

1872

LINDAL-WITH-MARTON



Souvenir
Centenary
Programme

1972

THE BISHOP'S FOREWORD

It all began - this Christian congregation in Lindal - not in a Church but in a school. The school, founded in 1860, was from its inception not only a place where children were taught, but where they and their parents and the whole community worshipped together week by week. Thus, I find in the records here at Rose Castle a report addressed to the Bishop by the Vicar of Dalton in 1861 that: "A service is held every Sunday afternoon in Lindal School, conducted by myself and the Assistant Curate alternately". It was not, however, until 1872 that Lindal became a separate ecclesiastical district.

It may be that when that happened the Christian congregation said: "We're on our own now". If they did, and they meant by that that from that moment they could "keep themselves to themselves" they were wrong. If, on the other hand, they meant that from that moment they had to accept the responsibilities for evangelism that are laid upon every Christian congregation they were right. The story suggests that they accepted this latter interpretation of what being on their own really meant.

The mother Church at Dalton had demonstrated its care for people settled in Lindal. Children in Lindal must be taught not only 'the three Rs' but the four Rs; the Gospel must be preached there and opportunity must be given for the people of God there to come together "with one accord in one place" so that they might "continue steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers".

Thus it has been ever since. It is good that the Church Council has decided to celebrate this centenary of the acceptance by the people of Lindal of their responsibilities within the whole Church of God for continuing in Christian worship, in Christian witness and in Christian work.

The celebration of this centenary should clearly have in it at least two elements. There should naturally be thanksgiving for all that under God has been accomplished in the one hundred years which have passed since an Order in Council established Lindal cum Marton as an ecclesiastical district. Many have contributed to the work of the Church through those years but the names of only a few are known. The thanks of today is not only thanks to God for what was done by those whose names are still remembered but for hundreds of other faithful people who have received the Word of God with gladness, and expressed their commitment to Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the witness of word and example and in the corporate worship which is an essential part of that witness. There must be thanksgiving for all that and more. But the moment is not merely one for looking backward in thanksgiving, but one for looking forward in dedication. Every member of the Christian congregation must find in this a challenge to assess the strength and depth of his own personal commitment to Our Lord and His Church and a challenge too to seek, by the Grace of God, to draw others within the fellowship of that Church. Let these then be the key words of your celebrations - Thanksgiving and Dedication.

Ani. Caris:

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MINISTERS AT LINDAL-WITH-MARTON 1872-1972

Rev. John Park	1872 - 1874
Rev. Lewis Owen Lewis, M.A.	1874 - 1905
Rev. A. P. Hayes, B.A.	1905 - 1911
Rev. William Mather	1911 - 1916
Rev. L. H. Marner-Smythe, B.A.	1916 - 1927
Rev. Rev. John J. Jackson, M.A.	1927 - 1954
Rev. Kenneth H. Smith B.A.	1954 - 1960
Rev. Campbell Wilson	1960 - 1970
Rev. David W.A. Gregg, B.D., M.A.	1971 -

CHURCHWARDENS FOR THE PARISH OF LINDAL-WITH-MARTON

On Monday evening April 14th 1879 the FIRST Vestry Meeting was held in the school, Lindal, for the purpose of electing two Churchwardens.

James Brocklebank and H. Robinson, both of Lindal, were duly elected as the first Churchwardens for the Parish of Lindal-with-Martton.

Mr. Brocklebank and Mr. Robinson remained in office until the death of Mr. Brocklebank in 1884.

