

Saint Aidan's
1963-2013

50
years



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Saint Aidan's in the 1960s

A cherished dream comes true ST AIDAN'S—EPITOME OF NEW THINKING

It is only a little more than a century ago that some people had doubts about the usefulness of universal education.

It is an even shorter time ago that people were that "the Three Y's" were the be-all and end-all of learning.

But since the last war there has been a tremendous evolution in educational methods. The people at large go to realise how it is important to teach children to live as it is to be able to read, write and add.

And at St Aidan's Church of England Secondary Modern school with a view to the future, the children are offered a much wider range of subjects for the more academic subjects or the practical work of the school.

Mr Prowse is already hoping to utilise their skills and that by producing some educational materials they are given such as a lesson for the school hall.

Perfect position

The school is sited in a perfectly good position where they come from. From the upper storey geography the pupils can see their school building in magnificent surroundings.

The school is surrounded by acres of land. There are the playing fields to the east and at the rear and west of the building, land which can and will soon be under cultivation by rural science pupils putting theory into practice.

But the school's energetic forward-looking headmaster, Mr. D. Prowse, stressed that there was no intention of turning the land into a profitable side-line for the school's funds.

It will be yet another landmark in the school's history when the children will learn to take their own part in the school's development.

Qualified staff

The art and craft room in the school building.

September and October 1963

The school was opened in 1963 almost a year after the foundation stones had been laid by Mrs K.H. Elleston in May 1962. The Dedication Service was held on 29th October 1963 and conducted by the Bishop of Blackburn (Dr C.R. Claxton).



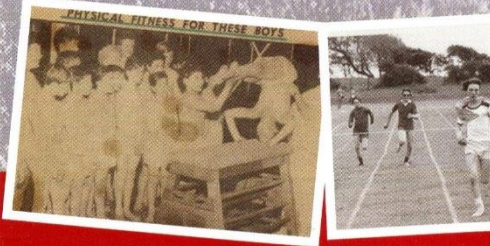
The school was named Saint Aidan's since this saint was principally responsible for bringing Christianity to the North of England.

Founding members of the school included Mr Prowse, Miss Bennett and Mr Ingram. When the school opened there were 12 staff, one secretary, one caretaker and 169 pupils. The pupils were placed in one of four houses: Shaftesbury, Grenfell, Temple and Livingstone.

Costing over £100,000 to build, it was called the 'school with a view' because of the beautiful panoramic scenery from the school buildings.



Mr Christine Bennett, Mrs Gladhill, Miss M. Bennett (Dep.), Mrs W. Prowse (Head), Mrs G. Ingram, Mrs Valerie Partington, Mr Bradley (Caretaker), Mr Fred Hunt, Mr Stanley Maden, Mr Norman Buckle, Mrs M. Broadbent, Mrs Stephanie Partington.



PHYSICAL FITNESS FOR THESE BOYS



1963-1969

May 1964

The first school trip was held in 1964 and was to Ireland. The trip was for third and fourth years (Years 9 and 10). Not long after, first and second years (Years 7 and 8) also went on the same trip.



Summer 1964

The first summer fair was opened in 1964 by Jimmy Armfield, who at the time was captain of Blackpool FC. The event attracted over 700 people and was organised by teachers and parents to raise money for stage scenery, reading desks and a cine projector. The event raised £170.



December 1964

The school's first performance was the 'Christmas Kaleidoscope', where students performed *The Nativity* story.



Summer 1969

A team of staff and students built the sports pavilion on the school fields. It cost approximately £500.

Saint Aidan's in the 1980s

SEPTEMBER 1980.

STAFF
D. Peirse

HEADS

L. Borthwick
Webster

F. Bradbury
L. Davies
R. Evans
Gledhill
D. Kitchen
A. Lever
R. Marshall
J.D. Mason
E.E. Naund
K.A. Owers
H.D. Pritchard
A.A.C. Ramm
P.R. St. John
P. Whitehurst
P. Worrall.

S. C. Bennett
S. J.L. Butterworth
P. J. Cox
S. M. Crabtree
S. Creighton
J.R. Darley
R.J. Davies
K.H. Dardley
S. S. Garvey
S. C. Hurst
S. J.O. Kelsey-Sharp
S. C.C. Kershaw
S. J.M. Kozicki
S. J. Marks
S. W. Marsh
S. J. Miller
S. H. Purcell
S. A. Purves
S. E.M. Russell
S. S.C. Smith
S. J. Wallbank
S. M.E. Walmsley
S. A. Zisenis

OFFICE

Mrs. F.J. Rossall
Mrs. M.M. Clelrel
Mrs. P.A. Driver

LAB TECHNICIAN

Mrs. M. Maybury

GENERAL & RESOURCE ASS

Mrs. G.H. Marsh

CARETAKER

Mr. J. Davis
Mr. D.M. Murphy (Assistant)

