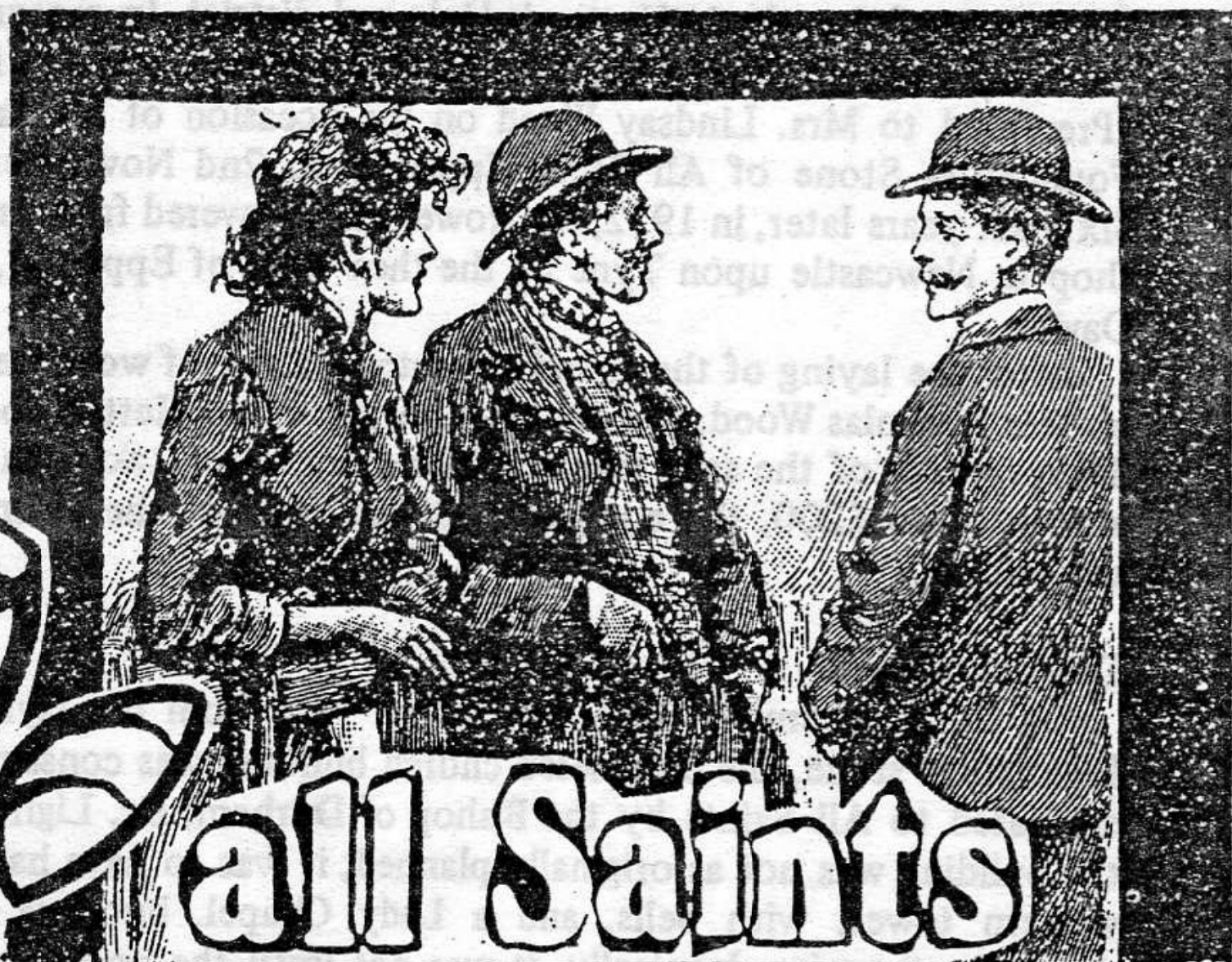


All Saints Church
Expletton

A History prepared
by Rev. J. Shepleton
for inclusion in
- one of his Books
1989.



all Saints

EPPLETON

The weather-cock: it hits you in the eye as you travel from Houghton-le-Spring to Hetton-le-Hole on the main road, the A182, past the NCB Rescue Station on the left, and the Burn Hotel on the right. The weather-cock, 500 feet above sea-level, standing atop the bell tower of the Victorian red-brick building, the church of Eppleton All Saints, and surveying the coal-scarred countryside and the huge wheels that haul the cages up and down at the 150-year-old pit called Eppleton Colliery.

It's interesting to reflect that St. Paul in one of his many letters to members of the Christian churches urges them to "take courage", not knowing that nineteen centuries later the symbol of Courage Ales—a cockerel—would be the dominant exterior feature of a church building in North-East England.

The Beginning

Eppleton All Saints church was built nearly 100 years ago. It was on Saturday, 3rd July 1886 that Miss Lishman of Eppleton Hall cut the first sod on the site of the church building. On 2nd November of that same year (All Souls Day), in the presence of the Bishop of Durham, Lord Londonderry and members of the Bowes-Lyon family, the laying of the foundation stone was performed by Mrs. Lindsay Wood, wife of

the owner of the pits in Hetton-le-Hole and district. In recognition of the event a silver trowel was presented to Mrs. Wood, suitably inscribed "Presented to Mrs. Lindsay Wood on the occasion of her laying the Foundation Stone of All Saints Eppleton on 2nd November 1886". Sixty-six years later, in 1952, the trowel was recovered from an antique shop in Newcastle upon Tyne by the then vicar of Eppleton, Vincent Davies.

