

A Word about St. Mark's Church

The church was built largely through the efforts of the then Vicar of Hale, the Revd John Powell, encouraged by very many parishioners. Indeed tradition has it that many of them collected flint stones from the Common to incorporate in the building.

The architect was Mr A.R. Barker of Buckingham Street, The Strand, London, during his time as Surveyor for the Diocese of Winchester, and the original builders, Messrs Goddard of Farnham and Dorking. The cost was a little over £1,200.

The Dedication was performed by the then Bishop of Winchester, the Right Reverend Edward Harold Browne, on Saturday afternoon, July 13th 1883. Many local clergy and leading townfolk were present and we are told the collection amounted to £37.14s 4d.

(The newspaper account of the Opening of St Mark's (Mission) Church reports that the new building is "situate in a very poor and populous part of the parish of Hale, some little distance from the Church of St John the Evangelist, which for a considerable time has been felt to be totally inadequate to the requirements of the district."

The report goes on to speak of the church being "well lighted, and there will be prayers at half-past 8 o'clock every morning, and service twice or three times every Sunday". There are also comments about the choir deserving credit for all the pains they had taken to provide such lovely singing for the dedication. Today's choristers obviously follow in this tradition!)

The main structure of the building has altered little since it opened. The bell turret was an original feature housing a single bell. Later two others were added before all three were re-smelted to make one new bell in recent years. The present organ dates from 1912, when the organist was none other than a Mr James Branson of Aldershot (known now to thousands with great affection as Fr. B having been ordained on his retirement from the Telephone Service.) In the early days the organ had to be pumped by hand and there are numerous stories of the antics of the pumpers during service and the dire effects they sometimes achieved.

The most striking innovation to the church must surely have been the wall paintings in the chancel and sanctuary. They are the work of Miss Kitty Milroy who completed them in 1920. The two subjects represented are the Magnificat (on the East wall) and the Benedicite on the side walls.

During the mid-fifties two stained-glass windows were added depicting St Mary and St Agnes. The third, depicting St Mark, came some years later.

As the choir grew it became obvious that a Choir Vestry was needed and, largely through the efforts of the men of the congregation, this was built and ready for dedication early in 1959.

The striking hassocks, completed in two stages and in two distinctive sets of colour, point to the interest in needlework in our community.

So often a church is a place to offer God the gifts of men's hands and recall faithful worshippers. St Mark's is no exception. Over the years numerous furnishings have been added; the chairs replaced and benches added at the front of each section of chairs. Hymn books have been removed from shelving and are now kept in a more suitable table with drawers. In recent years vestments have been purchased in all the liturgical colours and the centenary gifts to the church include a festal cope.

Over the years the lighting has been updated and central heating added. The flower beds receive constant attention and the drive has been tarmaced. Week by week the building is lovingly cleaned and everything prepared for worship. Many people in Hale would echo the words of Jacob in the wilderness when he claimed . . . "surely the Lord is in this place; this is none other than the house of God."

A Very Special Souvenir



The lion is the symbol of the Evangelist, St. Mark and this lovely soft toy . . . Marcus . . . has been produced to remind many children of our Centenary. It is made by Mrs Wyn Barnes and sells at £2.50 each with proceeds to The National Children's Homes. Orders may be placed at the Vicarage but please, no cash until the toys are ready.

Acknowledgements:

The St Mark's Church Committee are indebted to:-
Mr Paul Wright, formerly of the Redgrave Theatre, who has designed all the publicity for the Centenary Year,
The Church Information Office, for permission to reproduce the photograph of the Archbishop of Canterbury,
The many Friends of the Parish, who assist us in countless ways.
Charterlith, our long suffering printers.

The Centenary Window

As a permanent thanksgiving for a hundred years of worship at St. Mark's Church the Parochial Church Council have commissioned Mr John Blyth of Markinch in Fifeshire, Scotland, to produce a stained-glass window of St. Swithun of Winchester to be placed in the window immediately to the right of the main entrance.

St. Swithun is depicted in eucharistic vestments and mitre holding his crozier. At his feet can be seen a view of the West End of Winchester Cathedral. Recalling the legends surrounding St. Swithun there is the water of the River Itchen underneath the saint and at his head a rainbow. In the border of the window are symbols of the Holy Trinity to whom Winchester Cathedral is dedicated.

The subject was chosen to remind us that the church was dedicated by the then Bishop of Winchester on July 14th 1883 – the Eve of St. Swithun's Day – whilst the first celebration of Holy Communion was on St. Swithun's Day.

This will be the seventh window produced by John Blyth in this parish.



Celebrations through the Year

A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

On Sunday, January 9th at 3.30pm in St. Mark's there will be a **Christingle Service** when we shall offer gifts of money for the work of the Church of England Children's Society and the National Children's Home.

Bishop William Stannard will be present to receive our gifts and in return to give us a Christingle which is made from

an orange – representing the world

a candle – representing Jesus the Light of the World

a red band – representing the blood Jesus shed for the world

four cocktail sticks – representing the four seasons,
on which are placed

dried fruits and sweets – representing the fruits of the earth.

