

This is the text of the booklet published to mark Christ Church's centenary in 1976.
(It thus predates a number of significant events, such as: the mid 1980s sale of the Church Hall at the foot of West Hill and the construction of the new one alongside the church; the 1990s reordering of the church interior; and the rebuild of the organ completed in 1998.)

The original 40 page near-A5 document was illustrated with 4 photographs and 2 line drawings. It was printed by Dorling & Co. (Epsom) Ltd. and sold for 60p.

CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON

CENTENARY 1876 - 1976

A Brief Account of the Church and Events in the Past Century

Preface by the Vicar

It is a great privilege to have been involved in the preparation for our Church's Centenary Year.

At the time of publishing this Brochure we are well into Centenary Year and have already held a number of special functions centred mainly upon the Church, marking the occasion.

It is coincidental that 1976 has been the warmest summer ever recorded by our Meteorological Office, with temperatures well up into the eighties. But our spirits have not flagged!

I hope that this record of Christ Church over the last hundred years will receive wide circulation after the painstaking research that has been put into its production by Mr. Harry Jackson who has been my faithful Churchwarden throughout my incumbency at Christ Church. The Report is as accurate an account as it is possible to give of the history of Christ Church, bearing in mind the absence of records during the inter-war years owing to their destruction by fire.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all those who have served the Church so well during its brief history and a special tribute to several of the incumbents by Mr. Andrew Risbridger, a past Verger, is included in this report. Commenting on the life and work of the Rev. Neville Stiff, Mr. Risbridger states that if ever there was a man who would be able to come to terms with the changes that are being brought about in the Church today, it was Neville Stiff. I am only too aware of the alarm with which members of the Church greeted some of these changes! But we have adapted ourselves as painlessly as possible to the changing scene.

Today we are facing the unknown future for the most part in a spirit of expectancy. Among the encouraging signs today are the introduction of House Groups throughout the Parish for further lay training and the strengthening of the ties of fellowship between members of the congregation. Also, the increased interest in giving throughout the Parish to missionary work at home and overseas. I am happy to report that last year our Missionary giving exceeded 10% of our total income. Another encouraging sign is the increasing involvement of the laity in the life and worship of the Parish Church—a feature not limited to this Parish by any means.

But perhaps the most notable feature of the present day is the growing co-operation between the Churches in Epsom. This has been consolidated through the Lenten House Groups in which all the Churches in Epsom now participate without exception. We look forward today with real expectation to the time when the Church of God will once more be united in proclaiming its faith to the world. And in the meantime it is our privilege and responsibility as Christians to hand on to our children the torch of faith which was placed in our hands by previous generations. And here I would like to pay tribute to those who teach the young in our Junior Church and ask for your prayers that we may be equal to the task of bringing the young people to Christ at a time when there are so many competing interests making demands upon their time and energies.

It is good that we should celebrate the Centenary of our Church with thanksgiving for all who have gone before us. But now let us re-dedicate ourselves to the service of Christ in meeting the demands that He will make on each one of us in the days to come.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Bedford (*Vicar*)

THE STORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, EPSOM COMMON — I

On 18th October 1976, we shall celebrate the centenary of Christ Church, and it is felt that this milestone should be marked by publishing an account of the Church, and some glimpses of the events which have taken place in the past century.

Inevitably, we shall not be able to present an exhaustive history of the Church or a complete record of events. but we hope our story will be of interest to all those who have, or have had, at some time an association with Christ Church, also that it will provide a permanent record for the future.

Christ Church was founded in 1843 as a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church, St Martin's. The population of the whole of Epsom was then only 3,500 but as many cottages were being built in the locality of the Common and as it was a considerable walk to the Parish Church, it was decided to build a new Church to provide for the inhabitants of the area.

The Vicar of St Martin's, the Rev. B. B. Bockett, obtained the Bishop's permission to erect the Church. and raised the necessary funds from parishioners and friends to carry out the building which was consecrated on 1st July 1845.

The original Church was of red brick and stood on the site of the present Scout Headquarters, the land being given by the Lord of the Manor, Mr. J. I. Briscoe. It contained sittings for about 140 adults and 20 children, but later, this accommodation proved to be inadequate for "the overflowing congregations, people being at times obliged to leave for want of room".

In '*A Handbook of Epsom*' by C. J. Swete, Esq., M.A., published about 1860, he writes:

"It being felt that the increase of accommodation was necessary, the Vicar gained permission of the Bishop for such an erection, and having collected the requisite funds by contributions from his friends and richer parishioners, was happily enabled to obtain sufficient for the purpose. This Church is well filled by an attentive congregation in the morning and afternoon at three o'clock, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is duly administered.

"A small beginning has been obtained towards the endowment; the Vicar has to contribute the remainder of the maintenance of this ministry. It is much to be wished that this burden might be lightened by the completion of the fund as originally proposed".

A reference to the old church and an account of an incident which took place is made by James Andrews in a paper read to the Epsom and District Literary Society in March 1903 entitled '*Reminiscences of Epsom*'. He records:

"The Church on the Common, the Common Church, as it was called, was a very modest little building. It was a chapel of ease to the Parish Church, and stood near the spot now occupied by the more commodious building you all know as Christ Church. For music we had to be content with a barrel organ, and strange were the sounds which sometimes issued from that wonderful instrument. It was old fashioned, and would only play four well-known tunes such as the 'Old Hundredth', and on one occasion when this Hymn was used, the mechanism got out of order, and the organ would not cease playing; the tune was gone through some eight or ten times. and with the vicar in the pulpit ready to deliver his sermon, the congregation began to giggle. There was still no sign of a cessation of the music, and at last two well known members of the congregation, the late Mr. Renwick and the late Mr. Maurice Puckle got up and carried the organ out of the church and placed it on the open common. The doors were then shut, and the Vicar delivered his sermon to a muffled accompaniment from the organ outside".

For many years Miss Elizabeth Trotter of Horton Manor, whose family were also connected with the Parish Church, had tried unsuccessfully, to get a separate Ecclesiastical District formed for Christ Church, and on her death she bequeathed £8,000 for the building of a new Church, its endowment, and the provision of a parsonage, to take effect on the creation of a separate District.

Other conditions were that the patronage be vested in the Bishop of the Diocese, that Horton Place and Hamlet were to be included in the District, that the Church be built of flint and stone with not less than 450 sittings—eight for Horton Place, six for Horton Lodge, two for the incumbent, with 32 to be let for his benefit and that all the rest be free.

