



ST. GILES

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THE CHURCH OF
ST. GILES
WEST BRIDGFORD
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



**DIAMOND JUBILEE
COMMEMORATION**
1898—1958



THE CHURCH OF
ST GILES
WEST BRIDGFORD
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



THE STORY OF SIXTY YEARS

1898 — 1958

By

Canon R. F. WILKINSON, M.A., F.S.A., R.D.,

Rector.



*"It shall be a Jubilee unto you."
Leviticus xxv., 10.*



*The Village Church
in 1894.*

The Church is dedicated to St. Giles, who was the patron Saint of cripples and wayfarers, and those who worked on farms and gardens. He was the first Abbot of St. Gilles, a famous Abbey in the South of France, near Arles, and originally lived in a cave as a hermit, with a pet fawn. There are 160 Churches of this dedication in England, and six of them in our own County.

The Church has been standing in the village for more than seven centuries, and we have a list of the Rectors from 1239. Probably the Church was originally built about 1230, by the Luterell family, who were Lords of the Manor, and were living at Gamston at that time. The oldest part is the South Wall of the Chancel, and Rector's door, visible in the picture on this page. About 1350, the small side Aisle was added, and at a later date, the walls of the Nave were raised, and the four upper windows in the Clerestory inserted to give more light. The porch was re-built about the same time, and finally the Tower erected about 1480, to contain three bells—two of which from the Mellers Bell Foundry of Nottingham are still there—and the third was re-cast in 1813. On the outside of the Tower there is an inscription in Latin—"Christ the Stone of Help."



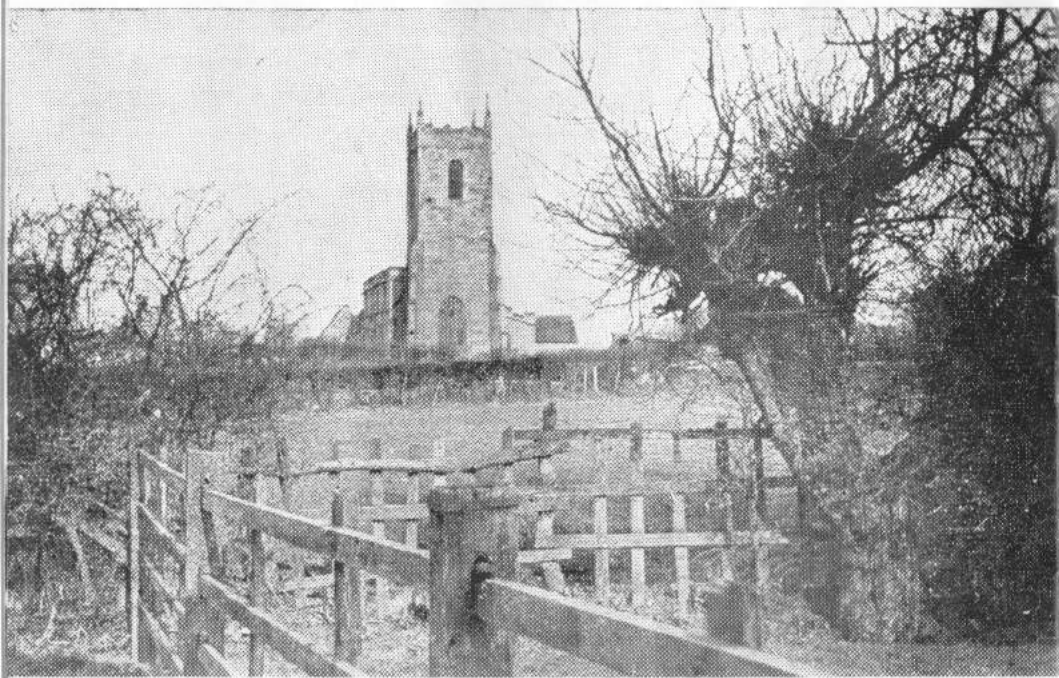
In 1871 a new Vestry and Organ Chamber were built, with a door and arch in the North Wall of the Chancel. These were removed in 1896. The Pews, placed in the Church in 1872, are in use to-day. The interior view shows the Old Screen (1380), and Pulpit, made from an older pulpit in 1872. The Communion Table is Elizabethan, the Silver Chalice bears the date 1659, and the registers begin in 1559. This was the old Church, known to generations of people in the village.

