

Holy Trinity Church

Ryde, I.W

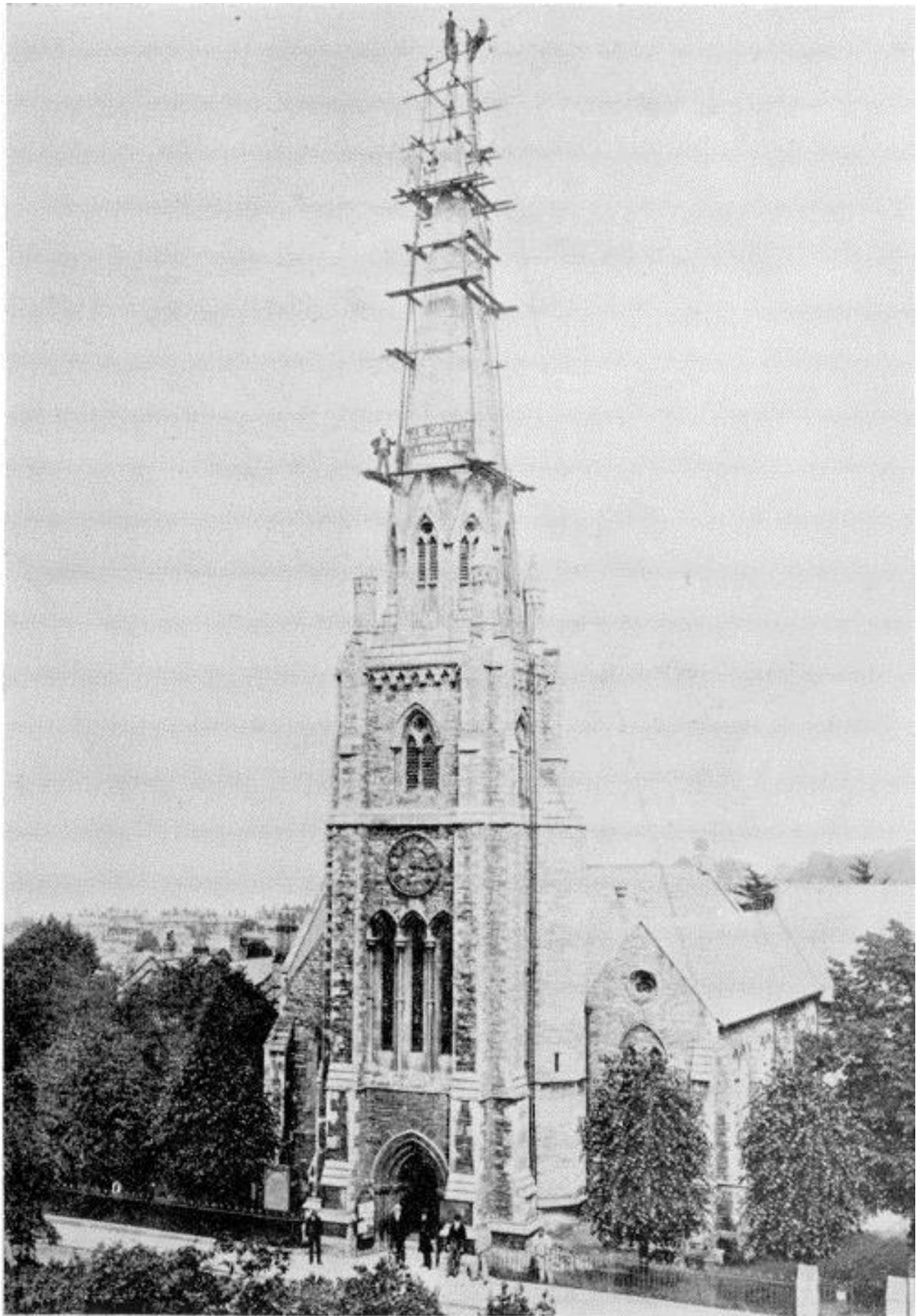
Centenary Souvenir

1845 -- 1945

Holy Trinity Church,
RYDE, I.W.
1845 -- 1945

A Short History
compiled by
J. H. RUSSELL.

Permission to publish has been given by the church archivist
Miss Young of Ryde.



Repairs to Spire, December 1900

INTRODUCTION

In this short work I have endeavoured to incorporate all the main events which have occurred in the History of Holy Trinity.

