



The Creation of the Parish of
St. John the Baptist, Lincoln.

1956 - 1963

The Rev. Canon John Hodgkinson,

(Formerly Priest -in-Charge, and later, Vicar of the Parish)

CHURCH COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

St. John the Baptist, Ermine Lincoln.

Creation of a Parish

1956- 1964

The Beginnings:

The Rev. Bill Armstrong, Vicar of St. Nicholas, was faced in the 1950's with two new developments in his large parish. One was the private housing around Broadway, off Newport; and the other a large council-house estate off Long Leys Road, originally designated 'The Riseholme Estate'. The plan was to treat the two developments as a whole, with a new connecting road. With this in mind, the site for the future new church was chosen close to Long Leys Rd, so that it could serve both estates. This plan was later changed; the connecting road never built, and the church site left very much on the edge of what was now called, 'The Ermine Estate'.

A dual purpose hall was built on the corner of Sudbrooke Drive and Laughton Way, and dedicated on 20th. Jan. 1956.

In April 1956 I was appointed as Assistant Curate to Bill Armstrong, but to serve as Priest-in-charge of St. John the Baptist, Ermine. The sanctuary attached to the church hall had been dedicated to St. John the Baptist, after a former church in the parish of St. Nicholas, somewhere near where the present Drill Hall now stands.

We arrived from Penrith in our motor cycle and sidecar, to take up residence in the newly completed 'St. John's House'. Because my name is also John this caused some confusion, and we occasionally had callers asking if St. John was at home. Finding a name for me was difficult at first. I wasn't a Vicar, and although we were all young together and on Christian name terms, there was a desire to make some distinction for me as the parish priest. One Sunday, The Rev. Colin Morris, Chaplain of Pembroke College, Oxford, came to preach, and he referred to me as 'Father John', and from that moment, Father John I was!

Bill Armstrong and his other curates, Christopher Laurence, and Tony Burton, had established a Parish Communion at 9.15 a.m., and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. At Penrith I had served my first curacy with a splendid vicar who had quickly built up a very thriving congregation on the twin pillars of Parish communion and Parish Fellowship. The church met at least twice a week, once for worship in church, and also on Thursday evenings for talks, dances, plays, socials and outings. I had seen this pattern work and decided to implement it in this very new community.

First Moves

The Parish Communion was still a new concept and very experimental, but much more lively than the traditional Matins. The laity were involved wherever possible with an offertory procession, readings etc., and the service encouraged the sense of 'being the church' instead of just 'coming to church'. Most of the houses were occupied by young families, but there was also a number of dwellings for elderly people to keep the balance. Old and young mixed well together and there was a lot of fun. Even the elderly were young at heart, and one of the first organisations to be formed was an Evergreen Club which became an immediate success. My thinking behind this was to make provision for the elderly, so that when the Young Wives Group became the Mothers Union, it would not be too heavily weighted with elderly ladies.

Christine Armstrong had established a Young Wives' Group, and Jean was asked to become its leader in the first week of our arrival. On that Tuesday evening, we took our old gramophone over to the church hall, and introduced some of the dances that we had learnt in Penrith; The Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, the Winster Gallop, and such like. It was such a riotous evening that the group doubled in size very quickly. Guides, Brownies, and a Sunday School had already been started. These grew rapidly and new organizations followed; a robed choir, Youth Clubs, Church Lads' Brigade, the Janet Ashton School of Dancing, and a Dramatic Society which put on regular productions.

With so many young families our regular dances and socials were a great success, and in trying to equate the estate with the church we organised many other social activities; Baby Show, Fruit Flower and Veg. Show, and Cricket matches against the local pub, 'The Lincoln Imp'. Another annual event was the Parish Sports. We invited teams for the 4x 100yards relay, and the tug-of-war, from all over Lincoln, and the teams from St. John's Church remained unbeaten.

The church hall had a good stage, with dressing rooms and W.C.'s at the rear. This was all very well, but we had run out of space and needed an additional meeting room. The Church committee agreed to a radical plan, and one Saturday afternoon we knocked down the dressing rooms and loos, and I can still see little Brownies throwing bricks out of the emergency exit for all they were worth. In no time we had created another very useful room. Two days later a very irate architect called on me for destroying his handy-work. He complained that the cement was hardly dry, and the building not yet paid for!

These were exciting times and we lived dangerously. I was the only one in the church who had any means of transport, other than bicycles, and that was my B.S.A. 600 and side-car. I once offered to take the two Church-Wardens to the Archdeacon's Visitation at St. Swinthin's Church, one in the side-car and one on the pillion. We were a little late, so we drove over the cobbles and down Steep Hill. This was before the barrier was erected and all vehicles barred. We made it safely - but only just - and returned by a more conventional route.

Family socials were very popular, but on a Saturday night we then had the task of opening the windows to lose the cigarette smoke, sweeping the floor, setting out the chairs for church, and lifting up the screens which separated the sanctuary, so that we were ready for Sunday morning.

This was the beginning of the Rock and Roll era; the Beatles, thirteen year old Cilla Black, and young Lulu. The youngsters, including 'Teddy-boys', flocked into our teen-age dances, and I sometimes had to double up as 'bouncer'. We had our own group, 'The Casuals', and I used to pay them the princely sum of £4. 10s. per night. A year later they went professional, with a record that reached Number Two in 'Top of the Pops.'

