

A short history of

S. Chrysostom's Church of England School
in the City of Manchester
set forth by the foundation managers
in the year of its Diamond Jubilee 1936



The School
1936



SIXTY years ago, on September 4th, 1876, S. Chrysostom's Church of England School was opened, in a long narrow building in Clarence Street, as Upper Brook Street was then called, behind Fullerton House, the home of the Rev. William Marsden, the first Rector of S. Chrysostom's. The building, now used as a garage, can easily be recognised: we can still see the one-roomed school with small entrance cloak-rooms at either end, the tall windows with rounded arch and the chimney pots decorated with carved embossed cherubs.

Here in the seventies, when interest in the education of the people had been stimulated by the Act of 1870 which saw the beginning of Board Schools, the Established Church founded yet another school for the children of Chorlton-on-Medlock. Already in 1876, five Church of England schools in the neighbourhood were receiving grants from the Government—All Saints, Tuer Street; S. Luke's; S. Matthias'; S. Paul's and S. Stephen's.

These schools, however, had been organized by the National Society—the society formed early in the 19th century to educate children of the poor in the principles of the Established Church, whereas S. Chrysostom's School was the courageous venture of an individual church. At first a Sunday School, it shortly became a Day School also.

From the early records we learn that nineteen children were admitted the first week, thirteen under seven years of age, with Miss Sarah Ann Lomax as mistress in charge. The Infants paid fees of fourpence a week, the Girls sixpence. Presumably Boys over seven were

not admitted until later. From the first stationery order we get a glimpse of the work done in that little school. Here it is:—

One dozen large slates.
One „ small slates and chalk.
Two „ copy books and pens.
One „ Prayer books.
One „ Bibles.

To these we may doubtless add some reading and spelling books. Besides the "3 R's" a little music and perhaps some needlework were taught. We can picture those little girls learning to sew, for the Government Code of 1877 was very explicit in its demands, as can be judged from this extract from the regulations:—

Infants' Department. 1st Standard 3 to 5 (probable age).
Position drill, hemming, simple, on strips beginning with black cotton, rising to red, and going on to blue. To show any garment which can be made entirely of these, e.g., a child's common pinafore.

2nd Standard. 5 to 7 (probable age).
Threading needles, hemming, seaming, felling, pleating. Any garment which can be entirely completed with the above stitches only, e.g., a child's plain shift.

Knitting—two needles—A strip 3 x 18 inches, with cotton.

Every Friday morning the Rev. W. Marsden read the Prayers and when the school closed for the first Christmas holidays each child, we are told, was presented with a mince pie by the Rector and Mrs. Marsden.

In January, 1877, the numbers had increased to fifty-three and Annie Batley Winterbottom came to help as monitress. A monitress had to be over twelve years of age and to have passed the examination in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic for Standard IV. The managers must pay her a "fixed stipend" and she must give assistance in the school for not more than three hours each day, receiving for the rest of the school hours special instruction. As the little monitress was over twelve years old she would have learnt cutting-out and would already have made "every kind of ordinary garment required in a large family."

Then on May 2nd, 1877, the first Government examination was held—an important day in the life history of the school, for those were the days of "payment by results." The Rev. W. J. Kennedy, M.A., Her Majesty's Inspector, visited the school, and as a result of that examination the school received a Government Grant of £17 11s. 4d., with the comment: "This little school has made a good start." It is interesting to note throughout the close connection between Church and School. On October 12th, 1877, for instance, the schools were closed for a party in celebration of the consecration of the Church the following day by the then Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Fraser.

By May, 1880, the average attendance had increased to sixty-two, with a Government Grant of £47 5s. 0d. But the outstanding event of that year was the move in July to the new building in Clarendon Road, the road is first mentioned in 1883, the new and handsome schoolroom referred to by the inspector in his report for 1881. That inspector was H. E. Oakley, Esq., late Fellow and Lecturer of Jesus College, Cambridge. He was appointed in charge of the Manchester district in 1878 and lived at Ashfield, Victoria Park. Later he became Chief Inspector for Schools in the North-Western Division of England.

The number of children now increased to 129, but with the increase in numbers we read the unwelcome entry in September, 1880: "Corporal punishment instituted."