Much of my information of the earlier years has been gleaned from a careful study of the old magazines which cover the period 1885 to 1925, with a few gaps which I have filled from other sources. Many of the events since 1925 I have been able to remember, but I know that there must still be many items which I have failed to record.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to those who have assisted me in my effort.

J.H.R.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RYDE, I.W.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS

Rev.A.J.Wade 1845-1893
(Priest in charge, 1845-1863)
Rev. W. M. Cameron 1893-1906
Rev. J. E. Eddis... .. 1907-1919
Rev.the Hon.J.H.J.W. Fiennes 1920-1923
Rev. N. H. Stubbs 1923-1931
Rev. S. A. Marsh 1931-1935
Rev. L. N. St. Alphonse .. 1935-

Churchwardens R.E.Waller and J.H.Russell
Hon. Secretary E.S.Sheppard
Verger: A.J.Ballard
Organist: P.J.Monk

CHAPTER I

BUILDING THE CHURCH

Many people in Ryde may possibly be surprised to learn that until 1866 this town formed part of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Newchurch, even though there were churches already built. The Church of St. James, in Lind Street, which is a proprietary chapel, was holding regular services, and had been doing so for a number of years. St. Thomas' was also in use as a chapel of ease to Newchurch.

In 1839 the Rev. W. Spencer Phillips was appointed Vicar of Newchurch, but he fixed his permanent place of residence in Ryde. He soon realised that further church accommodation was needed in the town, which was rapidly growing from what had previously been a small fishing village. In those days Union Street did not exist, but the sea shore was approached by way of a stile at the bottom of High Street, and from thence across a field which led directly to a muddy beach. The western and eastern gardens and esplanade had not then come into being, and the spacious houses and hotels had not been considered.

Mr. Phillips appointed a committee to go carefully into the question of church accommodation, and as a result of their deliberations it was resolved to build a church in Dover Street. A plot of land was provided for this purpose through the generosity of Mrs. Lind and her son, Dr. James Player Lind, and his sisters, who also contributed £,500 towards the building costs.

The land was cleared, and on the 14th October, 1841, the first stone of what was to be Holy Trinity Church was laid by Mrs. Lind. This stone was laid with a silver and ivory trowel, and this was later presented to the church, and is now kept in the sacristy.

Owing to certain legal difficulties, and the lack of funds, building was suspended when the foundations had reached street level, and remained in this condition for about one year. Fortunately, the work was recommenced as a result of the generosity of the Hon. Lindsay Burrell, a man of very fixed religious principles, and a very good friend to the church. This gentleman called a meeting of the building committee, and made himself responsible for the cash security needed to enable the work to go forward. From that time the building continued without a break until it was completed.

The church was originally very different from its present style. It was perpendicular, measuring 110 feet from North to South, and 158 feet from East to West. There were then no transepts, these being added at later dates, neither was there any spire. Seating accommodation was provided for 800 persons - , 500 of these seats were set apart as "Free sittings for the Poor," and the remaining 300 were let for the purpose of providing a stipend for the incumbent. From this it will be observed that at first the church had no endowment or guaranteed source of income from which the incumbent could be paid.

On the 28th October, 1845, the Feast of S. S. Simon and Jude, the Lord Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Charles Sumner) arrived to dedicate the building to the Glory of God and to the Honour of the Most Holy Trinity. We have- no record of what the service was like, but we can be assured that the church must have been packed, especially for two reasons, firstly that the dedication of a church was a most uncommon event, and secondly, the presence of a Bishop in Ryde must have been a very rare occurrence. It is rather interesting to observe that at the time of the Dedication of the church, upper Dover Street was but partially formed, and there was no through road to Park Road and Star Street. The ground opposite the west end of the church, where now stands solid row of houses, including the present Vicarage, was still fields where cattle grazed as the people went to church, and at times this grazing took the cattle right up to the very door of the church. Before proceeding further with the events which followed upon the dedication it is well to note that the original plan for the Sanctuary has never been completed owing to lack of funds. Had this been done the church would now possess a spacious Sanctuary, which would have reached out into what we now know as the church garden.

The architect was Mr. Thomas Hellyer, and the builders were Messrs. Langdon and Denham. In 1846 Mr. Hellyer designed the spire, and the building was carried out by Mr. Thomas Dashwood. The top stone was fixed in position by the Rev. H: J. Wade under the guidance of the builder, and to this was fixed the weather vane which has proved of use to so many people in the district.