As the Parish Communion grew there was the need for someone to assist with the chalice at the Communion. In the 1950's permission for a Reader to administer the chalice was only given in exceptional circumstances, and for one occasion at a time. However, Bishop Kenneth Riches, gave permission for a Reader from St. Nicholas', George Kelsey, to assist every week. George was prepared to continue earning his living as an accountant, but to train for the priesthood, and to assist me voluntarily in that capacity, if that was possible. However, this was an extremely radical suggestion in the 1950's, and although Kenneth Riches agreed in theory, he became rather edgy when I continued to press him. Three members of the congregation agreed to undertake training as Readers. Sydney Appleby and Ted Daines remained life-long Readers, and Bernard Parsons was later ordained.

We had a wonderful team of helpers, men and women, and after all these years I am still filled with gratitude and admiration for all that they did. (I would like to include a Roll of Honour, but there were so many it would be difficult to make sure that nobody was left out.)

The Vicar of Penrith came to preach one Sunday, and we both delighted in sharing in the intense fellowship of the Parish Communion in our simple church-hall. Afterwards we went to the Cathedral, and in that sublime building we stood in the nave and listened to a Byrd setting of the Sanctus from the Sung Eucharist in the choir. We agreed that in one morning we had shared the best of both worlds. My former vicar declared that although we could never combine these two contrasting experiences in this world, it might be possible in heaven!

On Jan 1st. 1958 the Ermine Estate was created a Conventional District, the first step on the way to becoming a parish. From now on, we were no longer part of the parish of St. Nicholas, and I was responsible directly to the Bishop of Lincoln.

In due course a house was built for an assistant curate, and the Rev. Bill Brockie and his new wife, Jenny, made their own special contribution to the life of the church.

There were very few marriage services in such a young community, but it was difficult to cope with all the baptisms. I remember one headline in the Lincolnshire Echoe, "Mass Baptism on Ermine Estate". This was an occasion when I had thirteen babies to baptise. Baptism certificates were delivered the following

week, and when I called at one house on Sudbrooke Drive, the young mother who came to the door took one look at me, and before I could open my mouth she said, "I haven't got time to come to anything!"

Quite early on we had a Mission in the parish, with Fr. Manson and Fr. Naters of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, and two sisters from the Convent of the Holy Name. This made a great impact and set the tone for our future spiritual growth.

Each year on Ascension Day, we hired two double-decker buses to join in worship with one of the country churches, following the ancient tradition of going outside the walls to celebrate this particular festival. We would leave the buses on the edge of the village, and then with choir and cross-bearer, process to our hosts, and enjoy worshipping with them in a traditional church. In years to come we were able to return the hospitality which had been given so generously. On Rogation Sunday, we would process with congregation, Sunday School, and Choir, to bless the fields which bordered the estate.

Ermine West. St. John's Community Centre.

When the housing development was extended to Ermine West, the busy Risehome Road which separated the two estates, was not only a physical barrier, but also a psychological one. The site of St. John's church/hall was a long way away from the new estate which extended to Burton Road. Our application for a site to build another dual purpose hall on Ermine West was turned down, but with persistence we eventually won approval. The Methodists who had also been refused a site some years before, now applied again, successfully.

This time we tried to involve the whole of the community in building a unit that would be part church, and part community centre. Councillor Eccleshare a local builder, came in on the side of the community, and we raised £4,000 for a project that was invested in the Diocesan Trust, but with a management committee that consisted of fifty percent elected members from Ermine West, and the other half representing the church. Committee meetings were fraught with difficulties, but it was a learning process, and there was accommodation for another Evergreen Club, Bingo Nights; and for the church members, a Parish Communion and Sunday School. We did much of the work ourselves, and several local councillors came to help excavate for the foundations. The main road was such a barrier, that it was very much like being in charge of two parishes. I was also chaplain to St. George's Hospital, so these were busy days.

The Ermine News

The Ermine News was invaluable in developing the link between the church and the two estates. Ron Hopper, publicity agent for Ruston and Hornsby, helped me to produce a tabloid newspaper, which reached a circulation in excess of 1500, and included items of general interest as well as church news. I was soon in trouble!

One article in the second edition, headed, "Hard lines on Pensioner", brought an immediate visitation from two prominent councillors, Dr. Lillicrap and Dr. Briggs of the Housing Committee. It became obvious that I should have made more enquiries before supporting the pensioner's complaint. Taking the photographs, writing and obtaining articles, and then sorting out type sizes for the detailed layout took up a good three days every month, but it was well worth while. The distribution system alone kept us in touch with a great number of people in every corner of the 'Parish'.

Early Planning for the New Church

The number of people involved, and the limitations of using our church hall for all our worship and social activities, meant that we set our sights on building a Parish Church from the very beginning. I attended an open meeting of the Diocesan Church Extension Society, and voiced our hopes and needs. Canon Cook, Sub-Dean of the Cathedral and Chairman, slapped me down in his gruff way. "Quite out of the question", he said. I bounced back, giving chapter and verse, and voicing the determination of our young community. Canon Cook must have been well into his seventies (or so it seemed), and I was in my late twenties, but from that moment, we became the best of friends. We also had the help, encouragement, and friendship, of Bishop Riches.