In April, 1894, the Rev. James Robinson became Rector of West Bridgford. He did a great work in the next eight years. At a public meeting in June, it was decided to build a new Church. Sites were considered on Melton Road and Henry Road, but eventually a better plan was found, by enlarging the old Church. With great energy and a devoted band of workers, funds were raised, and the foundation stone laid by Lady Byron on 28th October, 1896. The architects were Naylor and Sale of Derby, and the Contractors, Baines of Newark. On September 15th, 1898, the new Nave and Chancel were consecrated by Bishop Ridding of Southwell. The total cost was £5,700. A new Organ by Lloyd was purchased for £300. During the building of the new Church, Sunday Services were held in the School on Musters Road, and



*The last view of the
old Church, before it
was temporarily closed
in 1896.*





The Church in the fields from the foot-path under the railway, 1894.

the small south Aisle screened off for occasional services, marriages and funerals. The population in 1881 was 293, and by this time it was 6,000.

A Mission Church was built in Lady Bay district in 1898, enlarged in 1901, and again in 1906. The Rector was also in charge of Edwalton, and that Church was restored at the same time.

Children's Services were held in the Church School on Rectory Road every Sunday, and a Company of the Boys' Brigade was founded by Captain Swain, and these still continue the work begun in those days. Our own generation in this Jubilee year, and those who follow us, ought always to be grateful for the wise policy adopted by the Rector and Congregation of building a New Church to the Glory of God, beside the old, and thus preserving the link with centuries past.



The Church after Restoration in 1872.

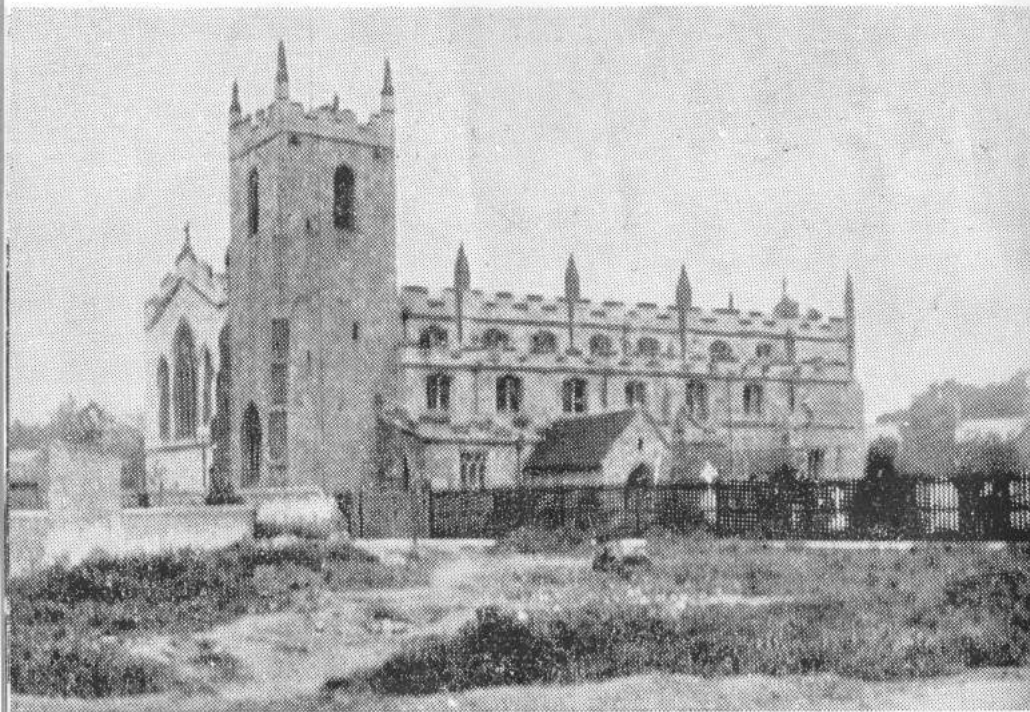


The Church, now the South Aisle, 1958.