The new Parish of Christ Church was created by an Order in Council on 7th July 1874, and was to provide for the spiritual needs of the district estimated to be about 1,600 persons, of whom four-fifths belonged to the working classes.

The deed of conveyance shows that the sum of £10 was paid to Mrs. M. E. Trotter for the surrender of her rights over the land on the Common taken for the site of the new church and the Churchwardens of Epsom received 10 shillings in respect of the surrender of the rights of the Parishioners.

The money bequeathed by Miss Trotter proved to be insufficient for the endowment, and for building of the Church and Parsonage, and a public appeal was made to the inhabitants of Epsom. Mr. and Mrs. Trotter gave £1,000 for the endowment and Mr. Trotter £1,000 for the organ and other expenses, the remainder of the money coming from public subscriptions, the various church authorities and charities. One of the subscribers, The Incorporated Church Building Society who gave £200 stipulated that all the sittings should be free. As this conflicted with the conditions laid down in Miss Trotter's bequest which had reserved a number of sittings, the matter was resolved by making an annual payment of £65 to the Vicar to compensate him for what he would have received had the sittings not been free.

The General Statement of Account issued to the Parishioners showed that the cost of the Church, including heating, lighting, architect, etc. was £6,589. The Vicarage house cost £2,799. The total expenditure, including the Endowment Fund of £4,420, was £15,000. This resulted in a comparatively small deficit of £534 for which a further appeal was made.

The architect of the Church was Sir Arthur Blomfield, and the use of white flints and stone followed the request of its principal benefactress, Miss Trotter. The result is a typical English country church, which at first glance looks much older than it is.

The new Christ Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester on St Luke's Day, 18th October 1876, the Vicar being the Rev. G. E. Willes.

Through the courtesy of the Editor of the Epsom and Ewell Advertiser we are able to give extracts from the very interesting account of the consecration service, taken from '*The Sutton Advertiser and Mid-Surrey Reporter*' (as it was then called) of 21st October 1876:

"CONSECRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH"

"On Wednesday last (St. Luke's Day) Christ Church was consecrated and dedicated to Divine Service by the Bishop of Winchester. The building consists of a sacarium, nave, transept and north aisle. It is proposed to add a south aisle on some future occasion. The tower also is unfinished. The Church from the west end has a very fine appearance. The inside work although plain, is of noble architecture. The tracery of the windows in the east end and transept add much to the appearance of the interior. Early service was held in the old church with celebration. At eleven o'clock the choristers, numbering nearly fifty voices, with a large gathering of the clergy of the district, formed a procession from the old church, accompanied by the Bishop of Guildford and Canon Bridges. and proceeded to the new building. A processional hymn was then sung, after which the consecration service was proceeded with. The Litany was intoned by the Vicar, the Rev. G. E. Willes, and was sung by the choir to Tallis' music, arranged by Barnby. During the Litany some consternation was caused through the leading treble boy (Churchill), from Eton College, falling down in a fainting fit, and immediately after no less than six other choir boys were either carried or conducted from the Church in the same prostrate condition. It appears that the heating apparatus had been put in working order the day previously, and through some disarrangement the heat could not be kept from the church, and all the windows being closed the temperature was rendered very oppressive. Some of the congregation were also compelled to leave. When the windows had been opened and a current of air brought into the church the service continued. The 'Te Deum' was well sung by the choir ... The choral singing throughout the day was of a very hearty character ... The choir was under the direction of Mr. Renwick, and was supplemented by the attendance of Mr. Burry, of Beddington, and some of his choir.

"The altar cloth is of the most handsome design and very richly worked in delicate colours. The super altar is of light marble and very massive. On this was an altar cross of chaste design and vases filled with white flowers. The sacarium is edged with stone and centred with encaustic tiles. producing a charming effect. The altar rails and gaseliers are of brass, the choir stalls of oak, and the remainder of the church is filled with stained deal sittings.

"The Bishop preached in the morning to an overflowing congregation. At the celebration a great number of communicants were present. After the service came a luncheon, provided by W. Trotter. Esq., in his grounds, where in front of the mansion two large marquees were erected. The luncheon, which was of a most sumptuous character, was partaken of by 250 guests, including choir. Among the clergy present were the Bishop of the diocese, the Suffragan Bishop of Guildford, the Rev. Canon Bridges and the Vicar.

“At the evening service at five o’clock there was a large congregation, when the Bishop attended and an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. E. Wilberforce. The new church will at present seat 450 people, and will cost £6,500, half of which was left by the will of the late Miss Elizabeth Trotter, and work has been continued by the family. The architect is Mr. Blomfield; the organ by Hill, of very good quality and workmanship, and was presented by the same generous family that has done so much to bring this good work to a satisfactory state. There are many helpers in the district and the Vicar in his speech specially mentioned the fact of the assistance he had received even from the most humble of the congregation.

“Dr. Monk was the organist at the Consecration Service”.

The organ was built by Wm. Hill and Son. Originally it was a two manual organ, but on rebuilding in 1937 it was enlarged to three manuals and a new choir organ added. An inscription carved on the right hand side of the archway adjacent to the pulpit records:

“Near this place George Edwin Good, Organist and Master of the Choir, gave fifty-nine years 1876-1935, of dedicated service to Christ Church. The choir organ was added in 1937 as a tribute to his memory”.

In Gordon Home’s book *‘Epsom—its History and its Surroundings’*, published in 1901 there is a reference to the organ—“its fine quality, together with the ability of the organist and choir, having made the music at Christ Church a synonym for excellence throughout the neighbourhood”.

The old church was demolished in 1877 and the south aisle added to the new church in 1879 by the generosity of Lord Rosebery. Also, about this time, many of the windows in the Church were filled with stained glass so that, with some later additions, all the windows are now of stained glass. There are even two in the clerestory; the others there being the only plain windows in the Church.

The East Window is in memory of Miss Elizabeth Trotter, the founder member of the Church and Parish who died on 25th October 1868. The original window was damaged beyond repair by enemy action in 1941, and the present window was installed in 1952 by James Powell and Sons of the Whitefriars Glassworks. The artist Mr. Armitage, states that “The main theme is the Te Deum. In the centre light is a figure of Our Lord in glory, surrounded by praising and adoring angels, with the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove in the Apex. In the upper parts of the outside lights are the four Archangels. In the lower parts of the lights are St. Paul, Isaiah, St. Stephen and St. Augustine representing respectively the Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs and Holy Church. In the bases of the lights are small subjects, from left to right, the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Crucifixion, the Pieta and the Resurrection. Words from the Te Deum run through all the lights”.

