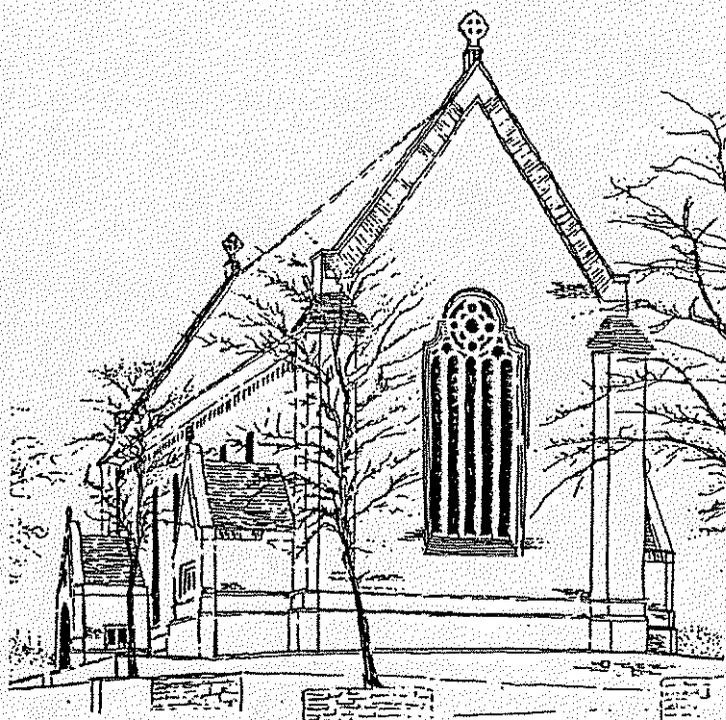


St. Mary's Church
Wollaton Park

1938 - 1988



Les Berry

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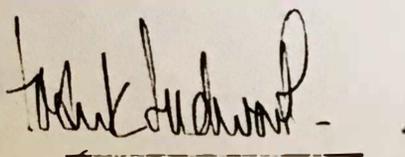
THE REV. FRANK SIDWORTH
(0602) 786988

St. Mary's Vicarage
Wollaton Hall Drive
Wollaton Park
Nottingham NG8 1AF

It is my privilege to write the foreword to this book and I do so with great pleasure. This book has taken a long time to research and compile, and I would like to thank Mr. L. Berry who devised it and wrote it.

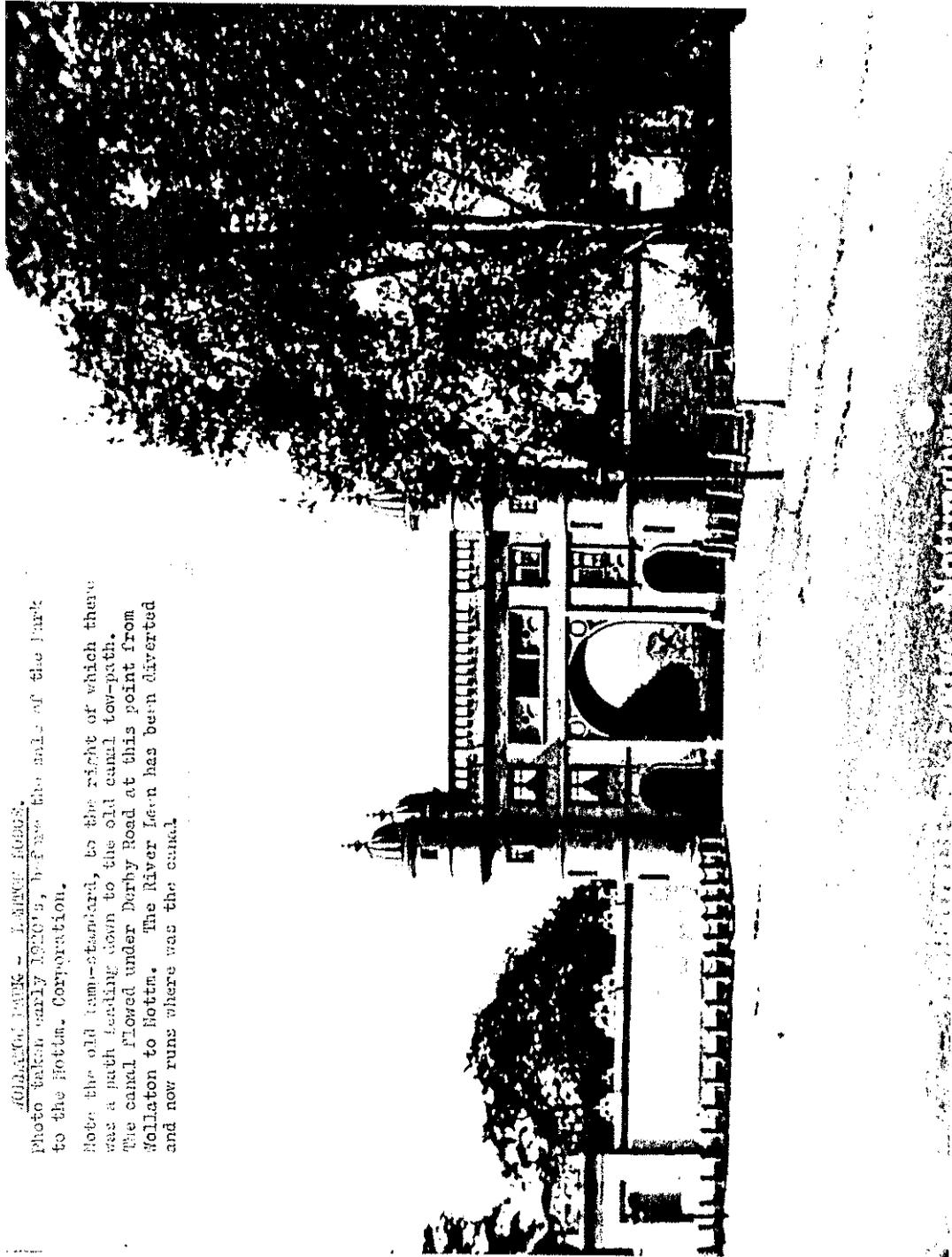
What a great heritage has been passed on to us by those who have gone before ... our hearts are full of thanks and praise to God; but it is our task to continue the work that they began. Joshua must have been overawed by the task of stepping into the leadership of the Children of Israel, yet how wonderfully he succeeded. He was a man called by God for a particular purpose for which he had been carefully prepared over the years as he followed Moses. The reason for his success lay in his commitment to God and His Word. Joshua 1:8 ..'This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you will meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success ..'

Joshua did not hesitate for a moment; he had been given God's Word and God's promise, so he responded by encouraging the people to follow. In this Jubilee Year, we have God's Word and God's promise; it is for us to step out in faith and enter the promised land, encouraging others to follow.


Frank Sidworth

WOLLASTON PARK - LEATHER FORD.
Photo taken early 1920's, before the sale of the Park
to the Hottel Corporation.

Note the old semi-standard, to the right of which there
was a path leading down to the old canal tow-path.
The canal flowed under Derby Road at this point from
Wollaton to Hottel. The River Leven has been diverted
and now runs where was the canal.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH - WOLLATON PARKDIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL50th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, the 26th of November, 1938, the day the then Bishop of Southwell, Dr. Henry Mosley dedicated the Church of St. Mary, Wollaton Park, the third daughter church of Holy Trinity, Lenton.

Just 50 years ago, but how do we assess what half a century of life is. There's no doubt the period we are reviewing has had its abundance of events both locally, nationally and internationally.

Even before the first birthday had been celebrated, the catastrophe of England and Germany at war had descended on us, eventually spreading to the whole of Europe followed two years later by a declaration of war by America, our great ally, on Japan, the whole conflict lasting 6 years.

In 1947, there was the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, shortly after which, on the death of her father, King George VI, she was crowned Queen of England.

Four Bishops, previous to the present one, have passed through Southwell.

There has been the introduction of the New Bible and Service Books replacing the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, and books of modern hymns.

Southwell Diocese celebrated its centenary in 1984 with H.M. the Queen attending the Maundy Service in the Minster and later that year the whole diocese celebrated Communion at an open air Service at the City ground, Trent Bridge. Also that year another daughter church of Lenton, St. Anthony, celebrated the dedication after its rebuilding one hundred years ago.

Nottingham University College received University status resulting in great expansion requiring the building of many laboratories, lecture halls and Halls of Residence.

In 1977, the Queen arrived in Nottingham to officially open the University Teaching Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre situated very close to St. Mary's.

1987, the year the first Deaconesses were ordained Deacon in Southwell Minster.

