

**The Church and Parish of  
ST SAVIOUR'S  
St Albans**

**MORE SUCH  
DAYS**

**1910 - 1952**

**by**

**Wilfred H. Morley**

# **More Such Days**

1910 - 1952

by

**Wilfred H. Morley**

being a continuation of  
H. R. Wilton-Hall's  
"The Story of the Church and Parish of  
St Saviour, St. Albans"

“And more such days as these to us befall”

To the Dear and Honoured Memory

of

**Harry Darwin Burton**

Priest, Canon of Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand

St. Albans Diocesan Missioner  
First Vicar of St Saviour's, St Albans

with whose encouragement and help

“The Story of the Church and Parish of  
St Saviour's, St Alban's

was written by Mr H. R. Wilton-Hall

and to whom this continuation of that story  
is dedicated with affection and gratitude

# **List of Contents**

Preface

- Chapter 1      Fr. Burton's Resignation as Vicar
- Chapter 2      Fr. Burton's Farewell Sermon
- Chapter 3      Hail and Farewell
- Chapter 4      Fr. Westall commences his Ministry
- Chapter 5      The Years preceding the First World War
- Chapter 6      The War and St Saviour's
- Chapter 7      The Closing Years of Fr Westall's Ministry
- Chapter 8      Fr. Christopher Carey at St Saviour's
- Chapter 9      Closing Years of Fr Carey's Ministry
- Chapter 10     Changes
- Chapter 11     Later Days
- Chapter 12     Voluntary Assistant Priests
- Chapter 13     Various Organisations
- Chapter 14     St Saviour's Missionary Association
- Chapter 15     Social Activities - St Saviour's Players

Holy Ordination

## Preface

This story does not claim to be "History" in the strict sense of the word but it is told with a little knowledge of the inside with its joys and disappointments. Within the compass of a small book, it is inevitable that many things are unrecorded, such little amenities as garden parties, socials and the like which help to break down our traditional reserve, and on the spiritual side prayer meetings, study circles and the such like often held in private houses.

Many faithful and devoted workers - known and unknown - living and departed also cannot be mentioned, but their happy witness and cheerful doings of the little things, have built up the great tradition of which we are justly proud. We have together built up a goodly heritage.

This little story has been written with the encouragement of Father Bernard Kitson, the present Vicar to whom my thanks are given. The kind indulgence of the reader is asked for all the errors, omissions and mistakes; and if my efforts have interested, may I ask for your prayers.

Wilfred Henry Morley  
1952

*This Story was word-processed in 1996 from one of two texts in the Hertfordshire Diocesan Records Office. Whilst the substance of both texts are substantially the same, differing details are recorded in each. This book has been produced from the second, and probably later, version.*

DL

## **Chapter 1**

### **Father Burton's resignation as Vicar of St Saviour's**

Mr. Wilton Hall's very full and intimate story of the early days of St Saviour's, and for which every lover of our church must be for ever grateful, finished with Fr Burton's resignation as Diocesan Missioner which took effect from 1st May 1910. He therefore became the first Vicar. It was evident, however, that a small town parish could not contain such a personality as Harry Darwin Burton with his tremendous energy, great gifts and accomplishments. There was consequently little surprise when it became known that, at the request of the Bishop of London (Bishop Ingram), Canon Newbolt and others, he had accepted the important living of St Michael's, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Fr. Burton uncompromisingly proclaimed the Catholic Faith and Practice in a place where it had been dormant for centuries, and people saw and heard the Gospel proclaimed as a living reality as they had neither seen nor felt before. Fr Burton's inspiration affected the congregation who felt themselves animated with the same spirit and resolve, and that the Holy Spirit of God was directly working within them.

In St Albans it made no small stir, and people took notice and its influence spread far and wide. That it should encounter antagonism was but to be anticipated and compromise was neither desired nor expected. No names or motives were too bad to be used against St Saviour's, which

more amused the congregation than perturbed them; especially as it bore eloquent witness of the great work being done. Fr Burton once referred to the persecution with which they had been assailed, and it was not restricted to any particular class. The "Herts Advertiser" stated that whatever may be the views of outsiders concerning the particular type of ritual observed at St Saviour's, undoubtedly "the deepest bonds of sympathy have always existed between its late Vicar and his congregation".

Money flowed in towards his farewell gift and over £200 was soon collected. It included the pence of the poor and the pounds of the wealthy. Mr and Mrs Arthur Taylor invited over 500 subscribers to a garden party at St Peters House, the grounds of which were illuminated and the bells of St Peters church were rung. In making the presentation, Mr Jacob Reynolds said that the name of "Burton" would always be associated with St Saviour's and his name would always be esteemed. Fr Burton had accomplished such a vast amount of work for St Saviour's parish that it was impossible to enumerate all its details. The gift to him - a high class camera - and a cheque came not only from the purses but also from the hearts of his faithful friends he was leaving behind. Fr Burton in reply said how extremely hard it was to say good-bye to people with whom he had been associated for many years.

He came to St Albans with the full determination to preach the Faith which he believed in, which he held and which he would ever preach, and that was not altogether an easy matter at that time. He prayed that God would keep alive in every one of them the Faith that they had received and that St Albans should never be without witnesses to the fact that the church to which they belonged had kept the Catholic Faith with all its privileges, duties and responsibilities, and had given opportunities for the observance of every sacrament which the Church of Christ had provided for the people committed to her charge.

## Chapter 2

### Father Burton's Farewell Sermon at St Saviour's

St Saviour's church was crowded in every available part by the many people anxious to hear Fr Burton's farewell sermon which was a plea for duty. The "Herts Standard" reported that it was a sermon of a character seldom heard on such an occasion and delivered with such vigour as to leave an impression on the minds of everyone who heard it, especially the closing reference and final charge to the members of the church.

The Preacher took for his subject the question put to Our Lord by the lawyer "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?".

The question was not what am I to believe, think and hold, but what am I to do? Such question is being asked over and over again by modern people in a variety of ways, and often they do not wait for an answer nor intend to do so; they often have an answer ready before even asking the question. "I shall do what I like, and certainly not what I dislike; and however evident it may be, I shall not do it because I don't like it and it does not appeal to me". With a striking declaration, the Preacher continued ... "I am sure that is the position of many Christian people today".

The Preacher then went on to speak of what would happen if Our Lord appeared in the church and someone asked Him the question "Lord, what shall I do?". What would be the answer? "What is in your law? How do you read it?" How do you read the Christian law - it is as plain and clear as the Jewish law. The lawyer knew his law and it is your duty to know yours. The law is the Law of Christ. This do, don't discuss it: do and you shall live. It all turns on one little word "duty". This means to do, not to be shirked and still less not to be dismembered; something to be done because it is duty.



The Preacher went on to speak of the duties of this world and the unpleasant nature of many of those duties and added ... "but the duties you owe to God may be hard and difficult but it will never be unpleasant. Private judgment in this matter has killed religion and is killing religion in this country. We are unfit to judge for we are but babies. There is only one God and there is only one thing that matters - God.