The present glass in the tracery of the East Window was inserted in November 1955 and completes the artist’s scheme for this very beautiful window. The money to carry out this work was bequeathed by Miss Dorothy Webb.

The windows in the south aisle, with scenes from “The Nativity” and “The Ministry” were placed there in memory of Mary Bischoff who died on 22nd February 1883; Charles Collyer Jones, who died on 30th April 1882; and George Nunn who died on 2nd January 1892. At the west end of the aisle is a window in memory of Lieut. Colonel Francis Vernon Northey, who died at the Battle of Ginchilova, Zululand, on Palm Sunday, 6th April 1879. In the north aisle, the windows, with scenes from the “Holy Week” are to the memory of George Brown who died on 11th April 1876, and of Charles Bischoff, who died 22nd June 1896. The middle windows were bequeathed by Anne Cottle who died on 25th January 1884 at Horton Manor, and who had been in the service of the Trotter family for 44 years.

The three light windows in what is now the Memorial Chapel were added in memory of Lieutenant C. V. Strange, R.N., Lord of the Manor of Epsom who was lost in H.M.S. Eurydice off the Isle of Wight in 1878.

The stone font was given by Mr. E. Northey in 1876 in memory of his friend Miss Elizabeth Trotter. He also gave the very fine brass Lectern in memory of his second wife Louisa. Behind the Font are small windows in memory of the three infant children of William and Mary Elizabeth Trotter. Mr. H. Lucas, who lives on Epsom Common, has recently provided some interesting information about the oak lid of the Font. He recalls making the lid about 42 years ago for the then incumbent, Rev. L. W. Mylrea who told him that the timber had been provided by his father who had used it as part of a pig trough on a farm in Somerset, owned by his grandfather, who had it on record that the timber came from a ship of the Spanish Armada. Messrs. Longhurst of Epsom undertook to partly shape the timber, their sawyer breaking three band saws in the process!

The pulpit, erected in 1880 came from St. Andrews Church, Surbiton, and was sold to Christ Church for the sum of £10.

The marble reredos was erected in 1886 in memory of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Trotter who died on 15th February 1885, and the elaborate and beautiful mosaic work round the East Window was completed in 1887, in memory of Mr. William Trotter who died 26th March 1887.

The Parish Magazine for January 1888, says:

“Worshippers in our Church on Christmas Day could not but have been struck with the very beautiful mosaic which now covers the whole of the East Wall of the Church. This had been put up during Advent and was seen in all its splendour in the bright sunshine of Christmas Day morning. The four Evangelists are represented on either side in the lower and broader portion of the wall, and as the wall grows narrower round the top of the E. Window a very effective vine scroll is carried up till it meets over the centre of the window. We have heard nothing but unqualified praise bestowed upon the work, which is indeed no more than it deserves. It is a memorial of the late Mr. William Trotter, erected by members of his family”.

The attractive red and white tiling on the lower part of the chancel walls was placed there in 1900, in memory of Norman Withall Aston who died at Eton College, on Good Friday 1900, aged 17. At the same time the whole of the remaining portion of the chancel walls were painted with decorative frescoes.

The painting on the organ and the two side panels (now removed) are in memory of Leonard John Hunter, younger son of the Rev. Canon Hunter, Vicar of the Church 1881-1911 and the decoration over the chancel arch, representing our Lord in an attitude of Invitation was painted in memory of the first Vicar, the Rev. George E. Willes.

As the tower was not completed when the church was built in 1876, efforts to raise money to complete the work were commenced in 1885. In the booklet, ‘*A Short Record*’ published on the fiftieth anniversary of the Consecration of the Church, Mr. A. P. Millar, O.B.E., the author records:

“October 1885, saw the commencement of an effort to complete the tower of the Church, and all kinds of ways by which this might be effected were suggested and many of them—including a two-days Bazaar in June, 1886, opened by Lady Egmont—were carried into practice. Including a donation of £50 by the Earl of Rosebery, the amount in hand is said to have reached about £790. This amount gradually increased, and early in 1887 it was decided to commission Sir Arthur Blomfield, the Architect of the Church, to complete the work as soon as the winter was over. A start was made at the end of June 1887, and by October the Tower was completed. It was formally dedicated on Sunday, November 6th, at 10.30 a.m., a short Choral Service being held upon the roof. The total cost of the completion of the Tower—a familiar and picturesque landmark, visible from all parts of the Common—appears to have been £939, the whole of which sum was raised by the Church.

“About this time a ‘Bells Fund’ came into existence, and two years later this had grown into a ‘Clock and Bells Fund’, although, apparently, only sufficient money was received for the latter purpose. By March 1890, some £370 had been collected (afterwards increased to more than £500) and an order for eight Bells was given to Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, of Whitechapel, London. The following inscriptions were placed on the Bells, which weigh over 55 hundredweight:

On the Treble—“Day by day we magnify Thee”

2nd—“Let Christ be known around And loved where’er I sound”

3rd—“There shall be upon the Bells Holiness to the Lord”

4th—“Gloria in excelsis Deo”

5th—“Soli Deo Gloria pax hominibus”

6th—“Benedicite omni opera Domini Dominum”

7th—“Deo Gratias”

Tenor—“Nunc Dimittis”.

The Bells were consecrated in July 1890. ‘*Church Bells*’ of the 8th August of that year. in a full account of the ceremony. quoted in the September 1890 Parish Magazine. records that:

. . . . On Thursday, the last day of July, a large congregation assembled at Christ Church, Epsom, for the purpose of taking part in the service of consecration of the new ring of eight bells. The Vicar (the Rev. Archer G. Hunter) having commenced the service, the act of consecration was performed by the Suffragan of the Bishop of Winchester (Bishop Sumner, of Guildford). This took place at the altar, after which the Bishop gave a short and very appropriate address on the use of Church Bells. After his address, a short

touch (a course of Grandshire Triples) was rung; and very impressive it was, the bells being acknowledged by all to be particularly sweet toned and musical."

After the service a peal of 5040 changes of Stedman Triples was successfully rung by members of the Surrey Association of Changeringers, whose names are given. They were afterwards hospitably entertained by the Vicar.

