

Lincoln's church of tomorrow

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FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear People of St. John's,

A few years ago you made a first great effort to be as nearly as possible self supporting. Since then you have made great progress. You have a Vicar, a Curate, a new church being built and more important a growing Christian community.

Now comes another call for new givers and new supporters of all that St. John's is meaning to the Parish of Ermine. We are trying to help from the Diocese, and have been glad to support you with a grant of £13,000 towards the cost of the new church. However, the more you can do for yourselves, the more your church will mean to you and through you to other people.

May God bless you,

Your sincere friend and Bishop,

KENNETH LINCOLN:



FROM OUR CLERGY

Dear Friends,

The story of this booklet is an 'adventure story'. A story of God's people battling against heavy odds, and doing the things that they thought were impossible.

Many of you have worked very hard and given sacrificially to build up the Family of God in this place. We want to give you our personal thanks and to say what a joy it has been to share with you in this great enterprise.

For some of you, your connection with St. John's is as yet only through your children. They attend, perhaps, our Sunday Schools or organisations. We are appealing to you for their future and the future of their children. They will need a church where they can be baptised, confirmed, make their communion and perhaps get married—somewhere to get to know and love GOD. This is a challenge to this generation to provide for countless generations in the future.

Few people get the chance to be involved in the *building* of a church. We have the chance. And one day, you'll pass by and be able to say "I helped to build that church".

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HODGKINSON, *Vicar.*

BILL BROCKIE, *Assistant Curate.*

The Families of St. John's

are grateful for the abundant goodness of God
showered upon them in the past six years



They are working hard to build not just

A HOUSE OF GOD

but also

A FAMILY OF GOD



GOD is calling you to give to this work

your time; your talents

and your money.

THE FAMILY IS



1956

St. John's Hall, dedicated as a Dual Purpose Hall—The Church borrows £6,000 to provide the first social centre on the estate.

1957

Family Communion and Sunday Schools firmly established. Evergreen Club; Girl Guides; Boys' Club; Youth Fellowship; Young Wives; Drama Group.



1958

St. John's Community Centre dedicated to provide the first place for worship and social life on Ermine West.

1959

Planned Giving Campaign—the first in Lincoln—puts the finances of our church in order. Way opened to plan the Parish Church.

GROWING UP

1960

Growing Parish needs another priest. Bungalow built for Assistant Curate.



1961

Plans approved for Parish church. Design by Sam Scorer arouses national interest.

1962

Foundation Stone laid by Bishop of Lincoln.



Gifts began to come in, but
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO FINISH THE JOB

NOW

We have a **CHURCH** Family that is vigorous and keen.



- ★ The Church building is going wonderfully well.
- ★ There are 400 children attending Sunday Schools.
- ★ 234 adults and boys and girls have been confirmed.
- ★ 560 adults and children have been baptised.
- ★ The Holy Spirit is quite obviously working among us.

The Foundations are indeed truly laid

BUT

We have a terrific job to do

and we need

YOUR HELP!

Our needs for the next three years

BUDGET EXPENSES

If we are to BUILD on our Foundations we cannot cut down on our expenses.



1. Two priests are an absolute minimum for our young Parish of 10,000 souls.
2. We must light, heat, clean and keep in repair our existing premises.
3. We must pay running expenses, telephone, printing, transport, etc.
4. We must keep up our Sanctuary, Choir, Sunday Schools and organisations.

ALL THIS WILL COST, WE ESTIMATE, £29 A WEEK OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS

and also

BUILDING OUR NEW CHURCH

Stage One (now under construction)

We have raised £3,000	}	£21,000
We have grants of £18,000		
Total Cost of Stage One		£24,000
So we still need		£3,000

Stage Two (vestries, chapel, belfry)

Estimated cost	£10,000
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So to complete the church we must raise £13,000

or £84 a week for three years only.

And we must raise it as soon as possible.

