THURSFORD

The story of Thursford Methodist Church... is one of Loyalty and much faithfulness on the part of a small group of dedicated people who made it their business to be stewards of Christ....A Life Long Methodist, chunch... in the name Mr.F.Bushell placed at the disposal of the society a site for the building of a church, and started the fund with a gift of £5. At the first quarterly meeting of the newly constituted Fakenham and Wells Cincuit, held at the Fakenham Buckenham Memorial Church on September 20th 1933 it was decided to put Thursford on the Circuit plan and to appoint local preachers for the next quarter. At a following quarterly meeting, plans for the building of a church to seat 80 people were approved - Thursford friends had already raised nearly £50 by this time also the Methodist Society was already getting into action, and Messns. C. Plumbly and H. Baken appointed Society stewards with Mr. E. Lee as class leader.

It was a great occasion when in March 1934 the stone laying ceremony took place, and on June 20th following, amidst great rejoicing, the late Mrs.W.J.Aldiss, of Fakenham, performed the opening ceremony, using a silver key which was presented by the architects for that very special occasion. The service of dedication was conducted by the Rev.W.H.Heap, chairman of the East Anglia District, assisted by the Rev.R.A.Inham, Rev.T.Featherstone, and Paston J.H.Johnstone, circuit ministers. The large crowd that gathered were so many that they could not be accommodated in the church, so an overflow service had to be arranged in a large barn. We take pride in the fact that this church, built at a cost of £498:152.6d., was the first following Methodist Union, to be exected at a place where previously no branch of Methodism had existed.

The building was done by Mn.Hinson, of Wells, whose estimate to the trustees was for £378. Oil lamps were given by Barney Methodists and amongst other gifts, Walsingham Methodists gave a pulpit Bible, hymn book, and collection plates.

From the 1930s on, the lists of Office holders shows such familian names as Plumbly, Baker, Bushell, and Lee, with the annual comment "there were no changes in office, and all were thanked for

their services during the year". These trust minutes also revealed the meticulous care of the trustees. In 1937 the annual statement of trust accounts showed an income of £39:2s.1/d with an expenditure of £28:12s.4d, the balance of £10:10s.7d being described as "eminently satisfactory".

In the 1940s, a new stove (two sizes larger) was installed, a hymn board and extra hymn books bought, and a font and platform obtained. In 1946, the church was licensed for marriages and the trustees were ready to employ a caretaker for £6:10s. per annum. The trust income had risen to £103:16s.9d, by 1947, but the expenditure had only risen to £43:8s.2d, leaving an extremely satisfactory balance of £60:8s.7d, though no doubt the painting of the inside of the church made a large hole in that.

The sunday school was strong and the long-felt need for a school room was finally met in 1949, when the new school room was officially opened on November 2nd, by Mr.H.Wright.J.P.

The 1950s, saw electricity installed in 1952, and the mains water connected in 1959, a new pulpit hymn book was bought, and the school room mended after the snow seeped in. And of course in June 1959 there was a whole month of special sunday services, to celebrate the silver jubilee of the church.

The story of the next 25 years is similar. Repainting of the church, inside and out, a new pipe for the stove, the treatment of woodworm, the organ repaired, a new board.

All this neveals the ongoing and regular care for the property by the church leaders, bringing us to 1984 with a church that is well kept and in good repair, hallowed by 50 years of continual worship, built and maintained to the glory of God.

RECIPE FOR JOY

Take two heaped cups of patience
One heart full of love
Two handfuls of generosity
A dash of laughter
One headful of understanding
Sprinkle generously with kindness
Add plenty of faith and mix well
Spread over a period of a life time
And serve everyone you meet.