Speaking of the question "Who is my neighbour" he said the answer was everyone who was wounded and that is to say everyone for all are wounded. Every Friday night we have been doing neighbourly actions here, he said, and followed with the question "Have you ever thought of it, you, who dine late and do not come?". There are people who have fallen among thieves and we pray for them here. That is being a neighbour, that is the best of friends. You are not called upon to patronise or judge, but you are called upon to pray. This do, and not only shalt thou live but the man who fell among thieves shall live also. If you be with God, and for God, and love God, and do what God calls you to do, nothing else matters. Nothing matters so long as it is right, so long as it is true and so long as it is pure. The world does not matter and opinion does not matter. God matters and matters very much.

There was an impressive silence as the voice of the Preacher sounded out "Keep the law, my people" and again later with outstretched arms he cried "I call you all to bear witness that God's law has been taught here, His rule, His Kingdom, His way and your duty - do it! Everything else is nothing and all the sadness of farewell will be as a breath if we can feel the activity here, in this great church, of God's law, God's love, God's way. That is all. Keep the conscience clear, say your prayers, pray your prayers, don't get careless. Uphold the Glory of your Maker, live pure, right wrong and follow the Cross".

## Chapter 3

### Hail and Farewell

Father Burton wrote the following letter from St Saviour's Vicarage dated May 26th 1910:-

*My very dear People,*

#### *"Ave atque Vale"*

*That is hard to write, yet it represents what I feel. "Ave". I greet you for the last time from the depths of a heart full of affection, full of gratitude and full of regret of leaving you. This will always appear to me my life's work. I have been allowed to see a dream take shape, and grow to completion. A dream which when I conceived it appeared to be an impossibility. A parish, a great church and a home; how gradually it all came and there grew up with it a devotion from all sorts of people, men, women and little children. We have all been filled with one aim, working for one object - to Glorify God. God has blessed us, we have received showers of blessings - blessings which still fall upon us.*

*It is not the end, it is only the beginning - nevertheless it is hard to leave it - far harder than I can say . So I greet you "Ave" and thank you with all my heart for your patience with me. Your forbearance, your loyalty and your loving work for God.*

*Surely no congregation was ever more loyal to the priest God had set over them, no workers more earnest people more wholeheartedly devoted. All this I feel intensely and return thanks to God.*

*And then "Vale" - Farewell. That is harder. I pray that in the distant country whither I am sent, I may find like devotion amongst those to whom I shall minister.*

*I ask your prayers for me and mine. I shall never forget you before God's Altar. May He watch over and protect you and your little children whom I have loved and for whom I have laboured, and in its good time may we all together find rest and peace in His most sweet Presence.*

*Believe me,  
Your most faithful friend and Priest in Our Lord Jesus Christ,*

***H D Burton***

Shortly before leaving England, Fr Burton married Miss Toulmin who had performed the very arduous secretarial work of the Mission Society with the greatest devotion, ability and enthusiasm. She also duplicated a number of hymns, tunes, ritual notes and other matters for St Saviour's of which copies still exist. She was particularly identified with the Sunday School, and in expressing thanks for a farewell present, referred to her fourteen years of happy work at St Saviour's.

## Chapter 4

### Father Westall commences his ministry

Fr. Burton had stated that during the interregnum, the parish would be in the hands of his dear friend Fr George Edwardes who had been a faithful servant and a faithful brother to him through many trying and difficult times and who has been a faithful friend to the parish. He also announced that the Bishop has asked him to name his successor who would be Father Leonard Sedgwick Westall, Vicar of Thaxted.

Fr. Westall has been closely connected with the Mission Society and was fairly well known to his new congregation. His institution into the living by the Bishop took place on 2nd August 1910.

Fr. Westall's early years at St Saviour's were quiet and uneventful though much steady progress, accompanied by hard work was being made, his sympathetic understanding manner and Mrs Westall's quiet unassuming graciousness endeared them to all.

His great learning soon manifested itself and his sermons on Old Testament characters - famous and infamous - were most realistic and extremely interesting. He firmly believed that the Gospel message of the New Testament could not properly be understood apart from the Old Testament.

Quite early he wrote that it was a privilege to carry on the work so ably and successfully begun by men for whom he had the greatest affection and respect, and that it would always be his aim to carry on the work on the same lines.

Mr. A.E. Taylor, Churchwarden, speaking at the Easter Vestry of 1911 said that not only was the congregation increasing, but the whole result was most encouraging. The

teaching, preaching and parochial work of the Vicar were thoroughly appreciated and that a condition of things had been reached which had never before been attained.

There was soon to be a change of organist as Professor W. H. Bell who had composed the music of the St Albans Pageant of 1907, resigned to take up an appointment in South Africa. He was succeeded by Mr H.H. Dawton.

The death took place of John Pryntz, 5th Earl Spencer, who had made many generous gifts including the acre of land in Sandpit Lane and the building of the Vicarage.

Among other gifts made about this period were a pair of processional torches designed by Fr Edwardes and given by Gerard Manson and of which replicas are in use at St Johns, Watford; and also an exquisite piece of needlework presented by Miss Hunt which is dated 1669 and worked by Lady Lovett. It was placed as a reredos behind St Leonard's altar on Ascension Day 1924.

Throughout Fr Westall's ministry the service of Compline and Intercessions on Friday evenings, which had been started in the early days was maintained and in the subsequent war years brought much comfort and consolation to many people. Solemn Evensong with procession of the congregation on the eve of "Red Letter" Saints Days was also much appreciated and very well attended.

The extra services and full daily round could not have been carried out without the devoted assistance given by voluntary assistant priests to whom St Saviour's owed, and still owes, a great debt of gratitude. Among the many organisations were the Sunday School with 27 teachers, the Mothers Union with over 100 members, and Mrs Robinson's famous Mothers Meeting which had continued from the early days.

The parish was divided into four parts for visiting and 20 district visitors worked under four priests. The parish had maintained its own nurse for many years before the St Albans District Nursing Association was established. Miss Fisher held that position for a number of years and whose work was greatly appreciated and in which Mr Edgar Taylor took great interest generously supporting it by making up each year the deficit in its finances.

Bishop Gaul, who had blessed the incense when first used at the Dedication Festival 1909, was probably the first bishop to wear the mitre in St Albans since the days of the last abbot. He returned to Africa in 1912 and was given a set of Cloth of Silver vestments and episcopal gloves as a parting gift from his many friends in St Albans.

## Chapter 5

### The Years preceding the First World War

In 1912, Fr Westall formed a Church Council consisting of the clergy, churchwardens and representatives of the congregation, thus anticipating the Parochial Church Council set up by the Enabling Act. Miss G Seebohm was its secretary and she retained that post for many years with outstanding distinction and ability.

The Church Membership Fund, with a Freewill Offering Scheme worked on the envelope system, was inaugurated in March 1912, and was one of the first results of the Church Council. The Fund and scheme which have been under the management of Mr O.C. McCulloch and subsequently of Mr F Beaumont and assisted in both cases by Miss M.M. Ashby has realised a considerable sum being raised yearly for church expenses.