A happier record for the year 1881-1882 gives S. Chrysostom's in the list of schools passing best in the annual examination: 99 per cent. of the children passed and precise details are given such as the average number of errors per child in spelling (.7) and the number of sums right (90 in every 100). Again, of the 23 Mixed Schools in Manchester, S. Chrysostom's and one other are the only schools in that year to reach this high standard of achievement.

The school evidently met a very real need in the neighbourhood, for in October, 1882, the numbers justify the appointment of a headmaster for the boys—Mr. J. T. S. King.

Mr. Oakley reported three times on the Manchester schools between 1878 and 1886 and we learn from his last report that the numbers in S. Chrysostom's School had risen to 212, with a Government Grant of £219 15s. 4d.

The dual system of public elementary education was developing side by side, the voluntary schools having led the way. It is interesting to compare the cost per child in 1885 in the two types of school:—

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Board Schools, non-denominational schools provided by local authorities and maintained out of rates and Parliamentary Grants | £2 5 4 |
| (b) Voluntary or denominational schools, built by subscriptions aided by Parliamentary Grants, not by rates and controlled by non-elected managers | £1 15 9½ |

The contribution paid by the children in the former was 9s. 4d. and in the latter 11s. 2¾d.

It was in that year Miss Jessie Chadwick came to the school as a pupil teacher. Pupil teachers gradually replaced the earlier monitors. Higher qualifications were demanded and apprenticeship to the school for a period of five years. At the end of that period they were eligible for the Queen's Scholarship, which was held at one of the Training Colleges. The appointment of a pupil teacher throws a further light on the school at that time, for before a pupil teacher was authorized the inspector was to report on the head teacher, the school and the local resources.

Miss Chadwick in a recent letter recalling early days gives a vivid account of the neighbourhood:—



"Upper Brook Street was vastly different in those days. We lived in February Street. Only part of March Street was built; for the rest nothing but fields and a good-sized farm where the College of Domestic Economy now stands. Towards town the same big house next to 290 and nothing but fields till one came to a farm where the Bowling Green Hotel now stands. On the other side the Armenian Church, then fields, right away to High Street. . . My colleague, Maggie Hart, came to school from the corner of Alexandra Grove and Plymouth Grove across the field. There was a big farm where the Baths now stand. Maggie Hart was afraid of the geese and carried bread to throw to them to occupy their attention till she got past. During winter weather she had to come down to Lincoln Grove, where a few houses were then built, and along the cutting which became Clarendon Road. Upper Brook Street was quite out in the country then. There were no shops nearer than Brunswick Street."

The year 1887 is marked by two events. On April 7th the new Infants' Room is opened, overcrowding having endangered the previous year's grant. On May 3rd and 4th the School is closed for the Royal visit. The Prince and Princess of Wales came to open the Royal Jubilee Exhibition at Old Trafford—the Exhibition which "Punch" (May 14th, 1887) calls, "The gem of the Jubilee," when urging his readers to go to Manchester if they really want a perfect article, a superb model. Certainly school attendance suffered that summer and autumn. The concern of the headmistress is revealed by the entry on November 4th: "This week, the last children's



week at the Exhibition, the attendance has been wretched." Fortunately, however, for the children, this did not prevent their being given a half holiday the following day—"in honour of the 5th November."

On July 12th, 1905, the School is again closed for a Royal visit, that of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra. On that occasion breakfast was given to all the children and a box of chocolates.

The opening of the new Infants' Room in 1887 gives particular point to the inspector's report that year for the district, with its special section on Infant Schools and Kindergartens. Then, as now, the Government was anxious to further the development of technical education, and the value attached to infant training is evident in the mind of the inspector who wrote, "so important is it to make our infant schools in these large manufacturing centres the cradles of technical education." But, alas, "the infant schools in Manchester are weak."

Let us hope, however, that the following account gives a truer picture of our little school in the eighties: "The best infant schools present an attractive appearance from the walls being covered with good pictures for object lessons—prints or photographs—whilst there are always flowers on the teacher's table when they can be procured; and it is delightful to see the children themselves with bright and eager faces."

It is in this year we find the statement that voluntary effort is waning and two years later in another report, a paragraph, which throws an interesting light on the Manchester of that day.



"Manchester and its neighbourhood swarm with benevolent and wealthy people. But, except in a few rare cases, they display no practical interest in the public elementary schools. From no want of will but rather because the subject has never been brought before them."