The seating arrangements were rather unusual. There was no middle passage in the nave, and the small seats which are now fixed to the ends of the centre pews were originally joined together, and thus formed a central block of seats with a narrow passage on either side. The seats remained thus for a number of years until they were placed in their present positions.

CHAPTER II

The Rev. H. J. WADE, 1845-1893

At the time of the meeting of the committee which considered the building of Holy Trinity Church, the Rev. H. J. Wade was Curate of Newchurch with Ryde. He himself took an active part in the organisation and arrangements for the building, and we are g indebted which indebted to him for the amount of work which he carried out in this connection.

In spite of the, fact that the church was consecrated in 1845 it did not become a separate parish until later, but remained a chapel of ease to Newchurch, Mr. Wade being the Priest-in-Charge. On the 28th June, 1866, the Newchurch Parish Division Act received Royal Assent, and came into operation in April, 1867. The Vicar of Newchurch, however, died in June, 1863, and the Act provided that the District of Holy Trinity, Ryde, should become a separate and district Parish for all ecclesiastical and spiritual purposes from that date, and thus the Rev. H. J. Wade became the first Vicar. It would be well to consider now the various additions and alterations to the structure of the church which were effected during the first incumbent's time. The first addition was the South Transept which was completed in 1848, and which has been a source of trouble

on several occasions since, and at the present time part of it is showing serious signs of collapse. In 1856 the bell was placed in the spire, its weight being just over half a ton. In 1860 the North Transept was added, thus giving the church its present cruciform shape.

Parish magazines were not usual in the early days of the parish, but in 1885 a venture was made in this direction, and it was resolved that there should be a monthly publication, and the inset was known as "The Banner of Faith."

Until about 1870 the choir was in the West Gallery and consisted of women as well as men and boys. From it was formed a surpliced choir of men and boys only, and it was transferred to its present place in the Chancel.

The services in the early days were quite plain, no vestments being in use, but candles were lit on the altar for Holy Communion. It would seem, however, that this procedure was considered by many people to be "very high," and a sign that the church was going in the right direction for Rome ! The Sunday services consisted of Holy Communion, 8 a.m., and after Matins, this arrangement lasting for many years. Matins was sung at 11 a.m., and Evensong in the evenings. Holy Communion was celebrated once or twice in the week, and Matins and Evensong were said daily.

Mr. Wade was fortunate in the fact that in 1872 the Rev. F. E. Ridgeway came to Holy Trinity as Curate and remained until 1874. After his departure from Holy Trinity Mr. Ridgeway became Vicar of several parishes, later becoming Suffragan Bishop of Kensington, and from there he became Bishop of Salisbury until his death in 1921.

Owing to his age, Mr. Wade retired from the benefice in 1893, but continued to reside in the parish until his death in 1903 at the age of 92. After his retirement he frequently gave help in the services of the church which he had served for nearly fifty years.

CHAPTER III

The Rev. W. M. CAMERON, 1893-1906

Upon the retirement of the Rev. H. J. Wade, the Rev. W. M. Cameron was appointed the second Vicar of the Parish, and his incumbency lasted for thirteen years.

Mr. Cameron had very definite catholic ideas, and was a keen supporter of the English Church Union, which was founded by the late Lord Halifax as a means of defending the teaching of the Church and those who suffered persecution as a result of carrying out the full teaching of Christ as laid down by the Church. At one time he was Chairman of the local branch of the Church Union, and he played an active part in the work of the Union in these parts.

Holy Trinity did not suffer persecution for the so-called "Ritualistic Practices," perhaps because it did not come into the limelight as did many of the churches on the mainland. Many people,

however, would have been most surprised had they known that Mr. Cameron had Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Trinity. In the east wall of the sacristy there is still fixed the Tabernacle where the Sacrament was reserved, and before it burned a lamp hung from the ceiling; until the present electric light was fixed the hook was still in position from which this lamp was hung. In those days it was considered to be very "High Church" to reserve for the benefit of the sick, and the majority of the Bishops did not approve the practice. In present days, however, Bishops appear to be more tolerant, and we in Holy Trinity now have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the open church where all can kneel before our Lord and offer their prayers. During Mr. Cameron's incumbency much was done to beautify the church. In 1896 the banner which now hangs on the north side of the sanctuary was presented to the church. It bears the symbol of the Blessed Trinity, and is still used at all festivals. It has been renovated on one occasion since that time, the work having been carried out by the late Miss Jefferd. In 1897 the organ was beginning to show signs of wear, and the sum of £270 was raised by various means which enabled the Churchwardens to have the instrument thoroughly renovated. In the same year the Empire celebrated the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, who was so well known to Islanders, and special services were held at Holy Trinity to mark the occasion.