Fr. Donald Pickering, who was licensed to St Saviour's in August 1912, was the first assistant curate to be so attached. Fr Pickering's work was mainly amongst the men and boys but he found the keen Bernards Heath air was too bracing for him and he resigned after one year.

Mr. Jacob Reynolds resigned as Churchwarden at Easter 1913 on account of increasing years; Fr Westall wrote that it must be a great gratification to Mr Reynolds to see the fruits of a work he and his family had done so much to help forward.

Miss Sheppard, who had worked in many and varied ways for the church and by her working party had originated the Christmas Sale of Work, died in March 1913. The house built for her in Sandpit Lane was many years afterwards secured as a home for the Assistant Priest. Another of the

early workers who died was Miss Wells who bequeathed two houses in Culver Road to the church which were sold for the building fund; and also Dr Agutter, a well known organist and composer who frequently attended St Saviour's in the early days and had had the Sanctuary Lamp in the Lady Chapel restored as a memorial to his parents.

Miss Woolnoth who had inherited the gift of painting from her father, a Royal Academician designed and presented the two-light window of St Francis and Archbishop Theodore, thus symbolising St Saviour's as a Mission Church and a Parish Church.

Fr. George Bernard Hardy came with a great reputation as a preacher and musician in 1913 and he worked very hard in making the choirmen more proficient in the church's traditional music. Briggs and Frere's "Manual of Plainsong" had replaced Brown's Plainsong Psalter some years earlier, and the English Gradual edited by Captain Francis Burgess was introduced following a very instructive article in the Magazine by Fr Westall. Fr Hardy gave the cantor's lectern of which much use has been made on a number of occasions. He was only at St Saviour's about two years but his great gifts and charm endeared him to the people and there was much regret when he left to take up an important post at Lichfield and eventually became Vicar of St Peters, Plymouth.

Mr. H.H. Dawton resigned as organist in August in 1913 to go to St John Baptist, Holland Road where he succeeded Dr Healey Willan, one of the most famous organists St Saviour's has ever had and is a St Albans man by birth. Mr Arthur Waller became organist, whose appointment was very popular as he has helped in many ways for some years; under his guidance the singing of both plainsong and modern music reached a very high standard, and St Saviour's Choir became famous throughout the province for



its rendering of the church's liturgical music which attracted many people.

Mr. and Mrs McLarty who had been great workers for many years went to Australia. Mrs McLarty who was given a farewell gift of a jewel case was one of the first members of the St Cecilia Choir. She related the story of the fear and trembling with which they went into Fr Burton's study to say they would like to join, but he was so jovial they were soon at their ease and he said "Well, that's splendid. You are the first two, and I hope to have a quite a big choir before the week is out".

Messrs. Miskin and Son's tender of £2,865 was accepted for the building of the Church Hall in Culver Road, which with fittings and fees amounted to £3,000, of which £1,866 had been raised; the foundation stone was laid on St James Day 1914 by Canon Burton.

Among those present were Mr Jacob Reynolds, veteran benefactor and friend and Fr George Edwardes, Canon Burton's faithful co-worker through many strenuous years. Canon Burton said that his thoughts were naturally with the past, but thank God not the dead past. There were many people the world over to whom St Saviour's stands for much in their lives and affections.

Dear Walter John Lawrence, whose name will ever be associated with the Abbey, died in 1914, and it was recalled how that he had preached at evensong one Sunday in the early days when St Saviour's met with considerable opposition, and his quiet action and sympathetic attitude was of no little value and was greatly appreciated.

## Chapter 6

### The War and St Saviour's

There was great tension at the August Bank Holiday weekend in 1914 when the Sunday papers reported that actual fighting had commenced. Fr Edwardes was in charge of St Saviour's that Sunday and, turning to the writer, said "There goes my sermon" and added with his well known quiet aside "I shall have to preach another" which was a powerful discourse on war and a striking testimony of his great abilities.

Shortly afterwards, the Second London (Territorial) Division came to St Albans, and the 17th and 24th battalions were billeted on the Heath whose people took these London men and boys to their hearts as well as to their homes. Troops from other parts subsequently came to St Albans, but the Londoners retained the affection of the people.

All the usual amenities were quickly and freely provided, and Parade Services were held in church. All the Heath turned out to wish them God speed when they left for the front where unfortunately they suffered heavy casualties. Memorial services at St Saviour's conducted by Fr Westall in his well-known sympathetic manner were attended by hundreds of relations and friends from London, and on every occasion the church was crowded.

The increased number of church services and the intensive house to house visiting must have wearied the priests, but Fr Westall ever had a smile and a cheery word or a word of comfort for all. A feature of the Sunday evening service was the singing of the hymn "Holy Father in thy mercy" kneeling before the altar.

The Church Hall was opened by Fr Walter Jenks at the Annual Guild Social on November 5th 1914. He traced the history of St Saviour's from its earliest days, and how the need of a large well equipped hall was felt in his time and of their keen anticipation of it; he concluded by saying "I pray that this hall may answer all your high hopes and expectations, and that God may abundantly bless and prosper all the work done in and through its agency".

The death in September 1915 of Mr John Dashwood Christmas "our dear old verger" as Fr Westall described him was a great shock and sorrow. He was never known to forget anything or anybody, and everything he did was done well. His last act was to prepare the Lady Chapel altar for Mass on the following morning. Mr Edward Osborn, an original member of the choir, was thereupon appointed verger.

In November 1915, Fr Edwardes accepted a post as Chaplain to the Forces, and a presentation was made to him of a private communion set with a cheque exceeding £100 from about 360 subscribers. Fr Westall spoke of his love of St Saviour's and his hard and devoted work as a Missioner, all of which was so well known and that he would be missed very much. Fr Edwardes expressed his gratitude for the expression of their love towards him. There was a certain sadness as it was known and felt that that was the finish of St Saviour's connection with the Mission Society.

A personal note may be excused. The writer met Fr Edwardes in France and on one occasion he came over - a distance of a few miles - to say Mass, actually for me, and he used and showed me the communion set. In that Mass we said our farewell, though we did not know it, for we never met again.

The death of Miss Susanna Gandy in March 1916 was a great loss. She had been in charge of the Rescue and Preventive

work since February 1896 and for twenty years had lived a strenuous life of seeking and saving. Her work amongst men and boys was equally remarkable, and she was rather pleased to be known as "Brother Gandy". Fr Robert W. Burnie came to St Saviour's in July 1916: he had been a well known barrister which he gave up late in life to be ordained; unfortunately the keen St Albans air was too much for him and he had to resign after a year.

As a matter of interest and record, the Annual Church Meeting and presentation of accounts was separated from the Easter Vestry for the first time in 1916 as the money for the working expenses of the church comes from old endowments, and all the expenses are met by voluntary contributions.

