

LEYLAND ROAD
WESLEYAN CHURCH,
SOUTHPORT.



1880
1930



JUBILEE SOUVENIR

JUNE, 1930.



*BLEST are the souls that find a place
Within the Temple of Thy grace ;
Here they behold Thy gentler rays,
And seek Thy face and learn Thy praise.
Cheerful they walk with growing strength
Till all shall meet in heaven at length,
Till all before Thy face appear,
And join in nobler worship there.*

DEDICATION.

THIS little book is affectionately
dedicated to the fragrant memory
of the Worshippers and Workers
of this Church throughout the
FIFTY YEARS.



*STILL glides the stream and shall forever glide ;
The form remains, the function never dies ;
While we, the brave, the mighty and the wise,
We men, who in the morning of youth defied
The elements, must vanish ; be it so !
Enough if something from our hands have power
To live and act and serve the future hour.*



Introduction.

THE task of writing this little book has fallen to my lot. It has been a difficult but pleasant task.

I had only been here for six months before I was confronted with this delicate and difficult task. The fact that one has been busy in many other directions—writing and lecturing—has not made it any easier. But I have had the advantage of the continuous, complete and intimate knowledge of the whole period represented by Mr. J. Rayner Batty. To him, together with Miss Bertha Crook, Mr. C. W. Connard and Mr. Turner, I am greatly indebted.

But even with their valuable help, the booklet is bound to have many limitations. The severely limited number of pages will not permit of generosity in details, nor of enlargement in writing of events or people. The Committee decided that only three people of the past days and two of the present days should be spoken of at large. If we had gone further, then we should have needed a tremendous book to tell the whole story. The reader will find many things of interest, and he is asked to forgive the deficiencies discovered. I have done my best in difficult circumstances, and with limited personal knowledge of the period, to pay tribute to a great past.

A. P. H.



LEYLAND ROAD WESLEYAN CHURCH.



The Story of Leyland Road Church and School.

THE story of Southport Methodism is full of Romance. It begins in the year 1770 with the visit of that remarkable little man, John Wesley. There is complete harmony now in the witness of historians to the incalculable service John Wesley rendered to this Country. He is not only one of the great Religious Founders, but one of the great heroes of the Empire. He builded better than he knew. His work still abides and grows.

But interesting as the story of Southport Methodism is, we must not allow ourselves to turn aside from the real purpose of this booklet. The larger story has been told already. So we must content ourselves with the story of Leyland Road Church.

In 1878 the Wesleyan Churches of Southport were divided into two Circuits, Trinity and Mornington Road. The Mornington Road Circuit was made up of three Churches, Mornington Road, Blowick and Southbank Road. The ministers in the circuit were Thomas Wilde and J. Scott Lidgett. The friends at Mornington Road were concerned almost immediately with the possibility of starting another Wesleyan Cause. I have before me the appeal for funds towards the £10,000 the new Church would cost. It is signed by Thomas Wilde, J. Scott Lidgett, James Wheater and James Wood. The reasons given for the building of the new Church are interesting. The pressing obligation to meet the

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religious demands of a new neighbourhood springing up around Roe Lane; and the difficulty of Mornington Road Church to accommodate any more worshippers.

A site was secured at the corner of Roe Lane and Leyland Road. The Foundation Stones were laid on September 28th, 1878. Dr. W. B. Pope, Mr. James Wheater, Mr. J. F. Stead and Mr. James Wood laid stones. Messrs. Waddington were the Architects and Messrs. Bridge and Sons were the builders. The total cost was £12,767 and it was opened on Wednesday, June 2nd, 1880. That was a great day and the Church was opened with great services. In the morning at 11, the Opening Service was conducted by Dr. W. B. Pope. In the evening at 7-30 there was a special Dedication Service conducted by Dr. Ebenezer Jenkins. From the syllabus of the Opening Services I find that the Rev Charles Garrett preached on the Thursday of the following week.

The Conference of that year appointed a third minister to Mornington Road Circuit. So the Rev. Thomas Allen (afterwards Doctor of Divinity and President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1900) became the first minister of Leyland Road Church. It is a very beautiful Church. Without and within, it has the great qualities of proportion and simplicity. Its spire rises to the height of 150 feet and is wondrously in harmony with its tower and the whole building. It has seating accommodation for 900 people. The interior of the Church is beautifully simple, and suggests dignity, beauty and reverence. The bulk of the woodwork is Savannah pitchpine, the bench-ends and gallery-fronts being relieved with American walnut. The pulpit, organ front and other furniture in the chancel are executed in Dantzic oak. The font is of alabaster and polished lime-stone. The windows are glazed with lead-lights in Cathedral glass. The chancel window is filled with stained glass, the gift of the Misses Sumner and her pupils, the subject being "The Good Shepherd." It is a most delightful Church in which to speak or listen. The acoustic properties of a Church are of vital importance. How many a minister breaks his health trying to overcome conditions imposed upon him by thoughtless architects. The ministers



THE SCHOOL

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and worshippers of Leyland Road Church owe a great debt to the architect who served them so well.

At first the Sunday School had to be conducted in a room at the back of the Church. But as the neighbourhood grew and the Church began to draw many worshippers from the overcrowded Mornington Road Church and the new district around, it was evident that a new venture would have to be undertaken. At the Annual Trustees Meeting held on February 8th, 1890, a scheme was formally sanctioned for the building of new Schools, Church Room and Caretaker's House. The total cost was over £4000. Miss Barnes gave £500 towards it, and later added another £50; Mr. C. Heaton gave £300, and the Fernley Trustees contributed £300. There were over sixty other people who contributed sums between £10 and £150. The buildings were opened in 1891 and handed over to the Trust in 1892. The first Superintendent of the Sunday School in the room at the back of the Church was Mr. Hodgson, and Mr. David Brown was the first Superintendent in the new buildings. Mr. H. Heaton was the Secretary.

