

CHAPTER 8 BIRTH OF A PARISH

By the 1920's, with the huge building programme in the Bushbury area it was becoming clear that the already large geographical parish of Bushbury-with-Essington could no longer be sustained.

The new Church and the new Parish came into being within a few weeks of each other. The Church was opened and dedicated on December 9th 1933, and the new Parish of St. John's, Essington officially came into being on 5th January 1934 when details of its formation were formally announced in the London Gazette - in other words we were 'gazetted' !

For those who enjoy legal language the document is reproduced in full in the Appendix.

As can be seen from the 1933 map of the 'consolidated Chapelry of St. John, Essington' our own Parish was itself of considerable size, being made up largely from Bushbury but also with a large chunk from Wednesfield. It stretched from the Scotlands in the West to Hobble End in the East, and from Landywood in the North to New Invention in the South.

Even this Parish eventually became too big to handle with the huge post-war housing estates in New Invention and Wednesfield. In 1963, Essington lost the Beacon Estate, Crab Lane and part of Sneyd Lane and in 1978 we lost Kitchen Lane and Ashmore Park. Even now (1992) the Parish of Essington covers a huge area. It is perhaps as well that the Vicar has a car - he would never get round it all on a bike !