Subsequent Churchwardens were:

Mr. H. Robinson	1884 - 1892
Mr. J. Polkinghorn	1884 - 1888 and 1895 - 1896
Mr. F. T. Johnson	1889 - 1892
Mr. H. Brenan	1893 - 1894 and 1897 - 1910
Mr. H. Helme	1893 - 1903
Mr. W. P. Holmes	1904 - 1933
Mr. W. Mason	1911 - 1937
Mr. T. Stretch	1933 - 1939, 1960 and 1968
Mr. W. J. Harrison	1938 - 1947
Mr. W. Helm	1940 - 1952
Mr. B. Park	1948
Mr. W. Pattinson	1949 - 1953
Mr. F. Balderstone	1953 - 1958
Mr. J. Smith	1954 - 1957 and 1970 - 1971
Mr. G. Harrison	1958 - 1967
Mr. G. Harvey	1961 - 1964
Mr. J. B. Thompson	1965 - 1967 and 1969 - 1971
Mr. J. Tyson	1968 - 1969

The present Churchwardens, appointed in March 1972, are Mr. Alec Hall and Lt.-Cdr. Alan Roberts.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. GEORGE BRASSINGTON, B.A.,

THE PRESENT VICAR OF DALTON

"It is always a pleasure to celebrate a birthday and join in the festivities. 100 years ago the ancient parish of Dalton-in-Furness gave birth to a baby, your parish of Lindal-with-Marton. Now, after 100 years in existence, we join in thanksgiving for God's rich blessings upon such a birthday and pray that we may all have the same mission and vision as our forefathers."

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

24th JUNE TO 1st JULY 1972

- SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2.30 p.m. CHURCH FETE (on the Green)
- SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 6.00 p.m. OPEN-AIR SERVICE (on the Green)
followed by Holy Communion in the Church.
- WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 7.00 p.m. CHILDREN'S NIGHT (in the Buccleuch Hall)
- THURSDAY 29TH JUNE - (SAINT PETER'S DAY)
7.30 p.m. CENTENARY SERVICE (in the Church)
followed by RECEPTION (in the
Buccleuch Hall)
- FRIDAY 30TH JUNE 2.00 p.m. CENTENARY EXHIBITION (in the Buccleuch
Hall)
Open 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
and Saturday morning, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- SATURDAY 1ST JULY 7.30 p.m. BARBECUE (in the Vicarage Gardens)

There will also be Centenary Floral Decorations in the Church.



PROGRAMME NOTES

Church Fete - Saturday 24th June. (on the Green)

The fete is to be opened at 2.30 p.m. by Mrs. Ewbank, the wife of the Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness. After the National Anthem and the opening prayer, the 1972 Sunday School Queen, Miss Angela Curtain, will be crowned. At 3 o'clock there will be a display of Country Dancing. From 3.30 onwards, teas will be served in the Buccleuch Hall. The Vickers Shipyard Band will be in attendance, and there will be other attractions, including Stalls, Sideshows and Pony rides, (plus "Knobbly Knees" and "Angelic Ankles" contests!!!) Admission will be 5p. for Adults and 2p. for children.

Open-Air Service - Sunday 25th June (on the Green)

The Service, in which we shall be uniting with the members of the Lindal Methodist Chapel, will commence at 6 p.m. Councillor Alan Miles, the Chairman of the Dalton Urban District Council, and other members of the Council, will be present. The Sunday School Queen and her retinue will also be in attendance. The Rev. Neil Jeffereyes, B.Sc., B.D., Vicar of St. Mark's, Barrow will be the guest preacher, and music will be provided by "The New Creation", a group from St. Mark's Youth Club.

This will be followed by a shortened form of Holy Communion Service in the Church. All those who trust in Jesus Christ, whatever their 'denomination' may be, are warmly invited to join with the congregation at the Lord's Table, for this celebration.

Children's Night - Wednesday 28th June (in the Buccleuch Hall)

The programme for this event, arranged by the teachers and pupils of the Sunday School, will be as follows:

7.00 p.m. Opening, followed by an opportunity to view the exhibition of pupils' work, illustrating the lessons of the past year's Sunday School.

7.30 p.m. Programme of Singing by the children.

7.45 p.m. Dramatised extracts from the Scriptures.

8.00 p.m. Three film-strips, with tape recordings.

"Everyday Life in Palestine"

"Little Leopards become Big Leopards"

"Down to Earth"

9.00 p.m. Epilogue.

