

A circular stone relief carving of a seated figure, likely a saint, with text overlaid. The figure is seated, wearing a long robe, and holding a book. The carving is set within a circular frame on a light-colored stone wall.

**150 Years
at
St John the Evangelist
Altrincham**

Stephen Birchall

2016



St. John's Church, New York City

The early years of St John the Evangelist, Altrincham

St John's Church opened in 1866 and its daughter Church St Elizabeth's opened in 1890. Both have made a significant contribution to the life of the market town of Altrincham since their foundation.

This display deals with the formative years covering their origins, the associated schools and the variety of activities surrounding the churches.

In addition, you can pick up a handlist and plan to guide you round the features of the church.



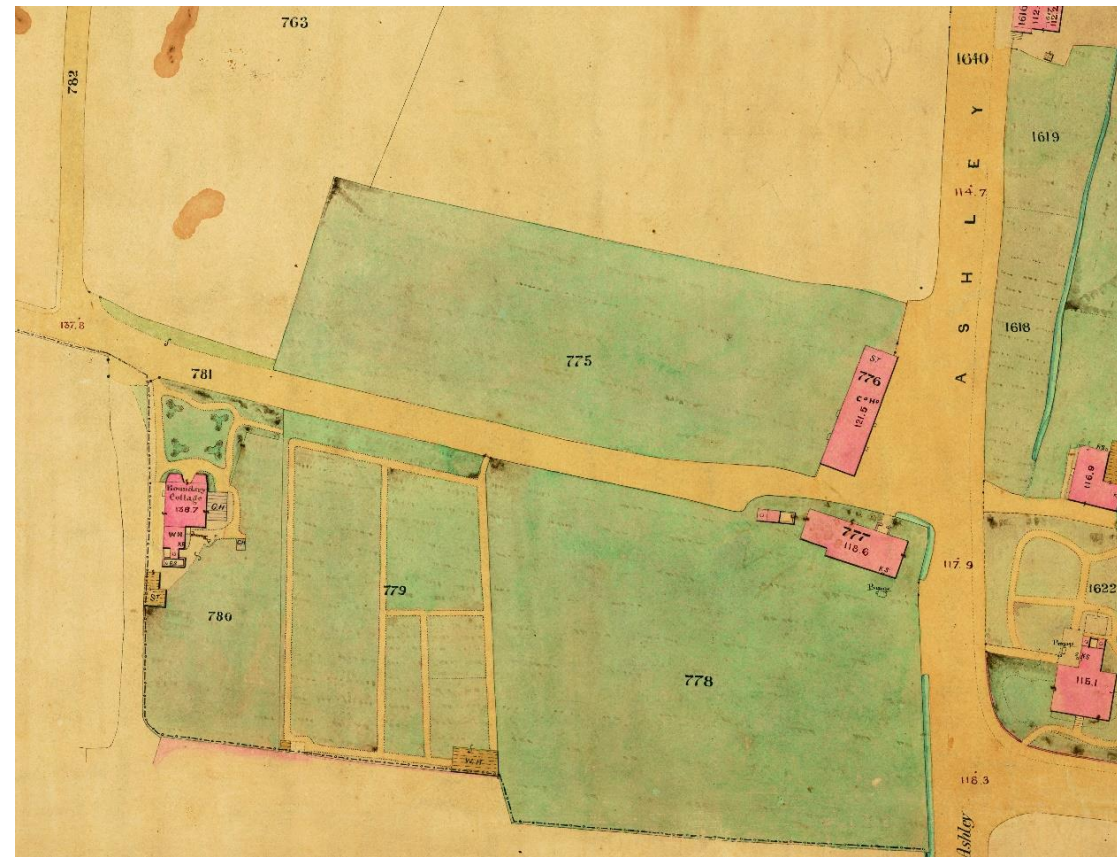
An early photograph of the entrance to St John's from Ashley Road.

What was there before the Church building was constructed?

The overall site originally formed the farmstead of Goralsgate Farm. Part of the land was occupied at one stage by John Douglas as a joiner's workshop and timber yard. Later it became a nursery.

The area featured briefly in the Civil War when a soldier from Prince Rupert's army who were camped on the Downs, was killed there by the landlord of the Bleeding Wolf pub.

On the right is the 1852 Board of Health Plan which shows what was later to become known as St John's Road. The road was much narrower where it joined Ashley Road and was only widened later. The junction of Ashley Road and Hale Road is at the bottom right of the map.



The 1852 Board of Health Plan.
The church and school were built on plots 775 and 776.

Why was St John's built?

St Margaret's Church built a school on the land where the converted houses adjacent to the Church and the doctors' surgery now stand. The land had been donated by the Earl of Stamford in 1857.

On Saturday 24th October 1863 a meeting was called to consider setting up a new parish. This was called by Rev Pollock of St Mary's, Rev John Kingsley of St Margaret's and Rev George London of St George's.

This meeting then decided to call a more general meeting to gather public support and that was held on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30pm.

The Church of England had identified the need for a new church because of the opening of Bowdon Terminus Railway Station and the line to Manchester in 1849. Subsequently a further need was identified for a mission in relation to

the poor Newtown area of Altrincham. The primary focus of St John's from the outset appears to have been mission-focussed.

The current site of the church was quickly identified as being suitable, but there was some hesitation because it was thought the site was too small. This was solved by an arrangement by which St John's would take over the St Margaret's School and there would be no graveyard for St John's.



Bowdon Terminus Railway Station on Railway Street, which opened in 1849. The site is at the junction of Railway Street and Lloyd Street and is currently occupied by Total Fitness. The Church of England realised that the arrival of the railway in Altrincham was already leading to the growth of Altrincham.





St John's School was the first building on the overall site and was originally St Margaret's School. When St. John's was built, the vicar of St. Margaret's simply handed over the keys. This shows the building as later extended.

Setting up the Parish

The site was owned by the Earl of Stamford. After some negotiation, he donated the land free of charge to the Church. Negotiations began to establish the parish boundaries, which now took out part of the Parishes of St Mary's in Bowdon, St Margaret's Dunham Massey and Christ Church, Timperley. The boundaries were eventually confirmed by Queen Victoria on 4th November 1867.

Later, St Peter's in Hale was created and took a substantial part of St John's Parish to the west.

A vicar was needed for the new parish and the man chosen was Rev. Frederick Wainwright, who was then the curate at St Mary's, Bowdon. He was appointed in May 1865.

Frederick Wainwright, first vicar of St John's, outside the western entrance.



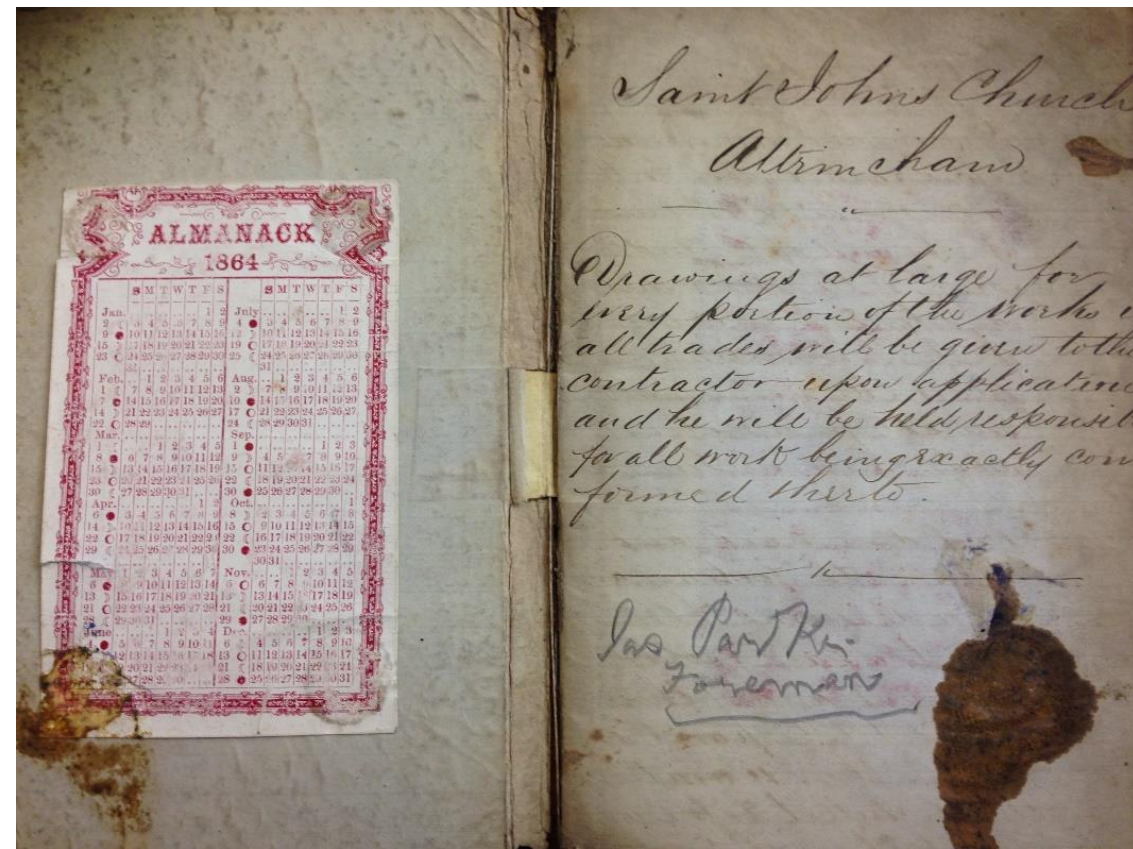
The building project

A building committee was set up. The original tender price was £4,780, which increased to £5,330 with extras and the final sum was about £7,000. This may seem a small amount of money, but at the time it was a significant sum.

Initially there was going to be a competition involving five architects. However, the candidates were narrowed down to two, each of whom submitted an anonymous sketch design. Part of the brief was to try and have pillars of under 1 foot 8 inches in diameter for a less restricted view. The successful candidate was J Medland Taylor.

Much of the money for the project was raised within 6 months.

The contractor, Mr J Thompson, was not using enough men. A clerk of works then monitored each week how many men were on site. Performance improved.



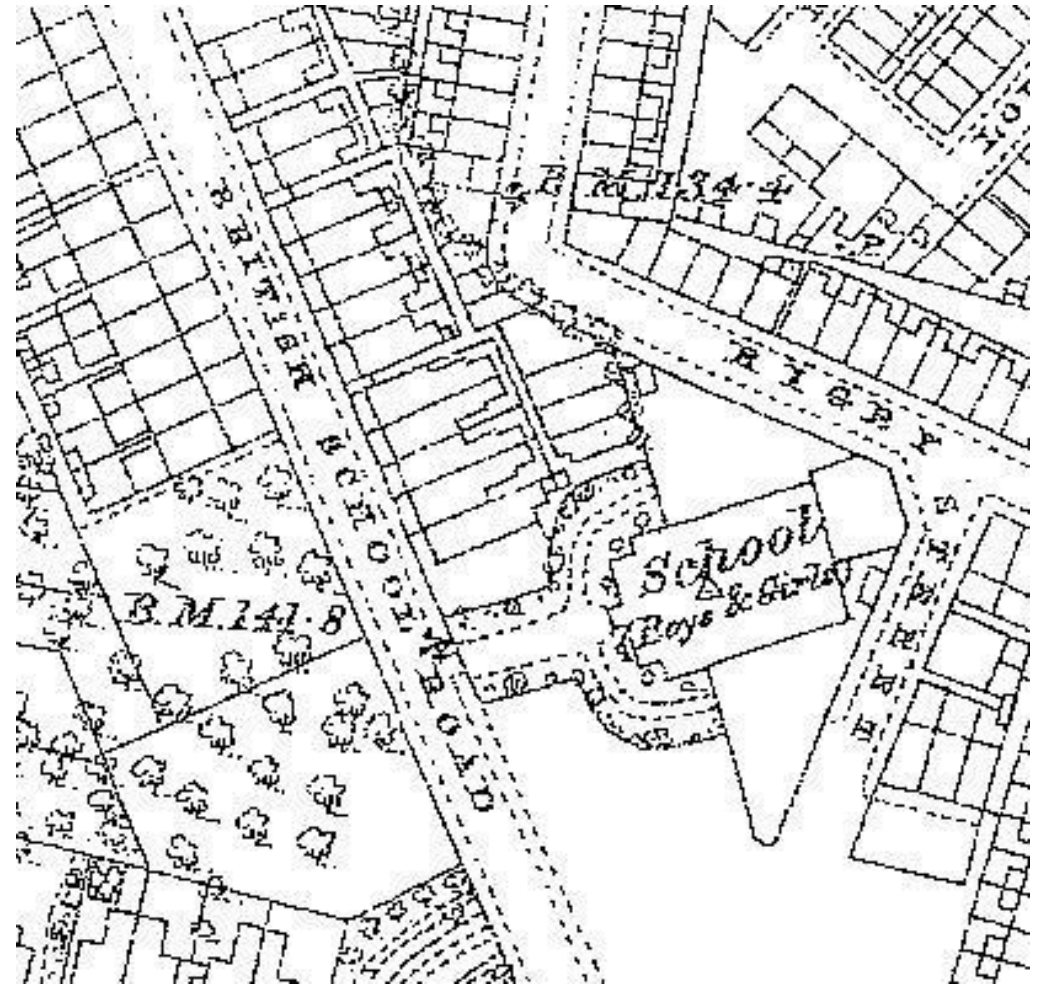
The front page of the signed specification that formed the building contract, together with plans. The entire specification is hand-written in a small book in two parts, one part signed by the foreman and the other part on behalf of the Church.

The first church services

Frederick Wainwright did not wait for the new building to be completed before starting church services. An approach was made to the British School to rent rooms on Sundays and on 17th October 1865 the first service was held. The rent was £30 per year.

