without an overwhelming sense of despair? Yes, there is. But it is not easy. It is the way of commitment to Christ. A commitment to the way of love, with all the effort, hardship and, yes, suffering that such a way entails "But what can we achieve?" you ask. Where else can you start? A wise man once said, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

And John Wesley, who did so much to influence the life of our nation at a critical time in days gone by, prayed, "Lord, change the world, and begin with me!" Because the people in these pages believe that the way of Jesus Christ is the only way to live, they come to church week by week to Celebrate their Faith. They believe there is hope for the world because God has not written us off. How do we know that? Because God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be saved." And "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself."

Of course you have many questions about the Christian life of faith, everyone has, including the Vicar! What it comes down to in the end is whether I am going to say No to God because I can't understand everything, or whether I am going to say "Yes" to God and live by faith in the Christ who died for me, even though I will never understand it all this side of the grave.

So ask your questions at a house meeting, over coffee after a church service, or even by letter to me. \*Come to our Celebration of Faith (every church service is that) out of curiosity if not out of commitment. You may well be surprised. As you can see in these pages, we are not as stuffy and starchy as some people think! You only have one life.

signed, Ken Riley

The Celebration of Faith was lead by Richard Hare Bishop of Pontefract, who preached at a service every evening of the Celebration Week.

June 1980 saw the departure of John Courtie and his familey to the parish of St Paul's Hatton Hill, and the arrival of Revd Peter Forster and his wife. In 1982 Peter left to become senior tutor at St John's College, Durham, University. In 1991 Peter became Vicar of Beverley Minster, York, and from there he became the Bishop of Chester in 1996.

The vicar in his report for 1981 reviewed the pattern of worship in the church services. The question was, what is the right way to worship God? to worship him in beauty and in truth? The Church of England's Alternative Service Book had been published in November 1980 and this would possibly affect some parts of the 10-15 Family Communion service when the white Service books in use at that time were reprinted. C.S.Lewis had said. 'You can really only pray prayers you know well'. Music is very important in our worship and provides inspiration.

The official Visitation by the Bishop of Liverpool to our parish took place over Sunday and Monday, 28th-29th of March. The pattern of services for the month of March was rearranged slightly so that the 6.30 p.m. service on the 28th, which the bishop attended, could be a Family Communion Service. At the meeting which followed the service the bishop was quick to express his gratitude for the rearrangement, explaining that his overfull diary of commitments prevented him from being able to fit in with a parish's normal service times. He took the opportunity during his sermon to make the point that his Visitation could and should be a time for any parish to review its position, policies and attitudes.

One area possibly in need of review emerged very quickly during 'Bishop's Question Time' following the service. The Bishop invited us to reassess the level of monetary giving to our church by our parish. Several questions of far-reaching importance in the context not only of our church, but also of our city and community were directed at the Bishop by the large group that stayed after the service. Much of the interesting and informative talk which followed centred on the Bishop's concern for those at the sharp end of social disadvantage. Time ran out before the audience had had the benefit of hearing the Bishop's opinions on some of the issues raised by questioners; issues which ranged from nuclear disarmament to apartheid and sport.

Monday provided our visitor with the occasion to attend a meeting of the Lunch Club and to visit Mossley Hill Hospital. In the evening, after Choral Evensong, before the P.C.C meeting chaired by the Bishop, an informal reception was arranged at which he was able to meet the members of the P.C.C and the choir. Members of the P.C.C had been invited to complete a questionnaire in anticipation of the Visitation, and from these questions points for discussion were provided. The Bishop led the discussion through some interesting, important, but, at the same time, difficult channels. Valuable points were raised as the meeting wrestled with such themes as 'The place of the suburban Church in God's plan', 'Links between suburban and inner-city parishes', 'Communication and 'Continuing Christian education'.

As the evening drew to its close the Bishop remarked on the degree of warmth he had felt in the welcome he had received in our Parish. The Vicar spoke on behalf of us all as he thanked the Bishop for what we had gained from his Visitation.

The Deaconess Vivienne Faull, took up her duties as a deaconess in Mossley Hill Church in September 1982. In 1985 Vivienne went as chaplain to Clare College Cambridge till 1990, from there she went, in 1990, as Chaplain to Gloucester Cathedral. In1994 she became a Residentiary Canon at Coventry Cathedral and in 1995 she became the Vice-Provost. In 2000 she was appointed Provost of Leicester Cathedral, becoming at that time the most senior woman Priest in the Church of England.

In the hope of improving access and amenities for the Church in 1982, planning permission was sought and given for a new entrance from the churchyard car park into Mossley Hill Road. This would have cost about £3,000, but this work was never carried out. The reason for this was the lack of funds at this time. In 1982 permission was sought and given for the Merseyside Police to install their transmitter in the Church Tower.

Then in September 1982 planning permission was sought to plan an extension of 1,000 sq ft to the new church room. This it was estimated would cost £32,000, and the P.C.C resolved to proceed in principle and appoint a sub committee to consider the details. A letter was sent to the Charity Commission on the 23rd August 1982 stating that the proposal had been but forward that the proceeds (£32,000) of the sale five years previous of the Institute in Rose Lane, to the Royal British Legion, should be applied to extend the existing church hall. The hall which would be thus extended is attached to the Church and entirely within the Churchyard. The reply from the Charity Commission stated: "It is confirmed that, subject to the consent of the Bishop of Liverpool, the administration trustees may apply all or part of the proceeds of the sale in or towards the extension to the existing church hall."

It was decided, at the meeting of May 1983, that a decision would be taken at the next Planning Committee meeting. The cost of this extension had now risen to somewhere in the region of £50,000, however, after an investigation for the award of grants towards the scheme, the plans for extending the church hall were mothballed.

In 1984 it was considered how the parish should approach the issue of twinning with inner city parishes. Two possible links were suggested:- the St Luke-in-the-City group which includes the University's main buildings; and a new christian community centre in Speke, where a number of members of the parish were working already. The Vicar emphasised that twinning must be on the basis of mutual respect, mutual care, mutual education, and mutual support. However nothing came of these proposals.

Mrs Jessie Little who had been a patron of the living of Mossley Hill for a long time had intimated some time previously that she wished to cease acting as a patron. The Council agreed that it hoped she would be replaced by someone from the regular worshipping congregation. The Chairman said that Eric Wallington's name had been suggested, but any other names should be sent to Ken Patterson, the corresponding patron. The final decision would be entirely for the existing patrons; i.e.: The Bishop, The Vice-chancellor of the University, the headmaster of Liverpool College, Mr Stuart Christie, and Mr Ken Patterson. Eric Wallington was appointed a patron in1983. The appointment of Eric as a patron meant that he was concerned with the appointment of the new vicar, which became necessary when the Revd K Riley took up his position on the staff of Liverpool Cathedral. In 1997 Eric decided that, as he was now living outside the parish and a new vicar was to be appointed he should resign, and David Bishop was appointed in his place. The patrons at this time were:-Ken Paterson, David Bishop, Stuart Christie, and the Vice-chancellor of the University.

After a lengthy discussion in November 1983, the P.C.C asked the secretary Edwin Fleming, to write a statement of the qualities and requirements needed by the parish in the new vicar, and this is the statement.

The parish of Mossley Hill has experienced with gratitude the working of the Holy Spirit in very significant ways in recent years. It is, therefore, the prayer of the Parochial

Church Council that the experience of growing in faith in Jesus Christ will continue with the new vicar. This document sets out to state briefly some facts about the present life of the parish in the context of its history and geography, and to indicate some of the qualities the Council believes the new vicar should possess.

In the 108 years since this odd-shaped parish was formed and the large and beautiful (but expensive to maintain) church was consecrated, the population living within the parish boundary has changed from 300 people living in a few very large houses with wealthy owners. to 8,500 citizens living in streets of semi- detached and terraced houses who, in some cases, are outright owner, or more probably owners with a mortgage, or rent-paying tenants. This is a residential suburban parish, and although people here still have jobs, they have experienced the pressures and constraints of the wider recession. During term-time, the parish is home also to 2,500 students in halls close to the church. There is a certain amount of open parkland within and adjacent to the parish, and the church and vicarage are inside a designated conservation area. These are centres which, though not linked to the parish, are within the parish and of which the vicar will be aware to a greater or lesser degree. These are : Clearview Centre for scouts, guides, cubs and brownies; Mossley Hill Athletic Club, Mossley Hill Hospital, The Roman Catholic parish church of St. Anthony Padua, Salvation Army Children's Home, Liverpool College, Carleton House Preparatory School, St Saviours Convent which is for mentally handicapped women, Greenbank Project which provides Handicapped training workshops; Lourdes private hospital; and home for aged jews.

With the arrival of the Revd Ken Riley as vicar in November 1975, a closer relationship developed between the parish and students, and for a time he combined the post of vicar with that of Senior University Chaplain. Since then, the full-time university chaplains have been attached to this parish for Sunday service duties. In 1975, Matins was still the main service, and with the Father Willis three-manual organ (rebuilt in recent years) and a very professional choir of men and boys, the parish was and is appreciative of its strong musical tradition; Matins congregation numbered about 150.

In 1977 the PCC agreed to a. two year experiment with what was basically Series III Holy Communion (as in New Testament times), set to congregational music composed by the vicar and known as 'Riley in F'. This became the main service at 10.15 am. on Sundays and continues today. The change was announced in literature distributed throughout the parish beforehand. The congregation grew rapidly to stabilise at the present level of some 350 adults and 100 children on a normal, term-time Sunday. There are 150 children on the present Sunday school roll. A new music group was formed to sing modern Christian songs. House groups were set up to enable individuals to get to knew each other, and together to know God meaningfully. During Lent the total number in such groups rises to about 100.

The parish became united in a new way. The PCC voted to give away 10% of the parish income - 5% to overseas and 5% at home. The parish income rose steadily from £8,687.81 in 1973 to £32,583.50 in 1982 (the consumer price index in the same period rose from 85.7 to 295.0). Since 1975 the parish had had two curates in succession who have done a lot of visiting in the parish, as did the present Deaconess. There was a diocesan lay reader in the parish. There were, by then, more and larger groups operating: Parish Fellowship; Christian Contact Club; Women's Church Fellowship; Pathfinders; Discoverers; CYFA Rock Salt (18—25's); Young Wives; Mother and Toddler Group; the play group; Lunch Club; and the Students' Group.

A census of the congregation was being carried out, and while the conclusions were not all available, some patterns were taking shape. Of course, many in the congregation live outside the parish. It seems a number of mothers and their children worship with us but are not accompanied by their husbands and this may explain in part why the parish income is not larger. The first concern is of course for the families, but increased numbers means increased costs, and the first reason for the proposed increase in the size of the Church Hall was that it was too small for the needs of the Sunday school. If the enlargement were to take place, more money would be needed to finance it beyond the £30,000 or so available on the trust of the Old Institute.

The new vicar should possess qualities of leadership and vision. The vision of Ken Riley had brought spiritual growth to the congregation, and the PCC felt very strongly that the parish was ready for another stage in the growing experience. The new Vicar should be able to co-ordinate and give leadership to the activities which go on in the life of the parish, and not least in the stewardship of the finances and other resources. His pastoral care should be concerned for the needs of the whole parish, and he should be both a pastor and a teacher to the people.

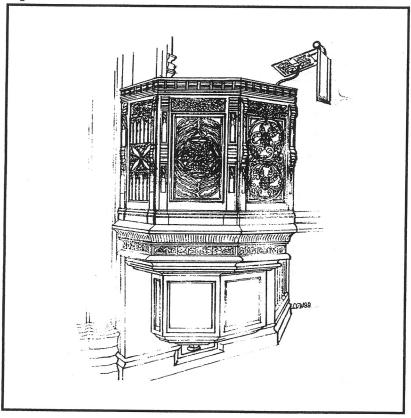
With the happy experience of change in recent years, there was an openness to further change as the Holy Spirit leads the vicar and PCC, but he should be mindful of the traditions of the church, especially in music which is such an important part of worship. The patrons were assured of the prayers of the parish in the task they had to perform.

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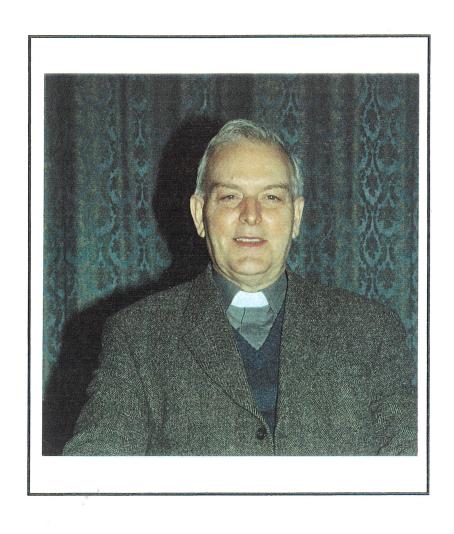
It was reported to the P.C.C; in January 1984, that an advertisement had been placed in the Church Times, for the post of Vicar of Mossley Hill. By March there had been fifteen applicants and a short list was drawn up. The P.C.C chairman, Eric Wallington, stated at the meeting of May 1984 that the Revd David Wills had accepted the appointment of vicar of the parish. By October 1984 he had taken over his duties as vicar.

Between November 1983 and October 1984, during the interregnum, the parish was very successfully administered by the Deaconess Vivienne Faull, the Revd Nick McKinnel (University Chaplain), the Revd Norman Goodacre, the lay-readers of the parish and others.

Nick McKinnel's sermons featuring the mouse Sebastian, who lived in the church wall under the tower, are remembered with amusement by many people of the congregation of Mossley Hill. Sebastian, and his habitual scrapes were used to illustrate many a point in Nick's sermons. At one time Sebastian got into the tower to listen to a choir practice, another time he visited a meeting of the P.C.C.; on yet another occasion Sebastian crept into one of the Red Cross Boxes that were being prepared to be sent to Africa. On arrival in Africa he was very shocked by the condition of the children there and on his return he reported his findings to the congregation in a sermon. Of course when Nick left Mossley Hill Sebastian went with him. The children (and the adults) missed him so much that for some time Nick would send back to Mossley Hill reports of Sebastian's exploits to be reported in the Parish Magazine.