An interesting account concerning the completion of the tower is provided by Canon Hunter, then Vicar, who records:

"Our people were good givers where the need was clear, but quite early in my time when I wanted to complete the tower, if the need was clear, it was not considered by the older inhabitants that the foundations were strong enough to bear the weight of a tower, and I had considerable difficulty in persuading them otherwise, even when the architect had said all was right. People naturally would not give to a scheme they felt to be unsound. When we pressed the architect for a certificate to say that all was sound and we could proceed, he said before he could do this he must examine the foundation. How well I remember the mason and labourer with a pick-axe coming to examine. The Church is built of flint, the labourer was directed to remove two or three of these flints with his axe. This he did, and the rubble, for it was nothing else, poured out of the aperture like water, it was evident no cement in the hollows between the walls had been used, it was filled up with rubbish. On going inside and removing some of the bricks there was the same thing disclosed, and when the architect reported to our committee he said it was fortunate that the tower had not been proceeded with, as in that event it would have certainly fallen. We had a strong committee and we commissioned two of the ablest of them—perhaps it would be better not to mention names—though our commissioners and the architect have long since passed away—to go to London and interview the architect.

"Well", they said to him, "and what is to be done?"

"Without doubt," said he, "you must strengthen the foundations".

"Yes," said they, "and at whose expense?"

"That is no concern of mine," said he. But their reply was "You either make the foundations strong enough to bear any superstructure to be placed on them and pay the cost, or we shall expose you".

The foundations were made perfectly strong and this by that fine firm of builders, Goddard of Dorking, whom we later employed to erect the tower, and they, and we too, may well be proud of the work. The same firm re-roofed the Church and I for one, feel much indebted to them".

The clock which is a very fine one, was made by Gillett & Johnson of Croydon and was added in 1891, in memory of Isaac Braithwaite who lived at Hookfield.

The ornate and very beautiful rood-screen was erected in 1909 from a design by Mr. C. H. Fellowes Prynne, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford. It is admired by all who enter the Church and the craftsmanship and detail of the work are outstanding. The Parish Magazine for August 1909, records:

"The screen is of wrought iron and bronze, with richly ornamented traceried panels. Immediately over the central gate rises a cross, twelve feet in height, carrying the figure of the Saviour, and supported on either side by the figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John. There are also on either side of the cross angels carrying emblems of the Passion. The whole meaning of the rood, and a very beautiful one. is that only by passing under sufferings of the Cross can one reach the holy of holies. Beneath the cross, and in a large plaque. are the words, "By Thy Cross and Passion; good Lord deliver us", and running along the whole length of the screen are the following words from the Book of Revelation: "Alleluia! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Alleluia!" On one side of the screen is the following memorial tablet: "To the honour and glory of Almighty God, and in memory of William Sampson Trotter. late of Horton Manor, this screen is erected by his wife, son and daughter". The work has been carried out by Messrs Martyn of Cheltenham."

In various parts of the Church are tablets, brasses and inscriptions commemorating benefactors and worshippers who have given long and devoted service in maintaining the life of the Church over the years.

The garden surrounding the Church contains some fine specimen trees, and the setting amidst the belt of trees on the edge of the Common, with Stamford Green and Pond in the foreground and the small but attractive cottages presents a picturesque scene as one proceeds along Christchurch Road towards Oxshott. Apart from the external beauty of the Church and its setting, the chancel with the magnificent rood screen and the beautiful East Window surrounded by the glittering mosaics make Christ Church one of the most beautiful Churches in Surrey.

Though the Church was comparatively new, it became necessary to re-roof it in 1897. We are again indebted to Canon Hunter, who writes:

“This was among the most important improvements of our Church in my time. The Church stands in a very exposed position, and given a gale from the south-west the roof lost many of its tiles. In course of time this affected the interior roof which consisted of plaster which began to fall gradually in larger and larger quantities to the danger of those below. On a certain Ash Wednesday as I literally fought my way over to the Church in the teeth of a strong south-west gale, it came to me the plaster would very likely fall today. and it certainly made me very uncomfortable. However, we began the service but honestly it was as much as I could do to stay where I was and to give no warning. Presently the presentiment became so strong that not only would some of the plaster fall, but that it would fall in a particular place! Then I could stay no longer and I left my stall and went down and whispered in Mrs. Northey’s ear that I thought she had better move as I feared the plaster would fall before very long, and sure enough, scarcely had she moved to another seat before large and heavy pieces of plaster fell just where she had been sitting! Explain this how you may, I believe it was a special intervention of Providence, telling me to sound the warning that the plaster would fall in a particular place and so preventing what might have been a very serious accident. I should like to say that there was nothing to make me think the plaster would fall in this particular place other than the voice within telling me that it would.

“However, good was to come out of this. On the following Sunday morning I told the congregation from the pulpit exactly what had happened, and after conferring with my counsellors and. with the builders and enquiring what should be done, and the probable cost, I again made a statement from the pulpit asking my people’s help for an absolutely necessary work and telling them the approximate cost for re-roofing the Church, and expressing the hope that no further appeal would be necessary, with the result that on the Sunday after, the whole expense, amounting to nearly £400, was met through the offertory. And here I must say that during my thirty years at Christ Church I always found the people most ready to give where there was any real need. Only make a plain statement of the need and help was forthcoming”.

The Church Room (now Hall) on West Hill was opened by the Earl of Rosebery on 8th June 1899. The site was given by Mr. George Longman of West Hill House, the cost of the building being defrayed by a public appeal, concerts, collecting boxes and cards. It was estimated that over 600 persons subscribed to the appeal fund. The new room replaced an inadequate “Guild Room” in West Street used for church meetings for many years and rented from a Mr. J. Heath for £22 a year.

In 1920 the north transept was made into a Memorial Chapel in memory of members of the congregation and parishioners who died for their country in the first World War. The Roll of Honour, which is in bronze, forms a reredos to the altar and contains the names of 57 men, including 15 who sang in the choir, who lost their lives. The dedication as a Memorial Chapel was performed by the Bishop of Guildford on the 44th Anniversary of the consecration of the church.

The oak communion rails are in memory of the Rev. Neville G. J. Stiff who was Vicar from 1921 until his death in January 1923, and were given by his mother in 1926.

The bronze tablet on the north wall of the Chapel records those parishioners who lost their lives in World War II. It contains 58 names, and was dedicated on 6th November 1949 by the Bishop of Stepney. In order to improve the Chapel, the organ console, then sited at the rear of the choir stalls, was moved and placed in its present position adjacent to the lectern. The Chapel was also redecorated.

In writing the story of Christ Church mention must be made of St. Barnabas Church, and the little mission church of St. Michaels, which was situated off Woodlands Road on the Common.