Both Church and School have had influential ministry. Leyland Road Church has had a long succession of faithful and gifted Ministers. Three of its Pastors have become Presidents of the Wesleyan Conference. It has also had a wonderful succession of consecrated laymen. In another chapter we shall speak of some of them. It will here suffice to say that this Church has been rich in the quality of its worshippers. As we look back over the fifty years we are conscious that we have much to be proud of and to be thankful for. A hallowed past lays its consecrating hands upon our thankful heads. We must match their history with our adventures.

" Our fathers in a wondrous age,
Ere yet the earth was small,
Ensured to us an heritage,
And doubted not at all
That we, the children of their heart,
Which then did beat so high,
In later time, should play like part
For our posterity."

The Organ and the Organists.

MUSIC will either make or mar worship. The organ and the organist have a great and noble mission in the Church. When the Church was first built a second-hand two manual organ was erected in the chamber where the console now is. Then in 1883 the present organ was installed in accordance with specifications by the late Mr. Henry Hudson, who was then organist of Holy Trinity Church Southport. It was built by the well-known firm of Jardine & Co., of Manchester. It is divided into two sections, the great and swell organs are in the north chamber and the choir and pedal organs are in the south chamber, while the organist is seated in a balcony in the north chamber. It was formally opened on Thursday, July 5th, 1883 by Sir Robert Stewart, Mus.D. organist of Trinity College and St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Sir Robert gave two recitals, one at 3 in the afternoon and the other at 7-30 in the evening. On Sunday, July 8th, Rev. W. F. Slater, M.A., of Liverpool, conducted Special Services, when Mr. Charles Gressler played special music. The organ was further improved in 1919 as part of a Victory Effort. But even now it is far from being as good as modern requirements demand; and it is hoped that it may be brought up-to-date in the near future.

The Church has only had two organists. The first organist was Mr. Charles Gressler, who held this position from 1880 till 1891. Then Mr. Rothwell was appointed and he held the post from 1891 till 1910. When Mr. Rothwell gave up, the Trustees offered the post to Mr. Charles Gressler who was free to act again. Mr. Gressler accepted the post for the second time and has been organist ever since. So he has held



CHOIR STALLS AND CHANCEL

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the post for 31 years. Mr. Gressler worshipped at Mornington Road before he became organist at Leyland Road. So he has had first hand experience of Leyland Road and its people for the whole period. He is a most accomplished musician, and has composed various tunes for hymns, solos and carols. He is also a most lovable personality and is greatly esteemed by all our people. He has ever given graciously and ungrudgingly of his service ; and has done great work in the Sunday School. We trust that long years of happy service lie ahead for him.

The choir used to sit in the transept gallery near the organ, but for many reasons it was far from an ideal arrangement. So the trustees decided to provide accommodation for the choir on either side of the chancel. Miss Barnes with her customary generosity paid the whole bill for the erection of the present choir stalls. The pulpit had been in the middle of the Church and that was also moved to one side. It has greatly improved the appearance of the Church and has tended to greater reverence in worship.



Fifty Years Ago.

THERE are still a few people in Southport who have vivid memories of the town fifty years ago. In our own congregation there are several who shared in the opening services, but the great majority have passed over. There are two ministers of great renown and gifts, however, who were in Southport fifty years ago, as the young men of their respective Circuits. Rev. John Hornabrook was the young man in charge of Wesley in the Trinity Circuit ; and Dr. Scott Lidgett was the young man at Southbank Road. They were *both* at the opening services. They have lived to an honourable old age and are both still in active work. They are unique alike in service and personality. Mr. Hornabrook has been President of the Wesleyan Conference and Chairman of the Manchester District. But who can calculate the service he has rendered Methodism in his capacity as Secretary of the General Chapel Fund? He has lived in Southport for the past ten years, and is a frequent worshipper at our Church. Dr. Scott Lidgett is also an Ex-President of the Conference and is still the Chairman of the Third London District, and Warden of the famous Bermondsey Settlement which he established. They have both written a word on their memories of Fifty Years Ago.

By Rev. JOHN HORNABROOK.

Even fifty years ago Southport took rank with the foremost Circuits in Methodism. Indeed in the judgment of those who were privileged to minister here, it was second to none. Very early in its history, the Circuit had come under the dominant influence of a group of distinguished Laymen who

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had very lofty ideals as to what a Methodist Circuit should be and who gave liberally of their time and thought and substance in support of the work of God. I came to Southport by invitation, as third minister, at the Conference of 1877. My colleagues were Edward Lightwood and David J. Waller. I had then travelled, as we say, six years. Providence had favoured me in the matter of appointments. Both at Sheffield (Brunswick) and London (Wandsworth) I had found delightful and encouraging spheres of labour. I soon discovered that in both respects Southport would not fall a whit behind the other two Circuits in which my lot had been cast. The ministerial allowances were on a most generous scale, and the opportunities of service were both many and inviting.

