

## **Memories of St John's School Ivy St.**

### **Name David Stott 1963-1970**

The teachers in the infant school were Mrs K Bibby, Miss Kennedy, and Miss Whalley. In Mrs Bibby's class we learnt the alphabet the old way , a for apple, b for ball and c for cat. All the teachers used blackboard and chalk to write with and draw. We used a slate board and chalk for writing. In Miss Kennedy's class I was always slow with my work and had to go to the back of the screen to finish my work. In the 3rd class Miss Whalley's I was in class and must have been chewing my pencil and she dipped it in Dettol so I would not chew it.

Sr Mary was the head teacher and she was very strict. When you were reading to her you had to do it properly or there could be trouble. I once lit a candle and I did not put a penny in the box. She must have been watching and I was in real trouble until I said sorry to Our Lord.

The toilets were further back from where they are now and were very old fashioned with cold wooden seats. If you were messing around in there Sister would always know and you would here a voice "What are you doing in there?". These toilets were pulled down and the new toilet block was made linking into the school. One class was created in the social room one year too. I remember all the buildings were black from the soot and the factories.

Sr Mary Philomena took the 1st class juniors on the top floor near the stage. She was strict but kind. There was trouble though if you made a noise on the stairs. Miss Winifred Reed was a very old teacher and she came from Simonstone everyday . She used to play the piano and have "Singing today" on the radio through the relay. She also had a very tall teacher's desk to watch over all the pupils.

Mrs Bannister had her class on the stage and she still used a blackboard. I can remember learning the Memorare . I remember there being a flood/storm in Burnley and we were told to keep away from the windows for safety because of the lightning.

The next was Miss Rogers and one year we had a joint class photo with Miss Bannister.. I was on that one.

The last class was Mr Arthur Mercer. That class was on the bottom floor. A screen partition could be used to create two classrooms. Our desk then had lift up lids and we kept our books tidy in the space below.

The caretaker was Mr Cabery and he looked after the school boiler which was coal fired  
A bell was used at the start and end of the day and for lunch time. The dinner and yard ladies were Mrs McNight and Rita Duerden. The meals were eaten in the canteen on Steer St opposite Byerden House Club.

In later years I always kept in contact with the teachers.  
Fathers Brian Seal and Molloy were priests and I visited them until they passed away.

My memories of St John's are good ones.

### **Where are they now?**

I would be pleased to hear from or about any of the following former pupils.

Danny Miller Oswald St  
Dominc Naylor Steer St  
Peter Lewis  
Tony Campioni  
Barry Edmondson  
Cheryl Broadbent  
Margaret Judge  
Thelma Feilden.

**David Stott.**