

CHAPTER 5
PRESS REPORT OF THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE
ESSINGTON'S NEW CHURCH

Bishop's Address

The large marquee erected on the site of Essington's new Church was packed to overflowing last Friday evening, when the Foundation Stone was laid by Mrs. J.C. Forrest, to whose late husband the Church is dedicated.

Among those present was Mrs.S.A.Ward, M.P.

A procession headed by the choir and lay readers, and including the Chairman (Mr.J.Dudley); robed clergy, the Vicar (Rev. J.T.Crathorne); Church wardens; the Archdeacon of Stafford (Ven. Hugh Bright); the architect and builder; and the Rural Dean of Wolverhampton. accompanied the Bishop of Lichfield (Dr.J.A.Kempthorne) from the present Church to the site.



Mrs. J.C. Forrest

The ceremony opened with the singing of 'The Church's One Foundation' and the service was conducted by the Vicar.

The dedication was then pronounced by the Bishop and the stone, which bears the following inscription, was laid.

To the Glory of God this stone was laid
by Mrs. J.C. Forrest and the work
dedicated by John Augustine, Bishop of Lichfield,
in grateful remembrance of the late John Charles
Forrest, September 30th 1932'

'A Great Step Forward'

In a short address, the Bishop paid tribute to the late Mr. Forrest and to Mr.J.Eveson who is at present in charge of the Church.

"This is a great day in the history of your parish," said Dr. Kempthorne. " It represents one great step forward in that which you have hoped for, for many years."

Many worshippers had done their best, and he would like to pay tribute to the work done lately by his friend Mr. Eveson.

The church would be dedicated to the great apostle St. John the Evangelist, and to the memory of one who bore a great affection for that place, Mr.J.C.Forrest. It was largely through his generosity that the building of the church had been made possible. He himself was a humble follower of Our Lord, and those who knew him best knew how he tried to carry his Christianity into his daily life. They know he could be trusted and that the last person he would think about would be himself. His love for the Bible Society must also be mentioned.

Their church, continued the Bishop, must stand for the service of God and their fellow men. They wanted true thoughts about God and they would never have them unless they were trying to know about Jesus Christ, and more than that to know Him. They had to make war on everything evil in themselves and in the world, but in themselves first. The church stood for service, for doing God's bidding and for helping those around them.

Fighting God's Battles

The Church was not a 'Safety First' society. They did not belong to the church in order to get safety for themselves - although they got it - but they joined the Church for service. The Church was not a home of cultured ease but a ground for fighting God's battles and they would not fight God's battles well unless they had the peace of God in their hearts. He prayed that as they saw the church growing to its beautiful completeness - for it was going to be a beautiful church - they would think of the goodness of God.

It was announced that the sum of £700 was required to clear the entire cost and the collection taken at the service amounted to £64.

The church, which will accommodate 350 worshippers will be in Wolverhampton Road. Its main interior advantage will be the absence of side aisles and columns which will allow an uninterrupted view of the chancel from all parts of the 80 foot by 28 foot nave.

Outwardly its most marked feature will be the slender tower rising from a steeply pitched roof at the south-east corner of the nave. The tower, 56 feet high, will be a prominent landmark, as the church is to be erected in the highest part of Essington.

Narrow bricks of a greyish colour and stone windows and dressing in Gothic style, with buttresses taking the thrust of the warm textured tile roof will afford an effective setting for the altar.