Fr. George Edwardes accepted the living of St John the Baptist, Toxeth Park, Liverpool early in 1918 and Fr Westall wrote of the regret that they all felt that some post had not been found for him nearer to us and in this diocese, and how invaluable had been the work of Miss Edwardes. A large gathering bid them "Good bye" when Miss Edwardes was presented with a silver box, a purse of money and a hand-bound book containing the names of over 350 subscribers.

Unhappily, a great sorrow was soon to come to them as Lt. Thomas Edwardes was killed in action on April 11th 1918. The news came at the time when his father and aunt were leaving for Liverpool. Fr Edwardes wrote "I have passed through two great sorrows whilst I have been amongst you and each time I have been more helped and comforted by your love than I can measure ...I am very grateful to you ...God bless you. Yours ever with love George Edwardes".

The British retreat to the Somme in March 1918 became known on a Sunday morning and Fr Westall used such words of sympathy, hope and confidence as would be

expected from him, but it greatly helped the congregation to bear the shock.

During the summer, the tide of battle was gradually changing. Jerusalem and the Holy Land had been taken for which a Solemn Te Deum was sung in church. The news became better and better, and eventually came the end of the fighting. A Thanksgiving Service was held which concluded with an Outdoor Procession of Victory and the singing of a Solemn Te Deum on Bernards Heath.

## Chapter 7

### The Closing Years of Fr Westall's Ministry

The death of Fr George Edwardes was a great shock and grief and Fr Westall wrote "He loved his work with his whole heart and soul, no trouble was too great for him ....and now his faith, love and work will have their full reward ....It is fitting and a joy to us that the last offices were said in St Saviour's among the people and in the church where he worked so long and loved so well".

The death of Mrs Helen Maude Robinson in March 1919 removed another link with the past. She possessed great powers of organisation and the success of the Christmas Sales were largely due to her energy. She gave unstintingly of her talents and wealth.

Sister Frances, an ordained deaconess who had had considerable experience in church work, had been working in the parish voluntarily assisting with the district visiting. In conjunction with Mr A. England, she revived the Band of Hope so successfully that the Deanery Banner was won the first year.

Fr. James Ronald Moffatt, who had worked with the Universities Mission, joined St Saviour's in December 1920 but, as a result of a missionary mission in October 1921 by Fr A.M. Peckham, felt the call and returned to South Africa, subsequently being in charge of the Jane Furse Hospital. Another result of the mission was the overseas diocese prayer circles by which each diocese is prayed for at least once a week.

The St Michaels (Mortuary) Chapel had been fitted up as a memorial to Mrs Edwardes and it was fitting that the memorial to Fr George Edwardes consisting of an aumbry

costing £120 should be placed there together with a sanctuary lamp in memory of John Dashwood Christmas and a copper book desk in memory of Miss Gandy. The war memorial in the churchyard, designed by Mr Walter Tapper cost £320 including the paving at the side. These four memorials were dedicated by the Bishop on June 11th 1921 in the presence of a large congregation which included the Mayor and Corporation who attended in state.

In February 1922, a mission was held conducted by Frs. George Waldegrave Hart CR and Edwin Millard CR which, apart from the ministrations of the Diocesan Missioners, was the first mission to be preached in the parish.

The family living of Chalton becoming vacant, Fr Westall felt that he ought to accept it and he left St Saviour's in September 1922. At a large gathering, a presentation was made to him of a cheque for £137 and an album containing the names of 570 subscribers. Captain Gallop in making the presentation spoke of the affectionate gratitude for Fr Westall's faithful service, his courage in taking on so much work and such responsibilities as the debt on the church and the building of the hall at a time when single-handed he must do the work previously shared by three or four priests. Fr Westall in replying spoke of the great efforts which had been put forward as a striking commentary on the devoted self-sacrifice of St Saviour's people.

Fr. William Thompson joined St Saviour's from All Hallows, East India Docks in December 1921, but upon the resignation of Fr Westall he felt that he ought also to do so and after less than a year, he went to St Johns, Watford.

And so ended a glorious page in the history of St Saviour's Church.

## Chapter 8

### Father Christopher Carey at St Saviour's

The Bishop offered the living to Fr Christopher Sausmarez Carey, Vicar of St Johns, Forton who had worked under him in the Pretoria diocese. The Institution took place on October 30th 1922. The Bishop in the course of his sermon urged his hearers to be missionary minded and to welcome in people at present outside the influence of the church.

A few months previous, Mr A.H. Waller had resigned as organist to the great regret of all as he had raised the standard of singing of both plainchant and modern to a very high level; and Mr William Hicks was appointed to the position.

Fr. Robert D.T. Lowe who had been at All Saints, Margaret Street became assistant curate but left after about a year. Since his return to England, Canon Burton had preached at St Saviour's on various occasions, and at the Dedication Festival in 1922 he preached on "The Presence" which to him was very real and the subject of many of his sermons in his later years.

The Rogation Processions which were commenced in about 1907 were maintained and the hope was expressed that their witness to our Faith might be more and more recognised which, unhappily, was not fulfilled as in later years they were ceased. Recent attempts to revive them have not been very successful.

Members of St Mary's Ward of the St Saviour's Guild took part in processions in honour of Our Lady, and other occasions, wearing white veils and dresses and holding white streamers from the Madonna banners, but this very happy and picturesque custom ceased when the Guild was



disbanded. Fr Carey started a Communicants Guild, but it lacked the enthusiasm of the old Guild and soon ceased.

Mr. Herbert R. Wilton Hall died early in 1924 and it was fitting that the St Saviour's processional crucifix should be used at his funeral at Essendon. He had a wonderful record of faithful service and among other things he had been choirmaster, treasurer, churchwardens' secretary, sacristan, magazine editor and the author of "The Story of St Saviour's".

Fr. Cyril Isherwood commenced his ministry in 1923 which was happily to continue for a number of years and his sincere and devoted pastoral work is remembered with gratitude by many to this day.

All the Anglo Catholic Congresses and High Masses were fully supported individually and by organised parties as was also the Oxford Movement Centenary in 1933 culminating in the High Mass at Keble College at which our Bishop presided.

A Pontifical High Mass with Bishop Gore as Celebrant was sung at St Saviour's in connection with an Anglo Greek Conference at the Diocesan House on January 13th 1927 when the writer was privileged to act as MC. The Greek priests sat in choir and the servers, most of whom were priests, were vested alb and amice. Dr H.L. Gonge preached at a Pontifical High Mass at St Saviour's on July 5th 1933 at a Keble Convention which was sung to the well known and much loved De Angelis music by special request of our Bishop who presided.

A "St Saviour's" bedroom was furnished at the Diocesan House and a number of St Saviour's retreats have made use of it.

The decoration of the Sanctuary, under Mr Walter Tapper took place in 1927 and consisted of plastering the walls, enlarging the High Altar, erecting the reredos and resteping the pavement. The panels of the predella have now been completed with pictures mainly given as memorials.