The Circuit had not yet been divided, and there were only three Chapels of any size, Mornington Road, Trinity and Wesley. I had charge of Wesley, and in those days it was a most flourishing Church. The Chapel was practically full, and the week-day services were well attended. There was a fine spiritual tone about the place and I greatly enjoyed my ministry there. The people were in full sympathy with the highest and best things. Trinity had at that time a good family congregation and there were some very choice people worshipping there. There was moreover a fine lot of young people connected with the place, Trinity Hall, Wintersdorf (at that time one of the most notable girls' schools in the country), and Bickerton House (an equally notable Boys' School carried on by Mr. Henry Mathwin), being well represented at the services. And what shall I say of Mornington Road? It was certainly one of the finest congregations in Methodism. Winter and Summer every Sunday seemed to be alike; morning and evening one was always sure of a crowd, and what a crowd it was! Enough to say that they deserved and demanded one's very best at all times. The first Sunday morning I preached there, Mr. Fishwick Stead said to me in the vestry after the

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service, "I have been counting up, you have had forty-two ex-Circuit Stewards in your congregation this morning." Some no doubt were visitors, but the majority were representative men who had settled down in Southport. At the end of my first year the Circuit was divided, and I became No. 2. in the Trinity section. To my great astonishment the first thing the new Quarterly Meeting did was to raise my stipend which was already considerably above the average. The Circuit Steward, Mr. T. Walton Stead, simply stated that the new Circuit regarded me no longer as "the young man" but as "the second minister," and they wished to put the allowances on the same level as those of the Mother Circuit. This shows what manner of men they were.

Leyland Road Church was built to relieve Mornington Road and to provide for a new population. It was opened just before I left. I was present at the opening. Dr. W. B. Pope was the Preacher. I dined with him at the house of Mr. Fishwick Stead who was a splendid host. The old Doctor had a fund of humour which was very delightful. He told us that riding in a tram that morning as they passed the new Church a lady said to him, "These Wesleyans are a wonderful people, I suppose they do all this without state aid." Said the Doctor, I replied "They do nothing here without Stead aid"—pronouncing the word "Stead" in such a way as to leave the lady wondering what he meant. I remember how thoroughly we enjoyed the joke, especially coming from such a quarter.

Of the history of Leyland Road I can say little, as I left Southport soon after it was opened. This much, however, I can say, the Leyland Road people have through all these long years worthily maintained the great traditions of Southport Methodism, and to-day, under the vigorous and attractive ministry of its present pastor, Rev. A. Price Hughes, the Church is full of hope.

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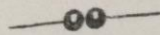
By Dr. SCOTT LIDGETT.

As the Jubilee of Leyland Road Church approaches, my memory is crowded with recollections of its early days. When I came to Southport, as a Probationer, in 1878, the building was just being started. Soon after, the stonelaying took place and Dr. W. B. Pope gave a characteristic address. The Building Committee met regularly in the vestry of Mornington Road Church and took the greatest care in regard to all the details and ornamentation of the Church. Owing to two severe and prolonged winters its completion was delayed, and it was not opened till the early summer of 1880. Dr. W. B. Pope, Dr. Ebenezer Jenkins, Dr. Dallinger, just made F.R.S., and, I think, Charles Garrett, were the "great preachers" at the Dedictory Services. These were the giants of those days, and soon after Dr. Alexander Maclaren, of Manchester, preached a characteristic sermon. The Church was opened amid the happiest auguries and was, at once, attended by a large congregation.

The outstanding "Members of the Congregation" at that time have, for the most part, passed away. Mr. Frank Rigg, with the masters and boys of his school; Mrs. Cowlshaw and her family, Miss Barnes, the Hodsons, Heatons and Wheatons, were among them who left Mornington Road to attend the new Church. Thomas Allen was its first Minister, and was held in high regard and warm affection. Mornington Road Church suffered greatly for the time, but steadily recovered much of its earlier prosperity.

May the faith, and hope, and devotion which went to its building, be continued in a true Spiritual succession, and with growing success in building up the Church and serving the Kingdom of God!

*The Great War
and the Ministry of the Church.*



THE War was a great tragedy. The greater tragedy lay in the world conditions that made it almost inevitable. If such a thing is never to happen again we must deal with the conditions which create friction at first, and fire, at last. We shall need courage, wisdom and compassion to deal with them in a great way. But we are more concerned with preparations for future peace than with vain regrets about the past War. Yet when we look back through those dreary and dark days, the road is lit up here and there with gleams of glory. The heroism and patience and ministries of men and women during those dark times are gracious memories. They are like lamps upon a dark road. What the War would have been like without the ministries of the Red Cross and of compassionate people, makes one shudder to think. The Church may not have done all she ought to hinder war, but she served with heart and hand to help the warriors. Leyland Road Church had a great share in the sacrifice and service of those days.

Fifty-one young men offered their lives in the service of King and Country; of these, seven made the supreme sacrifice. The sense of sacrifice and anxiety was felt in almost every home of the Church. Those who were left, worked with might and main for the good of the troops stationed in and around Southport. A full-sized billiard table was secured and placed in the Church Parlour. A café was set going for the benefit of the soldier visitors. The whole place became a hive of activities, all tending to bring the touch of home and the

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sense of God. They were hard days and busy nights, but they had a sense of service and a hint of greatness. The ministers during war years were Rev. J. T. Gurney and Rev. Charles Lee-Dunham.