One of those rare cases was Mr. Horsfall, whose never-failing interest in Art in schools will long be remembered.

It is pleasant to read that in the nineties the School is a pioneer in arranging Cookery Classes for girls, eighteen to twenty of the older girls going each Friday to town by horse bus to the College of Cookery in S. Mary's Parsonage, where they walked in crocodile fashion between morning and afternoon classes. We learn also of Drill Displays, of Drawing for girls as well as boys taught by a visiting master; and, perhaps most surprising of all, Chemistry for girls as far back as 1884.

Several pleasant happenings are recorded in those last years of the century, such as the visit to Owen's College Museum on March 18th, 1896, to Whitworth Park on February 17th, 1899, to see the loan collection of pictures, and to the theatre on March 1st, 1900, to see Mr. Benson's company in "As You Like It." All going to prove that the little school continued to deserve its good name—"one of the best girls' schools in the district."

1902 is another important date in the history of Education. The Education Act of that year did away with School Boards and School Attendance Committees, and established in their place County and County Borough Authorities with power to form an Education Committee. As far as Church Schools were concerned the local authority now took over responsibility for all secular instruction given in them, inspected the school and confirmed the appointment of teachers.

"For each voluntary school there shall be a body of four 'foundation managers' together with not more than two managers representing the local authority." So runs the clause in the Act, and from that day to this the School is governed under its ruling.

1903 sees the school organised into three departments under three separate heads, but on the retirement in 1922 of Mr. King, who held office for nearly forty years and who will be remembered by many old scholars, the School became again a two-department School. The boys and girls over eight years of age worked upstairs under the headship of Miss A. E. Cox, the younger children meanwhile downstairs in the charge of Miss D. Cordukes. A Nursery Class for children under five years of age was opened in 1920, and two years later the managers, with generous help from the Church, undertook some essential alterations and additions.

With the new floors laid only last year, we need not be ashamed of our School building. But more important still than the building is the life of the School itself, and of that, as a School for children from 3 to 11 years of age under Miss Mildred Taylor and the present assistant staff, the Church, the parents and the children may well be proud.

Good work invites good support; the School belongs to the Church, we are responsible for the upkeep of the building. For that, we need a steady income of not less than £50 a year. Would it not be possible to form a Guild of Friends of the School in this year of its Diamond Jubilee? There must be many old scholars and others who would be glad to help in this way now that the need of the School is brought before them.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES

APPENDIX I.

RECTORS OF S. CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Rev. William Marsden... 1877—1899 | 4. The Rev. Benjamin Pollard... 1924—1928 |
| 2. The Rev. J. B. S. Barratt ... 1899—1911 | 5. The Rev. R. H. W. Roberts 1928—1932 |
| 3. The Rev. C. R. Pattison Muir 1911—1924 | 6. The Rev. W. Preston ... 1932— |

APPENDIX II.

HEAD TEACHERS OF S. CHRYSOSTOM'S SCHOOL.

Girls' and Infants' Department.

I.

Sept. 4, 1876—Sarah Annie Lomax.
 Jan. 28, 1878—Elizabeth Ann Stubbs.
 July 9, 1880—Elizabeth Horsfield.
 Mar. 22, 1886—Marie Louise Gannon,
 L.L.A. (Mrs. Sansom).
 Sep. 2, 1901—Jane Sheldon.
 Jan. 6, 1908—Amelia E. Cox.
 Aug. 25, 1930—Mildred Taylor
 (Junior Mixed and Infants).

II.

Headmaster.
 Oct. 6, 1882, to July, 1922—J. T. S. King.

III.

Infants' Department.
 Opened May, 1903.
 May, 1903—Amy Isabel Marshall
 (Mrs. Richards).

HEAD TEACHERS OF S. CHRYSOSTOM'S SCHOOL.III.—*Continued.*

Aug. 15, 1904—Mabel A. Goddard
(Mrs. McMichael).

Aug. 15, 1910—Maud Brown.

Nov. 2, 1916—Alice Marsden
(Mrs. Davies).

Aug. 23, 1920—Daisy A. Cordukes.

Aug. 25, 1930—Mildred Taylor
(Junior Mixed and Infants).

REPORT OF INSPECTION BY HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS.

