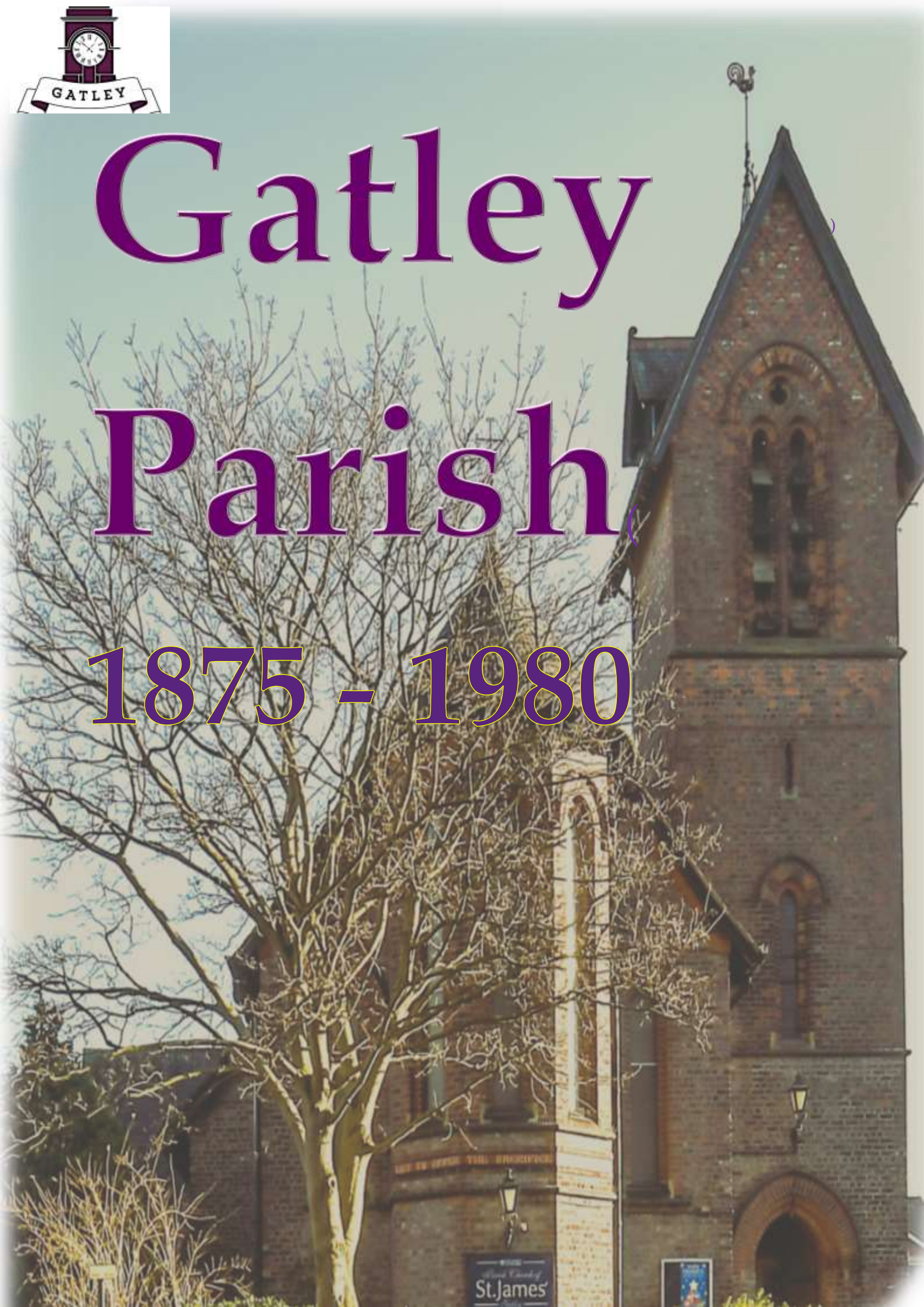




Gatley

Parish

1875 - 1980



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Contents

Illustrations.....	4
The Authors	8
Editor's Notes	9
Vicar's Foreword 1980	10
Vicar's Foreword 2022	10
Acknowledgements 1980.....	11
Acknowledgements 2022.....	11
Gatley in 1980	12
Introduction 1980	1
Introduction 2021	2
Chapter One. Old Gatley and High Grove	4
Wills of Henry Ryle, Yeoman, 1672, and Thomasine Ryle, 1698	30
Will of Roger Goodier, Yeoman, of High Grieve 1605	31
Chapter Two. St. James Church and School: 1875–1980.....	32
The Story of a Village School	33
Proposal for Church at Gatley, Stockport Etchells:.....	36
Present Church Officials	64
A Prayer for the 100th Anniversary	64
Chapter Three. Nonconformism and other Religions	65
In Conclusion	72
Bibliography	73

Illustrations

Frank and Teretta May Mitchell. Feb. 1980.....	8
Part of the Tithe Map of Gatley.1841	3
Official Map Showing the Parish of St. James the Apostle	4
The Cheadle Cross.....	6
Brick Field where the Cross was Found	8
Gatley Carrs c.1907	9
Northenden Ford c.1907	10
Kinsey's Farm c.1980	10
Gatley Old Hall c.1893	13
Gatley Hall May 1979.....	14
The Horse and Farrier. c.1875	15
Brookside c.1909.....	16
Goodier's Stable c.1908	16
Lea Cottage c.1878	17
Milton Cottage May 1979	17
Torkington Lodge c.1905. Plot 91	18
Tatton Coat of Arms.....	19
Harriet Susan Tatton	19
Thomas William Tatton, J.P. of Wythenshawe Hall c. 1862	19
Ancient Cottages on Gatley Green c.1874	20
Baxter Hall c.1880	21
Green Bank Farm 1979	21
Farm c.1928	22
Thomas Bailey, shoemaker, at his 16th century cottage c.1893.....	22
Photo of Thomas Bailey	22
Gatley's Oldest Shop, 27 Gatley Green c.1928	23
Cottages on Gatley Green c.1870	23
Gatley Hill House 3rd. January 1979	24
The Kendal Family c.1907.....	24
Gatley Hill Farm c.1938.....	25
High Grove House. c.1890.....	25
Lower House Farm 21 Sep. 1952.....	26

Fox Cubs 1970.....	27
Pymgate House c.1898	27
The Lowcock Family at Pymgate House c.1910	28
Waterfall Farm, now Gatley Golf Club 1971.....	28
High Grove Farm 1970.....	29
The Parish Church of St. Mary, Stockport. Engraving c.1810	32
St. Thomas's Church, Stockport. Woodcut 1825	32
The Church School of St. James, Gatley c.1877	33
Hugh Arthur Birley c.1874	33
St James' Quit Rents.....	34
Beechcroft 1968.....	36
Donations Promised to St James.....	37
Rev. Percy Mitchinor Herford c.1882.....	37
Laying the Foundation Stone of St James Church. Photo 10 July 1880	38
Children of the Church School 1880	39
Communion Plate 1970	39
Gatley Green c.1900.....	39
St. James Interior 1979	40
Stained Glass 1979	41
Highfield 1979	41
The Rev. John Bruster 1911.....	42
Millicent Bruster at Gatley Flower Show 1910	42
The Bruster Children 1894.....	42
The Vicarage c.1909	43
Vicarage Inscription 1979	43
The Rev. Thos. Shimwell 1903	43
Flower Show Committee 1911	44
George Griffin, Scoutmaster 1912.....	44
St. James National School Class 1903.....	45
The Rev J. Tyler Whittle c.1931	45
The First Guide Camp c.1930	46
The Processional Cross 1956	46
Scouts' Bob a Job 1954	46

Cubs and Friends May 1960	47
St. Catherine's, Heald Green 1933	47
St. Catherine's Church 7 September 1976.....	48
The Rev Stanley James Leather c.1933	48
Tithe Map of Heald Green 1841	48
Young Ladies Sunday School Class 1888	49
St. James' Bible Class Walking in the Procession of Witness 1959	49
Rambling with the Youth Club 1940.....	50
The Rev Arthur Ben Leaman and Family 1947	50
Mr Ernest Bird 1935.....	51
A Concert for the Red Cross January, 1944.....	51
The Sunday School 1949	52
Mother Church Pageant 1950.....	52
Procession of Witness 26th June 1955	53
Confirmation Class 8th March 1953.....	53
The Rev Arthur Lionel Manning, M.A. 13th September 1956.....	54
The Choir Sing at Chester 21st August 1965.....	55
Amateur Dramatic Society Play in church, April 1960	55
The Rev John Philip Lloyd c. 1964.....	56
Youth Fellowship Holiday 30th August, 1969.....	57
The Mothers' Union and the Women's Fellowship 1965	57
The Rev John Frederick Serjeant 19th November, 1969, taken at his induction	58
Mr and Mrs L. M. Hartley 1969	58
Local History Exhibition May 1970.....	59
The Talent Scheme 23rd April, 1971	59
The Brownies September, 1978.....	60
Guider Sisters 17 November 1969	60
The Queen's Silver Jubilee 3rd June, 1977.....	61
Vicarage Sherry Party 1st August, 1974	61
St. James' Choir 1979.....	62
Robert M. Rees 1976 and Charles John William Tustin 1980.....	63
Brian Dickin. Choirmaster and Organist and Alan Cook c.1980	63
The Rev Robert Edgar Read and his wife Joan 1980.....	63

Vicars of St James.....	64
Society of Friends Meeting House. Hillgate, Stockport. Engraving c.1865	66
Chamber Hall 1972	67
The Old Congregational Chapel c.1870	67
Gatley Congregational Church 1968	68
The Garden of Rest 26th October 1969	68
Primitive Methodists' Chapel c.1913	69
Interior of the Chapel, 1931. Taken at the last Harvest Festival. The chapel closed in 1932..	69
The Gatley Synagogue May 1977	71

The Authors

Frank and Teretta May Mitchell. Feb. 1980

Frank Mitchell was born in Levenshulme in 1911 and Teretta Mitchell in Ardwick in 1910.



The millstone in the background of the photograph sands on the south bank of the Micker Brook at Broadway, Cheadle. It was rescued from the ruins of Cheadle Higher Mill by the UDC c.1972, and placed on the plinth.

Editor's Notes

This is the fourth Gatley local history book I've had the privilege of editing and redesigning. It has not been easy. Keeping the Mitchell's many illustrations, each with its relevant text, became an 'interesting' (and frustrating at times) challenge. I hope readers will forgive any glitches they may find and instead enjoy the remarkable information provided by the original authors.

I have tried to keep the essence of the Mitchell's writing style while making it more accessible for the 21st century reader. A major change is that there is now a list of the more than 100 illustrations near the front of this book. This means that if you have a particular interest then you should be able to find this – and jump to it quickly – through clicking the link for one you want to see. The same is true of the table of contents.

It is important to note that this is only part of the Mitchell's original book 'Gatley A Pictorial History of the Parish of St James the Apostle', first published in 1980. We took the decision to do this because we wanted to have this book ready for the 100th Gatley Festival this year. There are a further nine chapters which have been partially edited but not published here. Anyone who is interested in taking on the rest of this project should contact Martin Davey and/or the current vicar.

Those of us involved in this project took the decision to keep the original dates, places and so on rather than updating these. Doing so would have completely changed the time in which the book was set. This means that some places mentioned will no longer exist or will have changed out of all recognition. But, remarkably, although Gatley has changed a great deal since the 1980s when this book was first published, much of our village remains as it was. Long may that continue.

Clare Forrest, July 2022

Vicar's Foreword 1980

People today are more and more interested in tracing their roots. It is not unusual for a parish priest to meet people who have come halfway round the world to trace some part of their family's ancestry. They are fascinated not only by church records, but by everything connected with the parish. Even those not born in this country feel they have come home. As vicar of the parish, I am pleased to be able to write this preface to this history of Gatley. This book is a valuable addition to the history of Cheshire and will be of interest to many beyond the area.

The publication of this history happily coincides with the centenary celebrations of St. James' church. The church has always been at the heart of the local community because Christianity itself is concerned with people and what affects their lives. My wife and I are glad to be part of the community of Gatley, and hope that in some way we may become part of each family in the parish.

Robert E. Read. 11980–1992 and 2007–2014

Vicar's Foreword 2022

I am delighted that a digital edition is now available. The history is a brilliant resource for those wanting to find out more about Gatley Parish.

The philosopher Simone Weil wrote about the 'need for roots'; of the human need to feel connected to a place, its history and present community. This pictorial history of Gatley provides a helpful resource for those who might be new to Gatley and are wanting to find out about its history up to 1981. The pictorial history is a treasure trove of pictures and historical insights which help the reader gain a sense of how Gatley has changed and developed over time.

I hope that this history of Gatley will continue to give people great enjoyment and a sense that they are part of a community that has lived through good times and bad, including wars and pandemics, and has come out the other side with greater wisdom and compassion. In this history we can trace how those who came before us put down roots here and shaped its history, architecture and sense of identity. We can also recognize that Gatley is a living community that continues to evolve and is a place where we can all belong and feel connected.

Thanks to Martin Davey for his energy in promoting the rich heritage of Gatley, and for his efforts in making this digital version available. Thanks also to the Mitchell family for their continued support in making Frank and Teretta Mitchell's history available.

Rev. Matthew Carlisle, Vicar of St James 2015—to date

Acknowledgements 1980

We thank the many people who have generously loaned photographs, documents and so on, and have provided us with the information without which this book could not have been written. The Stockport Advertiser and the Stockport Express were especially generous in granting us permission to reproduce photographs from their archives. The work of other professional photographers is acknowledged elsewhere.

We also pay tribute to the many amateur photographers, mainly unknown, whose works are reproduced here, and who took the photographs simply because they loved Gatley.

Acknowledgements 2022

Thanks to Martin Davey for pushing this project through– without him this book would never have come to fruition. Thanks also to Lesley Witton for proofreading and for her many useful suggestions.

Clare Forrest. 2022

Gatley in 1980

Gatley parish is part of the Deanery of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester. Its parish church lies six and a half miles south of the centre of Manchester, and three and a half miles WSW of the centre of Stockport. The parish has an area of some 806 acres or 1.258 square miles. The 1966 parish map shows that roughly one third of the parish was covered by housing development, mainly private. Most houses were built after 1904 when the electric trams came to Gatley; with growth accelerating by the new Manchester to Wilmslow railway in 1909. The main change in Gatley since 1966 was the construction of attractive private housing in the old High Grove area at the south of the parish, known locally as the Lake District because most of its roads are named after places in the English Lake District – Borrowdale, Grasmere and so on. The other major change in the parish in the 70's was the construction of the motorway known as the Sharston Bypass or the M63, opened in 1974. Otherwise, the parish is still very much as shown on the map on page 3

Since the boundaries of the parish do not conform to any current civil administrative boundary, no separate population figures have ever been published. However, in 1978 we made a rough estimate of 9,500, this being based on the population figures of the Cheadle Sub Area, (which included Gatley), contained in pp. 14–17 of the 1974 Digest for the West Area. We based our calculations on relative areas, adjusting for annual growth. In March 1979 we asked the vicar of Gatley if he had any figure on the population of his parish. He said that no head count had ever been made, but that, in discussions with another minister, they had made a rough estimate of eleven to twelve thousand souls. If readers keep in mind a simple round figure of say ten thousand as being the present population of the parish (and treats it with the suspicion which all round figures deserve) they will have some notion of the number of inhabitants in 1979.

Since Gatley has almost no industry of its own, it might be fair to describe it as a dormitory suburb or a commuter zone. These unromantic titles really do not do justice to a place which still retains much of its old charm.

Editor's note: For a more up to date overview a useful starting point is Gatley's Wikipedia entry:
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gatley>

Introduction 1980

In late 1978 this book was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Gatley's parish Church of St. James the Apostle. The aim was to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the consecration of the church on Tuesday 6th December 1881.

Since no separate history of Gatley had ever been published, it was agreed that the book should be a history of the whole parish, not just of the church. The aim has been to interest the widest possible readership, including the ordinary parishioner, as well as those with special interests such as old turnpike roads, tramways, village crafts and the like. We have not kept the story in the time limits of 1881–1981, but have tried—with the help of the many photographs lent by kind friends and the mass of material collected by us over the years—to take readers back in time, and so enable them to appreciate the stage on which the history of our parish has been enacted. We show brief glimpses into the life and times before the building of our church, and allow the centenary story to weave its thread around people, places, buildings and events, welding together the church, the village and the parish.

Although Gatley is a small place, it has not been possible to deal with all its history in the confines of this book. We have included a bibliography of some of the sources we have consulted. In addition to the works cited, there is a great mass of unpublished material in county record offices, and libraries through which serious students may pick their way. We are often asked by young or inexperienced students where they may find relevant books, maps and so on. We suggest they try local libraries which may have them in stock, or can get them for you. If this fails, the best libraries for Gatley history at the time of writing are Stockport Central, Manchester Central, and Wythenshawe Central.

A local history photograph without a date is like porridge without salt. An abomination. Where we know the precise date of a photograph we have given it. Where we have no exact date we have made an estimate, based on the evidence at our disposal. All estimated dates are prefixed with the letter 'c', (for circa), but readers are cautioned that some of them are merely inspired guesses which could be as much as several years in error.

The area covered by this book is that within the broken line on the official parish map on page 3. Photographs of places outside Gatley's boundaries have been included, and their location made clear when they have interesting associations with the parish.

Since there has been a considerable demand for a history of Gatley for several years, it has been decided to publish this book before the centenary of St. James' Church. Because of this, the writing and compiling of the book was completed in the spring of 1980. We hope that readers of this book will enjoy reading it with as much pleasure as we have had in writing it.

Teretta May Mitchell and Frank Mitchell. 31 March 1980

Introduction 2021

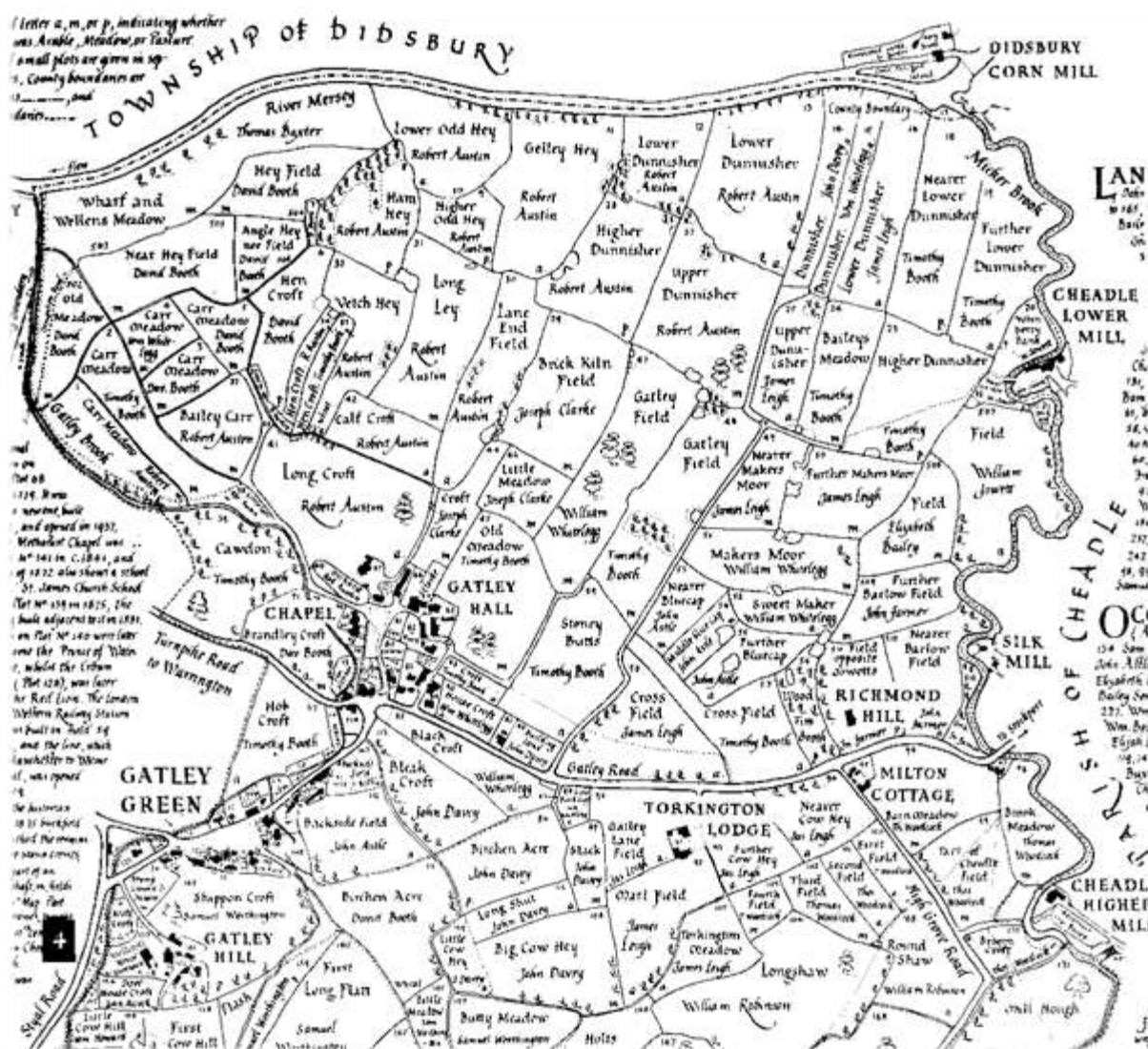
In the autumn of 2010, I was approached by Joan Read, the then Vicar's wife, and asked if I would bring the history of the Parish of St James up to date. The original history had been written by Teretta and Frank Mitchell in 1980 to mark the centenary of St James in 1881 and a supplement was produced by Jenni Tustin in 1990. I obtained copies of these and discovered that the original history was hand-written and not too easy to read. It was also out of print and the printers were unable to find any of the materials that they had used in its production. That left me with a problem as I could indeed produce something to fill the gap between 1980 and the present day but most readers would not have had a starting point.