In 1898 we find that Holy Trinity started making contributions to the Universities Mission to Central Africa, that same society to which we still give our offerings at this present time. In addition considerable contributions were made to the S.P.G.

In 1902 the chancel gates were added to the church in memory of Mrs. Barry. The gates were given by the Misses Barry, and were designed by the late Mr. A. G. Purnell.

During August, 1902, Mr. Cameron announced that he had been invited by the Archbishop of Capetown to come to South Africa to carry out work with a body of native catechists known as the Order of Ethiopia, being members of the Ethiopian Church who had broken away from that church and wished to be trained in the English Church. After obtaining the permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester, Mr. Cameron sailed for South Africa, and returned in December, 1903. During his absence Holy Trinity was cared for by a Locum Tenens appointed by the Bishop.

Nothing of great importance seems to have happened again until 1906. In October of that year Mr. George Janaway was appointed Headmaster of the Boys' Department of the Player Street School, a post which he held for many years. December, 1906, brought news of the Vicar's resignation in order that he might take up work in South Africa, as Coadjutor Bishop of Cape Town.

CHAPTER IV

The Rev. J. E. EDDIS, 1907-1919

In February, 1907, the Rev. J. E. Eddis was instituted to the Benefice as its third Vicar. He appears to have followed the previous Vicar in his manner of conducting the services of the church, and no very startling events appear to have occurred during the twelve years he was at Holy Trinity.

In 1909 the South Transept began to cause trouble. It was built on soft soil, and in order to save it, it had to be under pinned to a depth of 5 feet, and this repair held good until 1942.

The year 1911 will be remembered as the year in which Holy Trinity acquired the lease of Trinity Hall, Melville Street, now known as The Vectis Hall. It had previously been used as a gymnasium, and was turned into a Parish Room, and on Sundays the Junior and Senior Sunday Schools met there, having previously been conducted in the Player Street Day Schools.

During 1913 some of the most beautiful windows in the church was given by a member of the congregation. These consisted of the three windows at the East end representing Christ the King with on one side St. Gabriel and on the other St. Michael. When these windows were completed Bishop Cameron chanced to be paying a visit to Ryde, and he came to the church and dedicated them on the Feast of St. Matthew, 1913.

In 1914 World War No. 1 burst forth, and many of the young men of the parish were called to the colours, including the two sons of the Vicar, who served in the Royal Navy.

It was with deep regret that the parish heard of the death of Bishop Cameron in November, 1915. In January, 1918, the church lost another faithful servant in the death of James Bachelor, who for 39 years had been Verger and Parish Clerk. Shortly after his death it was resolved that a memorial tablet be erected over his seat at the West end of the church, and a Chalice and Paten were also purchased as a further memorial to him who had loved our Lord so faithfully in the Sacrament of the Altar. Mr. Balland was then appointed Verger, Mrs. Balland looking after the church during the week, and Mr. Ballard doing duty on Sun-days, and we are thankful for the years of service they have given the church, and look forward to their help for many years to come. The year 1918 brought peace to the war stricken world, and with it the consideration of what form of War Memorial should be erected in the church. After a number of suggestions had been considered these were reduced to two schemes as follows

- (1) The extension of the East end of the church in accordance with the original plan.
- (2) The erection of a side chapel on the South side of the church.

After further meetings it was resolved that the latter scheme should be adopted as the former would have cost considerably more than the anticipated donations.

In September, 1919, the Vicar's health became very poor, and he was forced to resign the living before the work on the chapel could be put in hand.

