

The late Wilf and Nancy Davies were married at Bretton Church in 1940 and like others already mentioned were long serving members of the Church Council. Wilf, like Leslie, was a member of the 'Trust' from 1948. In the financial year 1992-93 Wilf thought it reasonable to ask for another member of Church Council to take over as Treasurer – after all he was also Property Steward and, in addition, had looked after the accounts for more than 30 years. The Church Council meetings, presided over by the Minister, were more often than not hosted by Wilf and Nancy at their home in Bretton Lane. Members of Council filled the lounge with Leslie always occupying the fireside seat, smoking roll-ups no thicker than a pipe cleaner. Wilf sat at the table surrounded by relevant papers and documents, which every so often included the dreaded 'quinquennial' report. The Church in Bretton, like all others, has always been subject to a regular buildings inspection. Since 1993 this has been referred to formally as the 'Quinquennial Inspection'. Every five years surveyors are sent to check out the fabric of the building and complete a report on their findings together with recommendations. The most recent inspection of Bretton Church took place in 2008 and, as a consequence, a number of improvements now need to be made to the building. Members of a small Church such as ours are always worried that the costs of such work may sooner or later be beyond our means. Ironically, when looking back at minutes of meetings presided over by the Rev Seymour in 1978, it was found that Church Council members were as troubled and challenged by such reports then as they are now. However, the costs of repairs needed in 1978 were met partly by a donation from a local farming family, the proceeds of a Whist Drive and the hire charges paid for the School Room by the Young Wives and members of the WRVS. The content of the 1993 report was such that members even considered closing the Church, but then decided to discount the option and get on with the work. Wilf organised and managed many such projects, always completing a detailed account of work undertaken for the records. Wilf, supported by Nancy steered members through some difficult moments and his focused approach to dealing with problems and getting the job done was appreciated by everyone.

Obviously, over time Bretton Church has had a number of Ministers. While there has been sadness when each has gone to take up a new position elsewhere, new Ministers have been swiftly welcomed into the community. All of them have worked with a common purpose, but each has stamped their own unique style and identity onto the role.

Following on from the Rev Seymour was the Rev Malcolm Maymand – often seen on his scooter, face hidden beneath a scarf and peaked crash helmet, navigating his way through traffic along Hough Green to Saltney and onwards to Bretton at speeds of up to 25mph! The Rev Malcolm has to be remembered as one of the gentlest of people and an individual much loved by the community.

The Rev Gwyneth Owen came next and was, on arrival, in the final stages of her training, having left her job as a teacher to enter the Ministry. It was a pleasure for members of Churches in the Circuit to be able to attend her Ordination. The Rev Gwyneth was a challenging individual and insisted, quite rightly, that members confront the difficulties of the 1993 Quinquennial Report. Should the Church close its doors?