

church's history. The first, for example, carried much-enlarged photographs of the charter making first mention of the "chapell" and of the charter granted by King John to the city. Another depicted the growth of St. Peter's in Church Street, and another the work of the church in administering the poor law. A fourth illustrated the changing exterior of the buildings and a fifth showed how the interior had altered with different emphases in theology and changing forms of worship. Two screens demonstrated how, in the eighteenth century, church after church was built to serve the rapidly expanding population of Liverpool, St. George's, for example, St. Paul's and St. John's, Haymarket, and how in the last sixty years the process has been reversed so that twelve parishes have been incorporated into that of Our Lady and St. Nicholas, their churches existing no longer because there is no longer anyone to use them.

It was altogether fitting that the rector of Liverpool, Canon Robert Nelson, who had conceived this imaginative and diverse programme, in celebration of the church's 700th birthday, and covering the whole of 1957, should have been consecrated bishop of Middleton at the beginning of 1958.

R. T. DAVIES

THE 650TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR, UP HOLLAND

In 1957, Up Holland parish celebrated an anniversary of its parish church. Like the small boy whose birthday was next Tuesday ("I'll be 6½"), Up Holland observes the half-century in memory of the foundation of her Church. In 1307, the then lord of the manor, Sir Robert de Holland, endowed a small chapelry which was to be served by two priests. The foundation changed somewhat over the years, and Up Holland Church has been successively a college of canons, a Benedictine priory, a chapel of ease, and a parish church.

The anniversary celebrations, both religious and secular, have been spread out over the whole of the year, beginning with a parish party for some two hundred church workers and members of the congregation in January. During June, there were two events of importance, and these constituted the highlight of the year's activity. The customary "Walking Day" procession of witness has always been a feature of church life

in the village, as it is in parishes throughout Lancashire. In this year, it was combined on 23 June, with a day of thanksgiving to God for the parish church. The bishop of Liverpool, and his suffragan, the bishop of Warrington, both preached at different times on this day. The following Saturday, 29 June, the school children presented a pageant of the history of the church on the U.D.C. playing fields after a further "Walk". On this occasion, the whole route was gay with bunting and decorations, and it is estimated that there were between 4,000 and 5,000 people present throughout the day, which finished with a firework display.

The next burst of activity took place in the autumn. In September (3rd, 4th, and 5th), the play by T. S. Elliot—"Murder in the Cathedral" was performed in the Church—an ideal setting for it. St. Thomas of Canterbury is our patron saint, which is, of course, why this play was chosen. On 13 October, the Harvest Thanksgiving was combined with the Feast of Dedication, and a past vicar and curate were invited to preach. Other activities included an appeal for £4,000, a newspaper which ran to three issues, and was distributed free to every house in the parish, and early in the year, a day of continuous prayer in Church to ask for God's blessing on all the other activities.

My colleague, Rev. J. R. Fenwick, wrote a short history of the Church, which is informative, balanced and pleasantly illustrated with drawings of architectural features and church furnishings. The booklet has been praised by competent critics as a model of what such short "occasional" histories should be, and it will probably be read and valued by many generations of Up Holland church members as well as by visitors to the church.

The final event of the year was unexpected and unrehearsed. The local cinema went out of business, and was bought by the Church. This was converted into a church hall in three months by voluntary labour—no mean task. In this, Up Holland surprised even itself.

R. A. WHEELER
Vicar of Up Holland