When the War was over the Church busied itself with a Victory Effort. Funds were raised by special effort for a three-fold purpose : To improve the Organ ; To renovate the Church and School ; To erect a Permanent Memorial to the men who served. Mrs. Dewhurst made a most handsome contribution towards the fund, but ear-marked her gift for the "Improvement of the Organ." So an electrical blower and new stops were added to the organ in 1919. A handsome design for the War Memorial was accepted and erected by the side of the pulpit. It is in carved oak—to match the organ and the choir stalls—with three panels, one of which records the names of those who made the "supreme sacrifice."

The Memorial Tablet was unveiled in a Special Service held in the Church on December 12th, 1919, at 7-30. It was a Friday evening, and there was a great congregation gathered. The Rev. W. G. Mitchell conducted the service ; the Mayor of Southport read the lesson ; the Tablet was unveiled by Dr. W. T. Barber, M.A., President of the Conference that year ; while the address was given by the Rev. J. T. Gurney, former minister of Leyland Road and then Chairman of the Liverpool District. The Service was worthy of the great occasion.



THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION
APPEARS ON THE TABLET:

A. W. BEDFORD	H. MARSHALL
W. L. HAWKSLEY	A. PHILLIPS
J. SCARLAND	J. JOHNSON
T. POLLARD	

*"THEY whose names are recorded above
"were among those who, at the Call of
"King and Country, left all that was dear to
"them, endured hardness, faced danger, and
"finally passed out of the sight of men by the
"path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up
"their own lives that others might live in
"freedom."*

*"Let those who come after, see to it that their
"names be not forgotten."*

THE FOLLOWING ALSO OFFERED THEIR LIVES:

W. R. Batty, J. S. Batty, L. V. Bell, O. Bell, J. H. Bickerstaffe, R. E. Blundell, F. H. Bond, J. S. Bowker, J. A. Bowker, G. Bradwell, G. M. Brown, W. E. Caudle, R. Cook, J. Crosby, R. Crosby, H. Dine, T. Edmondson, A. Esilman, R. B. Frost, J. W. Halliwell, R. G. Hawksley, W. V. Hibberd, H. O. Hill, A. R. Jackson, N. T. Kelk, L. Lee-Dunham, D. Lee-Dunham, W. Lewis, C. Luther, J. Morgan, H. Morgan, J. R. McWhirter, H. Moulson, A. Newton, A. Nutter, R. L. Owen, G. R. Pollard, J. Rimmer, C. Robinson, J. Robinson, T. Sinclair, G. C. Walker, A. Whitehead, W. H. Whitehead.



WAR MEMORIAL

Outstanding Sundays at Leyland Road.

LEYLAND ROAD CHURCH has never had quite the congregation it deserves in the way of numbers. Yet it has always been of a good quality in the best senses. Its minister has had to weigh his congregation rather than to count it. But here and there have been Great Red Letter Days, when the Church has been thronged and the atmosphere has been mystic with blessing. Such days were experienced at the Opening of the Church; at the visit of the Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, so recently gone home; at the Unveiling of the War Memorial; at the Musical Recitals by Sir Robert Stewart. During the fifty years there have been numerous occasions when the services were such as to become a memory for life. Dr. Alexander Maclaren, of Manchester; Dr. Fraser, of Scotland; Dr. W. H. Dallinger, Dr. W. B. Pope, Dr. Dinsdale Young, Rev. Samuel Chadwick, Rev. Samuel Collier, Dr. W. L. Watkinson, Rev. Charles H. Kelly, Rev. Luke Wiseman, Rev. John Hornabrook, Dr. Jenkins, represent but a small number of outstanding men who have occupied the pulpit on important occasions. Rev. F. Macdonald (uncle of Mr. Rudyard Kipling and Mr. Stanley Baldwin), was a frequent visitor at one time.

There have also been four occasions on which Leyland Road has had the privilege of the Official Visit of the Mayor of Southport on Mayoral Sunday. Those days have been outstanding in the quality and size of the congregations.

In the year 1888 Mr. Benjamin Wilkinson was elected Mayor. Rev. George Charter, minister of Leyland Road, was the Mayor's Chaplain. There was a wonderful service in the morning of the Mayoral Sunday.

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In the same year, another member of the Congregation was elected Mayor of Manchester, in the person of Alderman Batty, J.P., father of Mr. J. Rayner Batty, J.P.

In 1896, Sir George Pollard was elected to the Mayoral Office. The minister of Leyland Road at that time was Rev. N. John Baker, M.A., and he became the Mayor's Chaplain. So another wonderful service took place on the morning of Mayoral Sunday at Leyland Road Church.

In 1900, Dr. T. Isherwood was elected Mayor. The Leyland Road minister, Rev. Robert Foster, became the Mayor's Chaplain. He conducted the Service on the morning of Mayoral Sunday, and again it was a service to carry in fragrant memory.

Mr. F. W. Brown was appointed to the Mayoral Office in 1903. As he had family associations with Leyland Road Church, Mr. Brown asked its minister, Rev. Robert Killip, to be Mayor's Chaplain. So on the Mayoral Sunday Mr. Killip conducted what proved to be a most gracious and helpful service.