CHAPTER V

The Rev. the Hon. IVO H. J. W. FIENNES, 1920-1923

Mr. Fiennes was inducted in 1920 as Vicar of Holy Trinity, having previously been Priest in Charge of Yaverland Church. His coming saw a number of changes in the manner of conducting the services, and the introduction of various ceremonies with which we are now so familiar. Chiefly, perhaps, his short period of Vicar is remembered by his very outspoken addresses on Confession, which had not previously been advocated in public by his predecessors, but which is nevertheless one of the greatest privileges of all members of the Catholic Church. He was also responsible for the introduction of the Eucharist Vestments, the Daily Mass, and a Sung Mass on the fourth Sunday of each month and on all the great festivals. During his incumbency he was presented with a Cope, which he wore at festivals, much to the consternation of many members of the congregation. Owing to Mr. Fiennes' health he found the work of running the parish very heavy, but he was fortunate in having the very able assistance of the Rev. Dr. Klein and the Rev. W. Collingwood Carter, who both resided in the district. The year 1920 was outstanding in the history of the Church of England by the passing by Parliament of the Enabling Act. This Act provided the means whereby each parish was able to elect a Parochial Church Council, and the council sent representatives to the Diocesan Conference.

The conference was able to send representatives to the Church Assembly and as a result the laity had an equal opportunity of co-operating with the Bishops in the government of the church. Altar Servers were introduced by Mr. Fiennes soon after his arrival, and one of the first was the late Mr. W. J. Scott Jackson.

In 1922 the day schools of All Saints and Holy Trinity were amalgamated. All Saints became a senior school, and Holy Trinity a junior school. This resulted in a change in teachers at our Player Street schools. Miss Purchas, who had been Head Mistress of the infants, became head of the whole school. Mr. Janaway, who had been in charge of the Senior Boys' Department was transferred to Sandown, but shortly after he returned as assistant master at Green Street, under Mr. M. L. Harman. Miss Hollis was transferred from Green Street to Player Street, and on the retirement of Miss Purchas she became Head Mistress of Holy Trinity School. Other teachers at Holy Trinity were Mrs. Bibby, Miss Webb, Miss Cain and Miss Young, and they will be remembered by many of the old scholars.

On St. Peter's Day (29th June), 1922, the War Memorial Chapel was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of the Island (Major-General Seely, now Lord Mottistone), and the Rev. J. E. Eddis, assisted by the Vicar, dedicated the Chapel.

Owing to failing health Mr. Fiennes was obliged to resign from the living in 1923, and the Vicar of Ryde proceeded to appoint a successor.

CHAPTER VI

The Rev. N. H. STUBBS, 1923-1931

In December, 1923, the Vicar of Ryde advised Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council that he had appointed the Rev. N. H. Stubbs as the new Vicar. This appointment met with the approval of almost the whole congregation, to whom he was already known, having served as Curate to Mr. Eddis prior to joining the Army as a Chaplain in the 1914-18 War.

The induction was fixed for the 18th December, 1923, but had to be postponed until January, 1924, on account of the Vicar-designate sustaining an unfortunate accident while looking for a leak in a gas pipe with a lighted match.

In 1924 also, Mr. A. J. Balland took over his duties as full time verger, having been only part time since his appointment in 1918. In October, the Rev. A. F. de Gere was appointed Assistant Priest, and he remained several years until he took up a similar appointment at St. Michael's, Swanmore.

Until December, 1922, the church did not possess a Processional Cross of its own. The one previously in use belonged to the Rev. J. E. Eddis, who by this time had left Ryde, and wished to take his Cross with him. The church was fortunate in receiving the present Cross, which is of a handsome design, from an anonymous donor.

By Christmas, 1924. Messrs. C. Langdon and Son had completed the installation of electric light throughout the church, thus doing away with the ugly gas brackets scattered about the church. The cost of the great improvement was met out of a generous donation of £200 from the late Madam Pocklet.

On the 8th February, 1925, the parish recorded with deep regret the death of the Rev. Collingwood Carter, who had come to Ryde in 1917, and from that time had associated himself with Holy Trinity and had rendered invaluable assistance to the incumbents.

About this time the church spire suffered damage from lightning during a thunderstorm, and it was necessary to have considerable repairs effected. While the scaffolding was erected for this work the faces of the clock were thoroughly cleaned and re-gilded, a public subscription list having been opened and supported by many people, who, though not worshippers at the church, found the clock a most useful asset to the town. Readers may be interested to have a few details of the clock which may surprise them. The diameter of the face is 7 feet, and this means that on the two faces and the hands there is something like 63 feet of metal work.

