



Jubilee Celebration of

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
CLIFF LANE
IPSWICH

In the
PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT WITH
ST. LUKE



A SHORT HISTORY

The Rectory,
42, Clapgate Lane, Ipswich.

This year St. Luke's is celebrating fifty years of Christian faith in the community. It is a time to look back with thanks and to look forward with hope.

The vision of St. Luke's came out of the mother church of St. Clement where near the docks of Ipswich the population was decreasing. St. Luke's was planted near the Rivers estate where people were moving into houses built before and after the Second World War. This church has served the community faithfully ever since.

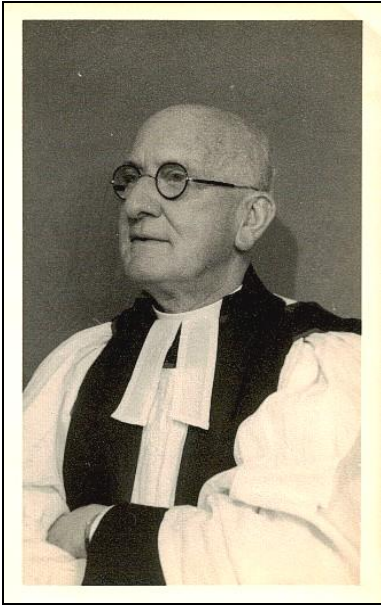
We live in a society that has never needed God more. Our parish of St. Clement with St. Luke is growing fast especially along the dock area, now known as the Waterfront. A Christian presence is certainly needed and building on the good foundation of Christian witness and service of the past we pass on into the next fifty years.

The Christian author Ronald Blythe wrote in his book 'Divine Landscapes' – "One's own parish can be so rewarding that one doesn't need to go much further. But it will offer a thousand leads to more distant versions on origins of the historic sanctuary which is bound up in every native place."

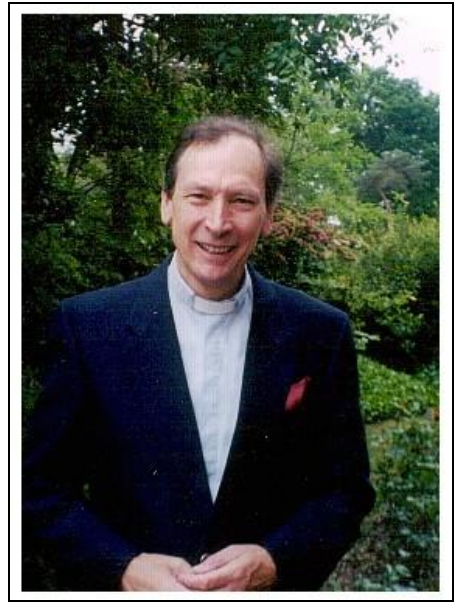
For God calls each one of us knowing that our chief purpose here on earth is to seek Him to find Him in our Lord Jesus Christ and to worship and enjoy Him for ever.

May I commend this short history of St. Luke's ably written by Mrs. Daphne Potts who is one of the few surviving members of the original congregation.

Into the future we cannot do less than fulfil our Mission Statement which is "To know Jesus Christ better and to make Him better known to others".



Rev. Canon Frank Tucker Harvey



Rev. Geoff Price

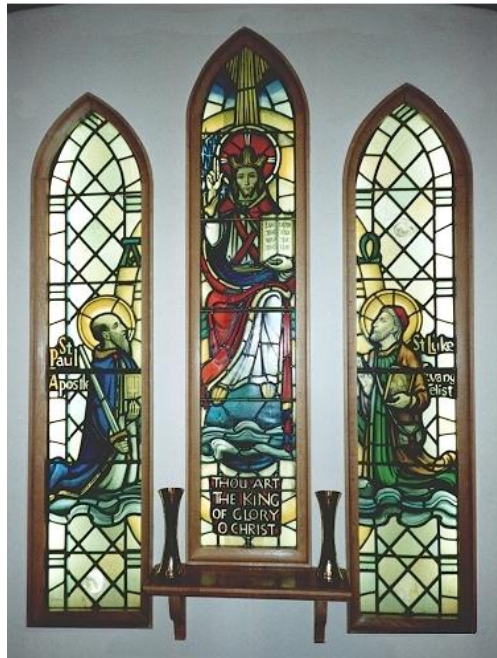
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

Fifty years have passed since the dedication of the building in Cliff Lane as a Hall/Church – a daughter church to St. Clement; a centre for the use of the community of Holywells area.