I became a member of the Diocesan Church Extension Society, and then its secretary. At one of the early meetings I sat next to Mr. Scorer, who asked me if I had thought of an architect yet, and then he showed me a photograph of a church designed, though not built, for Welwyn Garden City, by his son, Sam.

On the strength of this I made an appointment to see Sam Scorer, and explained to him, that as yet, we didn't have any money but that we were rich in enthusiasm and determination. However, to raise such a large sum, we would need something to show the public. Sam agreed to prepare plans, and to hope that he would get paid in due course. However, he wisely suggested that we shouldn't let the planning process be limited by cost, but to go for the very best, and then make economies on a temporary basis where we had to.

Sam was experimenting with concrete shell structures, and his early sketches caused great consternation with the P.C.C. I recall a concrete plinth on which was balanced a concrete egg! We said that we weren't thinking of anything Gothic, but was there a happy medium?

From the beginning Sam wanted to discuss fundamentals, such as belief in God, and the purpose and function of a church. These were the days of the Parish and People Movement, and we were beginning to rediscover the concept of the church as the 'People of God', the 'Body of Christ', a complete community. There were also Old Testament overtones, picked up in the N. T., of the Church passing through this world as pilgrims travelling lightly (free of excess baggage) to the promised land, worshipping in a Tent of Meeting, rather than in a static temple. The emphasis was very much on the church as people rather than a building. The

church building was essentially some simple protection from the elements where we could break bread together in Holy Communion, feeding upon both Word and Sacrament, to assist us in our pilgrimage.

At one of our planning sessions Sam produced a blank piece of paper, and drew a small rectangle in the centre. He said that this represented the focal point of some activity, perhaps a speaker in Hyde Park. I was then asked to draw the way in which people would gather round to hear and see. This produced a circle of people, with some of those at the back deciding to come and stand to the rear of the speaker where they could hear and see better. This is basically the plan of St. John's Church, and the concrete shell of the roof has marked affinities with the Tent of Meeting. The saucer shape of the floor creates good site lines, leaving the altar raised up, and the font at the lowest point, symbolizing the step of descent into the waters of baptism.

We still had no money, but Sam asked us to earmark at least £2000 for some special art-work which would illuminate the whole building. This was the act of faith which resulted in the magnificent East window by Keith New, filling the church with colour, light and mystery.

Raising the Money

A new council house estate was unlikely to produce any large individual donations, so we knew that we had to rely on the weekly donations of the faithful, for although the Church Extension Society had funds from the Church Commissioners for new churches, this would only be made available in proportion to our own efforts. The Wells Organization, with wide experience of fund raising in the U.S.A. had recently branched out in England, and we sought their advice. After a careful appraisal of the situation they suggested a three week campaign under the guidance of our of their directors. This was to put the finances of the church on a sound footing, and to raise £4,500 in the first three years. The fee was in the region of £1,000, and so we borrowed this from a local bank. The idea of parishioners pledging regular weekly amounts to their church was very controversial, and a big step forward from the Free Will Offering Envelopes. Even more of a stumbling block was the suggestion that church members should pledge at least five percent of their take-home income. The campaign hit the estate like a bombshell, and it was extremely intensive, but the £4,500 was pledged. The turning point was at the Loyalty Dinner, when Sydney Ashton, a much respected foreman at Clayton's forge, got up in his Sunday suit, but still wearing his boots, and spoke as one of the people to the people. His plain speaking and obvious sincerity moved us all.

A wider appeal was also organised and we received help from all over Lincoln and beyond. One Easter, a young lad came to me with several shillings towards the building fund. He had saved this by walking to school in Lincoln and back again, every day during Lent. My appeal for old silver to be made into a chalice brought a very generous response, and the cassocks and surplices of the choir

and some of the vestments, were made by ladies of the church.

Once we had a design for the church, we could extend our publicity, and so managed to get a photograph in the Daily Telegraph with the heading, "Europe's Church of Tomorrow".

We had already acquired a church bell. A derelict tower at St. Peter's, Saltfleetby, not far from the coast, still housed a medieval bell, and this was advertised for sale as scrap metal at £100. Mrs. A. H. Adams of Long Leys Rd kindly offered to present the bell in memory of her husband. One Summer evening we took a block and tackle to lower the bell from its precarious position. It was a dangerous operation in such a ruin. The rope wasn't long enough, and the bell remained suspended one foot above the floor of the pick-up truck, and night was falling. A local farmer came to our rescue with a fork-lift truck, and we were very pleased to get home that night without further incident.

The bell was suspended between two tall posts erected at the side of the church-hall until such time as the church and bell-tower could be built. There couldn't be a greater contrast between the Cathedral, just a mile away, and St. John's; and we delighted in the incongruity that our bell, chiming out for daily prayers and Sunday Services, was far older than any of those ringing from the Cathedral tower.

