



**S. MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE SOCIETY
MAGAZINE**

SEPTEMBER 2009

Please could I have all booking forms/cheques returned to me by September 20th at the latest so I can inform Cadmore Lodge of numbers attending the Annual Dinner.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Also, can I remind members of the St Michael's Patronal Festival Services on Sunday 27th September the day after the Reunion – Sung Eucharist at 10am and Evensong at 3pm.

Many thanks

Tim Coles
Secretary

Annual Reunion and Dinner Booking Form

Name

Address

.....

Tel No E-mail

Years at SMC

Please indicate numbers:

Numbers

..... I will play cricket

..... I wish to join the Tour of the St Michael's College buildings

..... I wish to join in with the choir at Evensong

..... I will attend the Dinner - **£22.00** per head
(partners welcome)

Please indicate choice of meal (see menu):

Starter:

Main Course:

Sweet:

..... I would like a SMCS CD sent to me - **£12.50 donation enclosed**

Please return the slip with your cheque for the Dinner to:
(Cheques made payable to - "St Michael's College Society")

Tim Coles
The Moor Hall
Cleedownton
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3EG

President's Message - William Jenkyns

Greetings from the Presidential Wing of the SMC Society. I hope that this newsletter finds you enjoying the best non-barbecue weather that we have ever had in Great Britain. Who needs the Met Office anyway? I tend to rely on a "feel of the old seaweed" first thing in the morning, if the seaweed is damp, it'll be raining shortly.

And so it is with seaweed and other meteorological detectors at the ready that we look towards the end of September for this year's Michaelmas Reunion of the members of the St Michael's College Society. **Dates: Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th September.**

Our guest speaker this year will be from our own ranks, namely John Austin, who has been unearthing many hitherto little-known facts about the College and its Architect, Henry Woodyer. Full details about this year's festivities can be found later in this newsletter and on our website (www.smcsociety.co.uk).

There will be a repeat of the tour of the new college buildings at 2.00pm, and we are also instigating the post-Evensong photographic opportunity. We feel that it would be good to record those at the reunion each year, and so, with effect from this year, we will be organising a photograph of all those present, outside the West door, immediately after Evensong, before we all head to the Cadmore Lodge. Miss it at your peril!

As I am now in my second term in 'office', I have been looking at the membership that we have. We have several types of members of the Society. There are those who regularly attend the reunions. There are those who, whilst paying a subscription, don't manage to make it to the reunions; some of whom live too far away (in the USA, for example) - and we don't pay travelling expenses!

And there are those who are on the list to whom we send newsletters, but who haven't been able yet, it would appear, to contribute a subscription towards the running of the Society.

Which one are you? To those in the second or third category, I would like to ask you one question: Have you been back to St Michael's in recent years? If not, would you seriously consider joining us this year?

We have a very strong regular turnout, but we are always happy to see others join us too. The St Michael's College Society exists to provide an active link between the time spent at the College, renewing those friendships begun back then, and making new acquaintances with other generations, but all enjoying that one common thread, that of time spent under the influence of St Michael's.

In this year's newsletter, we have a moment for reflection, as we record with sadness the death of several members of the Society. There is a report on the funeral and reflection on the life of Denis Paxman, Warden of St Michael's, who died earlier this year.

We also have an appeal for donations for restoring the Founder's grave. Details too of honours for one Roger Judd; plus the Society CD and how to order one. There is news of Old Boys/Girls, old photos and wartime memories.

I must close this year by offering my thanks to the Committee, who continue to keep things very much in order and me on the straight and narrow.

I hope to see you in September.

Centenary Reunion 2008

Members and Friends Present

William Jenkyns	John Davies	Peter Haslam
Roger Judd	Edward Watson-Williams	Stewart Meikle
Tim Hollis	Williams	David Wells-Cole
Alan & Sally Robson	Patrick Carden	Tim Coles
Andrew Robson	Stephen Loft-Simson	John Pepper
Brian & Nora Demaus	Mike Benson	Andrew Yarnold
Alan Meikle	Lawrence Bayley	Tony & Janet Penn
Derrick Jenkyns	David Wilson	Philip Wilson
Julian Wiltshire	John & Norah Brown	Denis Parry
Charles Beresford	Robin Bayley	James Mealings
Michael Hart	Simon Banfield	George Field
Jenson Jones	Richard Pepper	Chris Pickford
Tony Hampton	Nick Steinitz	Jeremy Hall
Hamish Preston	Ian & Mary Holland	David Bland
Denis & Jenny Paxman	David & Sheila Pepper	
Victoria Paxman	Guy Holland	

Draft Summary of 2008 AGM Minutes

The President, William Jenkyns reported there had been a tour of the College which 12 people went on. He asked for suggestions for activities for future years.

The production of the CDs of the college music etc. was progressing. The website had been revamped. A plaque in the church in memory of the late Dan Symonds had been dedicated. The PCC needed £10k for the north gable. The church bells had been re-hung. The SMCS Centenary Awards (shields) had been well received by the College.