KITCHEN

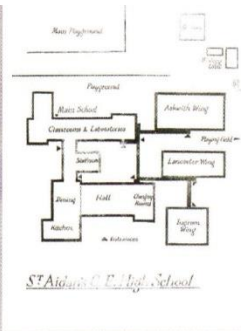
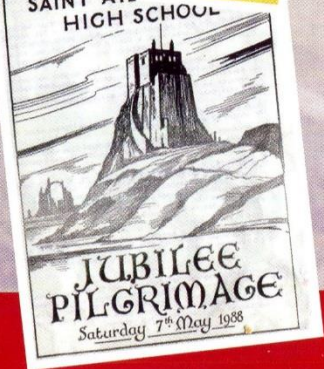
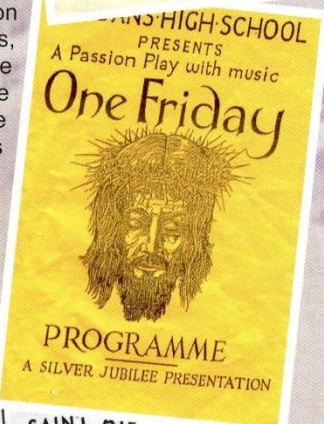
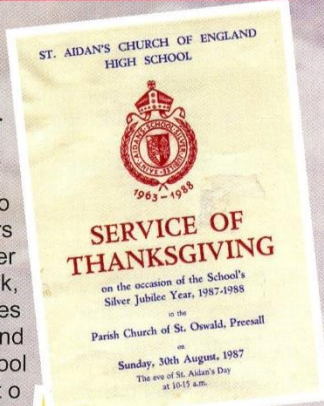
Mrs. V.E. Lewis.

In the 1980s, the school saw a lot of change. New staff started and we celebrated our Silver Jubilee.

Many events took place to celebrate the school's 25 years educating the students of Over Wyre. A commemorative book, marking the school's changes and parishes, was produced and given to all students. The school jumper changed to silver to reflect the celebration year. Not only that but 25 roses, which still bloom today, were planted near the Nancy Poole Art Suite and the pantomime "Aladdin" was performed, along with a Passion Play at Easter.

The whole school also participated in a Pilgrimage travelling to Lindisfarne, a Holy Island in Northumberland founded by Irish Monk Saint Aidan. On Saturday 7th May 1988, a special train was chartered for all staff and students.

During this decade trips were made to Hothersall Lodge and Tower Wood and a bit further afield to Israel.



1982

During the academic year 1982-83 a School Participation Project built the Biology Unit, next to the greenhouse. This was built the year that Computer Studies was introduced at the school, starting the development towards Technology College status.

Smooth talkers swoop for title

St Aidan's Church of England High School, Preesall, retained the title in the 23rd Blackpool and Fylde Schools Public Speaking Competition.

St Aidan's was defending against four other teams at Montgomery High School, Bishopscote. The school also won the trophy in 1978 and 1980.

"Can the Bits Byte Back?" was the topic for discussion by the winning team of Victoria Taylor, Lianne Rumber, Rachel Beal, and Sarah Wallace.

Runner-up was Millfield High School, Thrayton. Their topic was "Love Me, Hate Me". Speakers were Ian Taylor, Gary Tyler, Sherragh Gardner and Sarah Wallace.

School team were Paul Staines, Matthew Parkin, Christopher Parris and Sacks Hatcliffe. They spoke on "The Comprehensive Concept".

The home team of Montgomery High School spoke about "Twenty Five Years on". In the team were Donna McLaren, Ann Laver, Matthew Barnes and Martin Barlow.

Judges were Miss Marie Muschamp, headmistress of Montgomery High School, and Bill Selton, president of Blackpool Rotary Club, and Miss Dorothy Ford, retired headmistress.

Announcing the winners, Mr Selton said all the teams were a credit to their schools and they could be proud of the high standard they had shown.

Councillor William Burgess attended on behalf of the Council.

1984

Throughout the 80s, the school continued its winning streak in public speaking competitions. After winning the award on several occasions beforehand, in 1984 the all female team (pictured right) beat Millfield to the top spot with a discussion on the topic "Can the Bits Byte back?"



1989

Technology was slowly making its way into Saint Aidan's as a photocopier was installed in the library for the use of both staff and students. It cost 10p to copy one sheet.

1988

Everyone who has been a student, teacher or just a visitor to Saint Aidan's will certainly agree that the surroundings of our school are fantastic and in 1988 this was officially confirmed when the school won Best Kept School in Lancashire. This was the beginning of many awards as our school grounds are still winning awards today—and quite right too!

1980-1989

Saint Aidan's in the 2000s

This decade began by many new staff joining the school; over ten new members in total, some of whom are still at Saint Aidan's including Mrs Rossall, Mrs Grimmett, Mrs Tilbury and Mr Calvert.

They weren't the only new addition to the school as the Nancy Poole Art Suite was opened in 2000 and is now the home to the Art Department and Pottery Club.

The Learning Resource Centre was also opened later in the decade to provide students with an excellent library, with thousands of books, and computer area where they can work, read, relax and learn in a comfortable and calm environment.

During this decade, Reverend Alan Leeson, who had been the headteacher for 15 years, retired and was replaced by Alan Porteous, who remained at the helm for five years until 2011.