The next problem which arose was the renovation of the organ, and after consultation with various firms of organ builders it was ascertained that this would cost somewhere in the region of £1,000. In addition it was decided to move the console of the organ to its present position, thus enabling the organist to be in direct contact with the choir and to be able more easily to follow the services. Previously the console had been hidden from view in what is now known as the Choir Vestry.

About this time arose the question of the division of the old Diocese of Winchester into three smaller diocese, i.e., Winchester (including the Channel Islands), Guildford and Portsmouth. By thus dividing the diocese each Bishop would be able to come into closer contact with the clergy and people of each separate parish, and no place would be more than 30 miles away from the Cathedral.

During Mr. Stubbs' incumbency a certain amount of the ritual introduced by the previous Vicar was dispensed with and Servers did not assist at Mass. On the arrival of Mr. de Gex he obtained permission from the Vicar to train a small band of servers for Low Masses. Unfortunately, they only functioned for one Sunday, the reason for this being that certain members of the congregation who supported the church finances made it plain that they would withdraw the support if servers continued to assist in the orderly conduct of the Lord's own service. Members of the congregation who sought the gift of Absolution went either to All Saint's or St. Michael's Churches, and many will, no doubt, remember that Fr. de Gex was able to sit at St. Michael's in order to hear confessions of parishioners of Holy Trinity. It may be noted here that the present incumbent is one of those on the Panel of Confessors appointed by the Bishop for the whole diocese, not only for this parish (see "The Directory of the Diocese of Portsmouth "). In 1923 Mr. Stubbs was appointed Rector of Bishop's Waltham, and thus ended an incumbency which had seen great improvements to the fabric of the church.

CHAPTER VII

The Rev. S. A. MARSH, 1931-1935

When Fr. Marsh arrived in 1931 the parish still possessed no vicarage, though for some time the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had been negotiating over the purchase of 14, Belvedere Street. The matter was practically settled by 1931, but in order to comply with the Commissioners' requirement a number of alterations and improvements had to be effected, and Fr. Marsh was thus obliged to live in furnished rooms until he was able to "move in." When the Vicarage was completed and furnished the Bishop of Portsmouth (Dr. Lovett) visited the parish and blessed the house.

Fr. Marsh had not been in the parish very long before it became obvious that he intended to introduce the normal Catholic ritual, in a modified form, and this caused a stir when people thought he was "high church," which, of course, was very far from the truth. That he was a Catholic no one can deny, and he did his best to introduce into the services that atmosphere of catholic worship which is so definitely enjoined by the Book of Common Prayer. The Sanctuary was beautified by the gift of a carpet from Mrs. Hammond, who at the same time presented the

church with a set of white vestments. Later, as the result of the efforts of a band of young people who collected donations from people both inside and outside the parish, the Vicar was able to purchase sets of green, purple and red vestments, and also the festal Cope which are now in use.

Shortly a band of servers was organised and trained for the Low Masses on Sunday, and upon the introduction of the 10 a.m. Sung Mass each Sunday two servers were able to assist in offering the Holy Sacrifice. The ritual was of a very moderate form, but, nevertheless, it was started on the right road upon which it was to progress as time went by. Once more the Daily Mass was introduced, this having dropped to three days each week after Mr. Fiennes' departure. In addition, a Sung Mass was introduced on Red Letter Days. Fr. Marsh was very keen on the Sarum Ritual, but unfortunately the smallness of the Sanctuary made this impossible. The High Altar was considerably beautified by the addition of riddel posts and curtains on either side. A Guild of St. Martin was formed, consisting of a number of the ladies of the congregation, their task being the care of the Memorial Chapel of St. Martin. They immediately got to work with needle and thread, and in a very short space of time had made white and purple frontals for the Altar, also riddel curtains of the same colours, and burses and veils to match. They also undertook the decoration of the chapel for festivals.

One of the outstanding innovations of Fr. Marsh's incumbency was the introduction of the Altar of Repose on the first Maundy Thursday he was Vicar. No one who can look back to that time will ever forget that Altar, erected in the North transept, where, for the first time, members of the congregation kept watch before the Blessed Sacrament without a break until the Liturgy of Good Friday. Since that time this has become an annual event, though the Altar of Repose is now prepared in St. Martin's Chapel. Fr. Marsh was a great preacher, and never failed to hold his listeners, though at times his discourses have been known to last no less than 55 minutes. Confessions were once more restored to Holy Trinity, and a confessional was eventually erected in the North aisle by the organ pipes.