The British School was a day school that taught children without bias towards any denomination.

An early incident was when fire broke out in a classroom but fortunately was put out before any major damage occurred.



Map of 1876 showing the location of the British School. What we now call Oxford Road was then British School Road. The building was on what is now part of Sainsbury's car park.

JANUARY 11, 1866.

Building Intelligence.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

A Roman Catholic Cathedral has been erected at Tetuan, in Morocco.

Spitalfields Church was last week reopened after having undergone restoration and repairs which have cost nearly £7,000.

ABERDEEN—OLD MACHAR CATHEDRAL.—This interesting structure, of which we recently gave an account, has been carefully examined by Mr. Daniel Macandrew, architect, Aberdeen, with a view to its restoration. In noticing the architect's detailed report, the *Aberdeen Free Press* says the report shows that the movement for restoration has not been made a day too soon.

ALTRINCHAM (MANCHESTER).—A new church has just been opened. It is of the Early Decorated style, and consists of a broad nave of five bays, with north and south aisles, and north and south transepts. There is a western porch, and adjoining it on the north side is the baptistery which is marked off from the north aisle by a small triple arcade; on the south of the porch is the steeple, which rises to a height of 140ft. The chancel aisles open by arches into the chancel and transepts, and these arches are filled to the height of 7ft. with arcaded wooden screens. The material is stone of three or four kinds. Accommodation is provided for 950 persons. Mr. J. M. Taylor was the architect, and Mr. J. Thompson the builder, Manchester. The builder's contract was £5,330.

A much later photograph showing the inside of the British School. St John's first services were probably held in this room.

Announcement in Building News of January 1866.

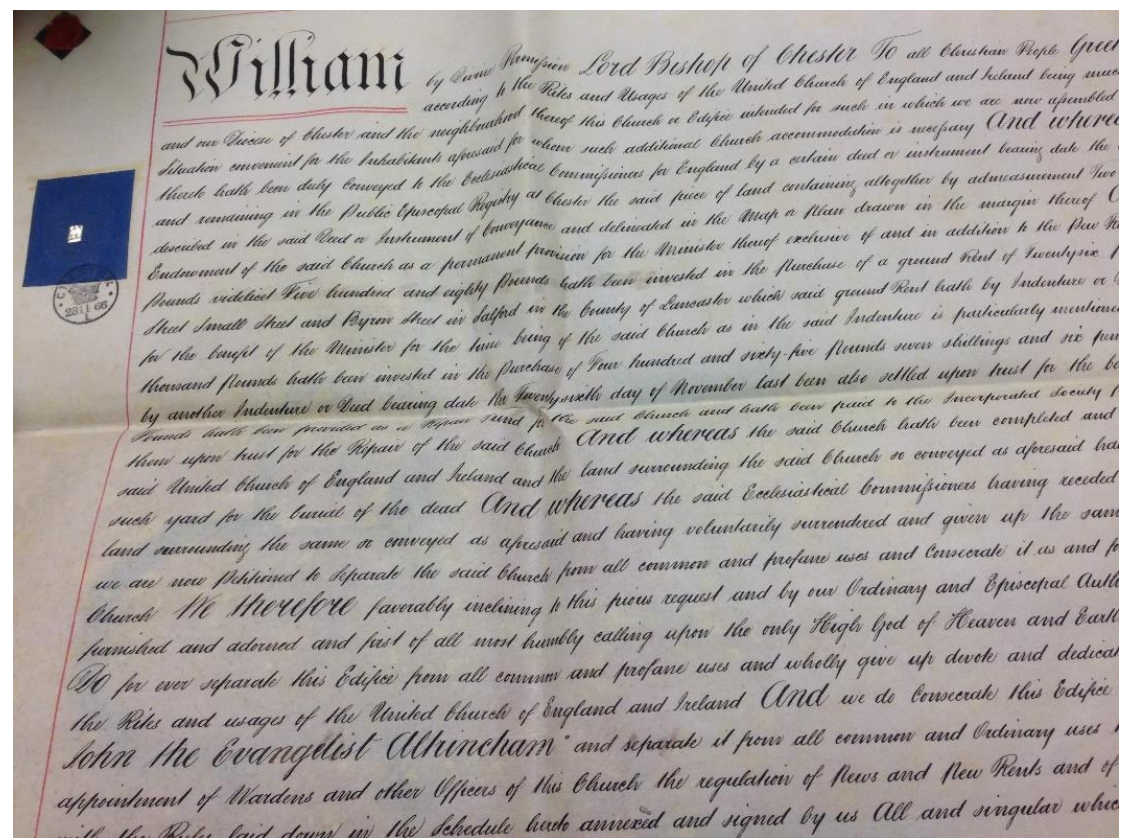
Opening the new church

There was no ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone. Originally it had been intended that the Earl of Stamford would lay the stone, but he said he was unable to do so.

The first ceremony was the reading out of the Articles of Consecration on Friday 14th December 1866, followed by the first service on Sunday 16th December.

Above right: the legal Articles of Consecration of St John's by Bishop William.

Right: deed plan of 1857 for the original school site to the north of the Church building. The school land was donated for the education of the “labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes”.

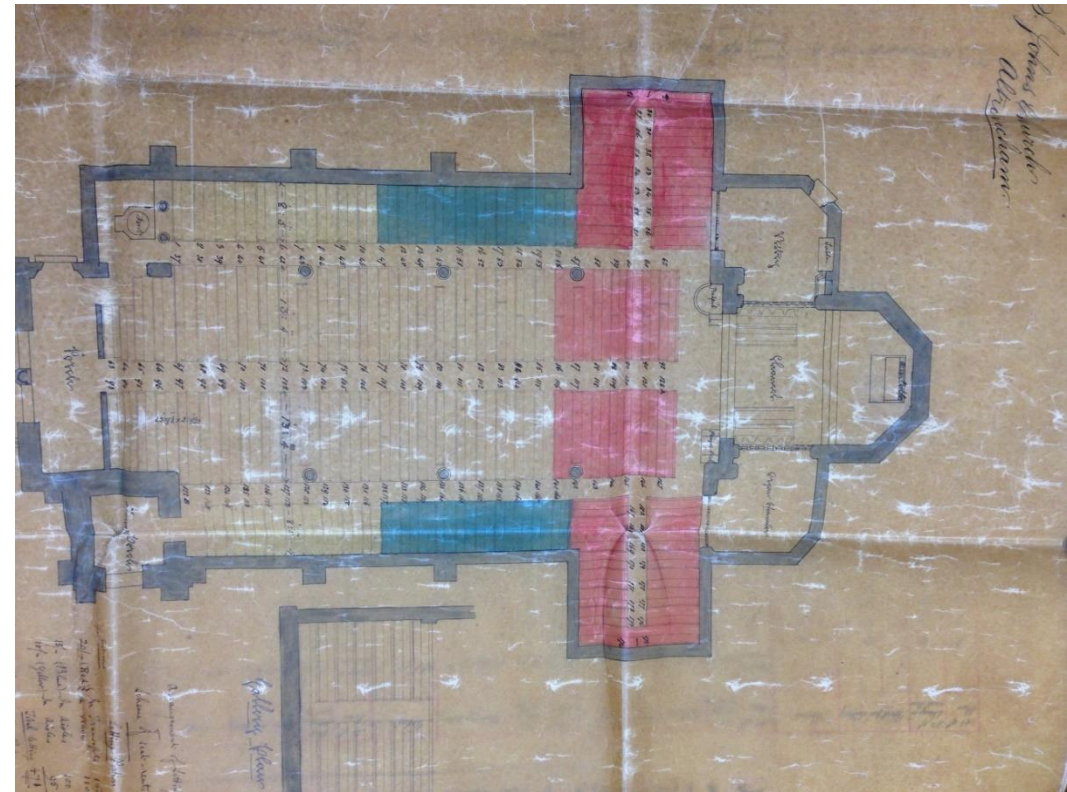


Pew rents

It was important to make sure the new church was fully funded. An endowment fund of £1,000 was set up to help pay the vicar. Some of this was invested in ground rents in Salford. The new congregation also gave generously to church funds.

One of the means of funding Victorian churches was by renting out pews to give a secure income. For St John's this was used for repairs (£15 per year); the services of a sexton, clerk and organist and after that was used to pay the vicar. It is likely that it was only the Baptist church in Altrincham that did not rent out pews.

As St John's was intended to have a mission focus for the poorer people of the area however, a large number of pews were left free for those who could not afford to rent them. By 1886 the vicar was campaigning for the abolition of pew rents.



The original pew rents plan. Red and blue shows the pews rented out. Rents per pew ranged from £2-10-0 (£2.50) per year to £7 per year. The vicar had pew 117 reserved for his family. Visitors were asked not to take a rented pew until the bell stopped tolling.

What the new building looked like

The building in which you are now standing has not changed too much over the years. However, modifications have been made so we need to use our imagination to see what it would have been like in 1866.

If you were to go back in time, the first thing you would notice was that there were no stained-glass windows. All of these were installed later and details can be found on the labels of the self-guided tour. The texts round the nave arches were added in 1880.

The World War I memorial and reredos were added later, with the latter relocated.

The original organ was smaller and hand-pumped, replaced in 1886 and rebuilt in 1901. When the Church considered an electric blower, it also looked at the offer of a donation by wealthy local industrialist William Crossley of a gas-powered blower.

This was eventually ruled out on the grounds of the likelihood of an explosion. The present organ still has a hand-pump in case of electrical breakdown.

A new exit was added in 1906 at the eastern end of the south transept, “in case of panic”.

The original lighting was by gas and heating was probably by a coke boiler. There is a chimney on the north-eastern side of the Church. Electric lighting complemented the gas lighting in 1895.

The church originally had a gallery which gave it a total seating capacity of over 900. The hall area at the back was originally part of the main seating area and underneath the gallery. There were early problems with rowdy youths sitting in the gallery, and Frederick Wainwright asked for a sidesman to sit there in all services to maintain order.

If you needed a toilet, there wasn't one. This was not uncommon for Victorian churches.

After it opened, St John's quickly filled up and most services were quite full. Churches change their theology over time, but at the outset St John's was evangelical and mission-oriented. The congregation was predominantly working and middle-class, with a number of servants forming part of the congregation.

Services would probably have been quite traditional. Even from the days of the first services in the British School there was a choir.

There was usually an anthem, and there was some debate as to whether the congregation should stand or stay seated as it was sung. Sermons would have been very much Bible-based and Frederick Wainwright was known as a good preacher.

There was an active social and educational life created by and for the congregation.

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S,
ALTRINCHAM.**

**THE FOURTH
ANNUAL SPRING EXHIBITION**

WILL BE HELD ON
Saturday Afternoon MAY 8th, 1886.

PROGRAMME.

The proceedings will be opened at 3-30 by the Vicar, supported by
Major Ballantine and Captain Kirwan.

Parish Room. Flowers, Pictures, Curiosities &c.
A special feature in this room will be the Scrap Books made by the Sunday Scholars and Friends for distribution amongst Children in the Hospitals.
Room in charge of Messrs Morrison, Higgins and Brewer.

Class Room G. Microscopical Exhibition by Messrs Hughes, Duncan & Priestley.
Room in charge of Messrs Hibbert, Shaw and Tiley.

Class Room B. Fine Art Exhibition, arranged by Messrs F. & C. Moore.
Room in charge of Messrs Bradbury, Deane, and T. Shaw.

Girls' Room. Work for Sale by Misses Kenyon, Davenport and Taylor.
Room in charge of Messrs Pickering and Trenbath.

Boys' Room. Exhibition of Diagrams of the Soudan, and Trophies including General Gordon's Magic Wand, the Order of the Yellow Coat. Swords, Spears &c., by Captain Kirwan.
Room in charge of Messrs Murgatroyd, and L. Wainwright.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Admission from 3-30 to 6 Sixpence from 6-30 to 8-30 Threepence.

The proceeds will be given to the Army Scripture Readers' and Soldiers' Friendly Society.

ARTICLES FOR EXHIBITION, WORK FOR SALE, may be sent to the Honorary Secretary,
MISS EMILY BOWDEN, ASHLEY ROAD, ALTRINCHAM, from whom any information may be obtained.

Programme for the 1886 spring exhibition. The church had an active social and fund-raising programme. Note 'General Gordon's Magic Wand'.



Detail showing the entrance to the vestry at the eastern end.