The Treasurer, John Pepper, reported a small deficit for the year of £9. A quarter of the society's assets was stock, which needed to be sold.

The President, William Jenkyns was re-elected for a second 2 year term and Jenson Jones and Paul Drummond were re-elected to the committee.

It was confirmed that Revd. Barnaby Bell was a member of the Society. David Barclay of the Holgate Consort was nominated for election as a Friend of the Society.

Donations were agreed of £150 to St Michael's College and £350 to the St Michael's PCC.

Cricket 2008/09

SMCS v St Michael's Village – The Old Boys won by 19 runs

SMCS v Tenbury CC – Tenbury won by 97 runs

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

	2007	2007	£
1166	1151.00	Brought Forward	412.99
80	31.50	613 Postages, Mail Shot, Newsletter	692.79
		Donations	
52	64.54	762 PCC of St. Michael's	300.00
837	96.00	St. Michael's College	150.00
276	100.00	171 Website	70.50
545	22.50	Wreath for Founder's Grave	10.00
		534 Society Ties (60)	
		529 Centenary Mugs (250)	
		380 Founder's Chair Restoration	
		300 Hereford Cathedral	
		50 Elgar in Hereford Group	
		Reunion	32.85
	203.39		
	<u>1669.13</u>		<u>1669.13</u>
		Carried Forward	

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2008

	£		£
Accumulated Fund		Society Assets	
Balance Brought Forward	4425.45	Stock-	
Deficit	(8.90)	Head-squares	17.50
		Ties	348.00
		Mugs	605.00
		Elgar, Ouseley books	155.00
		Bank A/C- Lloyds Bank	1352.82
		Nat Sav Inv	1938.23
			<u>3291.05</u>
			<u>4416.55</u>

I confirm that the above summarized accounts give a true and fair view of the society's affairs as at 31 March 2008



(J. M. PEPPER) HON. TREASURER

SMCS Website

The SMCS website (www.smcociety.co.uk) continues to be a source of interest to not just 'known' members of the society but also many people who are just browsing through and find things of interest.

There is always room for more photographs/articles etc on the site. If you have something that you would like to see there, e-mail to info@smcsociety.co.uk

Any Questions:

Should you have any questions about any of the arrangements please get in touch.

For information, the number of the Tenbury Wells Tourist Information Centre is 01584 810136 and the Ludlow TIC is 01584 875053, and they can provide details on accommodation in the area.

PLEASE **COMPLETE AND RETURN** YOUR RESERVATION SLIP **BY SEPTEMBER 20th** AND SEND IT TO ME ALONG WITH A CHEQUE.

Tim Coles
The Moor Hall
Cleedownton
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3EG
Tel. 01584 823209

The SMCS Shop

SMCS ties (£10) – a batch of new Society ties was produced for the Centenary Reunion. If anyone's old tie is the worse for wear or you have lost it (!), let a committee member know.

SMCS squares (£1.50) – if any members would like a Society head square, there are a small number available.

SMCS Centenary mugs (£3.50) – again, as a memento of the 2006 reunion, centenary mugs were produced. They look really good and there are quite a few left so if anyone is interested let us know.

Books

Memories of St Michael's College, Tenbury edited by C.R.Beresford (2006) Paperback (£7)
Flashbacks by thirty people who were pupils between the 1920s and 1980s, together with articles and appendices with names of staff and pupils. The editor was a pupil from 1952 to 1957.

Elgar, Ouseley and St Michael's – A personal account by John Austin (2006) (£2.50)
Old Boy and former Society President John Austin has put together a 20 page booklet.

Special Offer – Memories of St Michael's College PLUS centenary mug - £10

SMCS News

The Founder's grave at St Michael's – restoration appeal



The Founder's grave at St Michael's is important not only because it is the Founder's grave but also because it was designed by the famous architect Sir Aston Webb.

He was responsible for designing the Victoria and Albert Museum, Admiralty Arch and the 1913 front of Buckingham Palace. When the founder died in 1889, Sir Aston Webb was working on the restoration of nearby Burford Church. The vicar of Burford at the time was Wayland Joyce, a close friend of the Founder and that was no doubt the reason Webb was asked to design the grave.

It is covered with a large slab of polished red granite with the inscription in lead lettering around the edge. Both are in excellent condition, however, the granite slab is surmounted by a white marble cross which is in very poor condition and is now a dark grey colour.

I have been in touch with a stonemason in Craven Arms who has quoted £750 plus VAT to restore the cross. I feel it is something the Old Boys ought to do. Please send any donations to the Secretary or Treasurer.

Michael Hart

Serendipity smiles on Roger's life and work

Hereford Times 5th March 2009

SERENDIPITY has played a major role in Roger Judd's life and work, making its first appearance when he was just eight years old.

Roger, until last year assistant organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor, and awarded an MVO (member of the Royal Victorian Order) in the New Year's Honours list, started his musical career playing the piano at the age of six, but he has often speculated about where music might have taken him had his father's first posting as a bank manager not been in Winchester.