Pulpit.



The Revd, David Ernest Wills, M.A, Vicar 1984 to 1997.

#### CHAPTER THREE.

The Revd David. E. Wills. M.A., left St John's College, Cambridge in 1958, and became curate at St John's Church, Kenilworth, Coventry in 1960. In 1963 he became curate at Emmanuel Church, Northwood, London until 1966 when he was appointed vicar at St George's, Huyton, Liverpool, until 1973. Subsequently he became vicar of Littleover, Derby, until 1984. In October 1984 he came as vicar of Mossley Hill.

At the P.C.C on October 6th 1984 the Vicar made the following statement, this is a summary of that statement.

"Regarding the function of the church council. The rules for representation of the laity state the aims very clearly. The incumbent and the council are to consult together on all matters of importance for the church and parish, and the council is to corporate with the incumbent in advancing the whole mission of the church in the parish in all its variety. understand the word co-operate to mean not a rubber stamping of what the vicar or anyone suggests, but a real attempt to work things out together. I am not happy to implement plans or make changes of any importance without first having won willing agreement of the council. People who say 'Yes' to keep the vicar happy but who do not have the inner conviction that something is right do not in fact normally further that work very effectively. When there is agreement at least to a reasonable degree, then one can expect real backing from what is decided and loyalty even from those who would have preferred another course had been taken, because they have had an opportunity to express their views. The Church Council is also the body which furthers our relationships with the higher authorities in the Church and Diocese and that too is important. I would like to feel that every member of the PCC has a personal responsibility and involvement but I see grave problems in this with a PCC of our present size. It would be good to have every member of the PCC on at least one working sub committee.

Duties of Church Officers. The Churchwardens are by law given the vast majority of the responsibilities with regard to the use of the church buildings, the provision of the materials and vessels and books for Church services. They are also ultimately responsible for representing the views of the congregation and for exercising control over finances and trusts belonging to the church. With that in mind I think we should try to ensure that there is a churchwarden or a recognised senior deputy present at all services and public occasions in the church. For this reason, it would be good to renew the system of deputy wardens.

General assessment of the activities of our Church. Someone coming in from outside can see the situation more objectively than those who have been present here for many years. I would like very strongly to express my gratitude for all that bas been done to make us welcome, and my respect for all the good things which have been done and are still being done in the life of the church. People are expecting changes but at present I am by no means convinced that major changes are essential though many details probably need attention. A few things have got into bad ways. I would have wanted to do something very similar to what has been done about Family Service but it is generally agreed that various aspects of this need careful review. There is a need to consider and define a positive strategy for the church's life and thus to discover the real purpose. Jesus himself set us priorities of evangelism, teaching, caring and healing and working for the unity of Christians, having said that, we need to work

out what that means in definite objectives in our present situation having done so we must ensure that all our activities work towards those ends, that the church's leaders demonstrate their support of them, that the organisations serve them and do not simply exist for their own ends, and that the chief priorities are allowed to continue without conflict over timings etc.

The Church Room was built when church activities were shrinking a little, but now more space is quite definitely needed. The proposals which have been considered appear to be very costly for what would actually be achieved. The Vicarage has its own appeal but it also will continue to be a drain upon many people's pocket as long as it is the Vicarage and we must face a problem which will not go away. I think that both these two latter problems may be linked in the discovery of the right answers. We have some extremely loyal hard workers involved in the day to day cleaning and maintenance of our church. In addition to the general body of volunteers, Miss Archer has been doing a fantastic job for many years but we must face the fact that she can do less and will have to hand things over. We must try to arrange some system of the church being open on a regular basis for the use of others, if only for limited periods with people around.

Administration and spiritual leadership. This area needs considerable attention. Too much administration at present revolves around the vicar and this is not his first task, though I will play my part. The secretarial help which has been made available is helpful. In the long run we shall probably have to try to create a Church Office. In the vestry it is not unusual for a variety of activities to be going on including photocopying, and at the last minute the place is filled with forty members of the choir to complete the mix. At the end of the Service, people flood out through one door whilst once again many people seem to be involved in business and comparatively few peoples stay for coffee. Before we realise what has happened, the majority of those with whom we ought to be making relationships and those who are new to our Service, have disappeared, leaving us with no more to do than to hope they will come There are various matters in this which need attention. It will be helpful to involve more people looking after details of the mechanism of the services and getting on with their jobs, to clear some of the activity from the clergy vestry if possible, to have notices handed in early etc. etc. But above all we need to free the ministers both on Sundays and at other times to be able to be available to fulfil their first priorities in pastoral care, evangelistic work and teaching, and to free other church leaders like the Churchwardens to be also involved in building relationships with the congregation before and after the services. We need a Curate in addition to a Deaconess, not to make lay responsibility less important but to help train, encourage and supervise those lay people who are willing and ready to extend our work in evangelism and pastoral care. If we believe that house groups are the answer, then they must be given absolute priority and all members of the Church should be expected and encouraged to belong to one.

The worship. We need a committee to look into all aspects of the 10.15 service and also into details the other services and the possible introduction of the Alternative Service Book, which I feel myself is desirable. 8 and 6.30 services are very small in comparison with the 10.15 and the time has come to give more attention to them without losing the present emphases. We must be sure that we are offering the right service at 6.30. I would have thought that students, young people and Sunday School teachers were among those who would appreciate an appropriate evening service. In other aspects not the ministry. I have indicated that we need to improve our level of caring for parishioners. Marriage preparation,

bereavement follow through, the healing ministry and our baptism policy all need attention. I would like to bring baptism into the main service as a regular rule.

We should have no doubt that if we can create a sense of trust and the right attitude of commitment, we should be able to find all the financial resources to do the work we believe God wants us to do here. Giving is part of the whole teaching of the Church and it will have its place in Confirmation groups, in Sermons etc. The Ministers are not there to be fund raisers but they will teach how much this is part of Christian commitment. Regular, reliable, proportionate giving is a Christian duty. The Biblical number of 10% needs to be heeded. Our need is for long term committed giving and short term appeals can be dangerous if we depend on these. All our financial dealings must be open and beyond question. If we expect other people to give proportionately even when times are bad, then we must make sure that our giving away as a church even when things are difficult for us, goes on. Finally, our means of money raising must be beyond question and my own hope is that we will ask all our organisations to refrain from everything that has the nature of gambling."

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Whilst all this was happening other important events were taking place. On July 17th about 200 people from the congregation attended the Billy Graham Mission England, meeting at Anfield.

The Worship Committee proposed and the P.C.C. agreed the purchase of 50 red copies of the Alternative Service Book, plus 100 red backed offprints when they were available. These would be used at all the 8.00am and the once per month 6.30 pm Holy Communion services. It was suggested that some large print copies should be bought. It was mentioned that some money from the coffee fund might be applied to purchasing these books.

A full coach of people visited York Minster to hear Mossley Hill Choir sing there. The organist, Mr Brian Hodge, had tendered his resignation to take effect from the end of September, but had agreed to carry on for the time being. In May 1985 it was reported that Brian Hodge had accepted a new appointment at Emmanuel Parish Church, Southport. The P.C.C. chairman later reported two appointments, Alan Williams as Choirmaster and Colin Porter as organist.

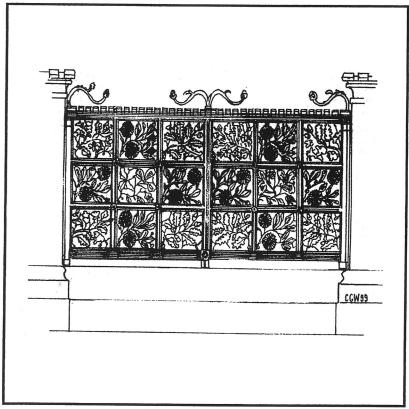
Under "any other business" at the A.G.M. of April 1985, there was a lengthy and, at times passionate discussion about worship and the Choir following a statement made by Peter Kennerley, who quoted from a letter written by Dr John Winstanley, the assistant organist. Mr Kennerley said many of the men of the choir had begun to feel a sense of alienation during the previous months. Concern was felt about the future of the evening services and that there had been a serious lack of organisation in worship of late. The chairman expressed surprise that these points had not been raised earlier but explained that any changes in service would be discussed at the Worship Committee and the P.C.C, which both had choristers as members. It was not long after this discussion that the choir left Mossley Hill Church. At the A.G.M. of April 1986 the vicar said "I regret the going of the choir more than I can say."

At this time the vicar was pursuing the possibility of getting a curate for the parish. In March 1985 it was reported by the vicar that there was diocesan agreement to advertise for a curate. It was mentioned at the meeting in June 1985 that the deaconess had another post and would be leaving at the end of September. She had been appointed as the chaplain of

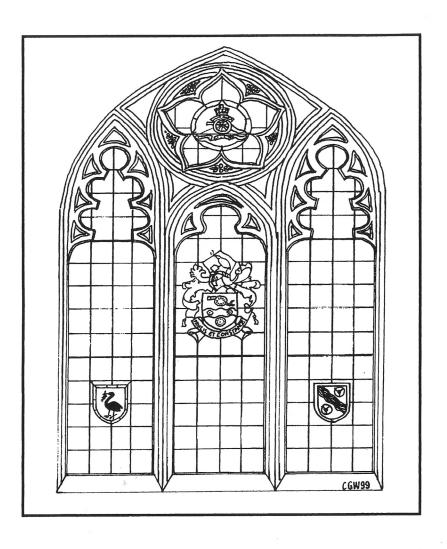
Clare College, Cambridge. In June 1986 we were looking forward to the ordination of Tim Stratford, the new curate.

Ken Patterson outlined the possibilities of installing a window in memory of Sir Douglas Crawford. The cost would be about £10,000, most of which was thought to be pledged already. It was agreed that the parish should give £1,000 plus the proceeds of an open appeal.

The Council resolved in June 1985, a faculty was to be sought, to install, in the east window of the Memorial Chapel, a stained glass window, consisting of the central and upper panels designed by John Hardman Studios 1984, in memory of Sir Douglas Crawford, to erect a brass memorial plate measuring ten inches by six inches noting that the window is in memory of Sir Douglas, and to install a bookshelf at the west end of the Church, four feet six inches high and six feet long in medium oak, to the same design as the existing bookshelf for the storage of service and hymn books. The dedication of the memorial window took place on December 6th 1985 and was well attended.



**Chancel Gates** 



Brigadier Crawford window in the Lady Chapel. 1985.

It was reported 1985 that the Archdeacon was keen to modernise the vicarage and a possible £8,000 may be spent on this. The new vicar, David Wills, had agreed not to proceed with the proposed structural alterations in the vicarage. There seemed to be doubt about the Church Commissioners agreeing to the expenditure at this time. In November 1984 it was suggested that the parish might buy the old vicarage and use it instead of building the hall extension. The following proposition was put to the P.C.C. at a special meeting on Sunday 10th March 1985 -: "That the Parish purchase the vicarage, and a new vicarage be built on the ground adjacent". This was agreed. The cost of the new vicarage would be in the region of £80,000 to £85,000. It was decided in June 1985 to seek a person to lead a study on the uses of the old vicarage. By July, Michael Blackmon had agreed to take on the task of leading a study of its potential uses. The estimated cost of the building was £55,000 to £60,000. This report was given to members of the P.C.C. at a special meeting which took place on the 23rd September 1985.

In October 1986 revised tenders for the new vicarage had been received for £91,000. All necessary approval had been given, and the contractors were to begin within a fortnight. The completion date of the new vicarage would be within nine months. Back in 1985 the Scouts had agreed to transfer a small piece of land to provide an entrance to the new vicarage from Rose Lane. This transfer of land was signed over on the 2nd September 1986.

In September 1986 the P.C.C. wholeheartedly accepted the proposal of a project committee to launch an appeal for £50,000 over two years, half of which is to go to build new dormitories at the Bible School in Kilimatinde, Tanzania, near where our link Missionary, Pam Wilding, had been, and half to refurbish the old vicarage which members agreed should be re-named Kilimatinde House. To ensure the best possible use of the new Kilimatinde House, a steering committee and building committee had been set up by the P.C.C. to oversee the planing and actual conversion work on the building. The members of this first committee were:- Ern.Smith (Chairman) Jim.Barclay (Treasurer) Michael Blackmon, Joyce Johnston, Peter Parry, Kate Wills, Michael Swinson (Architect) and Tom Whatmore (Clerk of Works)

The collection of this money was undertaken by a team led by John Airey who, over the next year, organised people to collect donations.

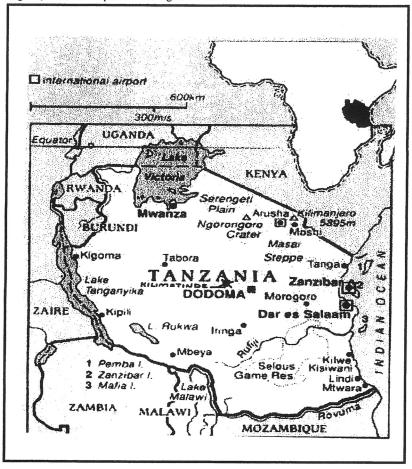
This is a report written by John and Nan Airey in February 1999.

It is good to dream dreams and have visions. Many said it was an impossible dream, but things happen when the Holy Spirit is at work.

One of our committee had a dream of sharing our resources here at Mossley Hill, pound for pound with a project in the Third World; so what started out as an exercise in modernising our old vicarage for the sum of £25,000 has grown into the Kilimatinde Project a christian centre here at Mossley Hill and a dormitory and classrooms out in Tanzania. Consequently the sum of £25,000 was doubled to £50,000.

Kilimatinde Bible School is situated on the edge of the Great Rift Valley escarpment. Such was the trust in the Lord that the students there had, as a gesture of faith, carried and dragged large rocks to the top of the Escarpment to form the school's foundations. Even those who were sceptical about this venture could not fail to be moved by the Students' trust in the Lord.