The top photograph on opposite page shews the Church after the Restoration in 1872. The North wall was replaced by three arches in 1898, and the two lower windows from it are now in the Choir Vestry.

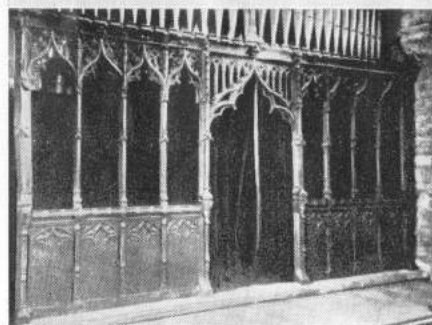
The lower photograph, taken from the same position shews the Church to-day.



The Church with the New Nave and Chancel after the Consecration in 1898. An old cottage which stood in front on Church Drive had been pulled down.



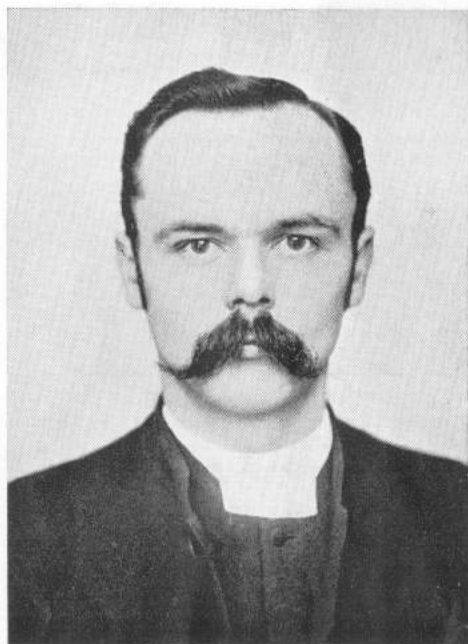
The old South Aisle, used for Marriages and Funerals when the Church was closed for two years, while the New Church was built beside it.



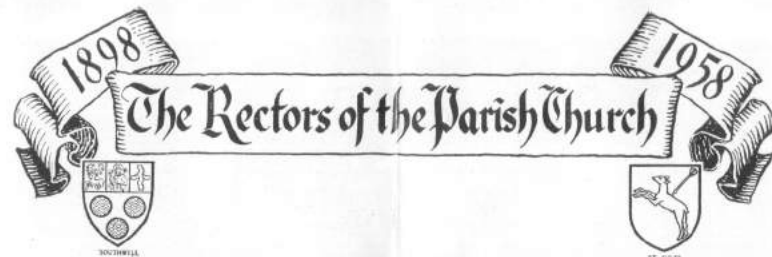
The Screen was moved to the east, the Chancel Arch rebuilt above, and the organ placed behind it in the Old Sanctuary. This Screen, restored in 1871, was formerly the Rood Screen and was placed in the Church about 1380.



The Nave and the Chancel were consecrated by Bishop Ridding in 1898, and a temporary Aisle erected on the north side. The Clergy Stalls and Iron Screen were given at the same time. The Lectern was given by the Sunday School, and the old pulpit was moved into the new Nave, until it was replaced by a new one in 1948. The East window, and Choir Stalls were given as a War Memorial, in 1920. The Reredos was given to the Church in 1923, and the processional Cross in 1925. The Altar is a memorial to the late Rector, Canon C. N. Hatfield. The walls are of Coxbench Stone, and the roofs of pine.