"My father was given the accounts for the cathedral and Winchester College to handle and Alwyn Surplice, the organist at the cathedral, became a good friend of the family," recalls Roger

"He came to supper one evening and the conversation turned to whether I could sing. Having established that I could, he suggested hearing me then and there. He then told my parents they should put me in for the voice trial, which they did and I became a Winchester chorister. If my father's final posting – in Reading – had been his first, who knows what might have happened."

Life as a chorister introduced the piano-playing Roger to the organ: "I fell in love with the sound of the thing and, if we were ever ill, we were sent to the organ loft to turn pages and got to watch the organist play."



He began lessons when he was 11 – “I was tall, which helped,” – and went on as an Organ Scholar to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he studied with Sir David Willcocks. Having spent four years as assistant organist in Ely Cathedral, Roger moved to St Michael’s College, Tenbury, where he spent 12 years. “I knew what sort of place Tenbury was and the reputation it had,” he says. “And I was ready for my own job running the show.”

The move to Tenbury was indirectly responsible, too, for his return with wife Alison, a children’s book editor, to this part of the world following his retirement from St George’s Chapel.

“They say you should never retire to a place where you have no connections,” he explains. “I have quite a number of friends from my Tenbury days still living hereabouts and a number of Alison’s authors and illustrators live in the area.”

Following the closure of St Michael’s choir school in 1985, serendipity exerted its influence for a second time, when Roger, officially made redundant on September 1, received a phone call from Christopher Robinson, organist at St George’s Chapel, asking if he could help out in an emergency.

Invited to apply for the post full time, Roger was appointed and the rest, as he himself says, is history. In the 23 years he spent living and working in Windsor Castle, he played the organ at three royal weddings – Lady Helen Windsor’s to Tim Taylor, Prince Edward’s to Sophie Rhys-Jones and, most recently, Peter Phillips’s to Autumn Kelly – and at Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall’s blessing in August 2007.

In the seven months since moving to Herefordshire, Roger has established new links, playing on a “fairly regular” basis at St Laurence Church in Ludlow, and he hopes to play in Hereford Cathedral in the summer.

In spite of having retired, Roger will remain in touch with St George’s, both informally and formally, having been made an honorary member of the College of St George. “It’s nice to have an official way of maintaining the link,” he said.

Two weeks ago, Roger and Alison were at Buckingham Palace for the investiture: “It’s a very special award as it is the Queen’s own gift, given to people who have served her in a wide variety of ways.”

As they moved into their new home in Clehonger, the arrival of a housewarming present revealed to Roger and Alison how different life in Herefordshire would be. “I got up on that first morning and on the doorstep there was a case of wine that had been delivered. In Windsor, we’d have had to know it was coming and told the police we were expecting it,” says Roger. “It was a welcome to the real world.”

St Michael’s College Society CD

Members of the Society will be interested to learn that the proposed CD of music and memories of St Michael’s is now nearing completion.

The double CD set contains gems such as Broadcast Evensong from the Centenary celebrations, earliest recordings of the choir from 1957, John Craven’s visit to the school for Radio 4 in 1974, excerpts from school plays, broadcast by John Betjeman, various broadcasts of Evensong from 1957 to 1983, with the Final service and last Evensong also being featured. The CD concludes with the Address given by Andrew Walters at Choral Evensong in 2006, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the College.

This collection is a one-off, limited edition. Once the CDs are gone, they are gone. If you want one we ask that you make a donation to SMCS of £10, plus £2.50 p&p in return. We are hoping to have the CDs available at the reunion, so come armed with a cheque book! If you are not able to attend the reunion, please send a cheque for £12.50 now – CDs will be sent out when available. Money will likely go to the Church/organ fund.

2009 Annual Reunion Dinner Menu

Homemade leek and potato soup
Smoked haddock and spring onion fishcake with a cucumber salsa
Chicken liver and pork terrine with onion marmalade and crusty bread

Roasted sirloin of beef stuffed with mushrooms and bacon with a Madeira sauce
Roasted chump of lamb in a mint and red currant jus
Baked supreme of chicken with stuffing, bacon roll and sage gravy
Vegetable Wellington with a tomato coulis

Bread and butter pudding
Red cherry cheesecake
Profiteroles with chocolate sauce
Fresh Fruit Cocktail
Selection of Cheese and Biscuits

Port

(Please indicate your choices on Booking Form at the end of this Newsletter)

Heroes return

Old Boys and parents turned out in force for the ‘welcome home’ parade for the Queen’s Royal Hussars in Worcester in July.

The regiment, commanded by Lt Col Chris Coles (SMC 1973-79), was one of the last to pull out of Iraq.



St Michael's College Society

2009 Reunion – 26th September

The programme: Families and guests are most welcome to attend during the day.