It was decided that the first task back in 2010 should be to retype the original *Gatley: A Pictorial History of the Parish of St James The Apostle*. This task was performed by my wife Anne and I with the help of Edith and Jim Barwell — Jim performed by far the largest part of this task. Meanwhile, I scanned the photographs from the first book and we submitted the whole package to the printers. The complete print run was sold. Ten years further on, we again have an audience who cannot reference the original work. Through the efforts of Clare Forrest part of the history is being reissued as an e-book to mark the 140th anniversary of the church.

In the meantime, I have been collecting and taking more photographs. Additionally, I have come across further older material which may be of interest and these items will be issued in the Church magazine and on the internet.

Martin Gregory Davey. 2022

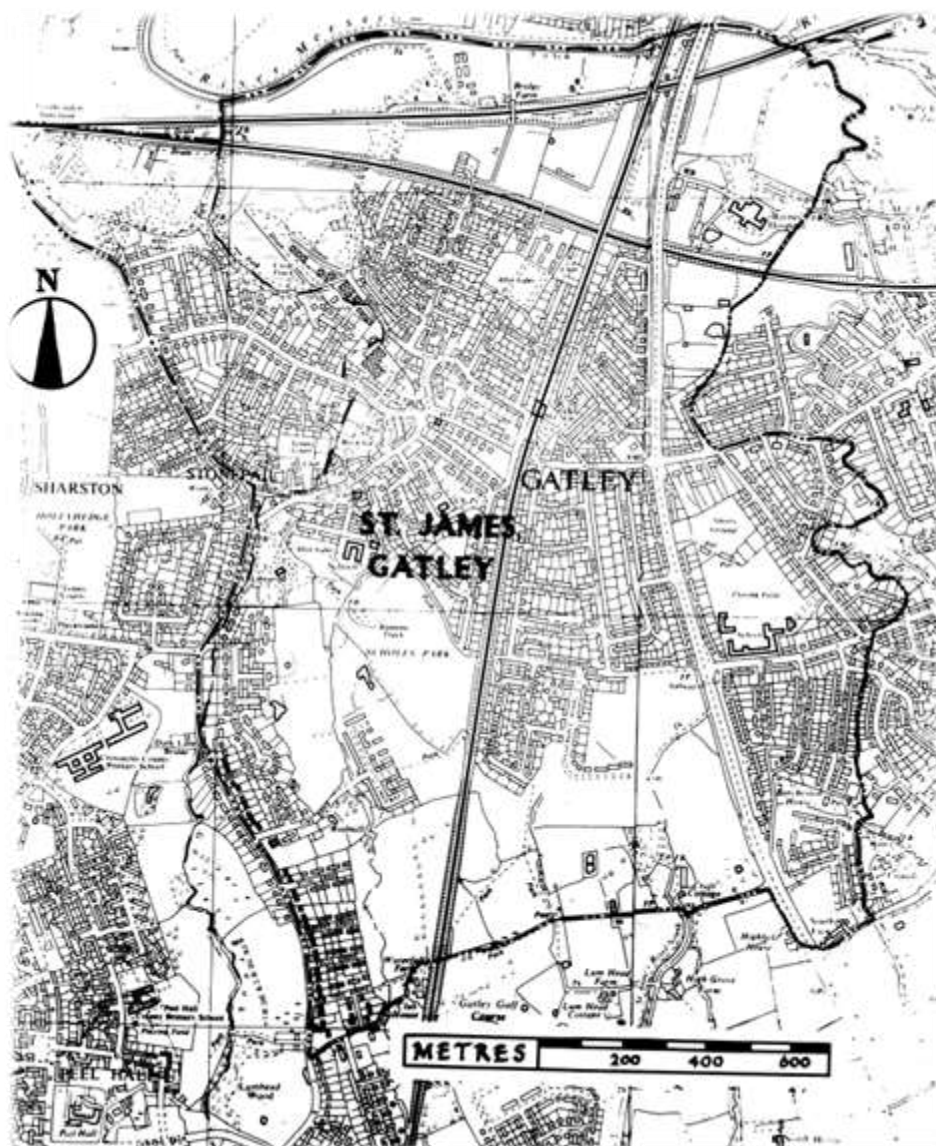
Part of the Tithe Map of Gatley.1841



This map was drafted and published by us in 1976. It is based on the original tithe map and apportionments held in the County Records Office, Chester. The map shows the northern half of one of two sheets covering the township of Stockport Etchells, which formed part of the old ecclesiastical parish of Stockport in the county of Cheshire. The township was 3½ miles W.S.W. of the parish church of St. Mary's, Stockport.

Articles of agreement for the commutation of tithes from goods in kind to payment of a land rent charge were made at a meeting held in the township on 1st August 1838. The agreement was finalised on 26th June 1839 and confirmed by the Title Commissioners on 31st December 1841. John Clarke of Hale was the valuer and he valued the rent charge at £140 per annum. Each plot on this map shows (where space permits) 1) the number of the property as given in the original tithe apportionments, 2) the name field was known by in 1841, 3) the name of its occupier, and 4) the letters 'a', 'm' or 'p', indicating whether the field was arable, meadow or pasture. Details of small plots and a full list of Gatley landowners are included on the full map as published.

Chapter One. Old Gatley and High Grove



Official Map Showing the Parish of St. James the Apostle

The boundaries on this map are those approved by the PCC on 1 Oct 1964 after proposed amendments by the Church Commissioners. The map is based on the 6-inch O.S. maps SJ 88 NW, 1967 and SJ 88 NE, 1966. It is reproduced here with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. The scale of the original map has been reduced.

So far as the early history of Gatley is concerned it is not possible for us to give more than a brief outline in this small book. Readers interested in ancient history are advised to see the bibliography at the end of this book, and to consult Earwaker, Vol.1, pp. 266 and 322 and Vol.2, pp. 110. They will find there full particulars of the townships of Northern and Stockport Etchells, both of which included parts of Gatley village. It will perhaps be sufficient for the general reader if we quote from Earwaker, Vol.2, p. 110:

‘The district known as Etchells was possibly at the time of the Domesday survey included under the general designation of Norwordine, which was held by Bigot and Randle, and that subsequently divided between them, one portion being added to the parish of Northenden, and became known as Northenden Etchells; and the other added to Stockport parish, and known as Stockport Etchells. It would however appear that ‘the Manor of Etchells’ which was held by the Ardernes and Stanleys of Elford, probably comprised both divisions, but this point is very obscure.

Stockport Etchells was held by the de Stokeports, under the de Mascies of Dunham Massey, and is frequently mentioned in early deeds relating to the de Stokeport family. In the 6th Edward I, (1277), an agreement was made between Hamo de Mascy and Richard de Stokeport, whereby the said Richard and his heirs, and his tenants in Etchells, Bredbury and Brinnington, shall not be impleaded in the courts of Dunham for any offence. It is uncertain whether the Warrens succeeded to these lands or not, or whether they had previously been disposed of. The lands are now held by many proprietors. This township is quite detached from Stockport, Cheadle parish intervening.’

Gatley stands on the boundary between the two Etchells. Most of it is in Stockport Etchells, but a few small areas, e.g., Greenbank Farm, Baxter Hall, Stonepail Hall, and Wiggins Hill spilled over into Northern Etchells. The boundaries of the two townships will be found in our reduced-scale edition of the tithe maps published in 1974 (Northern Etchells) and 1976 (Stockport Etchells). The fact that parts of Gatley village are in both townships complicates life for the local historian, who, failing to find some fact about Gatley in the records of the parish of Stockport, should always look in the records of Northenden, where it will sometimes be found, possibly misfiled.

It is interesting to speculate when Gatley came into existence, why it is located where it is, and what is the meaning of the name. There are references to Gatley, with various spellings, in the Eyre Rolls of the Justice of Chester in 1290, 1381 and 1383, in the Bromley Davenport Collection in 1427, and in the Legh of High Legh manuscripts in 1453. It is not, however, specifically referred to in Domesday records. Roman coins were found in the area in 1886 and a perforated stone hammer, 4½ x 1½ inches, was found on Gatley Green in 1881 when the church was built. There are, furthermore, several Anglo-Saxon names to be found among the local field names, such as:

- Hollins, Saxon-Holeyn, meaning Holly as in Hollyhedge.
- Withens, Saxon Witheyn, meaning willows.
- Ham-Hey meaning a pasture or meadow enclosed by a ditch.

All this suggests that the area was, at least, slightly populated even in Anglo Saxon times; that there was a tiny hamlet there by the 13th century, and as can be seen from the tithe map on p. 3, a small village by the 19th century. As to why it came into existence at this spot we offer these suggestions: It lay roughly midway between Stockport and Altrincham and Gatley Brook crosses the road at this spot. It thus made a convenient place for drovers, carters, and packhorse men to stop to water and feed their horses and cattle. Furthermore, the old road from Wilmslow via Styal joined Gatley Road at the same spot and the salt traders from the Cheshire wyches and other travellers from Cheshire into Lancashire might also pause here. An inn would be built to cater for the travellers, followed perhaps by a smithy – in fact, the Horse and Farrier once had a smithy attached to it. From these small beginnings Gatley probably came into existence.

And now to consider the meaning or derivation of Gatley’s name. J. Mc. N. Dodgson in *The Place Names of Cheshire*, Pt.1, p.244 gives it as Goats’ Bank v. Gatclif.’ We have ploughed through the

O.E.Dictionary for other possible meanings of the first syllable, ‘Gat’, and on p.73, col.3 we find that it has, amongst others, the meaning of ‘A way, path or road’. Since Gatley seems to owe its existence to being at the junction of two roads and a brook, it may derive its name from this. A few years ago, we heard the late Stella Davis express the opinion that the name Gatley meant ‘gate Lea’, i.e. ‘the gateway to the lea’. Without doubt, this latter meaning which reminds us vaguely of an old poem, will appeal to us all. We must, however, reluctantly point out that from 1290 Gatley has been known as Gateclyve, Gateclif, Gatecliffe, Gatyff, Gaddecliffe, Gattley, and finally Gatley. The meaning of the name, which has been so heavily corrupted must, we are afraid, remain forever a subject of speculation.

The Eyre Rolls of the Justice of Chester give the names of some of the inhabitants of Gatley and High Grove in the years 1257–97, e.g. William de Verdoun, Jordan de Gaticlyve, Ham, Adam de Gaticlyve, Adam the Reeve, Pock de Gatelyve, Richard de Hegreve in Hegreve, (thought to be the present High Grove). There is also Alcock the Smith in Etchells, a name that still survives in the district. Henshall, in his *History of Cheshire* 1817 states, ‘Etchells is partly in the parish of Stockport. It was anciently invested in the Ardens and Stanleys before Elizabeth (1555). Robert Tatton held the manor from the Queen in capite, and it has regularly descended with the Wythenshawe estates. The tenants of the Manor are exempt from attending the Hundred Courts by grant from Henry VII. Separate overseers are appointed for the Northenden and Stockport divisions of the parish, and the poor rates are distinct. A Court Leet and Court Baron is held for this Manor’. Tatton Papers Nos. 1189 to 1191 held in Manchester’s John Rylands Library, contain useful information on the revision of the Etchells and other manors.

The Cheadle Cross

Having given general particulars of the early history of our parish, we will discuss specific items and places which fall under the heading of Old Gatley. That is, those items or places which existed before the building of St. James’ Church School and which are not dealt with in other chapters. Since we do not know the exact date of many of the buildings, we have not attempted to arrange our material in chronological order, but have started near the northern edge of the parish and, with minor variations, have worked our way down to the southern end. Readers can start at the top of the maps on pp. 3–4, and quickly locate most of the places to which we refer.



The principal item of interest in the northern part of the parish is also the oldest—now known as the Cheadle Cross. This is a sandstone cross, said by experts to be pre-Norman, and dug up in 1875 in the detached township of Stockport Etchells.

The cross became a matter of local controversy after it was found, being variously laid claim to by James Watts as Lord of the Manor of Cheadle, by the Vicar of Gatley whose church was built in 1881 in the parish where it had been found, and by various interested parties in Cheadle. The Rector of Stockport seems, wisely, to have kept out of the matter.

The facts about the find have been misquoted and misinterpreted by many historians for more than a century. For this reason, we consider it necessary to base our account on the original contemporary sources. These are Dr Bangay who, with his wife, rescued the cross from a brickfield in Stockport Etchells, and J. P. Earwaker, the eminent Cheshire historian, who met Dr Bangay soon after the find was made, saw the relics, and had the drawing made which is reproduced above. He also made a written record of the facts as given to him. We quote these from J. P. Earwaker, *East Cheshire: Past and Present* vol. 1, 1877 p.p. 185–6:

‘In 1875 some workmen engaged in the large brickfield opposite the Convalescent Hospital, (see footnote S), unearthed the remains of one if not more, stone crosses. These were left in the field, and would probably have been broken up had they not been noticed by the late Mrs Bangay, the wife of Dr Bangay, of Cheadle, who had them removed to her husband’s house. The remains, when put together, formed about three feet of the upper part of a cross of early date, probably of the 11th or 12th century, with short arms, each of which is ornamented with a boss. It is of singularly graceful appearance, as shown in the woodcut on the next page, which was carefully drawn from the remains soon after they were discovered. With them the upper part of a stone shaft was found, exactly similar in character to some upright stones, from 6 to 7 feet in height, which were found in various parts of Macclesfield Forest, and have been removed to Macclesfield Public Park. The exact purpose of these stones is not very clear, and it is an open question as to whether they bore a small cross at the top or not.’

Earwaker’s footnote 5 reads, ‘This field is the one marked No.54 in the large Ordnance Map of 25 inches to the mile.’

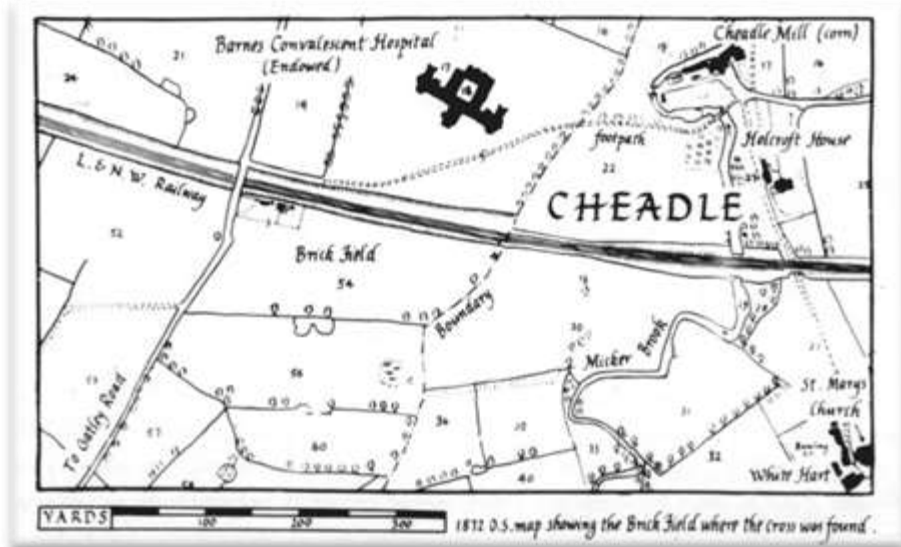
To support Earwaker’s account, we now give an extract from a letter sent by Dr Bangay to the Manchester City News after reading a paper on the cross written by J.J. Phelps, M.A., and published in the *Transactions of the Lancs. and Ches. Antiquarian Soc.*, Vol.37, 1919, p.p.95–109.

‘One day in the early seventies, my wife and I walked by a footpath from Mr Mosley’s bleach works near Cheadle to the Gatley Road. The path led by the side of a brick making field where men had been digging up clay for their work, and in so doing had uncovered at a shallow depth the fragments of the cross, exactly the same as are now adjusted and set up in the York Museum. We put them together at the time and placed them safely out of the way or they would have been most likely carted off with the rest of the stones for road repairing...’

There is much else in this letter, which is not quoted in full here, but there is nothing in it to contradict Earwaker’s date of 1875, nor the location of the find in a Stockport Etchells brickfield.

The O.S. map to which Earwaker refers is *Cheshire Sheet XIX /1, First Edition*, surveyed in 1872 on a scale of 1/2500 or 25.344 inches to the mile. Below is a reduced scale tracing from this map which shows the path from Cheadle Mill, later Mr Mosley’s bleachworks, to Gatley Road, together with Field 54, Brick Field in which the cross was found. This field is clearly outside the Cheadle parish boundary, as shown on the map.

Brick Field where the Cross was Found



The site of the find can be found on the tithe map of 1841 at Fields 49 and 50, (Nearer Makers Moor and Further Makers Moor). It can also be found on the Gatley parish map, about 200 yards south of Barnes Hospital. It is bounded by the parish boundary at the east, by Kingsway at the west and by the railway line at the north.

After the cross was found in 1875 it was kept for a time in Cheadle by Dr Bangay. In 1884 it was donated to a museum in the hospital of St. Leonard, in St. Mary's Abbey grounds, York. It was numbered 17 in the Museum handbook, which also confirmed the date of the find as being 1875. In 1961 it was brought back to Cheadle, where it was kept at Abney Hall, at that time occupied by the Cheadle and Gatley UDC. Later, at about the time the UDC came to an end, the cross was removed to the parish church of St. Mary's, Cheadle.

The alert reader will have noticed that the Cheadle boundary on the tithe map of Gatley on p.3, dated 1841 is different from the OS map of 1872. The former is an earlier ecclesiastical parish boundary, whilst the latter is a later civil boundary. The two Cross Fields, plots 57–8, on the tithe map deserve attention because some historians have expressed the opinion that the cross fragments may not always have been on the site where they were found. We feel that, in the absence of any other explanation for the name of 'Cross Field' here, it is possible that the cross may formerly have stood there. When the field was ploughed for arable cultivation the farmer may have removed it and dumped it in one of the pits in the field where it was later found. The fact that Plots 49, 50 and 53 were all in the ownership of James Leigh seems to support this theory. In the will of William Combes of Gatley, linen weaver, dated 1690 he states, 'I give unto my now loving wife Margaret Combes the little Cross field this year to soe for her own use clearly.' His lands were in the vicinity of the Cross Fields on the tithe map.

Nobody, so far as we are aware, objects now to the Cheadle Cross being so called, or to its being preserved in Cheadle church. After all, it was found by Cheadle people, and has been cared for by them with affection for many years in appropriate surroundings. As compilers of this modest history, we felt it desirable, in the interests of historical accuracy, to point out that the spot where it was found was never in the Cheadle parish; that in 1875 it was in Stockport parish and has from 1881 been in the parish of St. James, Gatley.

Readers who want further information on the cross are advised to read the paper by Phelps in the *Transactions of the L. and C. A. S.*, vol 37 1919, p.p. 95–109. This gives full details of the sculpture on both sides of the cross and on its edges, together with a fascinating explanation of the probable purpose and use of the cross.

Gatley Carrs c.1907



The site of Gatley Carrs is at the top left-hand corner of the tithe map on p.3, where there are several fields with the name 'Carr'. This is a word of Scandinavian origin meaning, 'a fen or bog, overgrown with low bushes, alders, willows etc.'. Until c1930 Gatley Carrs was a place of great natural beauty, and the haunt of botanists and naturalists. According to Grindon, writing in 1882,

there were around 250 botanical specimens to be found there, some of them rare. In 1800, Thomas Worthington of Sharston Hall planted one thousand poplar trees on the Carrs, thus adding to the natural beauty.

Ancient osier beds grew on the Carrs for centuries, the local people using them for basket making and for wattles in cottage building. A market grew up for the osiers in Warrington, where they were used in the manufacture of baskets for market gardeners. They were cut and dried in stacks on the Carrs and taken to Warrington, at first in carts but later by rail. The footpath, which is just visible on the photo above, was one of those used by the old salt traders with their teams of pack-horses from c.1320 onwards. They came with their salt from the Cheshire Wyches and gained access to the Carrs by what is now Lorna Grove. From there they crossed the Mersey at Gatley Ford. This was situated a few yards off the top left-hand corner of the tithe map on p.3.

On 30th November 1745, a patrol of 55 soldiers of the ill-fated army of the Young Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart, crossed the Mersey at Gatley Ford during a search for a suitable place at which a column of the army might cross the river. (There were no bridges over the Mersey in this area at that time.) On the next day, a part of the army crossed the Mersey at Cheadle Bridge on Manchester Road, whilst another part, which included Prince Charles himself, forded the river near Stockport.

There was an attempt to close the old route across the ford in 1884, but this was thwarted by legal proceedings. In 1866 two railway lines across the Carrs were opened, (see Chapter 4) and in 1894 the UDC built a sewage works there, now disused. Alas, there is now but little left of the picturesque Gatley Carrs. Also, when the M63 (now M60) motorway was built across the edge of the Carrs in 1974, the course of the Mersey was diverted and Gatley Ford was buried under thousands of tons of rubble.

Northenden Ford c.1907



The photo shows harvesters crossing the Mersey at Northenden Ford, which was situated outside Gatley parish, about one mile downstream. This was another of the fords used by traders between Cheshire and Lancashire.

For further reading see Leo H. Grindon, *Country Rambles*, 1882, and W. B. Crump, 'Saltways from the Cheshire Wiches', *Transactions of the L and A Soc.* Vol. 54, 1939.