After the laying of the foundation stone, a sale of work was opened by Mrs. Nicholas Wood, of London, a relative of the Hetton coal owner. The proceeds of the sale, together with a collection taken on the day, amounted to £200, the equivalent at that time of the vicar's annual stipend!

The New Church

On 20th December 1887, just over a year from the laying of the foundation stone, the completed church building was consecrated and dedicated to All Saints by the Bishop of Durham, Dr. Lightfoot. But the building was not as originally planned; it was to have had a square western tower, with bells, and a Lady Chapel, but lack of funds dictated otherwise. Ironically, it was not until the particulars of the church's holding of coal came to be registered under the Coal (Registration of Ownership) Act of 1937, and an examination made, that it was discovered that coal, whose royalties amounted to over £300, had been removed from under the church and vicarage. This substantial sum (a small fortune in those days) ought to have accrued to the Benefice of All Saints, but as nine-tenths of the coal had been removed more than six years previously the Statute of Limitations applied, and the money could not be recovered. In fact, up until the outbreak of the Second World War, the income of the benefice benefitted by less than £2 per year from coal royalties for coal removed from beneath the church and vicarage.

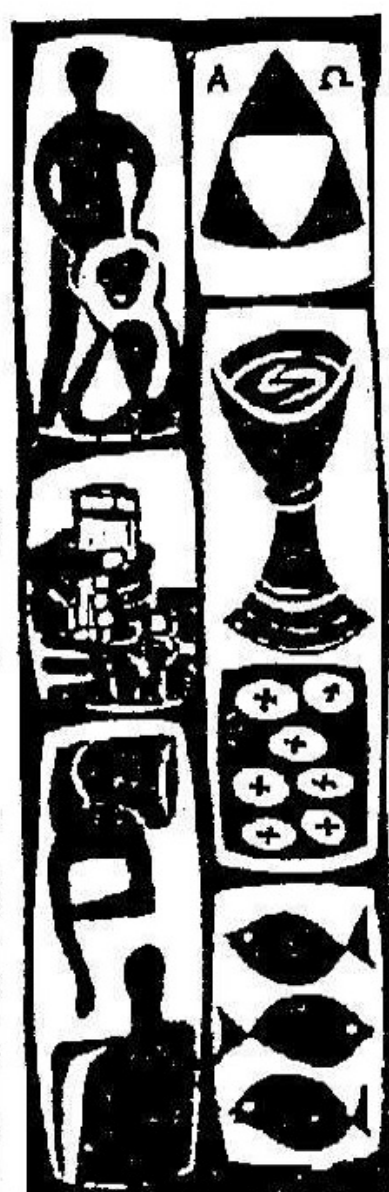
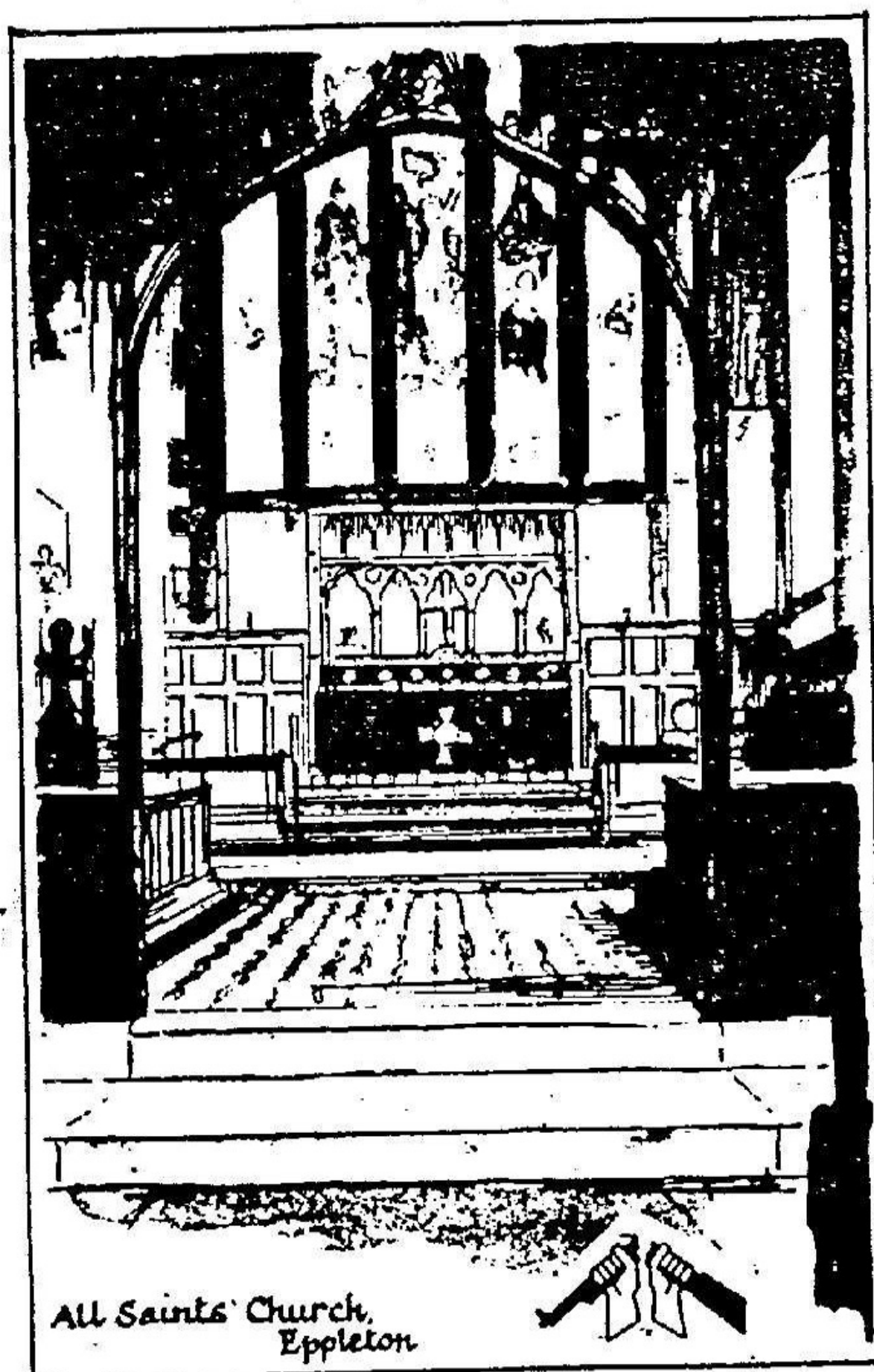
Founding of Parish

