

## Memories of Escrick by Sadie Ashton

We came to Escrick in 1967 and having set up Play Group, I became a Sunday School teacher along with Mrs Simpson, Mrs Matheson and Mrs Pam Emerson who lived on Wenlock Drive.

We had 83 children who came regularly to Sunday School. At Christmas, all had to have a part in the Christmas Nativity play as insisted by Mr Walker, the then Rector. We could end up with a kings servants and camel handlers mates in order to give everyone a title. The costumes came from Skipwith Hall by kind permission of Mrs Forbes Adam. There were other productions as my daughter Jane has reminded me. She remembers a huge Christmas pudding made in cardboard and stored in our garage in The Glade.

My daughter also compiled a script called 'The J Factor', the J standing for Jesus and it was on the lines of the X Factor on TV at that time. I also found a play entitled "It's a Boy" the boy being Jesus. Both of these were presented in the Church.

Sunday School numbers unfortunately reduced in time and it was eventually wound up.

In the village Music Halls the Church always had a spot when Geoffrey Harris was the Rector. The Rectors also always took part in the seven Panto, firstly Geoffrey and then Richard. All proceeds of the Panto's were initially for Escrick Church but we then shared them with Naburn, Stillingfleet, the Derby and Joan group and The women's institute.. overall the takings from these Pantos amounted to over £1000 which on today's money could be double that amount.

I produced a Musical version of 'A Christmas Carol', which may have been for the Church. We had four successful annual Holiday Bible clubs, the first one being about Pirates and the second one was Pyramid Rock, which was probably the most enjoyable one. There was art work, exercises, singing, team work, competitions, Bible stories and lots of other activities. Lots of my friends came along to help or they might say had their arms twisted, but they were great fun and rewarding. The children met each day of the week ending with the Sunday morning service still in the Holiday Club Programme.

The final production was "Citronella" a little Panto all in rhyme and the proceeds from that went to the church. Tea was served at the afternoon performance and Supper at the evening performance. I think I can say it was a success, but very hard work for the ladies in the kitchen!