Kinsey's Farm c.1980 (See text on next page)



Kinsey's Farm c.1895

The location of this farm on the tithe map is at Plot 67, to the left of Gatley Hall. Walk to the end of Old Hall Road to see the double-fronted private house. This is no ordinary house, but is the ancient farmhouse with a more modern front built on it. We are calling it Kinsey's Farm because that is how older generations of Gatley people knew it.



Kinsey's was originally the property of the Tattons of Wythenshawe Hall, and dates from the 17th century with many alterations and additions over the years. The old farm well with its pump trough is still at the rear of the house, now enclosed in a conservatory.

Note the bricked-up window which was probably the result of the old tax on windows. In 1642 this farm was known as Williamsons' Tenement and was occupied by James Williamson, an Overseer of the Poor. He failed to account for some of the poor relief money and appeared at the Quarter Sessions.

In 1700–1 the farm was sold to John Whitelegg and in 1710–11 James Williamson, son of James Williamson (now deceased), conveyed land to Francis Brown for £95–0s–0d with three shillings rent to the Lord of the Manor. James had purchased Williamson's tenement from William Tatton of Wythenshawe for the benefit of the widow and children of his father, having sold a portion to settle debts, and then transferred the remainder to his son by deed in 1706–7.

The farm was owned by William Williamson from 1780—1830, whilst the tithe map and the apportionments show the property was owned by Robert Marsland and occupied by Robert Austin in 1841. (See the Stockport Etchells LTAs, 1780 to 1830, for the Williamson tenancy.)

Joseph and Mary Kinsey moved to the farm sometime after their marriage in 1868, and it was during their tenure that both the church school and the church were built. Their children were Emily, Joseph, William and Annie.

The family collected a good deal of money for the building of St James', and Emily taught at St James' day school in c.1890.

In 1898 Emily married Thos. Swan, blacksmith, of Brownlow Green.



Mary Kinsey c. 1905 and her daughter Emily c.1890

A large hayshed at the farm was used for dances, coronation celebrations and so on —Kinsey's teas in the hayshed were known far and wide. During the 1914–18 war, wounded soldiers were entertained at the farm. Joseph died in 1905 at the age of 60 and his widow Mary continued at the farm until shortly before her death in 1923 at the age of 76.

James Thomas Pendlebury then bought the land and buildings. In 1924–5 farming was brought to an end and the Pendlebury Estate was built there. The farmhouse became a private house, occupied by the Davies family after Mr Pendlebury left. Following the death of Miss Davies in 1978, it was purchased by Mr and Mrs Martin Wood who now occupy it. (1980)

We would point out that there have in the past been two buildings known as Gatley Hall, and this sometimes causes confusion for the historian. The problem is aggravated because the two halls were adjacent to each other at the junction of the present Old Hall Road and Leyland Avenue. However, they are different in period and architectural style. Furthermore, the one now referred to as Gatley Old Hall was apparently always a farm, whilst the other was built and used as a gentleman's country residence. The Old Hall is shown at the top of Plot 65 on the tithe map. There is no known date of construction, but several photographs in our possession show it to have been of genuine half-timber and thatch, and we would date it at about late 16th century.



According to the LTAs of Stockport Etchells, it was owned by William Bamford from some date prior to 1780 until 1824, when the estate then passed to Hesketh Lloyd Bamford. The tithe map shows the owner in 1841 as being Hesketh Lloyd Bamford Hesketh, (He acquired this lengthy name by marriage). When Winifred, Countess of Dundonald, and daughter of Bamford Hesketh died in 1924 at her home at Gwyrch Castle, Abergele, she left £202,800. She also willed that her sons would adopt her maiden name of Hesketh, in addition to that of Cochrane, and that their sons would perpetuate the name of Lloyd. Hesketh Lloyd Bamford owned the Hall 1825–31.

Looking at some of the tenants of Gatley Old Hall, we find that John Mayor was there from 1763 to 1835 (see LTAs) There is an interesting old map in the Stockport Local History Library showing the extent of the farm during his tenancy. It shows it as extending up to and including the Plot 57, Cross Field, shown on the tithe map. It also shows John Mayor to be occupying a turf room at the turbary at Moss Nook. (Plots numbered 71–72–73 on our tithe map of Moss Nook.)

The Gatley tithe map gives Timothy Booth as occupier of the Old Hall in 1841 and by 1851 David Booth was farming the estate. The last occupier for whom we have any evidence was Samuel Gerrard, whose name appears in Melsom's Directory 1887, p.47. He died in 1887 after being a tenant farmer of the Heskeths for twelve years. The Hall then fell into complete ruin and disuse and none of the old Gatley people with whom we have discussed it have any recollection of its existence after c.1900. In 1927 Cambridge Road was cut through this estate, resulting in the demolition of a nearby farm called Pear Tree. (Plot 82 on the tithe map.)

Gatley Hall May 1979



This building is at plot 66 on the tithe map and it still survives. Such written evidence as we have been able to find suggests that it was built by either William or Thomas Roscoe about the middle of the 18th century. William Roscoe had come to Gatley from Bolton in 1750 to set up a small textile manufactory, and according to the Land Tax Assessments of Stockport Etchells. Thomas Roscoe was the occupier in 1780.

An interesting advertisement for the hall appeared in the Manchester Mercury in 1793, giving a graphic description of it as it was then:

‘TO LET and entered upon immediately, COUNTRY HOUSE and FARM. All that Capital Mansion House called GATLEY HALL, being sashed and modern, and well built, containing six rooms on a floor, with Brew House, Barns and Stables, and a new commodious edifice adjoining, intended originally for a cotton manufactory, now a farm, with a garden and orchard well stocked with fruit trees, and 24 acres of land, Cheshire Measure... It is a very rich, pleasant, and agreeable neighbourhood, and suitable for either a tradesman or gentleman’s family. For particulars apply to Mr Thomas Bateman, Lever Row, Manchester. NB. If any eligible tenant offers, the house and gardens will be let separately from the land.’

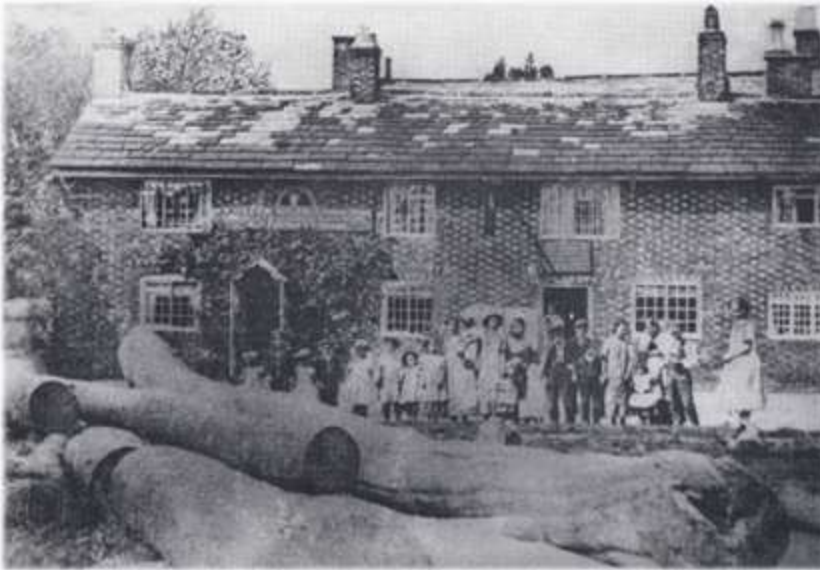
From 1794 to 1806 Thomas Bateman was the owner and occupier. His wife Rebecca died in June 1797, and was buried in the chapel burial ground almost opposite the hall. In 1807 Joseph and Sarah Clarke purchased the estate. Joseph died in 1840, and Sarah in 1848, both being buried inside the chapel. The estate passed to their daughter Lucy Higham, and on her death in 1866 to her husband John Higham, who remarried Alice Smith. In 1891 Sarah Emily Parkes, daughter of John and Alice Higham, inherited the property, and in c.1930 it was acquired by Mr Ernest Struggles.

After Mr Struggles died in 1969 we inspected the hall inside and outside, and found it to be in a poor and dilapidated condition, with floors shored up, and outbuildings crumbling away. Two Adams style fireplaces inside the hall, however, were in good condition.

In 1972 Mr David Pearce, son of Clifford and Mary Pearce of Gatley, bought the house, which was by this time a protected building. With the assistance of his wife Ann, he started on the considerable task of restoring it. They occupied the hall and Mrs Pearce read all that she could find on its architectural style. The building now took on a new lease of life. Roofs and gutters were repaired, and walls were repointed or rebuilt. Everything was done appropriately and Gatley Hall became once more an attractive building. This was due in no small part to Mrs Ann Pearce’s tremendous enthusiasm. Then tragedy struck the family, and Mrs Pearce died of leukaemia on the 11th October 1976 at the age of 32, leaving two small children Sebastian and Natalie who appear in the photograph. Work on the restoration continues, and we can all be grateful that one of Gatley’s most interesting buildings is being preserved for posterity.

The manufactory referred to in the advertisement above, which later became a farm belonging to the Hall, is now number 11 Old Hall Road. Francis Walkeley was its tenant farmer in 1887 when he was Warden of St. James' Church. Until recently it was occupied by Mr C Butler, builder.

The Horse and Farrier c.1875



This inn, still existing, stands where Northenden Road, Gatley Road, Old Hall Road and Church Road meet. It is early 18th century, and was possibly built on the site of an older building. Previously owned by the Tattons of Wythenshawe Hall, it formed part of a settlement on 24th January 1843, on the marriage of Thomas William Tatton and Harriet Susan Parker.

We have traced the names of some of the licensees. In the years 1754–86 John Downs was there¹ followed in October 1793 by James Downs.² James' will of 1798 gives us a good idea of what this block of property was like then. It mentions a messuage, smithy, dwelling house, tenement-cottage, buildings, stables, edifices built by James Downs plus land. Also, a brewhouse chamber over a smithy or shop, gardens, yards, a gravel hole of 10½ perches and an ancient cottage belonging to Wm. Egerton³. James Downs and his wife, in addition to running the inn, were also staymakers, a trade also followed by the licensee of Cheadle's George and Dragon.

By 1810 the licensee was Margaret Downs, daughter of James. In 1822 Thomas Fletcher was licensee⁴ In 1865 George Baxter purchased the quit rents for the Horse and Farrier from William Tatton and others (5). William Mills was a licenced brewer and retailer of ale at the Farrier from 1864 to 1876, and his wife Mary took over after his death.

Refs. (1) Ale House Recognizance, CRO (2) T. P. Lease and Release No. 1365, 1 Oct 1793. (3) T.P. Indenture, Lease and Release 12 Nov 1828. (4) Ale House Recogs. CRO (5) T.P.

Brookside c.1909

This stood on Northenden Road to the left of the Horse and Farrier, the site now occupied by public toilets. It dates from the early 18th century, and in 1909 was known as Goodier's Sweet Shop.

George Baxter purchased it from George Downs in 1828, and the 1841 and 1851 Census Returns show it to be occupied by Samuel Goodier and his son James who were carriers. The lane on the right of the photo led to the old

Chapel, Kinsey's Farm, and the Carrs, but it was closed in 1907. Note the electricity pole which marks the terminus of the electric tramway from Stockport.



Goodier's Stable c.1908



These 18th century buildings included an old wheelwright's shop and a smithy. They stood on Northenden Road and the site is now occupied by the shops to the right of Barclays Bank. In 1883 an upper room was used as a village reading room, the books being supplied by Marsh's of Cheadle. In 1888 the Rev John Bruster, Vicar of St. James', held a weekly club for men in the same room. A Miss Smith held a private school there c.1906 and Miss Margaret Platt, daughter of the licensee of the Horse and Farrier, taught there. In earlier times cockfighting took place in the yard. Signs on the walls of both of the above

buildings remind us that Gatley was then still in the country. For example, 'Teas at Kinsey's, with field for scholars'. A sign for 'Sharston Tea Rooms' refers to what was formally an old National Day School at Sharston. This came under the Rector of Northenden, and closed in 1902.

The distant building at the left-hand side of this photograph is now the National Westminster Bank. and the present Gatley clock and War Memorial are situated where the gas lamp is. The photo of Lea Cottage on the next page shows the other side of these buildings as they were c.1878.

Lea Cottage c.1878

Situated at the junction of Northenden Road and Church Road, Plot 114 on the tithe map. Built c.1822 when it was owned, according to the LTAs, by the Exors of Mr Mills, and occupied by James Albison. In 1841 Samuel Albison, wheelwright and blacksmith, had a smithy and cottage there. Around 1880 a shop was built on the front of the cottage. This was the Gatley Post Office in 1896, and was kept by the Orme family, who also ran a horse cab service from outside the Post Office.



David Orme was the first Sunday School Superintendent at St James, 1881–8. Martin's Bank was built c.1935 in front of the cottage, which was, however, retained for some years, being used as a house for the bank manager Mr P. Arnett, who was at the bank for ten years. Lea Cottage has now gone, and the bank became Barclays in December 1969.

Milton Cottage May 1979



Milton Cottage stands at the junction of Gatley Road and High Grove Road. (Plot 95 on the tithe map.) Most people travelling along Gatley Road will have noticed this striking building on the south side, about midway between Cheadle and Gatley. It is not, however, a genuine half-timbered building. There is a date of 1909 on the High Grove elevation, no

doubt referring to extensions. We think that the centre building with the stone slate roof is probably the old original Milton Cottage in disguise, and that it received its present half-timbering at the same time as some of the extensions.

The first written evidence which we have found relating to this house is in the Stockport Etchells LTAs of 1780. Alexander Bancroft is given as the owner. He was a badger by trade, a travelling middleman dealer in corn and other commodities. His name appears in the Chester Quarter Sessions Registers of Badger Licences for 1759–72, when his name was entered as paying £40 for licences. This large sum suggests he had a substantial business. The licences describe him as being of Stockport Etchells (which includes Gatley) and because of this and the proximity of Cheadle's two water-powered corn mills, it is probable he occupied Milton Cottage some time prior to 1780. In that year, however, the LTAs show that the Rev Cripps was the actual occupier. This was possibly the Rev Thomas Cripps, Rector of Cheadle 1775–94 or Francis Cripps, curate from 1786–1793.

From 1787 to 1805 the house was owned and occupied by Richard Coe. From 1809–1830 Samuel Jowett owned the property and Charles Bostock occupied it. These were both corn millers, at the

Cheadle Lower and Higher Mills respectively. After the Bostocks left, three of the occupiers who followed were Churchwardens of St James'. From 1876 Henry Bedford, silk merchant, and his wife Rhoda lived there. They were founder members of the School Committee and Mrs Bedford taught the children sewing in her spare time on a voluntary basis. In 1882 they presented the newly built parish church with a beautiful pulpit of pierced stone. Milton Cottage was then occupied in 1885 John Law Worthington and then Mr and Mrs W. H. Cross in 1904, who gave linen and prayer books to St James.

Torkington Lodge c.1905. Plot 91



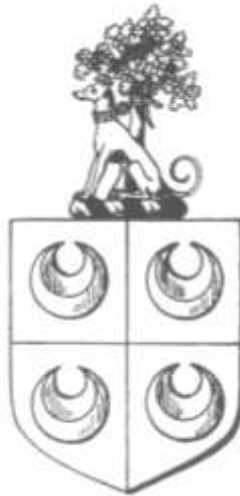
This stood back from Gatley Road, near the junction of Torkington Road. It was built c.1825 by James Leigh, clay drainpipe maker, and let to Daniel Paulden, farmer. By 1841 James Leigh was the owner and occupier. He died in 1845, leaving a wife, three sons, and two daughters, one of whom was married to John Bostock. In 1882 Peter Taylor, veterinary surgeon was there and from 1910 David Orme Junior. It was demolished c.1932.

Tatton Coat of Arms

TATTON OF WYTHENSHAWE

Arms: Quarterly Argent and Gules, in the first and fourth a crescent Sable, in the second and third a crescent of the first.

Crest: A Greyhound sejant Argent (sometimes spotted Sable), collared and tied with a slip Gules to a thorn tree Vert, fructed of the first.



Thomas William Tatton, J.P. of Wythenshawe Hall was born 2 June 1816, eldest son of Thomas William Tatton and Emma, daughter of the Hon. John Grey. He was married on 25 January 1843, and died in 1885, being buried at St Wilfred's, Northenden. He was Lord of the Manor of Etchells, in which Gatley was situated, and was a considerable landowner in Gatley and elsewhere. (For further information on the Tattons and the Manor, see Earwaker, vol. 1, pp. 306 -21, also Shercliff, Wythenshawe, p.46.). His wife was Harriet Susan Tatton, daughter of Robert Townley Parker of Cuerden, Lancs. She died 20 Feb. 1873, aged 54. Many Gatley cottages were included in her marriage settlement.

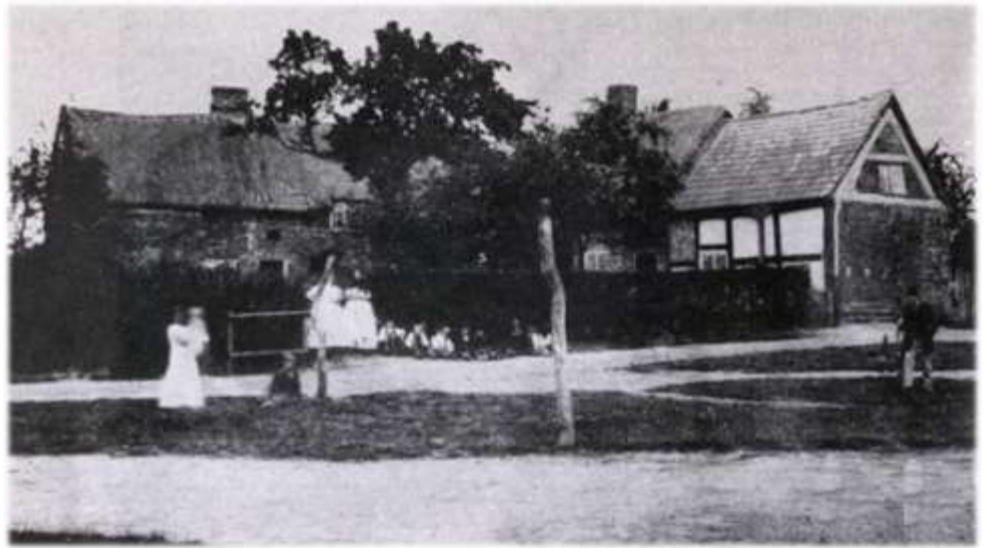
Harriet Susan Tatton



Thomas William Tatton, J.P. of Wythenshawe Hall c. 1862

Ancient Cottages on Gatley Green c.1874

The site of the cottage on the left is now occupied by St James' Church, whilst the church school (now the parish hall), was built on the site of the right-hand cottage. (Plots 138–9 on the tithe map.)



The right-hand cottage is referred to as 'The Court House' in various legal documents, and is the building in which the manorial court of Etchells met four times a year. It was possibly built by the Tattons in 1556–7 when they acquired the Manor of Etchells. In 1592, two constables and six burley men (bye-law men), were appointed—two for Gatley where the court met, and one each for Shadow Moss, Brownlow Green, Pownsack, and Sharston. Four miselayers were responsible for collecting fines and levies. The steward was Henry Cockson, and he was responsible for the bailiffs collecting national taxes and church leys. An indenture of 1669 refers to the 'cottage sometimes known as The Court House'. The same name is used in a deed of settlement of 24 January 1843, made upon the marriage of Thomas William Tatton and Harriet Susan Parker. It also appears in the St James' church deeds.

In 1874 the cottages were occupied by Daniel Wood, William Wood and Rebecca Brandreth, pipe maker. In that year the property was transferred from Thomas William Tatton to John Baker, Treasurer of the Church of England so that a church and school could be built on the site. The cottages were demolished the same year.

Refs: Manor of Etchells M2, M20, M21. Archives M/c Ref. Lib.

Baxter Hall c.1880

Baxter Hall was off Stonepail Road, behind Greenbank Farm. This building was in the township of Northern Etchells in the parish of Northenden. (See Plot 786 on our tithe map of the Sharston area.)

According to a date stone on the gable, it was built in 1681 by a Thomas Baxter who died in 1685.

The family had estates at Sharston, where they were tanners, and also in Cheadle, Didsbury, Sale, and Ashton on Mersey. There are many

breaks in the lineage of the Baxters of Gatley, since sons tended to die young and the estate then passed to nephews. Furthermore, it appears from the LTAs of 1786, that George Royale had by that time acquired the property. Later LTAs show that the Downs family had it from 1798 to 1823, when it was bought back by Henry Baxter. The hall was demolished c.1936.



Green Bank Farm 1979

The Sharston tithe map shows that in 1841 George Baxter owned Baxter Hall, as well as the adjacent properties of Greenbank and Greenbank Farm. David Booth occupied the hall and the farm and Thomas Baxter occupied Greenbank. Baxter Park, which lies just outside St James' parish, derives its name from this family which is well documented in the Northenden parish records and Tombstone Inscription Book, as in wills at the CRO.