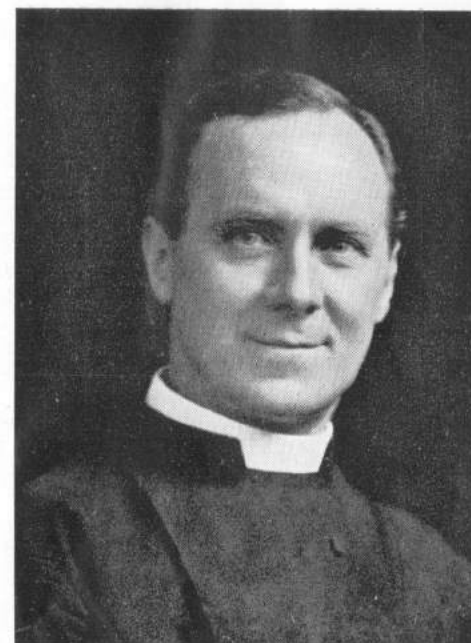


Rev. James Robinson, M.A., 1894-1903.



Educated at Peterhouse, Cambridge, he was Ordained by the Bishop of Chester in 1885, and served as Curate and Vicar in Lancashire until 1893. After eight years as Rector of this Parish, he was advised to accept a lighter task, and became Vicar of Altham, and then Read-in-Whalley. In 1942 he moved to Quarndon, and afterwards to Beeley, and eventually to Mitton. In 1936, at the close of a Ministry of fifty years, he retired to Broughton near Preston. He died on August 22nd, 1946, in his 85th year.

After taking his degree at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1897, he was Ordained by the Bishop of London in 1898, and served as Curate in the two large parishes of St. Peter and Holy Trinity, Islington. He was the Rector of this Parish for twenty-six years, and Rural Dean of West Bingham 1918-1928. He became Rector of Warmingham, Cheshire in 1930, and remained there until he resigned in 1946. He lived in retirement at The Hill, Sandbach, until his death on 15th June, 1955.

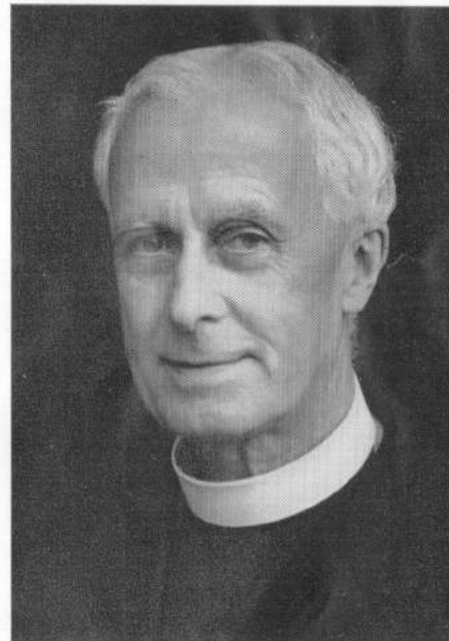


Rev. Richard Hargreaves, M.A., 1904-1930.

Scholar of Hatfield Hall, Durham, he took his degree in 1904, and was Ordained in the Diocese of Oxford in 1906. After serving four years as Curate of Sulhamstead, Berkshire, he came to assist the Rev. F. W. Paul at Emmanuel Church for six years 1910-1916. He served overseas as Chaplain to the Forces for a year, and was then appointed Vicar of Sutton-cum-Lound. He became Rural Dean of Retford in 1925, and moved to West Bridgford when he became Rector in 1930. For some time he was also Rural Dean, and Canon of Southwell (North Leverton), until his life and work for the Church were brought to a close on 15th June, 1940.

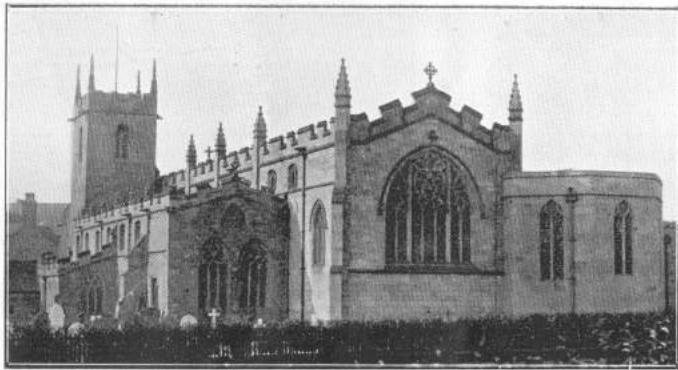


Canon Cyril Northcote Hatfield, M.A., 1930-40.