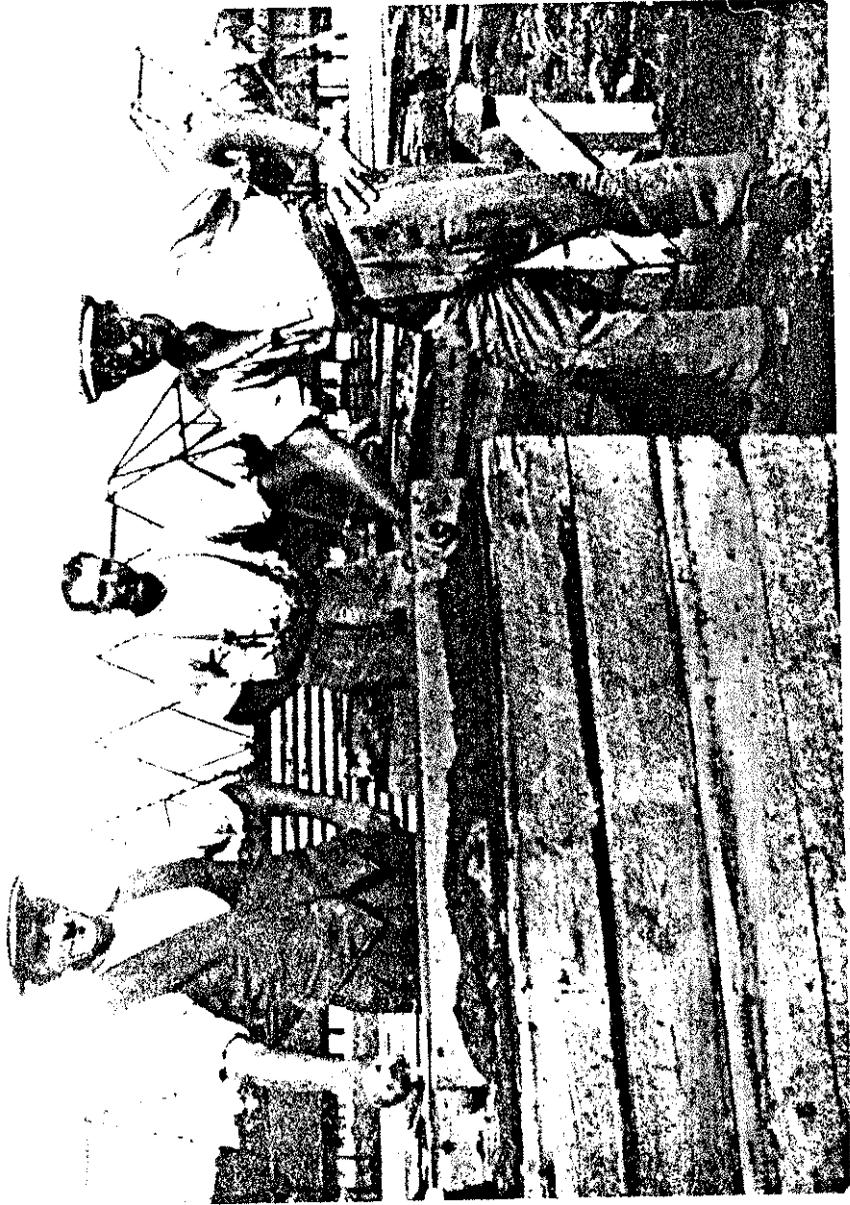
Owing to the tremendous increase in motor traffic along the Middleton Boulevard it was proposed to construct a tunnel under Derby Road to connect with Clifton Boulevard. Many meetings, opposing the scheme, were held in St. Mary's Church Hall, and concern was expressed at the disastrous effect the proposed tunnel would have on the area from the Church's point of view. However, the proposal succeeded and here we have another major change in our vicinity.

A change in currency has taken place during our period of review, decimalisation taking over.

History appears to have repeated itself.

The old Lenton Priory, until dissolution consisted of its seat of religious teaching, education, and its care of the sick in the hospital Chapel of St. Anthony (now the Priory Church).

Four hundred years later we have, quite close to the old site, a new and vast complex of education, hospital and the Church of St. Mary.



Workmen making bricks for the Jolliston tank bungalows.
Note the steel framework of the bungalows in construction.

APPEALS FOR CHURCH EXTENSION

Previous to the purchase of Wollaton Park the Nottingham Corporation had also negotiated and obtained an area around the large house known as Lenton Abbey which was part of the old Priory demesne, a farm on which the monks from Lenton worked. This land was to be used for housing development.

The ecclesiastical boundaries of the Parish with these two acquisitions, stretched from the Drill Hall (top of Derby Road) west to Woodside Road, Lenton Abbey, and north to south, Wollaton Road to Trent Side (North Wilford).

Rev. R.J.R. Skipper, Vicar of Lenton, aware of the spiritual provision required for the occupiers of these two new estates, immediately set plans for church extension in Lenton.

Extract from an old Nottingham newspaper "The Nottingham Guardian" printed in 1932 read, "The creation of two big municipal housing estates in the Parish of Lenton has within the last few years led to a substantial addition to the population of a parish which was already inconveniently large, and the time has arrived when more churches are required. The Vicar of Lenton is about to issue a public appeal for £25,000 to build two churches and two church halls on the Wollaton Park and Lenton Abbey housing estates".

Mr. T. Cecil Howitt, F.R.I.B.A., architect of the Nottingham Council House had prepared a design for a church and hall on a piece of land near the Wollaton Park Lodge on Derby Road, while Rev. R.J.R. Skipper, who was a practising architect and surveyor previous to his entering the ministry, suggested a design for Lenton Abbey.

Mr. Howitt's design for the church was to accommodate 440 persons with lady chapel at the south-east corner, while the adjacent hall

PARISH OF LENTON,
NOTTINGHAM.

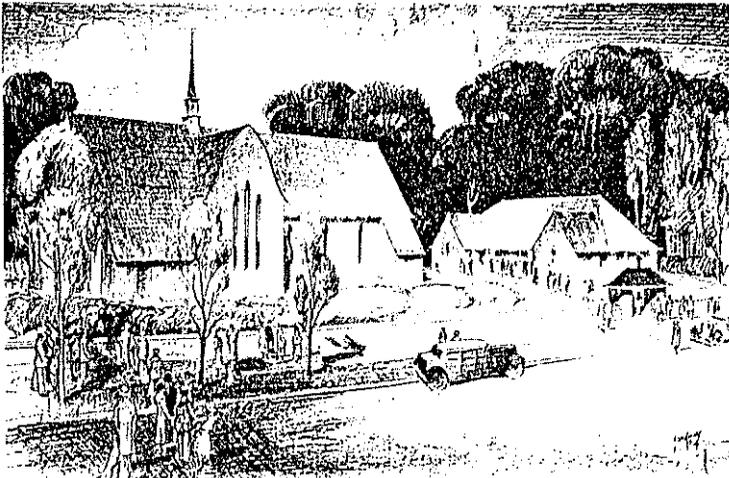
Population estimated at over 23,000
and still rapidly increasing.

£25,000 URGENTLY NEEDED

FOR

TWO NEW CHURCHES AND TWO CHURCH HALLS

on large Housing Estates already
developed, and houses occupied.



PROPOSED CHURCH AND HALL OF
ST. MARY'S, WOLLATON PARK.

T. CECIL HOWITT, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT

would seat 250 persons with rooms underneath suitable for men's club.

It was proposed, owing to the financial situation with church extension in Lenton to build and manage initially with just a Church Hall at Wollaton Park (as had been the case at Lenton Abbey) but thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Mr. Wm. G. Player it was possible to proceed with the building of a church, church hall and curate's house on the site which he had already purchased from the Corporation.

William Goodacre Player, before moving to Whatton Manor, resided at Lenton Hurst, Adams Hill, now a University hostel. He was one of the two sons of John Player and he and his brother, John Dane Player, were great benefactors to the churches and hospitals in Nottingham.

Initially there had been some difficulty with the purchase of the land for the church site owing to the mineral rights underground. To avoid possible subsidence at any future date, Mr. Player made an agreement with the colliery owner, that there should not be any mining underneath or near the area where the church buildings were to be erected. Consequently he paid for the land on top and compensated the Colliery owner for the unmined coal beneath.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY

It was on Saturday, 24th July 1937 that an experience, almost unique in the history of church extension, for a Bishop to officiate at the foundation stone laying ceremony of two churches in the same parish on the same day.

Such was the occasion in Lenton Parish that day.

Hundreds of parishioners from Lenton and Wollaton Park assembled for the first ceremony at the site on which was to be built the Church of St. Mary, Wollaton Park.

The officiating clergy were Bishop Neville S. Talbot, deputising for the Bishop of Southwell (who at the time was gradually improving in health), the Archdeacon of Nottingham (Rev. H. V. Turner) and Rev. R.J.R. Skipper, Vicar of Lenton.

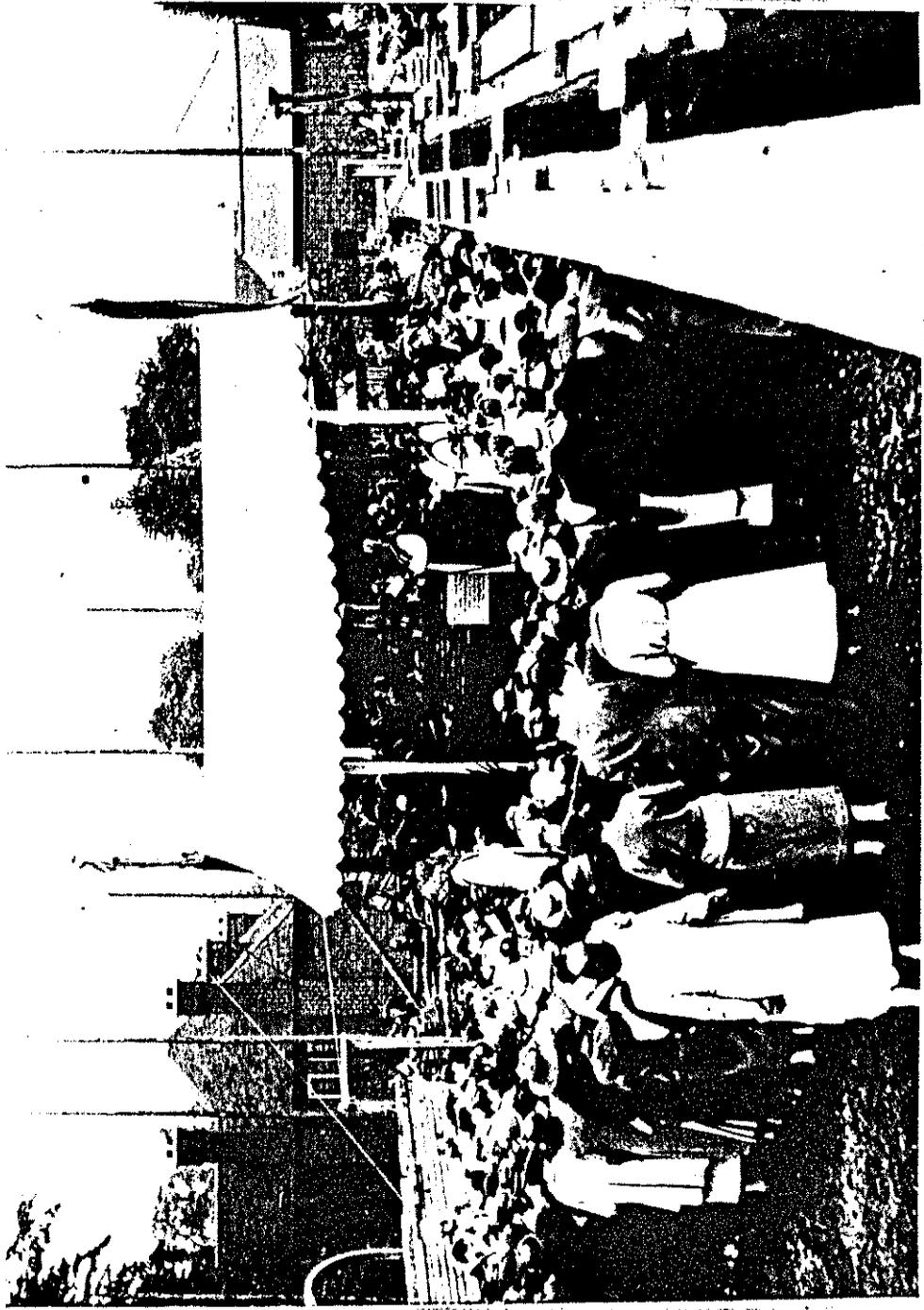
Also present were the Lord Mayor (Coun. E. Purser), the Sheriff and Mrs. Savage, Sir Albert Ball (Deputy Lord-Mayor who attended in his capacity as Church-Warden of Holy Trinity, Lenton), Lady Ball, Mr. W. G. Player (donor of the site and buildings), Sir Louis Pearson and Principal H.A.S. Wortley (Nottingham University College).