Among many gifts received was a Baptismal shell from Bethlehem given by members who had been to the Holy Land; the panels of the Lady Altar Reredos given in memory of Mrs Margaret A. Gallop and Mrs May A. Phillip which was designed by Mr Martin Travers. A handsome electric candelabra for the chancel by Captain Gallop, memorial windows in the Lady Chapel in memory of Mr and Mrs Garfield Taylor and the Revd. F. and Mrs Robinson. Four candlesticks for the Lady Altar, designed by Mr Lawson by a legacy left by Miss Julia Kingsnorth, Holy Water Vat and Sprinkler by Miss Caute and two handsome priest's prayer desks given in memory of Mr Arthur Garfield Taylor who had been churchwarden and a devoted member of the congregation for many years which was placed in the Lady Chapel. A legacy of £1,000 was used for decorating and enlarging the Lady Chapel.

On July 18th 1929, the Bishop of St Albans promulgated the Statement of the Archbishops and Bishops issued that year permitting the use of the Prayer Book of 1928, if such use had the goodwill of the Parochial Church Council.

## Chapter 9

### The Closing Years of Fr Carey's Ministry

Mr. Osborn resigned as vergier in 1929 owing to ill health after fourteen years of devoted work and devotion to duty and was succeeded by Mr Edward Cooper who however soon resigned in order to become a lay reader at Ipswich and he was subsequently ordained. He was succeeded by Mr Charles Tamsett who has therefore recently completed 21 years in that position.

Another change in organist also took place as Mr Hicks resigned in 1931 and was succeeded by Mr Meachum Haley who had the difficult war period.

The Children's Corner with its statue of the Holy Child designed by Mr Lawson was dedicated at Whitsun 1928, its cost of £38 was largely paid for by the pence of the children.

The observance of Armistice Sunday for some years took the form of Solemn Mass of Requiem followed by the Solemn Absolutions at the Catafalque which is known to have brought consolation to many bereaved. It is interesting to note that the first Catafalque erected in St Saviour's Church was for the Requiem for Queen Victoria in 1901.

Retreats at the Diocesan House for servers and others were held in Lent 1929 and subsequent years being well attended as was also a two-day Catholic Convention held in June 1929 when the principal speaker was Fr Briggard CR.

The building of the Church Secondary School at Townsend was commenced in 1930 towards which St Saviour's raised £1,500 being by far the largest sum given by any other St Albans church apart from the Abbey. From that time onwards "The Friends of Church Schools" and "The Church

School Fund" box have been well supported, and from £40 to over £100 per year has been raised.

The Madonna Statue designed by Mr Lawson and dedicated by the Bishop on October 20th 1934 formed the memorial to Mrs Jane Carey and was the gift of many of her friends in St Albans, Gosport and South Africa.

In November 1934, Fr Colin Gill of St Albans, Holborn preached a ten-day mission which was well attended.

Fr. Isherwood celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination in June 1936 and was the recipient of a gold watch.

In April 1937 Fr Carey resigned and was appointed to Walkern. In March 1939 he underwent an operation from which he subsequently died. Before his operation he wrote "Give my love to St Saviour's people ....I loved St Saviour's with a great love and I have never really recovered leaving it, but I am beginning to love Walkern". He was a good pastor with an earnest love of souls and a passionate desire to help people as he did. The Cross of Flowers from St Saviour's bore the words "In token of our continued sweet communion with one we loved. R.I.P."

## Chapter 10

### Changes

The appointment of Fr Ernest Scott, Vicar of Flamstead and Rural Dean caused intense satisfaction as he was known to many since his early days at St Saviour's, Luton, and he was instituted into the living by the Bishop on June 28th 1937. Fr Scott was a keen scoutmaster and had attended an International Scout Conference and Jamboree in Holland and he took the greatest interest in St Saviour's scouts and guides.

As from May 1st 1937, Mr B.G. Butler had been appointed a parochial lay reader and for some years he assisted in many ways.

Fr. Isherwood accepted the living of West Hyde and many of our people went over to his institution, his farewell gifts were subscribed to by many in appreciation of his long and faithful work. Fr Henry Cooper came from All Saints, Bedford in October 1937 and during his three year stay worked very hard at the Sunday School. He resigned in May 1940 and subsequently became Vicar of St Michaels, Shoreditch.

Early in 1939, Fr Scott's health began to cause anxiety, and in June that year to the great regret of all, he resigned. He wrote "As to success or failure, it is really not ours to judge. God is the only Judge there and I hope that, in His eternal purpose, my short stay among you has had some real value .... I felt it an honour to be called to such a parish and it is a great parish because those who are members of it realise their responsibilities".

The Diocesan Appeals for Church Schools and the Herts and Beds Churches met with a ready response, about £1,000

being raised mainly due to Miss Edwardes' untiring efforts. A further £320 for schools was presented at the Thanksgiving Service at the Abbey when the Archbishop attended resplendent in cope and mitre.

Fr. George Henry Hewitt, Vicar of St Ippolyte was instituted into the living on August 10th 1939 and his ministry covered the difficult war period with St Albans being declared a Reception Area. The military were billeted in the town and in the latter years of the war American troops were here.

At the Advent Ordination, the Bishop ordained the Revd. Thomas Michael Dix as a deacon, and it was a great honour for St Saviour's Church to be given that ceremony.

The Orthodox Liturgy was celebrated at St Saviour's on March 13 1941 followed by a Conference on Christian Unity at which Fr Alexis and Dr Nicholas Zernor spoke.

Canon Burton died at Brighton on March 17th 1943 aged 84 years; a Solemn High Mass of Requiem was offered in St Martins Church, Brighton, and the Bishop of Lewes who pronounced the Panegyric before the Solemn Absolution said "He did not come into our life by chance. He was a man sent from God". His body was brought to St Albans and he was buried in St Albans Cemetery after a Solemn Mass of Requiem at St Saviour's in the presence of Bishop Haywood and many priests and old friends. "It was the homecoming of a faithful warrior". He gave his chalice and paten to St Saviour's, and in accordance with his wish his name has been inscribed on the High Altar.

Fr. Dix resigned in June 1943 to join the University Mission as was his known intention all along and in accordance with his undertaking; he was given a chalice and paten as a farewell gift.

Fr. John Cuthbert Houghton, affectionately known as “Fr John”, joined St Saviour’s in August 1943. He was an energetic visitor and did much appreciated work among the young; and there was much regret when he left after about three years for a curacy at St Peters, Plymouth.

In June 1945 Fr Hewitt resigned to return to the African Mission Field. His coming resignation had been known for some time, and when Bishop Philip Lloyd paid his first visit as Ordinary on April 29th 1945 he announced the name of the new Vicar as Fr Bernard Meredith Kitson, Vicar of All Saints, Benhilton and Rural Dean of Beddington..

The Bishop was solemnly received with due ceremonial at the West Doors before the High Mass and he subsequently stated how impressed and encouraged he had been with his reception.

Early in May 1945, hostilities had ceased in Europe and a Solemn Te Deum was sung after the High Mass on Thanksgiving Sunday. This was virtually the end of Fr Hewitt’s ministry at St Saviour’s and a presentation of farewell gifts was made to him at a social on 31 May 1945.

