

The Trustees were confident that they would be able to raise their share of the cost. We were expecting to receive £1,000 from the sale of part of the site as a building plot. However, the County Planning Authority ruled that the piece of land we were proposing to sell must be retained to enlarge the car park. That was a severe blow. We could not see how we were to replace that £1,000 and were afraid that we would have to scrap the plans and make do with something less costly. The Architects came to the rescue here; by undertaking extra work for which they made no charge and carefully scrutinising each item of cost they made it possible for us to keep the plan.

That was just one of the set-backs we have had to overcome during the three years we have been actively engaged in planning and building the new church. There have been times when most of us have almost lost heart, but if ever we were in danger of relaxing our efforts we were soon brought to our senses by the quite indestructible enthusiasm of Elijah Read. Although he felt the successive disappointments more keenly than any of us, each set-back seemed to make him more determined than ever not only to push on himself, but to keep nudging the rest of us into action also. It is a great grief to us all that Mr. Read did not live to see the church for which he laboured so long and with such dedication. It is some consolation that, although he was a sick man at the time, he was able to attend the stone-laying ceremony to lay a stone on behalf of all who have helped to make the building possible.

We hope and pray that with the opening of the new church Methodism in Norton will begin a new era of growth. The interest which the building has aroused and the generous help we have been given by many friends is encouraging and augurs well for the future. Much hard work lies ahead if the worshipping community is to be built up to match the church, and there is still much to be done in the material as well as the spiritual realm. We hope to be able to pay the builder, but at the time of writing we are still in need of money for an organ and other essential pieces of equipment. We shall be very grateful for all the help friends can give us.

We thank God for what has so far been achieved and look forward in faith to the future. In the words of Mr. Read's favourite hymn, "We praise Him for all that is past, And trust Him for all that's to come." We offer our gratitude to all friends who have helped us and appeal for their continued support as we seek to finish this good work to which we have set our hands.

WILFRID J. HILL,

Superintendent Minister.