Saturday

10.30am	Cricket Old Boys XI v St Michael's Village XI – morning play
12.30pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Cricket resumes - afternoon play
2.00pm	Tour of St Michael's College starts (see President's Message)
2.30 - 3pm	Cricket - close of play, tea and presentation of trophy
3.00pm	Choir practice
4.15pm	SMCS AGM – College Library
6.00pm	Evensong – St Michael's Church Followed by SMCS group photo circa 6.45pm
7.30/7.45pm	SMCS Annual Reunion Dinner at Cadmore Lodge Speaker – John Austin
Sunday	TBA -The annual SMC Golf Society competition

Reunion Music Programme – Evensong 6pm

Introit	Jerusalem on High - Ouseley
Responses	Ayleward (Ed. John Gittins) SMC 1947-52
Psalms	98
Hymn	When all thy mercies (Contemplation)
Setting	St Paul's service - Howells
Anthem	Zadok the priest – Handel
Hymn	Ye holy Angels bright

Old Boys are invited to join the Holgate Consort under the directorship of David Barclay and take a full part in the singing of the service.

NB Choir practice will start at 3pm – Old Boys join in as soon as you are able.

Denis Paxman – former Warden of St Michael's College

It is with regret that we announce the death of Denis Paxman, Warden of St Michael's from 1965 to 1977.

A MEMORY OF DENIS PAXMAN – by Roger Judd

When I arrived as Master of the Music in January 1973 the Warden of the College was Denis Paxman, and he and his wife, Jenny, made the new boy very welcome.

I quickly discovered that we shared a love of the traditional pub and its beer – evening excursions to Bishop's Castle, and the Three Tuns there where they brewed their own beer, soon became regular occurrences.

Denis was an inveterate recording enthusiast, and had a top-of-the-range reel-to-reel tape machine. When in their sitting room one was just as likely to be regaled with a favourite Bach cantata from his complete collection, taken from BBC radio 3 broadcasts, as with one of the complete collection of Goon shows, most of which Denis seemed to know from memory, all played on their custom-built hi-fi set-up.

There was also the quite regular sight of Denis, be-cassocked and with gun under arm, keeping the local pigeon population in check! Pursuing steam trains at speed up and down the Abergavenny/Ludlow railway line in his Land Rover is another happy memory of Denis.

I think that he would agree with me when I say that the centre of his life at St Michael's was the daily office in church. The Founder would have been delighted with the liturgy at St Michael's under Denis - he took the services impeccably, and his reading of the lessons was a model of clarity. One vital aspect of choral services is the intoning of the responses and prayers, and I seem to recall that seldom, if at all, did he cause the Master of the Music a moment's concern.

After St Michael's it was to Denbigh in N.Wales, closer to some of his favourite hills, that one travelled to see the Paxmans – Denis had become chaplain of Howells School – an all-girls establishment. Real ale pubs in Wales were a rarity then, but they'd usually found a few that were worth visiting. The narrow-gauge railways too were a delight and a must-see.

After a spell as Vicar of Lakenheath in Suffolk, the next move was unexpected, in that the family upped sticks and moved north of Inverness, to the town of Tain, where Denis was to be Rector of St Andrew's. As well as being a most attractive old town, Tain is famous amongst whisky drinkers for being the home of Glenmorangie.

I managed to visit both the Paxmans and the distillery in the course of an epic journey round the coast of Scotland in my camper-van, and several nights in a comfy bed in the Vicarage were more than welcome. Something that has remained with me from that visit, was being taken to see salmon leaping waterfalls on a nearby river – quite unforgettable.

Our paths didn't cross then for some years, and when we next met up it was in Cumbria amidst glorious scenery. Lunch was taken in an old pub serving fine beer – no surprise there! – and a pleasant walk along a rather less-than-dramatic river followed. By then, Denis's dementia was showing clear signs of progress, but it did not affect his demeanour, sense of humour, or bearing – he was still Denis.



It was a joy that, just over a year ago he, Jenny and Mungo (the inevitable dachshund!) visited our new home in Herefordshire, and that, six months later, they with Tory were able to be at the annual St Michael's dinner.

He was a fine man, straight-forward, and possessed of total integrity. I am proud to have known him, to call him a friend, and to have worked for and with him, and I shall remember him fondly. Requiescat in Pace.

William Jenkyns, the SMCS president attended Denis's funeral in April 2009:

All Saint's Church, Hassop, Derbyshire. The setting for the funeral of Denis James Paxman, former Warden of St Michael's College.

This was more than a funeral, and in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, to which Denis and Jenny had converted many years previously, was a Requiem Mass with all that such an event brings with it.

Many representatives from the eras of Denis's life gathered to pay their respects. Six priests along with many other mourners recalled aspects of Denis's life, and how he had touched so many people in so many different ways.

Those of us who knew him from his days at St Michael's will of course remember our own encounters with DJP.

Mine include receiving the training required to act as Denis's MC in chapel. Very disciplined, and woe-betide you if you forgot to do something in preparation for a service. It was a discipline that has proved useful throughout my life.

The Society was represented by myself, as you President, along with Lucian Nethsingha, and the Lincoln Organ was played by Roger Judd.

Jenny Paxman had said a few days earlier that it would have been nice to have some Ouseley at the funeral, but with no choir there was little hope of that. However, Roger had already got that one covered, and played "Jerusalem on High" as the coffin was carried from the church.