Delay will either hold up building (which is unthinkable, isn't it?).

Or involve us in expensive borrowing and debts (which is bad stewardship).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

These are big sums of money—how is the amount to be raised?

Don't despair—think of what has been done already in six years from scratch and go on **DOING YOUR SHARE** till it hurts, and believing that others will be moved by the Holy Spirit to do the same.



Make your Giving realistic!



You are asked to consider

what you would **LIKE** to **TRY** to do,

what you **OUGHT** to try to do,

what you **CAN** try to do!



*Building
Committee
signs the
contract
for the
Parish
Church*

IT COSTS 5/- a week for each active Church family simply to provide our **BUDGET** Expenses. This is what our Church has to spend on us and for us.

This is OUR OBLIGATION

You don't want to depend on *other people* to keep the Church going for *you*.

IN ADDITION we need £13,000 for **CHURCH BUILDING**—

This is OUR OPPORTUNITY

We all want to be 'in on' this wonderful venture, and 'in on' it with our money as well as our hands and our prayers.

OUR FINANCIAL FOUNDATION

is that during the last three years many of us have found the JOY of giving adequately to the work of God, and we have found that we CAN in fact give more than we thought we could.

Now we ask you

IF you were already pledged in the last scheme to re-think your giving and decide to try to do

even better for GOD



IF you are new to the idea of planned giving, to think it over, and talk it over with the Churchman who will call on you, and THEN make up your mind

the best you can do for GOD

*An
early
"Hostess
Meeting"*



Don't miss this wonderful chance

to be right in on the most exciting events of the next few years.

Our responsibility—

Our Church is our responsibility

WE CANNOT UNLOAD THE RESPONSIBILITY EITHER ON TO THE GOVERNMENT OR ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION OR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE LAST.



WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, THE PRIVILEGE, TO COMPLETE A GRAND PROJECT FOR GOD, AND TO BE ABLE TO SAY: "THIS IS MY CHURCH; I HELPED TO BUILD IT."



IT IS AS MUCH OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR OWN CHURCH AS IT IS TO PROVIDE FOR OUR OWN HOMES.



IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANYONE ELSE.



IN OUR FAMILIES WE ALL GIVE GENEROUSLY AND UNSPARINGLY. OUGHT WE NOT TO PLAN TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO GOD'S FAMILY ALSO?

Questions and Answers



- Q.* Do we need to spend as much as 5/- per week for each active family just to run our Church?
- A.* Certainly—a mean run-down way of doing things is *not* good enough for God's work.
- Q.* Surely the Church is State-supported or at least financed by the Church Commissioners?
- A.* No, indeed, the State does **NOT** support the Church in any way, and the bulk of the large income which the Church Commissioners receive from their investments is used to pay Clergy of all Orders. Parochial expenses are in the main the responsibility of the parishioners.
- Q.* £29 a week and £13,000 as well! Is such an amount possible in this parish?
- A.* Yes, certainly. Hundreds of other Churches up and down the country are working in this way and proving that it is entirely possible.
- Q.* Are we told how much we must give?
- A.* Certainly not! Only you and your family can decide this. We ask only that your decision should be given sincere thought, remembering that the *generosity* of your gift will be the measure of your personal love of your Church.
- Q.* Why are we required to pledge a definite amount?
- A.* In our own homes most of us have an assured regular income and can budget for the future. The Church needs to be able to do the same.
- Q.* When we make a pledge, does the Church hold us to it in all circumstances?
- A.* No. Pledges are made voluntarily and in good faith. In the event of loss of income, through illness, for instance, the family may reduce or even cancel its pledge until the emergency is past and income is back to normal.
- Q.* Is it better to pledge than to give generously in our own way?
- A.* Yes, infinitely better. Even the best intentioned of us needs self-discipline in a matter of this kind.



You may have other questions . . .

**Please ask your Canvasser when
he calls**

LINCOLN'S



CHURCH



OF TOMORROW