In the early nineteen-fifties Rev. (later Canon) Frank Tucker Harvey had the vision of providing somewhere for the children of the Holywells area to have church teaching on a Sunday and for the local community to use during the week. Ideally, a hall needed to be built but this was a daunting task since a piece of land would be required and funds needed to be raised. The first hurdle was overcome when Lady Blanche Cobbold kindly offered to donate a piece of land right next door to the curate's house at 76, Cliff Lane – which incidentally also stood on land donated by the Cobbold family. Now the money for the building needed to be found, and since funds were in short supply in the parish at the time a good fundraising idea was needed.

The Rector chaired a meeting of local residents held in Holywells Mansion as he had had the idea of asking each household in the area to pledge £1.00 a year for three years. As there were approximately 800 houses in the area at the time it was thought that a substantial part of the required funds would be raised. Naturally, not everyone was prepared to contribute, but we were fortunate enough to be able to have a loan from the Diocese to enable building work to commence. In fact, construction work started in 1953, but before the building was completed the Rector asked for an extra section to be added which would provide a Sanctuary thus enabling services to be held on Sundays. Since this extension would have doors to close it off at other times, the building could still be used for social events during the week.

The building, costing a total of £4,769.18s.4d., was opened on 8th September, 1954 by Lady Blanche Cobbold and dedicated by The Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Rev. Dr. A. H. Morris. Those who were involved in the fund raising etc. considered it their Coronation effort! In fact, we were fortunate enough at a later date to obtain a piece of gold coloured carpet for the sanctuary, which had been in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation. A great deal of local interest was shown at the opening – after all, everyone had seen the building gradually ‘growing’ and they were anxious to see how it looked inside! In fact it had been made known that all children would be welcome on the first Sunday afternoon – and 123 turned up! Gradually various groups were formed such as Brownies and Guides, Young Wives, Girls Friendly Society and Over Sixties. This dual arrangement worked well, and continued for some thirty years. During this time, a great deal of fund-raising took place to improve the building, much of it by the Young Wives group which later became the Ladies Group. In 1956 an organ was dedicated, and later a long carpet was purchased to use on Sundays through the centre aisle of the building, and new curtains for the windows were purchased. In 1967 the original plain glass of the sanctuary window was replaced by stained glass; again much of the effort for providing this being the work of the Ladies Group of the time. The window would be in three sections; the left hand section depicting St. Paul with the wording “St. Paul Apostle”, the right hand section depicting St. Luke with the words “St. Luke Evangelist” and the centre showing a figure of Jesus Christ and the words “Thou art the King of Glory O Christ”.



A choir was formed quite early on to lead the services – with just a small harmonium for accompaniment – the first choir master being “Will” Wallis who was very dedicated as were the choir members themselves working to sing anthems at services and special music for Easter and Christmas. The first organist was Donald Seaman, and he was followed by David Vaughan who remained as organist until 1968. After he moved on, the task was taken on by Daphne Nicholls (now Potts) who remained until 1991. She was followed by Elizabeth Beaton who remains the Musical Leader of the church today. We were fortunate enough to have two young women in the choir who were extremely gifted in singing and music, both of whom obtained the Bishop’s Chorister Award in 1981 – Penelope Beaton and Maria Thurkettle. For many years the choir joined others from the Diocese for Choir Festivals held in various Cathedrals such as Guildford, Ely, Norwich, Southwark etc as well as our own Cathedral at Bury St. Edmunds.

A feeling grew amongst the congregation over the years that it would be really good to have a part of the building as a permanent church instead of having to set it up each week. This would mean that services could, if needed, be held during the week.