There was one item on the Church Accounts which had been causing considerable distress for some time, i.e., Pew Rents. As a result of Fr. Marsh's activities this item gradually disappeared, the income therefrom getting less and less each year, and thus all the seats in the church became "free," as they should be in the House of God.

Soon after Fr. Marsh's arrival in the parish the lease of Trinity Hall expired, and owing to the very bad condition of the premises it was decided that no steps should be taken for its renewal. This meant that other accommodation had to be found for the Sunday School, and the Parish Room under the South transept was utilised for this purpose. At this time Miss Leighton, who had been Kindergarten Superintendent for a number of years, was obliged to resign owing to her age and failing health after many years of faithful service. Someone had to be found to carry on her work, and into the breach stepped Miss Fanny Webb, who had previously for many years been a teacher in the Day School, and also Superintendent of the Upper Sunday School.

When Fr. Marsh arrived the church was saddled with a very heavy overdraft at the bank, and unfortunately this continued to increase until it reached the enormous figure of £600, and the Church Council could find no means of liquidating it. And then, what appeared to be a miracle occurred. An anonymous member of the congregation paid to the churchwardens a cheque sufficient to wipe off the whole of this debt, and leave them with a balance on the right side. This gift was made as a thanks offering for the spiritual benefit received as a result of Fr. Marsh's ministrations, and what a relief it must have been to those church-wardens (Messrs. R. E. Waller and G. Janaway) to feel that they could once more pay all accounts as they came along instead of having to hold them over until such time as they were able to find sufficient cash to meet them.

It was shortly after this that Fr. Marsh informed the Church Council that by permission of the Bishop he had arranged to exchange livings with the Rev. L. N. St. Alphonse, of St. Philip's, Dalston, and about the middle of 1935 he left Ryde to take up his new duties. He remained at Dalston until he was killed in October, 1941, by a bomb which had been dropped near his church by a German plane. The church had been badly damaged by enemy action, and Fr. Marsh was entering the ruined sacristy to recover the sacred vessels and vestments when a time bomb nearby exploded and he and one of his churchwardens were killed immediately. Before closing this chapter mention should be made of the Rev. C. E. Tooth, who was made Deacon in 1931 and Priest in 1932. He came as assistant to Fr. Marsh in 1931, and remained for three years. At the outbreak of war he rejoined the Royal Navy, from which he had retired in 1931, and he was subsequently killed during a naval engagement with the enemy.

CHAPTER VIII

The Rev. L. N. ST. ALPHONSE, 1935—

By exchanging livings with the Rev. L. N. St. Alphonse, Fr. Marsh assured for Holy Trinity the continuance of Catholic worship which he himself had introduced into the parish, and which has since been improved upon so as to include many of the ancient customs of the Church which mean so much to those who realise that the Church of England is something more than just a National Church, but is, in fact, the true branch of the Holy Catholic Church in this land.

The greatest achievement must be given first place in this chapter. During the incumbency of Fr. Stubbs the North transept was converted into a Children's Corner. This proved very popular for a short while, and, as often happens, gradually fell into disuse. Fr. Marsh converted it into a Chapel, and on the altar, in place of a Cross, was placed a small figure of the Holy Child with arms outstretched. The present Vicar had the altar arranged for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for the sick, and here, also, the faithful can meet their Saviour at any time and offer their devotions. Mass is offered at this altar at least on one day in each week, and the Chapel is now known as the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, a small statue of the Good Shepherd being placed on the screen at the side of the altar. Shortly after the statue of Our Lady arrived, and was placed on a stand on the South side of St. Martin's altar, having been given by a friend of the parish.

