

On Sunday the 9th of April 1995
Our church was very much alive
The Bishop of Stockport arrived in state
Our hatched building to consecrate
Margaret Owens and her young actors
Made us aware of one or two factors
The scenes gave us hints in abundance
The Bishop said he felt quite redundant
And yet we heard from his preaching
Like stars our faith should be far reaching
The act of Consecration came
When the Chief Registrar did proclaim
And along with others signed his name
Two documents were completed
While the congregation was still seated
Our singing group did us proud
Then all the people sang out loud
Hymns of Praise they were indeed
It was as if we all knew
There were many things to do
Helping others along life's way
And coming to our church to pray
Now in the schoolroom there was food a-plenty
No-one need go away empty
To the cooks and those who made tea
On this special day in our church's history
We say Thank You right out loud
For catering so ably for such a crowd
And now our evening is ending
Each to our homes we are wending
Not one of us will forget
How we all met
To give our praise and dedication
On the eve of All Saints' Consecration

Katherine Bradley

A New Song of Thanksgiving (Tune "Dambusters March")

1. Thanks for this church and its people:
Thanks be for all who surround us
Daily with their gifts of care,
Kindness, humour and love.
Thanks be for family and friendship,
Thanks be for children who greet us
Day by day surprising, sharing, giving joy!
2. Thanks be for strength in our labour:
Thanks be for work that fulfils us
Daily bearing fruit to share,
Talents offered in love.
Thanks be for troubles resolving,
Thanks be for rifts, reconciling
Day by day reviving hope, and bringing peace.
3. Thanks be for wonders of science:
Thanks be for skill and discovery
Daily bringing gifts of health,
Freedom, comfort and power.
Thanks be for beauty in nature:
Thanks be for sunsets and seasons.
Day by day inspiring wonder, gifting awe.

Doxology

Thanks be to God the Sustainer;
Thanks be to Christ the Redeemer
Daily showing us the way
Leading into God's life.
Thanks be to God the Empowerer
Thanks be to God who is making
Day by day the world anew in truth and love.

All Saints 2002

With love and thanks
Sigrid Rutishauser-James

Song for John (tune "Match of the Day")

He came to us from Yorkshire
Some sixteen years ago
He's helped us in our troubles
And taught us all we know
We've laughed a lot together
And gone through thick and thin
Yes, it's all Saints' that comes first until
THE FOREST MATCH BEGINS.

He gave us clubs in summer
And visited our school
He told us that God loves us
And Love's God's only rule
He made us feel important
Even though we're Half as Tall
And it's All Saints' that he thinks about
'TIL FOREST GETS THE BALL

He's taught us all theology
(Father Abraham has many sons)
Aerobics too of course
(Allelu, allelu, allelu, allelujah – Praise ye the Lord)
Our sailor-friend and vicar
He's helped us steer our course
We never will forget him
But life it must move on
Though there are some things that never change
YES, FOREST LOST AGAIN!

(Tune changes to Oh, When the Saints)

Oh when the Saints
(When All Saints')
Goes marching on
(Goes marching on)
Through 2000 and beyond
We'll keep on marching on with Jesus
As we've learnt from our friend John
As we've learnt from our friend John

Memories are Made of This

Having proudly served our townsfolk for 200 years
and more

In the early 1980's Christchurch sadly closed its
doors

Meaning loyal, faithful members and their
"leader of the pack"

Would require a place for worshipping somewhere
else in Macc.

With the Reverend Staley (known as John) attending
to this quest

The ideal venue proved to be quite near, in Brough
Street West.

Yes, the Good Lord blessed his followers upon that
joyful dawn

When St. Andrew's welcomed Christ Church and All Saints'
Church was born!

The congregations blended in the most amazing
fashion, combining time and talents with integrity and
passion.

Musicians and the Singing Group raised sounds to
warm the heart

And favourite songs from Mission Praise were seen
to play a part.

Sunday School and Youth Groups, being very ably
led,

Helped youngsters seek and find a path to show the way
ahead.

For parents as they worshipped, to alleviate their stress.

Their babes and tots were kept amused whilst tended in a Creche.

Parade and Family Services would always be a hit - Guides and Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, prepared to do their bit.

To mums and dads and grandparents the sight was really grand.

Witnessing their 'darlings' as they marched behind the band.

Within these groups the young could learn and also 'get their kicks'

So Rainbow girls and Beaver boys were added to the mix.

Each year a Club for children in the summer holiday – To educate and entertain with lots of time for play – was devised and planned in detail by a dedicated team,

Involving craftwork and activities with a bible story theme.

South Park Games and Outings made the Clubbers so excited.

As did the closing Barbecue with families invited. The week was action packed and fun – undoubtedly inspiring

But volunteers would all agree – exceptionally tiring! Coffee Mornings, Lunches and daytime treats like that

Offered welcome opportunities to just relax and chat.

However lively social 'knees-ups' such as Ceilidhs,
they would be
Enjoyed by anyone bestowed with boundless energy!

Our Quizzes tested knowledge but some puzzle-
solving skills
Were essential during Treasure Hunts while driving in
the hills.

Evening Walks were bracing and uplifting to the soul,
Followed by refreshments at a country watering hole.
Good Companions' monthly gatherings, most often in
the Hall,

Brought jolly times and friendships for our 'seniors'
one and all.

But sometimes they'd have coach rides in the form of
mystery tours

Or may depart on day trips to some fairly distant
shores.

The church was keen to reach out, being very much aware
Of those who'd feel supported by receiving Pastoral Care.

Home Groups held their meetings when, with
different voices heard

They could first explore, then clarify, the meaning of
His Word

Prayer Groups could identify and earnestly proceed
To request our Saviour's guidance in certain areas of need.
Every month a magazine, "The Link", was duplicated
On a 'temperamental' printer which, of course, is now
outdated.

Recipients might contribute or may express their
views,

Be notified of future plans and kept abreast of news.

Little ones' Nativities and Carols sung with mirth
Were splendid ways to celebrate the infant Jesus'
birth.

Harvest time is special and evokes those memories
Of the church adorned with autumn fruits among the golden
sheaves,

Giving wonderful aromas and, should our faith seem
'dim'

A reminder of our riches from an old and glorious
hymn

ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US
ARE SENT FROM HEAVEN ABOVE
THEN THANK THE LORD
O THANK THE LORD
FOR ALL HIS LOVE

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LIZ JOHNSON 2022