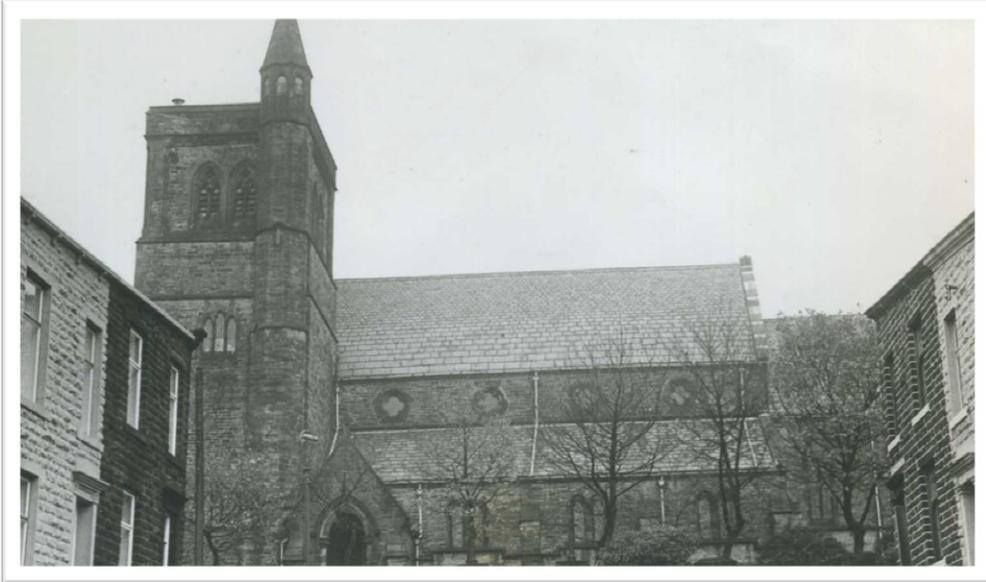


# Christ Church



The parish of Christ Church which was at one time of 1,000 acres was formed out of the parish of St Johns. The church was erected at a cost of about £3,000 and was opened on August 14th 1854 by the then vicar Mr McCubbin, who served as vicar for 32 years. The church was built by the Rev James Heyworth on land given by the Duke of Buccleugh and was consecrated by the Dr Lee the then Bishop of Manchester. Seven years later the day school was opened with a Mr Foster being the first headmaster.

The vicarage was erected in 1871 with additions added to the church in 1883. The day school was enlarged in 1877 but closed in 1895 when Robert Stewart was the last headmaster. The Rev J. S Doxey took over in 1888. The Rev H E Calvert followed Mr Doxey in 1909 and like his predecessor died whilst in office. Being proceeded in 1913 by the Rev C. S Rowland. Mr Roscoe succeeded Mr Rowland to the living which he was to maintain for 31 years. In 1949 the Rev A . L. M Davies, a former Army chaplain came to the parish and in 1950 saw the church tower be made fit for bell ringing. During the time the bells lay silent Mr Roscoe had called his parishioners to church by playing the organ.

It was also in 1950 that the centenary appeal fund was launched by the Rev Davies, which he set a target of 3,000 leaving in 1952 he was not fortunate enough to see this target reached. The briefest vicar of any at Christ church was in 1953 and this was the Rev John R T Stuart who died suddenly in December of 1953. The Rev Thomas Stanton pictured was the eighth vicar of Christ Church.

A soldiers window was erected in 1919 to commemorate the soldiers who had fallen during the Great War and in 1920 the unveiling of memorial photos of those men connected to Christ church who had died during the great war was unveiled along with an illuminated roll of honour. Reverend Raymond Harris came became vicar of the church in 1966 and left in 1982 to take up work in another parish.