The year 1899 saw the erection of the first St. Barnabas church. This was a temporary structure of corrugated iron. The church was dedicated by Bishop Lyttleton, Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, on 16th June 1899 in the presence of some 20 clergy and 370 people. As the building had been designed for only 300 people the heat of the congregation on a mid-summer’s day was indescribable.

The foundation stone of the present St. Barnabas Church was laid by the Bishop of Dorking on 24th October 1908 and it was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester on 19th June 1909, subsequently becoming a separate Ecclesiastical Parish outside the jurisdiction of the Vicar of Christ Church.

St. Michael’s Church, a small temporary structure, was dedicated in 1908, though it actually replaced another temporary building which had been in use for meetings of various kinds as well as for worship for more than thirty years. The Vicar’s Report for 1894 records that during the summer months open air services had been held in the neighbourhood and that a monthly celebration of Holy Communion had been started in Lent. In

1905 it was reported that the church had quickened into life under the care of Mr. Burnett, Lay Reader, and that a small choir had been formed, much to the encouragement of Miss Symes who had toiled on for many years as organist, amid much discouragement. The little church continued for many years, sustained by the valiant efforts of the clergy, lay readers and a loyal band of helpers, but eventually falling congregations and, later on, the disrepair of the building itself caused its closure and the site was disposed of in 1956.

To all the people referred to in this account of Christ Church, particularly the Trotter family, our most generous benefactors. and to all those, not mentioned by name. whose devotion in worship and service have provided and sustained our Church over the last century we owe a debt of gratitude which we gratefully acknowledge on the occasion of our Centenary.

THE STORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, EPSOM COMMON — II

Any record of Christ Church would be incomplete without reference to the part played by the Church in the social as well as the spiritual life of the parish.

In the early days, the area was largely rural in character, comprising the cottages on the Common, with a few groups of cottages dotted about the district and the larger houses of the gentry. The welfare state as we know it today, was undreamed of, indeed social welfare for ordinary people was minimal. As a result much of the social work was traditionally carried out by the Church or by private individuals.

This also applied in the field of education and it was only on the passing of the Education Act of 1870 that School Boards were formed to provide schools in areas where they were not voluntary or otherwise provided.

The parish was fortunate that, in addition to her beneficence to Christ Church, Miss Trotter founded an infants' school opposite Clay Hill Green. This was used not only as a day school, but also as a Sunday School and a number of people still living in the area attended this school in their early years.

A surveyors report made for the Surrey Education Committee in July 1905 records that the average attendance was 155, the pupils being accommodated in three classrooms. The Surveyor commented that the school was much overcrowded and that the buildings themselves, whilst not dilapidated, were nevertheless in need of repair and redecoration. The main classroom contained three classes divided only by curtains. Heat was provided by two open fires and a small stove. The play ground was small, but the children had access to the Green adjoining the school.

The school was transferred to the Surrey County Council in February 1915 and was eventually closed during the summer of 1925.

An informative and interesting account of the activities in the parish is provided by the Vicar's report for the year ending Easter 1894. Canon Hunter records:

“The work in connection with our various societies and institutions is, on the whole, progressive. The Mothers' Meetings have been fairly attended, that at the Mission Church better than ever before. The Mothers' Union and the G.F.S., both most useful adjuncts to our work, are not as largely taken advantage of as I should like. There are frequent meetings of both societies, but perhaps the members find it hard to find time to attend them.

As regards Temperance Work I cannot speak more warmly than I did last year; there are many indirect helps towards temperance no doubt, but the sin of intemperance is still rife, and that of impurity, and that of gambling, I fear, not less so. What is to be done? We must surely 'go forth to the spring of the waters and cast the salt in there'; we must be more careful about the baptized that they are indeed 'taught what a solemn vow' is upon them. The work of the teachers in both day and Sunday Schools needs more of our sympathy, and more of our prayers; the work of those who are trying to influence our children in Bands of Hope needs to be recognised. The flagrant sins which we see and hear of all around us are being committed by those who a few short years ago were little innocent babes. Can we not do more to help preserve their innocence?

Mission Work beyond the seas is receiving more attention and we are thankful for it; to Mrs. Collins, our S.P.G. secretary, we owe our best thanks, and to Miss Willis also for another successful sale of work for S.P.G. We have also received much help from outside in this work, Mr. Preston (of Ewell), Canon Dundas, and the Bishop of Cape Town have all addressed meetings in our parish at various times.

As regards the E.C.U., Mr. Bayfield Roberts gave our members an excellent address during the summer (1) on the 'Divorce Act', (2) on 'Religious Instruction in Board Schools' and (3) on 'Piecemeal

Disestablishment'; and during the winter Mr. Outram Marshall came to explain to us the Parish Councils Bill as it affects the Church.

In the early part of the year some interesting lectures on 'The Ordinal' were given by Mr. Fagan, Vicar of Hersham, in connection with the Higher Religious Education Society. The subjects chosen for the members' study this year are Old Testament from the accession of Amaziah to the final destruction of Jerusalem, H. Kings xiv - xxv. II Chronicles xxv xxxvi., Isaiah vii., Jeremiah xxvi - xiv.

New Testament, St. John vii - xii.

Prayer Book, Articles of Religion i-vi.

Church History, The History of the English Church from 1604-1640.

Regular meetings of our Communicants' Guild have been held, and many clergy from neighbouring parishes kindly come over to address us. I think more of our Communicants should take advantage of these monthly meetings.

During January an excellent meeting was held, by the kindness of Mrs. Northey, in the Drawing Room of Woodcote House, in the interests of the oldest of our Church Societies, the S.P.C.K. Canon Elwyn and Mr. Taylor gave most interesting addresses on the Society's work, and Mrs. Harter, of Woodcote Place, kindly undertook to act as Local Secretary.

Mrs. Braithwaite is still quite indefatigable in superintending the Carving Class, and her work is much appreciated by the lads, and the Exhibition of Wood carving, which she holds from time to time, is quite looked forward to by the neighbourhood. It is wonderful what advance her pupils have made, and it would be impossible to say the amount of good done indirectly through her efforts: The Misses Ella and Florence Pagden are still instructing smaller boys in the same art; their work, too, is most helpful.

To Mr. Richard and his band of workers in the Night School, which he started, I am most grateful, as I am also to Mr. and Mrs. Harter for their able superintendence of the Invalid Kitchen. Mrs Aston provided as good a series of Penny Readings during the winter as we have ever had, and the audiences never failed to show their appreciation. The Working Men's Club still rejoices in Mr. Willis for its secretary, and as long as this is the case we do not fear for its prosperity.