Admission will be 5p. for Adults and 2p. for Children.

St. Peter's Day - Thursday 29th June

The main event of our celebrations is the special Thanksgiving and Dedication Service to be held in the Church at 7.30 p.m. The order of service will be found on the centre pages of the brochure. The present Vicar of Dalton, the Rev. George Brassington, B.A., will be the guest preacher, (reminding us of our parentage, 100 years ago!!!) A thank-offering will be taken up during the Service, to further the Lord's work in the parish for the future.

Afterwards, all who attend are invited to a Reception in the Buccleuch

Hall, when there will be an opportunity to meet guests and old friends, and to hear the speeches and greetings from different quarters.

Centenary Exhibition - Friday 30th June (in the Buccleugh Hall)

An exhibition, collected and arranged under the auspices of the Mothers' Union, illustrating life in Lindal and Marton during the last 100 years, will be opened at 2.00 p.m. The exhibits will deal with Costumes and Household items, Communications, Mining, Farming and Gardening, Transport, the Churches, National and Local affairs, Sports and pastimes etc. They will include photographs and mementoes, maps and newspapers, letters and knick-knacks, as well as specimens of bygone articles. The hours of opening are Friday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Admission will be 5p. for Adults and 2p. for Children.

Barbecue - Saturday 1st July (in the Vicarage Garden)

The final event of the Centenary Celebrations will be a Barbecue, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The "Channels" will be providing the music. A whole lamb will be spit-roasted to provide the "victuals", and there will also be some country diversions, and a campfire sing-song. Tickets will be 15p. for Adults and 10p. for children, and will be limited to 120 only. It is hoped that these will be largely taken up by the congregation. They will be available from the Vicarage from 24th June onwards.

Floral Decorations in the Church

During the week the Young Wives Group will be decorating the Church to illustrate the biblical theme of "Light". The different displays will each centre upon one of the following texts:

'And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light'.

GENESIS chapter 1 verse 3.

'Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.'

PSALM 119 verse 105

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.'

ISAIAH chapter 9 verse 2.

'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven.'

MATTHEW chapter 5 verse 16.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

JOHN chapter 1 verse 5.

'I am the light of the world'.

JOHN chapter 8 verse 12.

"For you are all sons of light and sons of the day."

1 THESSALONIANS chapter 5 verse 5.

We hope you will find the time to view and enjoy this display, and to spend a few moments of quiet thought on each of the texts.

CENTENARY SERVICE - 7.30 p.m., THURSDAY 29TH JUNE

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath bless'd us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplex'd,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest Heaven,
The One Eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Thanksgiving Prayers

- The Lord's Prayer

Psalm 111:

1. I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart: secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.
2. The works of the Lord are great: sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.
3. His work is worthy to be praised, and had in honour: and his righteousness endureth for ever.
4. The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous works: that they ought to be had in remembrance.
5. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.
6. He hath shewed his people the power of his works: that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.
7. The works of his hands are verity and judgement: all his commandments are true.
8. They stand fast for ever and ever: and are done in truth and equity.
9. He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his Name.
10. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do thereafter; the praise of it endureth for ever. GLORIA.

Old Testament Reading: "Abraham, man of faith". GENESIS ch. 12 vv 1-9.

Gospel Reading: "Peter, man of faith". MATTHEW ch. 13 vv 13-19.

Epistle Reading: "The righteous shall live by faith". ROMANS ch. 1 vv 8-17.

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the Word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our world, when men disown and doubt Him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without Him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne -
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

The Sermon: THE REV. GEORGE BRASSINGTON, B.A., Vicar of Dalton.

'We rest on Thee,' our shield and our defender;
We go not forth alone against the foe;
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.'

Yea, 'in Thy name', O Captain of salvation!
In Thy dear name, all other names above;
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
Our Prince of glory and our King of love.

'We go' in faith, our own great weakness feeling,
And needing more each day Thy grace to know:
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing;
'We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.'

