

**Extracts from the diaries of
Revd. Joseph Sanders,
husband of Mrs Dorothy Sanders.**

My husband (Joe), was Lancastrian. He came up to Peterhouse in 1932. After the death of his father the following year, his mother and brother moved to Cambridge and lived in Consiton Road. My mother-in-law eventually took a girls' Bible Class, the members of which became the first teachers of the infants' Sunday School which met at Morley Memorial Infants' School at 3pm. As far as I can remember there were about 70 children. I was too young to be a member of the Bible class but was roped in to play the piano for the Sunday School. After I was confirmed, I too became a teacher. My future mother-in-law was the superintendent.

The Juniors met in the Parish Hall. The Revd. R. J. A. Jary was Vicar at the time.

Joe kept a diary from his schooldays and the following are selected extracts:

Sunday 1st October 1933.

In the evening went to St. John's, our parish church. It was what Grange (*a curate-friend from Lancaster*) calls 'Prot' and the preacher would have made a good after-dinner speaker for a Rotary meeting.

Thursday 7th December 1933

Went with Mother to St. John's Vicarage to hear an ancient denizen of the parish, one Canon Baldwin, give some recitations of Shakespear. They were very moving. He is a remarkable old tyrant and recites in pitch dark.

Saturday 9th December 1933

Went to see St. John's Amateur Dramatic Company do a depressing play 'Inquest' in a chilly parish hall. Mr Hague was the coroner.

Sunday 7th October 1934

Went to St. John's to communion in the morning and to hear Bishop Price at Matins.....

Sunday 12th May 1935

Went to the Jubilee Service at St. John's.

Monday 23rd December 1935

I went to help decorate the church and helped Cathie (*many of you will remember Cathie Hodges, nee Wightman*) do the pillars. I saw the Vicar about the proposed improvements to the church and had a very good reception. Wrote to Uncle Celest. (*Uncle Celest was a wood carver.*)

Christmas Day 1935

At midnight 24th-25th we went to communion at St. John's and the service was conducted by old Canon Baldwin.....

Friday 27th December 1935

**As a result of our observation while decorating the church, Uncle Celest was moved to come down and see the Vicar. We met him in the church, fortunately, and they fixed up rapidly. Remarkably, Uncle was taking measurements at the end of the interview.

** Can anybody throw any light on what this was??

Friday 10th January 1936.

Yesterday I went to the Parish Social and, per accident, to my first whist drive. I made 106 for 16 hands -- pretty poor.

Monday 11th October 1937

Mother and I went to a meeting in St. Barnabas Institute to discuss the Sunday School week. There was a poor attendance..... Johnson who runs St. John's 'Children's Church' was there and appears to want to start a Sunday School. But it all depends on the Vicar.

Wednesday 7th December 1938

Addressed St. John's Mothers Union on 'Germany'.

Sunday 18th December 1938

11am: I was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Ely. I was Gospeller.