Two important services have been added in connection with our Mission Church during the past year. (1) During the summer months we hold an open air service in the neighbourhood, which is certainly appreciated by a few. (2) In Lent we commenced a monthly celebration of the Holy Communion there, and the number that have been present on the three occasions we have had it quite justifies our doing so".

In addition there was a Provident Club, whose objects were, "to encourage provident habits and to assist respectable women, by inducing them to lay by small sums of money against sickness or childbirth". There was also a Clothing Club which had 108 depositors and a Coal Club with 101 depositors. In both these cases contributions were made by church members towards the cost of the clothing and fuel ordered.

A Parish Kitchen also provided food for the needy. The accounts show that £4 17s. 7d. was spent on "Beef Tea, mutton broth, puddings, etc" during the summer of 1893, and during the winter £21 3s. 1d. was paid for meat, grocery and provisions.

The Vicar's Alms Account which showed disbursements amounting to £58. 8s. 1d for food, clothing, fares and payments to hospitals and chemists also included a payment of £1 to a parishioner who was emigrating.

The parish was also covered by a number of district visitors, and though these were largely drawn from the more wealthy members of the congregation they did provide contact between the church and the people.

Also mentioned in the report is the Mothers Union, Secretary, Mrs. Lancaster. The Christ Church branch was started in 1890 and it is interesting to note that the centenary of the parent body occurs in 1976, the same as our own.

The Vicar's report for the year to Easter 1905 shows that most of the activities referred to previously were still being carried on indicating the continuing role played by the church in the social as well as the spiritual life of the community. In addition to the thrift clubs previously mentioned, there was now a Penny Bank and Shoe Club with some 50 depositors.

About this time a large number of houses were built in the area around St. Barnabas Church with consequent increases in the number of worshippers and children attending Sunday School thus making a

considerable addition to the work and responsibility of the clergy of Christ Church. As a result of this activity it was only a few years before a new church was built and St. Barnabas became a separate district in June 1909¹.

Following the end of the First World War, legislation brought about many changes in the structure of our society and these changes have been vastly accelerated since the end of the Second World War. As a result the Church today plays a much smaller part in the welfare and secular education of present day society.

It must be emphasised, however, that notwithstanding the magnitude of the services provided by the welfare state, there are many aspects of social life that it cannot adequately provide, and it is in these fields where a friendly and personal contact is required that the church still plays a vital role through the work of the clergy and laity.

Another marked change that has taken place since 1876 is the relationship of the various churches in the district with each other. Today, there is a strong ecumenical spirit of respect, understanding and of working together which could hardly have been conceived in the early days of Christ Church.

Like so many parish churches, Christ Church has had its quota of members who have given long and devoted service in worship and to the whole life of the church.

Probably the person with the longest record of service was Frank Pullinger, who was born in Epsom at the turn of the century, and apart from service in the First World War lived all his life in the district. He joined the choir of Christ Church at the age of seven during the time that Mr. George Good (whose Godson he was) was Organist and choir master, and remained a member of the choir for 69 years. He also served on the Parochial Church Council and the Finance Committee for a great many years and played a full part in the life of the church.

Another, who gave long and outstanding service was Mr. George E. Good who was organist and choir master from October 1876 to March 1935.

Mr. Good possessed great skill as an organist and in choir training, and when he was appointed Organist at Christ Church these accomplishments were used to bring the music to a high degree of perfection. The result of this was that Christ Church was renowned throughout the district for its music, which undoubtedly contributed to the fact that for many years, the church was attended by large numbers of worshippers from outside the parish itself.

In addition to his musical prowess, Mr. Good had a unique interest in developing the character of the choirboys. As well as teaching them to sing he also taught them cricket, football, took them on country walks and outings and did everything he could to develop a sound personality, a sense of fair play and good manners.

At one time the choir comprised twenty-four choir boys with a waiting list! All the boys were provided with a choir cap of deep blue with a red monogram, and on Sundays each boy had to wear an Eton collar and choir tie.

Mr. Good was also a friend of Lord Rosebery who was a worshipper at Christ Church and, on occasions, he and some of the choir boys were invited to sing at The Durdans. At Christmas some twelve boys would be invited to sing carols and afterwards sit down to a sumptuous tea with a half crown under each boy's plate.

Mr. Good lived for his boys and went to great trouble to secure employment for them when they left school at a time when jobs were difficult to find and his contribution to the life of the parish in all its aspects was very considerable.

Also a long serving member of the Church was Mr. George Jeans. Mr. Jeans actually became a choirboy at his local parish church in 1897 and on coming to reside in Epsom he joined the choir of Christ Church in 1928 and served until his death in 1970—42 years.

He too also played an active part in other aspects of church life, being secretary of the Parish Hall Committee for many years, as well as being a member of the Parochial Church Council and, in the early 1930's an active member of the successful "Christ Church Players".

The Mr. Willis referred to in Canon Hunter's report for 1894 was Mr. Henry Willis who lived at Horton Lodge. Mr. Willis served as Church Warden from 1877 to 1918 a period of 41 years. There is a memorial tablet in his memory at the east end of the north aisle of the Church, also two tablets erected to his wife and members of his family who were also worshippers at Christ Church for many years.

¹ 2016 correction: The new Church was dedicated in 1909, but the new Parish was not created until 1917.

MEMORIES OF A ONE-TIME VERGER

Looking back to the past, one's memories can so easily be coloured by nostalgia as one is tempted to view the "good old days" through rose-tinted spectacles. I shall try to avoid this in recalling the priests under whom I served.

My first memories go back to Canon Hunter who baptized me.

I remember seeing him as a very small boy, whilst he was standing on the Chancel steps. In those days the pulpit had a two-branch candlestick and during the last verse of the hymn before the sermon, the Verger would come down and light these candles; and then I knew it wouldn't be long before the Service was over! Canon Hunter used to wear a tall silk hat on Sundays, which was a very rare sight, even in those days.

My real memories start with Henry Bowles who prepared me for confirmation at the age of fourteen. I learnt all the rudiments of my faith from him. He taught me to appreciate the mysteries of sacramental worship and under his influence I made my first confession before confirmation. When I was sixteen years old he asked me to become Verger of Christ Church.