The Building Begins

The time came when we had enough funds to sign a contract with 'Simons of Lincoln' to build the main body of the church for £24,000. This left the vestry block and the bell tower to be erected at a future date. Canon Cook came for the ceremony of the beginning of the excavation, and he operated the large digger with great dexterity and obvious enjoyment. The Bishop of Lincoln later laid the Foundation Stone.

We had allowed for doing much of the work ourselves; the pews, decorating, and renovating the site. There were many good craftsmen in the church, David Barsley, Ted Daines, Maurice Lounds, (Joiners), Ron Williamson (plumber), and one of our older members, Bob Thomas, a railway engine driver who had served a long apprenticeship as a fireman in those days of steam. When the time came to spread forty truck loads of soil from Bardney Sugar-beet Factory, Bob left us all standing. He was an absolute genius with a shovel. The rest of us, men and women alike, joined in where we could.

When the time came to pour the concrete for the roof, this had to be done in a continuous operation, and we had to contend with very frosty conditions. Kerosene burners were obtained and were kept burning continuously beneath the roof until danger had passed. As the concrete dried out hair-line cracks appeared, and the consulting engineers were sent for. It appeared that the great concrete tie-beam beneath the floor needed further support where the two pools had been established to

collect rainwater from the roof. Concrete bridges were made in the pools, and this stabilised the movement. The unfortunate consequence was that the roof was now accessible for the youngsters of the estate to walk over, causing undue wear, and ultimately, thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Once completed we all delighted in our new church. Bishop Riches who had been a true friend and support throughout, came to consecrate the church on 6th October 1963, and to establish the new parish of St. John Baptist, Lincoln.

The building began to teach us how to worship. No longer were we in a traditional rectangle with clergy at one end, separated by a choir from the congregation. The round church welded us into a unity, clergy and people, the people of God sharing together in Word and Sacrament. The roof seemed to be the very vault of heaven, and the light from the great East window, in its great richness, touched everything with glory.

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(P. S. The architect's faith in St. John's Parochial Church Council was justified, because he did get paid. At the end of the Parish Communion on Easter Sunday, Sam asked me to come outside to see his Easter present. There, with its graceful lines and silent power, was a brand new E Type Jaguar.)



107 babies were baptised last year



Youth Fellowship—One of the Seven Groups for young people



"... and here we offer into thee ourselves,
our souls and bodies..."

Holy Matrimony



Young Wives' Group (above)

The Canvass Committee (below)



From the Appeal Brochure, 1959

ESTATE OR TOWN?

The Ermine Estate will be twice as big as Horncastle and nearly the size of Louth.

Latest figures show that 1,353 dwellings have been built and occupied, giving a present population of about 5,000.

The footings for several hundred more houses and flats have already been put in, and the Council have put a spurt on with this in order to beat the end of the housing subsidy.

600 dwellings are either under construction or planned for the next stage, and many of these will soon be occupied.

Further plans are not known in detail, but they include more houses to be erected on both sides of the Estate. The final population will be over 8,000. At this rate the Ermine Estate will soon be Ermine Town.

The responsible authorities are to be congratulated on building a very fine estate, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

A comfortable house, a garden and plenty of open space aren't enough in themselves. The greatest danger is loneliness; and therefore the greatest need is for people to get to know one another, and to feel "at home" in their new surroundings. The Church and the Pub are the only two centres of meeting at the moment, but in addition there should be the street meeting of the corner shop. Such shops dotted here and there may not fit in with the town planner's textbook, but for giving a homely atmosphere, and building up a sense of neighbourhood and belonging, they are well nigh indispensable.

What do you think? The Editor will try to publish your letters on this or any other subject concerned with life on the Estate.



Dean Takes Confirmation Service

The Right Reverend Colin Dunlop, Dean of Lincoln, confirmed eleven adults and seventeen boys and girls at a service held at St. John's on Saturday, December 22nd. The newly confirmed made their first communion at the Family Communion on Sunday, December 23rd. John Cook, Peter Davison, Peter Binns, John Foster, Judith Stimpson, Denise Towers, Jane Halstead, Margaret Harris, Cynthia Bendall, Margaret Bailey, Janet Rawlinson, Pamela Saul, Brenda Stacey, Christine Shaw, Valerie Lewis, Judith Priestley, Celia Cloughton, Michael Biggs, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Rousseau, Mrs. Jarvil, Mrs. Longmate, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Luckraft, Mrs. Skipworth, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Waby.

This is the second Confirmation Service taken by the Dean of Lincoln at St. John's within the last six months, and 26 adults and 23 boys and girls have been brought into the fulness of the Church's worship.

Imp throws a good dart!

The Lincoln Imp Monday Night Darts Team is top of the City of Lincoln Darts League, D Section. They have been top of the league since they started playing last October, and have only lost one match. Congratulations to team captain, Tim Eastmead, and the other members of the team.

The Tuesday Night Team is also doing well, waiting to jump up from second place in their league. The darts aren't flying quite so accurately for the ladies' team, but even so, they win as many matches as they lose.

Young Wives Open Night

On Tuesday, 11th December, St. John's Young Wives' Group entertained all the Young Wives' Groups in Lincoln, and the members of St. Nicholas' Mothers' Union.

The evening began with an acted play-reading of the one act comedy, "Orange Blossom". The cast was as follows: Mrs. L. Smith, Mrs. Priestley, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Luckraft, Mrs. Rudd and Mrs. Temporal.