Canon Reginald Felix Wilkinson, M.A., 1941.

Formerly Exhibitioner and Scholar of Jesus College, Oxford, he was Ordained by the Bishop of Southwell in 1914. His first Curacy was with Canon H. L. Marsh at St. Andrew's, Derby, sometimes called the "Midland Railway Church." After service in the Army for a short time, in 1919, he moved to Mansfield, and was Curate for six years at the Parish Church. He was the Rector of Ordsall, 1925-1940, and has been Rector of West Bridgford since 1941. In the same year he was appointed Canon of Southwell (Norwell Tertia Pars), and Rural Dean of West Bingham in 1947.



The East end of the Church, with the new North Aisle. The foundation stone, which was laid in 1896, is under the East window, but the Church was not finally completed until 1912.

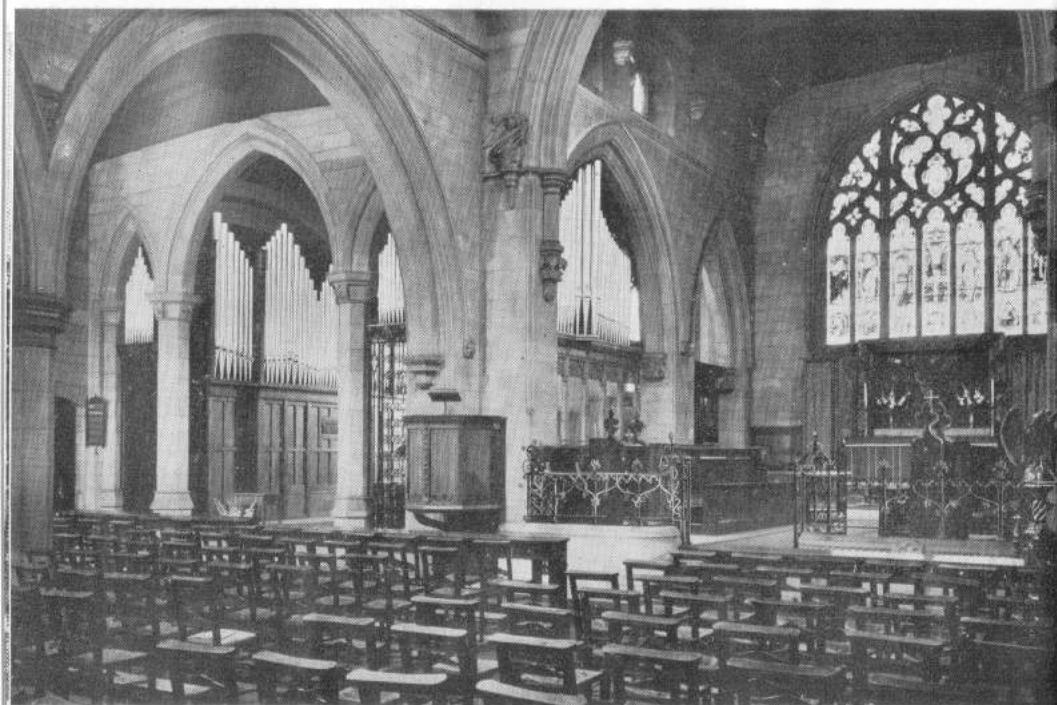


The North Aisle in 1911. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Heymann on the morning of the Coronation of King George V, and the Royal permission given by a letter from the Lord Chamberlain to call it "The King George Aisle."



The North Aisle and Side-Chapel, dedicated in 1912, are large enough to be a separate church. In the North Wall, is the arch of the Founder's Tomb moved from the old Chancel, and a military effigy known as "The Stone Man," which formerly was used as a boundary stone of the Manor of Nottingham, on the Melton Road.