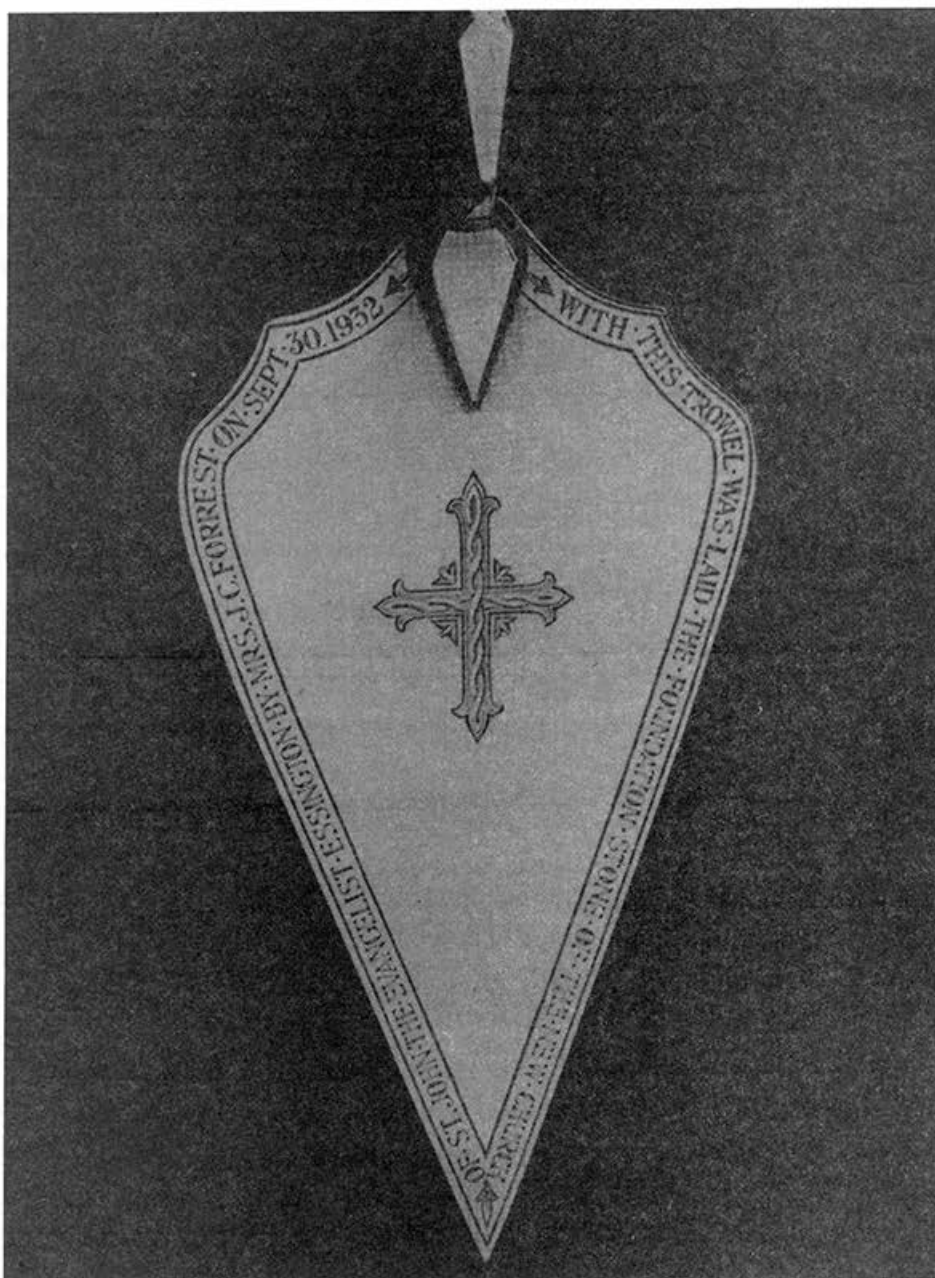
Choir and clergy vestries on the south side of the chancel, an organ gallery above them and a small chamber housing one bell in the tower are other features of the building, the main entrance of which is to be by a porch facing Wolverhampton Road in the south west end of the nave.

Messrs. Ward and Kendrick and Edwin F. Reynolds are the architects.

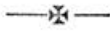
The Old Church

The present church is of corrugated iron and has served the people of Essington for between 60 and 70 years.

It is a mission church and not consecrated for the solemnisation of marriages.



THE PARISH OF
BUSHBURY WITH ESSINGTON.



ORDER OF SERVICE

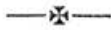
FOR

Laying the Foundation Stone

OF THE

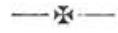
Church of St. John the Evangelist,

ESSINGTON.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1932, at 6 p.m.

Order of Procession.



Choir.

Lay Readers.

Essington Parish Council.

Vergers.

Visiting Clergy.

Mr. Reynolds
(Architect).

Mr. Wootton
(The Builder).

Vicar.

Pro-Wardens of Essington.

Churchwardens of Bushbury.

Bishop of Lichfield.

Archdeacon of Stafford.

Rural Dean of Wolverhampton.