There is an interesting assortment of old farm buildings still standing near the junction of Stonepail Road and Church Road in Gatley. These include what were once a farmhouse, barns, shippons, and other outbuildings. This is the old Greenbank Farm. (Plot 786 on our tithe map of Sharston and part of Gatley), and, even as we write in 1979, a few cattle graze peacefully in the side meadow. It was probably built when Henry Baxter sold Baxter Hall to George Royale in 1786, alterations and additions being made in c.1840. There is an old coach house built on the far end of the farm building, with a cheese room over it and a dairy adjoining. It was a farm of 65 acres in 1927, when the present occupier Mr Earnest Edward Tomkinson took it over. When we interviewed Mrs Tomkinson in 1968, she told us that a travelling blacksmith used to set up his forge at Greenbank Farm to serve the needs of Gatley horse owners. Various businesses are at present carried on in the outbuildings, including K.G. Tonkins, M/c., motor and motor cycle repairer: Gatley Tyre Service: Wilkinson's (Gatley) Ltd., paving contractors: E. E. Tomkinson, hauliers, (previously cattle removers): and Tom's Aquatics, dealer in tropical and cold water fish.

Farm c.1928

The farm was once a centre from which steam thrashing machines with their traction engines operated, serving the needs of farmers in the district. The steam tractor in the photo was one of a fleet belonging to A. Cork and Sons of Levenshulme, who won many cups with them. Mrs Tomkinson was Mr Cork's daughter. The buildings in the photo still exist but are dilapidated.



Thomas Bailey, shoemaker, at his 16th century cottage c.1893



Photo of Thomas Bailey b.1822. d.1899

Thomas was one of the few Gatley men to whom one might give the title 'Local Worthy', as he was an antiquarian, botanist and sage of some repute. His cottage lay in what was once called Back Lane, behind the present Thornewell's shop on Gatley Green. (Plot 123 on the tithe map). We have traced some of the history of the block of property, of which the cottage formed part, from old wills, deeds, and tithe maps.

Robert and Ann Savage appear to have occupied it in 1608–9. In his will of 20 May 1671 Robert left the cottage and a quarter of an acre of land to his kinsman James Gatley. An indenture dated 1734 states that the cottage part was occupied in 1704 by Humphrey Paulden, nephew of Robert Savage, and after the death of Ann Paulden in 1724 it passed to John Gatley. In 1734 the property, which then included a cottage, barns, outhouses, pump, and moss room, was sold to George Antrobus for £40. He converted one of the barns into two cottages and sold them to John Brown of Crossacres for £54. It was stipulated that John Brown was to pay one third of the expenses of the pump on the premises. Michael Barratt occupied the cottage from 1809–1836, when he died. The tithe map gives John Alcock as owner and F. Timperley and Alice Clough as occupiers in 1841. The thatched cottage was demolished c.1896, but the brick cottage at the rear of the photograph, built after 1836 and now No. 25 Gatley Green still survives, occupied in 1979 by Mrs H. Rodd.

Gatley's Oldest Shop, 27 Gatley Green c.1928



Thornewell's occupied by Mr and Mrs John Chandley, greengrocers. The building in the centre of the photograph is an addition to the old barn visible at the rear. It was converted by George Antrobus into cottages and then into a house and shop, sometime between 1734 and 1773.

John Brown bought both in 1773 from George Antrobus who had tenants Samuel Sidebotham and John

Wood. The census returns and tithe map, both of 1841, show the buildings to be owned by John Barratt and occupied by Thomas Higginbotham, provision dealer. Some other occupiers of the shop since 1885 have been Osmond Lowe, corn dealer; John Mottram, master boot and shoemaker, (1912–28), and Johnson's, fish, fruit and flowers.

Thornewell's were there from 1956 to 1969 when they retired leaving their daughter May, and son-in-law John Chandley to run the business. Recent excavations in front of the shop have revealed the site of an old well and pump.

There were two cottages to the left of the shop, owned in 1841 by John Miller, and occupied by John and Sarah Adshead, handloom weavers. They were demolished c.1930, the site now being occupied by Thornewell's garage.

Cottages on Gatley Green c.1870



These stood on the south side of the Green, to the left of the present row of shops, on a site now occupied by cottages Nos 37–43.

According to deeds loaned to us, John Wharmby bought them from Joseph Loney in 1836 for £105, and in 1858 they were sold to John Barratt for £110. In his will of 1878, John left

the two cottages, then both thatched, with effects and land, to his sons John and Thomas Barratt and daughter Elizabeth Smith. Thomas built a house on land to the right of the cottages. Elizabeth Smith died in 1897 leaving property to her son William, saddler of Poynton, and her daughter Lavinia, laundress. The cottages were demolished c.1897.

Gatley Hill House 3rd. January 1979



Gatley Hill House stands on high ground at the junction of Church Road and Styal Road. (Plot 153 on the tithe map.) A part of it is now used as Gatley's Public Library, with other rooms used for meetings etc. It was built by Thomas Alcock prior to 1780, and from then until 1808 LTAs give John Alcock as the owner. In 1808 the estate passed to his brother Thomas, who died at Gatley Hall in 1818. The census returns and tithe map of 1841 give

John Alcock, cotton manufacturer, as both owner and occupier. He was the son of the above Thomas, and was baptised at Cross St. Chapel, Manchester in 1786. From 1841 to 1872 the house was extensively altered and enlarged, and a glass conservatory was added. In c.1874 the Alcocks moved to Bredbury, and there were then many short-term lettings. For example, in 1874 John Baker, wine and spirit merchant; 1888 James Dyson, merchant - both were wardens at St. James'; in 1904 Herbert Kendal of Kendal Milnes; 1910 Robert Lockart; 1927 Charles Brown. The whole estate including 61¼ acres of land was conveyed to the UDC in June 1935 for £14,000. In 1955, 18 ¾ acres of it in the Gatley Flatts area were bought by the Trustees of William Scholes, late of Rose Cottage, Gatley Road for £56,000. These were then laid out as the running track and playing field called Scholes Park.

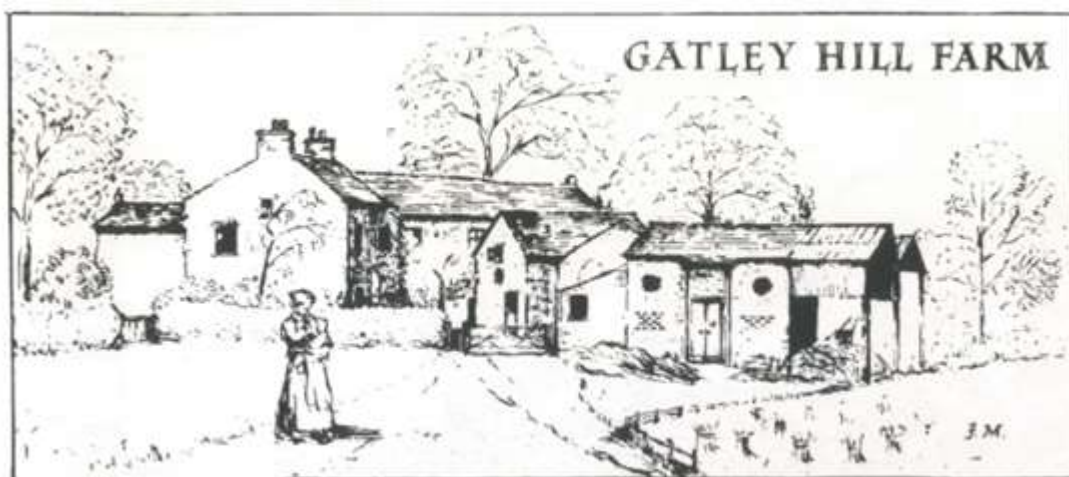
The Kendal Family c.1907

Taken at Gatley Hill House which the Kendals of Kendal Milnes occupied. The group includes



some mothers from Gatley village with their babies. Mrs Kendal (third from the right on the back row,) was interested in education, and often visited the St. James Church School on the Green. One of her daughters is at the left-hand side of the front row, and another at the extreme right of the back row.

Gatley Hill Farm c.1938



This picture was drawn by F. Mitchell from a Peter Burrows' original oil painting.

The farm was behind the present Gatley Hill

House at Plot 152 on the tithe map. It was anciently called Holt Farm, and will be found under that name on Bryant's Map of Cheshire, 1831. The Northenden P.R. has an entry for Elizabeth Ryle in 1585 and one for Reynold Ryle in 1588, both of Holt, Gatley. Antony Venables died at Gatley Hill Farm on 30 Oct. 1730, aged 63. His will of July 1730 describes him as a yeoman— a farmer who both owned and worked his farm. The estate passed through the female line to Thomas Alcock who appears to have built Gatley Hill House mid18thc.

The LTAs provide the names of some of the later occupiers of the farm: 1780 John Worthington, tanner; 1789 Alexander Wood, farmer; 1791 Samuel Worthington, tanner. The farm remained for the rest of its life with the Worthington farmer family. It was a large farm and Irish harvesters were recruited each summer. They lived in the outbuildings shown in the drawing, and looked after themselves. The farm was demolished in 1935, and the estate was purchased by the UDC. The Worthingtons, who were tanning here in the 18th century, were closely related to the Worthingtons who had the large tan yard and bark mill shown on the tithe map of Heald Green dated 1841.

High Grove House. c. 1890

This Georgian mansion was at the junction of the present Buttermere Road and Grasmere Road. Jeremiah Bower, a wealthy hatter of Yorkshire and Manchester, bought the beautiful High Grove estates for his son Samuel for £4,400 in 1756. The vendor was John Ryle of Torkington, Stockport, whose family had been in the High Grove area for generations. He was a direct descendant of the John Ryle of High Grove referred to earlier.



Jeremiah died in 1756, and it was either he or his son Samuel who built the mansion, adopting a style similar to that of the Bowers' town houses in Manchester¹. The estate remained with the Bower family for several generations, and the wills of Samuel in 1793, Benjamin in 1811 and Mary in 1836 in the Lancashire and Cheshire CROs will be useful to historians.

In 1840 the estate passed from Mary Bower to a distant kinsman who is listed in the 1841 Census returns as living at High Grove. He was Jeremiah Bowers and his age was given as 65. We also know that a Benjamin Bower owned it in 1880, because it is on record that he donated all the oak for the doors, altar rail, screen, and floor of St James' Church from his High Grove estate. From 1877–1884, the mansion was occupied by Hugh Arthur Birley who was a warden of St James', and who, with John Baker, was largely instrumental in the building of St James' church.

Mrs Ann Mann, who lived at the old coachman's cottage just below the house from 1934 to 1937, has written to us to say that she was told that during the 1914–18 war the estate was purchased by the Darrah family, one of whose sons occupied the mansion. They converted the Lower House farm buildings into three labourers' cottages, and went in for extensive pig rearing—so extensive that the area became known as 'The Piggery', a name we still hear used in the High Grove area occasionally, without, we hasten to assure the reader, any justification other than historical.

In 1936 the artist L. S. Lowry came along the rough country track to the High Grove. He paused at about the spot now occupied by the row of shops to the left of the High Grove Hotel and made a pencil drawing of it which he entitled, 'The Old House, Gatley'. This was later published in a book of his collected drawings which will be found in many public libraries.² Leslie Worthington and his wife Mabel farmed the estate towards the end of its life. Walter Grange was the last farmer before the estate was sold and the house demolished around 1960.

Lower House Farm 21 Sep. 1952



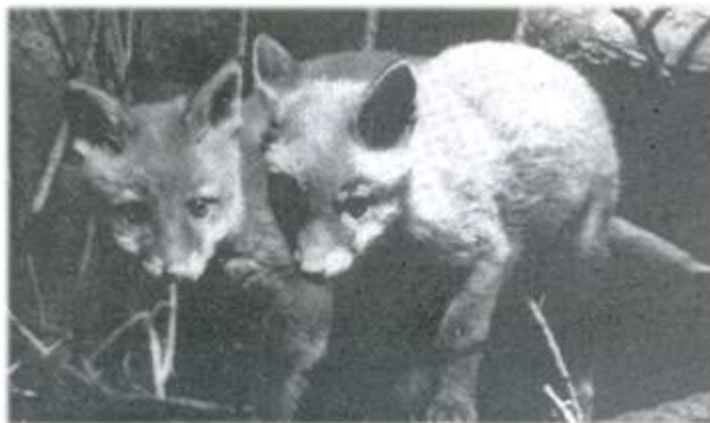
This charming group of buildings lay at the spot where Silverdale Road and St. Ann's Road meet. If readers go to this spot now, they will find the site occupied by the High Grove Hotel. In its early days it was the property of the Ryles family, who were in the area from the 16th century. From 1745 it passed with the Bowers' ownership of High Grove House. (See above.) A tombstone inscription in Woodford churchyard shows that c.1875 Mark and Sarah Worthington were there. During 1940–45, when WW2 was raging at its height it was used for Home Guard training. A stream ran by the side of the farm

and this widened to a beautiful pool in front of the barns with an old oak bridge at one end. The farm was demolished c.1963.

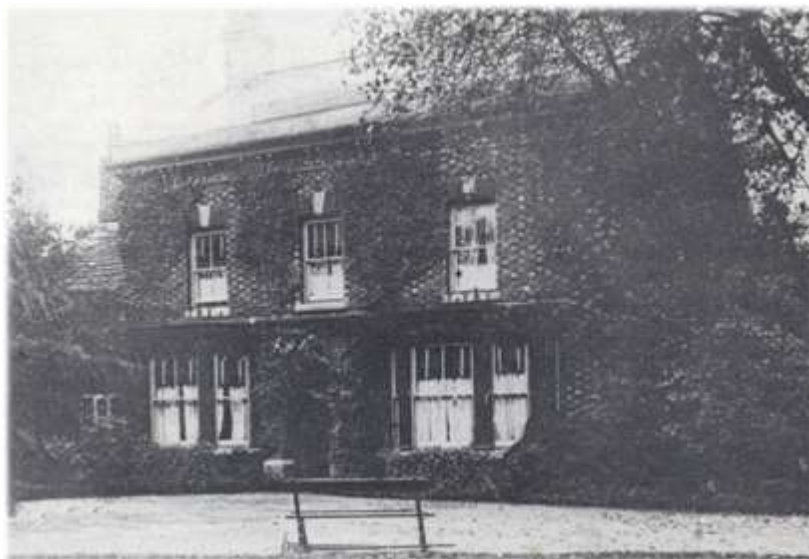
Refs. (1) W.H. Thomson, *History of Manchester to 1852*, 1966, illus. of house on p.172. (2) M. Levy and L.S. Lowry *L. S. Lowry Drawings*. 1963 Plate 44.

Fox Cubs 1970

These fox cubs were two of a litter of six photographed in their den in the bank of a small brook at the rear of High Grove Farm by Mr W. Warburton of Ringway Road in 1970. The occupier of the farm, Mrs Lily Hodgkinson, told us that the vixen returned to the same spot year after year to bear her cubs.



Pymgate House c.1898



This still exists at the junction of Styal Road and Pymgate Lane and is the most southerly house in the parish. The present Pymgate Stores, which stands almost in front of it, were once cottages for the servants. It is mainly 18th century, and was built onto a much older house with a stone slate roof, visible at the extreme left of the photograph. This was used as a kitchen and bathroom, and had a well, pump, and storage tank. The stables were at the rear

of the house. Between 1780–1816 the place was owned and occupied by Thomas and Aaron Barlow, followed in 1817 by Thomas Worthington. The tithe map shows that in 1841 a Charlotte Green both owned and occupied Pymgate, then a farm of 10½ acres. She also farmed a further 49 acres of land adjacent to Pymgate, owned by Thomas Green. John Worthington occupied Pymgate 1868–78, followed by William Lowcock.

In 1878 William, a warehouseman, married Jessie Martha Bird, and settled at Pymgate. They held large family parties at Christmas, when a posset cup, a family heirloom, was passed round. The Lowcocks, some of whom are portrayed below, left in c.1910. Bartram Du Val and his wife Margaret, nee Shimwell, who were married at St James' in 1902, went to live there in 1910, and Mr Roger Mayer of Heyhead has told us that the Darrah family occupied the house later. The house is now divided up into flats.

The Lowcock Family at Pymgate House c.1910



The elderly gentleman at the right is William Lowcock, whilst his wife Jessie Martha, nee Bird, is at the extreme left. Of the young ladies at the rear, on the left is Miss Maude Lowcock, their daughter. She once had a private school in Gatley which started in Torkington Lodge. She later lived in Delamere Road and held dancing classes at Gatley Hill House. The lady at the top right was Mrs Jenny (William) Lowcock, daughter-in-law of William and Jessie. The three boys are their

grandsons— at the rear is Wilfred Pritchard, son of William Pritchard who was a manufacturing chemist in Cheadle. The boy on the old lady's knee is William George Lowcock, son of Jenny and William, whilst the boy in the foreground is Frederick Charles, son of Frederick Lowcock. He became a glove importer with premises at 40 High Street, Manchester 4.

Waterfall Farm, now Gatley Golf Club 1971



This attractive old building of the late 18th century, whose walls and porch were once bedecked with creeper, was near Pymgate, just outside the parish boundary. (See the SW corner of the parish map.) The LTAs of 1780–1830 show the farm to be in the hands of the Barrow family. Further information will be found in the Gatley Congregational Registers and its Tombstone Records Book.

Later, John and William Wharmby farmed here, John dying in 1838.

The tithe map shows that by 1841 Samuel Taylor owned it, and that Thomas Hankinson occupied it. Thomas and Joseph Hankinson both died of typhus at Waterfall in 1841. James Cronshaw acquired the property later and by 1910 Samuel Clarke occupied it as farm bailiff for Cronshaw's Executors. It was in 1910 that Gatley Golf Club was formed, and they had some of the land on rent for their nine-hole course. Waterfall Farm was part of an estate bought by John Tullock in 1919. He built the house in Firs Road called Rodmill, and became a member of the golf club. In 1950 the club purchased the course, together with the club house. The present membership (1979), is 199 men and 78 women and the Captain is E. Davies.

High Grove Farm 1970



This stood on St. Ann's Road North, almost opposite the southern end of Buttermere Road and just outside the parish of St. James. It was built c.17th century and demolished in June 1979. It was here that John Ryle lived in the 17th century, part of the farm where he wrote the diary from which we quote below. High Grove was a small and scattered hamlet in Stockport Etchells, 'Grove' was often spelt 'Grieve' or 'Greave' meaning, 'a way cut through a wood'. The Eyre Rolls of 1290 refer to a Richard de Hegreve, and this gives us some idea of the age of this tiny rural community.

In 1972 we discovered the diary of John Ryle in the CRO under Ref. D D X 23, Acc.51. We obtained a copy which we redrafted and deposited in the Stockport Local History Library where it is held under Ref. S46 E73. John Ryle died in 1690, and was the son of Reginald Ryle who died at High Greeve in 1658, and was buried at Northenden. John's diary shows how closely country folk lived with Mother Nature. They watched the weather with keen eyes: snow, wind, rain, frost, the sun, early springs and late falls were all significant. The hedgerows, wildflowers, the voice of the cuckoo, as well as the progress of the trees and fruit, all receive mention. Each 'Tide' had its place, e.g. Yule Tide, Bartholomew Tide, Whitsuntide, St Wilfred's Tide and so on. Blazing stars were noted in 1664-5, and the skies were watched with awe and wonder.

John Ryle mentions the Great Fire of London of 2-6th Sep. 1666, and says there was a great drought at High Greave that summer, with all the wheat shorn by 20th August. He also speaks of great floods in the area c.1662, with the Mersey in Stockport up to the top of the Lancashire and Cheshire bridge so that he 'could see no part of the battlements' and that he 'rode his mare to the knees in the cartway'. He writes, 'I met severall persons that told me that I could not ride over the Bearhole unless I would swime, so I was glad to ride up the Hillgate to get clear of the town'. It seems that 1680 was a good year, with cherries and apples by May, with hawthorn in bloom. He says, however, 'On the fourth of May I dressed a sheep of the quicks.' In 1684 he had the Broad field shorn by July, taking forty riders at one load, (equalling 400 sheaves), this being the first year after it was marled (fertilised). John Ryle used to attend Cheadle church and in 1686 planted a yew tree on the east side near the road. A small, but significant, entry in the diary dated 1687 reads, 'We led our turfs May 21st.' Turves and peat were used for domestic fires, cooking, bedding of cattle, and soil improvement. It is probable that he bought the turves from the turbary at Shadow Moss, shown on our Moss Nook tithe map. Most of the field names mentioned in his diary will be found on the Gatley tithe map. John Ryle married twice and had six children.

In his will of 6 Jan 1690, he left his wife well provided for, with a sum of £320-13-6. His son Joshua got his riding coat with plate buttons. John Junior's wife got 20 shillings, and the poor of Etchells received £10. Also included was a woman's saddle for Alice, wife of his son Reginald, and

a guinea for the minister of Northenden to preach at his funeral. His daughter Katherine had married a John Coppock without his consent or approval and the clauses attached to her £200 inheritance were clearly designed to prevent John from laying his hands on the money. We included a copy of the will with the copy of the diary we deposited at the Stockport Local History Library.

Wills of Henry Ryle, Yeoman, 1672, and Thomasine Ryle, 1698

Henry and Thomasine lived at Holt Farm, Gatley. In his will of 25th July 1672, Henry left all to his wife, except gloves to his cousin John Ryle of the High Grieve, and a silver spoon to each of his four children. Thomasine was a Gatley midwife whose name appears on a deed of St. James' church showing that in 1699 she owned some cottage property, including the Old Court House. She also held a licence from the Bishop of Chester, dated 1669, authorising her to baptise babies which appeared unlikely to survive. In those days, midwives were instructed by priests in the exact manner of celebrating the rite of baptism to ensure its validity. They were bound by a kind of Hippocratic Oath, and were especially enjoined in no wise to neglect baptism in the presence of witnesses. The child was baptised 'Creature' or 'Creature Christi', which would serve either sex, and, if it lived, was duly received into the Church. When we last enquired, the licence itself was not available at the CRO, but was entered on their index. It might be in the Bishop's archives? Henry's father was Henry Ryle of Crossacres.