The Bible School was built and the foundation stone was laid. On it, it says in Kiswahili. "This foundation stone was laid by Revd David E Wills of the Church of Mossley Hill, England, which has helped the building of this centre."



Kilimatinde. Tanzania

Here at Mossley Hill we were amazed at the dedication, deep thought, prayer and financial sacrifice that had been given to this venture. The dream had become a reality!

The vicar wrote, on the 14th October 1986 the following.

Dear Friends,

This is your invitation to become involved in a vision which has excited a small group of people here in Mossley Hill, and a similar group of Christians 4,000 miles away in Tanzania.

When we asked a small committee to recommend ways of raising the funds required to adapt our present vicarage for future use, they came back with a suggestion that we raise twice as much money. Their ambition was not to build a bigger empire here but to support a Christian project in a developing country at the same time.

I wrote to our mission partner, Pam Wilding. Could she suggest a suitable project? Her reply arrived on the same day that our committee was meeting. A Bible school at Kilimatinde was in danger of being closed. Friends had been praying for money to build suitable premises.

Our committee was not only satisfied, when it read her letter, that it had found a suitable project, it has since become excited with the conviction that God has been shaping the whole scheme. Your Church Council has willingly taken up this vision.

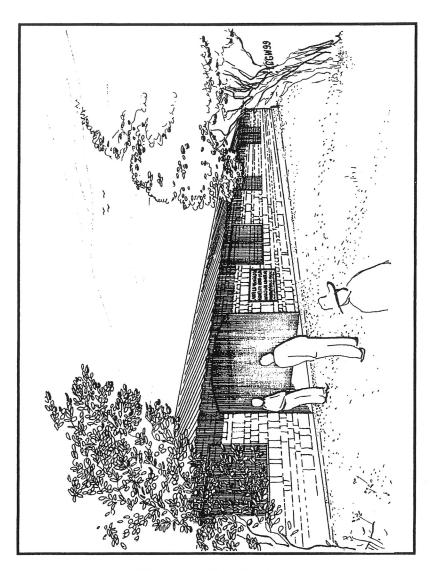
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By April 1987 the total cash received was £28,120. In August 1987 work had started on the new kitchen for the student accommodation in Kilimatinde House and the office for the Church administration. This was done to make the house acceptable for student accommodation during the interim period, whilst awaiting Planning Permission for the change of use. The planning and costing of this was done by Mike Swinson with the assistance of Tom Whatmore. In October 1987, 3 to 4 students arrived to take up residence and look after the old vicarage.

Between January and July 1988, a specification and plans were drawn up and planning permission sought, for the alterations at Kilimatinde House. As the building is a listed building, special consent was required for certain aspects of the alterations. The fire officers' requirements were to some extent in conflict with the demands of Conservation.

By July 1988, the tender documents had been sent out to three local builders, and one had been appointed. The cost for this work was £23,986-55, which included, a fire alarm system, emergency lighting, lighting and sockets in the new bedrooms. A fire door was fitted in the west side of the house and a new cast iron staircase erected from the first to ground floor. All doors throughout the ground and first floors had to be fire proofed. A parish office was made, also a toilet for the disabled. All this work was completed by the 31st October 1988 and six students moved in. The chairman, of the P.C.C at the meeting in October expressed particular thanks to Tom Whatmore for all his efforts in overseeing the work.

A family party was held to celebrate the dedication of Kilimatinde House by Bishop Yohana Madinde, on July 13th 1988 at 5pm. The Bishop was in Britain for the Lambert Conference.



Kilimatinde Bible School

In February 1988 a suggestion was made that a fund should be set up to send members of the church to Kilimatinde. It was reported in January 1994 that the trustees of the Institute funds (three trustees) would continue, in perpetuity, as the trustees of Kilimatinde House. These trustees are elected each year at the A.G.M.

Side by side the two buildings were proceeding, whilst, at the same time, other things were taking place in the parish.

The Revd Timothy R. Stratford. came as Curate to Mossley Hill in 1986 and he was with us until 1989, then going as curate to St Helen, St Helens till 1991. He was the Bishop of Liverpool's Domestic Chaplain till 1994 when he became the vicar of the Good Shepherd, West Derby.

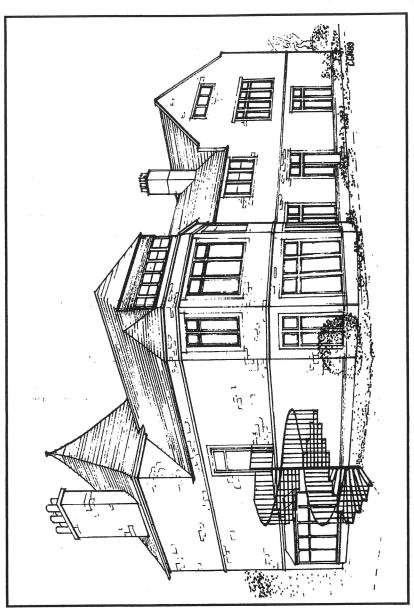
In 1985 Mrs Maggie Swinson from Mossley Hill was elected to the General Synod along with Reg Davies. In October 1989, Maggie Swinson was elected to attend the next World Council of Churches Congress, the 7th General Assembly, in Canberra, in February 1991. In January 1991, she was elected on to the Standing Committee of the General Synod and also to its Appointments Committee.

At the P.C.C. meeting of the 10th June 1986 the rules governing baptism in the Church of England were tabled. Holy Baptism is normally administered by the parish priest in the course of public worship on a Sunday, but it may be administered at other times. This order of service from the A.S.B. should normally be used at Holy Communion or Morning or Evening Prayer. At the meeting in October 1986 there was a discussion about incorporating baptism into the morning service. In November 1987 after much discussion it was agreed that baptism would be incorporated into the morning services.

In November 1987, after much discussion on a paper entitled 'The Remarriage of divorced people at St. Mathews and St. James Church Mossley Hill', which had been presented to the Council in February 1987, there was a recommendation by the Chairman as follows:—"We are in the business of marrying people in the context of the Christian Faith". It went on, "That in the matter of re-marriage of divorced people, the Church interprets the term "Christian" to mean that one of the applicants has been a regular worshipper for at least six months prior to the application being made to the church". This recommendation was proposed and agreed.

In the vicar's report of April 1987, he said that the problems of Mossley Hill were the problems of life, but in our parish there was developing life and new opportunities. The Kilimatinde Project should thrill all of us. The arrival of Tim Stratford, followed shortly after by his wife Jen had brought joy and purpose. The Revd Tim Stratford was ordained on St.Peter's Day, June 29th 1987. New people had joined and others moved away, Nick and Jan McKinnel, it was reported would be moving shortly to Devon to a group parish (accompanied by Sebastian the mouse).

The old church school in Bridge Road was a cause complaints from the local residents and the Health Department about rubbish. The deeds of the old school had been found and the Vicar was the only remaining trustee. There was a possibility that it could be sold with the proceeds to be used for the church. In November 1988 instructions were given to sell by private treaty. By January 1989 offers had been received of up to £50,000. In September it



Kilimatinde House, Mossley Hill

was reported that the sale had gone through and that the £50,000 proceeds had been placed in a special account. The future use of the money was dependent on what amendments could be made to the trust deeds which required the proceeds of any sale to be expended on 'a building for educational or other similar use'.

In May 1997, a draft of a new scheme for the administration of the income was received from the Charity Commissioners. The current trustees, David Wills, David Bishop and Alan Wilkinson, would meet to consider it. The Council agreed that the new name should be the Mossley Hill Church School Fund and that the clause concerning application of the income should be drawn up in such a way that priority would be given to work with children of school age.

Plans were made for a parish mission in1988. This would be entitled 'Who Cares?' a team from Ridley Hall would lead it during Holy Week. Ash Wednesday 17th February was to be set aside as a day of prayer, fasting and giving to the mission. 20th February was to be a day of preparation, led by the Bishop of Warrington. After the mission, in the April meeting of 1988, various members of the Council spoke about the enthusiasm generated by the mission. People from outside the church had been drawn into the activities. Some of the team members had written to say how much they had benefited from the mission. The mission had been a success in the vicar's words, 'it has been a great blessing to the Church'. Kilimatinde House had been well used during the mission.

The report on the progress at Kilimatinde was very good, £18,000 had been sent with a further £5,500 ready to be sent. The building programme was good. The vicar and his wife Kate were to go to Africa on the 11th April 1989 for ten weeks on sabbatical leave. While they were there, they would visit the Kilimatinde Bible School to see how the work was going on.

On their return they reported that they had had a tremendous experience and thanked the parish for letting them go, for keeping the business in church going and for the interest that had been shown in the trip. He reported that a large amount of work had been achieved with the funds made available but that still more was needed to be done. At Easter in 1991, Mike and Nicky Chater and Duncan Fellows would be going out to Kilimatinde. In July 1997 the news came that the Bible School was now called St John's College and that it had 10 tutors and 82 students, some Bible College students and some Junior Seminary students.

In 1989, arising from the link with Kilimatinde, 'Faith in Action' was started in the parish.

This is an article from the Church Magazine of 1989.

# THE START OF FAITH IN ACTION by John and Nan Airey

"God gave us the vision for Kilimatinde" explained Nan and John, "and now that the buildings at the Bible School are nearly completed, we feel that this is only the beginning of what He wants us to do there".

We had been searching to discover how we could help the students at Kilimatinde Bible School who are desperate for the basic necessities of life, when we heard about Martin and Sally Jeffree through Pam Wilding (our link missionary). They are already committed to



Pam Wilding, our link missionary.

supplying these very needs in Tanzania under the auspices of 'Faith in Action', and would very much value our involvement'.

I was interested to hear that Martin Jeffree is a pilot with a civil airline, who belongs to the Mission Aviation Fellowship. This means that during the airline's 'slack' periods, e.g. January, Martin is able to transport food and clothing to needy communities in Africa.

Some time ago, Sally Jeffree called in at the New Vicarage to describe their work, and explained that on one of his trips to Africa, Martin had been horrified to see the people wearing rags. As food is so expensive for these people they have little or nothing left over to spend on clothes and Martin vowed that when he returned to England he would attempt to do something about it, and that is how **Faith in Action** was born.

This is a report from John and Nan Airey written in February 1999.

Since starting this project 10 years ago, we have been able to send 372 Apple Boxes to Tanzania, containing men's, ladies and children's clothing, sewing materials, hospital supplies, nurses uniforms, bed linen, computers, typewriters and wheel-chairs.

The generosity of many folk enabled us to send £2,515 for the Lord's work, after all expenses were paid. John & Nan Airey organised the Project and Jean & Alan Price undertook to print out all computer labels in English & Swahili and letters to Customs.

Debbie Taylor took it on herself to be responsible for making up all the baby packs.

When John and Nan reluctantly had to give up, Charlie Jones, Julia and Guy Thomas, Pauline Creese and Jan McLoughlin carried on with very few faithful helpers.

Because of lack of space, packing had to be done in individual homes. The committee were now looking into new ways to further this work.

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In 1988 a Book of Remembrance was purchased and presented to the church by Clive and Ethel Jervis, in memory of Clive's father Arthur ( who had been Church Warden in the years between 1971 and 1974), and Ethel's mother Dorothy Stewart. This book is placed in the case at the back of the Church, and records the names of those who have died, and after cremation, whose ashes are placed in the Garden of Rest..

A competition had been set up for a new altar frontal in November 1988 and the Polytechnic had nominated three students to undertake the design as a project. The final design was by Helen Spiby and Karen Harmes. The students agreed to make the frontal for the sum of £500 including materials. This was agreed by the Council. Money to cover this cost was donated by the family of Jessie Watson-Jones, who had died on the 13th November 1990 aged 86 years. The lettering for this frontal had not been applied, and would be carried out by people from the church. It was hoped that it would be completed by Pentecost. Carol Boston and Jean Price co-ordinated ideas for the completion of the design. This new frontal was completed by the 20th November 1991, and dedicated at Pentecost on the 7th June 1992. Thanks were given to Carol Boston and Karen Parsons. The altar frontal illustrates the coming of the Holy Spirit as a dove and as fire.



The pentecostal altar frontal, made 20th November 1991.

The Revd Christopher G. Houghton came to Mossley Hill as curate at the end of the year 1989. From Mossley Hill, in 1992, Chris went as curate to St Thomas, Ashton-in Makerfield. In 1995 he was curate at St Philip and St Paul, Southport, and, from 1996, he became chaplain at Chorley and South Ribble N.H.S. Trust.

At 1.45pm on Friday 29th August 1940 bombs fell on the church, the first church in the country to suffer in the bombing. To mark the 50th anniversary of this bombing, an exhibition was held in church, this included photographs of the church after the bombing, also photographs of the restoration of the building. During the week including Wednesday 29th August 1990 the church was open to the public, on each day a member of the congregation acted as a steward to welcome the visitors into the church.

1990 saw many things being discussed by the Church of England Synod. Their suggestions promoted much discussion by the parishes, and our parish spent many hours on these subjects. The ordination of women was to be debated in the deaneries and diocese. It was agreed to set up an open meeting after Easter but before June to give information and discuss this matter. The discussion took place in our parish in May 1991. The vote on the resolution currently before the deaneries and diocese was; for 15, against 2, abstentions 3. In Mossley Hill it was agreed that a positive step should be taken, and that Elizabeth Storey should be invited to preside after her ordination in May 1994. Elizabeth agreed to come and preside at the 10-15 Communion service on the 3rd July.

The Decade of Evangelism was launched in the parishes for them to respond in the most appropriate way without formal strict guidance. The launch date was to be 6th January 1991, and by 1992 the Bishop was to be informed of our plans. Mossley Hill Parish Church decided to play an active part, and as a focus for the witness taking place in, and through the members of the congregation, we would welcome the visits of the Bishop of Warrington in Holy Week 1991 and of Dennis and Sheila Shepheard in January 1992.

The parish agreed to provide necessary expenses for Bishop Michael's visit, and a budget of up to £1,000 for the Shepeard's visit.