'We rest on Thee,' our shield and our defender;
Thine is the battle; Thine shall be the praise.
When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,
Victors, we rest, with Thee, through endless days.

Prayers of Dedication.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the Same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the
Before the rising sun. (night

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles
And our eternal home. (last,

(During this hymn the offering will be received.)

The Blessing.

A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR CONGREGATION, by Mr. Alan Steel

Beginnings

"Iron is taken out of the Earth." Book of Job, chapter 28 verse 2.

This verse from the Bible says basically what was happening at Lindal and Marton one hundred years ago. The village had been growing fast over the previous few years with the influx of iron-ore miners and other workers and their families and, not surprisingly, these people wanted a place to worship.

The following extract from "The Barrow News" of Tuesday 14th July 1885, reporting on the laying of the foundation stone of Lindal's present church, gives some insight as to how this need was first met.

"The Rev. J. M. Morgan, in proposing the health of the donors of the church, said he could recollect, as vicar of the ancient parish of Dalton, a very different state of things in that place (i.e. Lindal) to what they saw at the present time. It was 25 years ago that, with the assistance of Mr. Wadham, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Ainslie, the Dukes of Buccleuch and Devonshire, Lord Muncaster and others connected with the parish, they built a school which was sadly needed at the time; and a year after that took place, through the kindness and generosity of the same gentlemen, a curate was allotted to him to help him in the work at Dalton, and also to hold services at Lindal. Those services had been held unremittingly at Lindal for 24 years without missing a single Sunday. There was an assertion made some time ago, which he thought he might answer on the present occasion, to the effect that until a Dissenting body built a chapel in that part of the parish no measures had been taken in regard to the spiritual welfare of the district; but for 12 years before that the Church of England had a licensed place of worship there, in which the services were regularly held. He recognized that as a very great day for Lindal, and he thanked those gentlemen who for the last 25 years had done so much to promote the spiritual and moral welfare of the inhabitants."

From this we can deduce that the starting date for organized worship in Lindal was 1861, when we know that the School was licensed for this purpose. (Note from Mr. Gregg: "The sideswipe at the 'Dissenting body' in this extract strikes a harsh note on our ears. What a joy it is that, one hundred years on, we have been able to share in the thanksgiving of our Methodist brethren during their centenary celebrations, and that they feel able to do the same during ours. Praise the Lord.")

Two of the curates who assisted Mr. Morgan with the services at Lindal during this period were Rev. W. T. Dinwoody, B.A., (1865 - 1869) and Rev. T. S. Uglow, M.A., (1870 - 1872).

Independence Day - 9th August 1872

Until 1872 Lindal and Marton had been part of the ancient parish of Dalton-in-Furness, but, in pursuance of an Order in Council made on 9th August 1872, our present parish was created as an independent Ecclesiastical District and separated off. It is this 100th "Birthday" that we are celebrating this year.

The Rev. John Park was licensed to the perpetual curacy as first incumbent of Lindal with Marton on 26th November 1872. He was succeeded on 16th May 1874 by the Rev. L. O. Lewis.

The Iron Church

The Iron Church was situated in a field opposite Lindal and Marton School, where School Terrace now stands. The church was opened for public worship on 12th September 1875 by the Rt. Rev. Harvey Goodwin, Lord Bishop of Carlisle. It had accommodation for 300 people.

A letter from Mr. Wadham to the Vicar of Dalton reveals that the roof was blown off in a high wind in 1881. It seems to have been repaired by local effort.

(From 1886, when the present church was opened, the Iron Church was used for concerts and socials. In February 1903, during a strong gale it was blown down completely and never repaired.)

A Permanent Building

The Iron Church was probably regarded as only a temporary church by the people of the new parish from the day it was erected, because, in the "Furness and West Cumberland History and Directory", printed in 1882, we read that, "the Iron building is soon to be replaced by a stone structure to be erected by the Duke of Buccleuch and Messrs. Harrison, Ainslie & Co." The site was provided by the Duke and the cost of construction was £3,600. 10. Od.