In Thomasine Ryle's will of 27 Jan. 1698 she leaves her only son John 12 pence in silver, 'and no more' (He possibly had his share before.) She left money to her grandchildren as follows:

To Thomasine Pye, 12 pence; To Elisabeth Bancroft £40; To Henry and John Philips, John Bancroft Jun., John and Thos. Watt of Sharston, £5 each; To Elisabeth Brownhill, her cabinet; To Thomasine Timperley £5 when of age, and to Thomas Timperley, flaxen sheets.

The inventory of Thomasine's will included: two kettles, three brass pots, one brass pan, a salt pick, a mortar and pestle, a warming pan, three beds with furnishings, feather and chaff cushions, small chairs, tables large and small, small pewter tankards, eight dishes and cups, Lombard ware (cooking), earthenware, a silver cup, a gold ring, cupboards, boxes, trunks, coffer, and her cabinet. Thomasine's home seems to have been very comfortable by the standards of those days.

Will of Roger Goodier, Yeoman, of High Grieve 1605

This interesting will and inventory includes as beneficiaries Roger's wife Maude, daughter of James Kelsall of Bradshawe Hall, who married on 24 Nov. 1561. Also, his son Thomas Goodyear of London, his daughter Ann Woodrowe, and five grandchildren. A study of other documents suggests that Roger Goodyear's farm was on or near the site of Highfield House, which still exists on the present Kingsway almost opposite the end of Schools Hill, on the parish boundary. We have not space to give to the whole will but the following list from the inventory gives us tantalising glimpses of life as it was in Gatley in 1605:

- *Maid's chamber: beds with furniture*
- *Heckling House¹: yarn and towe chest*
- *The Come²: Ark,³ and treene ware⁴*
- *The New Place: beds, bedsteads with furnishings, boards and other things*
- *The Chamber below: beds with furniture, chests, a press, ladders, brakes, treene ware kaires⁵, barrels, tubs and suchlike. Barron of beef, pewter and brass*
- *Buttery and Closet: boards and shelves*
- *Kitchen and Chamber: a malt arke*
- *Servants' Chamber: beds with furniture, form, boards, spinning wheel, ironware, broaches⁶ and other ironware in the house*
- *The Lodge: pair of bedstocks, mustari⁷, sives and grindle⁸*
- *The House: dishboard, chest, chairs, stools, forms, shelves, cradle, a woman's saddle, bellows, lantern, caske, poke, window sheet, fewel, silver spoons, drinking glasses, earthen ware, Bible, salt, butter, cheese and wearing apparel*

The farm was also well stocked; the inventory including corn, barley, oats, hay, sheep, bullocks, calves, a mare, gelding, colts, ploughs, fowls and so on.

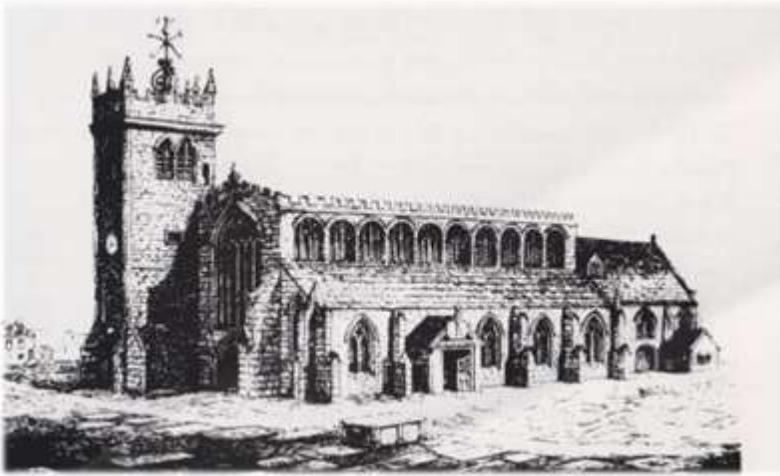
Glossary

- (1) Heckling is the dressing of flax. (2) The Come was a room where butter was churned. (3) An arke or ark was a chest, bin or box. (4) 'Treene' means wooden. (5) Kaires were curing barrels. (6) Broaches were devices to turn spits. (7) Mustari was a coarse, grey, woollen cloth. (8) Grindle, a grindstone.**
-

This brings us to the end of our chapter on Old Gatley and High Grove but much more will be found later. There is still, however, a great deal to be discovered about this earlier period, and we trust that future historians will be encouraged to investigate the great mass of material still lying in County Records Offices, libraries, museums and even in the less-frequented byways of the historian, such as solicitors' archives, local authority muniment rooms and the like. All have some story to tell.

Chapter Two. St. James Church and School: 1875–1980

The Parish Church of St. Mary, Stockport. Engraving c.1810



The church of St Mary is at the junction of Churchgate and Millgate in Stockport, where a church was first erected in 1334. It was substantially rebuilt in 1817, the present chancel being the only part of the building shown in the engraving still remaining. Until the establishment of St. Thomas's Church in Stockport, (see below), it was the official parish church for

Gatley, because Gatley was then in Stockport Etchells, a detached township of Stockport. However, it was three and a half miles from Gatley to St. Mary, and although many Gatley baptisms, marriages and burials are registered there, it was common for Gatley people to use other nearer churches, such as Northenden, Cheadle, and Ringway. *See Earwaker, Vol.1, p.354, for details of St. Mary.*

St Thomas's is at the junction of Marriot St and Higher Hillgate. Since Gatley was eventually taken into St. Thomas's parish, readers may very well consider it as its mother church and St. Mary's as its grandmother church. The circumstances are as follows:

By an Act passed in 1818, Parliament provided one million pounds to build new churches in populous places, and set up commissioners to administer the funds. An approach was made to them in 1820 to provide a church in the parish of St. Mary's, Stockport. One acre of land for church and yard was given by Lord and Lady Bulkeley of Poynton. The foundation stone was laid on 7 Oct. 1822, and the church was consecrated on 26 Sept. 1825. The official name given to it was 'The Chapel of St. Thomas in the parish of Stockport, daughter church of St. Mary's, Stockport'. It remained so until 1875, although an Order of Council of 6 Oct. 1838 provided for the division of St. Mary's parish, and allocated a large area to St. Thomas's including the whole of Dialstone Lane, the township of Bramhall and the detached township of Stockport Etchells—which included both Gatley and Heald Green.

An Act of Parliament of 1854, to ascertain when the division should take place, refers to the Order in Council, and that the division should be effected when the Rectory of St. Mary's next fell vacant.

St. Thomas's Church, Stockport. Woodcut 1825



This occurred on 4 May 1875 with the death of Rev C K Prescott. St. Thomas's then became a parish church, which included Gatley, with the Rev Joseph Taylor as its first Rector, 1875–1876. He had been Perpetual Curate since 1844. The Rev Matthew Pugh followed 1876–86.

The Tithe Apportionments of Stockport Etchells show that in 1839 the people of Gatley were still paying their tithes to the Rev C K Prescott at St. Mary's and not to the Perpetual Curate at St. Thomas. This was usual in such cases.

The Church School of St. James, Gatley.
Drawing by F. Mitchell, based on a
photograph dated c.1877

This was built at the eastern end of Gatley Green in 1875 and was the first building erected in Gatley for Church of England use.

The three buildings on these last two pages covered a period of some six centuries of religious life for Gatley's inhabitants.



The Story of a Village School

Although the Gatley non-conformists had a chapel in Old Hall Road from 1779, with a small school attached from c.1821, the Church of England people were not so fortunate until a few, strong minded churchmen decided it was time. In 1874 John Baker, a wine and spirit merchant of Gatley Hill House and Hugh Arthur Birley of High Grove House took on the task of collecting the support needed to bring their ideas to fruition. Thomas William Tatton, Lord of the Manor of Wythenshawe Hall was an enthusiastic supporter and instrumental in providing the land. The document on the next page gives some details of the purchase of quit rents by John Baker on behalf of the future church.

It was decided to erect the school first, with the schoolroom serving as both church and school until the church could be built. The contract was let to Joseph Dawes of Cheadle and the School was opened on 9th August 1875, when thirty children attended.

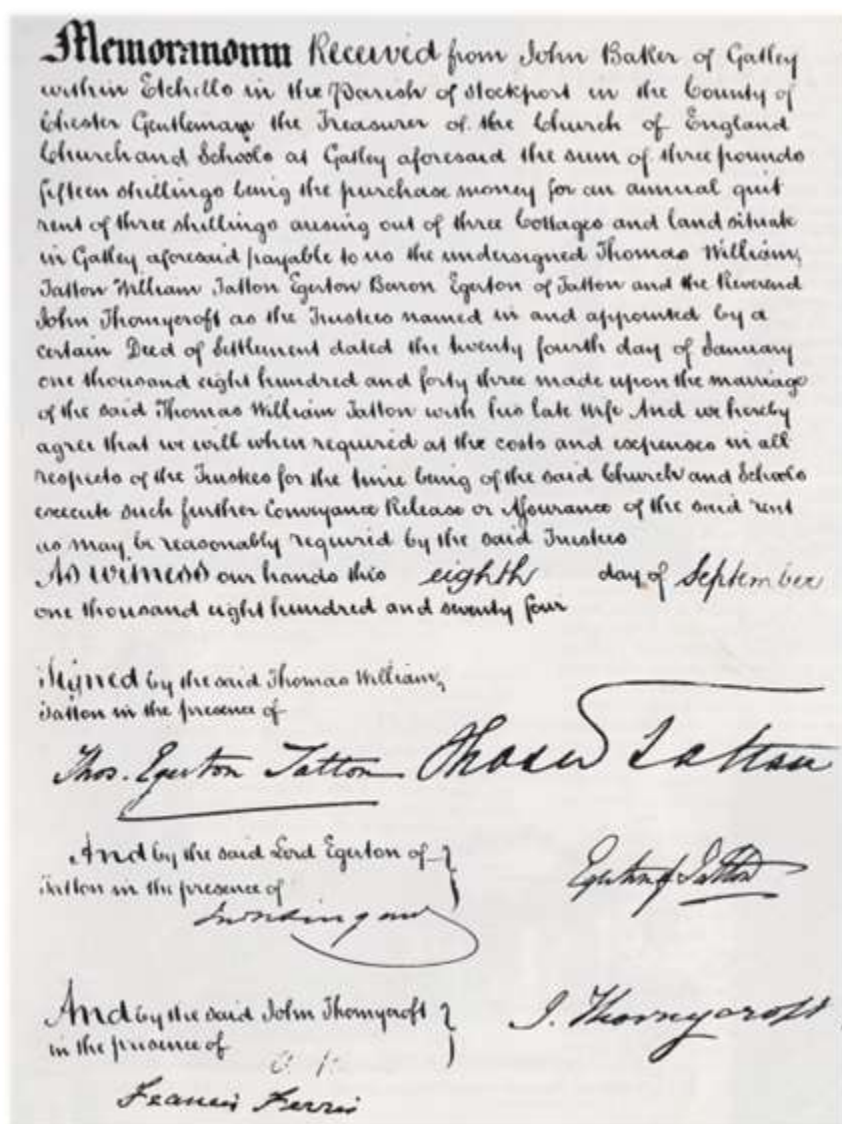
Hugh Arthur Birley c.1874



The first page of the first school log book (1875–1904) states, ‘Government No. 24171, (Ed. Dpt.), Drawing No. 12825, (S. and A. Dept.) Cheshire. The schoolroom was 39 feet by 22 feet, and there was a classroom 15 feet by 12 feet. The accommodation was for 113 persons. A gallery was added to the main room in its early years, and a bell on the roof in 1877. Washing facilities consisted of a jug and bowl in the corner of the classroom and the toilets were in the school yard.’ Both the gallery and bell were removed in June 1899.

Since the building was used as both a church and a school, there were three curates in charge in succession: Rev William Stanier, Rev W. A. Diggins and Rev Percy M. Herford. The first baptism in the schoolroom was on 18 June 1876, and was of Tom Clarke Chandley. The first schoolmaster was Joseph Walker with Miss Mary Bennett as his assistant. On 2nd May 1879, seven children were baptised at morning prayer. On Easter Day in that year an altar cloth presented by Miss Herford was used for the first time. On 28th September 1879, Bishop Kelly confirmed eighteen St. James' candidates.

St James' Quit Rents



St James' church school provided basic education for local children for sixty one years. The pattern of life there is perhaps best seen in the two surviving log books which cover the years 1875–1927. There are the usual periodic reports by H. M. Inspectors on secular education and those of the Diocesan Inspector on the standard of religious education.

Almost every winter the compiler of the log complains about the lack of heat in the school. The most common entries are probably those where the Head complains about local farmers and tradespeople employing juveniles who ought to be at school. It is, however, the minor entries which stir the imagination and show us what life in the village and school was really like in Victorian and later times. The following are a few of these.

15 Sep 1875	I gave a lesson to the Second Standard on 'The Shape and Motions of the World'.
8 Oct 1875	Mr Bedford sent a hamper of pears for the children. (<i>He lived at Milton Cottage. Ed.</i>)
22 Oct 1875	I gave a lesson on a 'Whale' to all the children above four years old.
3 Nov 1875	Mr T. W. Tatton called. He did not come into the school, not being able to walk, but sent for me to the gate.
11 Oct 1897	Three more cases of scarlet fever. 90 on register, 34 absent, many for fear of infection.
24 Apr 1899	Arthur Mosley admitted - will be 8 in July. Has never been to school. Does not know a letter. Lives in the country.
9 Jun 1899	The drought. Two absent this afternoon to fetch water. (Hudson, Leigh - in the country.)
12-14 Dec 1899	Deep snow; 32 absent, many late. N.B. Country children from over a mile, early; those from nearest cottages to school on each side, late. Absences on account of chilblains and toothache.
23 Oct 1905	Teachers have adopted measures to stop juvenile smoking. Girls encouraged to act as spies and inform.
16 Dec 1909	Lancs. and Ches. Band of Hope Temperance Union; in response to twenty essays on 'Alcohol and the Human Body' twenty certificates have been awarded. (<i>The Temperance Societies were regular visitors. Ed.</i>)
16 Jul 1915	Herbert Davies absent from school, haymaking. No proceedings taken against parents.
2 Jun 1916	Several children attend a Dames School halftime. Others seen in the roads much of the time..
18 Dec 1916	Fifteen shilling have been paid to the Church Army for soldiers' huts. But police stopped the collection.
Jul-Sep 1918	23 children exempted from school to work in agriculture. (<i>Last months of World War I. Ed.</i>)

A final entry in the PCC minutes of 8 June 1936 states that the school is closed and no longer recognised by the Board of Education. There are still many people living who attended the tiny church school on Gatley Green, and who remember it with nostalgia.

Beechcroft 1968

This house stood on the south side of Gatley Road, between the present Kingsway and High Grove Road. It was built in c.1870, and was used as a vicarage by the Rev P. M. Herford until 1888.

Beechcroft was demolished in June 1973 and flats now occupy the site. The vicarage used by the Rev Herford's successor, the Rev John Bruster, was Melbourne Cottage, 52 Church Road, Gatley. The premises are now (1979), occupied by Anne Gowns. It was used as a vicarage from 1888 to 1894, when a new one was built on Northenden Road.



Proposal for Church at Gatley, Stockport Etchells:

Percy M. Herford, Curate-in-Charge, John Baker, Sidesman, Hugh Arthur Birley, Sidesman.
Gatley, June 30th, 1879.

Etchells is an out-lying and isolated township, with more than 1,000 inhabitants, in the parish of St. Thomas, Stockport, and several miles distant from the parish church. Until 1875 there was neither church nor church school in the district. In that year, a school was built by subscription at Gatley, the most populous part of Etchells. Early in the following year, the schoolroom was licensed for divine service by the Bishop, and a curate was appointed to take charge of the district. Since then morning and evening prayer has been said every Sunday, and the sacraments duly administered.

The Services in the school church have been well attended and by the adoption of the offertory at every service they have been made almost self-supporting. ('Since the beginning of the present year £73. 16s. 0d. (in 3,394 coins) has been collected.') But it has been felt for some time past that the present arrangement of holding Sunday Services and Day School in the same building has very serious disadvantages, and entails the greatest inconvenience.

It is now proposed, with the sanction and support of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of the parish, to build a plain and inexpensive church, with about 250 sittings, which are all to be entirely free and unappropriated. The estimated cost of the church is about £1,800; of this amount nearly half (as will be seen from the accompanying list) has been already promised. For the Churchmen of the district to try and raise the whole of the sum still required would be a hopeless task, as the bulk of the community are working farmers or day labourers.

We venture, therefore, to hope that all our friends and neighbours who desire to strengthen and extend the church will generously help us to carry out our scheme.

Subscriptions, which may be paid by instalments if preferred, will be thankfully received by either of the Sidesmen, or by the Curate-in-Charge. An account has been opened at Messrs. Brooks' Bank, King Street, Manchester.

(B) THE REV. PERCY MITCHINOR, HERFORD. Photo. c.1882.
He was Vicar Designate from 1879-80, and became the first Vicar of the newly-built St. James Church, Gatley in 1881. He was a wealthy married man with a large family, and prior to his grandfather the family had been nonconformists. His wife's name was Helen, and their children were Cecil, Lionel, Geoffrey, Lionel Barcan, Margaret Angela, Randle, (later a rector), and Beryl. One other daughter, name not known. He left St. James in 1888 and died 1928.

Donations Promised to the New Church, GATLEY.

	£	s.	d.
Grant from Chester Diocesan Church Building Society	125	0	0
Incorporated	80	0	0
Sale of Work and Concert (Christmas, 1879)	101	0	0
John Baker	100	0	0
H. A. Birley	100	0	0
James Cronshaw	100	0	0
T. H. Sykes	100	0	0
T. W. Tatton	100	0	0
Peter Taylor	100	0	0
R. H. Bamford Hesketh	50	0	0
G. Bayley Worthington	50	0	0
Rev. the Rector of St. Thomas, Stockport	50	0	0
Edward Herford	50	0	0
Stephen Christy	50	0	0
Lord Egerton of Tatton	30	0	0
J. F. Sutcliffe	30	0	0
Rev. P. M. Herford (Collected)	25	0	0
The Misses Hilton	25	0	0
C. J. Pooley	25	0	0
William Pooley	25	0	0
W. O. Pooley	25	0	0
Mrs. Sykes	25	0	0
A. H. Sykes	25	0	0
C. S. Drabble	20	0	0
C. B.	10	10	0
Lord Bishop of Chester	10	0	0
J. Alcock	10	0	0
Miss Birley	10	0	0
Mrs. B. Brodrick	10	0	0
Edward Cambell	10	0	0
Richard Sykes	10	0	0
W. H. Vaughan	10	0	0
Whitsuntide Tea Party, 1880	7	10	3
Lord Bishop of Calcutta	5	0	0
Robert Cressy	5	0	0
Herbert Kendal	5	0	0
Charles Hankinson	5	0	0
James Heginbotham	5	0	0
William Lowe	5	0	0
J. D. Milne	5	0	0
James Rigg	5	0	0
J. R.	5	0	0
J. Rowbottom	5	0	0
Richard Scholes	5	0	0
Mrs. Symonds, Worthing	5	0	0
Rev. W. Worsley	5	0	0
J. B., per H. A. B.	3	3	0
F. Footitt	3	3	0
Rev. J. M. Hall	1	1	0
W. Marsh	1	1	0
Hall and Pawson, per Mrs. Orme	1	1	0
Dr. J. B. Massiah	1	1	0
A. Friend	1	0	0
Charles Timperley, per Mrs. Orme	1	0	0
T. Lane	0	10	0
J. Warburton, per Mrs. Heginbotham	0	10	0

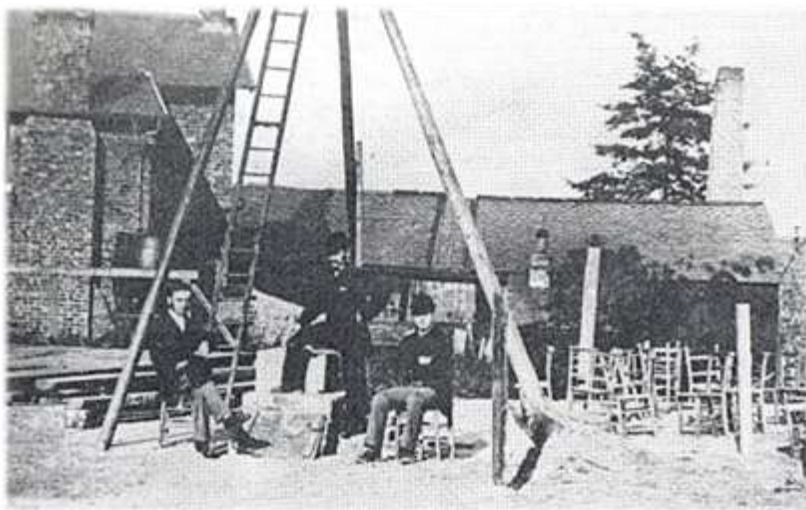
£1580 10 3



As a result of the efforts of the Rev Herford, John Baker, Hugh Arthur Birley and others, sufficient money had been raised by 1880 to commence work on the building of the church on a site at the eastern end of Gatley Green, adjacent to the church school. The foundation stone laying ceremony took place on 10 July 1880, and it was described by a local reporter as follows:

'On a beautifully warm day the clergy, choir and scholars met in the schoolroom, and headed by a band, went in procession around the village green, where the choir sang 'The Old Hundredth'—'All People That on Earth do Dwell'. Then, walking to the site of the new church, the clergy took their place on a raised platform and the choir and children gathered round the foundation stone. Prayers were offered by the Rev P. M. Herford, Vicar Designate, after which another hymn was sung by the choir. Mr John Baker of Gatley Hill then presented a handsome silver trowel to Mr W. Cunliffe Brooks, M.P. who laid the stone, saying that the day marked a great step towards the realisation of hopes long cherished by the people of Gatley, and by many friends in the neighbourhood. It was sixteen years since a resolute effort was made to secure a church for the people of Gatley. Thomas Tatton, Lord of the Manor of Wythenshawe had offered help and land for the purpose, but difficulties had occurred postponing the work. Foremost amongst those who had laboured actively in this good work was Mr John Baker of Gatley Hill.' For a full report see the Stockport Advertiser, 16th July, 1880.