Mr. T. Cecil Howitt, F.R.I.B.A., the Architect, presented a trowel to Mrs. M. Player, wife of the donor, who after tapping the foundation stone, said "In the faith of Jesus Christ, we lay this stone, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen".

On the wall behind the font, commemorating this act, the stone can be seen, with the following inscription:

"This stone was laid by Mabel Player, Wife of William Goodacre Player, J.P., who built this church in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven".

A box containing coins, copies of the plans, and Nottingham newspapers of the day, were placed under the stone.



The Laying of the Foundation Stone of St. Mary's Church, Wollaton Park, in the Parish of Lenton, on Sunday, June 14, 1903. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Neville S. Talbot, D.D., Assistant Bishop of St. Andrew's, is in the foreground.

The service was assisted by the combined choirs of Holy Trinity and Priory Church, Lenton, and at the conclusion the clergy, choir and guests were conveyed to Lenton Abbey for the foundation stone laying ceremony of St. Barnabas.

Why was the church at Wollaton Park dedicated to St. Mary?

Originally the parish was within the boundaries of Sherwood Forest, also it comprised the now extinct villages of Morton (situated around where now is Trent-side Farm - against the Clifton Bridge), Keighton (where now is the University campus) and Sutton Passeys, which was near what is now the traffic island at the junction of Middleton Boulevard with Wollaton Road.

There was a village by the name of Sutton, taken by William the Conqueror from the Saxons, and given to the Prior of the ancient abbey of Lenton and a certain Wm. Peverel. This was none other than the 'lost village' of Sutton Passeys.

In 1307, a certain John Passey became Lord of Sutton - hence the name 'Sutton of the Passeys' and some 33 years later the first church known to have existed there was built and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. Michael de Lyndeley was the first priest and there is a list of successors to the year 1535. The chantry called the "Sutton Passeys Chantry" was transferred to Wollaton where the village church had been burnt down.

To quote from Godfrey's "History of the Parish and Priory of Lenton", the village of Sutton Passeys existed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for it is entered in a Subsidy Roll of 1558. In Thoroton's time, however, it was "totally decayed" and the site lost in Wollaton Park. It is probable that it had disappeared many years before this time.

The extinct village is preserved in the naming of Sutton Passeys Crescent in the modern planning.

St. Mary's Church - Collaton Park.

Procession at the Pavilion Stone Laying, 24th July 1937.

Rev. J. J. Pinner followed by:- Lady Innes and Lord Mayor,
(Ald. J. W. Savage) the Bishop (Ald. Furness) Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Player, Mr. H. Butler (Builder)
Mr. Louis Pearson, & Cecil Davitt, Prof. Forsley (Principal University College)



PREPARATION FOR THE ESTABLISHED
CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S

As the housing progressed in the Park much ecclesiastical preparation and activity was evident.

Sunday Schools, Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Youth Fellowship and Mothers' Union went into action, either as members of the established organisations in Lenton or branches of them.

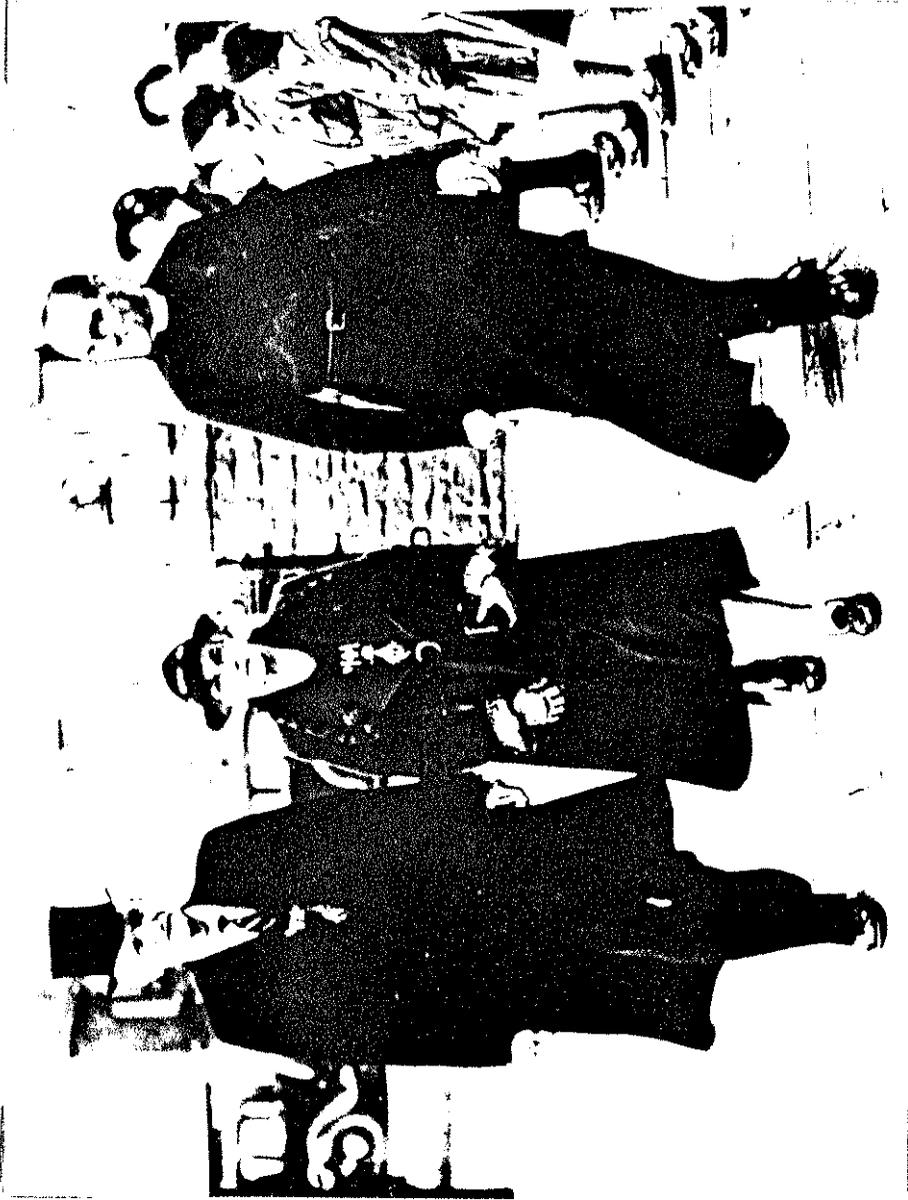
There being no place for public worship many residents attended either Holy Trinity or St. Anthony some becoming valued members of the P.C.C.

A quote from the Wollaton Park section of the Lenton Parish Magazine, August 1942, under the heading "In the good old days" was as follows:-

"We were browsing the other day in some old parish magazines and it was rather interesting to notice the growth of the work in Wollaton Park".

Whilst it is difficult to ascertain exactly when some of the work started, it is interesting to note in an article in 1931 "that a Grand Oriental Fair was to be held in Lenton, and there was a stall organised by Mrs. Pearson designated St. Mary's District, Wollaton Park".

Also it stated, "A long felt want has at last been supplied by the opening of a Sunday School in the new Council Schools, Wollaton Park. About 100 Scholars attended on the first Sunday October 4th 1931 and numbers still increasing". The Rev. T. Bryan was in charge of the school at its inception. (Rev. T. Bryan was an assistant curate at Holy Trinity and later became the first Vicar of St. Margaret's Church, Aspley, dedicated in 1936, donated by Mr. J. D. Player (brother of Mr. W. G. Player).



Conservation Service - 26th November 1938.
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. J. Baldwin)
being escorted by Rev. H. J. A. Skipper (Vicar of Isenton)

In a magazine issued in December 1931 is a short article entitled "Wollaton Park" stating that the Sunday School is growing and that it has been decided to form a group of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies.

There was a reminder of the St. Mary's District Stall at the Bazaar (1931) with this comment "It need scarcely be added that we are hoping for a good attendance of our new parishioners in this district at the Bazaar. For those who are not aware of the fact, the Vicar in his letter of August 1931, states that the Ecclesiastical boundary of the Parish (of Lenton) has now been altered, which now brings into the Parish of Lenton all the houses erected on what is now known as Wollaton Park Estate".

