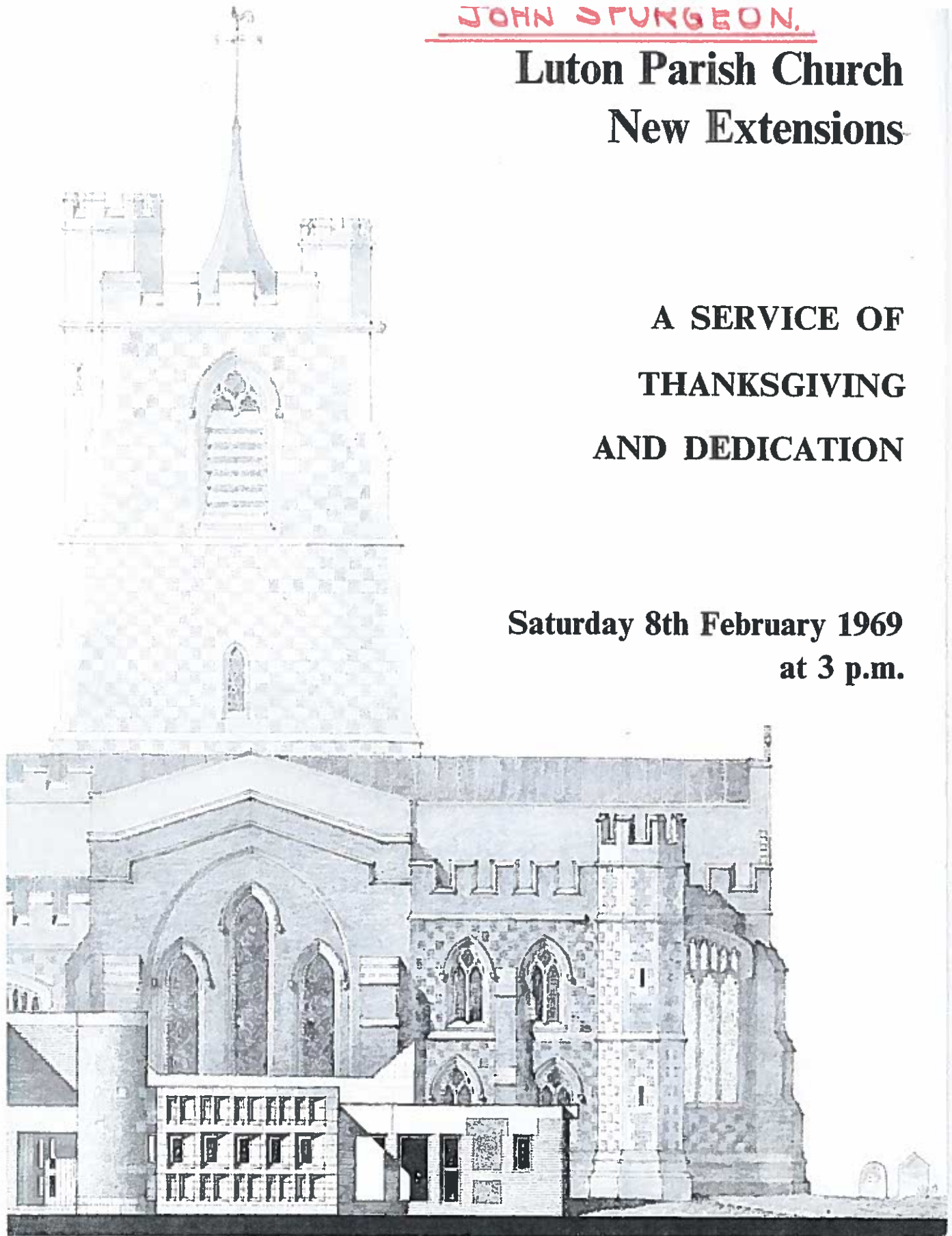


JOHN STURGEON.