Although the church building did not finally appear until December 1887, the parish of Eppleton was formed in 1883. On 19th July 1883, at the Court of Windsor, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England placed before Queen Victoria their plan for the formation of the parish of Eppleton, in the following words: "Whereas it has been made to appear to us that it would promote the interests of religion that the particular part of the said parish of Hetton-le-Hole which is hereinafter mentioned, should be constituted a separate District, and that the same shall be named The District of Eppleton".

First Vicar

W. Illingworth was nominated by the Crown in November 1883 on an income fixed at £200 per year, this to be raised to £300 per year

from the date of the consecration of the church still to be built. By 1940, the Vicar of Eppleton's stipend had risen to £421 per year! But back to 1883; Mr. Illingworth held his first vestry meeting on 10th November, when Thomas Lishman, chief agent for Hetton Coal Company, was elected vicar's warden, with Joseph Thom (master at Eppleton School) as people's warden. The meeting decided that £6 per year should be paid to a vergers for arranging the schoolroom for church services, the vergers to perform his duties "to the satisfaction of the vicar and churchwardens". A bell-ringer, Michael Laverick, was appointed, and a woman, Mrs. Wilson, was appointed to clean the school for church services, her remuneration to be two shillings (10p) per week. On 16th January 1884 a Ladies Committee, consisting of 26



42 women, with Miss Lishman of Eppleton Hall as President, was formed to work for the Church Building Fund. A flourishing Sunday School, consisting of 300 children and 15 teachers, met twice—morning and afternoon—on Good Friday, 11th April 1884. Two days later, on Easter Sunday 1884, there were 55 communicants at the 7.30 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion, and another 13 at 11.30 a.m., with collections amounting to 17/6d (88p). In December of the same year Eppleton Musical Society, under the direction of the vicar's warden, Thomas Lishman, was formed. On Sunday morning, 26th April 1885 a strange thing happened: a piece of shaving from a pitchpipe (used to ensure the right note on which to start an unaccompanied hymn), stuck in the vicar's throat, so that he was unable to intone the Litany. Was he able to whistle the epistle from the missal? The church records are blank.

Second Vicar

Mr. R. Hindle succeeded Mr. Illingworth in 1886, in time to see the cutting of the first sod on the site of Eppleton's new church, and to witness the laying of the foundation stone in November. It was during his incumbency that All Saints Church was built and consecrated, and a Hillier organ, at a cost of £6, installed. It was not until 1894 that the church got a pipe organ, at a cost of £400. The organ was pumped by hand until 1942, when an electric organ blower, costing £50, was installed. In 1902 the chancel screen was erected, a beautiful piece of carving in oak, which is one of the outstanding features of Eppleton church interior. In 1910 an asphalt path was made around the church, and in 1911 a wall, with iron railings, was erected at the east end of the churchyard. Alas, the iron railings were removed and turned into instruments of war sometime between 1939–45, part of the "war-effort" against Hitler's Germany.

