

# Three Score Years and Ten

Music & Lyrics © Alan E. Kingshott 2011 PRS/MCPS

1. The year was 1939,  
The world was at war for the second time,  
And to build a Church would be a crime,  
The cynics simply said.  
But the people of the Cross, they disagreed.  
They said a new Church is what we need,  
To show the world that we are free,  
And that our faith is not dead.

## Chorus

So let us sing  
Let us rejoice  
Ring out the bells  
And with one voice  
We'll tell the world that we are free  
And that's just the way it should be.

2. And so they laboured night and day  
To build the dream that they had made.  
With hope and courage undismayed,  
They defied the uncertainty..  
Until at last in '41  
The doors were opened to everyone  
So proudly they stood together as one  
For all the world to see

## Chorus

3. But many are the ghosts of '41,  
Some gave their lives that we might come,  
To this church in rain or sun  
Each and everyday.  
And Three Score Years and Ten have gone  
But still the New Church it goes on  
And every Sunday we come along  
To worship and to pray

## Chorus (x 2)



Three Score Year and Ten was especially written by Alan Kingshott to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Church.

"This song was originally written as a folk ballad concerning the plight of a young soldier, about to go to war, who goes along to the New Church as it opens in 1941, and prays that he may return safe home but not lack the courage to fight for peace and justice. When I read the article in Magna, however, about the building of the New Church, I thought the real "heroes" were those ordinary people who clung to their faith and against all the odds defied their critics and the enemy at our door by standing firm in their decision to go ahead at such a time. I hope this little song goes some way to thank them and to remember the sacrifices that they made." Alan Kingshott



Photo by David Bennison

Neil, Alan, Jacky and Father Harris (Holy Cross Rector 1936 – 1945) together in 1989 on the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone and with it the start of building work for the New Church.