St Saviour’s Hall was quickly released by the military and the normal life of the parish soon recommenced.

Fr. Kitson was instituted into the living on 9th August 1945, and so commenced another chapter in our history.

## Chapter 11

### Later Days

Largely through the energy of Mr Pope Genge, No. 15 Sandpit Lane was obtained for the church as a curate's house for £2,000 which had to be loaned but was repaid within four years.

Fr. John Price, who had succeeded Fr Houghton became the first tenant of this house and the wisdom of it being acquired became very apparent.

Mr. William Baden Goodchild, who had been very closely connected with St Saviour's all his life, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Oxford at the Trinity Ordination 1946.

A weeks' Parochial Convention conducted by Fr Speight CR in September 1947 had been intensively prepared for by cell meetings held in eight peoples houses in the parish, of which two continue to function and to do good work.

There was another change of organists, Mr Haley resigning and being succeeded by Mr F. William Hicks who had previously held that position.

Fr. Price left for work in the diocese of Adelaide and was followed by Fr Gerald Emmet who did much intensive good work among the young as well as the Youth Fellowship.

A feature of 1948 was the St Albans Millenary Pageant for which, under Mr George Robinson's direction, St Saviour's was mainly responsible for an episode called "Holy Days" in which was incorporated the story of the supposed miracle at St Alban's shrine as given in Shakespeare's "Henry VI".



On June 1st 1948 Miss Mabel Edwardes passed to her rest and during her 48 years at St Albans she had never spared herself in her work for the church. A votive candlestick was given in her memory by Mrs New and family and the congregation's memorial took the form of altar rails in St Michaels Chapel.

Other gifts include a bronze flower vase and silver vase suitably inscribed as memorials to Miss Helen DuBulay who is also remembered on the predella of the High Altar reredos. She left a legacy of £2,000 towards the endowment of the living. A Book of Remembrance of the Faithful Departed of the congregation was given in memory of Mrs Beatrice Grace Morley, a faithful member for over 40 years and who died on June 22nd 1950. A system of loudspeakers in the nave and chancel was given in memory of Mr William Pope Genge, Treasurer and Churchwarden for over 30 years - a very perfect gentleman and man of God.

A bequest by Miss Steward for providing electrical apparatus to ring the church bell from the Sanctuary and a new bell having a more suitable tone was placed in the belfry; a set of white Low Mass Vestments from a legacy from Miss Heal; a set of violet Low Mass Vestments from Miss Holme; an incense boat and spoon from Mr and Mrs W.R. Walker and a clock in memory of Mr Henry Arnett placed in the choir vestry. Mr Wilfred Henry Morley, Server and Sacristan for many years celebrated his Jubilee as a St Saviour's' server on 21st August 1950 and received many congratulations.

In May 1951 Fr Emmet accepted a living at Leicester, and Fr Alfred Ronald Thompson who had worked in Antigua commenced his duties in August.

The organ originally built by Messrs. Nicholson of Worcester in 1898, and had had only minor repairs, required a general renovation in 1952. Messrs. Willis and Sons Ltd.

were entrusted with the work which with incidental expenses cost £2,000. Towards this sum certain donations, including one of £500 from Miss Ashby in memory of her parents, were received and the remainder of the amount raised through the untiring efforts of Mr Hicks and others.

The 75th Anniversary of the founding of the St Albans Diocese is being held in 1952 and each church was asked to state their special desire to further the work of the church to be included in a Book of Aims to be presented at the Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral.

The Aims of St Saviour's were to increase the work of the Sunday School, to further evangelistic work in the parish and to help young married people, particularly young wives. A Young Wives Group has been formed with monthly meetings under the guidance of Mrs Seivewright as secretary and an attractive programme has been planned consisting of many varied subjects.

## Chapter 12

### Voluntary Assistant Priests

The work at St Saviour's has been greatly helped by the devotion of many voluntary assistant priests without whose help and ministrations much of what has been accomplished could not have been attempted.

The assistant Missioners - Frs. Walter Jenks, George Edwardes, Arthur Montford and James Talbot gave of their best and Fr Edwardes continued for some years after the church had ceased to be connected with the Mission Society.

From the very early days Fr Frederick Robinson threw himself whole-heartedly into the work and in the absence of the Missioner did much of the visiting. He gave freely of his wealth to all who really needed assistance. On one occasion the writer was cycling with him when some tramps solicited. Alas, we cycled on but "dear old Freddie" as he was affectionately known was not at all happy. After a few miles, he said "Those men really needed help, will you wait while I go back?" and when he returned his face was radiantly happy. He celebrated the first Mass at St Saviour's in this century and it was the privilege of the writer to be his server. He died suddenly in 1921 and for one so prepared it was a beautiful end to a beautiful life.

Fr. James DuBulay gave much help especially on weekdays until his death in 1927 and his daughter Miss Helen DuBulay was a most energetic church worker until her death eleven years later.

Fr. Edward J Walker came to St Albans in 1914 and commenced a long and much valued ministry until his death in 1935. Mrs Walker established the St Etheldreda Embroidery Guild which did much valuable work in making

and repairing vestments. The Blessed Sacrament banner was designed and executed by them.

Fr. Arthur Sharp who had worked in India joined St Saviour's in 1922 and was ever ready and happy to assist until he left St Albans for Harpenden. Mrs Sharp was also a very energetic worker and for some years was treasurer of the Sanctuary Decoration Fund.

Fr. G M Edmonds regularly said Mass once a week until his death in 1930; both he and Mrs Edmonds gave valuable assistance at the Christmas Sales.

Fr. Eric Paton Hindley, who was Vicar of Marston St Lawrence, for some years gave much appreciated and devoted work until 1943 when he was appointed priest in charge of St Francis, Hammerfield.

Frs. F.F. Summers and Edward Davies willingly assisted whenever required especially at weekday Masses until their deaths in 1941 and 1942 respectively.

Fr. Charles Alexander Mackonochie who is a nephew of the much revered and persecuted Alexander Heriot Mackonochie, Vicar of St Albans, Holborn, came to St Saviour's in 1943 after being Rector of Frampton Cotterell for over thirty years. His ripe experience and gentleness of character were perhaps felt in the Confessional and many have cause to thank God for his good council. He was greatly missed when he left St Albans.

During the Second World War Fr Robert Hewitt gave considerable help and without his assistance some curtailment would have had to be made. Upon his brother's resignation as Vicar, Fr Robert went as Chaplain to the East Grinstead Sisterhood.

Fr. Walter J. Gallop who for a number of years was a member of our congregation has given considerable help since his return to St Albans upon his resignation as Vicar of Flitwick in 1947. He has taken a full share in the daily and weekly round of services which probably could not otherwise have been maintained.

Canons E.J. Gallop, A.S. Purnell and Cyril E. Hudson have all given much valuable help as far as their Cathedral and Diocesan duties allowed.