These were the days of the First World War. He began the practice of ringing the Angelus every day at 12 noon, when we would go into the Church together to say the Angelus. We always said the Litany publicly on Wednesdays and Fridays, even when I was the only other person present. Every day he said Matins and Evensong and frequently celebrated Holy Communion. One of my saddest memories of him was the day when he heard that his son had been killed in action. This didn't stop him coming over to Church to say Evensong and it wasn't until the Intercessions, when he prayed for the repose of the soul of his son, that we learnt the tragic news.

On his last Sunday in the Parish he asked me to ring the Church bell at the time of consecrating the Bread and Wine. This was something he had always wanted to do; and he hoped that his successor would continue the practice. This would remind the people on the Common that the Holy Mysteries were being offered on their behalf. He was a great priest of God and many of us owe much to his ministry.

He was followed by a really great man—Neville Stiff, whom some of you may still remember. He was a tall man with a crew cut—a most unusual thing in those days. We knew him for his gaiety, humour and godliness—qualities that always seem to go together—and yet I have never known a man suffer from asthma as much as he did. He would ask me to go over to the Vicarage and lend him my arm so that he could walk to the Church. And after the Service he would ask me to close the Vestry door so that no-one saw him as he struggled for breath.

His Sunday evening services were such that his reputation quickly spread throughout Epsom and it was difficult to get a seat unless you were there early. His sermons were not emotional but they moved us deeply.

He was married by Bishop Talbot when he had been with us for a year, but within another year he had died. I well remember the occasion. I had gone to the Vicarage on the Saturday morning to get my orders for the day, to find him in bed. He was obviously in a bad way but joked with me as usual. Then he asked me to find a priest to celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday. It was whilst I was ringing the Church bell on Sunday morning that I heard the tragic news of his death, which shocked us all.

Neville Stiff would have been a great man in whatever age he had lived and he would have been able to adjust to the many changes coming about in the Church today. I can remember the day of his burial. His wife was standing by the gate as we left for the cemetery. They were expecting their first child and it all seemed so tragic.

Despite his great handicap, he was always about on his bicycle, visiting his people, exhorting and teaching them. They were wonderful days at Christ Church—but oh, so short a period!

My days as a Verger were nearly over when the new Vicar, Francis Hooke, was appointed. He was a sad man in many ways and had a very difficult task following after Henry Bowles and Neville Stiff. He had a great love for the Book of Common Prayer and was himself a man of prayer. But he had no drawing power, so that it wasn't long before the congregation began to fall away. I remember in particular his three-hour Service when he gave a course of addresses on the Seven Words of the Cross adapted to the Visitation of the Sick in the Book of Common Prayer. And he had some wise and interesting things to say.

He was also concerned to take the Church to the people; for example, when he led a procession on Rogation Sunday from the Church to the Allotment gate to pray for the crops and then on to the Working Men's Club where he gave an address.

My last memory of him was years later when I was in Retreat and he was the Conductor. This was his real sphere of work, where he was most at home, and this is how I like to remember him.

The three priests under whom I served had one thing in common—a great love of souls, revealed in different ways. Henry Bowles who helped countless people in the Confessional, Neville Stiff who was a great evangelist and Francis Hooke who spent hours in prayer for his people.

REVEREND L. W. MYLREA

The Rev. L. W. Mylrea was Vicar from 1926 to 1936 and few Vicars of Christ Church have been quite as outstanding, both in appearance and character as Rev. L. W. Mylrea.

Physically, he bore a remarkable resemblance to the late Aga Khan for whom he was mistaken more than once, in London, much to his own amusement.

In Church he showed outstanding dignity and reverence. A keen Anglo-Catholic—he was known as “Father Mylrea” to everyone—during his ministry he achieved one of his greatest ambitions—to have installed in the Lady Chapel an aumbrey, for the reservation of the Sacrament, overcoming the early doubts of some members of the P.C.C. Congregations were good in those pre-war years. Especially well attended, as now, was the Sung Eucharist. Outside the Church Father Mylrea proved himself to be a man of many interests and broad sympathies. Blessed with, perhaps, more of this world’s goods than the average incumbent, he and Mrs. Mylrea were kindly and generous hosts. It was quite an occasion to go to the Vicarage for a meal, where a well-trained manservant met one at the door and later served the meal which his wife had cooked.

But it must not be thought that Father Mylrea lacked the “common touch”. His sense of humour made him a very endearing person and he enjoyed telling a tale against himself. When on holiday in Ireland—a country he loved to visit—where he was on a walking tour, he got into conversation with one of the “natives”, who prided himself on being able to tell any man’s trade by looking at him. The Vicar, in a tweed suit, asked the man what he made of his appearance, the prompt reply was “You’re one of them racing gentlemen!” Neither did he resent it, when a London waitress innocently reserved their table in the names of “Mr. and Mrs. Hooray”!

Father Mylrea took a keen interest in the activities of the Christ Church Players, who were at their peak in those pre-war, pre-television days, when we had to make our own amusements. He used to accompany us on our visits to other parishes in the diocese, describing himself as “the Impresario” and giving every encouragement to our efforts.

The social life of the Parish meant a great deal to him and his wife.

He was no mean lecturer. Having visited Oberammergau for the Passion Play, he gave talks and showed his slides to groups in various districts describing graphically the experience which had moved him so deeply. (Incidentally Christ Church benefitted financially from any profit he made from his lectures.)

He had to retire from Christ Church for health reasons, but he was able to do some useful work as honorary chaplain to a convent near Guildford².

CANON A. E. ROBINS

Canon Robins was appointed Vicar of Christ Church in September 1947, at a time when there were still many upheavals and restrictions arising from the Second World War. The Church itself had suffered war damage, and the life of the church inevitably showed that it was also affected.

Mr. Robins who was a quiet, modest man, approached the many problems which confronted him in the same manner, but also with great determination and during his incumbency he accomplished a great deal.

1949 saw the introduction of the Parish Communion, also a Youth Fellowship and in 1950 the Men’s Society was formed and existed for many years.

Probably the most outstanding event was the Mission which took place in May 1954. This was led by Fathers Hoey and Tweedy of the Community of the Resurrection, together with other lay missionaries. There were some 65 visitors who called at every house in the parish and delivered a programme and other literature. Mission Services were held every evening in Church and there was also a Procession of Witness. It was a great success and brought about a sense of awakening in the Church. It also resulted in the formation of the Five Year Club for teenagers in the Parish. The club ran for nearly a decade and in addition to a normal social meeting there was a regular monthly communion and evening prayer meetings in the Lady Chapel. Members of the Club took services in the hospitals. put on concerts and variety shows and raised money through carol singing at Christmas.