Dancing followed, and after refreshments had been served, a series of Nativity 'Talbeaux were presented on the stage.

During these scenes, the Young Wives' choir sang some lesser known carols by candlelight.

M.P. TO VISIT ESTATE

Geoffrey de Freitas has been invited to address an open meeting at St. John's Hall on "The Christian and Politics."

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 9th, at 7-30 p.m. A charge of 6d. will be made to cover the cost of refreshments. There will be a time set aside for answering questions.

Dedication Festival

The first anniversary of the opening and dedication of St. John's will be celebrated on Sunday, January 20th.

Family Communion. Address: Rev. W. T. Armstrong.

Children's Service, 2-30 p.m.

Evensong Address: Rev. V. I. Dalby.

F. & A. E. DIXON

GREENGROCERS,
FRUITERERS,
SEEDSMEN
AND FLORISTS

(Bouquets and Floral Tributes at Short Notice)

DAILY DELIVERIES

WOODHALL DRIVE,
ERMINE ESTATE

Tel: 8378



Men and Youth, 1959



Church Lads' Brigade, 1958



Family Festival, 1958



Children's Party, 1959

Ermine Estate to be Parish ?

The fields which once lay on the outskirts of the parish of St. Nicholas' have now become the Ermine Estate. The vicar of St. Nicholas started in 1954 to form a working committee to build the present St. John's Hall and house for the Priest-in-charge. This task was completed by Easter 1956, and the Church has grown steadily ever since.

The possibility of making the Ermine Estate into a Conventional District is now being considered.

This means that boundaries would be fixed separating the Estate from the old parish, and that St. John's Church Council with the Priest-in-charge would be directly responsible to the Bishop for the work of the Church on the Ermine Estate.

The normal course of events is that a Conventional District becomes a Parish in its own right once a permanent church has been built. The site for Ermine Parish Church is on the corner of Sudbrooke Drive and Laughton Way, and when it is completed the present St. John's Church Hall will become the Parish Rooms.

The immediate task in hand is to provide a Church Hall which would act as a Community Centre for the residents on Ermine West. Once this is completed, East and West will combine together to build the Parish Church to serve the needs of the whole of the Estate.

Assuming that we can do most of the constructional work ourselves, we're still left with the need to raise £25,000. This is made up as follows: Mortgage on the present Church Hall and St. John's House, £6,000; building materials for Community Centre, Ermine West, £3,000 and building materials for the Parish Church an estimated £16,000.

Contrary to popular belief, the Church receives no aid from the state, but we can expect a grant of several thousand pounds from the Church Commissioners. For the rest, it's up to us. An appeal will soon be launched on the lines of "Give us the bricks and we'll build the Church." If every family will give some small sum such as 6d. a week, and more if possible, there will soon be a few thousand pound in the bank.

£25,000 seems quite a mountain of money, but our Lord assured us that faith can move mountains. Ours is the privilege to build a church to the glory of God, will you do your bit?



Photograph by Record and General Photographs Ltd.

Boys' Club takes up Baseball

St. John's Boys' Club found that rounders was a bit slow, so they have purchased some base-ball equipment, and that hard white ball can now be seen flying in all directions. Mr. K. Garner, who is an ex army P.T. Instructor is teaching the boys the rudiments of the game. It is hoped that an American Air force team might come to give a demonstration match.

The Boys' Club is now affiliated to the National Association of Boys Clubs and part of the programme is devoted to training for the Associations' National Fitness Standards. Mr. H. H. Altoft, the club leader is assisted by, Mr. K. Garner, Mr. S. Bendall (a well-known local cricketer), Mr. T. Brett, Mr. A. Gaunt and Mr. G. Tibbs.

22 Adults Confirmed

On Whit Saturday, the Dean of Lincoln confirmed twenty-two adults from St. John's, and on Whitsunday they received communion with the rest of the Church at the Family Communion. This means that seventy people have been confirmed from St. John's in the last twelve months. Those confirmed on Whit Saturday are, Herbert H. Altoft, William Hebb, Gerald M. Tibbs, Aubrey E. Flower, Anthony P. Gaunt, Howard P. Marshall, Peter Smith, Richard Dimpleby, Marjorie Marsh, Joan Pratt, Rosemary Temporal, Dyllis Hardy, Leonora Parker, Joan Rooke, Lillian Wallace, Freda J. Blyth, Gladys E. Potter, Winifred Flatters, Sheila M. Shelton, Evelyn Lyon, Judith A. Burchnell, Deborah A. Playford.

ERMINE FLOWER SHOW

This show will really have something for everybody, for there will be six other sections besides that devoted to flowers. One of course will be for vegetables, another for the ladies, will include cake making, preserves and needlework. The children have a chance with a section for painting and crayoning, and two other sections are for Handicrafts and Photography.

One of the most colourful sections is that for the Best Floral Arrangement. The winner of this section will be awarded a cup which will be competed for annually.

Programmes will be on sale during August, price 6d and these will include an entry form.