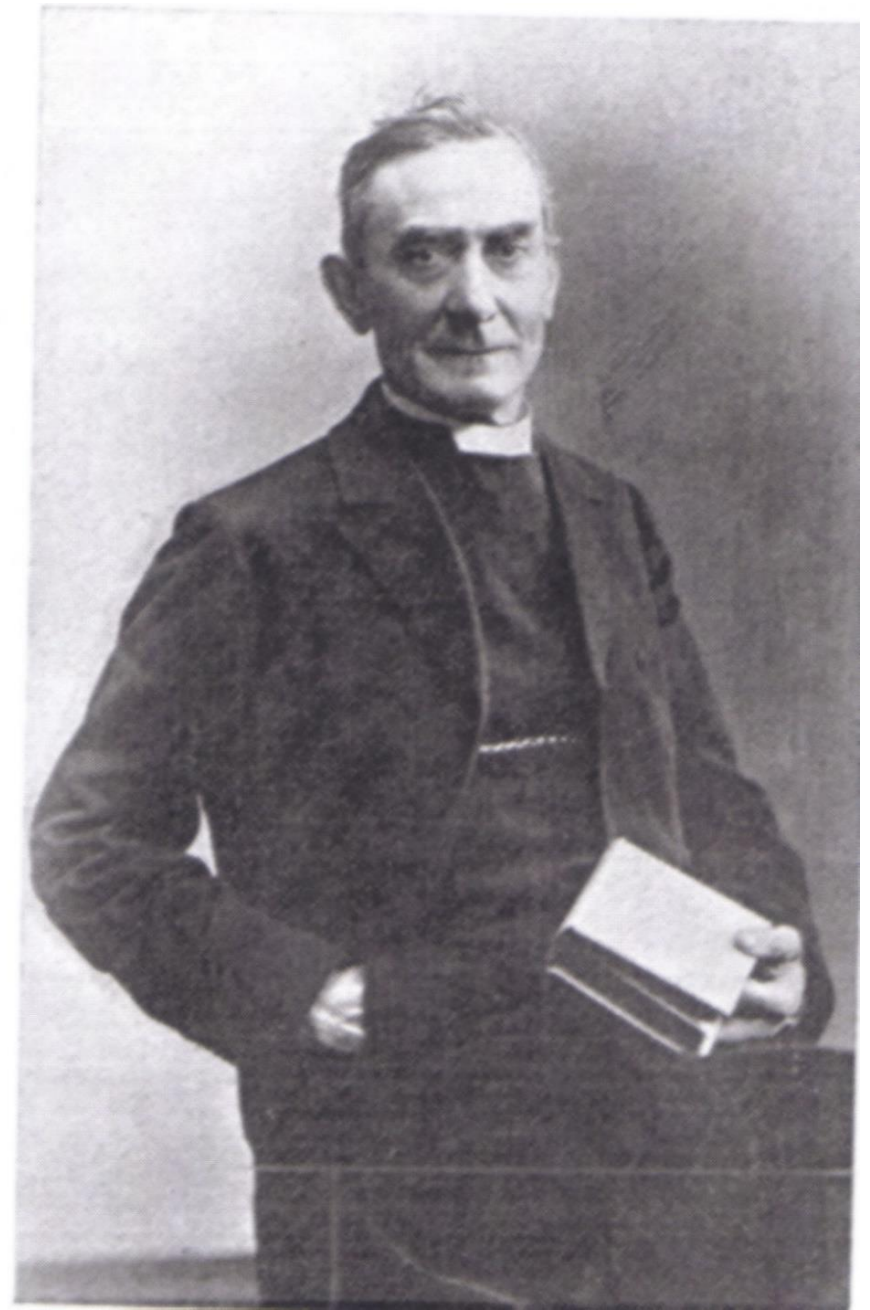


View of St John's (right) and Trinity Presbyterian (left) on Delamer Road when it had a full spire. The photograph is taken from the Dome Methodist Church which was on Enville Road before being demolished in the 1960s.

Frederick Wainwright

Frederick Wainwright was vicar for over 50 years. Some of the windows of the Church are dedicated to him, his first wife and his children. He was born on 16th June 1837 in London and was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge. In his later years he was briefly vicar of Bollington. He collapsed on Hale Road bridge in 1921 after visiting friends and died shortly after.

As well as being a renowned local preacher, he was remembered for his involvement in the Altrincham General Hospital and the Provident Society, where poorer people could deposit their penny and other savings. He was a member of the Liberal party and a friend of the Baptist minister Henry Mowbray (and indeed brought him to the Christian faith). He worked with the local Nonconformist churches in promoting causes such as temperance.



Frederick Wainwright in 1905



A young Frederick Wainwright seated in the centre with some of his parishioners.

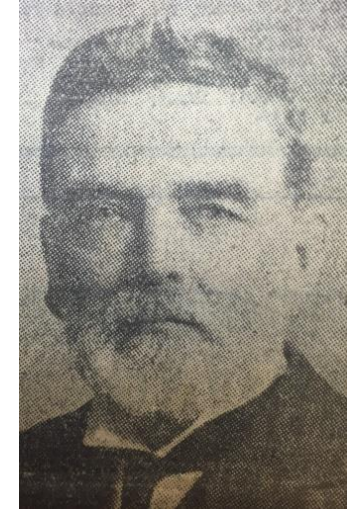
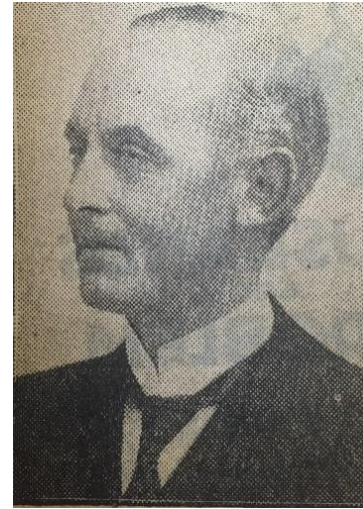
Other early leading lights

It took quite a long time to find the first curate to assist Frederick Wainwright. Just as Wainwright moved from being a curate at Bowdon to be vicar of St John's, so the first curate of St John's was Charles Pollock, son of the vicar of Bowdon.

Although there was competition to be a curate at St John's, the path was not always easy. In 1899 the Bishop refused to ordain a prospective curate from Ireland because he could not provide evidence of his degree.

Arthur Tarbolton was a church warden and instrumental in much early activity. He was the first mayor of Hale Council and a magistrate.

David Morrison was a pupil in the Sunday School at St Mary's under Frederick Wainwright and followed him to St John's. He was a close friend of Wainwright and a stalwart of the church until his death.



Above left:
Arthur Tarbolton.
Above: David
Morrison. Left
Rev G.S Cockin,
an early curate of
Wainwright in
1904.

The Vicarage

Right from the start, it was realised that Frederick Wainwright would need somewhere permanent to live. The Earl of Stamford was approached and in August 1869 donated land the other side of the school on St John's Road. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners donated £600 towards the overall cost of £1400. J Medland Taylor was the architect again and most of the work was carried out in 1870-1.

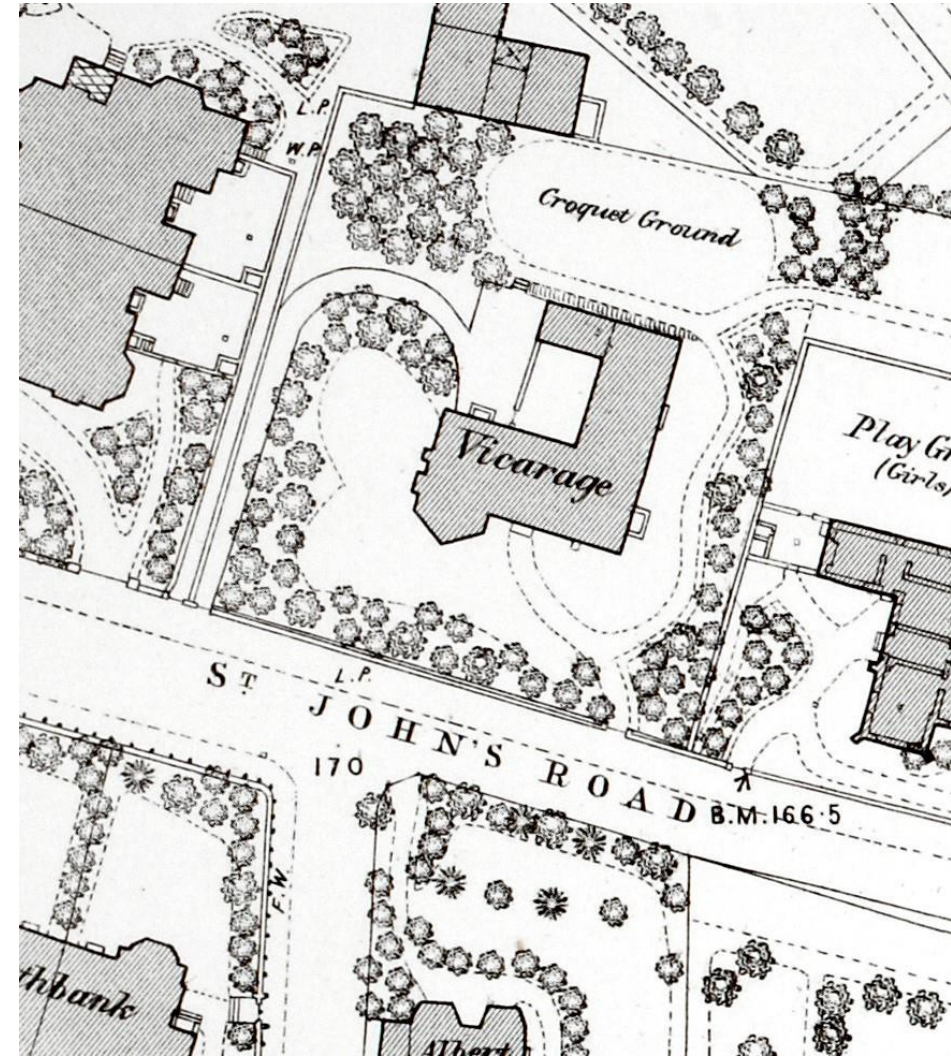
St John's later had houses for its clergy at Enville Cottage on Hale Road and at 52 Ashley Road.

The account of Bowdon nurseries for the vicarage gardens. Wainwright set out a detailed specification which included 150 ornamental trees, a croquet lawn, other lawns with the highest quality seed, 75 choice roses, 10 apple trees, 14 other fruit trees, 200 strawberry plants and 12 rhubarb plants.

BOWDON NURSERIES, HALE ROAD, BOWDON, Cheshire, May 14 th 1871	
Rev F. Wainwright,	
Bought of R. THORNHILL	
To laying out & planting your garden according to contract	142 - -
Mar. 3 rd Man's & Boy's time fetching wire fencing	1 - -
18 th Man 1/2 day fixing stumps	1 - -
3 Apple Trees 3/- 2 Pear Trees 3/-	6 - -
3 1/2 Roses @ 6 ^d	18 - -
14 Ivies, common & variegated	8 - -
3 Virginian Creepers	1 - -
60 Ornamental Trees @ 9 ^d	25 - -
24 yds. Dwarf Box @ 6 ^d	12 - -
Manure 1 load	10 - -
10 loads cinders @ 2/3	12 - -
1 1/2 qt. Peas 2/- pkt. Dwarf Beans 4 ^d	2 - -
pkts Parsley & Lettuce	- - -
Herbs - Thyme, Sage & Mint	4 - -
Nails & Shreds	- - -
Men's time laying cinders, planting Box, & Climbers	114 - -
180 yds. of Sods for drying ground @ 4 ^d	3 - -
By Cash (receipts given)	53 1/4
Balance	23 1/4



The Vicarage in the 1960s.



Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1876 showing the Vicarage. Note the croquet ground and the path at the north-eastern corner which led behind the school to the church.

The Sunday School

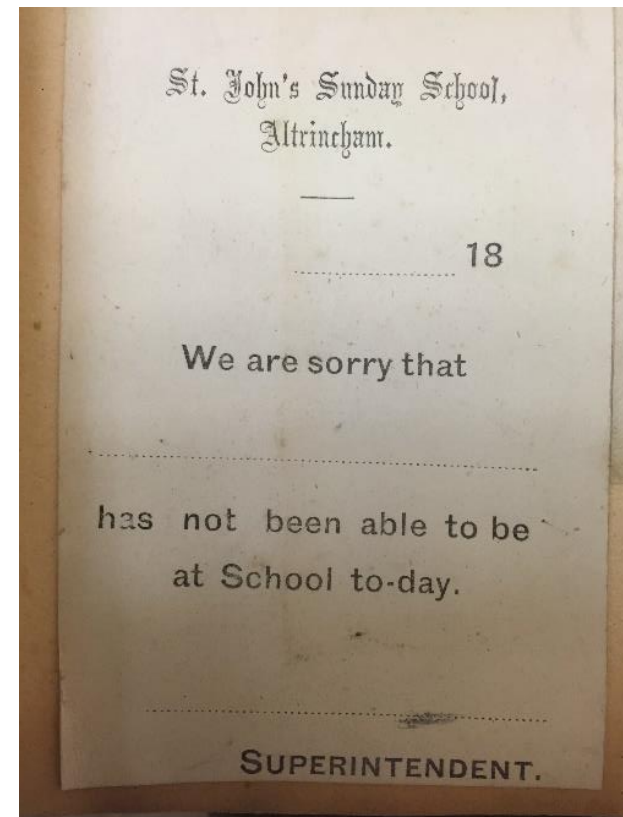
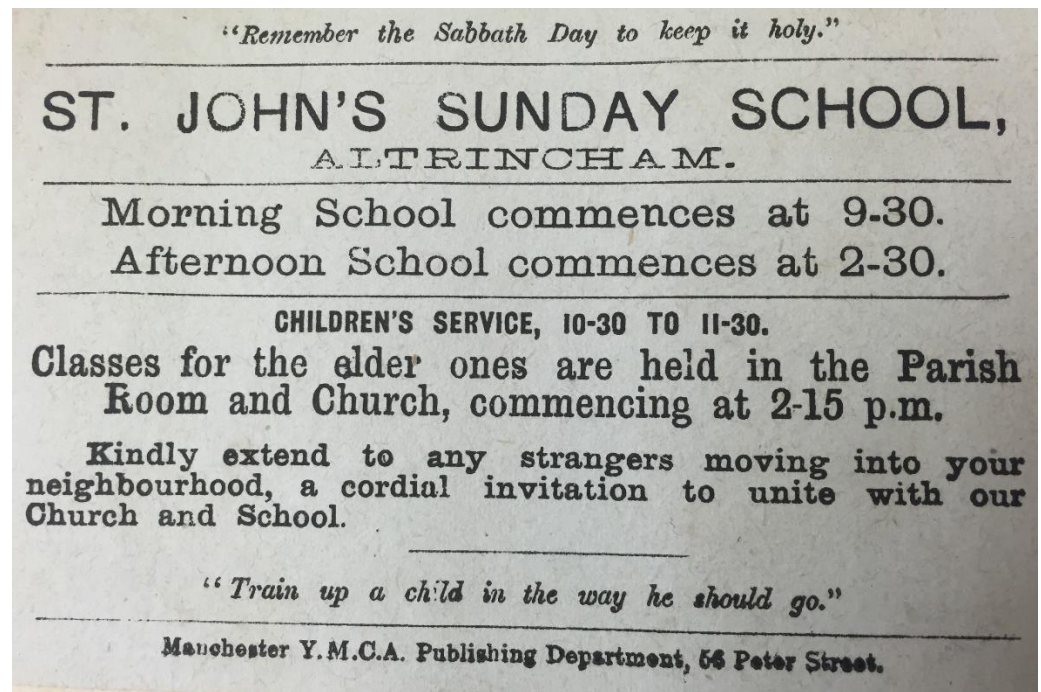
St John's ran 3 schools: a senior school, an infant school and a Sunday School. Wainwright realised that the Sunday School children were the congregation of the future and much effort was spent in providing good Bible education. The senior school and the Sunday School occupied the same building, which is now housing and the doctors' surgery adjacent to the church.