*Complete List of Ministers who have
had charge of Leyland Road Church.*

- 1880—1883 Rev. Thomas Allen,
Later Doctor of Divinity and President
of the Wesleyan Conference, 1900.
- 1883—1886 Rev. William Perkins,
President of the Wesleyan Conference,
1909.
- 1886—1889 Rev. George Charter.
- 1889—1892 Rev. Silvester Whitehead,
Governor of Theological College later,
and President of the Wesleyan Con-
ference, 1904.
- 1892—1895 Rev. George Ingman, B.A.
- 1895—1898 Rev. John Baker, M.A.
- 1898—1900 Rev. James Crabtree,
Who left to become Governor of one of
our Theological Colleges.
- 1900—1903 Rev. Robert Foster.
- 1903—1906 Rev. Robert Killip, F.R.A.S.
- 1906—1909 Rev. Frederick M. Parkinson.
- 1909—1912 Rev. Robert Killip, F.R.A.S.
- 1912—1915 Rev. Joseph T. Gurney,
Who was minister during the first year
of the War.
- 1915—1919 Rev. Charles T. Lee-Dunham,
Who was here during the rest of the
War Years.
- 1919—1923 Rev. W. Gallaway Mitchell.
- 1923—1926 Rev. Ralph O. Price, B.A., B.D.
- 1926—1929 Rev. F. Ernest Walker.
- 1929— Rev. A. Price Hughes (*at present in charge*)

The Ministers of the Past.

LEYLAND ROAD has been fortunate in the quality of the ministers who have served its people. It began with Rev. Thomas Allen and Rev. William Perkins, both of whom became Presidents of the Wesleyan Conference. The minister of a Church largely determines the quality of its worship and the value of its service. Leyland Road Church has very happy memories of its former ministers. It is significant to find that they also have equally happy memories of the Church to which they ministered. Memory is a precious treasure; it brings the wealth of the past to meet the needs of the future. Former ministers have sent their impressions of Leyland Road Church during the time of their ministry. They all send best wishes for the Jubilee.

By Rev. FREDERICK M. PARKINSON.

(Retired at St. Leonards-on-Sea.)

It fell to my lot to be the minister of Leyland Road during the three years 1906—1909. As a building the Church always appealed to me; its prominent position, its fine proportions, together with its spacious and well-kept grounds made it one of the most attractive of our Places of Worship and at the same time I found it one of the easiest buildings in which to speak and hear, of which I have had any experience.

I cherish a grateful remembrance of its Services and of the influence attending them. I was much encouraged by the loyalty and heartiness of the congregation. I look back with a gratitude I cannot express to all who "laboured with me in the Lord" giving careful thought and generous support to every vital interest of the Church. They made my residence

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among them a pleasure and my work a delight. Some whose names are interwoven with the past history of the Church remain until now, but the greater part "are fallen asleep," yet all live with me in the undying influence of their gracious and saintly lives.

I well remember the bright and cultured set of young people of those days; and one of my joys as an old minister is to know that not a few of them are now occupying prominent positions in the Church of their fathers, so that despite all the changes the fine traditions of Leyland Road will be maintained.

By Rev. W. G. MITCHELL.
(Of Wandsworth, London).

The four years I spent as a minister at Leyland Road Church are comparatively recent, and bring back many memories. The loyalty of our people and their readiness to support the various activities of the Church were always an encouragement. Leyland Road has filled a definite place and made its own permanent impression upon the religious life of Southport. The beauty of its architectural design as a sanctuary for the Worship of God is symbolic of its witness to the faith and practice of the Christian Religion. I was often impressed by the place it held in the hearts of those not directly connected with it. Fifty years may not be a long period compared with some Churches; but this Jubilee Anniversary of Leyland Road Wesleyan Church represents a record of service and high endeavour fulfilled by the grace of God and to His glory. My prayer and best wishes for the future are, that the lamp of truth in the Church may burn steadily and brightly; and that the ministry and service of the days to come may increase from strength to strength in the power and might of the risen Lord.

By Rev. RALPH O. PRICE, B.A., B.D.
(Of Chorlton-cum-Hardy).

I look back upon three of the happiest years of my life spent under the shadow of the stately spire of Leyland Road Church. And I remember with gratitude a kindly and hospitable folk to whom it was a privilege to minister.

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But my ministry is of such recent date that I must not indulge in reminiscence. Let me rather rejoice in the present and look forward to the future.

From all accounts Leyland Road is renewing her youth, even though it is now her Jubilee Year. The high traditions of the past are being more than maintained. The future is bright with promise. All this is very gratifying to one who has always felt that there was an important and influential place for our Church to fill in the religious life of the town. And no one rejoices more than I do in the sight of increasing usefulness. May this Jubilee, under Divine blessing, mark the beginning of a new epoch of unparalled success at Leyland Road! I believe that "the best is yet to be."

By Rev. F. ERNEST WALKER.

(Of Gateshead.)

The Jubilee celebrations will call forth a great psalm of gratitude for the many blessings received and the precious memories revived.

If the full story could be written it would be a worthy record and would include the names of a noble company who by generous and devoted labour maintained the Cause of God and gave of their best in a loyal and untiring service to the Church they loved.

As a former minister with a recent memory of three years happy service and fellowship I count it a privilege to share in your rejoicings.

At such a time one cannot help thinking of some who have passed to the higher service but who, had they been spared to us would have taken a joyful part in these services of praise and thanksgiving. They are amongst the "great cloud of witnesses" who have joined the Church Triumphant. We can give thanks on their behalf and join our prayers to theirs that the Church they loved may go forward to greater usefulness and larger blessing in the coming days.

Let Leyland Road thank God and take courage believing confidently that "the best is yet to be."



REV. A. PRICE HUGHES

Five Personalities of the Period.

SMERSON tells us that "an Institution is the lengthened shadow of one man." But a Church is more than an institution. It offers its blessings to many people and its ministries are made up of the service of many personalities all bringing their varied gifts for common purpose. It has been a pleasure to write of the history of Leyland Road Church; it would have been an even greater pleasure to write at length of the innumerable people who have made it glorious. After all personality is the Spirit of which history is but the body.

