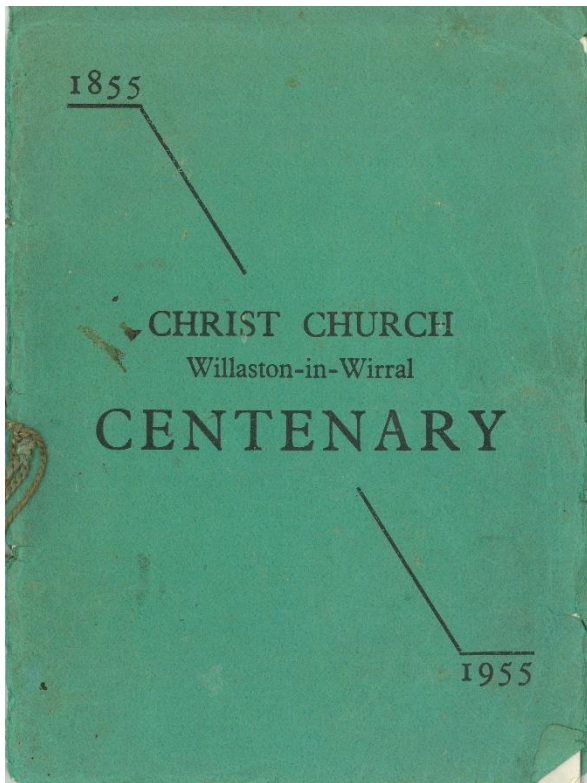


Christ Church Centenary 1955

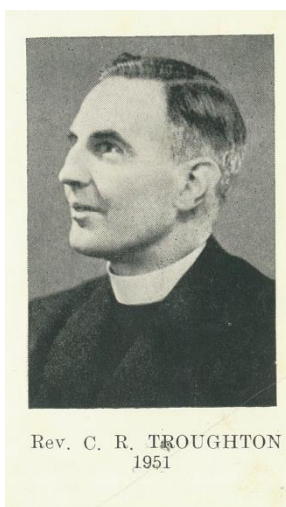


In 1955, Christ Church celebrated its centenary and published a book about its activities.

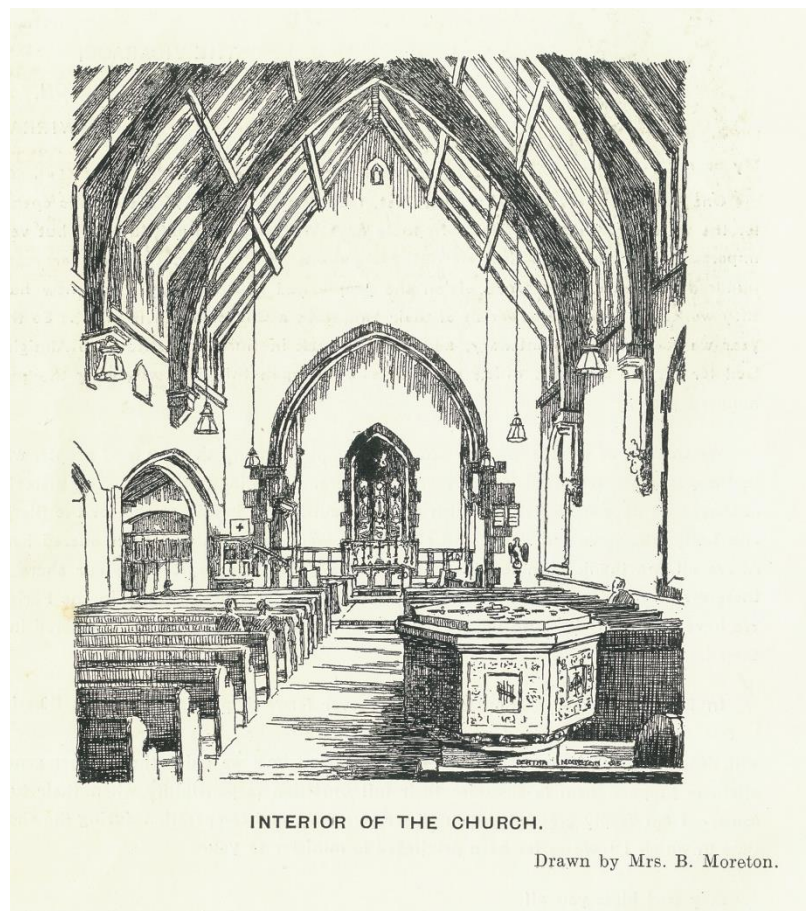
At the time, there were four services on Sundays:

- 8am – Holy Communion
- 10am – Children's Service
- 11am – Matins, followed by Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
- 6.30pm – Evensong

Information from the book is given in italics. All photos are from the book.