F. & A. E. DIXON

GREENGROCCERS,
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(Banquets and Floral Tributes at Short Notice)

DAILY DELIVERIES

WOODHALL DRIVE,
ERMINE ESTATE

Tel: 8378



Sunday School at St. John's Community Centre, Ermine West



*Signing the contract : From the left, Cecil Robinson, Peter Hodgkinson (for Simons).
Ted Daines, David Barsley, Fr. John, Jim Gregory, Les. Williamson, Tom Moore.
Ken Priestley,Coleman, Fr. Bill, Sydney Appleby, Sam Scorer.*

Standing Room Only

The growing Church at St. John's makes it difficult to seat everyone at the Family Communion.

On Sunday, March 23rd, the Rt. Rev. Colin Dunlop, the Dean of Lincoln confirmed 40 adults, boys and girls, during the Family Communion. Additional chairs had been borrowed, and every corner of the church was in use, but it was still impossible to seat all those who came to this very impressive service.

After the reading of the Gospel the confirmation candidates renewed their baptismal promises, and then they knelt two by two before the Bishop,

who like the Apostles of old, laid his hand upon their heads for the gift of the Holy Spirit, "Defend, O Lord, this thy servant with thy heavenly grace, that he may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen."

The 27 men and boys were confirmed first of all, and then the 14 ladies and girls, who wore the traditional white veils. Two of the candidates presented the bread and wine at the altar during the offertory, and after the consecration, over 150 people knelt down to share together in the one bread, the one cup, the heavenly gifts of God.

* ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH *
 BUILDING FUND *
 * May 8th. DAY OF PRAYER *
 * May 9th. GIFT DAY *
 * May 10th. GIFT DAY *

COMIC FOOTBALL

Despite the cold and showery weather on Easter Monday afternoon, the Church Lads were determined that the intended Comic Football Match should take place: Staff v. C.L.B. and J.T.C.

A few minutes before the kick-off the male and female staff left St. John's Hall and were led in procession to Ravendale Field, to the beat of drum sticks, etc. Everyone was dressed for the occasion and armed with boarding, buckets, mops or anything that was considered suitable to assist them win this match.

Kick-off was on time and within a minute the Staff were one up, a beautiful lobb by winger Cox found the net. This was followed by another and yet another for the Staff. However the Lads soon levelled the score, goalkeeper Mrs. Hewitt slipping in the mud.

After this the Staff piled on the pressure (under their own rules) using everything that was available and so the fun continued.

Final Result: C.L.B. claimed they won 6 goal to 5. Referee Gregory forgot to keep count.

Dates to Remember

AT ST. JOHN'S HALL:

- May 7 Bumper Whist Drive, 7-45 p.m. Admission 2/-.
- " 16 Carnival Dance, 7-30-11-0 p.m., Admission 1/6.
- " 24 Drama Night, 7-30 p.m. (Tickets on sale).

AT CO-OP. HALL, FREE SCHOOL LANE.

- May 9 Grand Ermine Dance, 8-1 p.m. Refreshments and Late Transport.

FOUNDATIONS READY

"The roof on this Summer," is the aim of the St. John's Community Centre Appeal Committee. The Committee feels that once the roof is on there will be plenty of work for everyone, plumbing, carpentry, electrical fittings, decorating, etc. Furthermore, it won't matter if it rains, or if the nights start to draw in, for the work could still carry on.

The only way of getting the brick work and roof built quickly was to call in a contractor, and Mr. Eccleshare, our Hon. Building Advisor, has undertaken to do this work for a very much smaller sum than we had thought possible. However, our own volunteer labourers have completed the digging of the foundations in readiness. We've given the order to go ahead, knowing that with the first £1,000 nearly raised we have still to raise another £1,000.

It's hoped that the fact that building has already started will be an encouragement to our friends throughout the city to support our appeal. Donations please to 23 Queen Elizabeth Road, or to St. John's House.