The Committee decided that it was impossible to write of many people without being unfair to others equally worthy. Some people are by mannerism or peculiarity more "rememberable" than others; but it by no means follows that they have exercised greater influence or rendered greater service. So when we looked at the past fifty years we found an embarrassment of riches. Leyland Road Church has had a multitude of worthy and gifted people. In just the same way, when we looked round the members of our present congregation, we found numbers of fine people, who have been worshippers and workers here for twenty or thirty years. So we came to the conclusion at last, that three might be picked out from the past and two from the present. When the selection was made, we felt that here were names that would commend themselves to all by their wonderful service through the long period. Moreover, they stand as representatives, and in praising them we are commending others among whom they served. The names of the five chosen are:—

Mr. HENRY BROOK, J.P. Miss BERTHA CROOK.
Mr. CHARLES HEATON. Mr. J. RAYNER BATTY, J.P.
Miss BARNES.

Leyland Road Wesleyan Church, Southport

So let us here offer praise to these to whom praise is so obviously due. Judicious praise is to people what the sun is to flowers. And words of sincere praise may be as influential as deeds of kindness.

Mr. HENRY BROOKE was the son of the Manse. He came from Manchester to Southport when he was 43 years old for health reasons. He completely regained his health. In 1885 he attached himself to Leyland Road Church. He became a great stalwart. He had small patience with people who only came to the House of God once a Sunday. He was ever a "twicer." Besides which he was Superintendent of the School for 35 years. His service for the choir was unique; he remained a member of the choir to the end. He had a cheerful disposition and a generous mind. He looked for good in everybody. He was energetic in his service for the Town, and was a Councillor and a Justice of the Peace. His generosity was manifest in service and gifts. Had he lived but a few days longer he would have been 88. He served this Church for 44 years in manifold ways and with eager hands and kindly heart. He was one of the "Greathearts" of God. He died in the Autumn of 1928.

Mr. CHARLES HEATON was another remarkable man. For many years he gave his best in gifts and service to this Church. He was a most successful class leader; an able speaker; a capable organiser and a generous giver. He held many offices, and all of them he filled with distinction. His wife was leader of the Sewing Meeting, and the whole family took vivid interest in the Work of God. One son was the School Secretary for some years. Miss Heaton is still with us. Mr. Heaton was almost greedy for work, and toiled wonderfully for the interests of the Kingdom of God. His memory is fragrant at Leyland Road.

Miss BARNES was among those who gave up Mornington Road in order to help forward the cause at Leyland Road. So she was one of the original members with which the Church began. She was a lady of singular character, small in stature but large in heart and mind. She was so generous as to give to every worthy cause. Her gifts were both large and frequent. She gave most generously to the building of the Church; she contributed £550 towards the erection of the School and Churchkeepers's House. She gave the Choir Stalls, as we have told before. She was about 80 years old when she died; her body was laid to rest at Burnley; and the Rev. Ralph O. Price shared in the funeral service. Her character was even finer than her service and gifts. She was eccentric in some ways, but lovable and loyal and steadfast through all her long life.

Miss CROOK is the name of a lady who has been a wonderful worker in the years past. So active was she in all forms of service that she was often named "The Curate." Never did any minister have a better curate than the ministers of Leyland Road. She had a large young ladies' class in the Sunday School. She was leader of another young ladies' class which was held on a week-night. She served in the Mothers' Meeting which used to be held at Leyland Road in the old days. She was also a constant visitor at the Infirmary, and a second pastor in looking after the sick folk of the Church. When she had to give up her Society Class they made her a handsome presentation. Five years ago she had to give up the work she loved

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for reasons of health. Then followed a serious operation, and she has been confined to her bed ever since. But she still writes to her old Society Class, and holds intense interest in all the work at Leyland Road. She has turned her trial into a triumph. Her fortitude and cheer, her fun and her faith are a wonder to all who visit her. Her room is like an ante-room to heaven. She ministers still in ways too deep and fine to tell. She has found the path of prayerful interest in the Church to be the road of victory in her home. She and her sister, Miss Emily, are like two angels of God. In Miss Bertha Crook, Leyland Road Church has had its saint: many a saint has been canonised for less.

Mr. J. RAYNER BATTY, J.P., has been a worshipper and worker at Leyland Road Church through all the fifty years. There are one or two others who have been through all the years, but none whose influence and service have been so wide and continuous. He was at a boarding school, under Dr. Rigg, when Leyland Road Church was built and opened. He has grown up in the town and has been active in so many directions as to make it difficult to know where to begin. His interest in sport has been both wide and intense. So it will come as no surprise to those who have played with him in one branch of sport, to find that he was an expert in other branches. He has been the captain of the Southport Cricket Club; the captain of the Southport Lacrosse Club; and the captain of the Hesketh Golf Club. In the realm of golf, Mr. Batty has also had the honour of being President of the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs. To him falls also the more unique honour of being the Founder and First President of the English Golf Union. He was for some time the Chairman of the Manchester Athletic Grounds Committee. His business life in that great City has brought him both success and respect.