**Luton Parish Church
New Extensions**

**A SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING
AND DEDICATION**

**Saturday 8th February 1969
at 3 p.m.**



Before the Service a short recital of organ music will be played

Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor and Prelude and Fugue in G J.S. Bach

When all are assembled in their seats the choir will sing

Introit

Clive Simmonds

O Lord our God, hearken to the prayers of thy servants when they pray in this place. Hear thou from heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest forgive.

During the singing of the following hymn, the choir and clergy move to their places.

Processional hymn

7th Century

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one.
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.

3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
What they ask of thee to gain,
What they gain from thee for ever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory
Evermore with thee to reign.

2 To this temple where we praise thee
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving kindness
Hear thy servants as they pray,
And thy fullest heavenly blessing
Shed within their hearts always.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit
Ever three and ever one,
Consubstantial, Co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

Am
b20

The congregation remain standing for

THE BIDDING

We of Saint Mary's Church, welcome you all to this service of dedication. The old Parish Church which has stood here in the heart of Luton for over 800 years is now enlarged with a new extension. The old and the new are one both architecturally and spiritually. A Christian congregation has worshipped in Saint Mary's for many centuries. Once again they adapt the building to meet the needs of the present day. As King Athelstan first built a church here, and Robert of Gloucester, John of St. Albans, Lord Wenlock and James O'Neill each in his generation rebuilt, restored and renovated this building, so we in our generation have added to it so that God's work may be forwarded.

In our worship we use the old and the new together. So in our life and work as people of God we preach the good news from of old in a new situation. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the same Lord in whose name our forefathers first built this church. From them we have received the gospel. Now with this new building we commit ourselves again to spreading the same good news to all men.

It is to Almighty God that our thanks are due for the gift of this beautiful church; for the faith of his servants down the ages in this place; and above all for his love for us and the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Therefore let us kneel to thank Him for His love and mercies.

THE THANKSGIVING

Vicar: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Vicar: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Vicar: It is very meet, right and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places
Give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God.

For thy love for us and for all men and the gift of thy Son Jesus;
For his glorious death and rising for us;
For thy spirit indwelling and guiding us in truth;

But especially at this time we are bound to thank thee
For this church and the great company of witnesses who surround us, their inheritors,
For the faith of the benefactors who gave themselves and their goods to thee.
For the gift of this extension to our church.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven
We laud and magnify thy holy name evermore praising thee and saying:

The choir sings Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

During the following hymn the Vicar and Wardens conduct the Bishop, the Chancellor, the Registrar, the Architect and the Builder, to the extension for the act of dedication.

Hymn

C. Wesley

- Am.
196
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace. | 4 Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise ye dumb
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind behold your Saviour come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy! |
| 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health and peace. | 5 My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
And spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name. |
| 3 He speaks: and listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe. | |

The people remain standing as the dedication is relayed to them.

THE DEDICATION

Vicar: My Lord Bishop, in the name of the congregation of Saint Mary's I invite you to dedicate this extension.

Bishop: I dedicate this extension that it may be used by God's people to God's glory. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

May God to whose sole glory this church is built, prosper its ministry.

May God who created man in His image to be a maker and craftsman and in the joy of creation to be a mirror of his glory, bless the makers and builders of this church.

May God of his tender love and mercy grant that all who enter this church to worship Him may find the true knowledge of Himself whose truth is Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

The Bishop returns to his place during the singing of the following hymn, as an offering is made in thanksgiving to God for His gifts.

→ SENTENCE FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY →

The choir sings the Sentence which leads directly into the hymn.

Why seek ye the living among the dead?

The Lord is risen: He is gloriously ascended And reigns in highest heaven. Alleluia

Hymn

M. Weisse

Am
136

- U |
- 1 Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ has broken every chain.
Hark angelic voices cry
Singing evermore on high Alleluia!
 - 2 He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our paschal lamb today:
We too sing for joy and say Alleluia!
 - 3 He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the cross,
Is exalted now on high
Pleads for us and hears our cry Alleluia!