The vicar was the Rev C. R. Troughton.



The book mentions several recent gifts to the Church, including beautifully embroidered pulpit falls and makers for the lectern which were given by Mrs Todd, Mr Peers, Mrs Burns and Miss Clayton.

During the centenary year (1955): *'Miss Duncan has given churchwardens' staves, the Mothers' Union have provided new robes for the choir, a new section of panelling has been given by Mrs Roy Leach and another section promised by Mr J Adams to complete the chancel. Mrs Oakshott has very generously contributed to the refurbishing of the church.'*

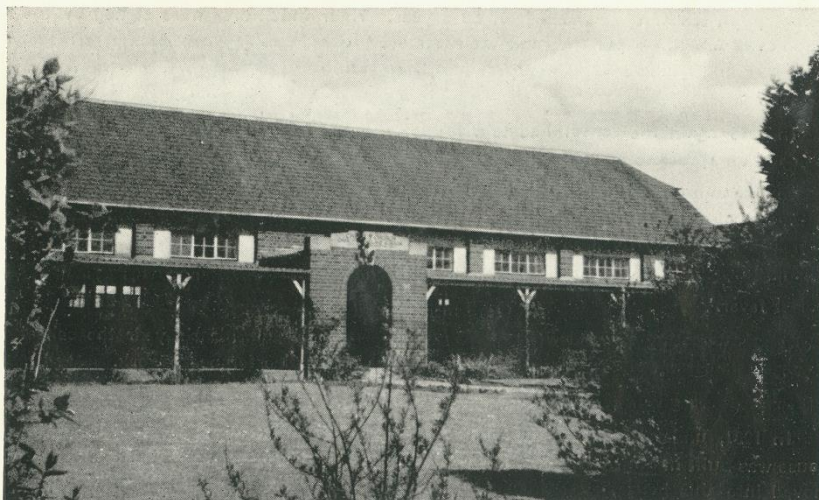
'It is hoped that during the year an oak board showing the names of all the vicars of the parish will be placed over the doorway as a memorial to Canon Wilkinson.'

'To mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, a wooden seat was given to be placed in the churchyard.'



THE NEW VICARAGE

Willaston C. E. School



The school in 1955 was described as follows:

'The new school is an all-age one, for boys and girls of 5-15, although with the provisions of the Education Act of 1944, many children at the age of eleven are transferred to Grammar Schools or Secondary Modern Schools.'

In 1954, faced with further heavy expenditure, if it remained as a Church School, the managers applied for 'Controlled' Status. This transferred the property to the care of the County Education Authority, although definite church teaching is still given.'

Church Hall



The Church Hall was described as:

'It has a stage, dressing rooms, kitchen, a large hall and cloakrooms. The Church Council have spent a great deal of money recently, on re-laying the floor and decorating the interior and exterior. It is suitable for dramatics, concerts, dances, meetings and shows. Applications for its use can be made to the Vicar, Church Council Treasurer, or the Caretaker, Mrs Griffiths, of Atworth Terrace.

The local Women's Institute use the hall a great deal and have presented to it an electric clock and heavy velvet state curtains.'

Mothers Union

Every year on Mothering Sunday and on Lady Day, special services are held in church and every month, the meeting opens with a short service; on the Thursday morning following the monthly meeting, members meet together for a corporate Holy Communion Service. Willaston branch co-operates with other local branches in Deanery Festivals, the Women's World Day of Prayer (held annually on the first Friday in Lent) and by exchanging visits with other branches.

For many years the branch has given practical help to the church, holding efforts and jumble sales to raise money for Diocesan Moral Welfare Work, for the education of an African boy in a C.M.S. school and for work in an E. African leper hospital.

During the war years, and immediately after the war, Christmas parties were held for the village children, but for the last few years the members have provided a Christmas tea for old age pensioners and widows from the Charles Thompson's Mission in Birkenhead.

Recently, the members have held a sale of work and several coffee mornings, to provide a complete set of new robes for the choir boys, choir men, ladies of the choir, the organist and vergers, to mark the Church centenary.

Unmarried women who are interested in the work of the Mothers' Union may become Associate members. In each parish the Vicar appoints the Enrolling Member as the leader of the local branch. The present Enrolling Member is Mrs Duncan.

For many years the branch has been linked with the M.U. branch at Auckland, New Zealand, where Canon Wilkinson, former vicar of Willaston once worked. In the days of food shortages during the war and until 1953, very generous

gifts of tinned foods were sent to be distributed among the Willaston members.