Laying the Foundation Stone of St James Church. Photo 10 July 1880



John Baker was born at 'Springfield', Edgeley, Stockport. He was the eldest son of Charles Baker, wine and spirit merchant of Bakers Vaults, Stockport Market Place, which passed to John on his death. John became a governor of Stockport Grammar School and was a supporter of the Infirmary until his death. He was one of the first Governors of St. James' Church School and was the first warden. He gave the first £100 to

the building fund and later provided the communion plate for the church. He removed to 'The Gables', Buxton in 1882—the choir boys used to go there for days out in the summer. He died on holiday in the Isle of Wight in 1892 aged sixty seven years.

The architects for the church were Mr Medland Taylor and Mr Henry Taylor of Manchester, and the general contractor was T. Darnborough of Rusholme. The cost, without fees, was £2,481 15s. 7d. The building with the chimney in the background of the photograph was the workshop of Thomas Fallows, vehicle builder and wheelwright. He lived at the house on the left which is now No. 61, Church Road.

Children of the Church School 1880



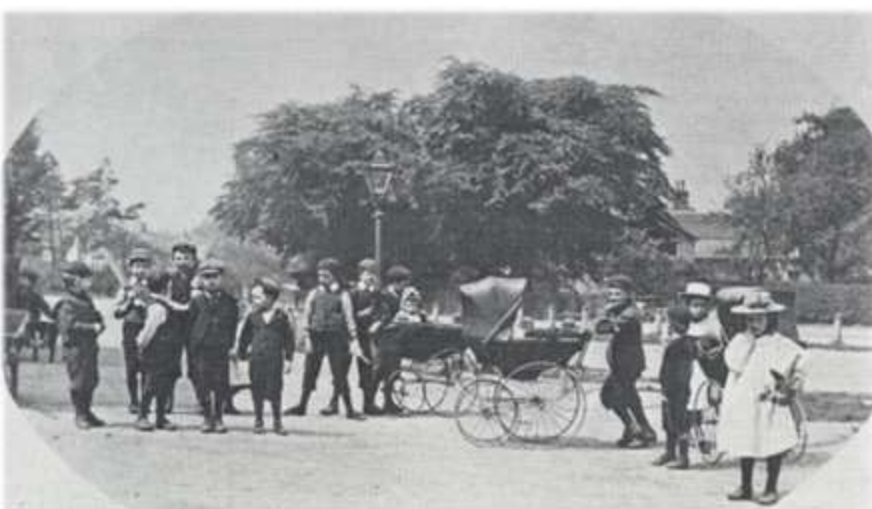
This photograph includes some of the first children to attend the St. James Church School built in 1875, and seen in the background. Bricks being used in the construction of the church are also visible in the background. Note the cottagers' clothes posts on the left and the three cottages on the right which are numbers 15–19 Gatley Green.

Communion Plate 1970

The items shown here were given by John Baker of Gatley Hill in 1876, with the following exceptions: The chalice and paten on the left were given anonymously in 1931. The wafer box, also on the left, was given by Guy Thornley of Cheadle, whilst the one on the right was given by the Youth Fellowship in 1961. All are still in use.



Gatley Green c.1900



This shows the green viewed from the end where the church was built. The copper beech in the centre was in the front garden of Greenbank, Stonepail Road.

St. James Interior 1979

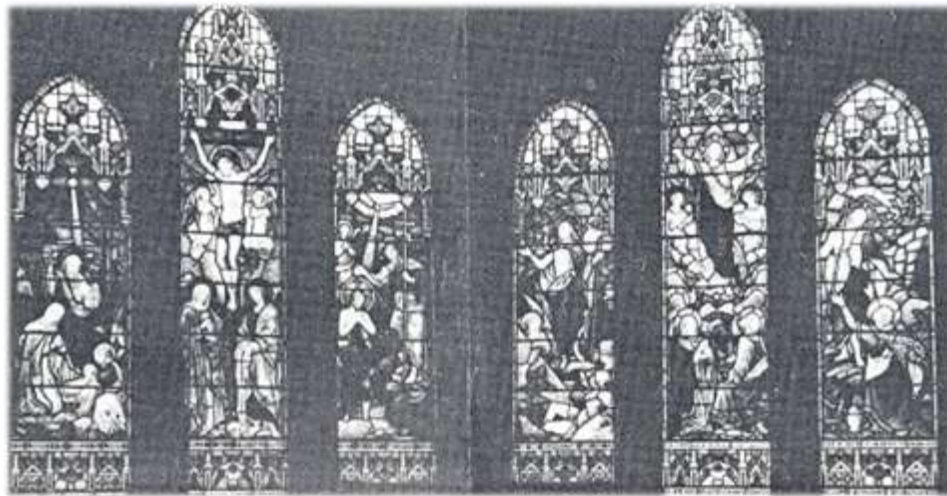


The church was dedicated and consecrated by James Butler Kelly, late Bishop of Newfoundland on 6 December, 1881. The finance for the church had come from voluntary contributions and grants from the Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches and chapels in the Chester Diocese.

It was built of hand-made bricks from William Adshead's Pymgate Brickworks, which was on the west side of Styal Road, opposite Yew Tree Grove. Although the design is plain and unpretentious, the interior is very pleasing. There are inscriptions on walls and floor both inside and out. The bell tower was intended to hold four bells, but these were never installed, and a simple Harrington tube bell was used for many years. A Grundig tape recorder and a recorded peal are now used. Chairs were used until c.1888, after which the present oak pews were progressively installed. Early gifts were a handsome pulpit of pierced stone, replaced several years ago by oak, and a carved stone font which was bought with 3,000 pennies collected by the children in 1880–81. The oak panelling round the altar was the gift of the Bruster family in memory of the Rev John Bruster who was Vicar from 1888 to 1928. Other gifts have been oak priests' stalls, pulpit and lectern, as well as tiles in the sanctuary. The donors' names are on the various items, but are too numerous to be included here. The choir vestry was added in 1904–05.

By 1971 the old organ was worn out. A new one was installed and dedicated in September 1971. The church and parish hall were heated by low-pressure hot water pipes using solid fuel until 1967 when, because of the problem of finding somebody to stoke the boiler, a change was made to oil heating.

Stained Glass 1979



The church contains some very attractive stained glass and the photograph shows the six beautiful windows at the east end which depict events in the life of Christ. These were given by the widow of Edward Cambell of Highfield in his memory and the memory of his daughters Catherine Jane and Jessie Louisa in 1883. The pair of windows facing the entrance door were given in 1882 in memory of Mary Ellen McHugh of the Poplars, the house which once stood on the site of the present Tatton Cinema on Gatley Road. The two fine windows about half-way along the North wall were given by Mrs Frederick Taylor in memory of her husband, a Churchwarden, 1913–33.

Highfield 1979

Highfield was the home of the donor of the St. James' east window. This was built in c.1786 on the west side of Kingsway, nearly opposite the end of Schools Hill. The Land Tax Assessments of 1829 show it to be occupied by George Campbell (a mis-spelling of Cambell), with a value of £2 12s. The census returns and the tithe map of 1841 show he was a farmer of 42 acres. The estate passed to Edward Cambell who died there in 1882 aged 86. Highfield was amongst several houses used by the Cheadle Royal Mental



Hospital in 1901–04 as small hospital units. The present occupiers (1979), are Dr R. M. C. Eager and family.

Through our enquiries into the history of Highfield and the nearby properties of High Grove and others, we think we have solved a minor local history problem. In an undated c. 16c Tatton document entitled *The Etchells Court of Survey*, listing all Tatton tenants in Etchells, it states, '*At Heath Houses, 27 tenants of whom Robert Gooddyer had 34 acres, and Reinyould Ryle 39 acres, with rents and services corresponding.*' The site of Heath Houses seems, however, to have been something of a mystery to modern historians. The old diary and wills from which we have quoted

earlier make it clear that both the Goodiers and the Ryles (including a Reginald Ryle), were well established close to Highfield in the 16th and 17th centuries. The tithe map of Stockport Etchells dated 1841, shows that there were seven fields with the name of 'Heath' adjacent to Highfield. We consider it almost certain, therefore, that the Heath Houses referred to in the Tatton document was located at or very near to the site of the present Highfield shown in the photograph.

The Rev. John Bruster 1911

Reverend Bruster was St. James' longest serving Vicar. Inducted by Canon Gore, Archdeacon of Macclesfield, on 29 August, 1888, he retired in 1928 after 40 years of service. A man of vision, with clear-cut views and a strong personality, he led a full life. On 31 August, 1888 he started daily morning prayers in the church, these followed by scripture lessons in the church school. In 1891 he formed a Young Peoples' Sunday afternoon service and in 1893 a class for young men. In 1894 he built a wooden shed with a brick fireplace in his garden and used it for printing his monthly Parish Journal. He not only wrote the text, but set it up in cold type and printed it. The Journal was delivered free to all parishioners by children who received one half-penny per month. Mrs Kathleen Meldrum, one of our older church members, was one of the children who delivered the journals during the 1914–18 war. Although the old shed was demolished in 1964, many will recall with pleasure the garden party teas prepared here, with chairs in the orchard, and when Kyle Manning held a Youth Club exhibition there. Mr Bruster initiated the necessary actions for many of Gatley's early amenities—a bank, horse cabs, a horse bus and so on. He had various sick room appliances which he loaned to parishioners, and was an enthusiastic photographer, painter, member of the Guild of Inventors and was also Chaplain to Barnes Hospital. He was keen to see a church built in Heald Green, and worked towards that end. He died in November 1936, at the age of eighty four.



Millicent Bruster, nee Matthews, wife of John Bruster c.1910, taken at Gatley Flower Show

The Bruster Children 1894



Left to right: Mary Constance, b.1889, Edith Gertrude, b.1892, and Margaret. We had the pleasure of meeting Edith when in her seventies. She gave us much useful information about Edwardian Gatley life and loaned some of the photos in this book.



Edith became a Domestic Science teacher and occasionally helped in the village school. During the 1914–18 war she was a Red Cross Nurse at the military hospital at Cheadle House and later married Claude Smith. Margaret did not marry but stayed at home and helped with parish work. One old parishioner remembers seeing her taking jugs of nourishing hot broth to sick people in the village, and told us that she eventually came to be regarded almost as a curate. The bicycle in the photo was known as a Safety Cycle, so called because it had handlebars at both front and rear, joined together by a metal bar and (in theory at least) it was steerable by either or both riders. The arrangement seems to have had little to commend it. This one was an adult cycle used by Mr and Mrs Roth.

The Vicarage c.1909

Mr W. Heald, of Parrs Wood, donated £100 towards a new Vicarage in 1889 which was built in 1894 at Number 11, Northenden Road. The architect was Mr F. Bindloss of 'Shortacre', Gatley Road. In 1898 he donated the brass altar cross and candlesticks to the church in memory of his children's nurse.



Vicarage Inscription 1979



This appears near the upper left of the front door. For those who, like the authors, have not had the benefit of a

classical education, it means, 'Unless the Lord build the house, the labour of the builders is in vain.' It is taken from Psalm 127, verse one.

The Rev. Thos. Shimwell 1903



Born in 1877, he was the son of Mr and Mrs W. James Shimwell of Greenbank, Gatley. James Shimwell was a Lay Reader of St. James', and also gave limelight lectures in the schoolroom. His carriage was always at the disposal of the church. His son Thomas was ordained deacon in 1900 when he first took part in St. James' services. In 1903 he went to Salford, and later became known as 'The Reforming Canon'. He was the friend of all poor tenants, bringing to light insanitary conditions, especially in Ancoats, Manchester. He was a pioneer of houses for the working classes, and we have examples of Shimwell houses in Gatley at Nos. 6–16, Greenbank Road. He was

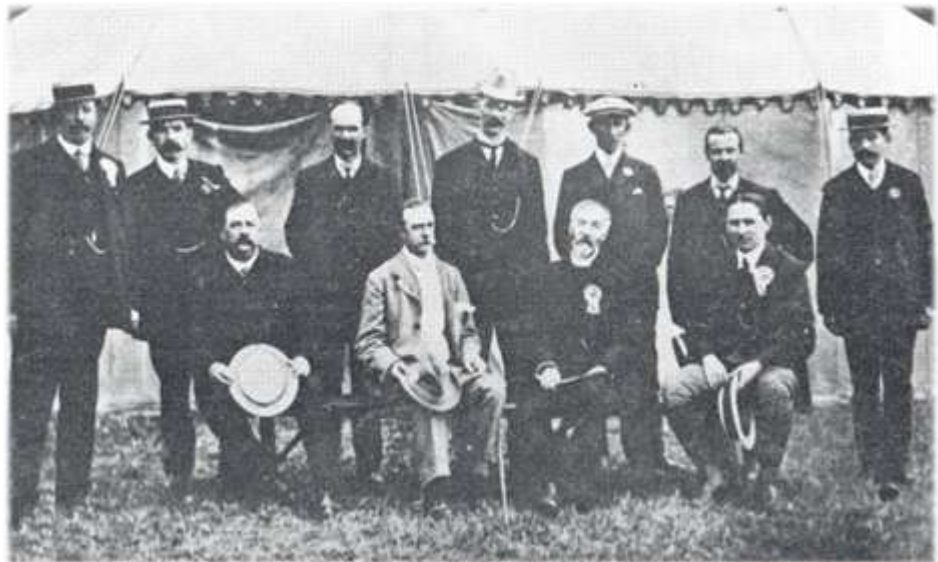
one of the organisers of an experiment which began in 1926 as Manchester Housing Ltd., whereby money was lent at a low rate of interest for the building of new houses and flats. St. James' church purchased shares in one of these schemes. Canon Shimwell died on 17 August 1944 and his obituary is in the Manchester Guardian of 19 August 1944.

Greenbank, the home of Shimwell's parents, was built by Henry Baxter in c.1822. It stood on the north side of Stonepail Road, on the township boundary. When Miss Edith Richardson of Gatley was shot dead in front of the house in a crime of passion around the 1930's, her body, according to Edith Bruster, lay in the road for a full hour whilst the local police tried to establish in which police district the crime had been committed.

The house was an attractive, double-fronted, brick built building of two storeys. In the centre was a wide vestibuled doorway with a semi-elliptical arch over it. There were five windows on the front, each with twenty small panes. A fine, large tulip tree grew in the front garden and an orchard on the west side extended to Park Road. There was a low boundary wall with elaborate wrought iron railings on the top along Stonepail Road. Mr Sidney Bracegirdle bought the house in 1934 and founded Gatley Autos Ltd. there. In the early days, it was mainly concerned with car deliveries, with a small petrol trade. The business gradually expanded and a showroom was built in front of Greenbank in 1950. In 1966 the old house was demolished and the present car repair workshops were built on the site.

Flower Show Committee 1911

Flower shows were held from c.1910–28 on Gerrard's field next to the vicarage on Northenden Road. The UDC purchased the fields in 1919 and the Gatley Recreation Ground was formed there. The committee members are, left to right: **Back row:** Mr Gresty (builder), A. Adshead, Mr Adshead, J. Shacklock. J. Potts. J. Mottram. D. Adshead. **Front row:** W. Platt (landlord of the Farrier). Mr J. Shimwell. Rev John Bruster. Mr Blackshaw.



George Griffin, Scoutmaster 1912

He was in charge of Gatley's first scout group 1912–1921, when it was disbanded. The style of hat shown in the photograph was worn by scouts until 1956 when the beret started to be worn. Shorts became shorter until 1965, when long trousers were introduced.



St. James National School Class 1903



We give the following names (with some omissions) of those who appear in the photograph, as given to us by several of Gatley's oldest inhabitants: From left to right:

Top row: Miss M. A. Kilburn (Mistress); Frank Dunning; Unknown; Arthur Bracegirdle; Edwards; Wilfred Bodily. **Second row from back:** Bertha Potts

(Asst.); Edwards; Hankinson; Unknown; Unknown; Robert Harding; Clifford Harding; Mr S. A. Kilburn (Headmaster, 1st Class) **Third row:** 1 and 2 not known; Nellie Chandley; 4 and 5 not known; Florence Whitelegg; Mabel Wells (Asst. Pupil Teacher). **Bottom row:** Alfred Dunning; Samuel Chandley; John Bracegirdle; Arthur Hankinson; Hetty Mottram; Amy Mottram.

In 1904 Mr and Mrs Crossley took over the school. The school closed in 1936. In 1940 the carved oak candlesticks in the sanctuary of St James' were given to the memory of the Crossleys.

The Rev J. Tyler Whittle c.1931



In 1914 when World War 1 broke out, he was training for the mission field. In the first month of the war he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corp and went to France. He was gassed in 1917 and invalided out of service. He again took up the ministry and was ordained in 1919. He was inducted to the benefice of St. James' by Dr H. L. Paget, Bishop of Chester, on 20 December, 1928.

His experience of life made him well fitted to a growing parish, still largely open country but with a rapidly growing population of city workers. His broad outlook, boundless energy and evangelising zeal, coupled with his ability to enlist help in religious, educational, and social matters, made him of service to all. In 1929 he started Girl Guides, and restarted Boy Scouts, their colours being dedicated in church in 1930. Before he left Gatley in 1936 he saw the foundations laid of our daughter church, St. Catherine's in Heald Green, There was also a thriving Sunday School and other organisations which overflowed into the YMCA building on Church Road, into a room over 45 and 45a Church Road (now an Indian restaurant) and into the old Methodist Chapel on Church Road adjacent to the Prince of Wales. Another church organisation, The Girls' Friendly Society, had also been formed, and had donated a handsome bishop's chair to the church. A Freewill Offering Scheme and a Clergy Fund had been started, all contributing to what was a very fruitful ministry. Tyler Whittle died in Bournemouth on 27 January 1969.

The First Guide Camp c.1930

This was held at Bridestones, near Congleton. Left to right, Back row: Winifred and Kathleen Swann; Dora Slack; Unknown; Jessie Smith; Joan Adshead; Mary Daniels; Molly Godson (captain). Middle row: Molly Bamford; Eileen Chandley; Hilda Rowson. Front: M. Featherstone; Mary Slack.



The Processional Cross 1956

The cross was given in 1911 by the Children's Guild of St. James', bought with money obtained by work done with their own hands. The bearer, Neville Collinge, was in the choir from 1937 to 1969, when he moved to Heald Green. He was also server and sacristan for some years before he left.

Scouts' Bob a Job 1954

Mr J. Mottram has his shoes cleaned by Colin Wyatt, whilst P. Barratt, D. Hanks, D. Chandley, D. Harris and P. Renshaw look on. Bob-a-Job Week was an annual event by which Scouts earned money to support the



movement. The present Scouts have a modern HQ behind the Gatley Hill Library. The Scoutmaster, John Peers holds a Badge of Merit. Earlier Scoutmasters have included: Messrs.

Lowe; Adshead; R. Packwood; Stretch; A. Mottram; G. Dick (who died at sea, see Chapter 7); Mr Samuel Chandley, who helped during World War 2; Mr L. F. Pennell, and others.

Cubs and Friends May 1960



Taken at Lyme Park at the end of the first Scout motor car Treasure Hunt (attended by the authors).

St. Catherine's, Heald Green 1933

St. Catherine's is outside the present St. James' parish in Outwood Road, Heald Green. It is included here because it is the daughter church of St. James'. In 1889 a mission service was held in a cottage next to a blacksmith's shop in Heald Green. It was attended by twenty-nine people, who might thus be regarded as the forerunners of the future congregation of St. Catherine's.



From about 1928, the vicars of St. James' held services once a month for the people of Heald Green in Long Lane Congregational Chapel. Other buildings used included the Institute in Finney Lane, Cheadle Etchells School and the old Shadow Moss National School on Ringway Road near Moss Nook. The latter was in the parish of Northenden and had been licensed for Divine Services.

Prior to the building of the main church, a Church Room was built in Outwood Road, and on 16 September 1933, it was dedicated to St. Catherine and also to the memory of Catherine Dale Neal, mother of Thomas Dale Neal who was their benefactor. The photograph shows the procession to the service, with the Rev Tyler Whittle, Vicar of St. James' leading. He is followed by G. C. Calthrop, Rural Dean of Stockport. Behind him comes the Rt. Rev Geoffrey F. Fisher, D. D., Bishop of Chester, followed by the Rev J. S. Leather, curate of St. James'. Two St. James' wardens, who put in much effort towards the Church Room, were Mr James Allison and Mr Frederick Taylor. The first Priest in Charge was the Rev J. S. Leather, Curate of St. James', followed in 1935 by the Rev E. H. Christopher who remained there until 1940 when he joined the Navy. Then followed the Rev W. Grimwood 1941–45, the Rev O. A. Waller, 1945–51, and the Rev E. A. J. Mercer 1951–53. The latter was installed Rector of St. Thomas's Stockport in 1953. These were all curates of St. James'. On 29 May 1953 the Rev P. Lucas was licensed to St. Catherine's and later became its first vicar.