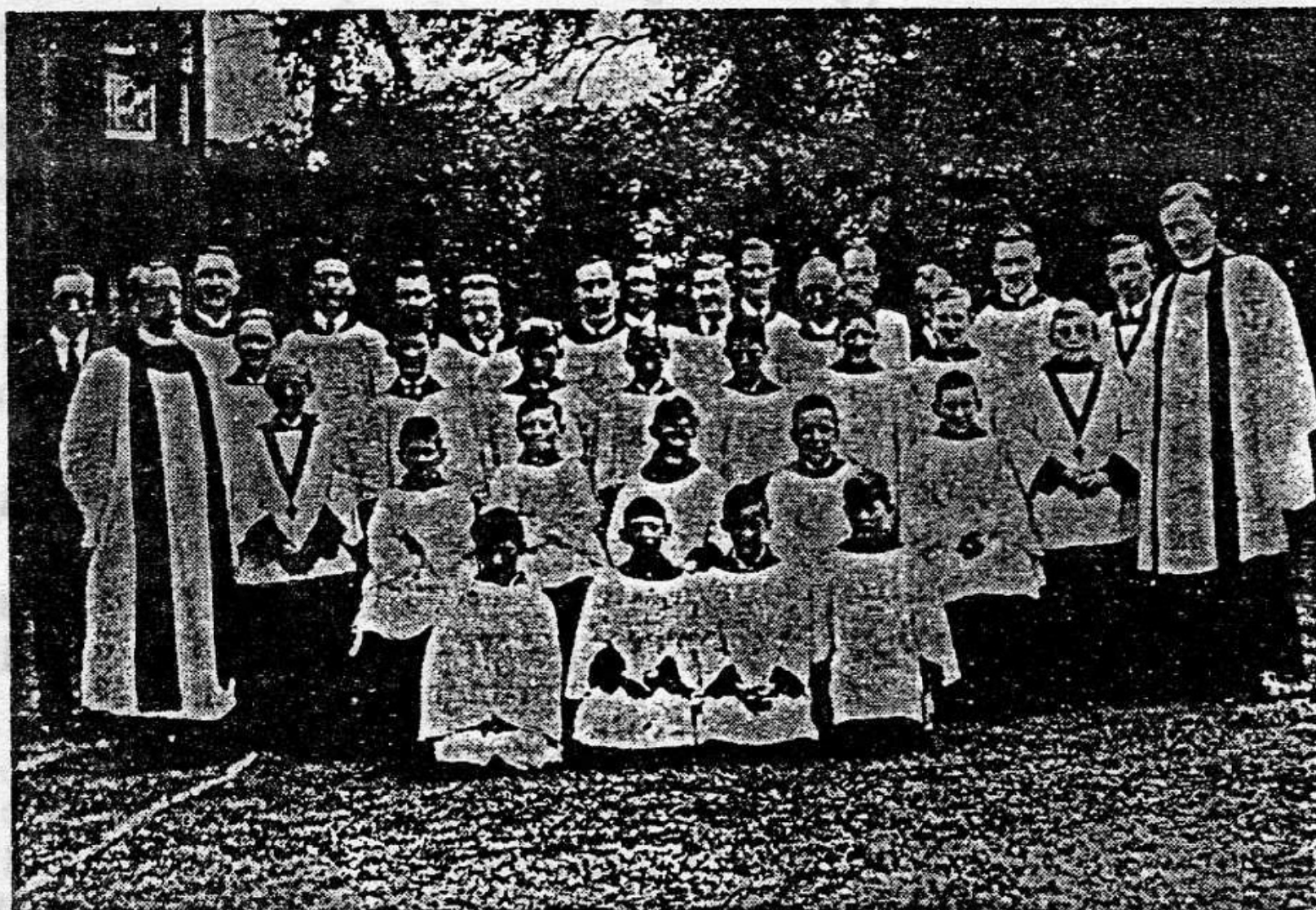
Third Vicar

The Reverend David Cowling came to Eppleton in 1915. A local newspaper described him as an excellent conversationalist, a man who preferred to do good by stealth. His first visit to the parish, before his appointment, was a dismal experience; the weather was poor, and the bad approach from the main road gave him an unfavourable impression of the district he was to serve as parish priest for 14 years. But on his second visit, he was so impressed with the church interior that he decided to accept the living. From 1906–1914 he was chaplain of a church in Munich, where he was responsible for the erection of what was regarded as one of the finest Anglican churches on the Continent. When the 1914–18 war broke out, he and his family were detained at Munich before being allowed to leave the country to travel via Switzerland to England, but minus their furniture, which was only

recovered in 1920. At Eppleton, he became chaplain to the Bernard Gilpin Lodge of Freemasons. It was during his incumbency that the church organ was cleaned at a cost of £112 (1923), and that electric lighting was installed (1924). In 1926, during the General Strike, a litany desk was constructed and carved by two of Eppleton Colliery's out-of-work miners (in 1981, a pair of processional candlesticks made out of broom shanks and copper piping were made for All Saints church in the joiner's shop of Eppleton Colliery). David Cowling died suddenly at the age of 68, in 1929, in the same week that his elder daughter, Dorothy, suffered a severe electric shock which caused her to fall and injure her back.

Fourth Vicar

The story most associated with Reverend Gibson Salisbury, who came to Eppleton in 1930, is that during the Second World War he deliberately ignored the blackout regulations which were designed to confuse enemy aircraft. As his wife was German, word went round that the vicar was on the side of the enemy! In 1931 the Hetton Colliery Company made a gift of premises to replace the old church hall erected in 1898 in George Street. These premises needed to be modernised, and by the use of voluntary labour two cloak-rooms were provided, the floor levelled, and a couple of lavatories installed. In 1933 the old church hall was sold and demolished.



Eppleton All Saints Choir 1935.

The vicar (left) is Gibson Salisbury; Ralph Buckingham (second left of vicar, back row) was for many years a member of the Eppleton Miners' Welfare Committee until his death in 1980.

The year 1932 saw the chancel and sanctuary of All Saints church panelled in oak, and the pulpit canopy dedicated by Bishop Hensley Henson of Durham. In 1933 a new hot-water heating apparatus was installed in the church, so that—so the records tell us— the East end was heated by hot air, and the West end by hot-water radiators. The heating of such a huge building has always been a problem, except, perhaps, in the days when the Colliery supplied amounts of free coal, and in 1981 an attempt was made to try to instal a suspended ceiling in the nave; permission was refused by the Diocesan authorities because it was felt that the look of the church would be spoilt. Certainly the ceiling would have blocked out much of the natural light, but the saving in heating costs would have been significant.