The Rev. Richard Hargreaves was appointed Rector in 1904, and found a rapidly growing parish. The Church was attended by large congregations, and many new houses were built. In 1911, the population of the parish was 12,000, and it was decided to complete the Church. The North Aisle was then built at a cost of £6,000, and dedicated in 1912. New Choir and Clergy Vestries were part of the scheme, and the Organ was moved from the old Chancel to the new Chapel in 1919. The War Memorial, East Window, and Choir Stalls resulted from a special appeal in 1920, and added greatly to the beauty of the Church. The work of the Church increased in many ways, and for a long time the people had felt the need of a Church Hall. This was realised in 1928, when the building was finished at a cost of £6,340, and it has since proved a great benefit to the Sunday Schools and for social work in many ways.



View from the South Door showing Organ and Chancel.

The organ was rebuilt and enlarged in 1952 at a cost of £7,000. It is now a large three-manual by Henry Willis, the builders of many Cathedral organs. It contains 40 stops and 2,000 pipes with electric action, and is one of the finest in the Midlands.

The new pulpit and sidescreen were given to the Church in 1948. The old Church could accommodate 190, the enlarged Church 700, and the present Church 1200.

Church life continued and flourished under the leadership of Canon Hatfield, who came to the Rectory in 1930. There was a debt on the Hall, which was soon paid with great assistance from the working party.

The Rector's work for Ex-Servicemen at this time will always be remembered.

The Croft Estate, consisting of property on the east side of the Church, had been bought privately many years before, and was transferred to the Church authorities in 1930. In 1934 the old Church was in need of restoration, and this was made possible by a generous offer from two members, Mr. Simmons and his sister.

At the same time, the old Chancel was furnished as a Side Chapel, which is always admired by those who visit the Church. St. Giles' Lodge gave a handsome Oak Screen for the South Door. Four stained glass windows were added at this time, and the great west window, depicting the Resurrection, was a memorial gift in 1936.

Great events sometimes have small beginnings. The first "Parish Room" was made out of the Rectory Coach-house shewn in the picture, in 1898. Now the Church Hall stands on the same spot and the same purpose is fulfilled on a greater scale in voluntary service and good work.

Naturally, the second war brought any further plans to an end, for the time being, and sometimes much anxiety was felt for the Church, especially one night when a shower of incendiary bombs fell all round and in the Churchyard. We were very thankful indeed that no damage was done.

In the North Chapel the central window was given by the British Legion as a war memorial in 1950, and the other was the gift of James Simons in 1946 commemorating sixty years as a member of the choir. Both are of beautiful design by James Powell of London.



The Rectory was built in 1865, when the Rev. W. R. Waters became Rector. For many years previously, the Rev. J. Peatfield, Curate-in-Charge, under the Rector of Colwick had lived in an older Rectory, which stood to the east of the present house. A large Cedar tree marks the old garden, and the present lawn was made from a field called Dovecote Close.



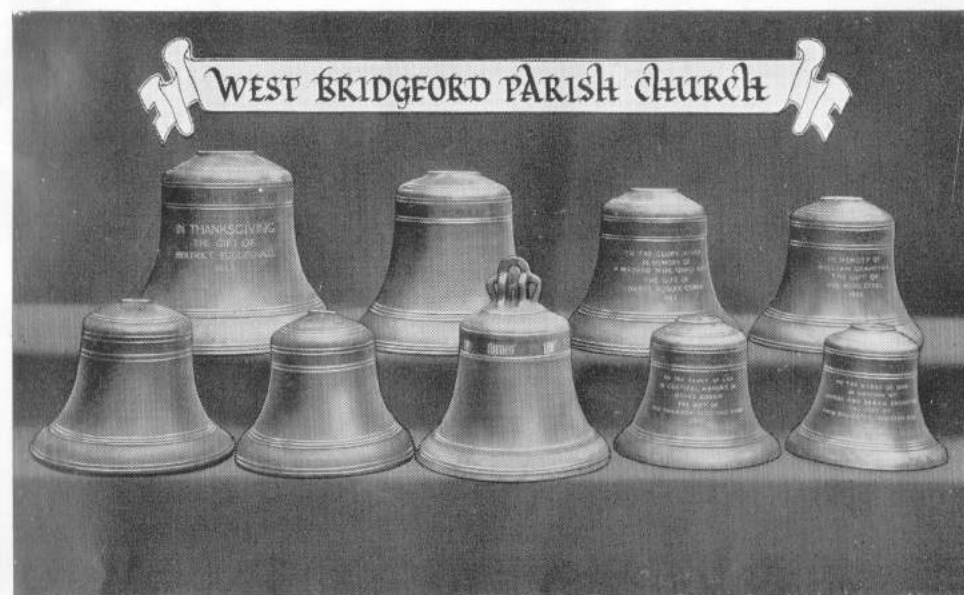
Church Drive—View from the Church Gate in 1923.