- 4 He who slumbered in the grave
Is exalted now to save:
Now through Christendom it rings
That the lamb is kings of kings Alleluia!
- 5 Now he bids us tell abroad
How the lost may be restored
How the penitent forgiven,
How we too may enter heaven Alleluia!
- 6 Thou our paschal lamb indeed,
Christ thy ransomed people feed;
Take our sin and guilt away
Let us sing by night and day Alleluia!

Hymn

C.A. Alington

S.P.
154

- 1 Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of Life is risen for ay:
Bring flowers of song to strew his way;
Let all mankind rejoice and say
Alleluia!

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory,
That Love, that Life, which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high
Alleluia!
- 4 Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing to-day with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia!

The congregation sits as THE BISHOP SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE

All stand for

THE COMMISSION

Bishop: Jesus tells us that of those to whom much is given much will be required.

You have entered into a great inheritance and much has been given you. Therefore you may be sure that much is required.

You were baptised and signed with the sign of the cross to be Christ's faithful soldiers and servants to your lives' ends. I now call upon you to renew this promise and rededicate yourselves to the service of your Lord.

People: Recognising God's many gifts to us
We solemnly renew this promise.
We ask his forgiveness for what is past
And strength for what is to come.

Come Lord Jesus and fill us with your power
keep us by your side
use us in your service. Amen.

Bishop: May God who has given you the will to promise these things also grant you the power to do them,
for the sake of His Son our Lord. Amen.

The congregation sits for

THE ANTHEM

Sing we merrily

Campbell

Sing we merrily unto God our strength: make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret; the merry harp with the lute.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon, even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast day.
For this was made a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. Alleluia.

All kneel for prayer, to be led by members of the congregation

THE PRAYERS

We thank you our Father for calling us into your family.
Teach us now as we talk with you to think, to speak and to act rightly.
Hear us, O Father, as we pray in the words which Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish".

Proverbs 29.18

Lord, we pray for a vision.
We are blind to your glory and majesty.

Give us a vision of yourself.
Give us a vision that we may work more eagerly.
Give us a vision that men may not perish through our neglect.
Lord in thy name we pray.

All: Give us this vision.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes".

Acts 1.8

Lord we pray for the Spirit.
We are weak and unable to serve.

Give us your spirit that we may know the truth.
Give us your spirit that we receive your power.
Give us your spirit that we may teach men of Christ.
Lord, in thy name we pray.

All: Give us your spirit.

"Faith, hope and love abide; but the greatest is love".

1 Corinthians 13.13

Lord we pray for love.
We cannot without it give ourselves to others.
Give us love to care for all men everywhere.
Give us love to bind us together in one.
Give us love to crown our faith and hope.
Lord, in thy name we pray.

All: Give us love.

The congregation says the final two prayers together

Almighty God, we offer thee our souls and bodies,
To be a living sacrifice
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world in the power of thy spirit,
To live and work to thy praise and glory. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.

All stand and sing the following hymn

Hymn

W. Kethe

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

All kneel for

THE BLESSING

The congregation stand as the Bishop, clergy and choir depart: they are asked to remain in their seats until the Wardens have escorted the distinguished guests from the church.