In 1935 (the present vicar's year of birth) the North East gateway was walled up, the gates having been broken by a coke lorry. The following year, a number of framed pictures depicting scenes in the life of Jesus were hung on the walls of the nave to relieve the drabness. This bears comparison with 1981, when oil paintings were hung above the font, the work of two church members, Mrs. Marjorie Henry, and John Witham, a schoolboy at Hetton Comprehensive School; one painting depicts the symbols of baptism and Holy Communion (Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, lighted candle, chalice and bread) the other depicts coalminers at work underground. Mrs. Henry also produced two other works of art, a purple chasuble depicting a celtic cross with a broken rifle in the centre (symbolising Christ's victory over the forces of violence) and a stylised chalice with a wafer bread used at Communion embroidered on a purple altar frontal. Dorothy Stephenson of Eppleton Vicarage also in 1981 created a purple table cover for use at Holy Communion; this depicted a chalice (in gold), two fish (in silver), broken bread (in white) and a Cross in red and gold...but back to the 1940's; in 1945 a house at 3, Church View Villas (Regent Street) was purchased as a suitable residence for a caretaker/verger, the purchase price accruing from a requisitioning of the church hall by the Army authorities during World War Two. In 1946 a processional cross was purchased, the cross made of brass on a stout wooden pole, at a cost of just over £12, the expense being defrayed by members of the congregation. In the same year the interior of the church was cleaned and renovated, labour being supplied free by the Hetton Colliery Company, but scaffolding and other materials cost the church just under £88. Also in 1946, by order of the Archdeacon of Durham, ten black poplar trees on the north and south sides of the church were cut down; the trees had grown to such dimensions that it was feared the roots would damage the foundations of the church. It was noticeable in 1980-81, when the quarrying operations at Eppleton Colliery were causing such havoc to the church and houses in the parish (necessitating a public meeting) that the powers-that-be in the Durham Diocese were silent. The vicar, John Stephenson, threatened to walk into the quarry

during blasting operations, in an effort to halt what was seen as a major scandal by the people of Eppleton, but all to no avail; one local councillor was more concerned that a "man of the Cloth" was willing to break the law in order to obtain justice! Such was the incredible view of Anglican clergymen even in 1981. In September 1951 (the year Newcastle United beat Blackpool 2-0 in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley) Gibson Salisbury moved on, but it's worth recalling an item which appeared in the parish magazine of September 1938, whilst he was vicar (the magazine then cost three-ha'pence); under the heading of "Durham's Future Mothers", the writer stated, "Speaking generally, there are three classes of girls in the County; there are the girls who go out early to service; they go into an atmosphere of culture, refinement, and good manners, where they learn all the secrets of good house-keeping, and it would be impossible to over-rate the importance of girls going into service early. It is five years now since we first urged the sending of girls into service earlier, and in that five years we have not had a single difficult girl to deal with in our own parish...the fears of mothers sending their girls away early are groundless, as mistresses are

**JOIN THE ARMY AT ONCE
& HELP TO STOP AN AIR RAID**

GOD SAVE THE KING



Eppleton All Saints Church Lads Brigade 1916.

Rev. David Cowling (vicar); Benjamin Gustard (second from right, back row); William Buckingham (extreme left, front row) whose father was manager of the Co-op at Eppleton; Sgt. Oswald (second from right, front row) whose family still (1982) run the butcher's shop in Market Street, Cpl. Cuthbert Hicks (extreme right, front row).

only too happy to make a good home for girls at the most teachable and adaptable age. Girls from good service make most admirable wives and mothers...a small minority become shop-girls. They come from good homes, and so have the value of good manners and patience. They too are an asset in marriage...then there are the girls who remain at home. They have a lot of time on their hands, and have nothing for hands or minds to do; their intelligence often remains that of the child of school-leaving age. They are often more interested in themselves than in the useful work they might be doing. Nor is it altogether their fault, it is part of the County heritage. Is the County getting the standard of motherhood it deserves? The nation needs something more than domestic efficiency in its mothers. It needs intelligence. Perhaps girls should be encouraged to attend evening classes in larger numbers by making school attendance officers liaise between school and home".

Fifth Vicar

Vincent Davies became vicar in July 1952, two months after Newcastle United had beaten Arsenal 1-0 in the Wembley Cup Final. That he was only the fifth vicar of the parish in 70 years is an indication of something good about Eppleton. It could be that Eppleton's close-knit community, in which people do not become de-humanised as they tend to do in the concrete jungles of our big cities, is the kind of community in which a parish priest feels most at home and accepted.

In 1953, coronation year, the church was re-wired, helped by a gift of £100 from Elizabeth the Queen. The following year, 1954, a hawthorn tree was planted in the churchyard to commemorate the coronation, and in the same year occurred the death of Sam Squires, who for 14 years had served at All Saints as church-warden, and William Skews, lay reader and treasurer. The church hall was still standing, and in 1957 a more modern form of gas heating was installed. A further £225 was spent on improving the church hall in 1964, when Joseph Nicholson was vicar, but in 1966 it was discovered that the roof was beyond repair, so that in 1968 the building was demolished, the end of a headache for vicar and Parochial Church Council. It had been given to the parish by the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries in 1930. Prior to that, it had been a school which first came into operation in the reign of Queen Victoria, probably in the 1880's.

In 1957 there was a move to make part of the All Saints churchyard a garden of repose, so that after cremations—which at that time were beginning to be a serious competitor to burials—the ashes could be deposited there, either scattered, or interred in a small oak casket and buried in the ground. But nothing more was heard of this, perhaps because cremation was still not the accepted thing amongst Eppleton's more traditional parishioners.

1957, the 70th year of the church's founding, saw the Bishop of Durham visiting All Saints to preach at the Evening Service on 3rd November. Eighty-four rose trees were planted, given by friends of All Saints in memory of deceased relatives, but all were eventually stolen from the church grounds, a sad incident in the history of the church.

In 1958 the vicar was complaining that members of the Youth Fellowship were not coming to church, but there is no record of anything being done to attract these young people to worship. The Church Lads Brigade had faded away, primarily because Stanley Buckingham, the brigade's leader, had to resign his commission through ill-health.

