

The Sunday School Christmas Party

“The St Peter’s Church Sunday School Christmas Party always took place in the main hall of the Church Rooms. The party was celebrated slightly ahead of Christmas Day proper... Shaky trestle tables, and even shakier chairs, were set up in great longitudinal lines on the splintery wooden floor ... the party feast consisted of as many sandwiches, buns, jellies and trifles as any Sunday School pupil could realistically shake a hymnbook at and which, at the time, made life just about as good as it could be.

... the walls and roof beams in the Hall were bright with coloured crepe paper decorations. Glossy green holly leaves adored with blood red berries, attached to every vantage point that could be reached.

... the party gathering was clattering, yelling and exceedingly boisterous. Over its tumult, an angel of conviviality was sure to be spreading wide and caring wings. Or so the vicar said.

... the highlight of the party was the presentation of the annual prizes. ... The yardstick used to measure an individual’s eligibility for receipt of a Sunday School prize was their register of personal attendance at Sunday school. The saintliness or holiness of any inner spirit they might have possessed counted for not a lot.”