Other priests who have given invaluable services for shorter periods include Frs. S. Weston, formerly of the SPG Deputation staff; S.A. Cuthbert, who subsequently submitted to the Roman obedience; W.R. Rayson; S.A. Madge, Chaplain of St Albans School and Basil Reay - Diocesan Inspector of Schools.

Canon Purnell had been a great friend of St Saviour's since the early days and upon becoming Archdeacon of St Albans moved to St Albans and looked upon St Saviour's as his parish church. He once said to Fr Carey "Remember, here in St Saviour's, I am your curate and I will help you on Sundays in whatever you ask me to do if I am at home".

## **Chapter 13**

### **Various Organisations**

A Branch of the CEMS was formed in 1907 and has continued to function ever since with varying fortunes. Many activities were undertaken including Men's and Boys' Clubs, Scouts and such like. Series of lectures and meetings were arranged which were addressed amongst others by Sir Ernest Shackleton, Mr Hesketh Pritchard, Bishop Furse and Bishop Neville Talbot.

During the First World War prayer meetings were held in private houses which were well attended.

The Boy Scout movement was started in the parish in August 1911 and their troop, the 5th St Albans, continued to flourish until the war when the leaders went into the forces. Fr Isherwood revived it in 1924 when it became the 9th St Albans troop and with the help of members of the congregation they carried on during the Second World war under Mr John Lauder and Mr Doug Wilson with the Cubs under Mrs Dunn. A reconstruction of the local troops caused their disbandment.

The Girl Guides, known as the 7th St Albans, was formed in 1921 under Miss A.. Edwardes and Miss Buck and with the Brownies have successfully carried on continuously thanks to the assistance and enthusiasm of ladies of the congregation acting respectively as Captain and Brown Owl. Throughout the years, meetings and church parades have been regularly held, and our grateful thanks are due to those ladies who have made such things possible.

The Mothers Union was firmly established from the first with Mrs Burton as Enrolling Member, and since then by Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake, Mrs Jane Carey, Mrs Fortiscue

Brickdale, Lady Frances Tufnell and Mrs C. Carey. The beautiful banner of our branch was dedicated at the Abbey at the Jubilee Service on July 7th 1926; it was worked in Bruges and the design is from the picture "The Madonna of the Olive Branch".

Many members attended the Diamond Jubilee of the Union at the Albert Hall in 1936 and also the pilgrimage to the grave of Mrs Mary Sumner at Winchester. Services, meetings socials and summer outings have been regularly maintained, and in recent years, visits to Fr Carey at Walkern and Fr Michael Carey at Hunsdon were much appreciated.

The servers held meetings in the early days at Mr Gunyon's house but upon Mr Wilton Hall becoming Sacristan in 1909 minutes of such meetings were taken of which there are records of over 150.

In the days of the Mission Society the servers had their own local guild but in June 1913 they joined the Holy Grail Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, and many happy visits have been made to neighbouring churches and to the full meetings in London. The yearly festival service at St Saviour's has always been largely attended and many eminent preachers, including our diocesan bishops, have attended.

A feature of the service in 1936 was the singing of the "Benedicite" in procession to the well known plainchant "Tonus Peregrinus". In 1935 Mr Wilfred Morley was elected to the Guild Council which gave much satisfaction to the local chapter.

Fr. Isherwood was appointed Chaplain to the chapter in 1937 which he held for a number of years during which time were commenced the Triennial Guild services at the Cathedral.

Mr. Cecil Leech succeeded Mr Wilton Hall as Sacristan in 1914 until his enrolment in the army when Mr Edgar Smith took up the office. Mr Wilfred Morley became Sacristan in 1920, Mr Frank Day in 1936 in which he has continued, with a short break, after the war. Mr T. Simms, Mr Albert Bird and now Mr Derek Muhley have given much help as assistant Sacristans. The more serious side of a server's life has not been overlooked and retreats, quiet days and half days have always been largely attended.

The choir in addition to their rendering of the Divine Office has also given a number of sacred recitals including Stainer's "Crucifixion", West's "Story of Bethlehem", Somervill's "Passion of Christ" and Dr Wood's "St Marks Passion" in addition to many recitals of sacred songs and solos. The Choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and took part in the Daily Mail Church Choir Festival under Dr Nicholson at the Albert Hall in 1930, of which Mr Hicks gave a repeat performance at St Saviour's with himself conducting and Mr (now Dr) Francis Cutton at the organ.

The RSCM send eminent musicians to affiliated churches to give help and council. Mr Conrad Eden, organist of Durham Cathedral, visited St Saviour's in 1951. In his report he expressed his delight at hearing plainchant so admirably sung which recalls the days when our choir was famed for its rendering of plainsong. The choir has also entered local musical festivals and have always been very highly placed. They have also joined other local church choirs at musical festivals at the Cathedral.

Individual members also belong to the St Albans Bach Choir which gave performances of well known oratorio at the Cathedral. They also formed part of the St Albans Pageants in 1907 and 1948 and on both occasions were under the conductorship of St Saviour's musicians. Among others who have given valuable assistance at the organ are Miss Thompson, Miss Paull and Mr David Laphthorn.



The Sunday School, which Fr Burton considered was one of the most important parts of the work, has carried on continuously in all its departments with varying success, and grateful thanks are due to those who willingly give of their time and talents for this most important work. There have been times of great difficulty such as when the Hall has been requisitioned but it has carried on the good work done by Miss Seebohm, Miss Dunning, Miss Hopkins and Mr Hibbert, and their traditions are being worthily followed by the Superintendents and teachers today.

The St Saviour's Ward of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament was formed in 1911 with Mr Hextall as secretary and subsequently by Mr Elliott. Fr Carey became Diocesan Superior and the yearly Corpus Christi festival at St Saviour's were largely attended from all parts of the diocese. Large parties attended the meeting at the Albert Hall in 1932 and again in 1937 when our banner hung over the fronts of the boxes with many others.

During the Second World War the Ward became attached to Flamstead under the name of "Ward of St Albans" but it has now happily returned to St Saviour's with Fr Kitson as Ward Superior. That this Ward has functioned continuously for over forty years testifies to the love, enthusiasm and devotion of its members who are sometimes referred to as the "Bodyguard of the Blessed Sacrament".

Miss Seebohm has been the Local Secretary of the Fraternity of the Resurrection for many years and apart from raising about £70 yearly for the work of the Community has also organised lectures and meetings to further interest in its work.

The St Albans Branch of the Church Union under Miss Swan, its secretary, is somewhat centered around St

Saviour's, and many meetings under its auspices have been held in the Hall.

The Friends of Church Schools and the Church Schools Fund, both primarily in connection with the Church Secondary School at Townsend, St Albans have been well supported by the congregation. The Bible Reading Fellowship has many members and has done quiet but very effective work for many years.

During the Second World War a Red Cross working party, familiarly known as "The Girls", met regularly at the Vicarage and sent over one thousand articles for the Red Cross and Merchant Navy Comforts Fund.