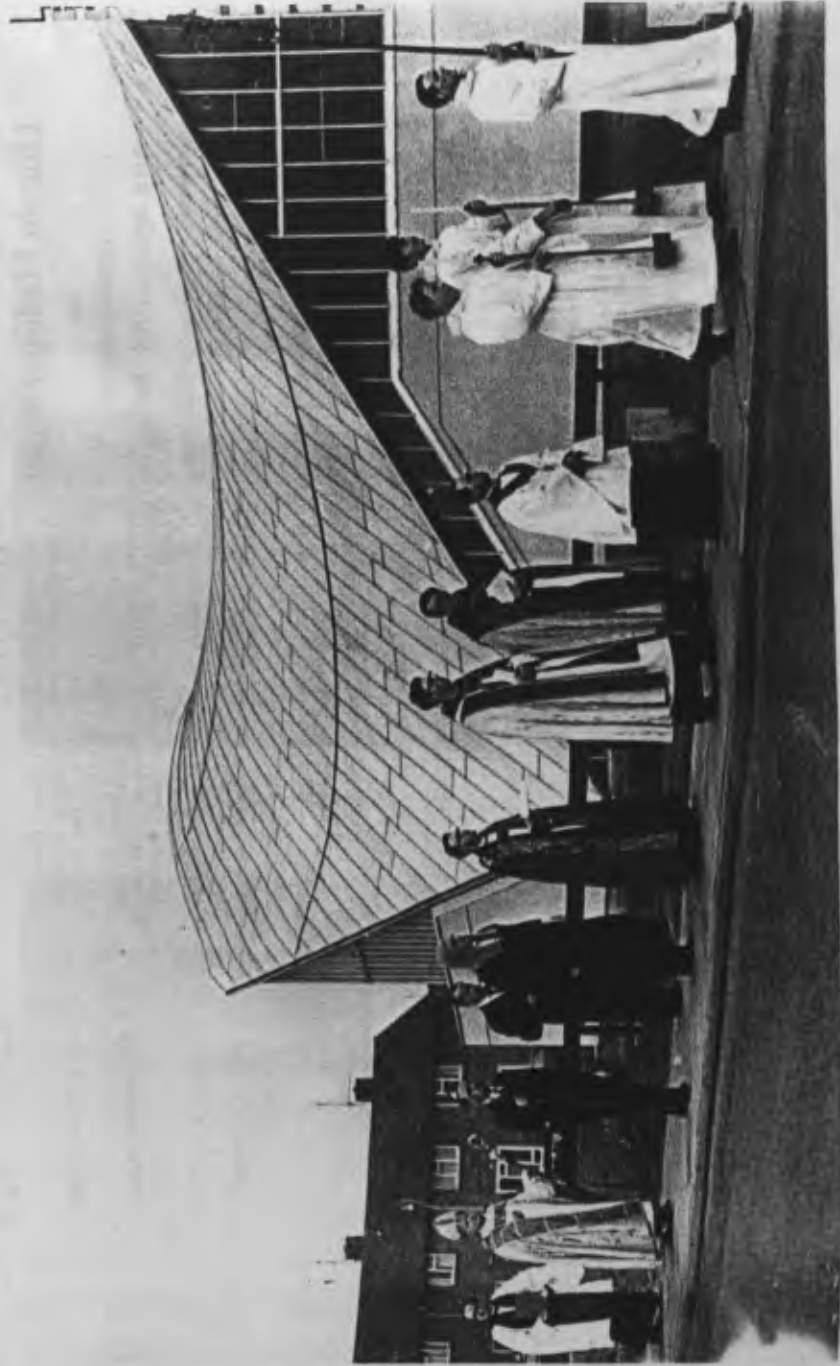
ROGATION SUNDAY—MAY 11th



This picture was taken from Thurlby Crescent on Rogation Sunday last year. At this season of the year the Church prays for God's blessing on man's labours, both in the fields and in industry.

This year the procession will leave St. John's Church at 2-30 p.m. (weather permitting), and a short service will be held in the fields off Thurlby Crescent.

* **ERMINE WEST MAY FAIR** *
 * (in aid of St. John's Community Centre) *
 * **SATURDAY, MAY 17th—2-30 to 5-30 p.m.** *
 * Fancy Dress. Sports: Sack Race, Wheelbarrow Race, Pillow Fight, Tug-o'-War. *
 * Comic Football Match. Side Shows: Skirtles, 'Shooting-in,' Bowling, etc. *
 * Stalls: Cakes; Sweets; Gifts; Refreshments, etc. *
 * 7-10 p.m. Barbecue. Admission, 1/-. **COME AND HAVE FUN Non-Stop Dancing** *



Lincoln's Church of Tomorrow (Both pictures)



You are invited to listen to

Lincoln Madrigal Society

AND

CLIFFORD HEWIS

WITH INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

in a programme of music by *Tallis, Purcell, Tomkins, Weelkes* and others

at **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

and afterwards to join in a light hearted programme of music during refreshments by candlelight at St. John's Hall (adjacent to the Church)

on

Wednesday, 21st October

at 7-30 p.m.

This programme is designed for your pleasure and there is no charge. There will however be the opportunity for you to contribute towards the expenses of the evening. Any surplus will go towards the £2,000 still needed for the Building Fund. (Programmes, which reserve a seat may be obtained from the Vicarage).

PIANISTS!

In our churches and Sunday Schools there is a perpetual need for pianists and ideally we could do with an assistant organist, or a good pianist who would like to learn to play the organ.

The pressing need at the moment is for pianists on Sunday mornings at 10-45 a.m. and 11-30 a.m., on each occasion for no more than forty-five minutes.

Further details can be obtained from the Vicar. There is an honorarium of £5 per annum for each of the two posts above which may of course be held by the same person.

Parish and People

LINCOLN CONFERENCE

The Revd. Eric James, who has been appointed full-time Director of the re-organised "Parish and People" movement, is to visit the Diocese of Lincoln on Sunday, 18th of October, 1964.

The Conference will be based on the Lincoln Theological College

The Conference will begin with the Parish Communion at St. John's, Ermine at 9-15 a.m., when the Revd. Eric James will preach, followed by a light breakfast and a discussion. The Conference will adjourn to the Lincoln Theological College for lunch and tea, and a further talk by the Director and discussion.

If you wish to share in the Conference would you please reply to: The Revd. George Herrington, Nettleham Vicarage, Lincoln.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11th

The First Birthday

of

St. John's Parish Church

9-15 a.m. Rev. A. Webster.

6-30 p.m. The Vicar.

(The photograph was taken at the Consecration Service last October by Mr. S. Harrop).