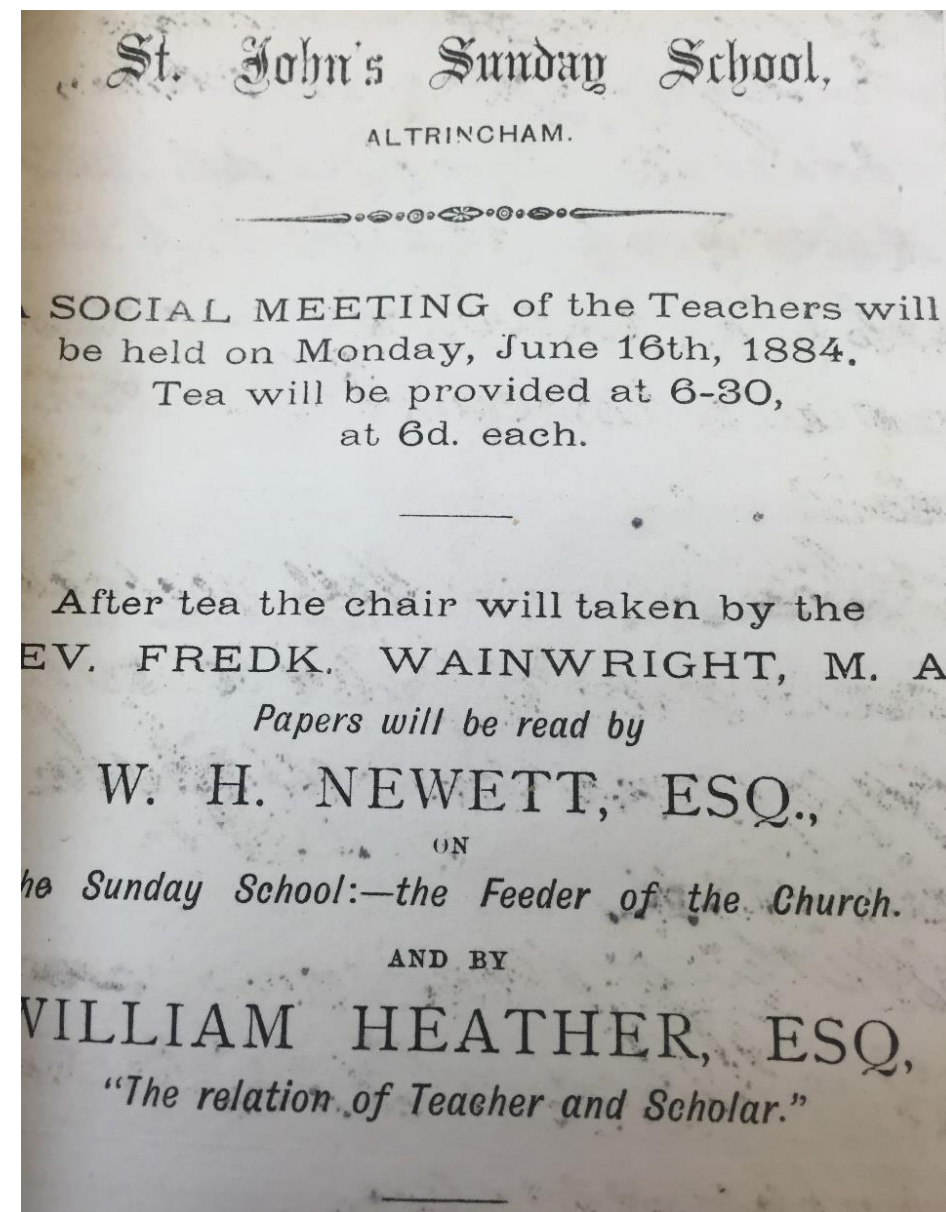
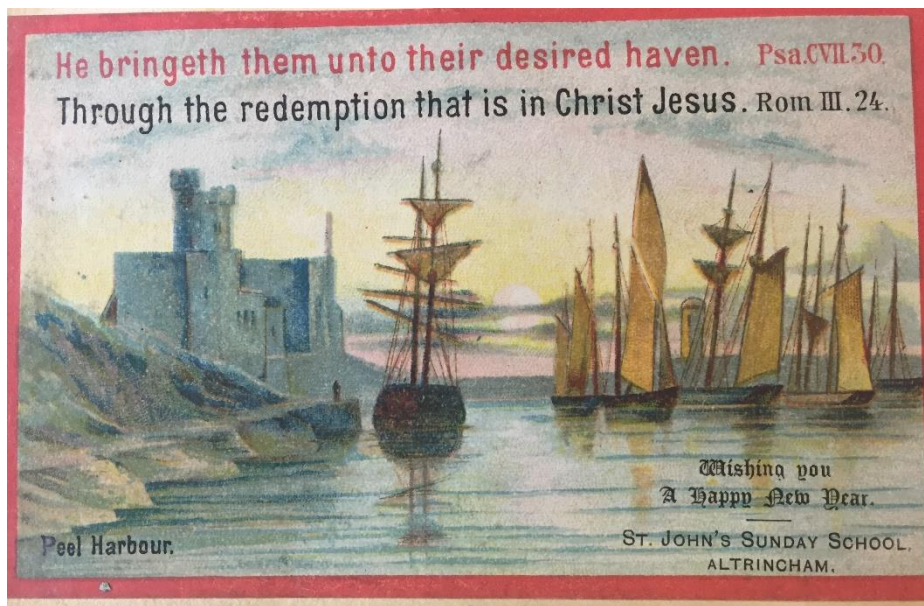
By 1892 there were 329 Sunday School pupils. Classes were held morning and afternoon and there were 35 teachers. There was a separate Sunday School service.

Above right: the 1882 timetable.

There were also a separate children's services.

Right: attendance was strictly recorded.





Left: New Year's greeting cards of 1883. The top one is based on Peel harbour in the Isle of Man.

Above: 1884 teachers' invitation. Note the topics of the papers. Teachers had to pay for their own tea.

❖ RULES. ❖

I.

That no one be admitted as a Teacher in these Schools without the sanction and approval of the Vicar and Superintendent.

II.

That the Teacher should be in his Class at least five minutes before prayers, and remain with it until its dismissal by the Superintendent.

III.

Any Teacher unable to attend shall be expected to find a substitute, or give notice to the Superintendent not later than Friday. Any Teacher wishing to resign to give one month's notice of the same to the Superintendent.

IV.

That the same subject be taught in each Class, except in cases where the Superintendent and Vicar have sanctioned a change.

V.

That each Teacher keep a Class Register in accordance with the instructions printed therein.

VI.

Perfect silence must be maintained the instant the Superintendent's bell is heard.

VII.

All cases of insubordination to be immediately reported to the Superintendent.

(These Rules may be altered according to circumstances.)

❖ HINTS TO TEACHERS ❖

QUALIFICATIONS.

1. Personal piety.
2. A thorough preparation of the Lesson.
3. A knowledge of your scholars.
4. Patience and perseverance.

PREPARATION.

1. Begin early in the week to prepare the Lesson for the following Sunday.
2. Attend the Teachers' Meeting.
3. After learning all that you can from the Scriptures, consult the printed Notes and other books bearing upon the subject.
4. Decide upon the points of truth to be impressed.
5. Select a few simple illustrations bearing upon the subject.

IN THE CLASS.

1. Spend a few minutes in review of preceding Lesson.
2. Teach the Lesson for the day upon the plan decided.
3. Try to leave a definite impression of one central thought.
4. Avoid useless questions and idle discussions.

IN THE CLOSET.

1. Before studying a Lesson pray for the aid of the Holy Spirit.
2. Seek to know your deficiencies as a Teacher, and make these a special subject of prayer.
3. Pray for each Member of your Class.
4. Pray for the Clergy, Superintendent, and Teachers connected with your School and Parish.

"My Son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments."

"For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."—Prov. iii. 1 & 2.

"If sinners entice thee, consent thou not."—Prov. I. 10.

.....
WAS ADMITTED INTO

St. John's Sunday School,
ALTRINCHAM.

.....
—
THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED.

1. Be punctual in attendance.
2. Be respectful and attentive to your Teacher.
3. Be diligent in your studies.
4. Be kind and helpful to your Companions.
5. Keep holy the Lord's Day.
6. Pray for God's blessing upon your School.
7. Grow in Grace as you increase in Stature.

..... Superintendent.

Morning School 9-30.
Afternoon ,, 2-30.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding."

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."—Prov. iii. 5 & 6.

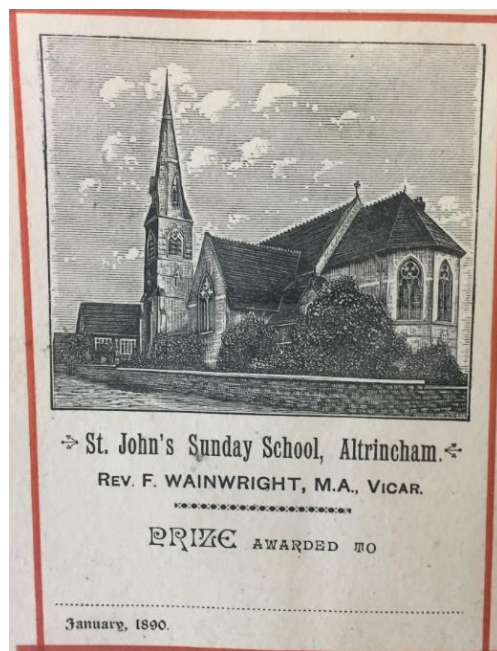
Above: high standards were expected of teachers and, right, of pupils too.



Sunday School class 1898, probably on Mothering Sunday. The pupil highlighted is David Stanley Morrison, son of David Morrison who was a friend of Wainwright.



Sunday School outing.



Top: Sunday School prize giving January 1890 and right in 1889.

Above: invitation to tea and entertainment with the vicar in 1891.

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, ALTRINCHAM.

JANUARY 10th, 1889,
Rev. F. Wainwright M. A., Chairman.

PROGRAMME.

PIANO SOLO.
SONG .. "Coming thro' the Rye" MISS STANLEY.
RECITATION "Curfew must not toll to-night."
EMMA ROBERTS.
SONG "A Sailor's Story." MISS LOMAS.
PIANO SOLO "In a cottage near a wood." EDITH MORRISON.
DIALOGUE, by Eight of Miss KENYON's Class.
PIANO SOLO VIOLET WILSON.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

BY MRS HIGGINS.

SONG MISS DAVENPORT.
RECITATION "The Parrot and the Crows,"
FRANCES ROBERTS.
RECITATIONS, MAGGIE BROADBENT, EMILE BARBER,
and ALICE OKELL.
PIANO SOLO "Evening Shadows" EDITH MORRISON-
SONG .. "Blossoms of the Blackthorn" MISS LOMAS.
RECITATION "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell." MR. E. K.
MARTIN.

The great Sunday School trip

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing the Sunday School did was in May 1893 when they went to see the national Sunday School exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London and other attractions. The pupils had several exhibits at the exhibition.

By today's standards, the trip might not pass any risk assessment. The train left Altrincham at midnight on a Friday. Wainwright supervised all the children boarding. The trip was billed as a cheap excursion. The tired pupils returned at 4am on the Tuesday morning after the train was delayed. It appears that the accommodation was certainly cheap as the price was not included and the party simply slept on the trains and in railway saloons.



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, LONDON.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ALTRINCHAM,
MONDAY EVENING, 8th MAY, 1893.

Illustrated Entertainment

In the PARISH ROOM, by
MR. W. H. NEWETT,
GENERAL SECRETARY Y.M.C.A., MANCHESTER.

SUBJECT:
"A DAY IN LONDON, AND WHAT TO SEE THERE."
SPECIAL LANTERN VIEWS.

CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, BY
REV. F. WAINWRIGHT, M.A.

ADMISSION FREE. COLLECTION FOR Y.M.C.A. LIBRARY FUND.
No Young Children admitted without their relatives.

**Three Days' Excursion to London,
MAY 13th.**

Particulars from Mr. Nickson, "Guardian" Office.

MORRIS & YEAMAN, 12 and 14, Queen Street, Manchester.

Church Sunday Schools' Gathering

AT THE
CRYSTAL PALACE, 13th MAY.

St. John's Sunday School (Altrincham) Trip.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN LONDON:—
ROYAL AQUARIUM, WESTMINSTER, S. W.—
Passengers producing the Return Half of their Excursion
Tickets will be admitted at half-price to the Aquarium.
NIAGARA HALLS, WESTMINSTER,—
New Picture—Ancient Egypt.
CRYSTAL PALACE.