The post funeral wake was held in the Derwentwater Arms, just across the road from the Paxman's home in Calver, where the beer was, as could be predicted, rather good. A fitting place to end this journey.

[All Saints Church was built in 1816/1818 and designed in the Classical Revival Style. Originally a private chapel for the Eyre family of Hassop Hall, it is Grade 1 Listed: The church has an impressive Etruscan pillared portico, Grecian side windows, and Tuscan pilasters at the rear. However, the severe simplicity of the exterior belies the ornate decoration within. The coved and coffered ceiling resembles a barrel. The beautifully ornate altar is believed to be of French origin. In the gallery, the chamber organ by H. C. Lincoln dates from the 1820's]

Further causes of worrying structural cracking and splitting of buttresses away from external walling had to be addressed. The strain and excessive stresses resulting from junctions between soft rubble masonry and hard Bath Ground limestone buttress work were addressed by further sophisticated insertion of hundreds of stainless steel anchors which are now barely visible even to the shrewd observer.

Repairs moved on to address the failures of the external Bath Ground limestone plinth and other low level masonry which was falling away from the rubble sandstone walling behind. Unfortunately Woodyer had built in slate damp proof courses at the wrong levels which trapped water running down within the external walls (the water having penetrated into walling at parapet and upper masonry levels).

Chemical reactions between sandstones and limestones caused damage to the sand stones, in turn causing bulging and swelling sufficient to push off limestone facings. The worst affected areas of this damage around the chancel and part of the transepts have been repaired. Further similar work to the western fabric remains to be carried out.

Repairs to the roofs of highest importance have been carried out beginning with reslating of the chancel, renewal of lead parapet gutters after considerable repairs to rotted timbers beneath, and partial reconstruction of the chancel parapets themselves.

All of the higher level repairs have been carried out at up to 30m above ground level. Extensive scaffolding has been needed for each of high level phases of repairs, this provides excellent views of the surrounding world but confirms just how much exposure to high winds and rains is involved.

There have been, so far, a total of four phases of roof repairs including by now, all of the high level pitches and most of the lower level aisle chapel and vestry pitches. The most recent repair works were complicated by partial failure of earlier masonry repairs to the north transept gable and rose window, (the rose window had distorted to become oval).

Stainless steel ties were inserted across the whole width of the gable and across the whole of the gable copings which had bulged upwards to show daylight between the copings and the masonry beneath. Woodyer had again reached for the sky upon not much more than a wing and a prayer.

So where are we now? The most urgent work yet to be carried out does include high level consolidation, pointing and conservation repairs to wall masonry around the chancel and smaller sections of the transepts and nave. Recently developed means of high level access may reduce the extent of scaffolding that may be necessary.

The funds available to carry out previous roof repair work could not be extended to carry out repairs to high level masonry at the same time. During recent decades interest in and respect for Woodyer's work as an architect has increased considerably.

As a disciple of Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin and in possible collaboration with Pugin in the design of the painted glass windows, Woodyer has joined the ranks of the great nineteenth century architects born on the crest of the wave of the Oxford movement in renewal in the Church of England.

Without the financial assistance and support from previous scholars of St. Michael's College, what has been achieved would not have been possible. So many local people and in particular the PCC of St. Michael's Church have kept faith in the future of this marvellous building and continue to support its future. Long may this continue.

NIBS – News in Brief

This year's **SMCS Centenary Award** winners at St Michael's College were: The Academic Award went to Austen Ani-Otoibhi and the Service to the Community Award went to Mosope Ogunkanmi.

Andrew Jenkins has been appointed Director of Music at St Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk.

Congratulations to **Claire Williams** (nee Northover) on the birth of Matilda Rose in October last year.

Kevin Jacot reports: 'I have still got my merry band of piano pupils and I run the choir and play the organ at St James' Church, Rowledge, near Farnham. We have a keen mixed choir and managed Faure's Requiem over Easter. The choir gives me opportunities for composition, so Jacotian anthems are heard on a regular basis – they seem to enjoy them!'

On 18th March, **Dr Roger Fry** CBE, founder and chairman of the King's Group, officially opened the new teaching centre at St Michael's College. The centre, named after Henry Hickman, one of the founding fathers of modern anaesthesia, has a science lab, prep room, ICT suite and four classrooms.

Dr Fry has been awarded the prestigious Medal for International Relations by the Complutense University of Madrid in recognition of his contributions to education and other charitable works.

Congratulations to **Simon Banfied** on his marriage to Michelle at St Michael's Church on August 1, and to **Robin Bayley** who married Karen on August 29 at Clearwell Castle.

Renaissance at St Michael's and All Angels – by John Wheatley

As architect responsible for the long series of major repair works carried out during the last twenty years or so, I have been asked to summarise what has been achieved and what remains to be done to bring the whole of the fabric to a high standard of long life repair.

I was first involved during 1988 acting as English Heritage commissioned architect for repair works to the cast iron gutters and lead valleys. I carried out a detailed inspection of the fabric from scaffolding and prepared a report upon the basis of which an almost continuous sequence of grant aided and other repair works has been successfully completed.