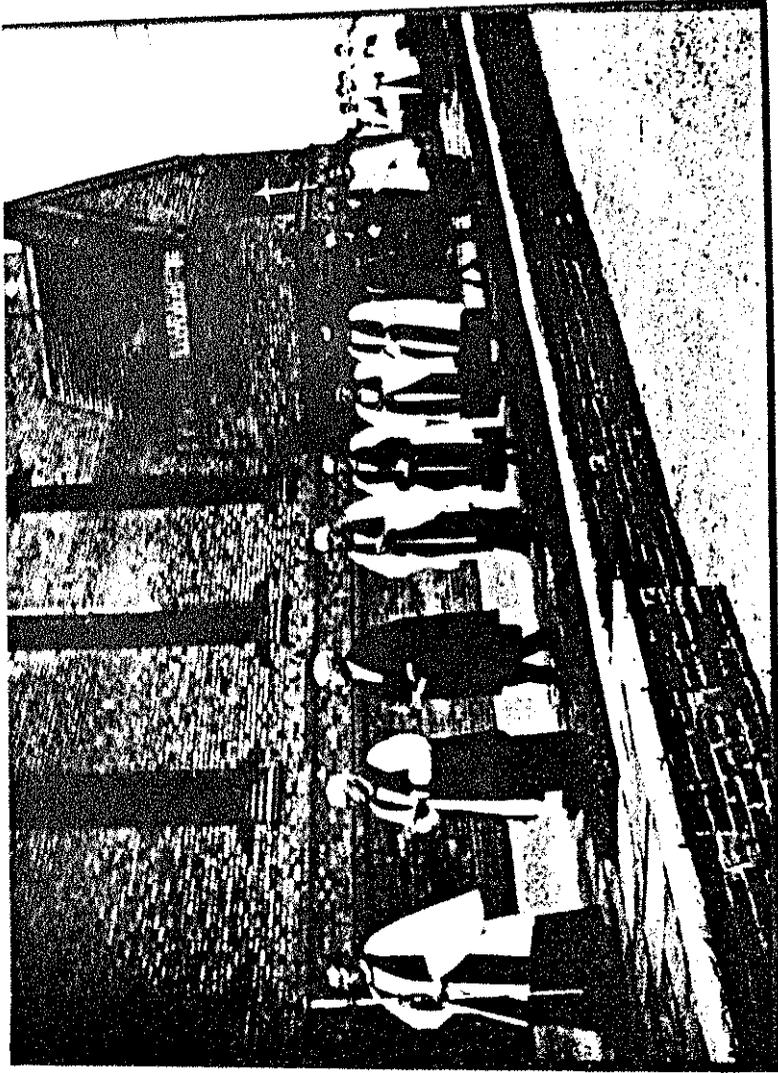
THE CONSECRATION OF ST. MARY'S
CHURCH, WOLLATON PARK

The Church of St. Mary, Wollaton Park, was consecrated on Saturday, 26th November 1938, by the Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Southwell, Dr. Henry Mosley.

Present were the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Ald. J. Baldwin, and the Lady Mayoress, 30 Clergy from Parishes in the Southwell Diocese, Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Player and their family, Mr. J. D. Player (brother of Mr. W.G.); St. Mary's Girl Guides, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies formed a guard of honour.

The Bishop, followed by the Chancellor, the Registrar, the Provost, the Archdeacon and Canons, was received at the North door of the Church by the Vicar of Lenton (Rev. R.J.R. Skipper) and other clergy.

Mr. W. G. Player presented the Bishop with a petition, praying that he would consecrate the Church.



The Procession round the Church at the Consecration of St. Mary's Church,
Saturday, November 24th, 1936.

Reading from left to right — Bishop's Chaplain, the Lord Bishop of Southwell, Dr. Henry Mosley, Mr. Noel Perry, Diocesan Registrar, the Provost of Southwell, the Ven. W. J. Conybeare, Archdeacon Hales, Canon J. R. Smith, the Rev. J. Bellis, representing C.P.A.S., Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Payer, the Rev. R. J. R. Skipper (front).

A procession, headed by the Bishop and followed by the Choir (from Holy Trinity, Lenton), then proceeded to make a complete circuit of the outside of the Church singing the hymn "The Church's One Foundation".

On returning to the north door, the Bishop knocked three times on the closed church door with his Pastoral Staff, saying, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in".

The reply from within the Church by the Curate-in-Charge (Rev. Alan Weir) was, "Who is the King of Glory?", and the Bishop replied, "It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord of Hosts. He is the King of Glory", and the door was opened (from within).

The Vicar's Warden (of Holy Trinity) delivered the key of the Church to the Bishop, who entered, followed by the procession.

Standing near the west end of the Church, the Bishop said,
 "Peace be to this House from God our Heavenly Father,
 Peace be to this House, from His Son who is our Peace,
 Peace be to this House from the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

The Lord be with you".

The procession walked the Church from west to east, singing Psalm 87, and the Bishop placed the keys on the Holy Table after which all kneeling, sang "Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire".

The Font was blest after which the Holy Table was hallowed during the singing of further psalms.

Finally, the congregation, all standing, heard the Chancellor read the Sentence of Consecration which the Bishop signed.

In his sermon the Bishop said, "This fine new Church should become used more and more by the people of the district. It would be a tragedy beyond words if the residents of Wollaton Park



Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Bathurst (Dr. Henry Gosley)
at the North Door about to knock three times on the Church Door
seeking permission to enter for the consecration of the Church.

did not use and come to love this Church so beautifully conceived and carried out".

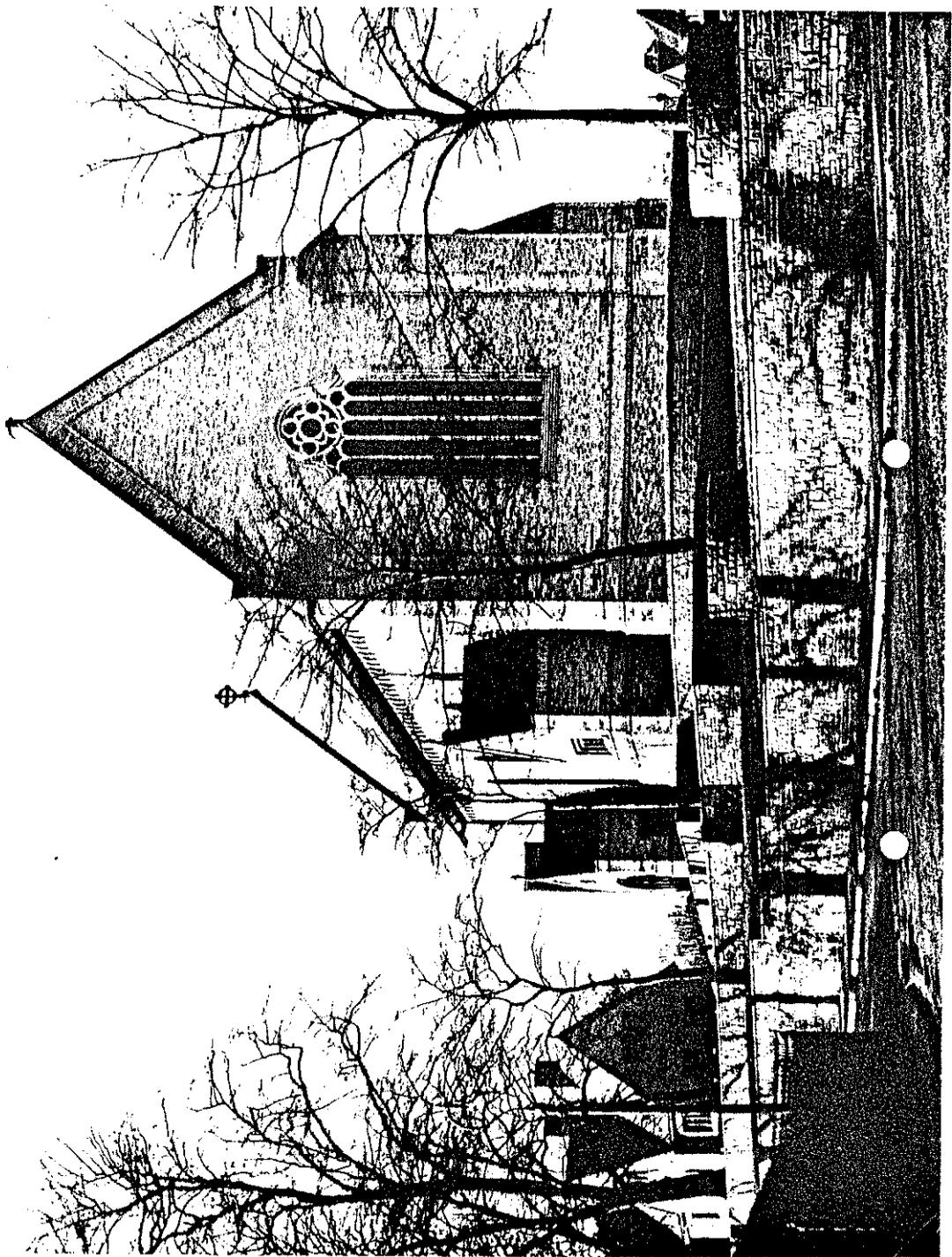
Thanksgiving services were celebrated the next day, Sunday 27th November 1938, the first service being Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m., the Bishop being the Celebrant. The Collect was as appointed for SS. Simon and Jude, the Epistle from Revelations, Chapter 21, verses 1-7, while the Gospel was from St. Matthew, Chapter 21, verses 12-16.

Morning Service, Holy Communion and Sermon, at which the Preacher was Rev. Canon P. Holbrook M.A. (Vicar of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Nottingham).

Afternoon children's service was held and the Preacher, the Vicar of Lenton, Rev. R.J.R. Skipper, C.F.

Evening Prayer, Holy Communion and Sermon, at which the Preacher was the Provost of Southwell, the Very Rev. W.J. Coneybeare M.A.

Architect and Surveyor:- Mr. T. Cecil Howitt F.R.I.B.A.
 Builder : H. Butler & Son of Lenton
 Organ Builder : J.W. Walker & Sons
 Church Furnishers: J. Wippell & Co. Ltd.



THE CHURCH TODAY

As will be remembered the original plan submitted by the architect, Mr. Howitt, included the provision of North and South Transepts and a morning chapel, with overall accommodation, congregation and choir, numbering 410 persons.