This School was reorganized as a Junior Mixed and Infants' Department in August, 1930, when the present Headmistress was appointed, and the classes now range from a Nursery Class to Standard IV.

The children in the Nursery are receiving a good training and their natural powers are developing spontaneously in a suitable environment. Careful individual records of the scholars are started in this class, and are continued as the children go up through the School.

There is an atmosphere of confidence in the two Infant classes and the children, in addition to acquiring good social habits, are learning the rudiments of Reading, Writing and Numbers in a sensible way, by the use of some well-devised individual apparatus.

The standard of work is more variable in the three Primary classes. Standard I contains a number of children with indifferent health records. Considerable thought is being paid, however, to their treatment, and their work should improve. The small Standard II is generally alert and responsive, and in the composite Standards III and IV sound progress is being made.

Handwork occupies an important place in the curriculum, although it could be carried still further in the top classes on the lines discussed during the visit. The needlework is pleasantly varied and a real attempt is made to teach good sewing habits. This is very creditable in view of the shifting population in the school.

Other good results are the successful work in Speech Training and the steady developments that are taking place in the study of Nature. The Singing is marked by the good tone and the clear articulation.

The attractively decorated rooms and the general orderliness that prevails also make their impress upon the character of the School.

To sum up, since the reorganisation and the appointment of the present Headmistress, a marked improvement in all directions is discernible, and in existing circumstances still further progress should be made in the future.

S. CHRYSOSTOM'S SCHOOL REPORTS.

Diocesan Report, May, 1934.

The opening worship in this School is conducted quietly and reverently and is a good training in Christian worship. The children enter into the real spirit of worship and the hymns are well rendered.

Careful instruction has been given in the Church Catechism and it is encouraging to report on the intelligent answers given in the Upper Standards in connection with the seasons of the Church.

Holy Scripture is well taught and the children are able to connect its teaching with that of the Prayer Book.

Written and expression work reach a good standard and the dramatisation by the Infants was conducted in the right manner.

The tone of the School is good, and the staff are to be commended on the results obtained.

G. W. SKEET.

STANDARDS IV & V. 1935-36.

V.	
Boys.	Girls.
Ernest Birch.	Joan Buckley.
James Fenton.	Hilda Millar.
Harold Wallwork.	
Alan Webber.	
Alan Wilkinson.	

IV.—Continued.

Bernard Mayers.	Mauda Platt.
Thomas Murray.	Ida Redman.
Harold Owens.	Marie Smith.
George Miller.	

STANDARD III. 1935-36.

IV.		Boys.		Girls.
Boys.	Girls.			
John Blaylock.	Winifred Brown.	Kenneth Bunting.	Joyce Blaylock.	
Geoffrey Cox.	May Collinge.	Leslie Caplan.	Janet Clift.	
Ronald Green.	Joyce Dunncliffe.	Kenneth Dixon.	Marjorie Eadson.	
Thomas Gandy.	Harriet Dickens.	Geoffrey Hargreaves.	Flora Longden.	
Richard Johnson.	Sallie Gittins.	Eric Marshall.	Lilian Royle.	
Arthur Knapper.	Olwyn Greaves.	Donald MacVittie.	Marjorie Richardson.	
Harry Longden.	Elsie Haughton.	George Millar.	Vera Saunders.	
Reginald Loomes.	Alice Malone.	John Myatt.	Joyce Walker.	
Donald Macpherson.	Joan Mottershead.	Albert Ratcliffe.	Marcelle Vinand.	
		Gregory Redford.	Doris Cole.	
		James Tomlinson.	Alma Gudgeon.	
			Kathleen Campbell.	

STANDARD II. 1935-36.**Boys.**

Charles Bowyer.
Robert Booth.
Harvey Cartledge.
Roy Campbell.
William Foster.
George Gandy.
Leslie Haughton.
Tom Lyon.
John Murray.
Charles Macpherson.
Arthur Webber.
Douglas Mellon.
Frank Stanford.

Girls.

Anita Ainsworth.
Norma Boulton.
Marion Blakeman.
Jean Caplan.
Doreen Gittins.
Betty Johnson.
Alice Jones.
Kathleen Jones.
May Knapper.
Dorothy Mottershead.
Rita Myatt.
Edna Mycock.
Pamela Redford.
Lilian Singleton.
Marjorie Snowley.
Mary Surtees.
Evelyn Walsh.
Emily Miller.
Ellen Ellerton.
Edna Taylor.