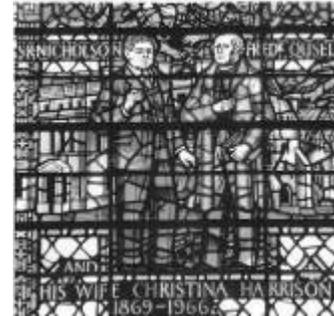
In 1990, there were doubts as to the whole viability and future of St. Michael's Church as a place of worship. After Bishop John Saxby and I met with church authorities, English Heritage and others in London, the threat of closure was lifted. This was timely as a storm had blown in sections of the Great West Window.

The principal cause of this spectacular damage was the sideways spread of the whole of the west wall of the church and consequent widening of the spaces into which each of the painted glass panels were fitted. Thus the first phase of structural repairs included insertion of stainless steel ties and anchors to address Woodyer's 1854 design weaknesses.

He built very high and slender using locally quarried materials of poor quality. Stabilisation and structural repairs to most of the west wall elevation enabled resetting and replacement of the magnificent painted glass in the Great West Window.

Windows onto the world of the Founder - by Michael Hart

In last December's edition of the RSCM News, there was a photograph of part of 'The Musician's Window' in Liverpool Cathedral



It depicts Sir Sydney Nicholson, founder of the RSCM and Fellow of St Michael's, and the Founder. To the right of Sir Frederick you can clearly see the Warden's House at St Michael's.

In the south aisle of Hereford Cathedral where the Founder was Precentor from 1855 until his death, there is his memorial window.

Also, in the west window of Bromyard parish church, the Founder appears with Sir Edward Elgar.

Are there any other church windows featuring the Founder?

Sir Gore Ouseley – a 'wily fox'

With our relationship with Iran being at an all-time low at present, there was an interesting article in the Telegraph recently on this very subject.

One paragraph describes the Treaty of Gulistan negotiated by the British diplomat Sir Gore Ouseley. He was our ambassador in turn to both Tehran and St Petersburg and it was for the important work he did in these areas that he was awarded a baronetcy by Queen Victoria when he retired.

'Britain established trading ties with the kingdom of Persia in the early 17th century, but relations between London and Tehran encountered their first set-back in the early 19th century, when the Persians were forced to concede territory to Russia under the terms of the Treaty of Gulistan, negotiated by the British diplomat Sir Gore Ouseley. This was regarded as a humiliation by many Iranians, and the perception of Britain as a 'wily fox' quickly took root within the country's political classes.'

'Ouseley, Woodyer and St Michael's College – a Tractarian dream'.

A new book by John D. Austin

It has been well said that St Michael's College was the creation of two men, the patron Rev. Sir Frederick A. Gore Ouseley, Bart. who gave it life and spirit, and his architect, Henry Woodyer, who gave it body.

When we think about the place, and we all went there when we were around 9 years old, we feel Ouseley's enduring influence on our lives in various ways, but when we picture the place in our mind's eye it is Woodyer's buildings that we see. It is not possible to think about the one without seeing the other.

The two men had the same great principle, to work for the glory of God. Ouseley achieved this by devoting his life to improving the music of the church. Woodyer was a wealthy man who only took on architectural work when he believed it matched up to his principles



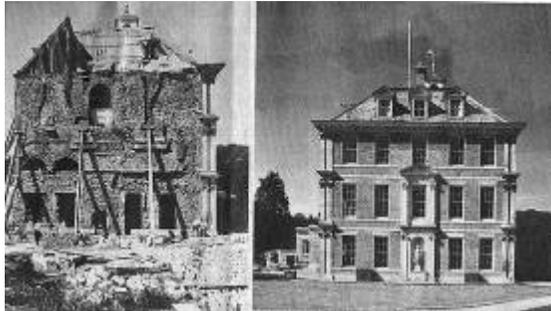
PROPOSED CLOCK AND BELL TOWER - 1899
DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECT C. S. MALLOW

A fair amount has been written about Ouseley but nothing about Woodyer. I intend to put this right. For nearly a year I have been fairly intensively trying to find the original plans, but with no success so far.

I have however found a drawing of a proposed clock tower/campanile which was designed by the architect C. S. Mallows, and was printed in the Academy Architecture and Architectural Review in 1899. I have researched and found a great deal of what I think is possibly new material.

For instance, for most of Frederick's childhood Sir Gore used to move his whole family from the country, Woolmers or Hall Barn, to London for the Season. They took up residence at their town house, 33 Grosvenor Square and later in Upper Brook Street, at the end of March in time for the RA Summer Exhibition which started the Season, and then back to the country at the end of July after Ascot and The Derby. This was a marriage mart but of course Frederick's two elder sisters remained spinsters.

I have some great photos of all the houses, Claramont, Woolmers, Dorking Vicarage and Love Hill House. The photos of Hall Barn (pics right) include the rooms Sir Gore added on, one of which was the library that he had built to the dimensions of the magnificent Royal Persian carpet that the Shah gave him on his retirement. The St. Barnabas, Pimlico, and the Love Hill House years are written up in great detail.