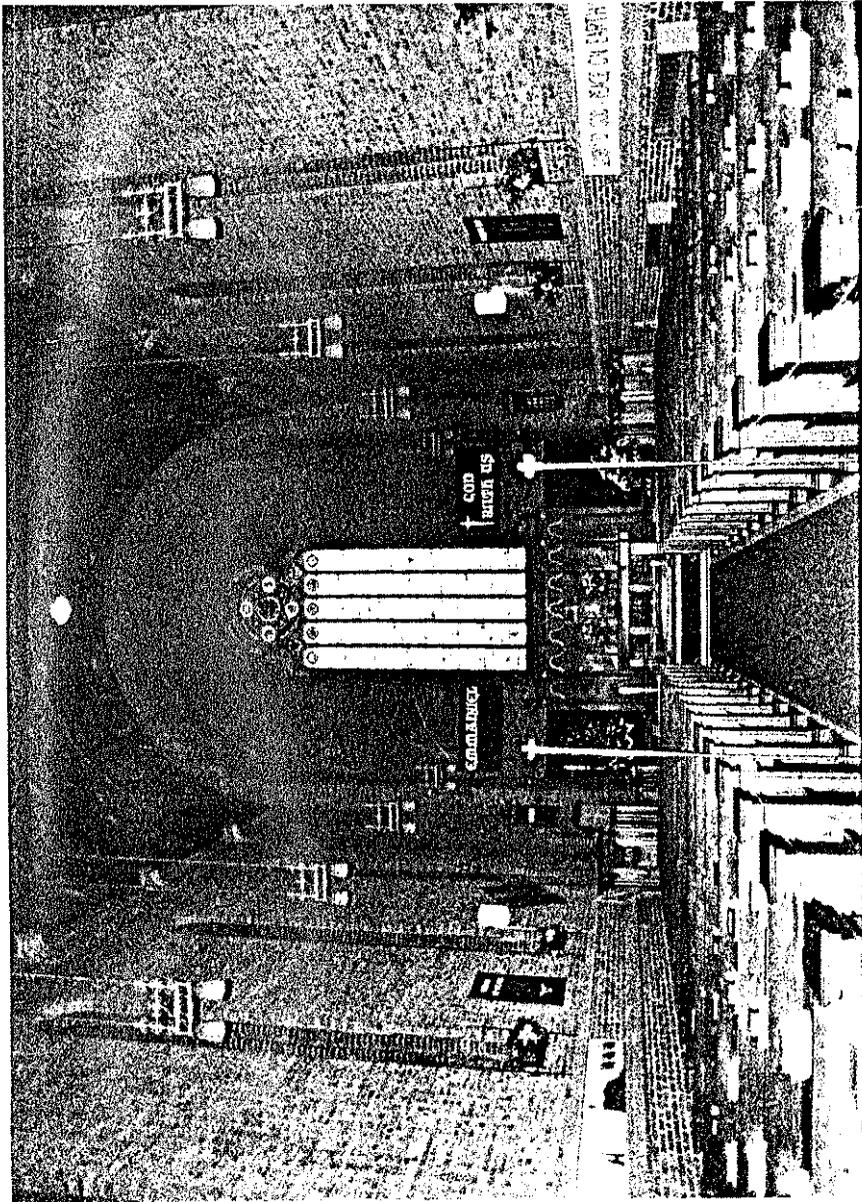
However, the completed building presented us with a rectangular plan devoid of transepts.

During the time that Mr. W. G. Player was negotiating with Rev. R.J.R. Skipper and Mr. Howitt over the proposed building of a church at Wollaton Park, it so happened that he was taking a holiday in Bournemouth when he saw a recently built church there and was very impressed. So much so that he suggested the Vicar and Mr. Howitt go and view the building. He thought the windows were ideal, flooding the church with daylight, but thought that the stucco finish outside would be most unsuitable for this area. It was the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, so how much similarity there is would require a visit to that church.

Entering the church of St. Mary is the striking feature of the hall-like interior with lofty proportions, with furnishings of light oak and walls of light stone-coloured bricks, surmounted by a continuous semi-circular coffered ceiling of untreated oak. The roof is sealed in acoustic panels of unusual design, painted in striking traditional colours.

The brickwork is carried out in 2" small bricks, manufactured by Williamson Cliffe of Stamford, there being certain decorative motifs in the bricks to suit the cornices.

Looking eastward is the East Window, the central roundel in



ST. MARY'S WOLLATON PARK

the window head is the Greek inscription IHS (IHEOYE) Jesus. The interspaces are various elements of the Bible.

At the head, the Crown of Thorns; on the left-hand side when facing the window is the coiled serpent on the pole; opposite which is Jacob's ladder; and the panel in the lower position of the roundel portrays the robe in which Christ was crucified.

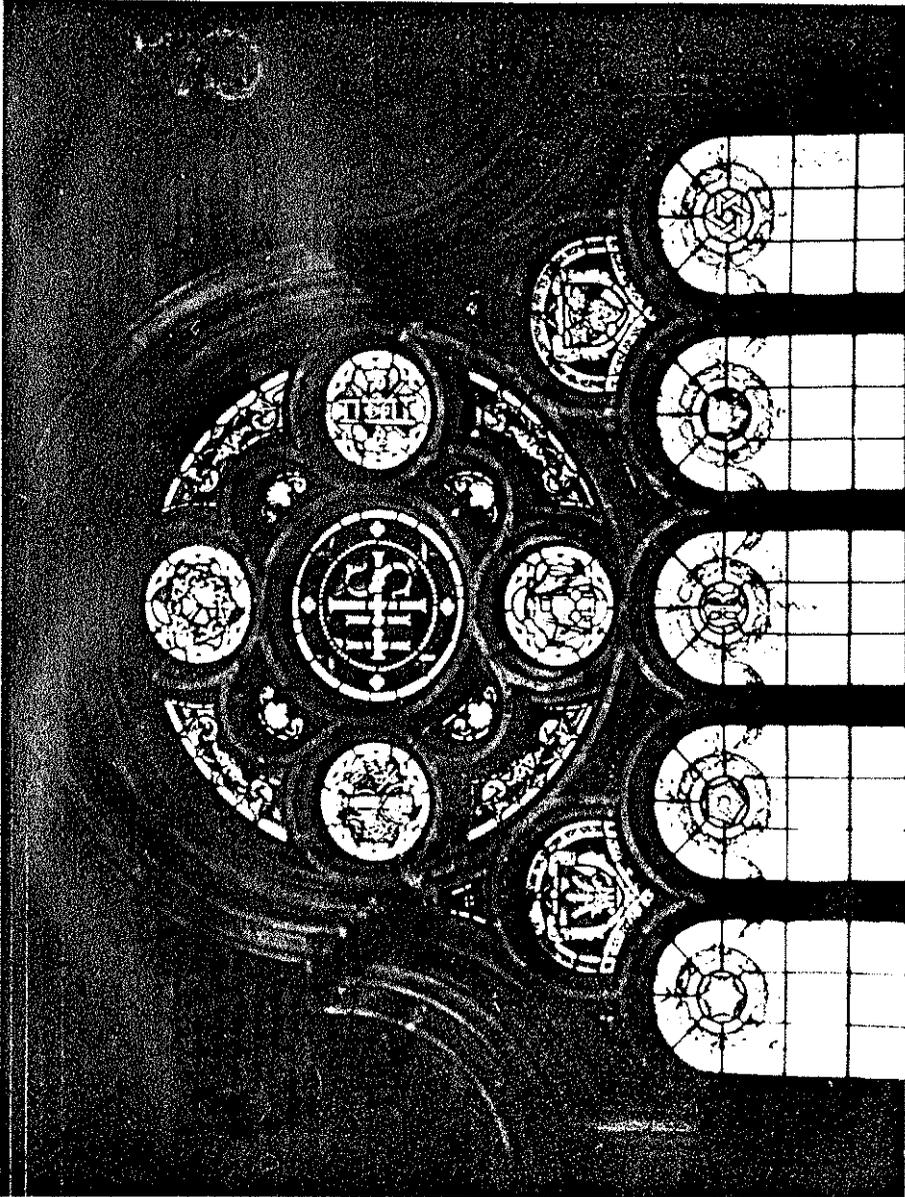
Flanking the roundel are two vegetation elements; on the left there is the Palm and opposite this the Vine with Grapes.

The window is divided into five tall lancets. These are mounted with leaded cams, the glazing being carried out in Norman slab glass - rarely used nowadays but gives a soft natural glazing effect, free from glare and enhancing the quality of light.

These five lancet windows terminate at the head in simple stained glass motifs: from the left, the Star of Bethlehem; the Mystic Rose; the Latin inscription INRI, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews (Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum; the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah; and David's Star).

The reredos is the decorative screen backing the Holy Table and is carried out in natural oak with heading motifs, reading from the left:-

	IHS (IHEOYE) Jesus
	Alpha (Revelations 1.8)
	Lily motif
central	The Chalice, the Communion Cup
	Lily motif
	Omega
	IHS



EAST WINDOW, ST. MARY'S, WOLLATON PARK

The Holy Table, of light oak, rests on eight oak pillars standing on a marble base. On the front of the table, in gold capitals, reads "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME".

On the Holy Table, one each side, is the Book of Holy Communion with Collects, Epistles and Gospels for use throughout the year, one presented by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge while the other was "presented in loving memory of J.A.N. Bulleid, beloved husband of Heather Bulleid, died 7th Oct. 1952 (University)".

Also there is a book on the Table "Altar Services 1980" in which is written "This book was given in Loving Memory of Laurence Neville Bradbury, by his wife Freda. Together, they worshipped God, in this Church".