The Rectory Cottage and Coach-house, used as the Parish Room until the Church Hall was built in 1928.



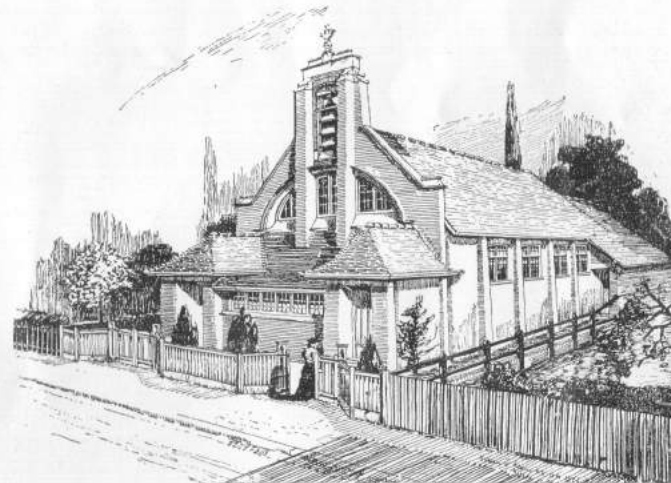
Church Drive—the same view with the Church Hall in 1958.

The Cottages on the left, the Church and Rectory are almost the last buildings left of the old village of Bridgford.



THE NEW PEAL OF EIGHT BELLS

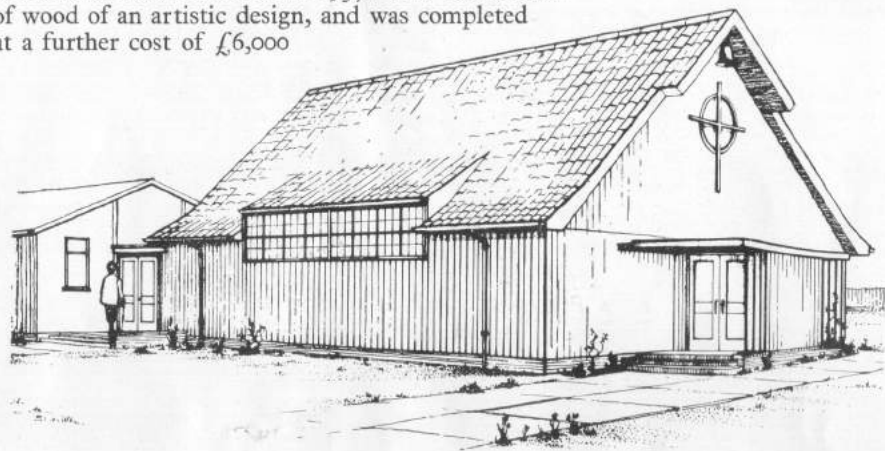
Installed in the Tower in 1956. The large Bell weighs half-a-ton. The Old Bell (centre) was cast by Richard Mellers, Mayor of Nottingham, in 1499.



