

Well, much has happened during the fifty years since Eric made his contribution to the Centenary Celebrations of the Church in Bretton, but family names involved in founding the Church, and noted in Eric's publication, have lived on in Bretton through new generations. Names like Astbury, Boddy, Bostock, Chilton, Connah, Jones, Rogers and Wainwright are synonymous with the Church. The Wainwrights were wheelwrights and joiners and it is said that some of the woodwork in the Church was turned and carved by members of this family. Kate Wainwright married Frank Chilton and their son Jim is still a regular visitor to the village where he grew up. The late Arnold Astbury was the Sunday School Superintendent and the late Frank Chilton, along with the late Ted Jones, also did much to encourage the youngsters in the village to attend Sunday School.

It is hardly surprising, considering Bretton's location, that names of those who have farmed the land are also included in the Church records, for example the Hanleys, Mitchells, Reynolds' and the Youde family from Hope's Place are all mentioned, as are relative newcomers - the Chaloners who came to Bretton only 47 years ago! Bretton's celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 were held in Mr Peter Mitchell's barn: shortly after a Hoe-Down, thought to have been organised to unite the community into protesting against the development of the A55 Southerly by-pass, was hosted by the Hanley family in the Gell Barn. We know more about some names than others but it would be wrong not to take this opportunity to mention some that remain fresh in our memories.

The late Leslie Youde spent his life in Bretton. He became a member of the 'Trust' in 1948 and served as Council Member and Steward for the rest of his life. It was Leslie who introduced the practice of giving all children attending the Christmas Service a cracker, an apple and an orange – but only if they came to the front of the Church and sang - Away in a Manger. After Leslie's death the tradition continued, thanks to Mr Fred Lewis. When the Rev Gwyneth Owen joined the Church in the early 1990s Leslie struggled to cope – a woman Minister at Bretton, or indeed, a woman Minister anywhere! In trying to win him over Gwyneth thought she would seek Leslie's approval for her Christmas Order of Service. He took the piece of paper containing the information from her, read it, then said – "Very nice dear, but this is what we are doing!". He handed her his Order of Service and while she was momentarily lost for words, the Rev Gwyneth dined out on the story for months. The two did become the best of friends, and she was a regular visitor to Leslie's home to share a plate of bacon 'butties'.

The Lewis family have been in the village for generations as evidenced in Welsh Census data. Their forebears were founder members of the Church and the late Fred and Betty Lewis were long serving Stewards. Fred spent his life in the service of others, caring for everyone and praying for those who needed his prayers. He reminded us all that Church is not just for Sunday - for him it was for every day of the week. Fred always drove a car with a decent sized boot. He did a lot of shopping, for Betty and for friends who were less able or sick. The shopping, however, had no place in the boot because Fred's boot was more of a larder. Nothing went hungry in Bretton – cats, dogs, goats and even horses – while Fred's mobile kitchen was around!