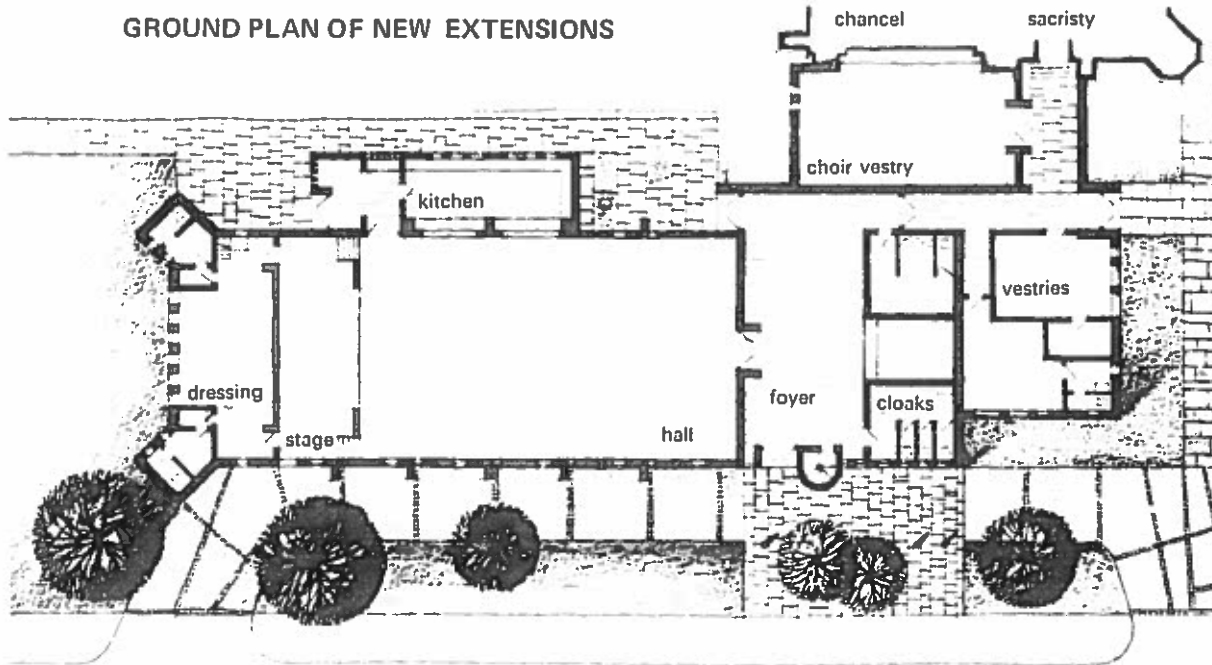
The following music will be played

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor

J.S. Bach

The congregation are invited to view the new extensions after the Service. Please leave the church by the SOUTH PORCH and walk along the new path to the hall.

GROUND PLAN OF NEW EXTENSIONS



OUR ARCHITECT WRITES

The extensions to the church, for practical reasons, had to be situated to the east and south-east. These basic requirements were supported by the aesthetic consideration that the exterior of the chancel is very poor 19th century work. In fact it is the only part of the church which is improved by being hidden. Great care was also taken in designing the extensions so as to obscure as little as possible of the east wall of the Sacristy, which is by far the finest architectural conception of the exterior. It is one of the group of late English Gothic designs which show such mastery of the relationship between wall surface and fenestration, which flowered so greatly in the works of Henry Yevele.

The basic planning needs were fivefold. (1) Direct connection with the church (2) vestries and offices (3) church hall, stage, multi-use rooms and ancillary accommodation (4) separate access to hall and to vestries (5) to enable the south-east area of the churchyard to be used in conjunction with the hall during the summer.

The natural flow and integration of these requirements has produced a group of buildings of varying sizes, heights and silhouettes (very much in the spirit of the additions made to the church in mediaeval times). The extensions not only leave intact all the fine exterior views of the church, but increase the aesthetic impact, particularly the kinetic views.

The new buildings are frankly of this century, and thus part of the age long tradition of the Church to build its new works in the architectural manner of the particular time. The materials have been very carefully selected to make sure that the extensions grow out of the church, dwell happily beside it and will age gracefully. The vaulted Sacristy has been freed of unworthy furniture, and restored so that once again it reveals its superb architectural qualities.

All the effort which has gone into the design of the extensions would have been of little avail if the execution had not been of the highest standard. The contractor, the foreman and every man who has worked on the extension is to be congratulated on a magnificent performance.

St. Mary's Church, Luton
Extension 1968/69

George G. Pace, MA, FSA, FRIBA,
Chartered Architect, 18 Clifton Green, York.