Autumn Fair

10th OCTOBER, 1964

ST. JOHN'S HALL

To be opened at 2-30 p.m. by

MRS. H. S. SCORER

EVERY TUESDAY

WHIST

7-45 p.m.

Admission 2/-

O.A.P. 1/6

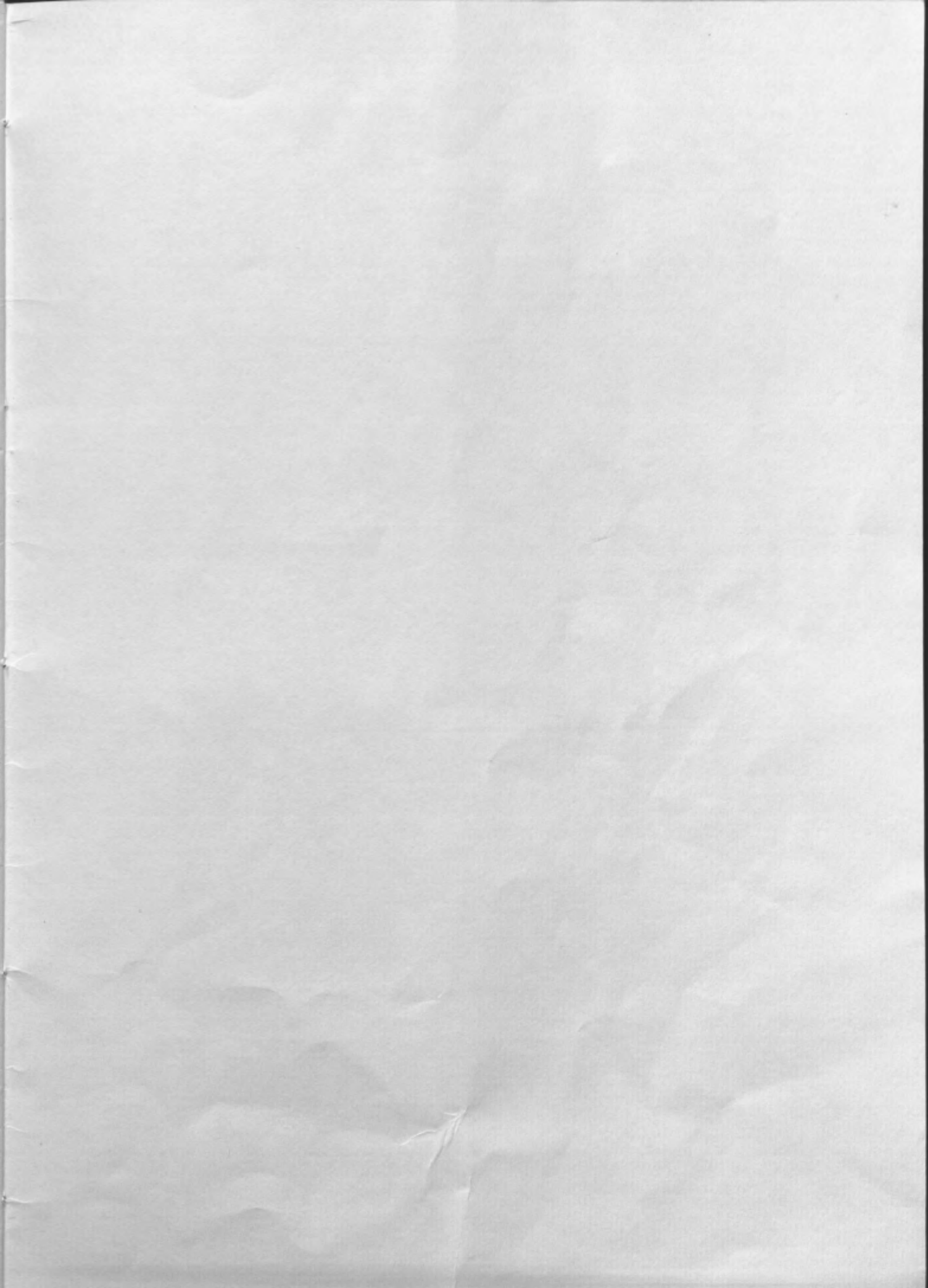
EVERY THURSDAY

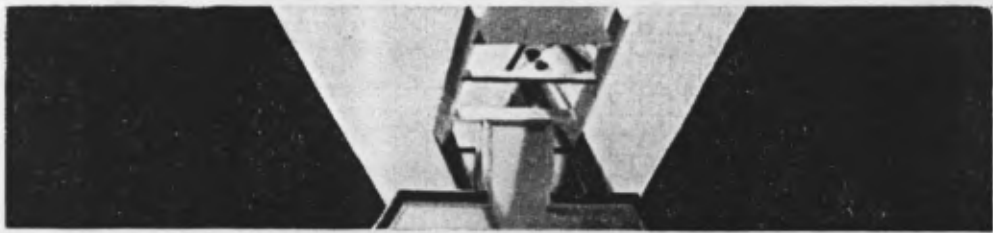
BINGO

7-45 p.m.

Admission 2/6

St. John's Community Centre
Ermine West





Lincoln's church of tomorrow