St. Catherine's Church 7 September 1976

This was built in Outwood Road on a site adjacent to the Church Room at a cost of £23,000. The foundation stone was laid on 16th July 1955. The Architect was F. W. Nicolson of Liverpool and the builder Benjamin Smith of Manchester. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester on 19th May 1956, with the keys handed over by Mr A. Brooks and the petition for consecration read by Mr S. Chandley. They were both Churchwardens of St. James', Gatley.



The Rev Stanley James Leather c.1933



He was at Lichfield Theological College in 1930 and in 1932 was ordained Deacon (title Gatley). He was Priest in Charge at St. Catherine's from October 1933 to September 1934. He sent us the portrait in 1978 when he was living in retirement in the Congleton area.

Tithe Map of Heald Green 1841



This is an extract from our own reduced scale edition of the tithe map of Heald Green in Stockport Etchells. Scale 1-8000

The road at the top is Finney Lane whilst the road running roughly north to south is Outwood Road. St. Catherine's Church Room and Church were built at the bottom end of Plot 392 called Old Meadow on this map. The names written in each plot are those of the occupiers at that date..

Young Ladies Sunday School Class 1888



Mrs Martha Farmer, of Richmond Hill House on Gatley Road, taught the class for a period prior to her death in 1887. The only girl in this photo whom we can name with certainty is the second from the left. This is Emily Kinsey of Kinsey's Farm, Old Hall Road, Gatley. However, the girls named below won scripture prizes in 1888 and some of

these will undoubtedly be in the picture: L. Smith, Emily Kinsey, Annie Kinsey, A. Worsley, Sarah Jane Emery, Mary Ann Foster, Wilhelmina Davies, L. Clayton, N. Worsley, E. A. Adshead, Sarah Henshall, E. Wagstaffe, M. Goldie, E. Orme, E. Crompton, N. Burgess, J. Worsley, L. Adshead, E. Henshall, Alice Orme, A. Allen, A. Burgess.

How different are these girls' dresses from those of the same age group in the next photo . . .

St. James' Bible Class Walking in the Procession of Witness 1959



Veronica Mason is the dark-haired girl near the camera with a bow on the front of her dress. Behind her is Jennifer Tustin with the round white hat. Jennifer is the elder daughter of Jack and Dorothy Tustin of Pendlebury Road, and is now (1979) Secretary of the Stockport Deanery Synod and its Standing Committee. She is also training as a Lay Reader.

To the left of Jennifer is Pauline Benson wearing a head band. The four girls at the extreme right are, left to right: Carole Boardman, Margaret Griffiths, Alison Bishop (the tall blonde girl) and Phillipa Hall.

In 1959 the Churchwardens were Leslie Martin Pickwick and Leslie Hartley. James Myatt was Lay Reader.

Rambling with the Youth Club 1940



Left to right: Walter Lever, Arnold Mottram, Mary Davies, Hilda Rowson at rear, Maisie Groves (later Mottram), Alfred Winstanley, Ray Mottram, Marjory Williams, Audrey Brooks.

The Rev Arthur Ben Leaman and Family 1947



The Rev Leaman, shown here with his wife Mary Wilkinson Leaman and his children Pat, Ann and Donovan, was Vicar of Gatley in the difficult and uncertain period of 1936–47, which included the whole of World War Two, and the years which led up to it.

Mrs Leaman opened a branch of the Mothers' Union in Gatley, becoming its first enrolling member in 1937, with 41 members. Alterations were made to the church hall, including the stage and lighting and oak panelling was installed in the church sanctuary. Encouraged by a thoughtful and dynamic vicar and his wife, a Freewill Offering Scheme was revised and the church played its part in War Savings, the Red Cross, evacuees and the Home Guard.

Our daughter church of St. Catherine's in Heald Green was still under our care. Our curate the Rev E. H. Christopher helped there, as well as at Gatley, until 1940.

Mr Ernest Bird 1935.



Mr Bird was Choirmaster 1934–39. Although Mr Charles Bradley was the organist 1926–56, Mr Bird played the organ at many events. He had a serious accident in c.1937 and as a thanksgiving for his recovery the PCC bought new robes for the choir. He died 16th February 1960, aged 83.

A Concert for the Red Cross January, 1944



This photo demonstrates what we have often thought—but not previously placed on record—that Gatley girls are perhaps a shade prettier than average. It was taken in wartime at what they called ‘A Revusical Extravaganza’, given by the St. James’ Youth Fellowship on 29th January 1944 in aid of the Cheadle and Gatley Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund. They gave many such concerts.

They are: Joan Collinge; Kay Bardsley; Maisie Groves; Eileen Isherwood; Audrey Lowe; Betty Jennings; Mae Markwick; Pat Jeffries; Sheila Currie; Margaret Gregory; Eileen Sanderson; Marion Ashley; Ailsa Williamson.

The Sunday School 1949



Miss Mary Daniels, teacher and Guider for many years, is in front of the Sunday School banner. Mr Clifford Pearce, visible at the extreme left, has for many years served as a PCC member, Sidesman, Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader, and chorister. His wife Mary also served the church over a long period in the Sunday School,

Mothers' Union, etc and has been active in other Gatley women's clubs. The procession is passing along Church Road from Gatley Green. The shoe shop —now (1979) Anne Gowns, was once a cottage used as a vicarage by the Rev John Bruster 1888–1894. The houses at the far left with the white stone lintels were demolished in 1969 and a car park was formed on the site. We are indebted to Mr Eric Porter of Didsbury for permission to reproduce this photograph.

The following three photographs were taken during the ministry of the Rev James Mitchell McTear who was inducted Vicar of Gatley on 17th December 1947 by the Venerable F. J. Okell, Archdeacon of Macclesfield. Canon A. du T. Pownall, Rural Dean, performed the ceremony. The Rev McTear had been Vicar of St. Matthew's, Edgeley for two years. He was an Army Chaplain in the 1939–45 War, and served at 'Hell Fire' Corner, Dover, Harwich, and in Egypt and India. He left Gatley in 1956 for Birkenhead.

Mother Church Pageant 1950

The pageant was held in the church. The choir stalls were removed, and a stage built for the large cast in this ambitious spectacle.

The photograph depicts some of those taking part: **Back row:** Veronica Bailey, Ann Chandley, Jill Duckworth, Shirley Wainwright. **Front row:** Barbara Dutton, Barbara Stewart, Sheila Burrows, Ann Waters, Christine Clayton. Ann Chandley's father was a warden for over ten years.



Procession of Witness 26th June 1955



Church processions were held annually in Gatley from 1948 to 1959, by which time the local roads had become so congested with traffic that it was no longer possible to hold them.

The man at the left of the photograph is Mr H. Potter, Verger, who retired in 1956. He is followed by the Rev J. M. McTear, Vicar of St. James', 1947–56. Behind him come members of the Mothers' Union.

The banner is carried by Mrs Mary Packwood with Mrs Teretta M. Mitchell

(left) and Mrs Dorothy Tustin (right) as escorts. Mrs Tustin, in the long light coat, is the present Enrolling Member (1979), her grandmother Mrs Marie Louise Harrison and her mother Mrs Kate Bird having been founder members in 1937.

The Mothers' Union and the church Women's Fellowship are now jointly known as the St. James' Guild, incorporating the Mothers' Union and the Association of Church Fellowships. Mrs Joan Scott is Leader of the Women's Fellowship, whilst the Vicar is President of the Guild.

Confirmation Class 8th March 1953, with acknowledgements to the Stockport Express

The confirmation class includes (centre) The Rt. Rev Douglas H. Crick, Bishop of Chester, and (far right) The Rev J. M. McTear.

Sunday School children, as well as confirmation candidates, appear in the photograph which was taken at the door of the parish hall.



The Rev Arthur Lionel Manning, M.A. 13th September 1956
with acknowledgements to the Stockport Advertiser



The reopening of the church hall after the repairs.

Left to right: Mr Abraham Brooks; The Rev A. L. Manning; Mr Samuel Chandley; Mrs Mary Manning; Mr Arthur Wood.

The Rev A. L. Manning was inducted to the living of St. James' by the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt. Rev D. H. Saunders Davies on 11th June, 1956.

He was educated at St. John's College and Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and came to Gatley from Wrenbury, Cheshire. His wife Mary and his children Kyle, Catherine and Keith were all active in church affairs. During his ministry a Men's Society, a Women's Fellowship, and a Dramatic Society were formed, with the Vicar playing parts in the latter. He was not only a man of great charm but was also practical. The writers of this history have vivid recollections of his assisting in the laying of the paving slabs which lead up to the church entrance door and of his helping to take up and relay the coping stones on the roof of the parish hall.

Mrs Manning formed a Friday morning prayer group, run by the Mothers' Union with members taking turns in leading the prayers; this continued until 1970. There was also a Mothers' Union choir for extra Christmas music under the leadership of Mrs Muriel Wood.

During the Rev Manning's ministry various gifts were given to the church including the priests' stalls, pulpit, lectern, font cover, missal stand, and a bookcase for choir books, all of these made in oak. He left Gatley in Autumn 1964 for Timperley where he became Canon in 1965. **He is now incumbent at Woodford, Cheshire.**

The Choir Sing at Chester 21st August 1965



Throughout the twenty-eight years we have attended St. James', the choir has always been of a high standard. In 1965 they were invited to sing at evensong in Chester Cathedral.

Back row: Richard Fallas; John Thompson; Paul Hartley; Arthur

Ward; Colin William Hancock; Colin Lofthouse; Trevor Williams; Andrew Clive Mitchell. **Third row:** Malcolm Bishop; Ann Hartley; Hilary Bishop. **Second row:** Stephen Norris; Neville Collinge; John Sykes (Choirmaster and Organist); Mrs L. M. Collinge; Stephen Riley; Ian Robins; Peter McNeillie. **Bottom row:** David Hancock; Paul Brierley; Peter Giles; Colin Hardman; Christopher Southall; John Brierley; David Hoyle.

Amateur Dramatic Society Play in church, April 1960

With acknowledgements to The Stockport Advertiser

The play was 'The Mysteries of the Redemption' by the Rev A. B. Allen. It ran over five moving episodes, starting on 13th April, and ending on Good Friday, 15th April, 1960. Mr Leslie Hartley was the producer.

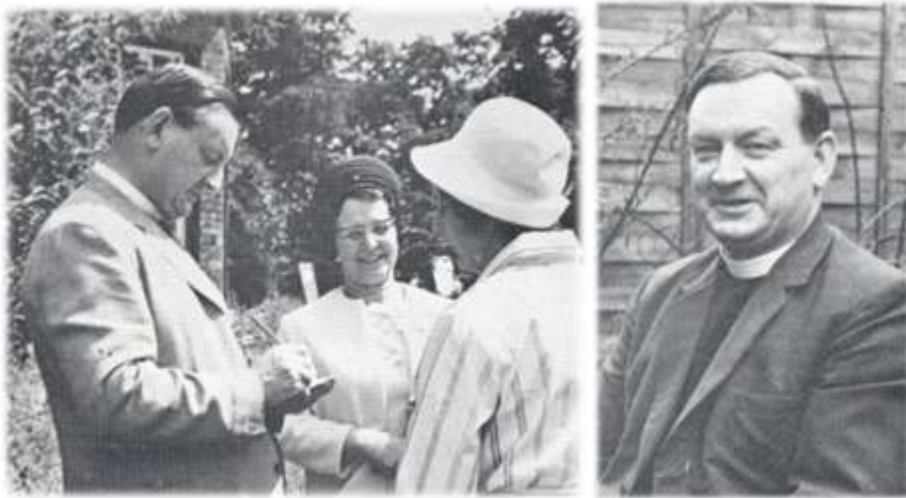


The cast were: **Three at left:** Clifford Arrowsmith; Kyle Manning; Leslie Hartley. **Back**

row: Sheila Renshaw; Joan Harrison; Ian Mather; Peter Renshaw; John Wood; Alan

Richards; John Hobbs; Colin Wyatt. **Front row:** Dorothy Arrowsmith; Diana Maynard; Catherine Manning; Miss S. Baker; Ann Chandley; Margaret Maude. Keith Barrow was Christ's voice and so is not seen here.

The Rev John Philip Lloyd c.1964



The Rev J. P. Lloyd came to Gatley from Eglwys Oen Duw, Beulah near Llanwrtyd Wells. He was inducted to St. James by the Rt. Rev Gerald Ellison, Bishop of Chester on 12th December, 1964. During the five years he was with us he became a friend and advisor to the whole of his congregation. He had the very special ability, not found in all incumbents, of being equally popular with young and old. Even the more sophisticated of the youth in the parish found common ground with him. He had been a keen motor cyclist, and had a fondness for small French cars.

The Vicarage door was open to all who called, at any time, and he gave all his time and energy to the wellbeing of his parish. The first photograph shows him in a very characteristic pose making a careful note of some item raised by a parishioner at a church garden party at Gatley Hill. Next to him, facing the camera, is his wife Gwen, who worked closely with her husband and took part in most parish activities. She was Welsh, full of drolleries and could reduce a roomful of people to helpless laughter in a few minutes with some anecdote of life in a country vicarage.

They had four sons, Christopher, Timothy, Geoffrey, and Jeremy.

Mr Lloyd left Gatley in 1969 when his health had become impaired and he took up a living at the quiet little village of Bickerton in Cheshire. He now lives in retirement in Nantwich.

Youth Fellowship Holiday 30th August, 1969. Taken on Gatley Railway Station at the start of a journey to the Lake District



Left to right: Peter Woodward; Barry Hall; Pauline Fitch; Judith Fox; Ruth Whittaker; Hilary Fitch; Philip Harper; Alistair Jepson; Geoffrey Morris; Stephen Clare; Tony Atkinson; Susan Durden; Martin Mitchell; Jane Scott (front).

Hilary Fitch, an adventurous spirit if ever there was one, is at present (1979) teaching under VSO in a tiny remote island called Kadavu in the Fiji group in the Pacific Ocean.

Earlier this year a hurricane of fearful intensity hit the island, flattening the school, killing 51 inhabitants, and rendering 20,000 homeless. Hilary, fortunately, survived, and, existing on a diet which includes octopi and coconuts, she is continuing to teach and to assist in the restoring of the mission.

In April 1969 the Youth Fellowship wrote and presented a complete service in church entitled: 'Youth Responds To Christ'. This was a sincere attempt to illustrate the response of youth to Christianity in the late 1960s. They wrote their own hymns, prayers and readings. The church was filled to overflowing, with many visitors from other churches. The YF, uninhibited by the religious thinking of an older generation, did not hesitate to be controversial where considered necessary, but the performance was enjoyed by all present, since it gave food for thought.

The Mothers' Union and the Women's Fellowship 1965



On this occasion the Mothers' Union entertained members of the Women's Fellowship.

Back row: May Mather; Olive Armstrong; Barbara Lea; Mary Butterworth; Joyce Hilton; Doreen Hall; Margaret Maude (part concealed); Marjory Cresswell; The Rev John Philip Lloyd; Mrs James; Edith Simpson; Margaret Hartley (part concealed); Not known; Mrs

Dodson; Eileen Myatt; Hilda Heathcote; Mrs L. M. Collinge. **Front row:** Mrs A. Platt; Mrs White.

The Rev John Frederick Serjeant 19th November, 1969, taken at his induction



Left to right: Canon Wilfred Garlick, Rural Dean of Stockport; The Rev A. P. Ivor, Rector of St. Thomas's, Stockport, and patron of the living; The Rev J F. Serjeant; The Rev Gordon Strutt, Bishop of Stockport; Chaplain to the Bishop.

Before coming to Gatley, Mr Serjeant was at St. Luke's, Brinnington, where he served for ten years. He has a wife Margaret, and three children, Elizabeth, Jeremy and David. During his ministry he started a Vicar's surgery, which was held in the vestry each Monday for anyone who wished to consult him on personal matters.

Another step forward was made when, after much thought and prayer, it was decided that St. James' should join with the Anglican Stewardship Association and start a Pastoral Link programme. Through prayer, discussion, and consultation, members of our church could review their attitudes and life-styles, and so bring about a caring community willing to share with each other and with the church their gifts, talents and wealth granted by the grace of God.

Under the Pastoral Link programme, house meetings have been held which have been happy, interesting, and constructive. We now have Pastoral Link Visitors, each visiting families four times a year, so strengthening the link with the church. In three weeks' time, on 12th August, 1979, Mr Serjeant is due to conduct his last service at St. James', and will then join a Group Ministry at St. Peter's, Holton, Suffolk.

Mr and Mrs L. M. Hartley 1969

Mr Leslie Hartley has been a Lay Reader since July 1964, and has also served as Sunday School Superintendent, PCC Member and founder member of the Amateur Dramatic Society. His wife, Margaret, was a Superintendent of the Kindergarten Sunday School, a leading member of the ADS, as well as a member of the St. James' Guild and the PCC. Both are loved and respected in the parish.



Local History Exhibition May 1970



In 1967 The Rev J. P. Lloyd asked Mrs T. M. Mitchell, co-authoress of this book, to take on the work of Church Archivist. He handed over to her a considerable accumulation of old church papers. She cleaned, sorted, and catalogued these and then augmented them with all kinds of manuscripts, printed materials, old local photographs, maps, and the like. This provided ample material for what seems to have been the first serious attempt to portray the history and development of Gatley.

In May 1970 we staged an exhibition of Local History in the newly built church hall extension. Approximately 1,000 photographs, manuscripts, maps and so on were displayed under headings corresponding roughly to the chapter headings of this book. The photograph shows a part of the exhibition with Mrs Mitchell.

Visitors came from as far afield as London, Wales, Bristol, and Sussex, whilst the university, colleges, libraries and various local history societies sent representatives. Local schools made daily visits. A small admission charge was made, and £180 was raised towards the Extension Building Fund.

The Talent Scheme 23rd April, 1971. Reproduced courtesy of the Stockport Advertiser

This photo was taken on the first day of the Talent Scheme launched at a coffee morning in the parish hall. Mr John Thompson, Treasurer, distributed one pound notes to members in much the same way as the biblical character did in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25.14). Members were then expected to come up with a profit-making scheme to multiply each of their pounds. The scheme worked very well and £332 was raised.



Back row: Jill Grimshaw; Gwyneth Maynard; Nora Renshaw; Maisie Mottram; Percy Renshaw; Philip Harper; Lillian Featherstone; Leonard Pennell. **Front row:** Annie Mackie; John Thompson; Susan Featherstone; Mrs Moulton.

The Brownies September, 1978. Reproduced courtesy of the Stockport Advertiser

These are some of the 3rd Gatley St. James' pack who, under the leadership of their Brown Owl Mrs Joyce Davidson, were the first to win the Brownie Sports Trophy at a competition held in Heald Green in 1978.

They are: **Back row:** Mrs Joyce Davidson; Judith Fry (Ranger). **Middle row:** Jennifer Edes; Amarie Coyle; Sarah Griffin; Elizabeth Chew (holding the Trophy); Carol Simons; Ann Henshaw; Jane Renshaw. **Front row:** Natalie Pearce; Jane Fry; Jennifer Taylor; Cheryl Canewood; Victoria Bentley.



Guider Sisters 17 November 1969



Mrs Kathleen Wardman and her sister Mrs Margaret McGee were Guiders in charge of the 1st Gatley Company, St. James'. We took this photograph on the occasion of the Girl Guides Ruby Jubilee.

The celebration took place in the new extension to the parish hall, built in 1967 because the Sunday School had become overcrowded and there was a shortage of space for other church activities.

Among the Jubilee guests were the Bethesda Guide Company from Cheadle, all physically handicapped, Miss Brock, Divisional President, Miss Roberts, ex-Commissioner, and Mrs Peters, Divisional Commissioner. Mrs Maisie Mottram, District Commissioner, made the cake with one ruby candle. The Guides and Brownies entertained after the refreshments with the help of Miss Jennifer Tustin, Ranger Guider.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee 3rd June, 1977



Queen Elizabeth the Second, b.21st April, 1926, succeeded to the throne on 6th February, 1952, and was crowned on 2nd June, 1953.

The 25th anniversary of her accession fell in 1977 and there were great celebrations throughout the land.

A Jubilee Committee was formed at St. James' which included Gwyneth Barrell, Gladys Bray, Vera Cook, Majorie Fallas, Teretta Mitchell, Maisie Mottram, Vera Renshaw, Mary Ryder, and Joan Scott. It was agreed that a Jubilee Exhibition should be held in the parish hall on 3rd and 4th June. The exhibits, brought in by many parishioners, consisted of photographs and objects depicting royal events going back to Queen Victoria, set tastefully against a background of floral arrangements.

The photograph shows part of the exhibition, with Mrs T. M. Mitchell and Mrs M. Mottram at one of two showcases used to display valuables such as a complete set of Maundy Money. Parties were held in many Gatley streets, the writers attending one in Lloyd Avenue.

Vicarage Sherry Party 1st August, 1974, reproduced courtesy of the Stockport Advertiser

Organised by the Ways and Means Committee, with the Rev J. F. Serjeant and Mrs Serjeant as hosts. Names (incomplete).

Front row: Barbara Whitaker; Marjorie Sutherland; Bertha Williams; Margaret Serjeant (Vicar's wife); Joyce Anson; Mrs Morgan; Constance Newton;

Second row: Nora Renshaw (in dark dress); Gwyneth Maynard; Gladys Bray; Ray Mottram; Jeremy Serjeant (the boy standing); Emily Pennell; Leonard Pennell. **Back**

row: John Maynard (partly obscured); Percy Renshaw; The Rev John Frederick Serjeant (centre); John Thompson (behind the girl in the check skirt); John Bray; Walter Gilks; Kathleen Gilks; Kenneth Anson (to left of downpipe).