His religious interests have been equally as wide and deep. He has filled almost every office the Methodist Church can offer. He was a member of the choir for 35 years; and exercised a fine influence in the Sunday School as a teacher for about 30 years. He has filled the office of Circuit Steward on two occasions. At the close of his second term of office, the Society Stewards of all the Churches made him a presentation of an unique copy of the Methodist Hymn Book, with tunes. Mr. Batty was the Circuit Chapel Secretary for 30 years. For 15 years he held the office of District Treasurer of the Aged Ministers' Fund; and held the same office for the Connexion for six years. He has been a member of the District Synod for 30 years. He is now the Senior Trustee of Leyland Road Church having been appointed in 1893. In the local Church he has filled every office. Mr. Batty's record is the most amazing thing in my personal experience.

So it is evident that in Mr. Batty we have a gentleman who has been both sportman and saint in the big sense of the terms. He has a charm that is irresistible, and an ability that is evident in all he does. One is glad to know him. He sheds around him the sense of comradeship. In spite of rather fragile health in recent years, he is still vigorous in his life and earnest in his aims. From a Southport point of view he is young yet, and has years of fine service before him. Mrs. Batty has been a wonderful comrade to this wonderful man. His family, too, worship with us. In sport, in business, and in the Church Mr. Batty has a great record. He is a "gay and gallant gentleman of God."

A Hymn of Remembrance.

TODAY our thoughts wing backwards
Athwart some fifty years ;
When lo ! A happy vision
Of glory re-appears.
We see the gracious op'ning
Of God's own temple true—
The holy dedication
As it comes into view.

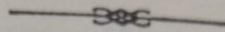
'T was beautifully fashion'd
As His own House should be ;
Without, within—an emblem
Of faith and purity.
Ensample for God's children,
Who worship in this shrine,
To imitate their Master
In lovely ways divine.

And so as time sped onward
From that bright hallow'd day
What multitudes have gather'd
Their homage here to pay
To Christ their blest Redeemer,
And inspiration gain
Afresh for loyal service
In furthering His reign !
.

Such memories recalling—
As we survey the past—
Bids us in all the future
Our loving trust hold fast.
A season this of gladness,
For gratitude and praise ;
And prayers for heav'nly guidance
Throughout the coming days.

W. H. Lloyd.

The Story of the Playing Field.



SINCE Religion is Social and not solitary, and has meaning for the community as well as for the individual, it must influence every true interest of life. Religion is everything or nothing. Its fervour and thoughts must flow into all activities of heart and hand. It fills a person as life fills his body or as sunshine floods a room. The true way to destroy the distinction between sacred and secular is not by pulling the sacred down, but by lifting the secular up. Therefore Sport is not under the ban of Religion but under its blessing. It has borrowed its very ethics from Religion. To "Play the Game" is infinitely more than chasing a ball or swinging a bat. It is the developement of character under conditions of victory or defeat on the field of play. Leyland Road Church has ever stood for the broad conception of Religion and this true thought of Sport.

During the time of the ministry of Rev. W. G. Mitchell an opportunity presented itself for securing a Playing Field on Cambridge Road. The young people had managed on a small ground in Roe Lane. There were a number of people who displayed foresight and interest, and under Mr. Mitchell's leadership they went forward. Soon the Church was interested as a whole. So in 1922 the Playing Field was secured. But its state was such that much money had to be spent. So a bazaar was held to raise funds. In August 1923 the Pavilion was opened. The total cost of the lease, the alterations and improvements on the field and the Pavilion ran into something like £1500. The Playing Field is a delightful spot where one can be sure of gentle and healthful breezes. We have place

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for cricket, tennis, football and hockey. There is a membership of about 150 and membership is open to any people who have sympathy with our aims and objects. Among players and spectators alike there is a fine spirit of comradeship. The President this year is Mrs. J. Rayner Batty and the Secretary is Mr. Newton Jones. Teas and light refreshments are served on Saturdays. We all know that life is a much larger thing than sport. Yet there are many to whom sport is one of the great things of life; to whom often life itself is but a tremendous sport. To them we extend our hands in fellowship, feeling sure they will agree with us in the following thoughts. Even in terms of Sport, life can be a Mean game or a *Great* game. When the great Umpire comes to record the final score, He will not tell who lost and who won, but *how* we played the game. If "playing the game" means taking defeat without bitterness and enjoying victory without pride, then Sport has borrowed the ethics of Religion. And in encouraging people to meet trial and triumph in a great spirit, sport becomes the servant of Religion.





SPORTS PAVILION

The Prospects of the Present Day.

IT is important to have the grace of gratitude. Men who are not thankful for the past will rarely leave any cause for thanksgiving in the future. We are conscious of our debt to the past. "Wonderful men were our fathers of old." But thankfulness must not become a substitute for service, nor memory for hope. The noblest way to express thanksgiving for the past is to serve for the future. Earnest and active industry is the true hymn of praise. The warm heart should have busy hands.

So we have given our mead of tribute to the past. But what have we to say about the present prospects and the future hopes? We have much to be thankful for in the past; but we also have equal cause for thanksgiving in the present. In a place like Southport, where many people retire for a peaceful eventide and to which many come to nurse a fragile body, it is inevitable that many who come for Worship can rarely stay for Work. Yet in our Church we have growing up around us a band of young people who will undertake the tasks of the future. We can face the future without fear. Leyland Road Church is renewing its youth. If we are faithful, we are going to share in great service and much blessing. There is the spirit of hope everywhere.

