

## Project 87 Phase 2

As the church grew in numbers, with the need for more youth activities, more room was urgently needed. This could only mean building upwards! Many fund raising activities were initiated to meet a formidable target approaching £400,000. The planning envisaged a scheme which would encompass the whole site behind the church with a new building, including first floor accommodation. This entailed the demolition of some of the previous constructions, but because the remaining walls were inadequate to support another floor, we had to have a steel framework designed, which would serve this purpose.

### **The 1999 Exile**

(And the inevitable comparison with events in the bible)

Due to the disruption that would be caused by the major works it was necessary to find alternative accommodation for several months. Prayers were answered in negotiations with St Lawrence Hospital, where a disused ward was available. Everything in the church sanctuary was set up in the ward, so that it appeared exactly the same as in church. It was feared that this six month period of exile might see declining numbers in the congregation, but rather than weakening the church, numbers if anything, increased, providing fresh incentives for the future. Further fund raising events were held, including a Gift Day on 1st May.



Reverend Graeme Halls prepares for a service in the hospital ward.



We tried to layout the ward in a similar manner to our Church. We worshipped here from March 1999 to end October 1999.



Photo taken just before demolition

The Boys' Brigade and the Junior Church met in these rooms, as well as using our main building.



The old 2 roomed extension about to be demolished



The new building was built on the old foundations. However, it was to be 2 stories high, and therefore a steel frame had to be built on deep foundations.



Whilst builders were on site, the opportunity was taken to re-roof the Church. We were blessed with good weather at that time.



A slater works on the top of our Church



View taken from the back of our premises, almost ready for the tiles



Job Done - as our premises are seen today

The return to the church family home came in **October 1999**, with aspirations at last realised in a new building providing superb facilities. The church too, had been refurbished, and additional work on the balcony gave a much improved view of the sanctuary area. The Church opened with only £10,000 to be found, which was cleared within a year. Presentation of the Built in Quality Award was made by Monmouthshire County Council in 2000, for the building and design of the Church extension.