Sixth Vicar

Joseph Nicholson arrived in October 1963, the year of the assassination of John Kennedy, the Christine Keeler scandal, and the Great Train Robbery. The Victorian vicarage was completely modernised and re-decorated by the Church Commissioners at a cost of £3,806, of which the parish of All Saints was to provide £1,500. Fortunately, because of an anonymous gift of £250, plus a grant of £500 from a church charity, the parish's financial obligation was greatly eased.

Included in the modernisation scheme was the re-surfacing of the vicarage drive with tarmac. By Christmas 1963, essential repairs to the church, costing £800, were also carried out, and 100 new hymn books (Ancient & Modern) were purchased. Those were the days when churchgoers still used Victorian hymns, which stressed the bliss of life after death, as their staple diet. The worship style at All Saints, Eppleton, has changed dramatically since then.

In 1964 a professionally-planned Giving Scheme cost the church £800, but resulted in £5,178 over three years being promised by 145 families in the parish, equivalent to a regular income of £37 per week. Previous to this, the church's income from direct giving amounted to £6 per week. The year 1965 saw the sum of £225 spent on redecorating and modernising the Church Hall. It was demolished, having become unfit for human habitation, in 1968.

The church's meteoric rise in income, from £6 a week to £37, meant that the Diocesan Quota (money paid annually by every parish church to Diocesan Central Funds) was raised from £148 to £304. April 1967 began the second year of the 3-year Planned Giving Scheme, but enthusiasm had waned to such an extent that planned improvements to the interior walls of the church had to be shelved. On 31st December 1968, Joseph Nicholson resigned from the living of All Saints.

48 Seventh Vicar

J.W.S. (Bill) Wilson became Eppleton's seventh vicar on 25th February 1971. A Girls Friendly Society was formed in 1972, with 54 members, but within a year had begun to falter. A Church Lads Brigade with ten members fell apart after a brief life, the problem in both cases being the demands made on the leaders. Any church, a voluntary organisation, always relies heavily on the willingness of people to give their time freely, and it's always easier to begin a task than to finish it.

The then Bishop of Durham, Ian Ramsey, one of the few Church of England bishops to publicly ally himself with social protest, died suddenly towards the end of 1972. His death was a tragic loss to the Durham Diocese in particular and to the Church of England as a whole. He came under fire during his time of office, from military men in particular who couldn't stand his socialism, tho' he never went so far as to be labelled a communist, as some vicars are who dare to link the Christian Gospel with the issues of peace and justice. Ian Ramsey's presence in the Church of the North-East was particularly refreshing for those who were sickened by Establishment thinking and attitudes, especially with regard to war and peace.

In 1972 a new side altar was dedicated at All Saints for use on Wednesday mornings for the handful of women willing to give half an hour to formal worship outside of Sunday. At that time there were 24 Sunday School members, a good number considering that at the end of 1981 there were only a couple of children who bothered to turn up on a Sunday morning. The passage-way behind the organ was made into a kitchenette, and the Festival Room, formerly a vestry, was officially opened for social purposes, there being no church hall at All Saints.

The Christmas Fayre in 1972 raised £120; 230 parish magazines were circulating each month. In 1975 the new private housing estate, situated below the church where a railway line once ran between Hetton and Sunderland, saw its first residents move in. The main road of the estate was appropriately named All Saints Drive, with other roads named after Christian saints, Aidan (spelt Aiden for some strange reason), Mark, Paul, and Oswald. 1975 also saw a beautiful new carpet, red with gold fleur-de-lis, laid from the altar at the east end of the church to the font at the west end; this was a master-stroke by the vicar and PCC, as the carpet lifted dramatically the interior of an otherwise ordinary, drab Victorian church. At the end of 1976 the church's new oil-fired central heating system came into operation, at a time when oil was still relatively cheap. By 1980 the "cheap oil" era was well and truly over, the heating had to be used sparingly, and the church was usually cold and repelling, except to those whose faith was stronger than physical discomfort. In 1979, a year after the departure of Bill Wilson, Eppleton received its eighth—present—vicar.

John Stephenson arrived in September 1979 fresh from a curacy in Byers Green and Spennymoor, S.W. Durham (a kick away from the Bishop of Durham's house at Bishop Auckland). Long-haired, ordained deacon in 1976 after 13 years in the Church Army, and a convinced pacifist, it was soon obvious that his style of ministry would be different from that of his more traditional predecessors. Convinced that 'the Sunday morning Eucharist (Holy Communion) is the focal point of Christian worship, he set about teaching the handful of All Saints members a modern musical setting of the liturgy. People from the new All Saints estate started to attend church. In his first two years, 35 people were confirmed, and a junior robed choir consisting of 15 members became an important part of the church's worship. He had the church's notice-board repainted, depicting a cross of gold incorporated in pithead winding-gear, a way of saying that God is concerned with the world of work as well as the world of church. He preached peace in a framework of nonviolence, mixing politics with religion and being branded a communist/marxist. He wrote books about North East coal-mining life, much to the delight of newspapers both local and national. At his request, a parishioner from the All Saints estate was inspired to embroider a purple chasuble depicting a white celtic cross with a broken rifle in the centre, his way of proclaiming the victory of the Cross over the forces of violence. Special candlelight services became a feature of church worship at Eppleton, climaxed at Christmas with the decorated and fairy-light bedecked Christmas tree and recorded music played on a stereo record-player. A new era had begun at All Saints, and the end is not yet . . .