Principles for the Decade of Evangelism as proposed by the Witness Committee, April 6th 1992 were.

- 1. Consolidation of existing membership/opportunities, marriage preparation, bereavement, visiting illness, renewed listening course, encourage the type of contact Cameo makes.
- 2. Seizing of opportunities for visual and other impact appearance of Church, notice boards, grounds and clock, give impression of life.
- 3. Outreach where possible to two thirds of local population who have no relationship with a church, if possible in co-operation with other churches, young people, magazine promotion, school contacts, mini bus, possibility of church planting in little reached areas.
- Challenge membership to spiritual growth and commitment without which we cannot sustain outreach. Occasional weekends for this purpose.

- 5. Directed Prayer for evangelism prayer pyramid to answer sudden needs.
- Maintaining world-wide dimension to mission. Kilimatinde link. Akure link. Mission partners.
- Awareness of need to change. Every group to consider the implications of a "move from maintenance to mission".
- 8. Supporting people at work.

With special consideration given to.

- 1. How can we transfer deeds into work?
- Who takes responsibility?

Encouragement was to be given to church groups and organisations to involve themselves in these events and the parish would avoid any activity which challenged their priority.

The visits of the Decade of Evangelism should have priority in the use of all church premises. During Holy Week the Bishop of Warrington spoke each evening,

At the same time there was to be a short visit by the Revd David Mann, student curate of St George's, Leeds, with a small team. They came on March 3rd 1991, the emphasis of their visit being on drama and on the young.

It was reported in December 1991 that a new curate, Andrew Gough, accompanied by his wife Sue, would be joining the parish in September 1992. Chris and Ruth Houghton were to move to St. Thomas-in -Makerfield in July 1992

The Revd Andrew W Gough came as Curate to Mossley Hill in 1992, and subsequently in 1994, as Curate to Holy Trinity, Wavertree till 1996. He then went as Chaplain to Warwick School, Warwick.

At the A.G.M. 1993 an appreciation of Andrew Gough's direct, clear input into services and sermons, his magazine work, and his care of the bereaved was given by the Vicar.

However in January 1994, before his three years curacy at Mossley Hill were completed it was reported that Andrew had seen the Bishop of Warrington with the intention of resigning his position as curate. He was looking at a position in Bristol, but at the time was off sick. This was a sad time for both the Gough family and the people of Mossley Hill Church, as no positive way forward could be seen for Andrew to make a new start in the parish. The parish was told that no replacement for Andrew was likely in the near future. In March 1994 he was to continue his ministry at Holy Trinity, Wavertree. An agreement was made between the new parish, the Bishop of Warrington and Andrew that he would not be talking to members of the congregation of Mossley Hill about the past and that he would take no part in church organisations. At the time this item was a very volatile subject in the parish.

It was obvious that many repairs and alterations had to be undertaken in the church. On the 17th April 1994 a car was set on fire alongside the Church Hall. The blaze spread to the

inside causing considerable damage to half the roof of the large room, and smoke damage to other parts. In May a contract was given to Farringtons Builders to carry out the repairs.

The English Heritage application for work on the Church and its grounds amounted to a sum in the region of £155,000. In 1993, £3000 was set aside for the refurbishing of the electrical main switching inside the Church, which was carried out during that year. £4000 was set aside for the removal of the asbestos from under the floor of the Church. By July 1996 the contract for the main work had been given out to J.Build Contractors, who had put in the lowest tender (£129,029-11.) The work carried out under this contract was, the renewal of the rain water piping, the installing of new under ground drainage piping, and the re-pointing of the joints between the sandstone blocks around the church. In the lower vestry the walls were stripped of plaster and the block floor removed. The walls were re-plastered with a water proofing mixture and the floor re-blocked, the room was re-decorated. In the bell chamber the main supports for the bells were repaired. The Church Clock was electrified. Outside the north roadway was given a new surface of tar macadam.

It was decided that a new moveable lectern was required for the front of the church. This was to be used especially at the 8am and 6-30 services. A suitable one costing £797(plus vat) was found and Andrew Pickering, the son of the late Stanley Pickering, agreed to fund this in memory of his father.

Among the many distinctive events taking place in 1993 was the introduction of a more consistent positive evening service, effective work with young families, progress with teenagers, the production of our own song and worship book and the promising introduction of our first full marriage preparation course.

The new curate, suggested by the diocese for Mossley Hill in July 1994, was Alex P J Galbraith M A who was coming to the end of his curacy at Emmanuel, Southport. This was to be his second curacy. As Alex had very bad eye sight and needed a house with plenty of light he could not live in Mosslake Lodge as it was unsuitable. So, a house was rented, from All Hallows, at 120 Abbotshey Ave, at a cost of £300 per month. Alex was appointed curate for a period of up to 3 years from 1st September and became a popular member of the church staff.

In April 1997 Alex and his wife Avon left Mossley Hill for Alex to take up the post of Vicar and Chaplain to St Francis, Kew, Southport. At the P.C.C. meeting in April 1997, the vicar on bidding farewell to Alex, said "that he had come to Mossley Hill at a time of his own unhappiness and ours, and had brought great encouragement. It had been a time of healing and building up for both him and the parish, and his personal courage had been exemplary. He was loyal to the Lord and his colleagues, and all were grateful for the excellent relationship he had had with everyone, and was confident about his future". He would be much missed. The Institution Service was held at St Francis on Friday April 25th and many members of Mossley Hill Church attended the Service.

For some time Orange the telephone company had been talking to the P.C.C about installing an aerial on the church tower. By January 1996 they had been given planning approval and the specifications had been sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

During the year the church clock which had stopped many years previously, had been repaired and electrified

An Alpha course was planned to begin on the 7th January 1997. Two courses were started, one with CAMEO on a Monday evening and a general one on Tuesdays. These courses were mainly designed for enquirers. The courses were well attended, and offered significant points of growth for some of those attending. Alpha courses were to be initiated nation-wide in every area of the country so that whoever wanted to attend a course would be able to find one near to where they live. In December 1998 a big thank you was given to the Christian Contact Club for supplying meals during the courses, and to other friends who washed dishes and served refreshments.

In the vicar's remarks of 1995 he described the year as one of contrasts in the life of the church and its members. Joe Evans had once again kept the church grounds tidy (as he had done for many years in the past) and the church had been kept amused by his letters and jokes. There had been major achievements with: Holiday Club, the church holiday, the Let's Live Mission, the men's weekend away, the completion of Kilimatinde House kitchen by Tom Whatmore and George Whitfield and the establishment of the bereavement support group. He expressed his thanks to Alex Galbraith, particularly for his humour, support, commitment and service.

Finally the vicar David Wills outlined his plans for his sabbatical in the Holy Land in the Autumn and asked the church to support him both in his time there and in the necessary preparations, and also to support Alex as he led the parish during his absence.

The question of ministry teams was first raised in December 1991. After many years of intermittent discussion the Council had made progress towards establishing a team, but much more discussion was required before any plans are to be finalised.

In the summer of 1996 the Council was made aware that our current morning service was very orientated towards families and might be discouraging others from attending. The Worship Committee considered this matter and the change in patterns of attendance which were affecting the church locally and nationally. As a result, they suggested changes in our morning worship pattern. In December, the congregation were asked to say what they thought about these changes. The proposals were due to be implemented in May 1997. However the ministry team and the changes to the pattern of service were shelved due to the announcement of David Wills's departure.

Proposed Changes in Worship Pattern.

The Worship Committee met and their report of the 26th March 1997 was as follows: "Following the announcement by David Wills that he will be leaving the Parish in July 1997, the Committee agreed unanimously that they recommend to the PCC, with regret, that they postpone their introduction of the changes in the worship pattern. However, they propose that the agreement to change be referred to in the Parish Profile, and that the documents detailing the new pattern be put as an appendix to the profile".

# Service Pattern During the Interregnum.

"The Committee would wish that all effort be made to maintain the current service pattern during the interregnum. They recognise that it would probably be easier to find priests willing to preside at 8am and 6.30pm Communions than the 10.15am Communion, but most effort

should be given to maintaining continuity of the 10.15am service. If it proves difficult to maintain the current pattern, the Committee would expect a minimum of one 10.15am Communion per month, two 8am Communions and two 6.30pm Communions per month, with the 11.30am service suspended at present. Midweek Communions can probably be kept fortnightly, as at present. In order to ensure visiting presidents and preachers are fully aware of our usual practices, we propose that Mike Chater be asked to act as co-ordinator to liaise between the Ministry Team and visiting clergy. This does not include arranging the clergy to take services, which will be the usual responsibility of the Church wardens throughout.

The committee asked Sally Mason to chair the Music Choosing Committee and Worship Committee during the interregnum. They also propose that Mike Chater, as the senior Reader, be asked to ensure a Reader is present at each Worship and Music Choosing Committee. They proposed no alteration in the current practice of two people per month choosing the music on a rotating basis. In general the Worship Committee expected there to be no material alteration to the current balance of traditional and contemporary music used in our worship, with special services being referred to the Worship Committee.

The diocese requires baptisms to be carried out by either a priest or a deacon during main services. The churchwardens would therefore, need to organise a visiting person on any fourth Sunday when baptisms were planned

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In December 1997 the church marked an important occasion when it acknowledged the 'full retirement' of Revd Norman Goodacre, by presenting him with a gift of thanks for his service over many years to Mossley Hill Church. The Revd Elizabeth Storey writes in the magazine of February 1998, "Last year he felt he needed to retire from the final service, that of writing his article in the magazine. We are extremely grateful to Norman for all that we have learned from him and benefited by his ministry".

Also in December we experienced the loss of the Revd Harold Bishop who died rather suddenly after an operation. Harold had helped and supported Mossley Hill Church during his years of retirement. He had conducted regularly the 11.30am. Holy Communion Service following Parade Service, as well as taking funerals and giving support in other ways. His last official engagement was the Holy Communion Service in Mossley Hill Church on Harvest Sunday when he was assisted by David, his son. A lovely memory. We are grateful for all Harold's ministry.

In this year the remaking and recovering of the church kneelers was completed, over the previous 18 years 450 kneelers had been remade and recovered, fitted with rings and hung up in the pews. Over this time 150 people had helped to bring this about, although over this 18 years some of these helpers had moved away, others had died, and some had to retire for various reasons, not least being old age and arthritis.

Special thanks were due to Mrs Eva McKendrick who, almost single handed, did the unenviable, hard and dirty job of re-making the old hassocks so that they could be re-covered. Special thanks were due also to Elsie Heath, Audrey Davies and Pauline Walters who had stayed the course from beginning to end, to John Airey who had transported the finished hassocks to the church and to Keri Owen who had put the hooks in place in the pews so that

the hassocks could be hung. A big thank you was given to Jean Lambert who had looked after the project with such dedication for so long and had encouraged all those taking part.

The last activity in which David Wills took part was 'Beating the Bounds' which took place on the 22nd June 1997 in celebration of the anniversary of the consecration of the church It started off with a group of 25 which set off from the church at 9.15am, led by David. By 9.45am they were back in church for the morning service. At 11.45am the Scout Band led off from the church with about 60 people. At 12.30pm a picnic lunch was held in Greenbank Park at which goodbye was said to the Scout Band. At 1.30pm, the group, now about 40 strong, made the way to Mossley Hill station to meet the Contact Club at 2.30pm. The Contact Club presented a dramatised reading from Acts:- 'The Unknown God'. The group was to meet CYFA at 3.15pm at West Allerton station, but as they were ahead of time they met CYFA at the junction of Aigburth Hall Road and South Mossley Hill Road. CYFA presented a reading 'The Long Silence'. They walked then to Sudley Park and finished at about 4.00pm. It is interesting to note in the book 'The Story of Mosslake Hill' of 1935, that on the last page it has a record of 'Beating The Bounds' and it says that if you start from the west gate of the Church, and remember that everything on the right is outside the parish, as long as you proceed along Mossley Hill Road and continue round the parish in an anticlockwise direction.

At the end of June David left the parish to become team rector of the new team of Walbrook Epiphany in Derby. The Vice- Chairman of the P.C.C. David Bishop highlighted the positive achievements of David's ministry, in particular the development of the role of the laity, Cameo, the Caring Group, baptism, marriage and bereavement teams and our international links. Although there had been problems, Mossley Hill not being an easy parish, these achievements outweighed the difficulties. People had been drawn into the vision of Kilimatinde House and the Bible School and they had been encouraged to care for one another. In addition the prayer life of the church had been built up. David Bishop proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Council, to David and Kate. This was agreed with acclaim.

In his reply, David thanked the Vice-Chairman for his remarks which he found humbling, but stressed that many of these achievements had been initiated by others. He thanked those on the Council who had supported his work, even when they had not been sure that the direction was right. He also thanked those who had stayed, remained loyal and helped hold things together when times had been tough. The three main times which had caused hurt to David himself and to others were the departure of the choir, the demise of the Social Committee and the difficulties during Andrew Gough's time at Mossley Hill.

He felt that the church had changed both in character and membership, mainly through people moving away or dying, and that we should be grateful to God for the continuing stream of new members becoming involved in the life of the church. He stressed that he felt Mossley Hill had its own unique opportunities for work and witness which should be seized. He hoped that there would be an appointment to the vacancy as soon as possible.

He pointed out that the vicarage in Derby was large and members would be welcome to visit. As a farewell, there was a barbecue on Kilimatinde House lawn. About 180 of the church family joined in. David remarked later "I realised then that I would miss the children most. Where we are going, he said, there are a lot fewer families".

His institution was on the 11th July 1997 and a coach from the parish left for Derby at 5pm. The Brownies from the Derby parish entertained the Mossley Hill parish with tea and refreshments

After many years of asking, the Council had agreed to get quotations for a complete amplification system for the church. In September 1997 a second quote had been received and accepted. Although it was a little more expensive than the first it represented better value for money. It was hoped that the new system could be installed in early November.

At this time the Council stated that it was happy to receive comments from members of the congregation on the type of person they would like to be vicar.

