

CHORAL EVENSONG

in

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

on the

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

of the founding of

S.KATHARINE'S COLLEGE AND ST.ELPHIN'S

SCHOOL

WARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th, 1994, at 3.30 p.m.

In 1697 a Charity was founded at Warrington for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Clergymen within the Archdeaconry of Chester, which then included much of the counties of Cheshire and Lancashire and which now covers the dioceses of Chester, Manchester and Liverpool and part of the diocese of Blackburn.

From the accumulated income of that Charity a School for Clergy Daughters and a Training School for Elementary School Mistresses were both founded at Warrington in 1844. They opened in the same building just to the East of Warrington Parish Church. The Clergy Daughters' School began with three pupils and the Training Institution with just two. The surroundings were then quite pleasant, but as the century went on the area became increasingly industrialised and the air polluted. An outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred. Both members and buildings grew and developed throughout the rest of the 19th century. By its end an impressive collection of buildings existed.

The Hon. and Revd. Horace Powys, Rector of Warrington from 1832 to 1854, played a leading part in the founding of both Institutions. As Rector, he was *ex-officio* Secretary of the Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund. He was also the first Secretary of the Chester Diocesan Board of Education, formed in 1839, which was also much concerned with the Training Institution for School Mistresses. No doubt his influence, along with the fact that Warrington was geographically almost at the centre of the diocese, had much to do with the new Institutions being located there. He retained a keen interest in both bodies until his death in 1877 and is still regarded by them both as their Founder.

In 1904 St. Elphin's School for Clergy Daughters moved to Darley Dale. The Warrington Training College continued at Warrington and took over the buildings of the School. Plans for moving it elsewhere were being considered before it was burnt down on 28th December, 1923. Only the Chapel, now St. Elphin's Community Centre, survived. The College was eventually rebuilt in 1930 as S.Katharine's College, Liverpool, and is now federated with Christ's & Notre Dame College in the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education.

Although both institutions have long left Warrington they have always kept up and remembered the Warrington connection. The Rector has always been a governor of St. Elphin's, Darley Dale and the Annual Meeting of the Governors has always been held at Warrington, recently in the St. Elphin's Community Centre. S.Katharine's, too, has always remembered Warrington, especially with the help of remaining and active members of the Old Warrington Students' Guild and its secretary, Miss Marion Walton.

A visible memorial to the links between the two institutions and Warrington Parish Church can be seen in the stained glass windows, originally from the old Chapel, which were placed in the South Aisle of the church in 1984.

(Based on an extract from the *St. Elphin's Chronicle*, April 1994 Vol.106)

Please stand as the procession enters

**Welcome by The Revd.Canon J.O. Colling
The Rector of Warrington**

HYMN

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him, and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.
3. O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.
5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the Angel-host,
Be praise and glory evermore. AMEN.

Minister : Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice, unto the throne of heavenly grace, saying after me:

Please sit or kneel to say :

Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults: Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. AMEN.

Bishop : Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

All : Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. AMEN.

Minister : O Lord, open thou our lips.

All : And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Minister : O God, make speed to save us.

All : O Lord, make haste to help us.

All stand

Minister : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

All : As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. AMEN.

Minister : Praise ye the Lord.

All : The Lord's Name be praised.

Please sit.

PSALM 127 Music by Betty Roe composed especially for the School's 150th Anniversary (Sung by St. Elphin's Choir)

Nisi Dominus Frustra.

Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early,
to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows,
for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man.
So are children of the youth.

Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them:
they shall not be ashamed, but they shall
speak with the enemies in the gate.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be.

World without end.

Nisi Dominus Frustra. Amen.

A reading from the Old Testament (read by Mr. Peter Pollard, Headmaster of St. Elphin's School)
Isaiah, 30: 18-21

Yet the Lord is waiting to show you his favour, yet he yearns to have pity on you; for the Lord is a God of justice. Happy are all who wait for him!

O people of Zion who dwell in Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. The Lord will show you favour and answer you when he hears your cry for help.

The Lord may give you bread of adversity and water of affliction, but he who teaches you shall no longer be hidden out of sight, but with your own eyes you shall see him always.

If you stray from the road to right or left you shall hear with your own ears a voice behind you saying, This is the way; follow it.