Some other outstanding events in the life of All Saints church in recent years were

(1) the 70th anniversary celebrations in 1957, when the Bishop of Durham (Maurice Harland) preached on the text, "You are the salt of the earth". He said that unlearned and unlettered men, who had been with Christ, shook the world and spread the gospel. Speaking of the church's patronal name, All Saints, he defined a saint as a man who makes it easier for others to believe in God, and who wins others to Christ by his example. The service was conducted by the vicar, Vincent Davies, and the lessons were read by Mr. P. Richardson. Mr. Stephen Hall was the organist. Amongst those present at the service was Councillor H. Prest (Chairman), and the Hetton Urban Council Clerk, Mr. D. Richardson. The oldest parishioner present was Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong, (83), of Caroline Street, who had been attending All Saints church since she was 23, having previously been a member of St. Michael's, Easington Lane, where she was confirmed. In the church hall afterwards, the birthday cake was cut by Mrs. L. S Stainbank, enrolling member of the Eppleton Mothers' Union.

(2) The dedication of the new Mothers' Union banner took place on 3rd November, 1958; on a blue background is depicted St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby in the 7th century, flanked by two other women saints, one of whom wears a jewelled crown and carries a cross.

(3) The funeral of David William Park, 13th June 1981, organist and choirmaster for 28 years, who on his retirement in 1980, was presented with a silver salver at his home in Houghton Road, in the presence of his wife and members of the Parochial Church Council, Arthur Morrison, Maurice and Doris Huitson, and the vicar John Stephenson.

(4) The dedication of a red leather-bound Altar Services Book early in 1981, a donation by Catherine Buckingham in memory of her husband Ralph, churchman and official of the Eppleton Miners' Welfare Committee, who lived in Fairy Street, and whose funeral service was



held in All Saints church on 30th July 1980. The inscription is in gold lettering, and includes the words from the Book of Job, "God has redeemed my soul from the darkness, and my life shall see the light".

(5) The dedication in 1981 of two paintings, one depicting the symbols of baptism and holy communion (dove, lighted candle, chalice and wafer bread), the other depicting coalminers at work underground, the former by Mrs. Marjorie Henry, the latter by John Witham, a member of the All Saints Sunday School. Marjorie Henry also in 1981 embroidered two white stoles for use at the Sunday Eucharist and at Wedding Services, one depicting the fish and the bread through which Jesus performed the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, the other depicting the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet, the Alpha and Omega, symbolising God as Beginning and End.

(6) The dedication of two altar frontals, by Marjorie Henry and Dorothy Stephenson, one depicting a modern representation of a chalice, the other depicting a chalice, broken bread, fish, and a cross



*Linton Hope
was my uncle.
Robert Hope*

*Lance Gustard (right) and Linton Hope LINTON.
at Hetton Lyons Colliery in 1919. Lance was 14 years old when this picture was taken, employed as a pony driver underground. For much of his life a sidesman at All Saints Church, Lance lives (1982) in Princess Gardens. Note in the left-hand pocket of his jacket the bottle containing water, also on his right arm the white tape holding his bait poke (a linen bag containing sandwiches). Hetton Lyons Colliery closed in 1935. Lance died, aged 84 years, at the end of June 1989. In his memory a picture of Eppleton Church, painted by Bill Newstead, a local artist, was dedicated and hung in the church, 15th.Oct.1989.*

picked out in red and gold on a purple background. There was also the dedication in 1981 of the purple chasuble (robe of peace) depicting a broken rifle in the centre of a Celtic cross.

(7) At the end of 1981, for the first time in All Saints' history, two female altar servers were appointed, teenagers Tracy Stephenson and Elaine Watts.

(8) On 27th June, 1982, the new Eppleton Miners Lodge Banner was dedicated in All Saints Church after being led into the church by Hetton Silver Band. The sermon was preached by Rev. Stephen Kendal, Chaplain to the North-East Coalfield, and the lesson was read by Tom Callan, Secretary of the Durham Miners Association:—

'Then the king will say to those on his right hand, "You have my Father's blessing; come, enter and possess the kingdom that has been made ready for you since the world was made. For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger you took me into your home, when naked you clothed me; when I was ill you came to my help, when in prison you visited me." Then the righteous will reply, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink, a stranger and took you home, or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you?" And the king will answer, I tell you this: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me.'

Thirteen days later, on Saturday, 10th July, the vicar of All Saints, John Stephenson, was privileged to lead the banner into Durham Cathedral at the Miners' Festival Service, the occasion of the 99th Durham Miners Gala. The banner depicts the Jane Shaft pithead winding gear; on the reverse is Hetton Hall, and the oldest steam locomotive, 1822-1912.

(9) The year-long miners' strike beginning in March 1984 was a significant event in the history of Eppleton All Saints Church. The vicar's outspoken remarks drawing attention to the violent methods (police dogs & truncheons) employed by the Establishment against largely peaceful miners, drew poison-pen letters from a number of people around the country who were hostile to trade unionism in general and the NUM President Arthur Scargill in particular. A few members of All Saints Church turned their backs on the vicar as a protest against his mixing Christianity with politics. It was a lively, sometimes bitter, time, but in the name of Eppleton All Saints Church sums of money were collected & groceries delivered to hard-pressed mining families in the parish.... "when I was hungry you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink".

My own association with
Expleton All Saints
began in 1937 when I
first met Betty my wife
to be. Betty went there
often and invited me to
go occasionally on a
Sunday evening.

When we decided to marry
in July 1941 it depended
on me being able to have
leave from my ship.

On 26/7/41 we were married
at Expleton. Rev. G. Salisbury
officiating.

After the war we attended
fairly regularly, our child
Gillian was christened there.

In 1961 Norman Miller
was Choirmaster.