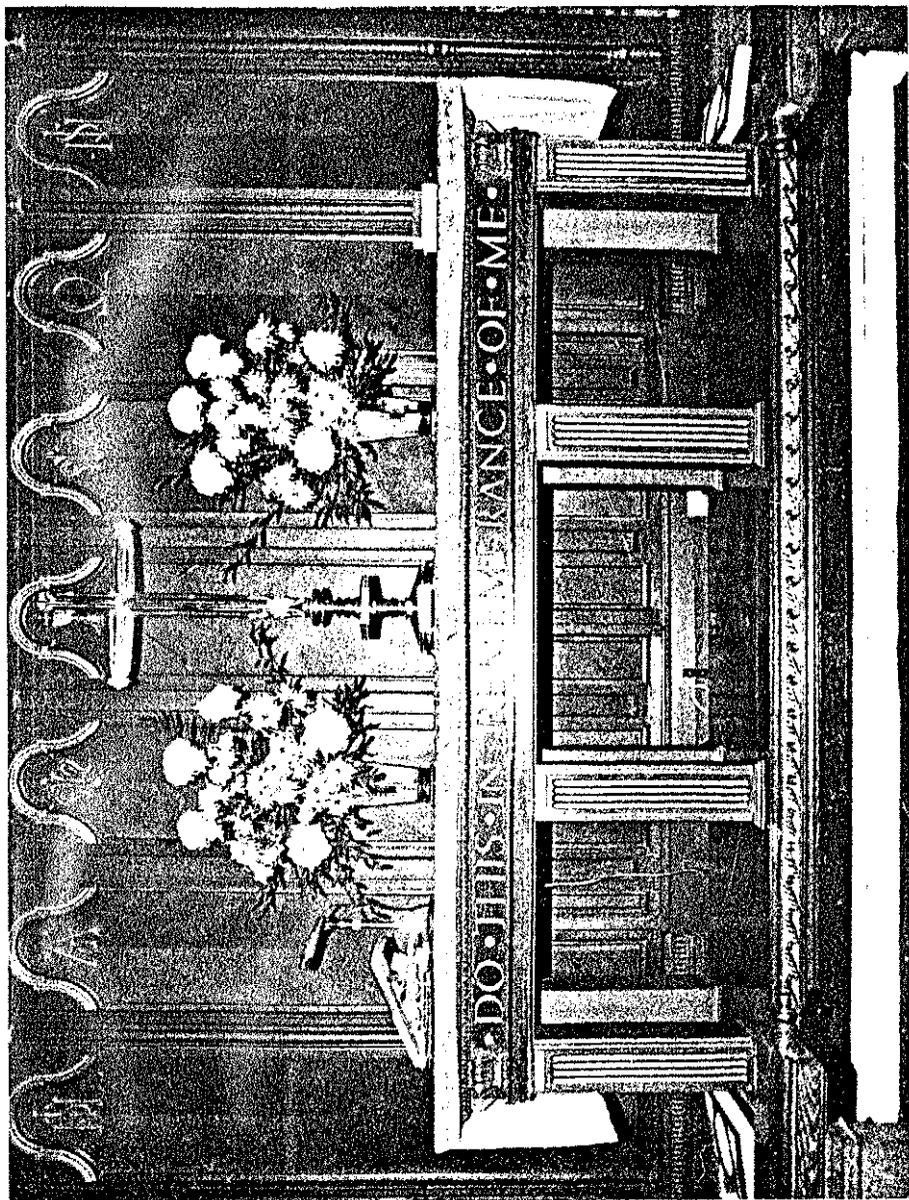
"Freely ye have received, Freely give" adorns the rim of the Offertory Plate.

The pulpit, on the left hand side of the chancel, has written on the book-rest (facing the speaker) the printed words "SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS".

On the right is the console of the double-manual straight organ, of unusual design, the pipes of which are placed high above the carved grilles on either side of the West end of the Church.

The organ-builders were J. W. Walker & Sons Ltd. and this particular instrument proved to be of great interest shortly after its installation, so much so that the organist of St. Peters, Leicester, Mr. H. Barnes A.R.C.O., sought permission to write an article in one of the music papers of that time (1939).

From early correspondence received from the organ-builders is the following quote:- Tuning and maintenance of the organ,



HOLY TABLE - ST. MARY'S, WOLLATON PARK

seeing that the instrument requires special care and attention, owing to its unusual design and layout, £9.9.0 for 4 visits per annum.

The Oak Lectern dedicated in 1960 replacing the original, was an anonymous gift to the Church.

After consultation with Miss Player, daughter of the donor of the Church, the old lectern was sent to the Rector of Asby in Westmoreland for use in his church.

Two oak pedestals for flower vases, one by the pulpit, the other by the prayer desk, were a bequest.

The aisle windows, five each side, glazed in Norman Slab glass, similar to the one at the East end.

At the West end of the Church is a window also similar in design to the one at the East end and portrays christian motifs, with a central roundel inscription in Greek meaning Christ. The letter X (Kni) and P (ro).

Below the window, and above the tablet commemorating the laying of the foundation stone (mentioned earlier) is a bronze tablet on which is written, "This tablet was erected by the Congregation of St. Mary's Church, Wollaton Park, in the Parish of Lenton, in token of their appreciation and gratitude to the donor,

William Goodacre Player, J.P.

for the gift of the Church, Church Hall and Church House.

This Church was consecrated on 26th November 1938 by

Henry 4th Bishop of Southwell.

Rev: Rainald J. R. Skipper, Vicar of Lenton.

Rev: Alan W. I. Weir, M.A. Curate I/C

E.A. Smith
R.F. Berkeley
Churchwardens
St. Mary's

T. Cecil Howitt, F.R.I.B.A.
Architect and Surveyor

Harry Butler
Main Contractor

LAUS DEO

The above tablet was unveiled on Sunday morning Jan. 28th 1940 by the Bishop of Southwell.

The Font, situated at the West end, made of Rubbed Portland Stone and made by Saunders of Ipswich, and proportions being similar to the Norman Font (1100 A.D.) in Holy Trinity Church, Lenton.

On the North wall, near the entrance door, are the names of all the ministers of the church since its consecration, the board on which they are written being provided out of a bequest and placed in church in memory of Mr. Oliver Walker, a former Church Warden.

The floor of the church is Trowertine, which is now mainly carpeted.

Recently, the pews which were situated each side of the Font have been removed and the floor carpeted.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY'S
WOLLATON PARK

As the years passed on there was a strong feeling developed among the congregation to be independent of the Mother Church, Holy Trinity, Lenton, and after several references had been made to the Vicar, he made a statement regarding the daughter Churches.

He suggested that as Mr. Player had supplied everything for a daughter church or chapel of ease, Mr. Player's wishes expressed at the time of discussion on Church extension in the Parish should be carried out and that the new Churches (St. Mary's and St. Barnabas) belong to the Mother Church.

However, following the tragic and sudden loss of Canon Skipper on 26th September 1954 who died in the pulpit while preaching the Sermon at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square, Nottingham (now demolished), the Diocese gave favourable support to previous requests.

On 14.2.55, Rev. J.H.L. Phillips, Archdeacon of Nottingham, outlined developments on proposals recently put to the Bishop for the constitution of St. Mary's as a separate parish.

1. University of Nottingham campus at present in the Parish of Lenton to be withdrawn and included in the Parish of St. Mary's, Nottingham.
2. St. Mary's, Wollaton Park to be constituted a separate parish.
3. St. Mary's, Wollaton Park to be licensed for marriages.

On Tuesday, 29th November 1955, Rev. E. A. Strickland, M.A. was licensed as curate in charge of the Conventional District of St. Mary's, Wollaton Park, by the Lord Bishop of Southwell (the preliminary stage before becoming a separate parish).

Complete fulfilment of hope came on Friday, 1st February, 1957 when Rev. E. A. Strickland M.A. became the first Vicar of the Parish, after the Service of Institution and Induction by the Lord Bishop of Southwell, at which was present the Ven. Archdeacon J.H. Phillips, Canon R. H. Hawkins (St. Mary's, Nottingham) and the Lord Mayor (Ald. W.J. Cox).

St. Barnabas; Lenton Abbey also became a separate parish, but since 1977 the Vicar of St. Mary's, Wollaton Park has administered both parishes, first by the assistance of a deaconess and now by a Curate.

As an appreciation of the help and advice given at the time of the constitution of the Parish of St. Mary's, the P.C.C. at its meeting in November 1959, decided to contribute £5/5/- towards a ring, being purchased by the churches of the Diocese and being presented to Archdeacon J.H.L. Phillips on his appointment as Bishop of Portsmouth.

At the P.C.C. meeting held on 20th July 1959, Rev. E.A. Strickland paid tribute to Mr. W. G. Player, J.P., who had died on 27th June, 1959, aged 93 years and said how much the people of St. Mary's owed to Mr. Player's generosity in building and equipping not only the Church but also the Vicarage and Church Hall.

On the wall at the west end of the Church is a tablet commemorating the Constitution of the Parish of St. Mary, Wollaton Park, 29th November 1955.

WAR YEARS AT ST. MARY'S 1939-1946

At the time of dedication of the church it was obvious that war clouds were hovering over Europe, as Germany attempted to extend its borders and on 3rd September 1939, when Germany marched into Poland, England declared war after unsuccessful negotiations.

No-one could imagine what the future held but it proved to be a long, anxious and weary time for all, with its inevitable, changes of routine of life and shortages of materials and food.

"1939" meant "black-outs" (all windows were completely covered so that not a crack of light could be seen from outside), no lights illuminating the roads and vehicles with dimmed lights only sufficient for oncoming traffic to be aware of their approach.

In the October 1939 magazine, Rev. Alan Weir, Curate in charge of St. Mary's, declared, "Our motto for these 'black-out' times is, business as usual. In these days when we are preparing for rationing it is good to remember that there is no rationing of God's love or God's grace to us.

It is good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over".

He continued, "Our clear duty is to pray for those who have left their homes to go "on active service"."

Many of the younger men had been called to serve by this time while the Vicar of the Parish, Rev. R.J.R. Skipper who was Chaplain to the Robin Hood's Regiment (Territorial Army) pre-war, joined his regiment for annual camp in August 1939 and was prevented from returning to the parish as the country went to war. The parish was administered by the Rev. E.J. Bardsley moving from St. Barnabas

where he was Curate I/C to the Vicarage at Lenton.

The annual Parish Bazaar was always held in the Church Hall at Lenton, each church having a stall there for three days but 1939 was not like that, since there was no provision for 'black out' at Lenton, no air-raid shelter, and no convenient bus service to serve the parish.

"Business as usual" had been declared by Rev. A. Weir, and the annual bazaar was held in St. Mary's Church Hall, which had the "black-outs", convenient air-raid shelter and on the bus route, all resulting in £386/17/11 net profit over 3 days.

Good Companions Working Party was officially enrolled with the W.V.S. and helped with hospital supplies for the forces and knitting comforts for the troops.

A Service of Intercession was held every Tuesday at 11.00 until 11.10 a.m.

The War Diary:-

- Dec. 1939 Handel's "Messiah" recital in Church Hall.
Records played on radiogram.
- Oct. 1940 Evening prayers commenced at 3.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.
service resumed in March 1941.
- Oct. 1940 The Church Hall was commandeered by the Ministry
of Defence. Alternative accommodation found at
Curate's House for War Work Party and Mother's Union.
- May 1941 Satisfactory to note excellent progress made by
Guide Company under Mrs. Jackson and Miss Mayfield.
27 members enrolled.
- Brownie Pack - Mrs. Stone - Saturday mornings -
Harrow Road Schools.
- Scouts - difficult time due to leadership.
Pat Harper now i/c.
- Wolf Cubs - Meet Wollaton Park Gates Mondays 5.30 p.m.