The first Mission Church was built in Lady Bay in 1898. A new church was partly built in 1901 and was completed in 1906. In 1950, it was made a separate parish and the curate, Rev. J. Lee, became the first vicar. A new vicarage was purchased, and the parish is now in charge of Rev. A. R. Ennis. Many improvements have been made to the Church and Institute in recent years.

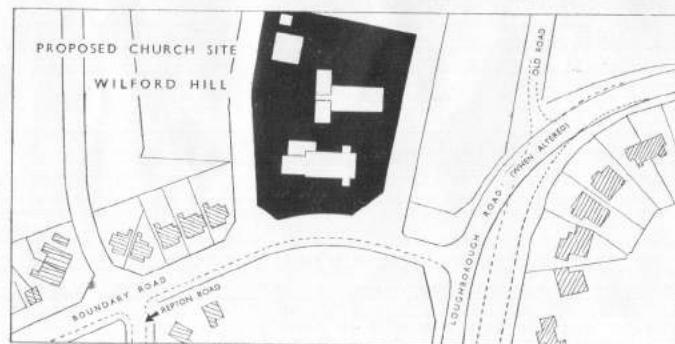
THE NEW CHURCHES

A Mission Hall was built for the new district near Alford Road in 1951, at a cost of £3,000. Church life expanded and flourished and the present Church of St. Luke was dedicated in 1957. It is constructed of wood of an artistic design, and was completed at a further cost of £6,000



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
Alford Road
WEST BRIDGFORD
NOTTINGHAM

Interior view of the Church furnished by the gifts of the congregation.



Site for a New Church and Hall on Boundary Road at the corner of Loughborough Road on Wilford Hill. The land was purchased in 1957 for £2,300.

"Others have laboured and ye are entered into their labours."

CURATES OF WEST BRIDGFORD

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Rev. A. H. MILLARD . . . | 1895-1898 |
| Rev. A. GADD . . . | 1898-1899 |
| Rev. A. H. SUTHERLAND . . . | 1898-1900 |
| Rev. H. H. SURGEY . . . | 1898-1902 |
| Rev. A. E. SIDEBOTHAM . . . | 1899-1902 |
| Rev. J. R. ROWLAND . . . | 1902-1903 |
| Rev. J. A. COOPER . . . | 1904-1906 |
| Rev. J. P. ABBEY . . . | 1905-1908 |
| Rev. H. COLDWELL . . . | 1906-1909 |
| Rev. J. PLEMING . . . | 1909-1910 |
| Rev. R. D. WELLER . . . | 1910-1913 |
| Rev. G. ANDERSON . . . | 1913-1922 |
| Rev. C. L. M. JUMEAUX . . . | 1922-1923 |
| Rev. B. P. HALL . . . | 1923-1924 |
| Rev. T. WILSON . . . | 1925-1927 |
| Rev. H. H. WADDINGTON . . . | 1928-1930 |
| Rev. H. W. MEAKIN . . . | 1930-1934 |
| Rev. G. G. ELLIOT . . . | 1930-1931 |
| Rev. A. DOXEY . . . | 1932-1941 |
| Rev. S. BUTLER . . . | 1935-1939 |
| Rev. C. H. B. WATSON . . . | 1937-1948 |
| Rev. P. W. GAGG . . . | 1939-1945 |
| Rev. W. T. P. WHEELER . . . | 1945-1946 |
| Rev. W. R. JOHNSON . . . | 1948 |
| Rev. J. LEE . . . | 1948-1950 |
| Rev. V. SYMONS . . . | 1948-1951 |
| Rev. E. W. SHEERAN . . . | 1952-1955 |
| Rev. D. A. E. WHITAKER . . . | 1953-1956 |
| Rev. R. J. FULLER . . . | 1955-1958 |
| Rev. F. E. BALDWICK . . . | 1958 |

PARISH CLERKS

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| J. ATKINSON . . . | 1896-1940 |
| J. H. BRADLEY . . . | 1940-1941 |
| J. H. HARRISON . . . | 1941-1951 |
| J. G. EVANS . . . | 1952-1953 |
| H. HYMAN . . . | 1954 |