On Friday Midnight, May 12th, 1893,

A Cheap Excursion for THREE DAYS will be run to

LONDON

(KING'S CROSS), with Bookings to the CRYSTAL PALACE (including Admission),
as under:—

STATIONS, TIMES OF STARTING, AND FARES TO LONDON (KING'S CROSS) AND BACK.			
	FRIDAY MIDNIGHT	FIRST CLASS	THIRD CLASS
Altrincham and Bowdon.....	12 0	20/-	10/-
Timperley.....	12 3		
Brooklands.....	12 6		
Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey.....	12 9		
Stretford.....	12 14		

Passengers return from LONDON
10-0 p.m. on MONDAY, 15 May.

The Tickets are not transferable, and are issued upon the condition that they are available only by the
On the day of the excursion, and are subject to the condition that they are available only by the

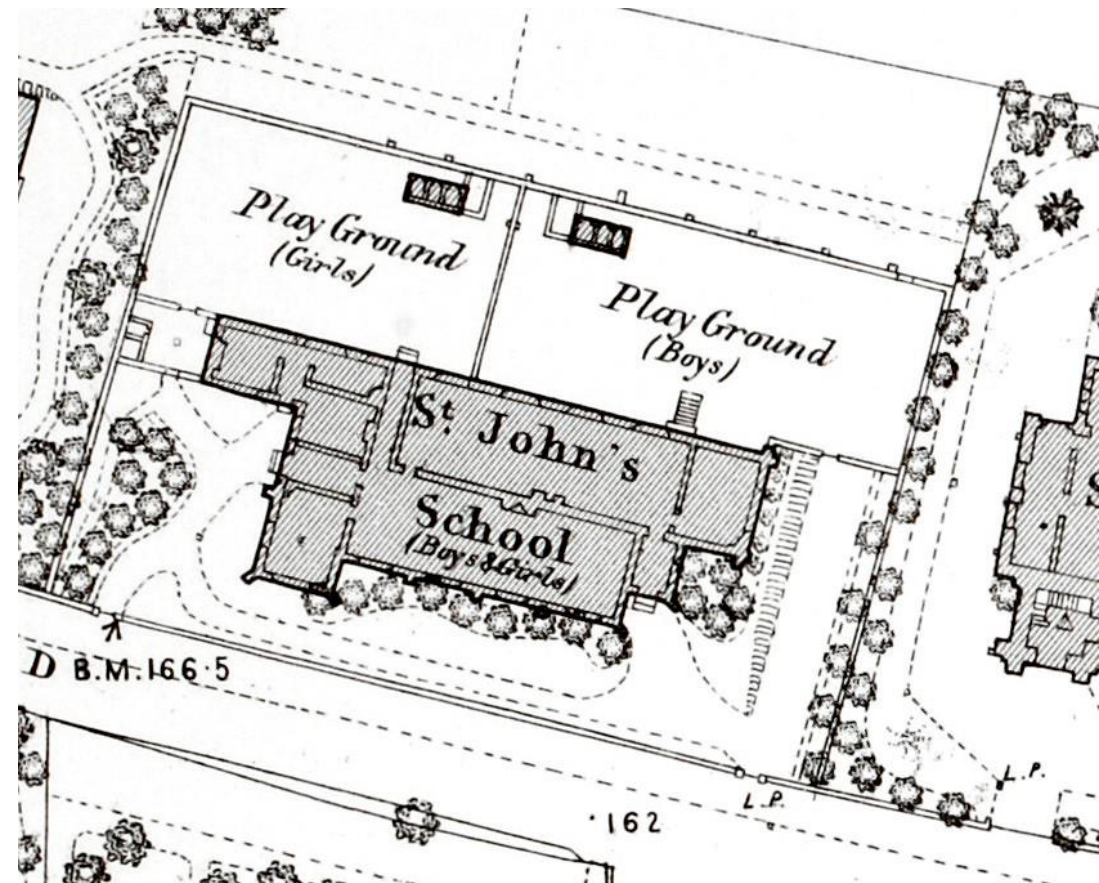
Advertisements for the preliminary lantern show and for the trip itself.

St John's day school

After it took over the adjoining school from St Margaret's, St John's had its own school.

This was a mixed school later known as the St John's National (Mixed) School. By 1879 there were 271 pupils. In 1880 Wainwright noted one issue was the poverty of some of the parents. However, he was pleased to report that the second issue of lack of school accommodation had been overcome by creation of a new parish room that could double as a school hall.

At first, discipline was strict but in 1909 the head teacher reported that there had been a change of discipline from force to moral persuasion, "with the result that a happier atmosphere has been created in the school".



1876 plan of the school before the new parish room was built. Note the segregated playgrounds. The church is on the right.

St. John's Electric Bazaar.

October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1895.

Statement of Accounts.

Receipts.			
	£	s.	d.
Vicarage Stall (per Mrs. Wainwright)...	118	5	3
Rose Stall (per Mrs. Field) ...	98	10	4
Bric-a-Brac Stall (per Mrs. Walkden)...	20	9	4
Rummage Sale (per Mrs. Walkden)...	8	10	0
Flower Stall (per Mrs. Haworth) ...	28	13	4
Cake Stall (per Mrs. Brett) ...	27	11	5
Convolvulus Stall (per Mrs. Macnamara) ...	69	11	6
Daffodil Stall (per Mrs. Walter Williams) ...	103	10	4
Refreshment Stall (per Mrs. S. Thompson) ...	32	14	11
Donation (per H. S.) ...	0	10	0
Entertainments (per Mr. Macnamara) ...	15	12	3
Parcel Office ...	0	10	5
Door Receipts (per Mr. Berry) ...	19	15	9
Sale of Tickets... ..	29	11	6
Bank Interest	0	4	8
	£574	1	0

Payments.			
	£	s.	d.
Novelty Art Co. (Mrs. Dunsmuir) ...	17	19	0
Electric Supply Co. (Mr. Fairlie) ...	3	0	0
Altrincham District Council (Rent) ...	6	10	0
W. T. Siddall (Watchman and Assistant) ...	1	5	0
Hire of Piano (F. Wroe & Co.) ...	1	4	6
Harold Nimble (Conjuror) ...	2	0	0
Cheshire Constabulary (Detective) ...	0	15	0
Gratuity ...	0	10	0
Printing, Stationery, &c.,—S. Butler ...	5	1	0
John Balshaw ...	2	5	6
Advertising—Bowdon Guardian... ..	0	15	0
„ Chronicle ...	0	6	3
„ Advertiser ...	0	5	0
Total Expenses	41	16	3
Paid Rev. F. Wainwright, M.A.	532	4	9
	£574	1	0

W. SALKELD ADAMS, Treasurer.

The primary object of the Bazaar was to raise money for further alterations in St. John's Schools. The managers had already collected £310, and spent it chiefly on a new Cloak Room for the Day School, together with various urgent improvements in the play-grounds and outer premises generally, besides some similar additions to the Infants' School. Our next step is to build a Cloak Room for the infants, and then to re-floor the Day School, which, after the incessant friction of countless boots and shoes during 40 years, is in great need thereof. These two requirements will cause the expenditure of some £300, adding to which the sum of £130 for the Electric Light in the Church, we shall still have £100 remaining for further school improvements.

F. WAINWRIGHT, Vicar.

1895 account of fundraising for the school with an electric bazaar. The funds raised were quite substantial. The church paid for both a conjuror and a detective from the constabulary.

St John's School, Altrincham.

HYMNS & SONGS

TO BE SUNG ON

TUESDAY, 21st JUNE, 1887,

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

JUBILEE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

(1) NATIONAL ANTHEM.

GOD save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

May just and righteous laws
Uphold the public cause,
And bless our Isle!
Home of the brave and free,—
The land of liberty,—
We pray that still on thee
Kind Heav'n may smile.

And not this land alone
But be thy mercies known
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see
That men should brothers be,
And from one family
The wide world o'er.

(2)

IN thy name assembling,
Lord we now draw near
With delight and trembling,
Joy and holy fear.
We would bow before Thee
And Thy love proclaim.
In sweet songs adore Thee,
Praise Thy holy name.

School songs for Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

S. JOHN'S, ALTRINCHAM.

THE ANNUAL EXCURSION

In connection with the above Church and Schools
will take place on

WEDNESDAY, 20th JULY, 1887,
TO

RHYL.

The following Places of Interest are of easy access:—

Bodelwyddan Marble Church; Rhyddlan
Castle; Cathedral of S. Asaph; The
lovely Vale of the Elwy and Cefn Caves.

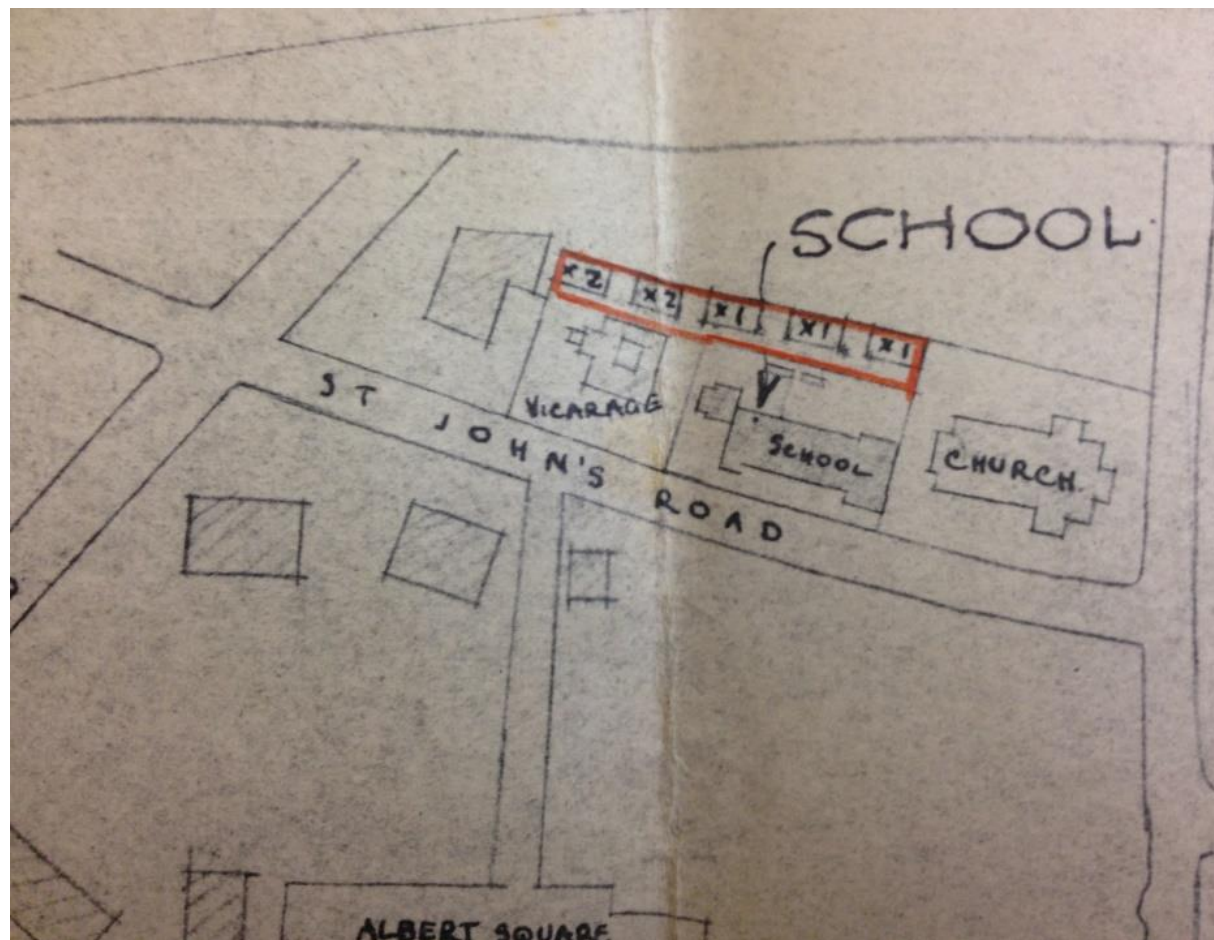
On production of Excursion Ticket Visitors will be admitted
to the Pier on payment of ONE PENNY.

The Train will leave Altrincham Station at
6-45 a.m., returning from Ryl at 6-50 p.m.

Tickets **3/4** each; Children under 12, **1/8**.

To be obtained from MR. STANLEY, S. John's Schools;
MESSRS. WILSON & BROOKFIELD, The Downs; MR. D. MORRISON,
19, George Street, Altrincham, and from the Sunday School
Teachers.

John Balshaw, Printer, Altrincham.



Left: combined schools trip to Rhyl in 1887. A special train was usually chartered and several hundred children from Altrincham would descend on some unsuspecting seaside town.

Above: air-raid shelter design for World War II.

St John's Infant School

Although the Church did have a day school, it did not have an infant school. Therefore, in 1875 funds were raised for the building of an infant school in Islington Street in the nearby Newtown area of Altrincham. Once again, the Earl of Stamford donated the land.

Various gospel outreaches were also held at the school and it became a 'feeder' for the day school. Sunday mission services were also held and timed so that the congregation could afterwards join the evensong congregation at St John's.

The infant school was much smaller than the day school. In 1879 it had 84 pupils compared to 279 for the day school.

As with the day school, the infant school faced the issues of the poverty of some of the parents, for Newtown was one of the poorer areas of Altrincham. In 1909 the committee supervising the school agreed to provide free breakfasts and dinners to some pupils.

Shortly after, the committee agreed to provide, "second hand boots and clothing for some of the insufficiently clothed scholars in the area."

However, they requested that clothes should be marked, "as otherwise in all probability many of them would get into the pawn shop."