On special occasions such as Diocesan Festivals in the Cathedral and on Mothering Sunday, the M.U. banner is carried in procession. It is a very beautiful red and gold banner, designed by Mrs Paget, wife of a former Bishop of Chester.

Children's Service

This is held every Sunday at 10am (except on Festivals when it is at 3pm). It takes the place of the Sunday School which used to be held on Sunday afternoons in the old school on the village green, then in the Institute and later on in the Church Hall.

The lack of suitable Sunday School teachers, and the changing conditions during the 1939-45 war, when evacuees came to Willaston, caused this change.

Children have stamp books into which they stick picture stamps for every Sunday of the year, illustrating Bible stories. A register is kept to encourage good attendance. Many parents accompany their children, and this has become a family service. During Lent, the children have Savings Boxes for the Church of England Children's Society. Each year at Easter the boxes are collected and the money sent to help with work among children.

Youth Club

This is primarily for young people of 15 to 21, although a few older ones still attend. There are about 40-45 members. They meet each Thursday from 7 to 9.30pm, to play table tennis and billiards, play gramophone records, dance, read magazines and play quiet games such as draughts. Each year the members produce a Passion Play on Good Friday, and go out carol singing for several nights before Christmas. Christmas tableaux and Nativity plays have been performed also. An annual dance is held near St. Valentine's Day, and sports are organised in the summer.

There are very few rules. Each member, who is confirmed, is expected to attend the Holy Communion Service once a month, and attend Church once each Sunday.

Scouts and Cubs

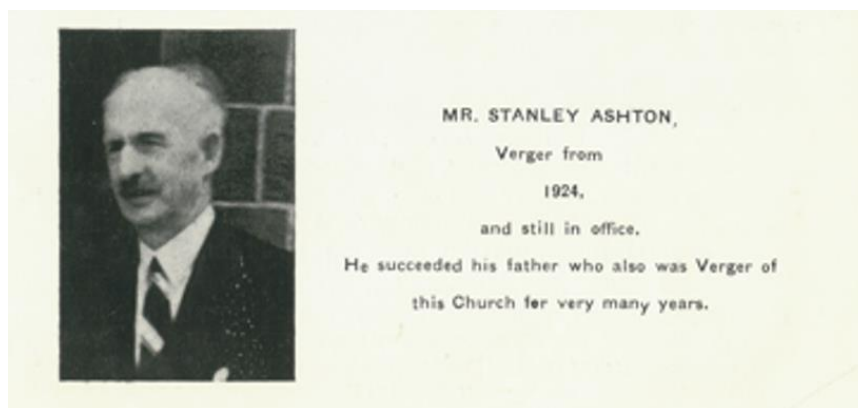
Under Major Welch as scoutmaster, they were very active until 1952, having an annual camp, taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade and meeting in their own hut in the field behind the old Vicarage.

Guides and Brownies

The Guides have had two ... well known church members as leaders in Miss Margaret Todd (Mrs E. Peers) and Mrs Brodbelt, who was in charge until 1951, when ill health caused her to give up her post.

Miss Proctor, Mrs Bigland and Mrs N. Wood have given valuable service to the Brownie Pack.

Unfortunately these uniformed organisations have had to close down owing to lack of leaders. We are grateful for the church people who have done so much in the past and hope that once again volunteers will come forward to revive this work.



Diagrammatical Representation



WHERE YOU COME IN

The Church Council 1955

Chairman: THE VICAR.

Diocesan Conference Representatives:

T. W. B. BRODBELT, J. LEECE.

Ruri-Decanal Conference Representatives:

T. W. B. BRODBELT, J. LEECE.

Wardens: W. WELCH, G. W. WEBSTER.

Hon. Treasurer: J. LEECE, Crouch End, Overdale Road.

Hon. Secretary: J. O. L. KING.

Parochial Church Council:

Mrs. BRODBELT, Miss MONA EDWARDS, Mrs. TROUGHTON, Mrs. TURNBULL.
Messrs. J. ACTON, D. DAVIES, J. DUNCAN, R. F. EVANS, H. E. GREEN,
E. GRIFFITHS, J. HELM, O. KING, C. L. OVERTON, H. SMYTH.

Sidesmen:

A. ACTON, A. ARMISTEAD, D. BRADSHAW, T. W. B. BRODBELT, T. BRODBELT,
R. C. CROSSLEY, D. DAVIES, F. DOWNHAM, R. A. DUNCAN, R. F. EVANS,
J. GREEN, J. HELM (Sen.), J. HELM (Jun.), J. MORETON, C. L. OVERTON,
H. J. SMYTH.