On Sunday 8th June it was announced that Elizabeth Storey was to work in the parish as an assistant curate. This appointment was to be part time and she was to carry on her work as assistant chaplain to Liverpool University, a post she had shared with being deacon at St Michael's Garston

During the interregnum period the Revd Elizabeth Storey looked after the parish as associate priest. This was a welcome return for Elizabeth to Mossley Hill after being away for such a long time. In May 1998, she became part time chaplain to Liverpool College when her post at the University ended. She was able to continue as a part-time priest at Mossley Hill Church, helped, during this time, by all the parish lay readers.

The deanery was asked to consider how the number of incumbent status posts could be reduced by 1 by the year 2000. A deanery pastoral committee was established to undertake a review and the parish received a visit in the Autumn. The results had recently been published and would be debated at the next meeting of the Deanery Synod in June 1997. It was, therefore, during this period that the parish of Mossley Hill St Mathew and St James was to face its greatest challenge. With the departure of the previous incumbent there was a possibility that Mossley Hill would not have a new vicar. It was possible that the parish would have to combine with All Hallows and St Barnabas; as reported in the Deanery Pastoral Committee report. This report made proposals for the reduction in the number of incumbents in the deanery. A meeting was arranged to be held on the 23rd May 1997 at which Mossley Hill would have three representatives. They would be Alan Wilkinson (church warden) Maggie Swinson (secretary P.C.C.) and Joe Steen (P.C.C. member). From this meeting it was clear that the three churches were very different but that there was a real desire to work together.

In May1997 no official notification about the appointment had been received but there had been developments. The Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee had discussed the vacancy and referred it to the Diocesan Pastoral Committee, due to meet on the 24th June. The indications were that the living would be suspended pending pastoral reorganisation. The parish could have a new incumbent or a priest-in-charge. Although it was not clear at this time whether the appointment would be of an incumbent or a priest-in -charge the diocese had requested the parish to complete preparation of the profile and appoint parish representatives. These were:-Alan Wilkinson (church warden) Mike Chater (lay-reader).

These are the minutes of a special meeting of the Council on the 4th August 1997. This meeting was attended by the Patrons, Archdeacon, Area Dean and Deanery Lay Chairman.

"The Archdeacon explained that the future staffing level in the Diocese was dominated by past events in particular the difficulties experienced by the Church Commissioners and the proposals from the Diocese to reduce numbers in the light of both the new financial situation and the exceeding of the Sheffield allocation by the Diocese. The Commission on Central Liverpool had been formed to begin the process of pastoral reorganisation but there had been major difficulties with the format of their report. This resulted in the establishment of Deanery Pastoral Committees to report on how the necessary reductions could be achieved. The Archdeacon stressed that the Pastoral Committee was keen to make proper decisions based on proper assessments and strategies rather than picking off the first parishes to become vacant.

The vacancy at Mossley Hill had coincided with the report of the Liverpool South Deanery Pastoral Committee and suspension was recommended because of the need for further discussion of proposals for the future within the Diocese. Both the Archdeacon and Dr Tinne emphasised that suspension was for a period of up to 5 years but could be lifted at any time before that. The matter was opened for discussion and comment.

Council members pointed out that no pastoral reorganisation would be possible while there are incumbents at All Hallows and St Barnabas and that the draft report includes various means of relinquishing an incumbent post which don't appear to be receiving the same level of attention as the loss of a post in our area. The Area Dean commented that the Deanery Pastoral Committee report was only in draft and might not he the best solution to the current staffing questions. The Archdeacon explained that the Deanery Report was the first stage in a much longer process and that the Deanery did not have the final say in any proposals.

In response to questions from council members the Bishop of Warrington outlined the process for filling the vacancy for a Priest-in-Charge at Mossley Hill. The appointment process, although technically in the hands of the Diocese, would involve full consultation with the Parish Representatives and Patrons. He stressed that nobody would be foisted upon the parish and that any appointment must be seen as permanent although technically the parish would not be obliged to accept the priest as incumbent in the event of the lifting of the suspension. The Bishop informed the Council that the process of finding a priest had begun and that someone would be visiting at the end of August for interview and to view the parish.

David Parry pointed out the difficulty of explaining the current position to church members and the Bishop agreed, especially because the legal notice sent to the parish on suspension of presentation appears to say that nobody is being appointed at all.

Ken Patterson reported on the current membership of the Patrons and the enthusiasm of the new Vice-chancellor of the University to develop and support the relationship between the University and the church.

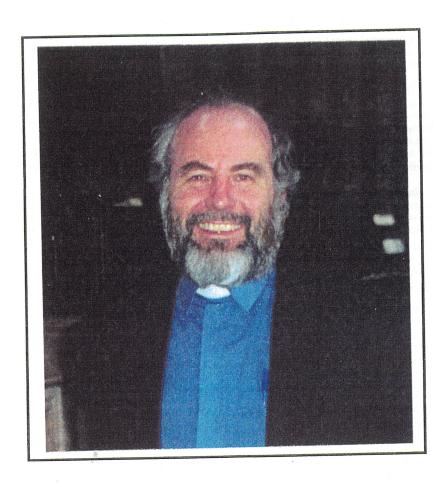
At the request of members, the Bishop outlined his vision for Mossley Hill as a parish with unique opportunities. He highlighted the age profile, liveliness and proximity of the University Halls as well as the opportunities for wider ministry through those working in the city and the strong world-wide links of the parish. The Archdeacon hoped that the appointment would be, above all else, of the right person, called to minister in Mossley Hill.

In July 1997 three names had been suggested by the bishop's staff meeting. Two had not wished to move and the third had not been approached. A further name was under consideration and the parish representatives and Patrons had received a CV.

As requested by the Council, a chart of the individual responses received from members of the congregation had been circulated. Council members commented that there was a desire for a new priest to conduct well organised and respectful worship.

The Council recognised that the responses were not representative of the whole congregation. Some draft clauses for the profile were tabled and members commented on them. It was agreed that those items that were essential and those that were desirable should be more clearly spelt out. The Council agreed to the post being open to men and women and that it did not wish to specify marital status or age on the grounds that this might unduly limit the field and appointment was of the individual not the family. A section was added emphasising prayer and the calling of the minister to the parish.

In September a prospective priest-in-charge had been to view the parish and had been interviewed informally by various people. By October, it was reported that the new priest-in-charge was to be the Revd Robert Wilkes, The date for licensing was to be 30th March 1998. His family was to move into the vicarage at the end of the year of 1997.



The Revd. Robert Anthony Wilkes, M.A, Vicar 1998.

#### CHAPTER FOUR.

The Revd Robert Wilkes M.A. trained at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and was ordained in 1975 in Liverpool. From 1974 to 1981 he served as both curate and vicar at St Oswald's Netherton. From 1981 to 1985, he was Domestic Chaplain and Press Officer to Bishop David Sheppard. Subsequently he joined the Church Missionary Society and went to Pakistan as a mission partner, serving as Chaplain, to the Bishop of Raiwind, the Revd Michael Nazir Ali (now Bishop of Rochester), from 1985 to 1998 he served as Regional Director for the Middle East and Pakistan. In 1998 he became priest-in-charge of Mossley Hill, Liverpool. He is married to Sheila and has three daughters and a son.

At the P.C.C meeting of the 31st March 1998 Bob Wilkes introduced himself and thanked all those who had welcomed him and his family back to Liverpool. They had appreciated the opportunity to move in early and settle the children into new schools. He expressed gratitude to God and the church for the licensing service and the spirit of anticipation.

Bob explained that he was not beginning with a preconceived plan for the church. He would be spending time participating in church activities and adjusting to his new work style. Any plans would be worked out with the church. He encouraged the Council to value differences and variety, to continue to pull in the same direction and to relax and laugh. He was pleased that his ministry would begin with Holy Week and Easter because of the opportunity it affords to meet together and journey with God. Although his legal title is 'Priest-in-Charge' he would like to be called 'The Vicar'.

The need for the protection of the children and vulnerable adults within the church premises had now to be considered. In addition to the clergy, three lay representatives of the church, Sally Mason, Charlie Jones, and Margaret Hughes, had attended the diocesan meeting on this matter. The diocese is adopting the title 'Protection for All' because the policy aims to protect not only the young people but also those leading them. Geoff Johnston had agreed to be the parish co-ordinator and Duncan Fellows had agreed to maintain the register of adults working with children. The policy was not yet in a position to come to the Council for approval. It was pointed out that adoption and implementation of the policy may result in church members, who had been abused in the past, coming forward for help.

It was suggested that the Revised Common Lectionary should be adopted by Mossley Hill Church by the start of the year 29th November 1998. The reason for this was that it would bring the Anglican Church into line with other churches in its use of scripture as basis of teaching and study.

A new set of books of 'Common Worship' are to be published. This is the name given to the next generation of liturgy after ASB. The work on the communion and marriage services has already commenced and all the work should be completed by the year 2000. Parts of these services are due to come into use as they are completed. The baptism and confirmation Services have been completed and are now in use, as is the new lectionary. The General Synod have decided that they will produce a series of books of services and not one volume as is the case with ASB. The core books will be, Initiation (ie includes Comfirmation), Communion, Services of the Word, (Morning and Evening Prayer).

The church welcomed the Revd Eric Walter to the parish on the 16th July 1998. Eric was joining the church as a parish placement from mid-July to late September. He is a presbyter of All Saints Church Peshawar in the north of Pakistan.

Bishop Alpha Mohamed came to visit Mossley Hill in August after the Lambert Conference. Bishop Alpha is from the Diocese of the Rift Valley in the far inland of Tanzania. He was asked while he was at Mossley Hill what 'Kilima' means? He said that it ment 'Hill of'. The parish felt very blessed by the visit of Bishop Alpha and his wife.

"A day to remember" was a remark passed by many of the members of the Church Women's Fellowship and friends after their trip to Parkgate and Chester in September 1998. After a beautiful lunch at the Parkgate Hotel they went to Chester Cathedral to meet the Bishop of Chester where they were entertained in the bishop's house by Peter Forster, his wife Elizabeth and their children. Peter Forster was once a Curate at Mossley Hill.

The possible use of candles in the church services had been suggested by the Revd Norman Goodacre in 1993. During November 1998 the vicar put forward a suggestion that it would be nice if the church were lit up with candles for the Christmas Service of nine lessons and carols. The challenge was taken up and, when this service was held on the 20th December 1998 the church was lit by 80 candles on the columns in the nave and by 24 on the choir stalls.

On Ash Wednesday 1999, in the church for the evening service was a wooden cross, placed at the front of the chancel. The vicar explained that, at Christmas, it had been the tree decorated with lights, tinsel, and looking green. It had been now trimmed and cut up to form a rough wooden cross to mark the season of Lent.

On the 15th March 1999, an open meeting of the P.C.C was held to discuss a report of the Liverpool South Pastoral Committee produced in of April 1997, regarding the number of incumbent posts in the deanery.

As far as Mossley Hill is concerned, it may mean that we combine with St Barnabas. It is interesting to recall that in the original "History of Mossley Hill" the origin of St Barnabas is described as follows. In 1900 a non-sectarian chapel, the 'Iron Church, became available. This became the Chapel of Ease and was dedicated on the 20th June 1900, with the Revd John Bibby de Wolf as curate in charge. The Church Council of Mossley Hill St Matthew and St James at that time voted two Sunday collections a month to be devoted to the support of the new chapel of St Barnabas. In 1904 the Revd James Kirk Pike became curate and in 1914 he became the first vicar of the new Church of St Barnabas. So, after 85 years the two churches my again combine.

At the Vestry Meeting before the A.G.M. of the 28th April 1999, two new Church Wardens were elected, for the first time in the history of Mossley Hill Church two ladies were elected to these positions. They were Maggie Swinson and Carol Boston.

The Vision for our Church had its beginning with the House Group meetings in the Autumn of 1998, and was further discussed in Chester at the Parish Weekend in November 1998.

In the vicar's report at the AGM, he stated. "The Vision for our Church process has involved many people and gathered many ideas. We have formed four sets of plans, which I hope will be well supported at the Annual Meeting.

## A vision for our Church and Theme Groups. For 1999 and into 2000.

In Theme Group .1. To look into the deeper growth among the whole people of God

The AIM. To foster a deeper sense of unity, and to give all church members the opportunity to experience progress in their spiritual lives, by taking new initiatives in worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship.

In Theme Group.2. To form wider connections with the community and the world.

The AIM. To stimulate a more outward looking attitude to our faith, and to initiate new activities designed to respond to the local community and world in which we are sat.

In Theme.3. To find an higher value for the young people and students.

The AIM. To develop our church policy for ministry with young people and students in context of our commitment in the Church Together Youth Forum, to open up opportunities for young people to take leadership in Church, and to take vigorous steps to expand our activities in ways which are sensitive to youth culture.

In Theme Group.4. To make fuller use of our resources and premises.

The AIM. To develop our premises for increased and affective use according to our mission priorities, and to raise funds required to resource our regular work and special project.

At a P.C.C. meeting in May 1999 it was agreed that four Vision Task Groups should be formed to discuss these Four Aims. These task groups should meet, and the leader report back to Steering Group, chaired by David Bishop.

It was agreed at the P.C.C. in September 1999 that the Steering Group should proceed with the first "tranche" of eleven Vision ideas listed in the Vision Theme paper. They are, Recording the Displays. Youth Work. Lighting the Church. Raised dais/Platform at the front of the Chancel. Lunch/day Centre Club. Social Events. Teaching. Greenbank Area. Pastoral Care. Kilimatinde House. Bereavement.

For the fist time in may years the summer garden fete was not held in 1999. Instead of the fete, the parish was asked to donate a sum of money to the building fund, corresponding to the amount they would have spent at the fete.

Sunday 27th June saw the start of what could become a regular feature in Mossley Hill Church, it was called 'Maggie's Mad Band'. Twenty seven young musicians were crammed into the chancel and choir stalls to provide the musical accompaniment for 3 songs at the 10-15am service. The parents did not have to worry about their children's musical ability as they had some impromptu teaching by Maggie Swinson and Gillian Howden during the one hour long rehearsal. So all went well and the children enjoyed themselves. The band was a very mixed group including both experienced musicians and beginners and they played a wide range of instruments from cellos and violins to trumpets and drums. Great fun was had by all.

