

people, over the years have played it to the glory of God and made its music a memorable part of the worship of the Church.

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### THE ALBERT STREET CHURCH

The Albert Street Primitive Methodist Church existed as a separate Methodist Church in Whitstable for many years, and came into Union in 1935.

During the last war the work continued under very difficult conditions and the building was damaged by enemy action. After the war the young people did not return and with an aging and declining membership, the Trust found great difficulty in carrying on, for much work was needed on the fabric of the building. This was emphasised still more after the floods in 1953 for even without the extra water there had always been trouble with water seepage from the wells and pump failures.

In 1956 it was proposed that the Lower Hall be improved so that the Youth Organisations of St. John's might use it. However, the sum of £500 was needed for that purpose alone and regretfully it was decided that it was not a practical proposition in the circumstances.

After long deliberations and with some sadness, the Albert Street Church was closed following the Harvest Festival Service on the 20th September 1957, and twenty one members joined the fellowship at St. John's.

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### MESSAGES OF GREETING

From the Rev. Robert Bewick

After retirement from Circuit work, I lived for over twelve years in your Circuit and often had the pleasure of taking services at St. John's and remember the friendly welcome one always received there; the excellent choir and the singing.

It is very interesting to hear of the Centenary of the Church, and I trust the occasion will prove to be an inspiration to renewed life and devotion.

Robert Bewick

From the Rev. Kenneth J. Bate

Greetings and all good wishes to St. John's for the Centennial Year from the Royal Borough of New Windsor. My wife and I recall with gratitude the splendid service for the Kingdom of Christ which is being offered today as faithfully as it has been over the century. Others have laboured and you have entered into their labours, and our prayers are for you and our love goes with you in your time of celebration.

Kenneth J. Bate

From the Rev. C.H.F. Cory

When I first came to the Whitstable & Herne Bay Circuit I was still a callow youth "on Probation." The three years spent in the Circuit were very happy ones and for the third year I brought my wife to the Circuit from Bristol. We shall never forget the warmth and friendliness of the people in the Circuit. We pray that your Centennial Year may be much blessed of God and that the Christian Witness of St. John's may be a force for good in the district.

C.H.F. Cory

From the Rev. R. Layland George, B.D.

Congratulations on the long and happy history of St. John's. With gratitude to God I recall three happy years of ministry between 1937 and 1940. Circumstances were none too easy in those days but the splendid spirit of our people enabled us to carry on the work of God, among service men and women and civilians alike.

I pray the Lord may richly bless your celebrations and lead you to greater triumphs.

R. Layland George

From the Rev. W.J. Goodall

It gave us pleasure to be remembered after all these years, particularly because we often think of the happy year we spent at Whitstable and the kindness and affectionate support shown by its people to us then.

We send our best wishes and pray that the Church may go from strength to strength in its future witness to Christ and the saving power of God.

W.J. Goodall

From the Rev. F.A. Hickling

My wife and I still have the most pleasant memories of the year we spent at Whitstable and recall the exciting times we had with the monthly concert; the time we presented "Messiah"; the splendid services and good singing.

We pray that past glories may be outshone by future events. The best of all is - GOD IS STILL WITH US.

F.A. Hickling

From the Rev. D.M. Jones

It must be nearly forty years since I was with you, for one year. The most pleasant memory I have is of the "Whalers" who used to meet in the vestry for 'fishing' at 8 p.m. on Fridays and afterwards at the fish and chip shop. As I grow old I take comfort from the lines of the hymn -

"For all the servants of our King,  
In earth and heaven are one".

D.M. Jones

From the Rev. Joseph Parker

My recollection of my years in Whitstable is a delight. The one word which springs to my mind when I think of them is 'characters'.

There was "Uncle Wallace Cambourn, who, when a minister announced from the pulpit 'There will be no Bright Hour for the ladies this week' audibly commented, 'Poor old gels, no Bright Hour for 'em this week'." There was Percy Wills whose choir sang a new tune every Sunday during the collection and Alan Hawkins who made the organ rejoice. There was Mrs. Holden, a weighty woman, who declared to me, "I never sit on the fence" and many others like Messrs. Brett, Stutely, May and Mead.

No one knows how far into the second century St. John's will go, but of one thing I am sure; it will play a worthy part for Christ.

This is my confirmed belief and prayer.

Joseph Parker

From the Rev. Edward J. Le Poidevin

It is a pleasure to send greetings to you in your Centennial Year of worship and Christian witness.

I came in 1936 and left a year later with a Whitstable girl as my wife.

We now congratulate you all who have sustained the life of the Church by your gifts and toil.

In many varied ways the Church has served the town and its people.

Edward J. Le Poidevin

From the Rev. Fred A. Thomas

My wife and I are delighted to send our good wishes for your Centenary celebrations. We spent two happy years in the town and memories of many friends there are still fresh.

It was our first Circuit after marriage and we have always been grateful for the kind reception we received and the loyal co-operation of many people in our work in the Church.

Fred A. Thomas