At this time, Rev. Jack Nicholls was the Rector and he made initial enquiries regarding the purchase of extra land to the side of the existing building for such an extension. However, this was not in the end available, and the matter was put on hold for a time. Following the resignation of Rev. Nicholls, the Rev. Fred Burningham became our Rector, and he instigated further discussion in the parish after which it was agreed that the possibility of building an extension to the existing building should be explored further. Following a great deal of work by Rev. Burningham an extension which could at once be kept separate from, and yet when necessary become one with, the hall was dedicated on 27th November, 1984 by the Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Rev. John Waine. This building doubled the size of the church and would allow a maximum congregation of about 200 people. The £47,000 cost of the work was paid for with the proceeds of the sale of St. Clement's Church Hall and St. Luke's House next door to the church, the fund-raising efforts of the congregation and a Diocesan grant.

St. Clement continued to be the Parish Church, and St. Luke the 'daughter' church until 1977 when it was found necessary for the Parish Church to be closed due to the unsafe condition of the tower. It was eventually decided that it was not practical to consider the possibility of providing sufficient funds for the restoration needed, and in 1978 St. Clement's Church was declared redundant and was eventually taken over by the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust who have been instrumental in having a great deal of restoration work done on the building. Following this, St. Luke's eventually became the parish centre of worship, but St. Clement's church is regularly open for visits by the public during summer months.

Over the years St. Luke's has suffered a certain amount of damage with the front windows being broken and stones being thrown at the stained glass window causing damage which needed specialist repair. On one occasion vandals got in and slashed the partitions separating various parts of the building. However, the worst thing to happen was a fire in June 1988 which destroyed a pew, scorched curtains, ceiling, walls and lights and caused smoke damage to the kitchen, resulting in over £1,000 worth of repairs.

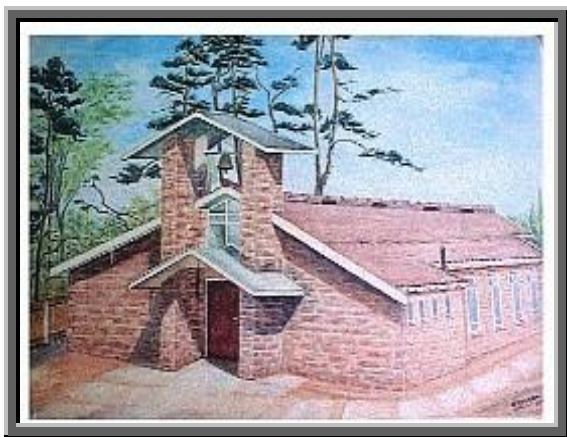
Rev. Fred Burningham had worked in the Arctic for five years until 1968, and in 1989 he and his wife Susan returned to work once again amongst the Inuit people in the isolated settlements of the Eastern Arctic.

As is the case in many parts of the country, it was decided that the Parish of St. Clement with St. Luke should be joined with others nearby, and as from 1st November, 1998 we became part of the Benefice of St. Helen's,

Holy Trinity and St. Clement with St. Luke. This Benefice comes under the over-all care of our present Rector – Rev. Geoff Price who joined us in September 1999.

There are many groups, both church run and secular, using the hall for the benefit of the local population, and it is hoped that this building will remain a centre for worship and pleasure for many years to come.

Daphne Potts.



St. Luke's Church, 1954 – from the painting by Mrs G Haggart

The Sanctuary, 1954



The Sanctuary with Rev. Canon Tucker Harvey, Rev. Charles Branch and Church wardens. 1954



St. Clement's Church Choir leaving St. Luke's Church after the Dedication Service



The Mayor of Ipswich and Lady Cobbold leaving after the Dedication Service



The Clergy leaving after the Dedication Service



Dedication of the Church extension 1984.



St Luke's looking towards the East window 2004



Penelope Beaton and Maria Thurkettle –
Bishops Chorists 1981

CLERGY AT ST. LUKE'S

RECTORS:

Rev. Canon Frank Tucker Harvey

Rev. Frank Hollingsworth

Rev. Jack Nicholls

Rev. Fred Burningham

Rev. Geoffrey Warren

Rev. Geoff Price

Rev. Paul Daltry

Rev. Michael Tillett (Present)

CURATES

Capt. Burles **Church Army**

Capt. Alec Taylor

Rev. David Roberts

Rev. Charles Branch

Rev. Beauford Haste

Rev. John Fennell

Rev. Leslie Justin

Rev. Tom Gray

Rev. Vincent Tomlinson

Rev. Richard Webb

Rev. Chris Keys