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Deposits (Schools).....	61	15	2	By Mr. Woodyatt	91	4	10
" " (District).....	122	1	5	" " Goolden.....	60	6	10
" Subscriptions.....	22	5	6	" " Wood.....	27	4	8
" Dunham Coal Charity ..	3	15	0	" " Robinson (boots) ..	7	10	6
" Bank Interest.....	0	15	6	" " Smith (coals).....	8	1	0
" St. John's Offertory	2	13	9	" " Warburton (coals) ..	5	17	0
				" " Clough (boots)	2	12	0
				" Returned Cards.....	4	15	0
				" Smaller Payments	5	14	6
	£213	6	4		£213	6	4

FRED. WAINWRIGHT, Treasurer.

1880 accounts for the poor relief fund. More was spent on this than on salaries and other outgoings for the infant school over the same period.



The infant school in Islington Street in the 1960s

Scientific excursions

As well as trips for the schools and the whole church, members of the congregation could join the "St John's Excursion and Science Club". The president was Wainwright. In reality of course, there was nothing particularly scientific about the trips: instead they were an opportunity to visit new places. As there was a fare to pay, they probably appealed more to the middle-class members of the congregation.

Sometimes the expeditions consisted of rambles from St John's to places such as Rostherne or Dunham Hall, but quite often there was a lengthy train or waggonette journey.

A trip to see Manchester Fire Brigade in 1892. Note the list of places already visited. The party had a full demonstration of how to work a fire engine, visited the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, had tea and went to an organ recital at the Town Hall, leaving Manchester by the 8.30pm train.

St. John's Excursion and Science Club,
COMMENCED 1885.

REV. F. WAINWRIGHT M. A., PRESIDENT.

The following places have been visited:

Alderley Edge.	Harrop Edge, 2	Mellor.
Baguley Old Hall.	Hawarden.	Mobberley, 3
Barlow Hall.	Heaton Mersey Pottery, 2	Mottram.
Birkin Valley.	Knutsford, 2	Nether Peover, 3
Booth's Bank.	Liverpool, 3	Norbury Booths Hall.
Bramhall Hall.	Lyme Hall.	Northenden, 2
Budworth Mere.	Lymm, 2	Northwich Salt Mines.
Carrington Moss, 2	Manchester Arts and	Ordsall Paper Works.
Castle Mill, 5	Crafts Exhibition.	Peel Park Museum.
Chadkirk Vale.	" Cathedral.	Rostherne Mere, 4
Cheadle.	" Fire Brigade.	Tatton Old Hall, 2
Chester.	" Organ Recital, 3	Toft Park, 3
Chetham Hospital.	" Ship Canal,	Warburton 2
Delamere Forest.	" Telephone.	Werneth Low
Eastham.	" Town Hall.	Worsley.
Gatley.	Marple Hall,	
Gawsworth.	Marple Ridge.	
Happy Valley.	Mauldeth Hall.	

BY KIND PERMISSION OF SUPERINTENDENT TOZER,
the Members will visit the
MANCHESTER FIRE BRIGADE,
ON
Saturday afternoon, April 9th, 1892.

Train leaves Altrincham at 2-30.
Tea will be provided at the Y. M. C. A.

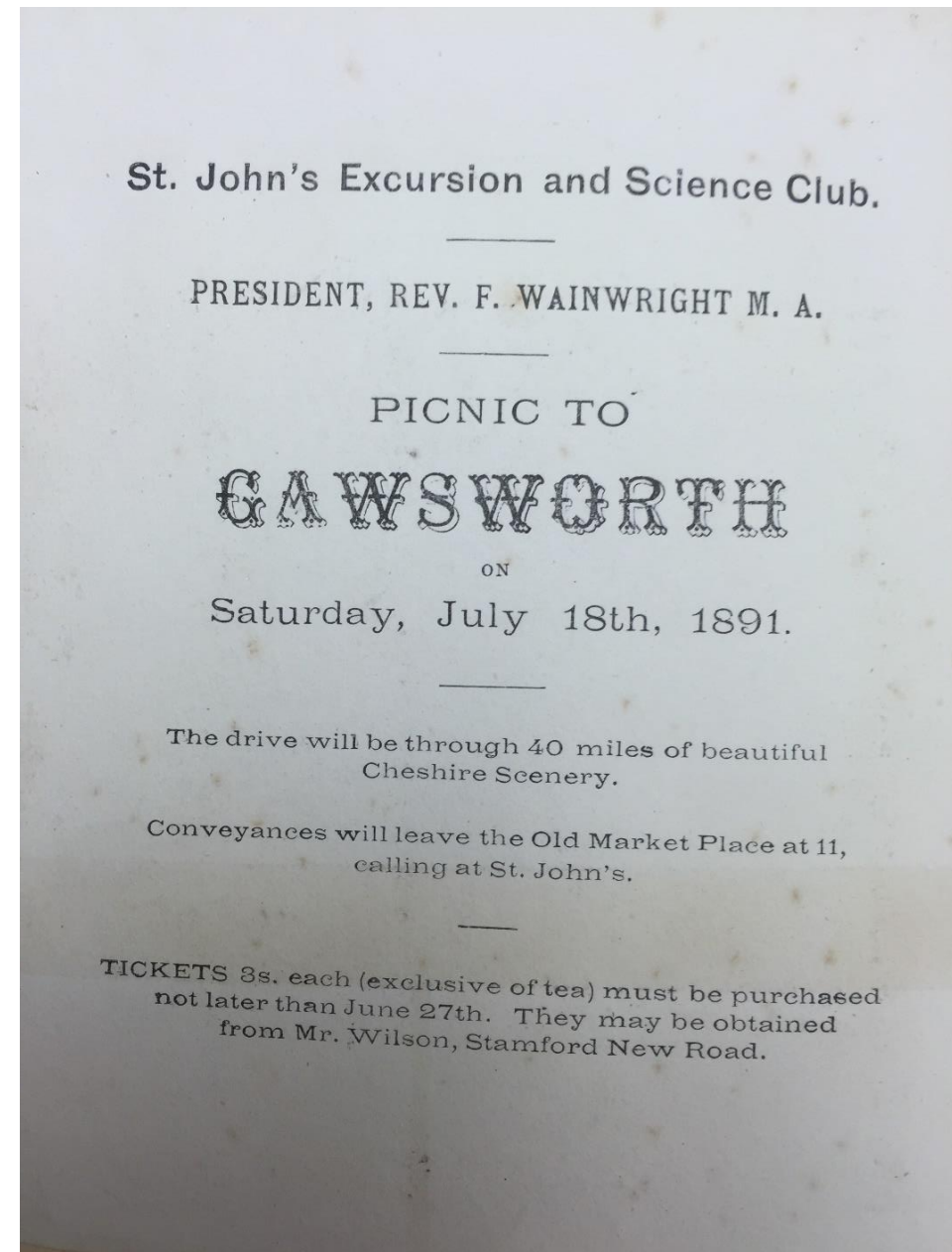
Members who wish to join the above excursion will oblige by sending Post Card, or filling in their names below and leaving the slip with Mr. Wilson, Draper, Stamford New Road, Altrincham before 7-30, on Friday April 8th.

Name

Address



Above and right: 1891 trip to Gawsworth. 40 went on the trip in two 'conveyances' on a fine day. Places on the way were visited and the hall and church at Gawsworth inspected. After the picnic, the party returned to St John's for 10pm.



St. John's Excursion and Science Club.

PRESIDENT, REV. F. WAINWRIGHT M. A.

EXCURSION TO

W O R S L E Y

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 3rd, 1891.

*The Steam Launch "DESPATCH" will leave
Broadheath, at 2 o'clock prompt.*

Probable Cost 2s. 3d.

Members Cards for St. John's Recreative Association,
will be ready next week.

Members who wish to join the above excursion will oblige by
sending Post Card, or filling in their names below and leaving
the slip with MR. WILSON, Draper, Stamford New Road
Altrincham before 7-30, on Friday Oct. 2nd.

Name

Address

Date

Above: 1891 trip to Worsley. The party of 30 took a steamboat from Broadheath. While some of the older people explored Worsley, the younger ones came back to the boat early to have cocoa together.

St. John's Excursion and Science Club.

PRESIDENT, REV. F. WAINWRIGHT M. A.

EXCURSION

TO

SOUTHPORT

FOR CENTENARY EXHIBITION.

On Saturday, September 24th, 1892,
Leave West Timperley at 8-15, or 12-35.
Return from Southport at 7-15.
HIGH TIDE AT 12 O'CLOCK.

Probable Cost for Railway Fare, Centenary Exhibition
and Tea 4s.

Members who wish to join the above Excursion will oblige by sending Post Card, or
filling in their names below and leaving the slip with Mr. Wilson, Draper,
Stamford New Road, Altrincham, before 7-30, on Friday, Sept. 23rd.

Left and below:
1892 Southport
excursion.



St. John's Excursion and Science Club,
COMMENCED 1885.

REV. F. WAINWRIGHT, M. A., PRESIDENT.

V I S I T

TO THE

SHIP CANAL WORKS,

ON
Saturday afternoon, May 14th, 1892,

The train will leave Altrincham Station at 2-30
for Old Trafford.

PROBABLE COST 1s. 9d., VISITORS 3d. EXTRA.

Above: 1892 trip to the Ship Canal Works. However, right, this trip did not go to plan. Note the reasons for the cancellation due to the state of the water. A trip to Castle Mill was made instead.

St. John's Excursion and Science Club,

CHANGE OF ARRANGEMENTS

for Saturday afternoon next, May 14th,
Owing to the scarcity of water and the filthiness of what
there is, the Excursion to the Ship Canal is POSTPONED,
and instead

A BOTANICAL EXCURSION
WILL BE MADE TO

CASTLE MILL.

Meet at Peel Causeway Station at 3-0 o'clock.

Leader MR. S. von STURMER.

*A Waggonette will be engaged for the return journey if ten names
be given in Fare 9d. each Friends accompanying members 3d. extra.*

EXCURSION TO

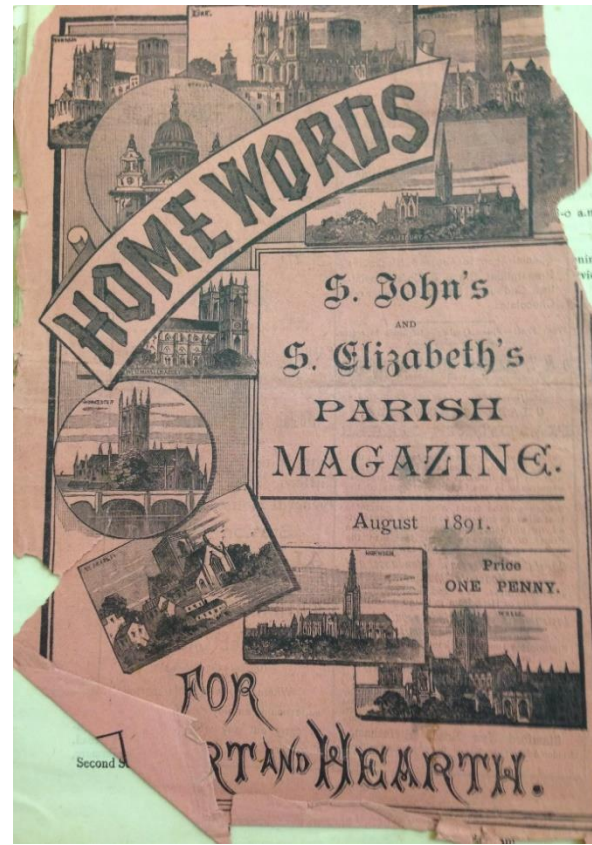
MOBBERLEY,

On Saturday afternoon, May 28th, 1892,

A busy Victorian church

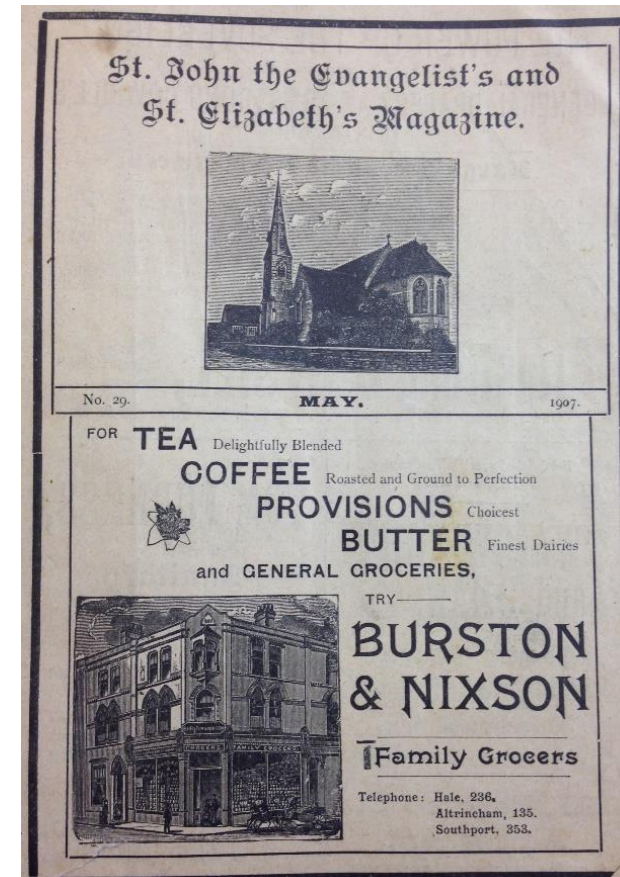
St John's was a busy church. In 1883 for example, members met regularly to discuss topical papers. Wainwright was keen to encourage women to participate. The Sunday School had 25 classes and 32 teachers, a visiting speaker from Sierra Leone and a trip to Romiley. They supported missionaries in India. On winter evenings pupils were encouraged to keep out of mischief by making things. 112 entries were submitted to a competition. There were Bible classes for working men and young people, choirs and mothers' meetings.