The foundation stone was laid on 11th July 1885 by Mrs. Wadham of Millwood, wife of the Duke's agent, and by her youngest daughter, Miss Winifred Mary Wadham. The principal benefactors of the Church were as follows:

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch	£2000
Messrs. Harrison, Ainslie & Co. (The principal mine-owners)	£1000
Barrow Haematite Steel Co.	£500
Carlisle Diocesan Church Extension Society	£200

At the Luncheon following the Foundation, the Ven. Archdeacon Crosse struck a note which ties in closely with the thoughts behind our present Centenary celebrations, when he said, "I am convinced that the right plan has been adopted in regard to the building of this church. I do not think the right way is first to build the parish church and then find the congregation. The best course is first to place an active clergyman in a comfortable house, and to give him a temporary building as a place of worship; and then, when he has gathered together a good congregation and got the parochial machinery in good order, to commence the erection of a permanent church, as has been done in this case."

The new building, given the name of St. Peter, was consecrated and opened on 8th July 1886 by the Rt. Rev. Harvey Goodwin. The readings were taken from 2 Chronicles chapter 5 and Hebrews chapter 10. The Bishop took as his text Acts chapter 7 verses 47-49: "But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with

hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my foot-stool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?" In his sermon, he again took up the theme which inspires our Centenary, "Don't imagine that God dwells in these Temples, (i.e. man-made ones) in the way in which we dwell in our homes. Something else besides beauty of stone and ornament and grandeur of service is necessary to ensure the presence of God. . . . Perhaps the most glorious temple of God, and the one in which He most truly and effectively dwells is nothing less than ourselves."

Some Subsequent Milestones

In May 1905 the Rev. L. O. Lewis, after 31 years service in the parish, announced his intention of resigning. His place was taken by Rev. A. P. Hayes, a man who does not seem to have been very well received in the parish, as all the gifts of oil and flowers usually given to the church by various people were stopped! Rev. Hayes was incumbent at Lindal until 1911 when he resigned his position to go to work in Canada. He later became Chaplain to the Bishop of Calgary. His successor was the Rev. W. Mather who stayed in Lindal until 1916 when the Rev. L. H. Marnier-Smythe took his place,

During 1926 there was a lot of discussion as to whether or not the Church should adopt the "Free-will Offering" idea, and after talks and discussions and a circular letter sent to all parishioners, it was decided to proceed with the scheme.

Early in 1927 Rev. Marnier-Smythe accepted a living in Liverpool and the new vicar, Rev. J. J. Jackson, was inducted in July 1927.

September 1945 saw an effort to restart the church magazine, and the villagers were canvassed for their support. It was decided to print a magazine called "Our Own Magazine", printed by Home Words at a price of 3d. per copy. At the Annual Meeting in April 1947 the vicar reported that 161 copies were being sold monthly.

In 1947 the Duke of Buccleuch announced that he was going to vest the Buccleuch Hall in trustees, to be run by representatives of all the village Organizations. Formerly the Church had the tenancy of the Hall and could use it as it saw fit, and naturally the P.O.C. resented the Duke's move. But after a formal complaint, mainly concerning the use of the Hall as a Sunday School, the Church was given certain concessions, and subsequently gave a piano and crockery to the Buccleuch Hall Management Committee.

1954 saw the death of the vicar, Rev. J. J. Jackson, and of Mark Helme, the organist. Later a suggestion that a memorial to them in the form of gates to close the Communion rails met with unanimous support.

The induction of the Rev. K. H. Smith took place on 20th November 1954. When the Church architect made out his report on the church in 1955 it was found that many repairs were needed. An arch and the gutters were in special need of repair. The cost would be £1,150, so a restoration fund was begun, aided by various functions. As part of the restoration work the pews in the transepts were removed.