The list of organisations is published but it is hoped that due reference and appreciation have been made of the work done by so many so lovingly for Holy Church and the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

## Chapter 14

### St Saviour's Missionary Association

The Association was formed in January 1911 as it was felt that although St Saviour's people have many calls on their finances yet an effort must be made for foreign missions and its success can be gauged from £21 raised in 1910 to £970 in 1945. The total amount raised from 1911 until the end of 1951 is £20,563 which is a wonderful effort for a comparatively small parish.

Its aim however was not solely to collect money but to combine the efforts of all who pray and take an interest in mission and to increase that interest.

The money is collected in various ways and is partly allocated as earmarked for special societies and the balance divided among certain well known missions and societies. At the moment (1952), seven missions are being so supported:-

1. Cowley Wantage and All Saints
2. Korea
3. Oxford Mission to Calcutta
4. Southern Rhodesia
5. SPG
6. UMCA
7. Zululand

A Candidate's Fund, costing about £40 a year has supported a number of such since 1921 some of whom have been ordained.

The Association arranges sermons in church, meetings, lectures, exhibitions and garden parties, and also holds a Yearly Sale or Gift Day.

Mrs. Worlaston was the first secretary and upon her leaving St Albans in 1921 Miss Mabel Edwardes took it over and under her energy and enthusiasm it has become St Saviour's greatest achievement. All of Miss Edwardes' work was well done but the Missionary Association was her greatest effort and work with which her name will be ever associated.

Canon Harding (Rural Dean) speaking at a Ruridecanal Conference in 1946 said that its results were an example and inspiration to the whole deanery and expressed thanks to Miss Edwardes through whose efforts the money had been raised.

Miss Edwardes resigned through ill-health in 1948 and during the 27 years she had been secretary £17,854 was raised. Mr W.R. Walker held the office for three years during which time £1,702 was collected.

The interest it has aroused is shown by the large parties which attended the Annual Meetings in London and particularly those of the SPG and UMCA. The present secretary is Miss Joan Waghorn who worked as a missionary in South Africa for a number of years, and under her guidance the work is being well maintained.

In 1924 Bishop Steward of Melanesia sent his blessing and an autographed photo to the Association which was placed in the Melanesian Book of Prayer Circle at the St Albans Diocesan Missionary Festival.

In 1930 the St Albans Deanery presented "Life in an African Village" in which a number of our members successfully disguised themselves. Two Missionary Exhibitions were held in church during the Second World War at which lectures were given and the exhibits aroused much interest. The Missionary Library has been established for many years and is kept up to date and a number of magazines are regularly circulated.

Mr. Douglas C. McCulloch, who was churchwarden in 1928, and his wife actively supported St Saviour's, audited the Missionary Association accounts for many years necessitating much work owing to the large number of missions and societies supported.

## **Chapter 15**

### **Social Activities - The St Saviour's Players**

The usual social activities of a parish have been maintained throughout the years which have done much to break down the natural reserve unfortunately common to most of us. Attempts to run cricket and football clubs have met with no permanent success but a badminton club has been in existence for some years. The St Saviour's Tennis Club organised by the Servers and St Mary's Ward with Miss Ashby as secretary continued for a number of years.

The chief social events of the year were the Guild Social, now known as the Parish Social, of which the Musical Chairs Competition was a great feature; and the Annual Christmas Sale of Work.

The St Saviour's Young Peoples Fellowship was originally formed by Fr Scott in 1937 and has been continued ever since - though sometimes at a more active pace than others. Though proper emphasis is laid that it is not "just another club" but for all the younger members of the Catholic church bound by that calling, yet the social side is not neglected. Their innumerable activities include social evenings, dances, discussion groups, debates, hikes and visits to other parishes, country dancing, tennis tournaments mock trials, film shows and visits to such places as Cambridge, Ely and Bedford.

Of more serious interest, several weekend visits of the nature of a retreat were made to Leatherhead in conjunction with the Fellowship of St Pauls, Knightsbridge. A film projector, given by Fr Hewitt as a parting gift to the parish when he returned to Africa, has done good work both as regards serious subjects, and others not so serious, especially in connection with the Youth Fellowship and Sunday School.

In the earlier days, theatrical productions had been given by Mr Harold Scroggs, Mr A.E. Salmon, Mr Fenwick and others, and later a number of smaller productions were performed by other organisations among which “The Mirror for Souls” by St Mary’s Ward was one of the most successful. In January 1920 Prebendary Hibbert’s “A miracle of the Christ Mass” was produced by Mr F. Hibbert and was so successful that the servers formed a committee under the name of “The St Saviour’s Players” for the production of such plays.

Subsequently, a separate organisation under the same name was created which was not restricted to servers and their friends, but is confined to members of the congregation. Several members have acted as producers but Mr George Robinson has been responsible for the majority of the major productions.

Among Christmas plays produced have been “ Christmas Story in mime”, Christmas Play and Bethlehem Tableau, most of which have been repeated a number of times. Passion plays include “The Upper Room”, “The Garden”, “Judas which also”, “Simon Peter”, “This is the Victory”, “Christ Crucified” and a morality play entitled “The Gate of Vision”. Other full length plays have been “The Little Plays of St Francis”, “The Playgoers”, “Man about the place” and a number of comedies.

The St Saviour’s Guild - Musical Chairs Competition			
1896	Walter Jenks	1918	Percy Ives
1897	Lilian Toulmin	1919	Frank Bradley
1898	Rose Reynolds	1920	Elizabeth Edwardes
1899	Alice Stevens	1921	Mary Lee
1900	Ben Mead	1922	Grace Warby

1901	Arthur Simms	1923	Winifred Smedley
1902	Stanley Blow	1924	Elizabeth Grover
1903	Harry Vernon	1925	Lily Thomas
1904	Violet Todd	1926	George Grover
1905	John Christmas	1927	Clara Grover
1906	Harry Vernon	1928	Elizabeth Grover
1907	Constance Ellingham	1929	Frances Gallop
1908	Florrie Harris	1930	Annie Siggery
1909	Lily Richardson	1932	Winifred Smedley
1910	Charles Richardson	1933	Wilfred Morley
1911	May Hancock	1934	Beryl Wade
1912	Edward Osborn	1935	Gertrude Chatley
1913	Charles Richardson	1936	Lorraine Kemp
1914	May Hancock	1937	Nancy Kemp
1915	Doris Wightman	1938	Wilfred Morley
		1939	M.J.R. Hayter



## **Holy Ordination**

The following members of the congregation have received the honour of Holy Ordination:-

### **Bishop**

*The Rt Rev Bishop Vibert Jackson*

### **Priests**

*Fathers* Harry Allenson Buck CR - Michael Sausmarez Carey - John Arnold Carter - Edward Cooper - Donald Bruce Cumming - Humphrey Cumming - Edmund Frances Day - Arthur Dudley - Kenneth Ronald Fielding - Ernest Harold Gallop - Walter Gallop - William Baden Goodchild - Thomas Hartley Jackson - Douglas Barnes Lott - William Salmon