There is a delightful Beginner's Department in the School under the able superintendency of Miss Muriel Bamford. The Primary has grown out of all recognition and has had to be transferred to the Church Parlour. Miss Bradley goes forward on her genial way conquering all difficulty. Rarely a week passes but she has new recruits to welcome and new triumphs

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to tell. The Senior School, under the capable leadership of Mr. Edwards, goes forward. If only we had accommodation for a Junior School, we could make a great School at Leyland Road. That is one of the things we shall have to dream of, and it shall come to pass in reality one day. The congregation is growing in a very encouraging way. The spirit of comradeship in the Girls' Club and the Boys' Club and the Reginald League and the Badminton Club and the Ladies' at Home and the Choir and the Classes is very happy and delightful. Our difficulties have become our opportunities. We are out to rival the best days of the past. Our Church Keeper, Mr. Turner, told me the other day that he had not seen a better Good Friday morning congregation through all the thirty years of his faithful and genial service, than last Good Friday morning. So while we are thankful for the past we are hoping for the future. We are going to share with God in building up a great Church. "Ah to build, to build! That is the noblest art of all arts." It is an art that needs grace and courage. So

"Grow old along with me; the best is yet to be;
The last for which the first was made."



The Trustees of Leyland Road Church.

The Original Trustees of 1880:

Mr. James Wheeler	Mr. James Wood	Mr. James Fishwick Stead
Mr. Peter F. Wood	Mr. Charles Heaton	Mr. William Kelk
Mr. Francis F. Rigg	Mr. Thomas Kelk	Mr. Charles H. Brown
Mr. William Sutton	Mr. James Platt	Mr. Edward Surr
Mr. Herbert Horton	Mr. Thomas W. Stead	Mr. Henry Mathwin

Trustees in 1930:

Mr. J. Rayner Batty, J.P.	Mr. W. D. Schofield	Mr. A. Schofield
Mr. P. H. Stocks	Mr. C. G. Slack	Mr. John S. Batty
Mr. Arthur Chadwick	Mr. Henry Bowker	Mr. G. Wheeldon
Miss Bertha Crook	Mr. C. W. Connard	Mr. H. O. Hill
Councillor R. Hodge	Mr. J. Edwards, M.A.	Mr. James Macbeth
Mr. W. R. Gregson	Mr. F. J. Cooper	Mr. I. H. Holden, M.A.,
Mr. A. W. Hornabrook	Mr. J. Hesketh	Mr. Newton Jones [J.P.]
Mr. Harold Monk	Mr. E. W. Jones	Mr. E. Schofield

The Church Officers in 1930:

The Church and Congregation:

Society Stewards	{ Mr. E. W. Jones, "Cranbrook," Hesketh Drive Mr. Charles Connard, 58 Alexandra Road
Poor Stewards...	{ Mr. T. J. Rimmer, Grange Cottage, Roe Lane Mr. A. Chadwick, "Bestwood," Hesketh Road Mr. J. Kay, 23 Rutland Road
Organist ...	Mr. Charles Gressler, The Bungalow, 1a Bradley St.
Choirmaster ...	Mr. F. Foster, 28 Queen's Road

The Trust Officers:

Chapel Stewards	{ Mr. C. G. Slack, 10 Norwood Avenue Mr. J. C. Macbeth, 70 Chester Road
Treasurer ...	Mr. A. Chadwick, "Bestwood," Hesketh Road
Secretary ...	Mr. W. D. Schofield, 2 Park Road

The Sunday School:

Superintendent ...	Mr. J. Edwards, M.A., 108 Manchester Road
Secretary ...	Mr. Charles Connard, 58 Alexandra Road
Primary	Miss E. Bradley, 24 Park Road
Superintendent	Miss Muriel Bamford, 6 Coudray Road
Beginners' Superintendent	

The Recreation Ground:

President ...	Mrs. J. Rayner Batty
Secretary ...	Mr. Newton Jones, "Cranbrook," Hesketh Drive

The Ladies' "At Home":

President ...	Mrs. A. Price Hughes
Secretaries ...	{ Mrs. Kay, 23 Rutland Road Miss Middlebrook, 73 Alexandra Road
Treasurers ...	{ Miss E. Bradley, 24 Park Road Miss M. Marshall, 1 Allerton Road

THE PROGRAMME
OF THE
Jubilee Celebrations



SATURDAY, MAY 31st,
in the School Hall, at 8 p.m.,

Great Rally and Re=Union

Mr. J. RAYNER BATTY, J.P.,
WILL PRESIDE.

*Many Interesting and unique Items.
Light Refreshments.*

COME AND SHARE IN OUR JOY.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st,

10-45 A.M. :

Rev. LLEWELLYN ROBERTS.

6-30 P.M. :

Rev. A. PRICE HUGHES.

"The Symbols of a Great Past."

7-30—INFORMAL MUSIC.

8-0—SPECIAL BROADCAST SERVICE.

Rev. A. PRICE HUGHES.

"Cheer for the Handicapped."

COLLECTIONS at all the Services on behalf of the JUBILEE FUND.

The Jubilee Thanksgiving Fund.

WE are associating a Thanksgiving Fund with our Jubilee Celebrations. Our needs are many and urgent. The Church needs re-pointing and the School and Church Parlour must be renovated and decorated. It will be a great expense. On Sunday, June 1st, our own people are bringing their gifts. We shall also take a collection at the Broadcast Service on the same day. We shall be glad to receive gifts—small or large—from any friends who may have former associations or present interest.

Your gifts will be thankfully received and immediately acknowledged by Rev. A. PRICE HUGHES, 84 Park Road, Southport; or by Mr. A. CHADWICK, "Bestwood," Hesketh Road, Southport.

I have much pleasure in enclosing
£ : : *towards the*
Leyland Road Jubilee Fund.

Name

Address