MAGNIFICAT in B flat by Stanford (sung by the combined choirs)

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden,
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away,
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. AMEN.

A reading from the New Testament (read by Miss Marion Walton, Secretary to the Old Warringtonian Students' Guild)

Philippians 2: 1-13

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but

emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Please stand to sing : NUNC DIMITTIS

1. Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant thy servant
his discharge in peace.
2. All thy Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
Now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.
3. This thy great deliverance
sets thy people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.
4. Christ, thy people's glory!
watching, doubting cease;
Grant to us thy servants
our discharge in peace.

Please remain standing

All : I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in The Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Minister : The Lord be with you.

All : **And with thy spirit.**

Minister : Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel for prayer

Minister : Lord have mercy upon us.

All : **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Minister : Lord have mercy upon us.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. AMEN.

Please remain seated or kneeling.

Minister : O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All : **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister : O Lord, save the Queen.

All : **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Minister : Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

All : **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Minister : O Lord, save thy people.

All : **And bless thine inheritance.**

Minister : Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All : Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Minister : O God make clean our hearts within us.

All : And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

SECOND COLLECT : (For peace)

O God from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

THIRD COLLECT : (For aid against perils)

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

ANTHEM : 'I was glad when they said unto me' Parry (Sung by the combined Choirs)

I was glad when they said unto me we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

SERMON The Rt.Revd. Alan Chesters,
The Bishop of Blackburn

HYMN

1. 'Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord to thee;
Here at thy feet none other may we see:
'Lift up your hearts!; E'en so, with one accord,
We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.
2. Above the level of the former years,
The mire of sin, the slough of guilty fears,
The mist of doubt, the blight of love's decay,
O Lord of Light, lift all our hearts to-day!
3. Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,
The deeds, the thoughts, that honour may not name,
The halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,
O Lord of Truth, lift every Christian soul!
4. Lift every gift, that thou thyself hast given:
Low lies the best till lifted up to heaven;
Low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,
Till, sent from God, they mount to God again.
5. Then, as the trumpet-call in after years,
'Lift up your hearts!' rings pealing in our ears,
Still shall those hearts respond with full accord,
'We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!'

Please sit or kneel

(led by a student from S.Katharine's College and a pupil
from St. Elphin's School)

- Voice 1. Almighty God we give you thanks for the Church's work in education and in particular for the Anglican foundation of our School and College. We remember those through whose vision, faith and generosity St. Elphin's School and S.Katharine's College were founded.

Voice 2. Especially we give you thanks for our principal founder, Horace Powys, and the great company of those who, over the years, have served and built up our two communities.

Voice 1. We pray for the School's Old Girls' Guild, the College's group of Old Warringtonians and all past members of our communities.

Voice 2. That they may uphold the standards they learnt amongst us, and always endeavour to serve the communities in which they live.

Voice 1. We pray for all involved in the present life of our School and College. For all who serve, teach and learn.

Voice 2. Inspire them in their studies to seek and to love the truth, and enable them with joy and patience to share it with others.

Voice 1. As we give you thanks, Almighty God, for 150 years of Christian witness and learning, we pray for the future life of our School and College. Through your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit grant us vision for the future.

Voice 2. Strengthen us to uphold all that is of value in our tradition; give us courage to respond to change with faith and hope that we may meet the challenges of the future and seek to serve the coming generations, to the glory of your name.

AMEN.

HYMN :

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.
2. Crown Him the Virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
As of that Rose the Stem;
The Root whence mercy ever flows,
The Babe of Bethlehem.
3. Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No Angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.
4. Crown Him, the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round His piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

5. Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime,
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

BLESSING The Rt. Revd. David Sheppard
The Bishop of Liverpool

The procession will move to the grave of Horace Powys, then to the site of the old school and finally to the site of S.Katharine's chapel (Community Centre). You are welcome to follow the procession and join in the short acts of worship at each site, followed by tea at the Community Centre.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Warrington Parish Church Restoration Fund.

Minister : The Revd.Dr. M.D. Chilcott
Organist : Dr. Ian Sharp, S.Katharine's College
Choral Director : Mr. Stephen Yeo, St. Elphin's School.