Other events which took place during Mr Serjeant's ministry included the dedication of a new church organ in 1970. Mr Laurence Whitaker was the organist and choirmaster, a post which he filled until 1973 when Mr Adam Jessett took his place. An important feature of Mr Serjeant's period was an agreeable co-operation with the Gatley Reformed Church. This grew out of the general ecumenical movement in the country coupled with a plea for more Christian Unity put out by the British Council of Churches. This co-operation, on an informal basis, included occasional meetings of the clergy, participation in Community Care and joint services in both churches. Some members of the Gatley URC joined with members of St. James' in brief visits to the Mirfield Community of Resurrection in 1978-79.

St. James' Choir 1979. Courtesy of Gatley Flair Photographers



This was taken shortly after the Junior Choir won a silver cup for their choral work at a Heaton Mersey Music Festival.

Front row: Zoe Phillips; Mark Hodges; Ian Carruthers; Christopher Butterworth; Caroline Anson. **Second row:** The Rev John Frederick Serjeant; Kenneth Mairs; Timothy Corbett; Alyson Adams (Head Chorister); Rosalind

Anson; Ian Borthwick; John Adams; Adrian Jessett (Choirmaster/Organist). **At the Rear:** Jacqueline Wilkinson; Simon Corbett (behind the girl); Paula Phillips; Mark Drackley; Kenneth Anson (behind the girl); Deborah Raper; Clifford Pearce; Carl Mairs (behind the lady with the glasses); Joyce Anson; Frederick Danes; Lois Grainger; Dennis Kinch; Marjorie Sutherland. Other members (not on the photograph): Malcolm Newton, David Sant and N. Maguiness.

Robert M. Rees 1976



Charles John William Tustin 1980



Mr Rees is one of St. James' two present Churchwardens and has served in this office since 1976. Mr Tustin is also a Churchwarden, serving since 1978.

Brian Dickin. Choirmaster and Organist and Alan Cook c.1980



Mr Dickin was appointed in October 1979, replacing Mr Adrian Jessett who had served St. James' for six years. . Mr Cook was Sacristan from 1971 and is now being trained for the priesthood at St. Deiniol's College, Hawarden.

The Rev Robert Edgar Read and his wife Joan 1980

The Rev Read is the new vicar of St. James' and took office when the preparation of this book for the printer was virtually complete. He was trained for the ministry by the Society of the Sacred Mission at Kelham and was ordained at Durham. He came to St. James' from Wilmslow, where he was curate for four years at the parish church of St. Bartholomew. His Institution and Induction to St. James' took place on Thursday 7th February 1980. Officiating were the Lord Bishop of Stockport, the Rt. Rev Gordon Strutt, and the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, The Venerable Rennie Simpson.

The Rev Read was born in Wallasey in 1947 and his wife Joan was born in Wilmslow also in 1947 They were married at Wilmslow on 9th September 1979.



Vicars of St James

Percy Mitchinor Herford	1881–1888
John Bruster	1888–1928
John Tyler Whittle	1928–1936
Arthur Ben Leaman	1936–1947
John Mitchell McTear	1947–1956
Arthur Lionel Manning	1956–1964
John Philip Lloyd	1964–1969
John Frederick Serjeant	1969–1979
Robert Edgar Read	1980–

We cannot conclude this list without mentioning Canon A. L. M. Davies who retired to live in Gatley in early July 1979 to be near his blind daughter who already lived here. He volunteered to help at St. James' and made a deep impression on the congregation. He died on 22nd September, 1979 at the age of 69 after only a few weeks at St. James' but will be long remembered.

Present Church Officials

In addition to those mentioned on the previous page they are (February 1980):

Licensed Reader: Mr Leslie Hartley; Readers In Training: Mr J. L. Mather, Miss Jennifer Tustin; Deputy Wardens: Mr Dennis Kinch, Mrs Vera Cook; Pastoral Link Secretary: Mrs Cecily West; PCC Secretary: Mrs Hilda Speed; Hon. Treasurer: Mr Ian Henshall; Electoral Roll Secretary: Mr Alan K. Wardman; Caretaker-Verger: Mrs M. Lees.

There is a Sunday School, a St. James' Guild, incorporating the MU and the Women's Fellowship, Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs, and a Youth Fellowship.

During the last two years a small group of church women have been meeting weekly and using their skills to God's glory by making over 100 tapestry kneelers for church use.

This brings us to the end of this chapter on St. James' Church. If we have failed to record any event or item of importance, or have failed to mention any person who has made an outstanding contribution, we apologise.

A Prayer for the 100th Anniversary

O God, we give thanks to thee for all the happiness we have known in the years which have gone, for the tasks we have been allowed to do and the friendships which have made us glad. Keep our memories bright and send us forth into the future with purpose. Amen

Chapter Three. Nonconformism and other Religions

Under the old system of ecclesiastical parishes Gatley was in the parish of Stockport and its parish church was St. Mary's, situated about three-and-a-half miles from Gatley. The remoteness of the parish church together with the character of its population —small working farmers, day labourers, weavers and the like— made Gatley a natural place for the growth of nonconformity.

The nonconformist or dissenting movements had started in England with Wycliffe and the Lollards, and gained momentum after Henry VIII broke with the Pope in 1533. Most of them were declared illegal and their supporters were obliged to meet in secret until the passing of acts, such as the Toleration Act of 1689, made it lawful for at least some of them to meet. Such meetings were often held in private houses and, in Cheshire, had to be registered in the Public Registry of the Lord Bishop of Chester. We begin this chapter with two movements which have had their adherents in Gatley but which have never had church buildings there.

The first is the Society of Friends, or Quakers as they are usually known. Quakerism began in England in 1646 with George Fox admonishing members to 'Quake at the word of the Lord.' He first preached at Dukinfield, Manchester and in Leicestershire 1647–48. The Quakers were usually at loggerheads with the established church, especially in respect of their persistent non-payment of the tithe to the clergy. Thus they were much persecuted and not granted licences to hold meetings. They never had a recognised place of worship in Gatley, but records at the CRO show that a number of Gatley families were Quakers, probably connected with meeting places in adjacent townships. For example, at James Harrison's house at Handforth, Janney's or Potts at Wilmslow Pownall, Bradley's at Mobberley, and at the recognised Meeting Houses in Stockport, Wilmslow Morley, and so on. Some of the Gatley Quakers we have found recorded are:

1671 Mary Holt, daughter of John and Ann, baptised.
1672 John Holt, weaver, and Ann Massey married.
1672 Samuel Newton, son of Peter and Hannah, baptised.
1712 Jane Cleaton age 75, buried at Mobberley.
1724 Mary Burgess of Etchells and Richard Maddocks married at Morley.

1726 John Maddocks, son of Richard and Mary, baptised.
1731 Mary Maddocks, daughter of Richard and Mary, baptised
1731 Richard Maddocks age 26 buried at Mobberley.
1813 Elizabeth Worsley, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth, baptised. 1823
John Leigh, age 58, weaver, buried at Stockport.

The names of Alcock and Worthington of Gatley also occur in records. Both baptisms and marriages often took place in private houses.

Society of Friends Meeting House. Hillgate, Stockport. Engraving c.1865

A meeting was first held here on 31st January 1706, but the building was rebuilt in 1787. Shops were formed below it in 1810 and 1848. (For further information on this see Heginbotham's *History of Stockport*, vol. 2, pp.57–62.

The other movement which had some support in the Gatley area, but which never had a chapel here, was that of the Wesleyan Methodists (not to be confused with the Primitive Methodists, to which we refer later in this chapter).



The Register of Dissenting Meeting Houses for 1766 at the CRO includes the written application which is reproduced below. It refers to the dwelling house of a Ralph Coumbs (sic), situated on Gatley Green, although its precise location is not stated. We know that the application was for the Wesleyans because one of the signatories was Matthew Mayer, a well-known Wesleyan Methodist preacher. He had two cousins in the area, one being John Mayer of Gatley Hall, 1763, and the other Henry Mayer of Chamber Hall. Henry and his wife heard Matthew preach in Stockport in May 1783, and invited him to come and preach at their farm. He went on to preach there once a fortnight and a class of 16 members was formed.

*To the Right Reverend Father in God
Demanded by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Chester*

*We whose names are hereunto subscribed being his Majesty's protestant Dissenting
Subjects Dissenting from the Church of England have agreed to set apart the
dwelling house of Ralph Coumbs situate and being at Gatley Green in the
parish of Stockport in the County and Diocese of Chester for a place of Religious
Worship of Almighty God And desire that the same may be Registered according
to the Act first enacted made in the first year of the reign of King William and
Queen Mary entitled an Act for freeing of their Majesty's Subjects Dissenting
from the Church of England from the penalties of certain Laws in which we are
witness the Eighth day of October One Thousand Seven Hundred and sixty six.*

Ninth day of October 1766

*Registered in the publick Registry of the Lord Bishop
of Chester according to the Act above mentioned.*

*Matthew Mayer preacher
Ralph Coumbs
Peter Togg
Joseph Voyce
Joseph Cook
James Cookson
Samuel Charlton*

*High Speed
Dep Regt*

(C.R.O. paper. EDA 13/2/13. 1766)

Bishop's licence to hold Dissenters' meetings in Gatley

Chamber Hall 1972



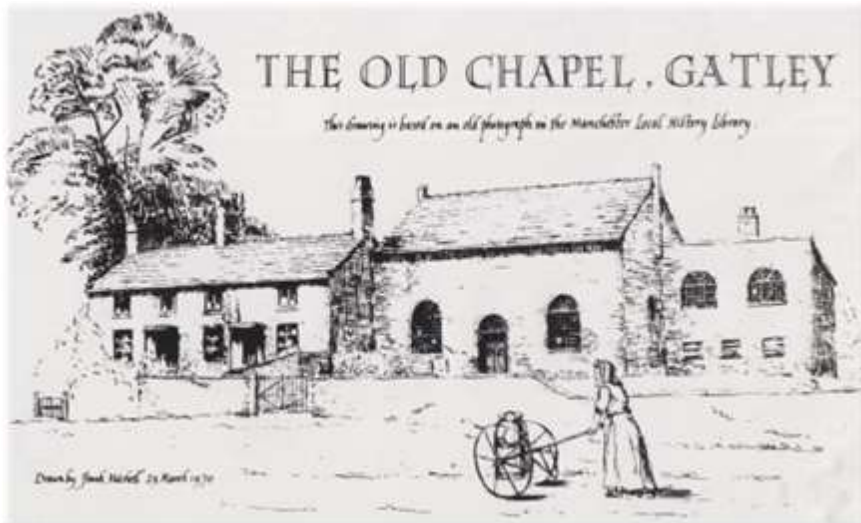
Chamber Hall was the meeting place from 1783 of the Wesleyan Methodists. In Northern Etchells, near the junction of Styal Road and Simonsway, it was about half-a-mile outside the present Gatley parish.

In 1673 it was the home of Francis Shelmerdine, curate of Cheadle 1636 to 1641–2. In 1651 he was chaplain to a local regiment of Cromwell's Parliamentary Army. Mr Samuel Bayley now farms it.

A fuller account of Chamber Hall can be found in *The Methodist Magazine*, March 1816, vol. XXXIX, pp.168–9. Stockport Local History Library.

Before leaving this subject of sects with no special buildings of their own in Gatley, we would mention that the Register of Dissenting Meeting Houses shows that in 1722 the dwelling house of James Williamson of Etchells was also registered. There is no indication of the denomination nor is the address given. The Williamsons farmed in what is now the Old Hall Road area in the 17th and 18th centuries, at what was known as Williamson's Tenement. This was latterly the Kinsey's Farm, discussed earlier in this book.

The Old Congregational Chapel. Drawn by the Authors From a Photo of c.1870



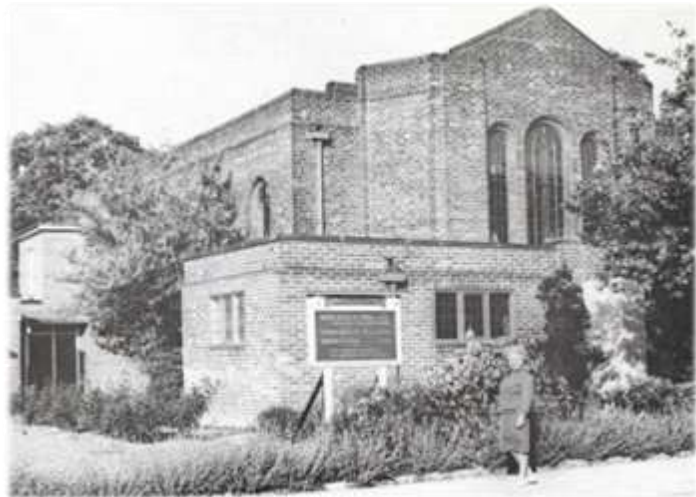
This was built in 1779, and was the first religious building of any kind in Gatley. It is shown at Plot 68 on the tithe map at the northern end of Old Hall Road. Like other dissenting movements in Gatley, it originated at meetings held in private houses, in this case in 1777 at the dwelling house of Thomas Roscow of Gatley. The

precise location of the house is uncertain. The earliest Land Tax Assessment is dated 1780 and includes Roscow properties, but does not state addresses. The earliest chapel registers make it clear that Thomas Roscow was a member since his children were baptised there. None of these documents enable us to say with any certainty where the first meeting place really was. Our own opinion is that it was either at Gatley Hall or in the buildings just to the west of it. These were once a winding mill, owned by the Roscows, and later converted to a farm. There is, however, a widely held belief that the first meetings were held in the cellar of one of the houses which still exist near the junction of Stonepail Road and Park Road.

The buildings on the left-hand side of our drawing were formerly called Parsonage Cottages, later Poplar Cottages, and the site is now occupied by the Health Centre. The low structure at the right was a Sunday School and Day School added in 1821 but rebuilt to a different plan in 1871. There was a burial ground in front of and to the right-hand side of the chapel. Since it was the only one in Gatley, many Church of England people were buried there as well as nonconformists. The old chapel gradually became too small for Gatley's population, and a new church to replace it was built in Elm Road in 1937. The old building continued to be used by the Sunday School and by other church organisations. It was used as a wartime blanket store in World War 2, and later as a clinic. It was finally pulled down in 1964.

Gatley Congregational Church 1968

This was built to replace the old chapel, and was opened on 4th September, 1937. At the junction of Elm Road and Hawthorn Road it was built in Plot 112 on the tithe map. The architect was Edward Adams, and the builders were G. and W. Smith (Builders) Ltd. of Ardwick. A church hall and Sunday School were added in 1964 and the church renamed The Gatley United Reformed Church in 1972. It is well supported, and has facilities for young and old alike both in spiritual life and social activities. The Rev Geoffrey Hayes has been minister since 1969.



The Garden of Rest 26th October 1969



The site of the old chapel and its burial ground was acquired by the UDC in 1967. It was grassed over to form a little garden. The UDC recorded the names inscribed on the gravestones, and compiled a book of names, handsomely bound in leather. This was presented to the church by Councillor J. N. M. Walsh, Chairman of the UDC, at a service held in the new church prior to the dedication of the Garden of Rest, and the unveiling of a bronze plaque. The Rev Hayes and the

Chairman of the Council are seen leading the procession, with members of the church following.

Further Reading: The official church history *Gatley United Reformed Church 1777–1977*, was written by W. H. Shercliff in 1976. Some original archival material has been deposited with the Manchester Central Reference Library Archives.

Primitive Methodists' Chapel c.1913



The Chapel, built in 1841, was on the south side of Church Road, forty yards NW of Gatley Green.

Interior of the Chapel, 1931. Taken at the last Harvest Festival. The chapel closed in 1932

The first written evidence of Primitive Methodism in Gatley which we have discovered is in a Stockport Circuit Plan dated 1817—18, now kept under Ref. L4 in Bramhall Methodist Circuit Archives. This shows that, from as early as 1817, meetings were held in Gatley, probably at a farmhouse. They were held at 6 p.m. on Sundays, and the visiting preachers were Adkinson, Hopwood, Lowe, J. Mayer, Newton, Whitaker, Joshua Wood, and Robinson.



The second reference we have found is in Michael Sheard's *Primitive Methodism in the Manchester area, 1820–30* (Stockport Lib. S/K 73), in which he quotes from an account by Jonathan Ireland of a visit to Gatley in or about 1827 by a Primitive Methodist named Thomas Butler. Thomas had an ass on which he rode from place to place in search of suitable openings for missionary work, and, according to his own account, was always allowed through the tollgates free on the grounds that he was engaged on ministerial work. The day on which he visited Gatley was a Sunday, and on entering the village he heard the sound of a handloom at work. He went into the house and found a woman busy weaving. In peremptory tones he called on her to cease, saying: 'It is the Lord's Day you are abusing.' The woman replied: 'It is only four pence a cut I am earning, so I cannot afford to be quiet.'

On 15th November 1827 Thomas Holloday (sic) visited Gatley and afterwards wrote in his journal: *'Preached at Gatley to a house full of people and as many in other rooms and at the outside as those in the house. After preaching, gave tickets to a newly-formed class (this being a new place). Many were seeking the Lord, and whilst visiting amongst them the next morning, two found peace with God. There are 21 on trial, and these two are the first who obtained liberty.'* Holloday's talk of 'a new place' may signify that Primitive Methodism had not been continuous in Gatley from its earliest days, and in fact Gatley is not included in the Stockport Circuit Plan of 1820. We cannot say with any certainty where the above meetings were held, but consider that it may have been Gatley Old Hall because a J. Mayer was on the 1817–18 list of preachers for Gatley and there was a John Mayer at Gatley Old Hall at that time.

On 17th January 1832, Hugh Bourne, one of the founders of the movement, visited Gatley and wrote: *'We came to Gatley where I had a service with some children.'* And on 22nd January, 1832, *'I went to Gatley, and was at the Sunday School. In the afternoon we held a powerful missionary meeting. The room was much crowded. The cause is going on well here.'*

By 1841 the Primitives had secured a firm foothold in Gatley, and it was then that the chapel in Church Road was built at a cost of £240. The Connexional title deeds were deposited with David Booth of Gatley Old Hall. The first Superintendent was James Peet. The movement seems to have continued to flourish in Gatley, because in a report of the Stockport Circuit of 23rd March 1846, it is stated that the Gatley chapel had 10 male and 5 female teachers, 37 male children, and 43 female. The travelling preachers were Matthew Lee and John Clarke. By 1865 the Chapel had been enlarged by the addition of a schoolroom at a cost of £83. 5s. 3d.

A variety of other organisations held meetings in the schoolroom over the years, including a Burial Society in 1911 and The Oddfellows in 1923. The Ancient Order of Foresters also met there in 1923, but only on the condition that: 'No liquor is to be brought into the Schoolroom.' St. James' Church also rented it occasionally 1927–32.

By 1932 the fortunes of the Gatley Chapel seem to have declined, and it was closed down in that year. The buildings still survive (1979) being occupied by H. B. Swales and Sons and used for the manufacture of clothing.

Further Reading: In addition to the 1817–18 and 1820 Stockport Circuit Plans etc. held in the archives at the Bramhall Methodist Church, the Stockport Local History Library has a collection of material on the Primitives. Useful works are Sheard, cited above, and Rev Frederick Hunter, *Methodism in Stockport and District*, 1951. For Hugh Bourne see the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

The Gatley Synagogue May 1977, reproduced by permission of Mr D. Hylander, photographer

The people here are Mr Harold Franks President of the Synagogue; Mrs Daliah Rabinowitz, wife of the present Rabbi; Rabbi Immanuel Jacobovits, Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth; Rabbi Benjamin Rabinowitz, the present Rabbi; Councillor Basil Luis Thompson, Mayor of Stockport; Mrs Elsie Thompson, Mayoress; and Mr Michael Marks, previous President of the Synagogue. The occasion was the



induction of the present Rabbi. The Synagogue, seen in the background, is located at the junction of Gatley Road and Kingsway. The inscription over the entrance is in Hebrew. It is taken from Psalm 118 and reads: 'Open up to me the gates of righteousness.'

Mr D. Levy, of Cheadle, has kindly provided the following information in a letter of 12 September, 1979:

'The Yeshurun Synagogue, which is an orthodox Jewish synagogue, was founded in 1963 with the purchase of a large old house at the corner of Kingsway and Coniston Road. The synagogue premises were greatly increased by the erection of a modern square building attached to the original house, which was opened for the first time in September, 1969. The original part of the building is now mainly used for offices and synagogue classes.'

The first minister was Rabbi E. S. Rabinowitz, and on his retirement, his son, Rabbi B. Rabinowitz, became minister to the congregation, which position he still holds. The President is Mr Michael Marks, and the warden is Mr Norman Shacter. The Synagogue is also a communal centre for the Jewish community of Cheadle, Gatley, and its environs; it includes a Ladies Guild, a Lending and Reference Library, a very large number of children's classes, and a Scout and Cub group. There are also numerous other activities, of a religious, cultural, and social nature throughout the year.'

The Dewey decimal classification number for books on Judaism is 296. See the Jewish Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester.

Summing up the main religious movements which have had buildings in Gatley, we have the Congregational Chapel (now the URC.), 1777–; The Primitive Methodists 1841–1932; St. James’ parish church 1875–; and the Synagogue 1963–. The YMCA have had premises on Gatley Green since about the 1920’s, and the building has been used for Sunday services by the Gatley Christian Fellowship since 1973. The Elders are Anthony Pal and Derek Linley. There is no R.C. church in Gatley.

In Conclusion

This work was commissioned by the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. James' parish church to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the consecration of the church in 1881. We are grateful to them for giving us a completely free hand in our choice of subjects, and are confident that with God's help the '*Church on the Green*' will continue with its good works during the second century of its existence, as it has during the first.

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