- May 1941 Deaths of Philip Stanton (4/47 Scouts) and Eric Roberts. Sympathy offered to relations and friends. Lost due to enemy action over Nottingham.
- April 1942 Rev. A. Weir, M.A., announces his acceptance of the living of St. John's, Stratford, London.
- Oct 1942 Rev. K.C. Pond appointed curate i/c St. Mary's, Wollaton Park. His first service was 1st November 1942 but no "Welcome Social" possible owing to there being no Church Hall available.
- 1943 Easter Sunday flowers (lilies) donated by Mrs. W.G. Player. Sympathy was expressed to Mr. & Mrs. Player in the loss of one of their sons, killed in action.
- Sept. 3rd,
1943 National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer and Dedication.
- June '44 The long expected invasion of Europe by the Allied Forces ('D' Day) and reports that the "gathering of people in our churches seems to have been general everywhere".
- The American 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment had been stationed in Wollaton Park for some time before their "drop" into Normandy on the night before 'D' Day. After 33 days fighting only 50 per cent survived.
- June '44 Gift Day. Concert by members of the U.S. Army Band and Glee Club. (Stationed in the park).
- Dec. '44 Return to the Parish of the Vicar, after serving five years as Chaplain to the Forces.
- March '45 Church Hall de-requisitioned. Repairs to be made and re-decoration required before re-opening. Re-opened

on May 10th (Ascension Day) after service in Church followed by Social in Hall.

- May 8th '45 End of War in Europe (VE Day).
- August '45 Atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- Aug.15th '45 End of War in the Far East (VJ Day).
- Oct. '45 St. Mary's Youth Fellowship started with 20 members being enrolled.
- April '46 Campaign of Christian Witness "Going out together of regulars to make contact with irregulars".

BEQUESTS

During the 50 years of the Church of St. Mary's, Wollaton Park, there have been numerous bequests in the various forms.

Some as additions to the furniture and fittings and others to replace and cover the cost of materials worn out over the years.

Fortunately the expense of conversion from gas-lighting to electric has never arisen like has been the experience with many older churches, but periodically the electric wiring needs renewing and also improved forms of lighting need to be installed.

Heating of the church is most important and it has its problems in finding the right equipment and the most economic method. Originally, the use of oil was the cheapest form of heating, but not so now.

A public-address system is now installed and those with hearing-aids are able to "plug in".

What a gift it was when in 1963 the local school, Margaret Glenn Bott, gave two white damask kneelers for use at weddings, while in 1969 the girls of the same school presented a new cloth for the Communion Table. Embroidered by the pupils in gold thread, along the front are depicted various motifs that are to be seen in the East window of the Church and on the reredos.

We are indebted to those who over these past years, by their kind thoughts, have bequeathed their gifts, the benefits of which we enjoy today, and we are gratefully thankful.

D I A R Y

- 8.3.48 Cost of maintaining the church adequately
£10 per week.
- 3.12.55 First wedding in St. Mary's, Wollaton Park.
- 9.4.57 Introduction of Covenant Scheme suggested.
Two new organisations formed - Young Wives Fellowship
and Weekly Prayer and Bible Study Group.
- 16.9.58 Decided to borrow from Church Commissioners £1120
to be paid back over 20 years, at 4% to meet
Wm. Woodsend's estimate for extension to Vicarage.
(Garage with bedroom above).
- 2.3.59 Lady Worker, Megan Bint, approved by Bishop,
appointed to Wollaton Park.
- 15.2.60 Death reported of Mr. T. H. Sellars, who had served
as Vicar's Warden and Treasurer for many years.
- 16.6.60 Dr. Russell Barry, Bishop of Southwell, held the
first Confirmation Service in St. Mary's,
Wollaton Park. 21 Candidates.
- Aug. '60 Reported exodus of the Spring Close neighbourhood
members of the St. Mary's congregation, in
preparation for the building of the Queens Medical
Centre.
- Nov. '60 Renovation of the Church Hall and new oil fired
heating installed, met out of legacy left by
Mr. A. E. Chapman.
- 15/23 Oct.
1960 Outstanding event of the year. Parish Mission led
by Major Butt and 6 students from Clifton (Bristol)
Theological College, preceded by Children's Mission
(17th-27th Sept.) led by Rev. J. McKechnie.

- 20.3.62 Mr. L. Winstanley appointed Group Scout Master.
- June '62 Change over to Parish Psalter.
- 4.10.62 Fluorescent lighting completed in Church Hall from Chapman bequest. (£126).
- Sept. '62 Interior of Church cleaned by firm of experienced Church cleaners, Peter McKillen of Kidderminster. Roof and walls by high-pressure vacuum process.
- 15.1.63 Report of recent Church Assembly and proposed changes in Prayer Book. Stated by the Vicar:- Changes were necessary but opposed any change in doctrine. Fear expressed that proposals might mean "higher church".
- 9.5.64 New Bishop of Southwell, Gordon Savage enthroned.
- June '64 Re-decoration of Church Hall, new sink unit and removal of cupboards from the Chapman bequest.
- Nov. '65 Introduction of Anglican Hymn Book.
- March '66 Vicar spoke of revision of the Prayer Book, last being in 1662, and that there was need for alterations. New Prayer Book would be used experimentally for 7 years. Change for sake of change should be avoided.
- 4.12.67 Proposal to introduce Revised Holy Communion Service, Series II, once a month, morning and evening, for eighteen months, alternating with 1662 Holy Communion Service.
- June '69 Continued for another year in same frequency but incorporating the Ten Commandments.

- June '69 Lengthy discussion on House Meetings which have been held in the Parish and was thought that another group should be started.
- 13.4.70 The Vicar, in his annual report, said that Church attendance at St. Mary's was going down, though this was a national trend. He stated that part of the trouble was that we were still content to use methods and strategy of the past and there seemed little evidence of willingness on the part of people to change.
- 6.7.70 It was agreed that a Roman Catholic Priest be allowed to attend the next P.C.C. meeting as an observer.
- 7.12.70 As from 1/1/71 Sunday School re-named
Explorers (7-11) Climbers (0-7)
- 28.11.71 Morning Service broadcast on Radio 4.
Dr. Neill, the preacher.
- 7.5.73 Discontinuation of Series II Holy Communion.
Series III commenced in June '73, alternating with 1662 Service.
- 7.4.74 Broadcast made for BBC transmission on the Overseas network.
Vicar gave a Series of broadcasts on Radio Nottingham.
He also considered it worthwhile his year as Lord Mayor's Chaplain.
- 14.10.74 Copies of Alternative Prayer Book (Revised) purchased and used alternatively during the month.

- 15.9.73 Concern expressed at colossal financial burdens with considerably increased quota. Concern expressed at apparent disregard at Diocesan level.
1976 quota set at £1800, an increase of £1000 over 1975.
- 17.11.75 Series III Communion used in all Communion Services for 6 months period.
- 13.9.76 First Neighbourhood Service on 19/9/76 in the southern part of the Parish. 240 letters of invitation sent out.
- 15/17 April
1977 Evangelical Conference 77 at Nottingham University.
- 28.2.77 Neighbourhood Service - north of the parish, thanks to Mr. Walmsley.
- 26.9.77 Vicar informed P.C.C. that the Bishop's request that he become Priest-in-Charge of St. Barnabas had been accepted. The living of St. Barnabas had been suspended for 5 years.
- 10.4.78 Welcome to Mr. Vic Vivian as a Layreader.
- 22.1.79 Miss D. Lummas accepted position of Deaconess St. Barnabas/St. Mary's Sept. 1979 (Ordained in Southwell Minster 29/9/79).
- 22.1.79 Vicar suggested Series III, morning and evening services, be tried for 12 months.
- 2.4.79 Five house groups now meeting regularly in different parts of the parish.

- 28.4.80 Welcome given to Rev. David Stoter as first Chaplain at the University Hospital and Dss. M. McQuillan, as his assistant.
- Feb. '81 Parish invited to form a hospital team to help in transporting patients from their ward to the hospital chapel service at the Queens Medical Centre on Sunday mornings. Mr. Strong to be convenor.
- Sept. '84 Farewell to Deaconess D. Lammas.
- Nov. '84 Approval given to signing of the consent by P.C.C. to the benefices of St. Mary's, Wollaton Park and St. Barnabas, Lenton Abbey, to be held in plurality by one incumbent.
- " " 120 copies "Mission Praise" Hymnbook purchased for use at Family Service and Evening Service.
- " " Vicar proposed to altering Evening Service to less formal structure with a focus more on youth, and so encourage families to come along together.
- " " Announcement of retirement of Bishop of Southwell.
- " " Announcement by Vicar, Rev. H. M. Kitchen, M.A. of his acceptance of another living after 13 years ministry at St. Mary's, Wollaton Park.
- June '85 Contributions to re-wiring of the Church reached £3,200.
- Sept. 16 '85 New Vicar, Rev. F. Sudworth, attended his first P.C.C. meeting at St. Mary's. Inducted 4th September '85.
- 1986 Parish Quota expected to rise by 8½% to £8,284.
- 1987 New amplification installed in Church.
- 1987 Cost of maintaining the Church, per week, June 1987 - £487
 " " " " " " " " March 1948 - £10

CHOIRMASTERS AND ORGANISTS

1938-1941	Mr. Dennis Marriott (from Holy Trinity, Lenton)
1942	Mr. Towlson
1943-1951	Mr. Whitehead
1952	Mr. H. Williams
1953-1956	Mr. Baker
1957-1965 (June)	Mr. Reynolds
Nov. 1965	Mr. P. L. Noble
1966-1968	Mr. Kirk
Nov. 1968-1974	Mr. Peter Price
1974-	Mr. Beck
1974	Mr. Welton
1977	Mrs. C. Smith
1981	Mr. D. Lovegrove

In February, 1946, a suggestion was made that ladies be admitted to the choir owing to the shortage of boys. The general feeling was in favour of boys.

By July 1946, it had been accepted that females be accepted but there arose a problem over payment. Whilst it was thought the younger members of the choir should be encouraged to give their services free, a small acknowledgment of their services proved an encouragement if not an inducement. A quarterly payment was decided to be made to the girls as well as the boys, after a probationary period of six months.

A Gift Day was held later to purchase 6 gowns and caps for the girls.

In 1955, the leading boy wore a medallion, a gift from the Organist and Choirmaster, Mr. Baker.

In December 1957 the Choir became affiliated members to the Royal School of Church Music. Twice a year member choirs are invited to sing choral evensong in Southwell Minster while younger choristers are able to attend special courses at the Minster.