To keep in touch with its congregation, the Church sold a magazine for 1d.



Above left: cover of the oldest available copy of the magazine from August 1891.

Above right: part of the May 1907 edition. It was usual for Church magazines to carry local advertisements.

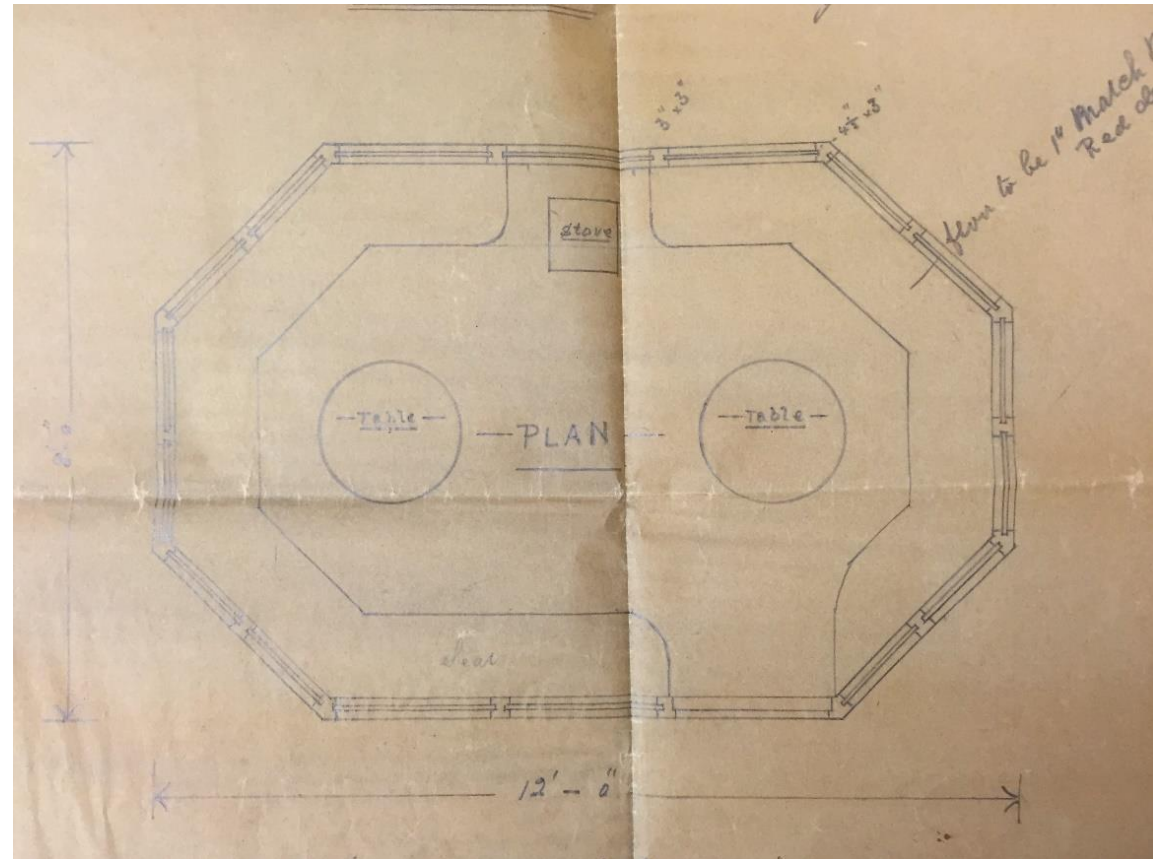


Mission to the cabmen

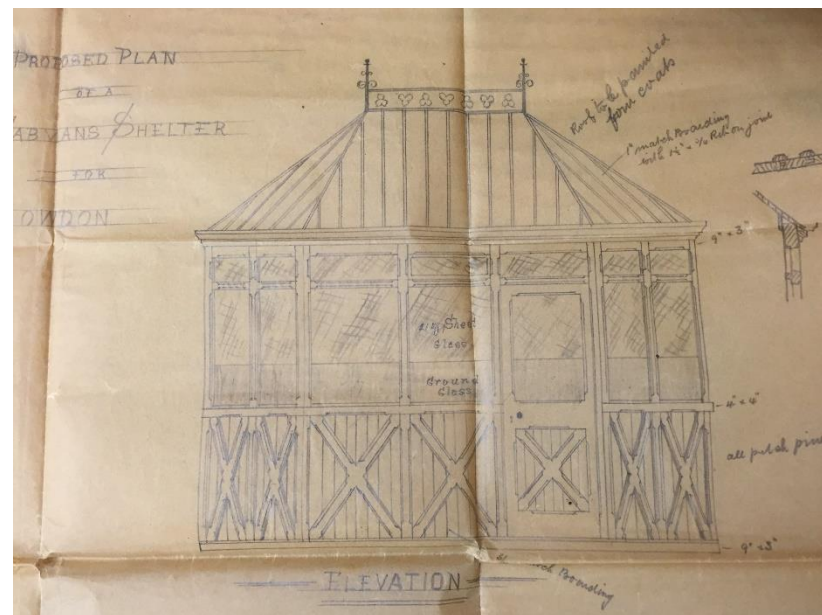
While David Morrison was sitting in his office in Old Market Place, he became concerned that the men providing the horse-drawn taxi service for the town had no shelter while they were waiting for fares at the recognised pick-up points. He therefore helped fund at least two shelters. One of these was at the junction of The Downs and Railway Street.

Wainwright was one of those who presented the shelter at the Downs to the cabbies and St John's appears to have taken some responsibility for the shelter. Thus began one of the more unusual ministries of St John's. Wainwright noted in 1880 that services were held every Sunday afternoon, with up to 17 attending. Given the space, this must have been quite crowded.

The cabbies locally had a reputation for dangerous driving and racing each other according to an 1899 newspaper report.



Above: initial design for the interior of one of the shelters. The contractor was Mr Pennington, who also built the Hale Road Baptist chapel.



Above: the initial sketch for the exterior of the shelter.

Right: the junction of Railway Street and the Downs. One of the shelters is in the foreground. There was a water fountain behind it. The old Bowdon Terminus railway station has been replaced by the shops on the right of Railway Street.



St John's and the temperance movement

Like many towns in Britain, Altrincham was full of places to buy alcohol. A working person could easily drink away their earnings and leave their family destitute.

In 1841, there were about 20 public houses in Altrincham. By August 1879 there were 200 places licensed in some way to sell alcohol in Altrincham.

The local newspaper in the 1870s had regular accounts of drunken and anti-social behaviour in Altrincham.

In 1878, 206 people were brought to court for alcohol-related offences. The Baptist chapel at The Downs was regularly disturbed by drunks barging in.

One reaction to this was the temperance movement. Later, the teetotal movement swept the country, starting in Preston. Temperance meant moderation in alcohol and

abstaining from spirits, whereas being teetotal meant abstaining from all alcohol.

Although generally Church of England churches were inclined to be supporters of the Tory party who were backed by the brewers, some of the Church of England Churches in Altrincham were different. Rev George London of St George's joined a temperance platform and found an anonymous correspondent in the local newspaper saying he was talking "twaddle", as indeed were all his sermons. St Margaret's and St George's joined a Church of England temperance group with St John's.

William Crossley later became the first Altrincham Liberal MP in 1906 and advocated temperance. Although he attended St Margaret's and had a pew at Bowdon Downs Congregational Church, he and his wife held Bible classes for St John's.

Wainwright was an officer of the local Liberal party and wrote in 1884 of the great need for temperance. He was particularly reminded of this because as he wrote his notes on a

train to be typed up later a woman got into the carriage by him, "in the last stage of intoxication".

His involvement in the temperance movement led him to co-operate ecumenically with the Nonconformist churches. In 1875 he was one of the speakers at an inter-church, 2-week mission which in turn was a spin-off from the Moody and Sankey mission in Manchester.

In 1878 he led the Church of England Temperance Society in a march with brass bands around Altrincham.

Wainwright even sympathised with teetotal Nonconformists. In 1884 a Gospel Temperance Mission was held by Richard Coad of Manchester City Mission and funded by the brother of William Crossley. Wainwright actively supported this. In 1887 he spoke on behalf of the Sunday Closing Association, a lobby group trying to close public houses on Sundays. In that year he also shared a temperance platform with ministers from the Methodist and Congregational Churches.

St John's supported a teetotal pub from 1878 in Islington Street called the Islington Arms, with a billiard table donated by William Crossley. In 1875 Wainwright and others also set up the British Workman, a teetotal pub in Altrincham, where scientific demonstrations were sometimes held.

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
ALTRINCHAM.
Almanac for 1893.

Working—together—with Him,
2nd Cor. vi. 1.

Andrew . . brought Peter . . to Jesus
JOHN i. 42.

Morning School at 9-30,
Afternoon School at 2-30.

Clergy: Revs. F. Wainwright, M. A., H. D. Nicol, B. A.

"The Love of Christ
Constraineth us."

Do what you can,
Being what you are,
Shine like a glowworm,
If you cannot like a star.
Work like a pulley,
If you cannot be a crane;
Be a wheel-greaser,
If you cannot drive the train.
Be the pliant oar,
If you cannot be the sailor;
Be a little needle,
If you cannot be the tailor.
Be the cleansing broom,
If you cannot be the sweeper;
Be the sharpened sickle,
If you cannot be the reaper.
Give a cup of water,
If you cannot dig a well;
If you cannot be a preacher,
"The old, old story" tell.

"Ye are the Light of the
World."

Jesus bids us shine
With a pure, clear light;
Like a little candle
Burning in the night;
In this world of darkness,
So we must shine—
You in your small corner,
And I in mine.
Jesus bids us shine,
First of all for Him;
Well He sees and knows it
If our light grows dim;
If our light grows dim;
He looks down from heaven,
To see us shine—
You in your small corner
And I in mine.
Jesus bids us shine,
Then, for all around;
Many kinds of darkness
In the world abound,—
Sin and want and sorrow;
So we must shine—
You in your small corner
And I in mine.

Superintendent: Mr. John Lowe, Calton Bank.
Librarian: Mr. R. W. Marsland, Cloverley.
C. M. S. Collector: Miss Hickson, The Vicarage.
Secretaries for Spring Exhibition: Mr. John H. Carr, 53, Oxford Road,
Mr. W. J. Sumner, 33, Oxford Road.
Treasurer: Mr. E. Kendall Martin, Old Bank.
Subscription to the Library 1d. per quarter. Teachers' Meeting Thursday 7-30.

Where there's DRINK there's Danger.—Read 5th Isaiah, 11—25.

Sunday School almanac. Note the temperance message at the bottom.

**ST. JOHN'S
BAND OF HOPE & TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,
ALTRINCHAM.**

In connection with the above, A GRAND

Exhibition of Dissolving Views

Illuminated by the POWERFULLY-BRILLIANT OXY-HYDROGEN LIME LIGHT
By J. T. HUGHES, Esq.,

WILL BE GIVEN IN THE PARISH ROOM, ON

Tuesday Evening, March 18th, 1890.

Lecturer - Mr. JAMES FARRELL.

Chairman - Rev. FREDK. WAINWRIGHT, M.A.

SUBJECT—

“MY TEMPERANCE SKETCH BOOK”

PART I.—THE BIBLE AND TEMPERANCE.

Opening View—Hagar and Ishmael in the Desert—Moses Striking the Rock—Samson and the Lion—Elijah and the Angel—Daniel refusing Wine—Hymn, “Daniel's Band.”

PART II.—A PEEP AT THE BREWERY, WINE FACTORY, AND DISTILLERY.

The Fruits of the Earth: their abundance and variety—“All among the Barley”—The Malt House—The Malt Kiln—Inside a Brewery—The Hop Garden—How Alcohol is formed in the Beer—The Store Vats—Gathering Grapes in Italy—The Bay of Naples—Naples by Night, with Vesuvius in Eruption—The Magic of the Still.

PART III.—PICTURES FROM THE TRIAL OF SIR JASPER, &c.

A common incident of blighted life—Giles Johnson as he was—Giles Johnson as he is—Jack and his Hard Lump (two pictures)—The Cost of Drink—“Accidental Death”—In the Early Winter's Morn—Looking for Father—Invitation.

**TO CONCLUDE WITH MISCELLANEOUS VIEWS, PORTRAITS, STATUARY,
MOVING FIGURES, CHROMATROPEs, &c.**

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 7-30.

ADMISSION FREE. COLLECTION.



Above: Band of Hope 1890.

Above right: British Workman teetotal pub at the junction of Ashley Road and Oxford Road.

Right: Altrincham and Bowdon Total Abstinence Society. St John's provided curates in support.

St John's and the mission to Newtown

Islington Street and the St John's infant school were in Newtown in Altrincham. St John's felt much of its mission was to this poor area. So where was it?

Newtown formed the site to the south of Lloyd Street and Lloyd's Fever hospital of what is now mostly Sainsbury's, its car park and the housing between that and the railway.

The 1897 survey map on the right shows the British School, Oxford Road and Lloyd's Fever hospital. The old Bowdon Terminus station is now a carriage shed. The infant school is at the end of Islington Street by the railway line.

The map shows the central area was almost entirely enclosed. It was nicknamed locally "Cally", or perhaps "Calais". There are differing explanations for the name. Some link it to an Irish stew and others to soldiers returning from foreign parts and going to the isolation hospital.



The dense housing area of Newtown.