STANDARD I. 1935-36.**Boys.**

Ronald Boulton.
Leonard Bunting.
Thomas Cox.
Jack Devlin.
Eric Eaves.
Philip Fenton.
Ronald Gale.
Robert Green.
Robert Longden.
Hugh Lyon.
James Orange.
Jack Stewart.
Alan Walsh.
Edwin Wilkinson.
Kenneth Jones.
Jack Brody.
Derek Jones.
Charles Doyle.
Merton Goldstone.

Girls.

Winifred Bowyer.
Betty Denvers.
Maureen Dooley.
Joyce Collinge.
Thelma Hindle.
Marriane Hutchison.
Marian Jennings.
Eva Johnson.
Sylvia Moran.
Lily Mayers.
Joyce Miller.
Dorothy Singleton.
Gladys Smith.
Gwen Smith.
May Taylor.
Gertrude Tomlinson.
Kathleen Shepherdson.
Peggy Southby.
Doreen Tudor.
Mary Moseley.

SIXES CLASS. 1935-36.

Boys.

Brian Andres.
Fred Dunncliffe.
James Foster.
Alan Gittins.
Eric Goldstone.
Wilfred Gorton.
Ivor Levi.
Gerald Lewis.
Charles Morton.
Eric Riggs.
Ronald Reynolds.
Harold Saunders.
Wilfred Spinks.
Kenneth W. Waterfall.

Girls.

Josephine Cohen.
Elizabeth Doyle.
Nellie Green.
Vera Jones.
Ruth Leggatt.
Joan Lewis.
Anastacia Lyon.
Pamelle Loomes.
Audrey Pope.
Beryl Pownall.
Jean Rowe.
Beryl Summerscales.
Audrey Ratcliffe.

FIVES CLASS.—Continued.

Edwin Cundiff.
Frank Foster.
Reggie Gratton.
Dennis Gleave.
Harold Gittins.
Donald Johnson.
Walter Jones.
Edward Jennings.
Billy Jukes.
Raymond King.
Eric Knapper.
Dennis Longden.
Frank Price.
Kenneth Parlby.
Ronald Rucker.
Robert Schofield.
Thomas Sedgewick.
Wilfred Spinks.
Kenneth Waterfall.
Stanley Westwood.
Thomas Mairs.
Harold Pike.

Joyce Goodwin.
Ivy K. Guest.
June D. Holden.
Mavis Jones.
Joan King.
Anastacia Lyon.
Beryl Mayers.
Edna Millar.
Eunice O'Neill.
Jean Price.
Gillian Redford.
Margaret Shandley.
Muriel Vinand.
Doreen Walker.
Barbara Webber.

FIVES CLASS. 1935-36.

Boys.

Roy Astin.
Roy S. Bowyer.
John Booth.
Ronald Cooper.

Girls.

Patricia J. Booth.
Joan Dooley.
Joyce Elwell.
Meryl Fenton.

NURSERY. 1935-36.

Boys.

Jack Allum.
Derick Brown.
Ronald Brown.
Kenneth Bowden.
Harry Bowden.
John David Chatwood.
Jack Cooke.
Peter Norman Dixon.
John Dooley.
Peter Elsey.
Maurice Elsey.
Frank Foster.
Harold Gittins.
Denis Gleave.
Freddy Green.
Stewart Garnett Jones.
Brian Jervis.
David Longden.
Bernard Mulvey.
Frank Myatt.
Kenneth Parlby.
Joe Rowlands.
Billy Royle.
Freddy Singleton.
Gordon Grundy Smith.

Girls.

Jean Bowker.
Dorothy Burgess.
Rita Craddock.
Estelle Davidson.
Sheila Davies.
Myra Eyre.
Doreen Gandy.
Joyce Gittins.
Jean Gittins.
Betty Gorton.
Edith Green.
Norma Holden.
Edna Jackson.
Doreen Kellett.
Lucy Knapper.
Margaret Lyon.
Jean McCaslin.
Anne Osborne.
Joan Alma Pettener.
June Pike.
Audrey Rowe.
Doreen Salmon.
June Vinand.
Muriel Vinand.