Shortly after the induction of Rev. Campbell Wilson, on 18th February 1961, a special service was held (on October 13th) to dedicate the Communion rails, and also a stained glass window, given by Mr. Wilf Holmes in memory of his father, W. P. Holmes (Churchwarden 1904 - 1933).

At the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the Church, in July 1966, collection boxes were donated by parishioners in aid of a new oil-fired heating system.

In September 1970 the Rev. Campbell Wilson retired and, on 18th May of the following year, the Rev. David Gregg was installed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish.

"TITBITS"

At the end of the first financial period 1879-80 the sum of 3s. 7d. was left in the hands of the Churchwardens.

Extract from the report in the "Barrow News" of 14th July 1885 about the Foundation Ceremony. "In a cavity under the stone a bottle was deposited containing one of each of the current coins of the realm for the present year, a copy of the Times for 10th July, a copy of the Ulverston Advertiser for 9th July, a copy of the Barrow News for 11th July and a parchment document ..." (giving details of the founders etc. of the church.)

At the luncheon following the opening of the New Church in 1886, Mr. Ainslie (of Harrison, Ainslie & Co., the leading local mining company) "promised that no mining operations should take place under the Church. They would not let the Church down" (!!!)

The collection taken at the opening of the Church in 1886 was £22. 3s. 5d.

Lindal Church was lit by Electric Lighting in 1887. This was supplied by Messrs. Harrison, Ainslie & Co. from the local mines. It must have been among the first churches in England to be lit in this way.

During 1901 the Umbrella stands were affixed to the end of each pew at a total cost of £4. 2. 9d. including 5/- labour.

At a P.C.C. meeting in April 1903 there was a great debate as to whether or not the Churchwardens should choose their own sidesmen or whether they should be chosen by the meeting. On this being put to the vote it was carried 5 to 4 that the Churchwardens should continue to select their own sidesmen.

In 1915 the present organ was installed by J. J. Binns of Leeds, at a cost of £490. An electric organ blower was installed in 1947. (The accounts of 1887 show a charge of 10s. 6d. for repairing the harmonium!)

From September 1939 Evensong was held at 3.00 p.m. during the winter, as a war-time economy measure.

In 1949 the Church received £43. 5. 6d., compensation in respect of the iron railings around the Church, which were taken down to aid the war effort. (A rumour has it that they are still lying around at a scrap-yard in Ulverston!!!)

The 1881 Census shows 212 Houses in the Parish, and a Population of 1146. Today there are about 280 Houses but the Population is only about 700.

THE MINISTER'S CONCLUDING MESSAGE

I hope very much that you have, by now, got hold of the main theme of our Centenary - even though it is hard to put into exact words. Jesus did not come to start a property empire - a chain of ecclesiastical buildings. He came to start a revolution in men's hearts, and to found a fellowship - a chain of Christian families, congregating regularly together for worship, supporting one another by love and encouragement, witnessing together to their faith in their risen Lord, and working together for His glory among their fellow men. "People matter more than things". Our Christian family life here really began in 1872, when both the Anglican and Methodist congregations had their true beginnings. That is why we didn't want to wait until 1986 (the Centenary of the opening of our present building) before we celebrated. Just because a family "moves house" now and again, it doesn't affect it's real age!! We rejoice and give thanks today for the movement of the Holy Spirit 100 years ago, by which we began an independent life.

But the question must be asked, "What of the future?" I believe this is an exhilarating and exciting age in which to be a servant of the Lord Christ. Christians everywhere are growing together, and growing up. There is a new freedom in worship, and a new experience of the power of the Holy Spirit. May I dare to address ALL the Children of God in this place, be they called "Anglican", "Methodist", "Catholic", "Church of Christ", or by any other label, with a call to seek the face of the Lord together for the future of His Kingdom here in Lindal and Marton, and to take up the challenge with which our Centenary confronts us, that we vigorously re-dedicate ourselves to Jesus, and work for Him "while it is still day." Our forebears would surely endorse Paul's words as fitting for us today - "Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

David Gregg