Fortunately for both the Vicar and the parish, Fr. Bryan was made Deacon and the next year Priest, and he was able to give -very valuable assistance for three years. Fr. Bryan's main effort was the revival of the Scout movement amongst the boys of the parish, and as a result of his initial efforts we have excellent numbers of Cubs, Scouts and Rovers, in addition to a number of Guides and Rangers. Several further additions were soon to be made to the church and its services, amongst these being the use of Incense at Mass and other services, Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, Stations of the Cross, and Midnight Mass at Christmas. This latter service had to be dropped for a time during the war, but it was restored again in 1943. Until the outbreak of the war we had a very fine band of servers, many of whom are members of the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary. The war has withdrawn a number of the servers, but we were fortunate in having a band of young lads who have been fully trained, and from these we are able to furnish the requisite numbers for all services, and they have shown very great keenness in most cases to do their various jobs in an excellent manner. After Fr. Bryan's departure in 1939, first to Hove and then to take charge of St. Cuthman's Church at Whitehawk, near Brighton, Fr. Cornish came to the parish as Deacon, and then as Priest after his first year. We were fortunate in having him in the parish as he has proved himself a worthy successor of Fr. Bryan, and has continued the work amongst the young people, especially with Scouting, and numbers have increased considerably during the last two or three years.

This chapter would not be complete without mention of the damage done to the fabric of the church as a result of enemy action early on Good Friday morning of 1941. Several high explosive bombs were dropped around the church, and the blast from these destroyed many of the stained glass windows of which we were justly proud, but fortunately the stonework of the building was undamaged. It is hoped that before long these windows may be replaced, though possibly with only plain glass. In spite of the nightly visitation of enemy bombers over Southern England over the greater part of the period of the European War the services of the church have continued without a break, thanks to the keenness of the Vicar and Fr. Cornish, and we can now look forward with hope to the future and what it may have in store for us.

Readers will appreciate that there are many things which one would like to say about the parish at the present day, but perhaps it would be better to leave these over for the time being, especially as it is so difficult to write about people with whom one so often comes in contact. All that can be added to this chapter is that we hope that whatever changes may come about as regard future incumbents, we trust that we should always remember the spade work done by Fr. Marsh and Fr. St. Alphonse in restoring to us the beauty of Catholic worship, and the placing of the Holy Mass in its rightful prominence in our approach to God and in the daily life of each individual person, and eradicating the idea that it was a Sunday event, which was forgotten during the week and brought to life again on the following Sunday.

CHAPTER IX

THE CENTENARY

And so in October, 1945, our church is 100 years old, and we may well look back on our lives, many of them having been spent within the parish, and thank God for the great benefits which He has bestowed upon us as a result of the ministrations of the various incumbents and their assistants. The fabric of the church, especially the roof and inside walls need considerable attention, and it is hoped that the various efforts to be organised will at least provide a foundation for a fund to enable this work to be put in hand at the earliest possible moment. Perhaps it may seem rather out of place to mention in this chapter the names of three outstanding members of our congregation who have passed to the higher life, but we can be certain that had they still been with us would have rejoiced in the centenary celebrations. We must remember their great love for the church and for Our Lord whom they faithfully served for so many years in this parish, and pray that God will grant them eternal rest, and that we may be granted the grace to follow their example of faithful service.

Firstly, then, let us remember Mr. Percy James, who for 47 years was our organist and choirmaster. Mr. James was one of the finest organists in Ryde, and took a very active part in the re-building of the organ in Mr. Stubbs' time. The choir, trained by him, was noted for the beauty of its singing, and no boys could ever have received better training in voice production than he gave, and this is borne out in the fact that several of them still occupy their places in the men's stalls each Sunday, and sustain the service, of the congregation. Next we remember Mr. George Janaway, who for many years was Headmaster of our Day Schools, Superintendent of the Upper Sunday School, Churchwarden and Treasurer. Mr. Janaway, who was of a quiet and unassuming character, was loved by many people, and not least by those boys who owe him a great debt of gratitude for his fine teaching and example at all times.

And now we come to one who died in 1944. Her name is a household word to many, in fact I hardly need say the name to whom I refer—Miss Fanny Webb. She was, for many years, a teacher in our Day School and also Sunday School Superintendent, and she held this latter post until she died in Easter week of 1944. Miss Webb will always be remembered by her many kind deeds, done in such a quiet way that many people did not realise just how much good she did. For many years she had made herself responsible for the payment of all accounts for church candles, and over the long period she must have paid out a great sum of money for this purpose, but it gave her joy to know that she was spending her money in the service of Christ.

In conclusion, let us thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us in the past, let us remember before Him all the souls of those who have passed out of this world, and who had been our benefactors and kinsfolk, and finally let us pray that every blessing may be bestowed upon this parish and its people in the years that are to come, and that many more souls may be drawn to Christ as a result of the ministrations of the Church in this parish.