In 1950 a subsidence at the east end of the Church had to be repaired and a toilet was also provided. It was also proposed to clean and decorate the Church, but with the licensing system for building works then in

² 2016 correction: In fact, he was appointed by the Diocese of Colchester in 1937 as warden of its House of Mercy (a “mother & baby home”) at Great Maplestead, near Colchester, where he died in post on 14 August 1940.

operation this could not be done until 1953. The war damaged east window was replaced in 1952 and the organ rebuilt in 1956.

Mr. Robins was appointed Chaplain at the District Hospital in 1951, Rural Dean in 1952 and an Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral in 1956.

For many years he was a familiar figure in the district as he carried out his work on foot, bicycle and later on an auto-cycle in all kinds of weather. Following an accident on the latter, a parish car was provided in 1957.

He was also an accomplished musician taking great interest in the music of the Church as well as a full part in any musical performance which took place.

Canon Robins was an ardent family man, a quiet, humble priest, reserved by nature, but tireless in energy in carrying out the many duties of his various offices, even though, latterly, he did not have the best of health. His incumbency lasted until June 1960 when he was appointed Vicar of Fleet and later Vicar of Frensham. He died on 19th March 1969 at the age of 64.

CHRIST CHURCH PLAYERS

Before the War, in the pre-television era of the early 1930's, amateur theatricals probably flourished as never before, or even since.

This was certainly the case with the Christ Church Players, for whom it was a period of entertaining output and great enjoyment, much encouraged by the Vicar, Rev. L. Mylrea who would often, humorously, refer to himself as "The Impresario", when he accompanied the players on journeys to more rural areas, like Bookham or Ripley, to give a performance of a play which had won acclaim at Christ Church.

The person responsible for so much enthusiasm and hard work was the producer, Miss Helena Absalom, herself a gold medallist in elocution and a very talented actress.

In her work as producer, she always had the willing co-operation of the Vicar's wife Mrs. Constance Mylrea, a lady possessed of great vitality and considerable dramatic ability, which she used to portray many diverse roles. Always at hand to advise, and lend her considerable skill as wardrobe mistress, was Miss Edith Anderson, and a crew of "back room boys" who gave their services as stage managers, electricians, lighting experts, "effects" men etc.

Not that this was a permanent organised company. So often amateur dramatic societies are accused of being "cliquey". Never could this be said of the Christ Church Players, for they did not form a Society in which the star parts always went to the same people. (It must be acknowledged we had our "Stars" some of whom may still be known or remembered by present-day congregations). Because of Miss Absalom's quiet, persuasive manner, practically the whole congregation found themselves "roped in" to take part, at some time or another, often to their own great surprise—much hidden talent being brought to light, by Miss Absalom's perception of their potential. Play readings and plays of all types were given (often under cramped and inadequate conditions) in the Church Hall, and, in the case of religious drama, usually in the Church, when those who took no part in the acting used their talents in the making of costumes or providing the necessary musical accompaniment.

Nativity and Passion Plays afforded parts for many players. Modern plays are not so easy for amateurs to put on successfully, but "The Cradle Song" and "The Romantic Young Lady", by Sierra, were very popular. Some of the biggest successes were in "costume drama", such as Garrick's "Miss in her teens", Shaw's "Dark Lady of the Sonnets", "The Loving Heart", based on part of Dante's "Divine Comedy", "The Six Wives of Henry" (with Sydney Lee as a memorable Henry VIII, at a ghostly rendezvous with all his wives at Hampton Court), and what was certainly the most ambitious production of all, Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night", which won high praise.

There was a very high standard of acting throughout and it is invidious to cite individual performances, but one cannot resist mentioning Helena Absalom as Viola, Constance Mylrea as Olivia and G. H. Jeans as Malvolio.

The players were invited, in 1933, to give performances of "Twelfth Night" in Ebbisham Hall, in connection with the formation of the new Urban District of Epsom and Ewell in that year.

These are the memories of "one of the Players" who took part in many productions. became responsible for "make-up"—and enjoyed every minute of it.

VICARS OF CHRIST CHURCH, EPSOM COMMON

Rev. George E. Willes	1876 - 1881
Rev. Canon Archer G. Hunter	1881 - 1911
Rev. Henry Bowles	1912 - 1920
Rev. Neville G. Stiff	1921 - 1923
Rev. Francis E. Y. Hooke	1923 - 1925
Rev. Lionel Mylrea	1926 - 1936
Rev. John E. Matthews	1937 - 1940
Rev. Hugh McMullan	1940 - 1947
Rev. Canon A. E. Robins	1947 - 1960
Rev. Richard E. Falkner	1960 - 1966
Rev. R. D. Bedford	1966 -

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks are due to Mr. Sidney Lee, Mr. George Cockman, Mrs. A. M. Gardner, Mrs. S. F. Pullinger, Mr. C. Barnes and Mr. H. Lucas for the loan of papers and information.

To Mr. A. R. J. Maddle who took the photographs, and Mr. R. Fentiman for the reproduction of the sketch of Christ Church on the cover.

Also to Miss M. Prett for her contributions on the Rev. L. W. Mylrea and Christ Church Players and to Mr. A. Risbridger for Memories of a Verger.

To E. P. Publishing Ltd. for permission to quote from the books on Epsom by C. J. Swete, MA., and Gordon Home, to the Epsom and Ewell Advertiser and the Surrey Record Office.

Finally to the Vicar who read the script and Mrs. J. D. Prince who typed it.

ONE WAY YOU CAN HELP

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have so generously given of their resources for the maintenance and furtherance of the work of our Parish Church. At a time of inflation and rising costs it is a challenge to all of us to maintain and extend the services offered by the Church to the community.

Most of you will appreciate the escalating costs of maintaining our Parish Church and its staff, to say nothing of the Church Hall, the Vicarage and the Curate's 'and Verger's houses. There is also a growing need for a Parish Room adjacent to the Church where members of Christ Church could meet for fellowship; and where Sunday School could be held during times of worship, making it possible for parents with young children to join in the worship of their Parish Church whilst their children undergo instruction in Sunday School.

In this Centenary Year we would ask all of you who read this Brochure to consider, prayerfully, these needs and if you feel so led, to make a donation and perhaps remember the Church in your Will.

Price Sixty pence

Printed by Dorling & Co. (Epsom) Ltd.