A celebration bar-be -que was held in Kilimatinde House and on the lawn on the 3rd July 1999. This was linked with the celebration of Bob and Sheila's silver wedding.

The assistant University Chaplain and part time assistant curate to Mossley Hill church was announced on the 25th April 1999. He is to be the Revd Malcolm Chamberlain. Malcolm studied Economics with Education at York University and then spent a year in Pakistan at Edward's College, Peshawar. He then trained for ordination at Wycliffe Hall Oxford and served his first curacy at St John's, Plescot, Walsall. In Mossley Hill Parish his brief will be mainly to work with the age group 15 to 25, supporting and strengthening the team of leaders in the Youth Club and CYFA.

Malcolm and his wife Jo moved into Mosslake Lodge in June 1999 and he was licensed on Wednesday 21st July 1999 in Mossley Hill Church at a service led in a very relaxed way by the Bishop of Warrington, supported by a large group from St John's, Walsall who, really enjoyed themselves, particularly with their energetic songs

After 18years, on Sunday 10th October 1999 the 136th Field Regiment R.A. Old Comrades Association, held their final memorial service in Mossley Hill Church. The 136th Field Regiment was raised at Liverpool in April 1939 and in that year was mobilised from Headquarters near to the Memorial Chapel. A bronze plaque is in the Memorial Chapel of the church, in memory of those who died in Burma and other places during the second world war. This plaque was dedicated by the Revd Ken Riley on November 1st 1981.

Starting in November after Wednesday morning Holy Communion service lunch would be served in Kilimatinde House, it was hoped that these lunches would be able to be arranged about eight times a year. At the last one in February about twenty people sat down to lunch. A group of people co-ordinated by Nancy Wakefield produced these lunches.

In December 1999 a Bereavement Group was formed from the people who are on the training course and from people who had already undertaken training.

As we approached the end of the year 1999 our thoughts were on the new year, The Millennium, the year of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The new year was to start early on the 31st December with the Church being open from 12 noon for quiet reflections, there was also displays on Millennium themes.

Starting at 9pm till approximately 12-30 there was a party with something for all ages even television in the church room! Food was to be on a bring and share bases, (and there was plenty). Towards 12 midnight there was a short service and prayers, and after for those that wanted, a chance to go up in the tower and ring the bells.

On New Years Day the Church was open in the morning with a short service of celebration for the year 2000, starting at 12 noon for about 15 minutes.

The Millennium Exhibition began at the entrance to the church, and was taken from the Millennium Resolution prepared by The Churches Together in Britain. (New Start) Three themes were used. New Start At Home, New Start For The World's Poor and New Start With God.

A new start at home was a table scene and a display around the Font, being a place to begin with the network of close relations, which make up our life and offer them to God.

The new start for the world's poor, which started with a large banner saying "Give Thanks". Here is a space to remember that our lives are bound up with the lives of everyone in the world. Being grateful for what we enjoy is the starting point to think how we can use what we have, and to be generous to others.

A new start with God, at the Crib Scene to the left of the pulpit we had time to wonder again at God's coming among us as the Christ Child, here He is called the Alpha the Beginning. We ask ourselves "What beginnings do we need to make with God?" At the gateway to the Chancel step, we were asked to stop and remember, we need to decide to step through the door God opens to us, and to open the door of our lives to Him.

On January 30th 2000, Bishop James Jones (the new Bishop of Liverpool) confirmed eight adults and seven young people in Mossley Hill Church into the Anglican Church.

So we move into the Millennium the year of our Lord 2000, and Mossley Hill Church's 125th Anniversary year.

The 125th Anniversary of the Church is to be marked with major celebrations, a working group was established to give overall thinking and co-ordination to such events as may be suggested. The members of this group are Bob Wilkes (chairman), Sid Creese, Maggie Swinson, Carol Boston, Keri Owen, Lynn Halliday and Tom Whatmore.

And so, we go forward into the Millennium and our 125th Anniversary!

### **CHAPTER FIVE**

#### 25 YEARS OF MISSION

The aim of mission at Mossley Hill Parish Church is to encourage interest, prayer and support for the world wide Church; to include local, home and overseas mission.

This is promoted in many ways, there are many facets to the church and many parishioners work quietly on their own supporting charities which are close to their hearts.

Traditionally, the Church Mission Society has been a local interest of Mossley Hill and over the years many overseas evenings and events have been held such as the annual Christmas Fair always held on the nearest Saturday to St Andrewstide. Everyone gets involved and it is a real social gathering.

Until recently C.M.S. held an annual rally at the Philharmonic Hall. Large contingencies from Mossley Hill went. In 1983 Mossley Hill provided the music, under the leadership of the Revd John Courtie and dance, directed by his wife Brenda. Times have changed, big meetings are out and now C.M.S. provides small workshops and exhibitions. 1999 marked the bicentenary of C.M.S. Celebrations and events took place at the Merseyside Maritine Museum at the Albert Dock. A ferryboat was commissioned to re-enact the missionaries sailing from the port 200 years ago.

Pam Wilding has been our link mission partner for C.M.S. for many years. In some ways she has been the inspirational catalyst for the Church. It was while she was working in the Msalto Bible School at Dodoma in Tanzania that it was proposed, in 1986, that a new vicarage should be built and a challenge set up to fund an overseas project. It was Pam who suggested sponsoring the bible school in Kilimatinde. It was she who had the K.H. name plate made at Msalto Bible School she brought it to England in 1987.

It was as a response to the needs of the Tanzanian people that Faith in Action was launched and many boxes of clothes, bandages, and sewing kits have been sent out over the years.

One overseas evening promoted special interest. It was a 'Bolivian night' led by the Revd Peter Spiers and his wife Annie. A real South American meal was prepared, the church room was transformed and the audience was captivated. It was later proposed that the church became a supporter of S.A.M.S, South American Mission Society. Sue Woodcock became our link mission partner. At the time she was working in Cochabamba in Bolivia. After her ordination in 1998, she went to work in Sabadell in Barcelona. Sue has paid many visits to Mossley Hill.

Meanwhile Pam Wilding had come to work at St Andrews' Institution, Kabare, Kenya. Our links with Africa remain strong. In 1989 the Revd and Mrs D Wills made a visit there and later a small group of parishioners went too. From these visits there has been further renewal of the Kilimatinde Project: there was even an exhibition set up in the Cathedral in 1993. Pam continues her visits to Mossley Hill but now as the Revd Pam Wilding (she was priested in December 1994.)

In 1986 the Traidcraft shop was opened in Bold Street selling crafts and commodities from different parts of the world. Some months later a Traidcraft stall was set up in our own church and continues to operate on Sunday mornings.

We, as a church, support many charities and agencies. Each year, the church gives up 10% of its income to home and overseas causes. Our list is very varied, and we realise that in some cases, our donations are just a drop in the ocean.

An example of a charity we support is the Childrens Society, a society which was founded in 1881 and which has always been at the forefront of care for needy children. It is a society which has always moved with the times. At present it is involved with thousands of young people in England and Wales to provide hope where previously there was none. Many of our parishioners support the society by fund raising. The Christingle Celebration has become an important part of our Christmas worship and attracts a wide congregation.

Originally the Discoverers, our junior Youth Club, was an off shoot of C.M.S but now operates under the umbrella of the Church. However, at the same time, it still takes part in projects set by C.M.S. This has always been a lively group of children. They love to play and in the summer, appreciate games on Kilimatinde lawn. In past years they have entered competitions, produced work displays, supported children's charities and attended childrens services at the Cathedral. In one such service all the children present were asked to shout three cheers for God. What an experience! (Discoverers leader) Margaret Hughes has said 'I can still hear the echo resounding in the great building'.

In the Spring of 1999 the children took part in the C.M.S. bicentenary celebrations EXPO 99. which was an exciting experience for them. Part of the craft project included making a 'Ferry Boat' whose funnel will take only £2 coins from donors. What fun!

On the 12 th June 1999 C.M.S organised a ferry trip on the Mersey. The information on the ticket stated. "This pass allows the bearer on board the ferry "Mountwood" to sail with the CMS on a celebration voyage". It sailed from the Pier Head at 11-30 am and returned at 2-30pm. The day started with rain, but by 12-0am the sun was shining. Before lunch a short service was held, this starting with the hymn "Great is they Faithfulness" followed with greetings from across the world, a song from Africa, the CMS prayer, and finishing with the hymn "I the Lord of Sea and Sky". About 300 young and old people were on the ferry, 30 of them from Mossley Hill Church. It was a very interesting and enjoyable time for all on board.

The Revd Pam Wilding was with us on this trip, she had been staying with Margaret Hughes for the week of 6th to 13th June 1999 and was entertained by the parish.

Over the years the church has welcomed many overseas visitors. All interesting people from varied backgrounds. Here are just a few:-

Bishop Madinda from Tanzania.

A Youth Choir from Uganda.

Young People from Palestine.

Revd Alpha Mohammed from the Rift Valley, Kilimatinde.

Bishop Akinola from Nigeria.

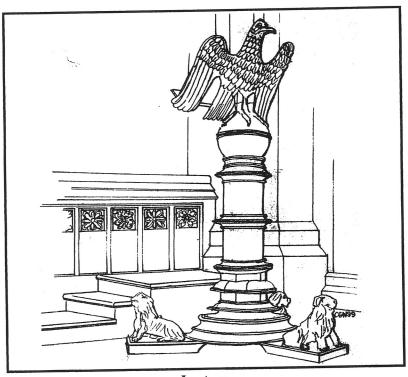
Bishop David Evans and his wife Dorothy working with S.A.M.S.

Revd Michael Ipinmoye. Provost of Akure.

Revd Eric Walters from Pashawar. Pakistan.

Revd David Matonya, working in Hartlepool, but from the Rift Valley.

But what of the future? We need to maintain and strengthen our links overseas, but at the same time look closely at the work of our local agencies, listen to the needs of others, support members of our congregation in their work among people with needs and offer prayerful and practical support, financial help too, to support our mission partners in their work.



Lectern

#### CHAPTER SIX.

#### CHURCH FINANCES 1975 TO 2000.

A review of the church accounts over the years since its centenary is both an insight into the effect of monetary inflation and an encouragement that people's real level of giving to the church has increased. In 1975 we received £10,471 from collections and regular giving. By 1999 this had increased to £70,508, an increase of 573% during which time the cost of living rose by 345%. However, our expenses also increased over the period and each year has been something of a balancing act between the expenditure incurred in fulfilling our mission here in Mossley Hill and the income required to do so.

In 1977 the church adopted the principle of tithing, giving away to home and overseas missions and charities one-tenth its income from collections and regular giving, in addition to any special collections for particular purposes. Since then over £103,000 has been given from the 10% allocation and over £63,000 through special collections.

Two major fund-raising challenges were met. The building of the new vicarage was paid for by the Church Commissioners; the purchase from them of the old vicarage, now Kilimatinde House, was achieved with funds held on trust from the earlier sale of the Church Institute. The subsequent conversion into meeting rooms, church office and tenants' living accommodation was made possible by the generous giving of many in the church. Over £50,000 was raised, half of which was given away to Kilimatinde Bible School in Tanzania to enable them to build the classrooms and dormitories which they needed.

More recently the church building required major repair and restoration work costing over £100,000. Grants from English Heritage contributed significantly, but church members again gave £46,000, one-tenth of which was given to the Trinity Church in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to assist them with the purchase of church premises.

Methods of giving have changed for the better. At the time of the centenary a deed of covenant, which enables the church to claim tax back on the amount given, had to be for a period of seven years. This was reduced to four years, and in 2000 deeds of covenant will be abolished; all giving will be through the Gift Aid scheme. Similarly, Gift Aid did not even exist in 1975. When it was introduced it only applied to gifts over £600, then the threshold was reduced to £400, then £250, and under the new scheme for 2000 there will be no lower limit. Any amount given by a taxpayer, subject to a minimum amount of paperwork being completed, will be eligible for the church to claim the tax back and therefore increase the value of the gift by 28p for each £1.

The progressive reduction in the basic rate of income tax in recent years, whilst welcome for individuals, has reduced the amount of tax which the church has been able to reclaim. In 1975 an additional 53p could be claimed back for every £l given; in 2000 only 28p can be recovered.

When the Christian Stewardship scheme was first introduced all its members gave through weekly envelopes. An increasing number of people now give directly from their bank account by standing order.

At various times over the years stewardship campaigns have re-iterated to church members the principles of Christian giving. Like many churches our income is heavily dependent on a small number of members who give generously. Our aim has been to reduce that dependency and spread the load more evenly, but this aim is still to be achieved.

A major part of the church expenditure is paid to the diocese as the general quota and stipend quota. These contribute to the running costs of the diocese and the salaries and training of clergy. In 1976, when these items in their present format where first introduced, the total amount was £2,562. At that time the amounts were calculated on the basis of the actual income of a parish. The method of calculation has changed and is now based on "quota by potential" whereby the amounts due are calculated on the basis of how much a parish should be capable of paying, taking into account the average attendance, the socio-economic profile of the area, and the number of people who claim allegiance to the church through its electoral roll. In 1999 the total amount paid was £44,610.

Although the method of calculation took some years to refine and includes elements of subjectivity, it is only fair that those parishes with greater resources should support those with less.

We have been ably served by a number of treasurers and advisors during the period; John Colvin, Clive Jervis, Phil Humphries, Jim Barclay, Gien Penrhyn-Lowe and Keri Owen. The stewardship records have been meticulously maintained, initially by John Wash and for the last twenty years by Bemard Sheridan. In recent months he has been working with Kathy Wentworth who now takes over the task.