Woodyer's early life and his training of a little William Butterfield and possibly even less Pugin are covered, and his restoration of Bockleton, and Tenbury church. In order to show more of his work I have written up Thomas Gambier Parry's church at Highnam (the Anglican version of Pugin's St Giles) which Woodyer did just before St Michaels.

The Oxford Movement, the Ecclesiologists and Tractarians, and indeed Pugin's pointed arch and the Gothic Revival are never far away. Then there is Hardman's glass and so very much more. For instance I have found a letter in the Royal Society's archives from Frederick when he was 14 to Sir John Herschel, who lived nearby at Slough, thanking him for a photogenic drawing apparatus, a sort of camera obscura.

I have managed to buy six unpublished Ouseley letters, including one in which he writes his signature in musical notation. I have asked Christopher Robinson to write the Preface,

Obituaries

Arthur Mervyn Loft-Simson

Arthur Mervyn Loft-Simson was born in May 1927, the only child of Fred Loft and Phyllis (nee Hayward).

Mervyn's gift for music showed at an early age and he was sent to St Michael's College (1935-1940) where he became a chorister and took great interest in playing the 'father' Willis organ.

He recalled one January, having travelled from Kent to Tenbury Wells railway station only to find the road to the college impassable as drifting snow lay too deep on the common. He walked the last mile with his heavy suitcase, to find that only six other boys had arrived for the start of the term! It was a week before the rest of the school appeared.

After St Michael's he attended Cranleigh School near Guildford, preferring to spend his afternoons practicing the organ rather than playing games.

His father was keen for him to take employment in the City, but he had other ideas and applied to both St John's College, Oxford (for an organist exhibition) and St John's College, Cambridge (for a singing scholarship). He went up to Oxford in Michaelmas 1945 and successfully rowed for his college. He also became a life-long associate of the Royal College of Organists.

He married Elizabeth Simson in 1952 and had four children; Nicholas, Stephen, Catherine and Martin (who died near Chamonix in an avalanche in 1981). The boys also attended St Michael's.

Mervyn was Director of Music at Headington School, Oxford, from 1966 to 1987, the first full-time male member of staff; and was a church organist for numerous churches in the county during that time and in retirement.

Anthony Crabbe

Anthony Crabbe, 77, of Bristol, died in May, 2008. As well as being a former pupil of St Michael's College, he was a distinguished member of the Inner Magic Circle and the International Brotherhood of Magicians, performing before royalty and on the BBC's Paul Daniels Show.

The son of a distinguished lawyer, he had an eye for taking a good trick and presenting it in a classy manner. He always looked immaculate and lived up to his billing as "The Magician About Town".

He was an underwriter for Lloyd's of London and when he moved to Bristol become an active performing member of the "Bristol Savages," an exclusive arts club. He had a unique talent for impersonation, and the ability to use a fruity cockney accent. He appeared on several occasions in the Parlor of The Magic Castle in the US and in 1998 at the opening function of the new London headquarters of the Magic Circle.

Nick Jones

Nick Jones (SMC 52-56) died in January aged 66. He was a retired solicitor living in Lisbon with his Portuguese wife. At SMC he was a chorister and in his last year, head boy and captain of all three sports teams.

Music at St. Michael's Church 2009 Season

St. Michael's Parish has been able to continue a programme of conservation repairs to the Church with the support of The Council for the Care of Churches, English Heritage, The Garfield Weston and Wolfson Foundations, The Historic Churches Preservation Trust, (National and Worcs & Dudley), The William and Jane Morris Fund and the Allchurches, Lesley David, Alan Evans Memorial, Idlewild, and Manifold Trusts.

Thanks to strong support from the Ouseley Trust, the St. Michael's College Society and the local community, they have also maintained some of Sir Frederick's original wishes in the Choral Services and Organ Recitals.

Sat 5th Sept 3.00pm	Choral Evensong The Choir of St James, New Brighton Director: Dorothy McIlhagga Organist: John Tennant
Sat 12th Sept 7.30pm	Celebrity Organ Recital Thomas Trotter (Tickets £12)
Sat 19th Sept 4.30pm	Choral Evensong The Prebendal Singers Director: David Blackwell Organist: John Pryer
Sun 27th Sept 10.00am & 3.00pm Patronal Festival	Sung Eucharist & Choral Evensong The Elysian Singers Director: Paul Richards Organist: John Pryer
Sun 8th Nov 10.00am	Remembrance Sunday Sung Eucharist The Hereford Church Singers Director: Peter Percival
Sat 12th Dec 6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service The Birmingham University Singers Director: John Whenham
Sun 13th Dec 10.00am & 3.00pm	Sung Eucharist & Choral Evensong The Birmingham University Singers Director: John Whenham

Programmes: All payable at the door

Further info telephone Jenson Jones 01885 483445; Mobile: 07974 604247

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Michael Hart is doing a chapter on the succession of organs and Chris Pickford is doing the bells.