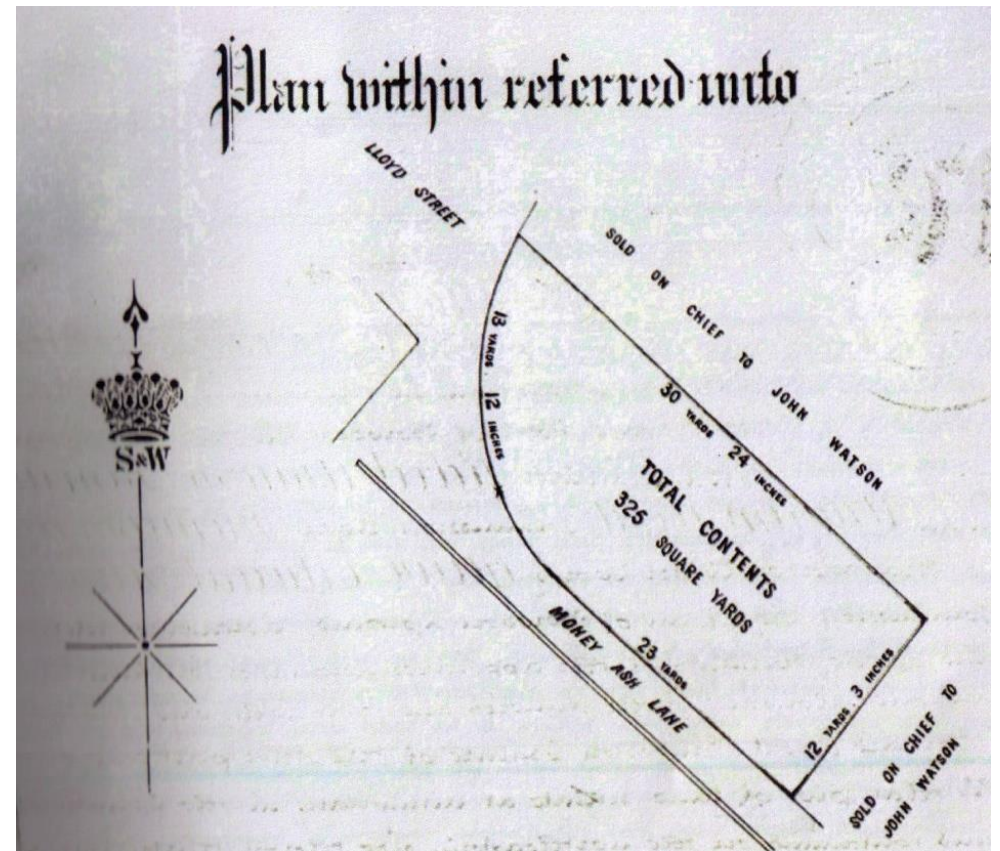
The Newtown Institute

Wainwright and others approached the Earl of Stamford for the donation of land to form an educational and missionary institute in Newtown, even before the infant school was built. The site was donated on 11th May 1872 and was 325 square yards. It is now part of the area on which the flats are built near Sainsbury's car park. It was opened in May 1879.

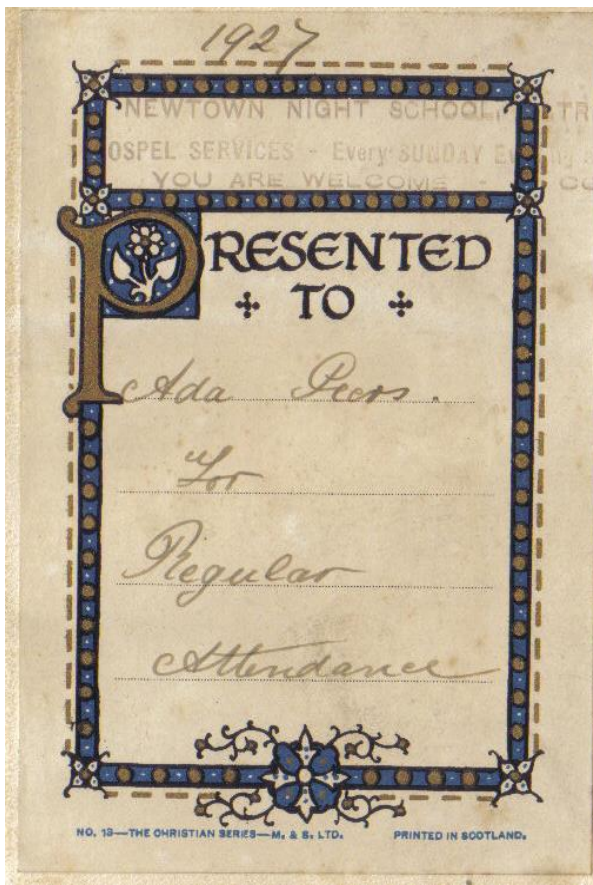
Wainwright and William Armitage were trustees and this was a genuine early ecumenical endeavour. Armitage was a wealthy local cotton manufacturer and a member of Bowdon Downs Congregational Church.

The Institute had a games room and coffee shop and provided free adult education for the poor of the area, mostly in the evenings. On Sundays it turned into a mission hall and often hosted temperance and teetotal events.

The Altrincham branch of Manchester City Mission may have been based at the Institute. In 1893 had an outing to Altrincham from Manchester, tea at the Newtown Institute and then combined with the Altrincham and Bowdon Total Abstinence Society for a rally attracting many hundreds at the junction of Railway Street and the Downs.



Copy of the original 1872 deed plan.



Above: Newtown Night School certificate in 1927.

Above right: the Institute in 1965.

Right: the Institute is ahead and St Elizabeth's can be seen in the background. Available photographs do not show the Institute at its best as it was then due for demolition.



ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH AND THE MISSION TO NEWTOWN

As we have seen, St John's was just outside Newtown. It had an infant school, was partly responsible for the Newtown Institute and assisted with a teetotal pub. It also held services at the infant school after the main hall was licensed in 1879. The one thing it did not have was a dedicated church building.

The problem however, was that there was no spare land and the Earl of Stamford had already donated the site for the infant school. The solution lay with William Crossley, who we have already encountered in the story of St John's. He and his brother Frank initially attended St John's when they moved to the area and William and his wife held Bible studies. Together brothers William and Frank founded and managed Crossley Engineering, which later became part of Rolls-Royce.

William Crossley established the Openshaw Boys Club and was Chair of the Manchester

Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat. He paid for some accommodation and equipment for what was to become St Anne's Home in Altrincham. In 1900 he gave the substantial sum of £70,000 towards a sanatorium at Delamere in Cheshire.

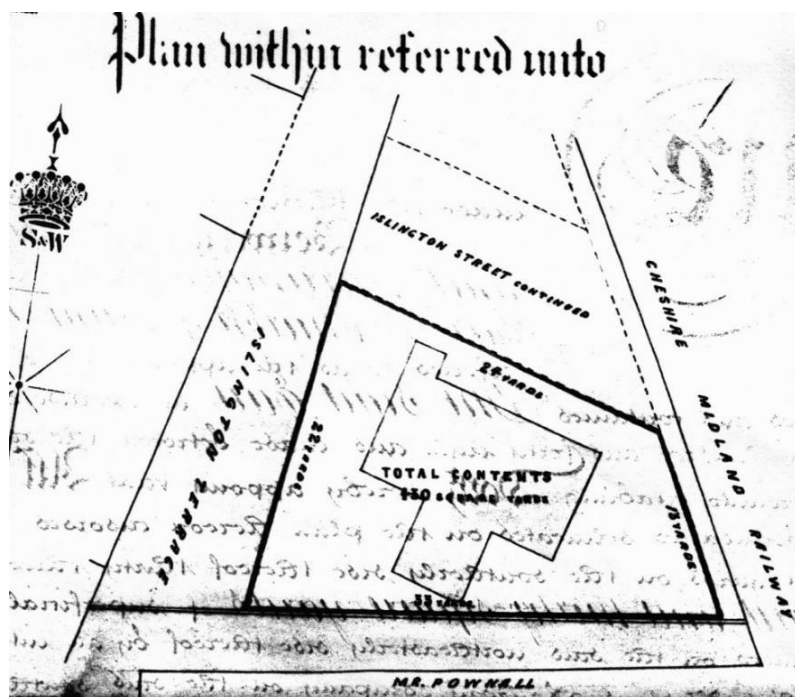
In 1903 he was made a freeman of the City of Manchester. As we have seen, he was elected the first Liberal MP for Altrincham. He was made a baronet in 1909 and a director and founder of the Manchester Ship Canal.

He supported the right of women to vote.

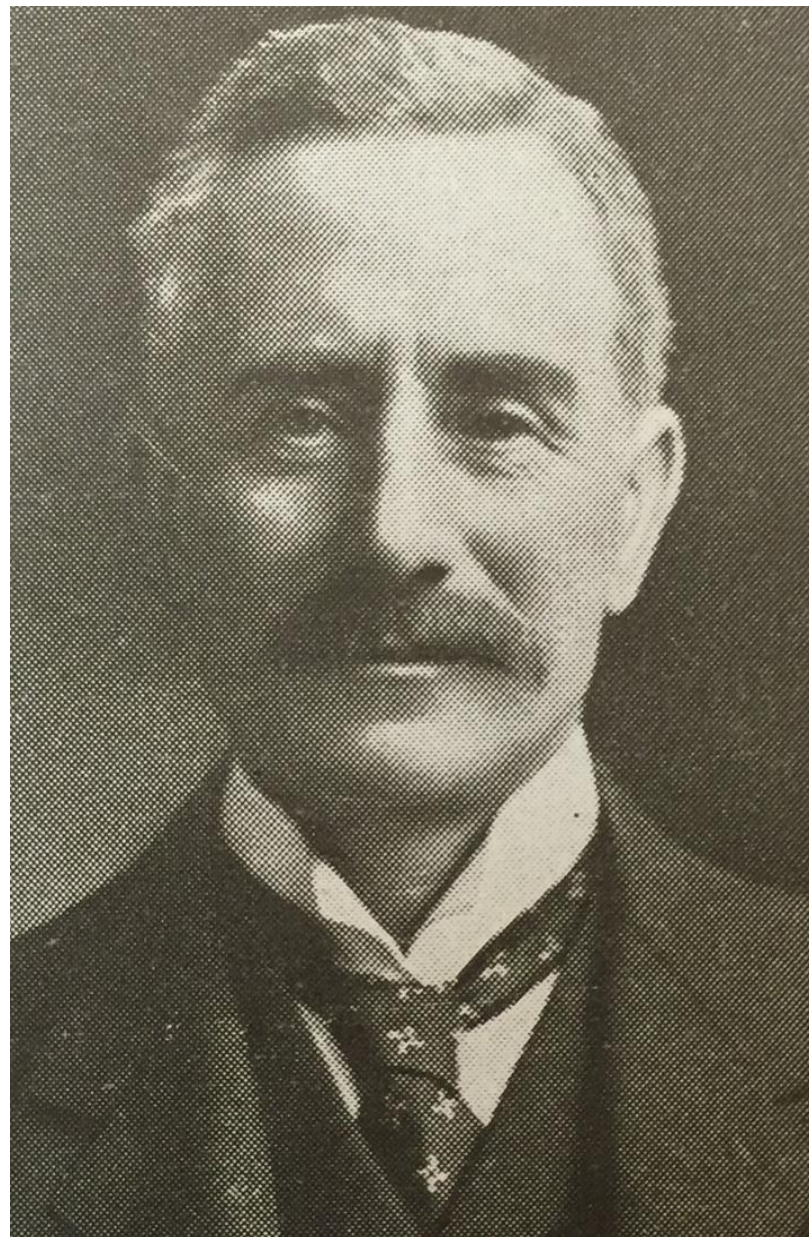
Crossley bought 4 terraced houses in Islington and donated their site on 24th March 1890. He specified that the site was to be used to erect a mission station for the services of lay missionaries in connection with the St John's for "promoting religion, morality, charity, education or recreation". He also specified that the site could only be used for Church of England Services. A further £1,000 was donated by the family of the late Samuel Lord of Brooklands.

The new church of St Elizabeth's was built and then opened in 1890 on the site at Pownall Road, conveniently next-door to the school. The architect was John Macnamara.

The building was dedicated by the bishop on 22nd December at a service at 7:30 pm. He stated that the three aims of St Elizabeth's were, "worship, work and fellowship". The Sunday school children on 29th December had a tea, magic lantern show, conjuror and Punch and Judy.



Copy of original deed plan.



William Crossley.



Above right: 1876 map showing Newtown before the church and school were built.

Right: 1898 map showing St Elizabeth's and the infant school by the railway line. The buildings were demolished in 1969. The site is now occupied by the Hub Community Centre, a partnership between Trafford Borough Council and Altrincham Baptist Church.



A Newtown family

Many families will have stories of St Elizabeth's, the infant school, the temperance and teetotal movements and the Newtown Institute. Here is the story of one family among many that lived in Newtown.

The Peers family lived near to the Newtown Institute. Thomas Peers, originally from Knutsford, was a gardener. He was born in 1853 and married Margaret Smith. The family lived at 46 Islington Street, later moving to 71 Byrom Street. They had 8 children. Ada was born in 1878 and was the 7th child. William was the 8th and was born in 1882.

William's daughter was also called Ada after her aunt and attended the mission church at the Newtown Institute as a young girl.

Another branch of the family lived on the same streets. Jack Peers attended St Elizabeth's school before World War 2 and St John's Church, where he was in the choir. He recalls children from 'Calais' often had their heads shaved at the barber's shop on Tipping Street but left a crop of hair just at the front called a 'horse-tail' crop to

make them look tough. He used to deposit his pennies in the 'Penny bank' at the Newtown Institute and went to Sunday School at the British School. He recalls some of the children wearing clogs.



Ada and her two brothers outside 13 Moss View, owned by her aunt Ada.



Top: Ada at the infant school.

Above: Islington Street from Lloyd Street.

Right: St Elizabeth's.



St Elizabeth's, Easter 1893.

Credits and acknowledgments

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