Mossley Hill Church faces financial challenges ahead. We have a magnificent building but it is expensive to run and maintain. How will the building adapt to the needs of worship in the coming years? Our contribution to central church funds must increase as the Church Commissioners phase out their support of clergy stipends and pension contributions in favour of the increasing cost of retired clergy pensions. Initiatives in the parish and area will require money. We must continue to support home and overseas missions and charities.

In looking at the finances of the church it is easy to look from the view of an accountant; the numbers, the income and expenditure, profit or loss. The scale of operation of the church financial affairs is greater than many small businesses and it needs careful, responsible management.

But the church is more than just a business. Its income is dependent upon people's giving. God's work is to be resourced by God's people responding to His love. Our giving to the church is to enable it to perform its work of mission, not just to balance the books. Money is one of the many gifts of God, not simply an unfortunate necessity.

#### CHAPTER SEVEN.

#### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOSSLEY HILL

Churches Together in Mossley Hill started as reported in the 1975 'History of Mossley Hill', as the Neighbourhood Group of Churches in 1966. It was the vision of the Revd Fred Pryce -Parry, vicar of Mossley Hill at that time. It brought together the Anglican and the Free Churches, and in about 1972, the Roman Catholic churches. Through the Fraternal, the clergy were able to get to know each other and there were joint services on Good Friday, Trinity Sunday and in the week of Christian Unity.

Apart from social events such as a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, the major involvement of church members was and continues to be in the Christian Aid collection with each church taking responsibility for part of our area. The distribution of Easter and Christmas Cards also take place.

The name was simplified to the Nine Churches of Mossley Hill in 1988. In 1996 that there was a significant change as we covenanted to express visible unity by not doing separately what we can do better together. The Dove Community Church joined us and the name changed to Churches Togerther in Mossley Hill.

Together we have lent groups for bible study and discussion, a monthly Julian prayer meeting (contemplative prayer), a worship group, a witness group, joint publicity before Christmas and a youth forum.

Currently we the ten churches are, All Hallows, Allerton, Allerton United Reform Church, "Bethel" Presbyterian Church of Wales, Dovedale Baptist Church, Elm Hall Drive Methodist Church, Mossley Hill Parish Church, Our Lady of the Annunciation (Bishop Eton), St Anthony of Padua, St Barnabas Mossley Hill and Dovedale Community Church.

A party was held in Calderstones Park in June 1996 for the ten churches of Mossley Hill, during which they signed a covenant to work 'Better Together'.

In September 1998 Michael Swinson from Mossley Hill Church joined the Council for the Churches Togerther in Mossley Hill and became chairman. He writes in the July /August magazine. "Looking back over the past three years and knowing that many other ecumenical groups are not as advanced, I am encouraged at how far we have come. But I am also very aware of how far we have to go, not just at a local level, but to encourage the national leaders of our respective Churches to address the differences that divide us. My hope is not that we should all worship our Lord in the same way, but that we should respect each others traditions, recognise each others ministries, learn from and experience the riches of His grace as demonstrated in the worship of His people, and work better together.

On Saturday September 25th another meeting of the ten churches was held to bring together the people working to develop the similar areas of concern.

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#### JUNIOR SINGERS

The Junior Singers was started in February 1986 with a group of girls and boys led by Peter Snowdon. In July 1990, Peter Snowdon resigned as music leader because of the pressure he faced at festival times with school demands, but stayed on with the junior singers until 1994. Maggie Swinson, with Gillian Howden accompanying, took over the leadership from September 1994.

With the assistance of other church members, the children work through the Royal School of Church Music 'Sing Aloud' scheme and are awarded different coloured ribbons as they reach stages of achievement. The awards for musical achievement are also cover understanding of and growth in the Christian faith and their general behaviour and contribution to the choir as a team.

They sing a range of music including traditional choral items, modern Christian music, written with young people in mind and also other music for young people. The choir has regularly contributed to the Sunday worship at 10-15 and also to the Christingle service and Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. They are also booked to sing at weddings for which they robe.

There have also been concerts given by the choir and its members often linked to these concerts are instrumental contributions and social events. In recent years Junior Singers have gone to sing carols in nursing homes at Christmas, afterwards returning to church for a party.

The membership has always been open to all children without audition. It is very much a team effort and relies on the assistance of parents in the transporting of children and in helping and caring for the robes.

#### MUSIC GROUP

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With the arrival of John Courtie and his family in 1977 the Music Group was developed in church to complement the work of the choir.

John and his wife Brenda had been singing and playing Christian music since the sixties which brought a professional approach to playing in our church worship. John arranged music for the 'mixed bag' of instruments which included guitar, keyboard, flute, clarinet, trombone and tuba!

One of the particular features of the group at this time was the Sunday afternoon practice followed by tea at Mosslake Lodge. The group has always included a number of students.

A green book containing the majority of music group songs of the time was produced in about 1980 following the Celebration Mission. The group was used extensively during this mission and the special 'Celebration' service was born. The group played elsewhere on a few occasions, including at a Diocesan Family Day at Haydock Race Course and at a CMS rally at the Philharmonic hall.

Following John's departure from Mossley Hill, the leadership of the group was transferred to Michael and Maggie Swinson for the next 5 years. After Mission England in 1984, Mission Praise was used in conjunction with the green book.

The leadership of the group then passed to Chris West who has been the stalwart bass player (and 'roadie') for most of the life of the group. Following Chris, Sally Hammond took over the leadership. She played guitar and led the vocals. During this time, a number of pianists played with the group, including Jenny Kale, Stephen Liley and Peter Snowdon. Colin Porter also played the piano until 1999. The repertoire of the music was expanding all the time, and in 1992 the songs frequently used in our worship were placed in the 'Songs and Service' book.

In 1996 Michael Swinson came back for a second spell of leadership, following Sally's sabbatical in Tanzania and subsequent departure from Mossley Hill following her marriage.

Recent points worthy of note in the groups history include playing for many of the Churches Together in Mossley Hill united services. Sam Snowdon's drum playing has added a new dimension to the group.

#### CHURCH MAGAZINE

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In September 1987, discussion took place on a new name for the church magazine. It was decided to call it 'CELEBRATION'. In February 1988 it was proposed that the Nine Churches logo should be included on the magazine. The first issue would be in March. In May 1991, Michael Swinson took over as publicity officer. Jean Price was the editor. In July 1992 Linda Ashcroft took over as magazine editor and, in 1994, Michael Swinson and Jean Price became joint editors.

The magazine in 1999 had two changes. It had returned to a 12 pages format after having previously expanded to 16, and its publication pattern had changed to every two months instead of every month. This was due to the pressure on the two people who were responsible for turning the news items into print.

### CAREFORCE WORKER

In July 1990 the parish was thinking about the appointment of a Careforce worker and what this would mean to the parish. The Standing Committee thought that the cost would not be a problem and, at this stage, the members were asked to pray about the pastoral needs. In the September meeting no one raised any objections in principal to employing a Careforce volunteer. A volunteer had been identified as a suitable person by 'Careforce'. The first Careforce worker was employed in the parish on a nine month placement. Miranda Jeffrey began her post in October to assist the clergy and other visitors in the advancement of care for the elderly in the parish. In July 1991 Christine Eddelston was appointed as the new Careforce volunteer; her responsibilities would include a bias to youth work and an overview of the elderly. The Careforce volunteer for the period 1992/93 was Rosie Hewett. Her work

with the youth of the parish was very successful and very much appreciated. Between the years 1993 to 1995 the volunteers were Kathryn Burgin and Genevieve Smy. During the year 1995/96 the Careforce volunteer was Fiona Lealman. In the Autumn 1996 she was replaced by Helen Barraclough who unfortunately, left in October, having decided that Mossley Hill was not the right place for her.

## YOUTH WORK IN THE PARISH

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In November 1988 the membership of the youth club had reached 100 with an average attendance of 40 under an open, though strict policy. Problems had occurred when a youngster was hurt and numbers dropped to 15 difficult to handle youngsters. By Easter none of the members were from the Church. When the club reopened a strict membership policy was introduced, with non-church attendees having to be signed in by church members. By October 1989 the club was in need of leadership, a qualified youth worker was required, or more involvement by the clergy. This problem had still not been solved in March 1991 and it was recommended that, 'Approval should be given for a feasibility study to examine in more detail the potential appointment of a qualified/experienced youth worker for a specified period. This study to be complete by the end of May 1991'.

In the early 1990s the Mossley Hill Church Youth Club restarted under the leadership of Charlie Jones. (His report reads). "They meet each Thursday during term times, in the Church Rooms, between 7pm and 9pm. It caters for young people in the first three years of secondary school, aged 11 to 14 years. The youth club caters for those who have outgrown Discoverers, and after Youth Club they have the opportunity to link in with the Cyfa group. Over the past 10 years, in excess of 400 youngsters, have joined, partaken and left.

Loud music provides the background to table tennis, snooker/pool, dancing and general fellowship activities. Midway though there is a Tuck Shop where quality refreshments may be purchased and consumed. A regular feature is a short God-Spot, after tuck, when the children are introduced to an aspect of Christianity.

It is a youth club which not only caters for young persons belonging to Mossley Hill Church, but is open to outsiders. Interestingly the current membership stretches towards the 50 mark, yet there are only some half-dozen youngsters from our church.

The Children Act registration is thoroughly complied with as records show, and in-fact does not present any difficulties to the leadership, contrary to initial apprehensions, when first talked about.

Occasional trips out are enjoyed, but the offering of somewhere to relate to on a weekly basis remains the attraction of the membership."

Charlie completed this report by saying 'It is a privilege to be called into His service, in this place, at this time'.

A youth vision statement was set out in 1999, under the heading, Encourage the Spiritual and Social Development of Teenagers Age 13 to 18. It states. WITHIN 3 YEARS WE

HOPE TO HAVE IN PLACE, a designated skilled person to co-ordinate work for 13 to 18 year olds and to act as their mentor, a base for youngsters to meet, services for youth, Communion for the youth (enabling young people to participate in the taking of bread and wine) and a change in attitude to make the young feel valued. In addition there should be the ability to listen to the young and their parents, to build their value and make them feel part of the church.

In July 1999, a new part time curate was licensed in Mossley Hill Church Malcolm Chamberlain's brief will be mainly in work with the age group 15 to 25. He has been involved in youth work in many places and has made a special study of the Church of England report "Youth A Part". Malcolm and his wife Jo are both involved in leading a (Christian Youth Fellowship Association) CYFA venture at Ellesmere College every August for 14-18 years olds. It is hoped that they will be able to lead the Church forward in developing further the aim of giving space for young people to make their own contribution to the Church community.

#### THE HOLIDAY CLUB

The first Holiday Club was in 1990, but its beginnings go back a further three years. Back when Carol Boston organised 'Friday Fun' so that on most Fridays of the summer holidays there was fun and games for the children. When we were deciding what format to take in 1990, Sue Harris suggested a whole week of organised fun for The 5-13s rather than it being spread out over all the holidays. We all agreed it would be easier to get leaders and keep the same children, so with help from Scripture Union material and many Sunday School teachers and clergy, the first Holiday Club took place at the end of August. It was called 'Scarecrows' and had a barn yard theme - there was hay everywhere by the end of the week, Helpers included Duncan Fellows, Pam Byrne, Sally Mason, Nicky Barclay, Sue Harris, Ann Howels, Pauline Creese, Jan Lewis, Kate Wills; musicians Sue Russell, David Wills and Maggie Swinson and tea ladies, Tricia Harley, Kay Flemming and Mary Smith, in 1990, 91 and 92, the Club ran from 10am to 3pm. Everyone was shattered by Friday, We also led the service on the following Sunday. In1993 Mandy led 'Summer Fun' with lots of help from Jan McLoughlin. It was wonderful to see people were beginning to plan their summer holidays so that they could be leaders at Holiday Club.

The Children's Act and the fire at church changed the shape of Holiday Club in 1994. Since the large church room could not be used, we had to have our stage and main activities elsewhere. For us it was the best move, and we would never have considered it otherwise. Strangely enough the name of that year's Holiday Club was 'On Fire'. We had plenty of room to spread out in the church. We turned pews around and made dens for the children and our numbers rose to the hundreds. People were amazed and pleased to see the church being used in this way. God has blessed us each year with enthusiastic leaders and lovely children, hard working tea ladies, craft leaders (Mandy, Jan and Dorothy Bush), musicians(Gillian Howden) and registration team (Alison Franklin and Sally Mason).

In 1997 Sue Harris and John Fox ran 'Shipshapes'. It was great to see God's work going on from strength to strength, and not dependant on any particular individuals. In 1998 Bob and

Sheila Wilkes, who had only just arrived in March, jumped in with both feet and led 'Bodybuilders' with Sally Mason. Charlie and I were back up front in 1999 with 'Going Bananas'. We were thrilled with many helpers, especially the teens, and the enthusiasm and commitment. We thank God for the way he has blessed our families and our church through Holiday Club.

Kacey Jones

#### CHURCH ORGAN

The Mossley Hill organ was designed by 'Father' Henry Willis who custom built many British organs. The overhauling and rebuilding of the organ took place in 1980, the contract having been given to Mr Sid Reeves, organ builder. In 1989 the trombone section of the organ was causing trouble and the repair would cost £4000, the same as the cost of new pipes. A set of pipes, made for another organ but correct for ours, had been found costing £850. It would cost £800 to install them It was agreed that the pipes should be purchased and the money to come out of the legacy of Sir Douglas Crawford. A future organ fund should be established to cater for future repairs.

In May 1990, Colin Porter the organist stated that a full set of french horn pipes had come into his possession. A faculty would have to be obtained prior to installation. In order to pay for the installation, he proposed a sponsored play of the whole of the hymns from 'Hymns of Ancient and Modern'. The total cost of the installation would be £1,090. The french horn stop was installed in November 1992. The organ is now fully complete as Willis conceived it in 1980, with its full complement of 65 stops and over 2500 pipes.

#### DOROTHY ROSE ARCHER 1903-1997.

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At the beginning of the year of 1987 it was decided to mark Miss Archer's retirement from active church work. The Council marked this by compiling and presenting her with a special book plus photographs covering her many years of service to the church. Special thanks and gratitude were expressed to Ernest Smith, Margaret Hughes and Tom Whatmore for compiling the work.