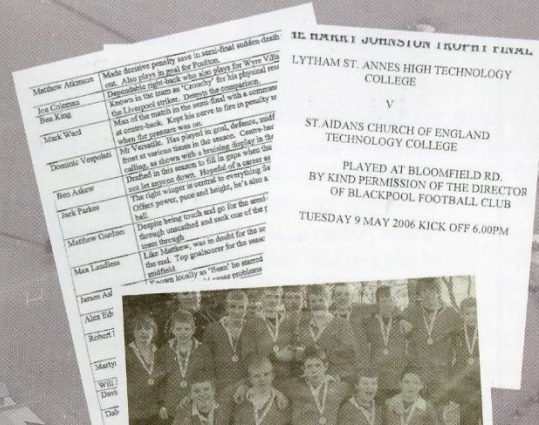


Praise for St Aidan's headteacher
 A RETIRING headteacher has gone out in style – receiving praise from education inspectors. Rev Dr Alan Leeson (pictured) was praised by Ofsted officials following his final inspection at St Aidan's CE High School, Preesall. Dr Leeson, who has been in charge at the Over Wyre secondary school for 15 years, retired last week. The report from the government watchdog said the headteacher had maintained good leadership over many years. Overall the inspectors found the school, a specialist technology college, provided a satisfactory standard of education for its 800 pupils. The quality of teaching was classed as mainly good, but occasionally outstanding. The quality of leadership and management, it stated: "His clear vision for inclusive and caring education and on Dr Leeson's leadership has established the school's strong ethos and very good relationships." They also said he had great team building skills. The report said the school had improved since its last inspection but called on staff to raise standards in years



2000
 The decade began with the Nancy Poole Art Suite being opened by Nancy Poole, who was one of the founding member of the school. This building is now the home to the Art Department.

2002
 The Learning Resource Centre was opened by Lord Dearing on 11th April 2002. This has since become a great source of learning for all the students who have passed through its doors over the years.



Sporting Success
 After a hard fought battle in the rounds and semi finals, Saint Aidan's football squad made the final of the Harry Johnson Trophy and won both in 2006 and 2009.

However, football wasn't the only successful sport in the noughties. The Year 8 rugby team won the HSBC Emerging Schools North West tournament. They did this in style as they were unbeaten.



It wasn't just the boys who were successful during the decade as the Year 10 netball team won the Wyre and Fylde tournament.



2006 and 2009
 Despite a long battle to keep the swimming pool on Cartgate open, the council closed the pool, much to the unhappiness of many residents in the area.



Saint Aidan's in the 2010s

New year, new headteacher

Aidan's will be starting the New Year with a new headteacher, Andy Smith, from St Aloysius' at Preshall Church of England in Sturminster Newton. Mr Smith is currently associate headteacher at Skipton Cistercian High School in North Yorkshire.



GOODBYE: Alan Porteous, left, will leave St Aidan's at the end of the Christmas term.



HELLO: Andy Smith will take over as St Aidan's headteacher.



writing competition and travelled to London to receive his award.

Another decade and plenty more change for Saint Aidan's. The school said goodbye to Alan Porteous, who had been at the helm for five years, and welcomed Mr Andy Smith.

Since Mr Smith's arrival the school has gone from strength to strength, celebrating the best ever results in 2013 with 74% of students achieving the coveted 5 A* to C grades, including English and Maths.

It's not just been a good decade so far for academic achievement, though. There have been many trips, to places such as South Africa, Poland, Rome, Germany, France and China, as well as successes



2010

Saint Aidan's brought together primary schools from around the local area by holding the Primary Proms. This event offers talented musicians the chance to attend a celebration of music. Playing individually or in bands, students from across Wyre and Fylde give The Royal Albert Hall a run for its money.

in sporting competitions. One of our students even won a

The school has continued to support charities over this decade, raising huge amounts for charities such as The Happy House, Donna's Dream House The Mark Lingard Foundation and Sport Relief.

This decade also saw lots of changes in staff as Helen Milliechamp, Margaret Clarkson, Sue Garvey and Keith Owers all retired.

In March 2013, the school performed 'Godspell' which sold out every night. The students who took part either on the stage, behind the scenes or as part of the band were outstanding.

2010
Students and staff challenged themselves to run, row and ride to South Africa in support of Comic Relief. They 'travelled' 6274 miles in just one week raising a huge amount for the charity.



May 2010

During this year, students and staff were lucky enough to visit China on a trip. The trip took them along the Great Wall of China, to the Chinese Opera and the Summer Palace. Not only this but the group visit the famous Tiananmen Square and learned how to cope with chopsticks.

2012
Students were challenged to achieve 16 different activities by the time they leave Saint Aidan's aged 16 years old. There are three stages of 16 by 16: bronze, silver and gold. The challenges range from attending after school clubs to volunteering.



March 2013

The budding journalists at school were lucky enough to produce a report for BBC North West Tonight on the shale gas debate in our area, as part of BBC New School Report. The students involved filmed on location and the report was broadcast on the 6.30pm news programme.



August 2013

Jamie Oliver and his best friend Jimmy Doherty spent several days during the 2013 summer in school and around Preesall. They used the school to cook their Tosset cakes and many students and staff were lucky enough to meet the famous chef.