I am asking various organisations for financial support. I have a good printer who has done three other jobs for me; the book will be B5, with about 250 pages and the price perhaps £15.95. Publication will be around Easter 2010, all being well. The book tries to broaden the whole subject and sets Ouseley's and Woodyer's vision and creation in the wider aspect of religion and architecture in mid-nineteenth century England.

War and Peace and St Michael's – One small picture, one whole life.

This picture, found only recently, shows John Stansby arriving for his first term at St Michael's only a few weeks after war was declared in September 1939.



John Stansby with his mother, sister and grandfather

John writes: "It sums up what the war meant for me at home and at St Michael's, the memories are inextricable.

My father, who took the photo, was a soldier and had just been called to the War Office; I was to see little of him for the next six years. My twin sister was also on her way to her first term at St Brandon's, looking understandably nervous.

Grandpa, who worked for Coats and lived in Riga (where we were born) chose the wrong time to come over and buy some prize cockerels and sadly was never able to return to his home.

It was left to my mother to look after our home in London and deal with wartime life, emergency ration cards for our holidays, the Blitz and sleeping at night in the local Underground station; and in 1944 the V1 flying bombs which gave you about four minutes from when the engine stopped to when it landed; and then the V2 rockets which gave you no time at all.

The war was not so exciting at St Michael's but it pervaded our life nonetheless. The radio was on the High Table in the Hall for the dramatic bulletins on Dunkirk and there was no shortage of volunteers to man the little boats being called for.

We dug and sowed for Victory; we provided all our own vegetables, fruit and jam and wood for heating. 'War Weekly' was even more popular than the 'Beano' or the 'Dandy'.

As a result we were up to date with all the German war planes and could tell the difference between a Heinkel and a Dornier (the latter with a visible bomb aimer's position in the nose), and the muzzle velocities of a Bren compared to a Schmeisser.

We collected wastepaper for our Boy Scout National Service Badge, searching eagerly for a possible 'Penny Black' amongst the junk in Miss Tombs' attic.

And then the great news came of our landings in France; I was actually doing my scholarship papers for Oundle in the Library on June 6, 1944, and was so excited by the news bulletins that I crossed out the subjects given and substituted my own title – D Day (and got my scholarship all the same!).



However, real peace was St Michael's; the peace of the Worcestershire countryside, the looming beauty of the Clee Hills, Autumn leaves crackling underfoot in the Cloisters when we made our way to Evensong and on a Friday morning sang the Litany unaccompanied, processing round the church – always referred to as 'the Litany on Wheels'.

And of course, the peace and beauty of the whole catalogue of English Church Music and, to use Christopher Hassall's lovely phrase, 'The English language lying open on an eagle's wings'.

How little of all this could I have imagined standing proudly in my new uniform in September 1939. But how much it has all remained an indelible memory."

The camera never lies

Oh yes it does, even back in 1935, as this photo from George Chesterton proves.



David Winn, sitting next to George and C Brown, second from right in the second row, was put in after the photo was taken. George comments: "The sort of thing that is commonplace today, but then was revolutionary. It is a good one of Harry Pitt and Demaus in the front!"

Newsletter 2010

If anyone would like to provide submissions / photographs for the Newsletter we would welcome them.

(Preferably electronically as it saves substantial re-typing)

Email to: t.coles@genetics.uk.com alternatively post to Tim Coles, The Moor Hall, Cleedownton, Ludlow, SY8 3EG

News of Members

The Family Nethersole

John H. Nethersole - father

After 26 years in the Royal Navy (as an executive officer and pilot) I resigned in high dudgeon following Healey's 1966 Defence Review, and then became an insurance broker in the City until final retirement in 1995.

Still enjoying retirement and involvement with the charity 'Sailability' which introduces paraplegics and other handicapped people to the joys of sailing in specially designed dinghies and keel boats.

Charles John Nethersole – son no.1 – SMC 1962-67

Is a professional yacht skipper – top end racing, cruising and deliveries – based in Miami Beach, Florida.

Michael David Nethersole – son no.2 – SMC 1965-67

Is a yacht broker based in Fort Lauderdale dealing with mega-yachts. His wife Kristin was Icelandic, and his two sons (born in the USA) each have 3 passports – British, US and Icelandic!

James Robert Nethersole – son no.3

Did not go to St Michael's (to his infuriation) but to Hurstpierpoint College. He is a successful London ship broker (sales and purchase); is married and has a son, who has just left Dulwich before University, and a daughter – they are all living in Wandsworth.

Simon Webb

I'm living and breathing music, just like I was at St Michael's. My music is up on my website if you would like to listen – www.simonwebb.co.uk

Kenneth Beard



Kenneth Beard, Director of Music at St Michael's 1952-59, is pictured with the Archbishop of Canterbury on the occasion of him being presented with the Cross of St Augustine to mark his 42 years distinguished service to the Church of England.

The presentation, in October last year, occurred halfway through a service at the private chapel at Lambeth Palace. The Archbishop's secretary read out the names of those receiving awards and in turn described what each person had done to deserve the award.

St Michael's was mentioned and then, when Kenneth went up to receive the award from the Archbishop, a short anthem which he had composed was sung by the choir.