Many people over the years have given unstituting and faithful service to Mossley Hill Parish Church but no records would be complete without paying tribute to Miss Dorothy Archer.

Miss Archer was born on the 13th August 1903 in Sunboune Road, in the parish of St Michaels in the Hamlet. As a pupil she attended Aigburth Vale High School and later graduated at Liverpool University gaining a BSc in Botany.

She came from a very small family and sadly her only brother Frederick William was killed in a motor bike accident on the 3rd July 1928 at the age of 28 years. In the 1930s the family moved to their new house in Kylemore Avenue. It was at this time that Miss Archer's long

association with the church began. Not long after the family moved to Kylemore Avenue her mother died in 1939.

Miss Archer began teaching at Booker Avenue Primary School when it opened in August 1936. Even in these days she was a very distinctive person, she had an air of authority, belonging to the 'old school', setting high standards, but at the same time gently getting to know each child she taught as a unique person. One notable pupil was the comedian Derek Nimmo, who even at that early age managed to keep the class amused.

For a short time during the war years she was evacuated to Cockermouth in the Lake District where she helped to look after mothers and babies. On her return to Liverpool, she was seconded to Kirby Teacher Training College where she taught science to Malaysian students in the wooden army huts. She recalled the story of how exited the students were in 1997 to see the snow so excited they wanted to eat it!

From Booker Avenue, Miss Archer was appointed, in 1949, as Deputy Headteacher at Blackmore Park Primary School, West Derby. Here she continued to teach science and had a great influence on the children. Not only was she keen on bird -watching but on many Saturday mornings she would be seen taking children pond dipping in near by ponds! School was her life. It was during her early years at Blackmore Park that her father died on the 13th April 1949. Miss Archer was an accomplished artist and she loved animals, especially her pet dogs. Simon, her last dog, lived many years but died soon after she retired. She was a great reader of the classics and could quote extensively.

From day one of her retirement in the early 1960s, Mossley Hill Church became her life. Each morning she would leave the house about 9-00am, return for lunch and be back again in the afternoon. She served on the Care of the Church Committee and took the job seriously. Nothing escaped her, her attitude being that there was a place for everything and everything was in its place. She thought a lot of the choir and knew every boy.

The changes she saw were many including the Church being rebuilt after the war damage, the extension of the Church Room, the building of the new vicarage, the conversion of Kilimatinde House, the building of the new Scout headquarters at Clearview in 1976. It was fitting that she represented the Church at the Cathedral Completion Service, as she had been present, as a baby, at the laying of its foundation stone on the 9th July 1904.

Miss Archer was present at the induction of Vivienne Faull, the first woman deaconess in Mossley Hill. Another milestone in history of the church.

There were so many changes over those years, but Miss Archer never changed. She remained a private lady who was generous in so many ways.

After her retirement from work in the church it took 20 people to carry out the work she had been doing. To mark her retirement she was presented with a book of photographs on the life of the church during the years she was involved. The three vicars she worked with, (Fred Pryce Parry, Ken Riley, and David Wills.) each wrote a letter of appreciation of her work, dedication and service to the church.

Miss Archer's last few years were difficult. She became hard of hearing and her eye sight failed. At first she went to live at Lyndhurst Residential Home and then Earlscote Nursing Home, both in Mossley Hill. She relied so much on her neighbours from Kylemore and her former colleagues for support and always wanted to hear news of the church, She greatly appreciated communion being taken to her. Miss Archer died peacefully on the 8th December 1997 at the age of 94. Her funeral in 1997 was conducted by the Revd Elizabeth Storey who had been part of her life in Mossley Hill for many years. No better hymn could have been chosen for this lady than:-

We love the place, O God, Wherein thine honour dwells, The joy of thine abode,



Miss Archer 1997.

#### ERNEST SMITH

An obituary in the CELEBRATION magazine of February 1999, reported the death of Ernest H Smith M.A. Ern died on the 24th December 1998. This is a copy of that obituary.

For many years Ern Smith was a regular contributor to Celebration. His knowledge and insight into the history of the people and places of Mossley Hill made them real. If, in a passing thought, one wondered about who owned Holmstead, then, likely as not, Ern would know the answer.

In a major series in Celebration, entitled 'An Alphabet of Our Area's Story' and 'From Church to Police Station', Ern looked at this village of ours called Mossley Hill. In a series called 'From the Archives', 'Looking Back', and 'Church Memorials' it was the history of our church that got his special attention.

Much of this knowledge was contained in Em's 'History of Mossley Hill Church', and 'The Story of Mossley Hill', as part of his long association with the local History group he produced a work entitled 'A Short History of Mossley Hill'.

In a conversation with Ern a couple of weeks before he was taken ill, he was typically thinking about his next contribution. It was going to tell the tale of the road names of our area. It is sad that he was not able to complete this but it seems appropriate that he ended his contributions with his series on church memorials. In memory of Ern, here are parts of two of his articles which hint at his sense of humour so often present in his writing.

### Alphabet of Our Area's Story

J.B.Ismay was the son of the owner of Homestead (St Saviours). His home from 1893-1920 was Sandheys, which stood where Rangemore Road is found today. One resident of Rangemore Road told me that he frequently dug up pieces of clay pipes; the garden sheds and greenhouses are shown in the area between Rangemore and Mentmore. J.B.s relationship with his father was strained and appears to have had its effect upon his own family; he had a separate wing built for his children so that they would not incommode him. Many people never forgave him for surviving the sinking of the White Star Liner 'Titanic', although the Court of Enquiry cleared him of any impropriety,

(Reprinted in part from issue 70 July/August 1993)

### LOOKING BACK

## THE CONGREGATION

#### THE FIRST 20 YEARS

The morning service appears to have been attended by the more affluent (which group covered the majority of those who lived within the parish boundaries), to whom the vicar (John Diggle) delivered, with the aid of notes, a scholarly sermon.

In the evening, when the congregation consisted very largely of 'working men and women who streamed up the Hill', his sermons were described by one of the curates as direct and simple, delivered without notes

The executive committee, all from the affluent class, seem to have been determined to get to their lunch on time, perhaps one reason for the dearth of domestics at the services. The committee ruled that anthems should only be sung at evening services and also expressed its support for any further simplifying or shortening of the morning service if any revision of the Prayer Book should take place.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* I am the light of the world

The door will be opened

This Epilogue was taken out of "The Story of Mosslake Hill 1875 to 1935" by the Revd John Percy Baker M.A. and was written about the first 60 years of Mossley Hill Church.

## Epilogue.

Just 125 years ago, our hill was crowned; A shrine was raised on consecrated ground A beacon tower for all the Country round.

Below—the cornfields golden beauty blazed, The distant woods their branches heavenward raised In song now loud now soft, their Maker praised.

Peace reigned. and rural sounds and scents held sway Homesteads were fewer—scattered by the way, Yet men more regularly came to pray.

Then stretched the city forth her eager grasp The skirts of vanishing Romance to clasp Who frightened fled to tramlines steely rasp,

And Progress in her footed Stride Trod down the beauties of the Landscape wide Engulfed it with a bright vermilion tide,

And yet perchance from many a red roofed dwelling Self-sacrifice, of savour sweetly smelling.

Ascends to God -----precious beyond the telling.

A richer harvest than the erstwhile wheat The Church sees growing up about her feet And prays for strength to garner it, when meet.

So through the years our Beacon on the Hill Shall send afar its rnessage of goodwill The Master's purpose striving to fulfil.

N.R.E.

#### LAY READERS and COMMUNION HELPERS

Mr Eric Wallington had been appointed a parochial reader in 1975, the first in the parish for many years. On the 10th October 1998 Eric was presented with his certificate as a Reader Emeritus by the Bishop of Chester, the Right Revd Dr Peter Forster.

Mr A W J Magness and Mr I M Clark were admitted as parochial lay-readers in 1976.

In November 1979 the lay persons asked to assist in the administration of Holy Communion were I M Clark, A E D Fleming, D M Humphries, C C B Jervis, Mrs D Kelly, A W J Magness, P L Parry, K D Patterson, Mrs E C Pye, Ann O, Neil, M Stanisstreet, J Steen, Captain K Storey, Mrs E Storey, and E Wallington.

Elizabeth Storey became a lay reader in Mossley Hill Church in 1981.

In 1985 the P.C.C. gave permission for Keri Owen, Kate Wills, and Mary Smith to assist in the administration of Holy Communion. It was also agreed that Kate Wills and Martin Snellgrove could begin lay-readers duties in the parish. Kate Wills was licensed as a lay-reader in the Cathedral on February 2nd 1985. David Parry applied to do the lay-readers course, and was licensed as a lay-reader on November 7th 1990.

Mike Chater was selected for training as a lay-reader by Ken Riley, who was then Warden of Readers for the Diocese in 1979/80. He was trained by Andrea Roberts and her husband Mike, then Vicar of St Nathaniels, Walton, and he was licensed on the 12th March 1983 to St Johns, Fairfield. He left St Johns in 1986 to go for trianing with CMS, expecting to work in Dodoma, Tanzania. When this door closed he came to Mossley Hill in May 1987 and approval was given for Mike to be added to the list to assist at Holy Communion, and for him to be a lay-reader. He is still with Mossley Hill Church at the time of writing.

In September 1989 the lay persons authorised to assist with the administration of Holy Communion were David Bishop, David and Peter Parry, Ken Patterson, Joe Steen, Maureen Rushton, Mary Smith, Clive Jervis, Edwin Fleming, Pauline James, Nancy Wakefield, Kate Wills. In January 1993, Peter Franklin, Maggie Swinson, and Donna Dunbavin were made communion helpers

In March 1990 Nicky Chater and Alice Carter were to be considered for training as lay readers. By May 1990 both names had been accepted by the diocese. They were both trained by Elizabeth Storey and licensed on the 24th November 1992. Nicky has been at Mossley Hill since arriving as a student in September 1976.

Peter Franklin was recommended as an applicant to become a lay-reader in 1992 and was licensed as a lay-reader on the 16th March 1996.

In May 1997 support was given to the application of Sally Mason for lay-reader training.

## LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINS

Reverend John Howard Walker came to join us as the new assistant University Chaplain in 1976. He had been a curate at Upton Overchurch Cheshire. On the 16th December 1979 he became the vicar of St. John Chrysoston, Everton till 1982. He is now a vicar in Bradford.

The Revd Nicholas H.P.McKinnel became a curate at St Mary Church, Fulham, London in 1980. From 1983 till 1987 he was the chaplain to Liverpool University. He became priest-in charge, in Hatherliegh, Exboune and Jacobstowe in 1987 to 1994 and subsequently priest-in-charge at St Andrews with St Paul and St George, Plymouth 1994 to 1995. In 1995 he became Team Rector.

In 1987 the Revd Ian S Carter came as chaplain to Liverpool University. Ian had been a curate at Holy Trinity, Darlington, from 1984 to 1987. In 1993 Ian left Liverpool University and Mossley Hill and went as vicar to St Peters, Hindley, Wigan.

The Revd Mark J Cartledge became chaplain to Liverpool University from 1993 till 1998. He had been ordained in 1989, and was then curate at Holy Trinity, Formby, Liverpool till 1991. Until 1993 he had been with CMS.

The present University chaplain appointed in October 1998 is the Revd Jonathan Clatworthy who is married with teenage children. Before coming to the University he was vicar at All Saints, Denstone, Staffordshire, from 1991 to 1998.

An Associate University Chaplain was licensed on the 21st July 1999 in Mossley Hill Church. This was Malcolm Chamberlain, who at the same time, was licensed as a curate of Mossley Hill Church. Malcolm had studied Economics with Education at York University and then spent a year in Pakistan at Edwards Collage, Peshawar. He then trained for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and served his first curacy at St John's, Plescot, Walsall, in Lichfield Diocese.

# THE WARDENS 1975 to 2000.

1974	K.Patterson	A F Jervis
1975	A Davies	C Webb
1976	A.E.D. Fleming.	C Webb
1977	A.E.D. Fleming	C. Webb
1978	A.E.D. Fleming	J.B. Capstick
1979	C.Jervis	J.B. Capstick
1980	C. Jervis	J.B. Capstick
1981	C. Jervis	J.B. Capstick
1982	C. Jervis	J.B. Capstick
1983	C. Jervis	J.B. Capstick
1984	C. Jervis	J. B. Capstick
1985	J. Steen	J. B. Capstick
1986	D. Bishop	R. Humber
1987	D. Bishop	R. Humber
1988	D. Bishop	A. Wilkinson
1998	K. Owen	A. Wilkinson
1990	K Owen	A Wilkinson
1991	K Owen	G Johnston
1992	K Owen	G Johnston
1993	Mrs C Boston	G Johnston
1994	A Wilkinson	G Johnston
1995	A Wilkinson	S Creese
1996	A Wilkinson	S Creese
1997	A Wilkinson	S Creese
1998	A Wilkinson	S Creese
1999	Mrs M Swinson	Mrs C Boston

# ACKNOWLEDEMENTS.

### Material.

Mossley Hill Parish Church, P.C.C. Minutes, 1976 to 1999.

The Magazine of Mossley Hill Parish Church, 'Celebration'

Mossley Hill Parish Church 'Celebration of Faith, Jesus Lives' 1980.

History of Mossley Hill 1875 to 1975, by Ernest Hugh Smith, M.A.

The Story of Mosslake Hill, by Revd John Percy Baker.M.A. 1935.

## People.

John and Nan Airey. The Kilimatinde Project and Faith in Action.

John and Carol Boston. Proof Reading and Altar Frontal

Deirdre Brooke, The Christian Contact Club.

Duncon Fellows. Churches Together in Mossley Hill.

Margaret Hughes. Dorothy Archer and 25 Years of Mission.

Charlie Jones. Youth in the Parish.

Kacey Jones The Holiday Club.

Keri Owen. Church Finances.

Maggie Swinson. Junior Singers.

Michael Swinson Music Group.

George Whitfield. Art and Graphics.



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