He and I were members of
Lyons Male Voice Choir.

Norman asked me if I
would become a Chorister
at Expletan. So I began
my more regular time
at Expletan.

The Vicar at this time was

Rev. Vincent Davies.

I remained a Chorister up to the
1980's.

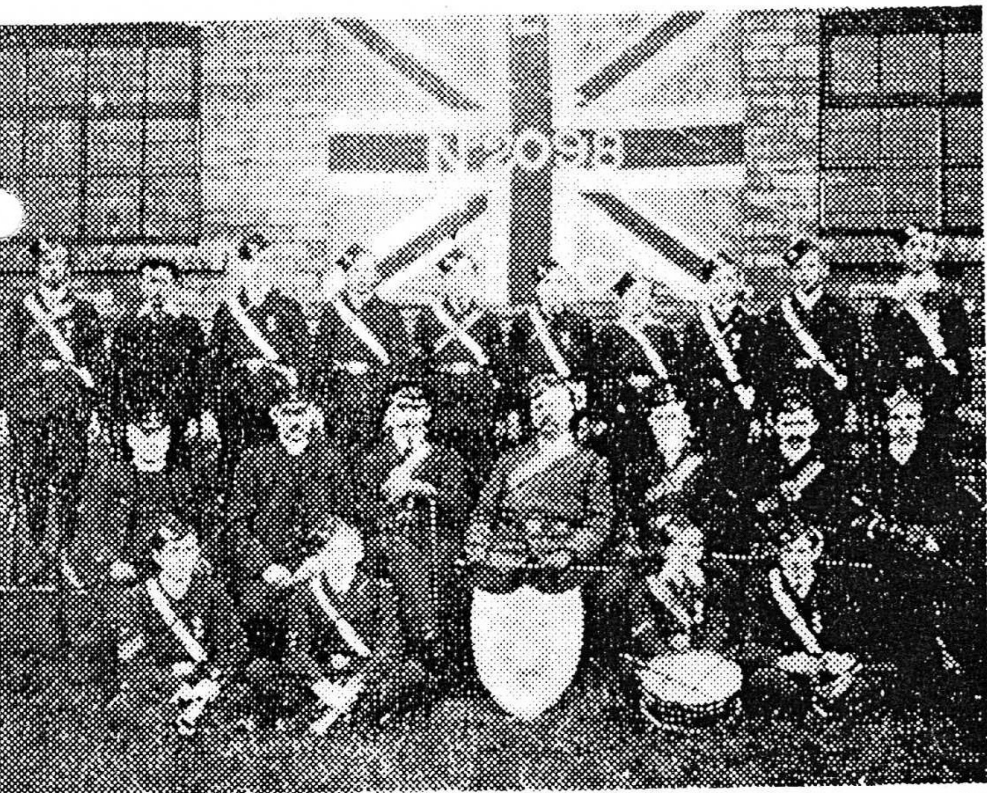
In 1964 a new Vicar
the Rev. J. Nicholson
arrived and soon after
asked me to become
Treasurer of the F.C.C.
I remained in the post
till around 1981 with
exception of a short while
when Betty was ill.

As a Chorister I always felt
completely at ease as I
sat in the Choir Seat in the
Chancel, enjoyed the
Choral Singing.

It was during the time in
the Choir that I learned that
my Grandfather Robert Hope
had also been a Chorister at Appleton.

This I was pleased to hear.

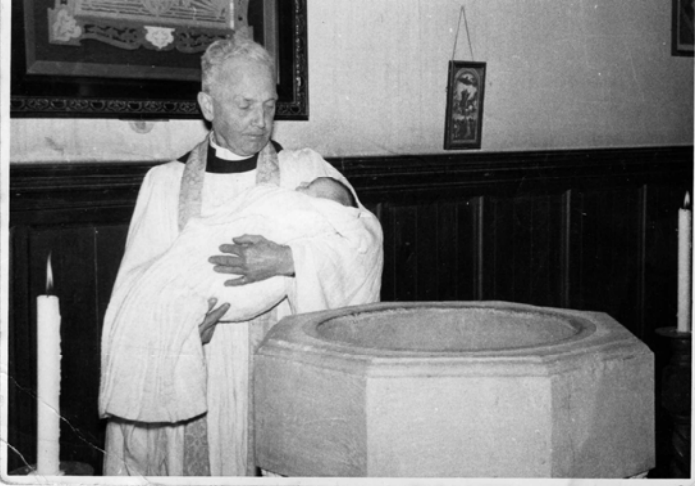
Robert Hope.
1990.



Eppleton Church Lads' Brigade, winners of the Shield Competition in 1905, 1906, and 1907. Standing at the back are: J. Tinkler, T. Lewins, J. T. Hawxby, W. M. Irving, J. Hope, R. Nurse, W. Hall, C. Atkinson A. Worlock and Sgt. R. Lawson. Seated in the second row are: the chaplains, the Rev. J. H. Ellis, the Rev. R. Hindle (Vicar), Colonel H. Bowes, Capt. J. Tinkler, Lieut. R. H. Widdowfield, Lieut. G. Guy, and Sgt. J. Lawson. Seated on the grass are: A. Wilson, R. Lawson, F. E. Hawxby, and M. Roberts (bugler).







The Rev Vincent Davies
and child at font.





821
Same names:-

Back Row Hall (against) ? ? ? (Leban Richardson) Woman Mill
(Boy with Cross-Box) Staph Buckingham, ? , Box,
[Nesher with cloak or Lewings) Vical Vincent Davies,
One of Boys in front 3rd from left is Dolson.



