

HOLY TRINITY ELDERS



Sister Hilary



From left: Pastor Tom Maginley, Mavis Scott, Dr Angelina Osborne (researcher and interviewer), Marjorie Bartley, Sidney Galbraith, Marcia Barnett, Olive Thompson (sitting)



From left: Cynthia Callender, Evadney Christian, Mavis Scott, Dr Angelina Osborne (researcher and interviewer), Marjorie Bartley and guest Dr Vanley Burke

'The church should be an open door, a welcoming place for everyone'

The group of elder church members came to Britain from the Caribbean between the early 60s and late 70s. Some came to Birmingham by way of London, Manchester, Somerset and other cities. Some came to get married, to join other family members, or to find work. Some of them came from Baptist or Pentecostal churches; many of them were members of the Anglican Church in Jamaica, Trinidad, or St Kitts. Entering the Anglican church in England for them was merely a continuation of worship 'back home'; they anticipated being accepted as part of the multiracial character of Anglican communion. The pain of rejection, from the clergy and from the congregation; being regarded as strangers rather than fellow worshippers ran deep, taking many years to heal. Healing took the form of demanding to be seen:

We live around here and we're Anglicans and we're coming here! I would say to him, this is the people's church, not yours. This is our church and our faith, the church doesn't belong to you, it belongs to the community. We did persevere, and our children came, and they made friends, and it gradually developed from that. – **Marjorie Bartley**

The elders took leadership roles in the church, becoming wardens and readers, teaching Sunday School and organising trips. They were instrumental in setting the foundation for the church.

It's because of my trust in the Almighty, why I persevered...I've been coming to this church for a long time, sometimes rain, sometimes snow, maybe there are ten people here. I've done my little bit; I've seen five vicars come and go. I know what it means to be young gifted and Black – **Evadney Christian**

During the time I've been at Holy Trinity, I've seen so many changes...today it's a different church, we have all come together, love each other and respect one another. – **Mavis Scott**

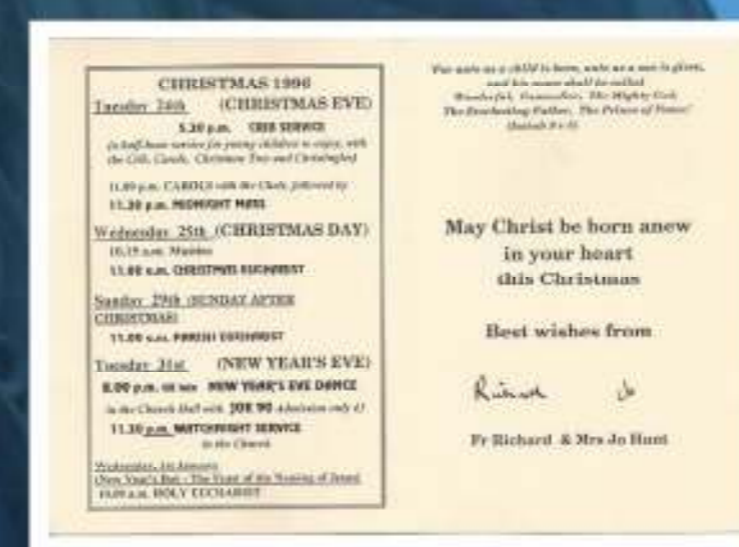


Image of 1996 Christmas Card