The highlight of this year is the achievement of our junior treble, David, son of Elizabeth and Alan White, who has qualified for a place in Lichfield Cathedral Choir. Although the White family live near Lichfield they attend choir practice and Sunday services at least once a fortnight.

The organ, built by J. W. Walker and Sons, was overhauled, cleaned and repaired in 1957 at a cost of £348, taking 3 weeks to complete, while a modification took place in 1967 and in 1980 "major preventative work was carried out".

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Long before the Church buildings were planned a foundation was being slowly constructed in the form of Sunday Schools for the young. Many of the parents and the youth, in the absence of a church in their midst, joined the congregations at Holy Trinity and the Priory Church.

It was as early as Sunday, 4th October 1931, that there is reference to 100 scholars attending the newly built school on Harrow Road for Sunday School.

A magazine of December 1931 reported "further progress and scholars increasing in number, and that it was decided further to cater for the young, to form a group of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies".

When the war was declared in 1939, children were evacuated to where was considered "safe areas", that being where there was not likely to be aerial bombardment, and Wollaton Park children were included in these arrangements.

Children who were not evacuated were unable to use the school until adequate arrangements had been completed for their safety in case of an air-raid and it was November 1939 when the school was re-opened.

By April 1940, it would appear that many children had returned, possibly due to the fact that Nottingham up to that time had not suffered the air raids anticipated, although, of course, many towns were suffering immensely.

As a result of their return, the Sunday Schools re-opened with their afternoon session at Harrow Road, while those who attended in the Church Hall, carried on as before, infants at

10 a.m. and juniors 2.45 p.m.

Having supervised through those very difficult war years, tribute was paid on 20/6/45 to Miss Kennington by the Rev. K.C. Pond, for her seven years service to the Harrow Road Sunday School, but owing to her increasing disability, had to be relieved of her duties.

Numbers continued to be very encouraging over the years but the difficulty very often was that of recruiting teachers.

In October 1963 it was reported that the renting of Harrow Road School for the Sunday School was to be increased to 22 shillings per week. At this time this was double the amount of the collection which was taken in the school, so it was decided to use less rooms, thus making an increase of only $2\frac{9}{10}$ per week!

It was in the late 1960's that the attendance at the Harrow Road Sunday School had declined, so much so that it was decided to close it and the existing scholars were asked to attend the morning Sunday School at St. Mary's Church.

This brought to a close many years of good and faithful service to the younger generation (the future congregation) and thanks are due to those who gave their time for so many years, and those who continued the good work at St. Mary's.

A Children's Holiday Club is mentioned in the records, run under the leadership of Mr. D. Walmsley, 25th July - 1st August '76.

On 13/9/76 Mr. Walmsley reported an average attendance of 98 children per day and expressed his thanks to all who had contributed in their various ways, thus contributing towards the success and blessing of the Venture.

Children were introduced to the Church Service when in 1980, they met in Church for the beginning of the Service at morning prayer, followed by their meeting in the Hall.

Whilst there was a considerable reduction in the number of scholars, there also existed a desperate need for teachers.

After 13 years stalwart service, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Walford in 1984 retired from their charge of the Climbers, Explorers and Pathfinders, to be superseded by Miss Bowyer, who resigned from her post as Church Secretary in order to take up her new post.

The smaller number of children attending church is possibly due to the poor example set by their parents, whose numbers have also fallen, especially when one examines the electoral roll over the years. Rising to a peak of 239 in 1964, the figure is now almost halved.

The present day children's and young people's work can be traced back to a Sunday School Bible Class which began in the early 1950's.

MISSIONARY - SUPPORT

Much support by St. Mary's has been given in the Missionary Fields and most interesting example is that of Miss Elizabeth Trill former Guide Captain, Bookstall Secretary and Sunday School Teacher at St. Mary's.

Miss Trill was accepted for training by C.M.S. Ruanda, May 1965, and became our own missionary after training at Foxbury, Kent.

A Valedictory Service was held on 17/12/66 and Miss Trill left for Uganda 30/12/66.

Mr. David Wright married Miss V. Curtis on 26/8/65 at the Second Thai Church, Bangkok.

He taught in our Sunday School and went to Thailand with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

New Leprosy hospitals were opened in Korea, Tanganyika and Nepal, and St. Mary's contribution to the Mission to Lepers in 1963 was £64/14/3.

Rev. Gnanapragasam Gnanarasagam (Gnanam) was here for further training for the Church of South India and St. Mary's agreed to raise £150 per annum towards the cost.

Miss Edith Carr, former Sunday School Superintendent, in 1968 was accepted by the South American Missionary Society for work in Argentina.

In 1973, Mr. Kenelm and Mrs. Ann Raynor B.C.M.S. Missionaries had become Missionary Partners in Tanzania, to be followed by Miles and Brenden Ambridge on the death of Mr. Kenelm.

In 1984, Tom Gledhill (former member of St. Mary's during his student days), his wife Serena and two children went as B.C.M.S. missionaries in Kenya and became our link partners.

Also there is Bill Roberts in Nigeria and Richard Kadoje in Tanzania.

INCUMBENTS

			<u>Vicar</u>
1938-42	Curate-in-Charge	Rev. Alan Weir M.A.	(Rev. R.J.R. Skipper Vicar of Lenton)
1942	"	Rev. K. C. Pond A.K.C.	
1946	"	Rev. J. W. Rudd B.D.	
1950	"	Rev A. E. Lewis	
1953	"	Rev. F. W. Nickalls	
	Vicar of St. Mary's, Wollaton Park		
'9th Nov.			
1955	"	Rev. E. Strickland M.A.	(See page 19)
1964	"	Rev. R. Fletcher B.A.	
1971	"	Rev. H. M. Kitchen M.A.	
1985	"	Rev. F. Sudworth	

LORD BISHOPS OF SOUTHWELL

Rt. Rev. Dr. H. Mosley D.D.	1928 - 1940	
" Dr. F. R. Barry D.S.O., D.D.	1941 - 1963	
" Gordon D. Savage M.A.	1963 - 1970	
" John Denis Wakeling M.A. M.C.	1970 - 1984	
" Michael Humphrey Dickens Whinney M.A.	1985 - 1987	(Resigned through ill-health)

WARDENS OF ST. MARY'S

	<u>Vicar's</u>	<u>People's</u>
1938 - 44	Mr. E. A. Smith	Mr. R. F. Berkeley
1944 - 45	Mr. Sellars	Mr. W. A. Smith
1945 - 46	Mr. O. E. Walker	Mr. T. H. Sellars
1946 - 47	Mr. Ogle	Mr. Towse
1947 - 48	" "	Mr. Sellars
1948 - 49	" "	Mr. Towse
1949 - 50	Mr. Sellars	Mr. R. T. Bennett
1950 - 51	" "	" " "
1951 - 52	" "	Mr. J. Belcher
1952 - 53	" "	Mr. E. B. Norton
1953 - 54	" "	" " "
1954 - 59	Mr. E. B. Norton	Mr. S. C. Hearn
1959 - 60	Mr. D. H. Goffin	" " "
1960 - 65	" " "	Lt. Col. Tatham
1965 - 66	Mr. K. Harvey	" "
1966 - 67	" " "	Mr. L. J. Winstanley
1967 - 68	" " "	Mr. Barnacle

Church Wardens

1968 - 69	Mr. Barnacle	Mr. K. Harvey
1969 - 70	" "	" " Mr. & Mrs. Barnacle killed in road accident 26/8/69
1970 - 72	Mr. K. Harvey	Mr. D. Francis
1972 - 77	"	Dr. T. Short
1977 - 79	"	Mr. D. Francis
1979 - 81	"	Mr. D. Strong
1981 - 84	Mr. D. Strong	Mr. R. Southgate
1984 - 86	Mr. K. Harvey	Mr. I. Littlehales
1986 - 87	Mr. I. Littlehales	Mrs. H. Chambers

Most of the foregoing information has been obtained from the Church Records contained in the Minute Books of the P.C.C. thanks to the long serving Secretaries, the majority of the 50 years having been shared by only two, Miss M. Mayfield and Miss V. Bowyer.

Mr. K. Bamford has certainly broken the records for long service as Church Treasurer and several have given many years of service in the work of the Sunday School, Guides and Brownies.

The responsibility of Church Warden has been borne by few considering the number of years covered by this review and again, shows the faithful servants with which this Church is blessed.

Mr. W. G. Player was very proud of his gift, one of many to the Church in Nottingham.

Having attended the morning service after the consecration he wrote to Rev. R.J.R. Skipper and said, "After leaving St. Mary's, Wollaton Park, yesterday morning, I came away more convinced than ever of the beauty of this little building".

Extract from a letter to Rev. E. Strickland on 14/1/56, having received 90th birthday greetings from St. Mary's, Mr. W. G. Player replied:-
"You appear to like St. Mary's; that pleases me very much. I always felt a very nice site has been put to the best of all causes".

So, may we conclude by repeating the advice given by Bishop Mosley in his sermon at the consecration of St. Mary's:- This fine new Church should become used more and more by the people of the district.

It would be a tragedy beyond words if the residents of Wollaton Park did not use and come to love this Church, so beautifully conceived and carried out.

Photo taken approx. 1935.

Compare with the first photo. in this book. It shows the main entrance on the left. It can be seen through the archway which is now Wollaton Hall drive.



How's this for a stately home?

THE Nottingham City Council is inviting tenders for a 50-year lease of Lenton Lodge.

This unusual building was designed by Sir John Wyattville in 1824 in Elizabethan style, to form the lodge and gatehouse to Wollaton Hall and command the junction of Derby Road and Wollaton Hall Drive.

The district is well known as a desirable residential area, and the lodge, overlooking Wollaton Park, is causing widespread interest. There is a preservation order on the building, which means it cannot be externally altered, but it is certain to be repaired and brought up to date inside.

There have already been inquiries, and by the

time tenders close on February 5, there is likely to be some competition.

The property would make an imposing and unusual residence, but there may well be interest from firms or professions seeking prestige offices.

The lodge was at one time known as Beeston Tower, and was ordered to be built by the seventh Lord Middleton.

At this time, Derby Road left the line of the present road near the Rose and Crown Inn, and followed the line of the carriage drive in Wollaton Park.

The course of the road was diverted when Lord Middleton bought the land between the old and present lines of road, and enclosed it in his park.