After the service (which, incidentally, is based on an old Moravian Church custom) it is hoped that families will take away their Christingles and relight them at the tea table as they thank God for their food and pray for all children in need.

Representatives of Hale Methodist Church will share in this service.

THE DINNER DANCE

Although part of our regular social calendar the **Dinner Dance** will have a special centenary theme this year. It will be held on **Saturday, February 12th** at 7.15pm for 7.30pm in St. Joan's Hall, Farnham.

After dinner there will be dancing until 11.45pm to the music of the Mac Quartet.

THE LENT LECTURES

For some years now we have focused our special Lenten efforts on a number of Lectures given in St. Mark's Church. The subjects have raised issues of importance to Church and State alike. This year is no exception.

We begin on **Sunday, February 27th** at 7.15pm when we are privileged to welcome **Miss Jean Waddell**, who will speak on "The Christian and Persecution".

For 11 years Miss Waddell was on the staff of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, serving as personal secretary to two Archbishops (including Bishop George Appleton) and then the Bishop in Jerusalem. In 1977 she went out to Iran to serve as secretary to Bishop Hasan Dehqani-Tafti, Bishop in Iran and president Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Jean Waddell lived in Isfahan through the Iranian Revolution and its aftermath. On May 1st 1980 she was attacked while staying in Tehran and seriously injured. She remained there convalescing. Her return to the U.K. was delayed and when she went to Isfahan to sort matters out she was detained. Her detention in Isfahan and subsequently in Tehran lasted for six months. She was cleared of all charges and was released with Dr & Mrs John Coleman and four Iranian Christians. She returned to the UK at the end of February 1981 and took up her work with Bishop Hasan (now working in exile in this country).

A second lecture is planned for March ^{6th} 8rd on the subject of "The Christian's approach to Law and Order".

THE MOTHERS' UNION DEANERY FESTIVAL

It is a pleasure to welcome representatives from the Mothers' Union around our Deanery to the Lady Day Festival in St. Mark's Church on Friday afternoon, March 25th at 2.30pm.

The preacher will be the Venerable Peter Hogben, Archdeacon of Dorking, and a former Curate of Hale.

THE PATRONAL EUCHARIST

We shall anticipate St. Mark's Day and celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday, April 24th at 9.30am. There will be no other morning service in our parish that day and we welcome as our preacher, the Very Reverend Father Prior, Farnborough Abbey.

THE CENTENARY EXHIBITION

After the Patronal Eucharist all the chairs will be removed from St. Mark's Church as the building is prepared for one of the major events of the year — an Exhibition under the title "Community '83". This will be the Festival '81 Exhibition in Guildford Cathedral in miniature though it will be narrowed down to focus attention on the immediate area of our own community.

Very many local groups and organisations have been invited to participate in the exhibition which is likely to have seven important areas of concern: The Caring Society, Communications, Employment and Careers, The Environment, Public Services, Sports & Leisure and Youth Activities. In the sanctuary of the church will be a massive display on the Sacraments.

Newcome Church House will contain further exhibits, a small cinema and refreshment facilities available throughout the week.

Each day will begin at 9.15am with Holy Communion and the Exhibition will be open from 10am to 8pm Tuesday through to Saturday evening, April 26th to 30th. We hope for numerous groups from schools etc and a special lunch-time seminar each day.

A preview of the Exhibition will take place on April 25th at 8pm after the Official Opening.

THE CENTENARY RECITAL

Music is very much a part of the life of our community. However, for the Centenary Recital on **Sunday afternoon, May 22nd at 3.30pm** we have chosen music of a very different nature. **PUEBLO**, an amateur group of Chilean exiles playing together since 1977, will present a programme of South American Folk Music.

Proceeds from the recital will help swell Hale's contribution to **Christian Aid**.

PILGRIMAGE TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

The Christian Church down the ages has celebrated many major events with a pilgrimage to a holy place. Our Centenary celebrations in 1983 will be no exception. On **Sunday, June 5th** there will be no services in either church. Instead we hope the whole congregation will join us in our visit to our Mother Church, **Guildford Cathedral**, for the Eucharist at 9.45am. The choir have been invited to lead the worship and afterwards it is planned that coaches will take us all out for a **Family Day**.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The most ambitious **Flower Festival** ever held in our parish is planned for the three days, **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 8th, 9th and 10th**. Its theme will be **Heroes of the Old Testament from Abraham to Zachariah**.

HALE CARNIVAL

The Carnival Committee have kindly agreed to join in the weekend of community celebrations and the 1983 Carnival will be on **Friday evening, July 8th**.

CHARITY FAYRE

The traditional Summer Fair will be a much larger event this year and will be known as **The Charity Fayre** with dozens of stalls for local and national charities. One of the highlights of the afternoon on the Recreation Ground will be music by **Mount View High School Steel Band**. The date is **Saturday, July 9th** from 2.15pm.

ALDERSHOT BRASS ENSEMBLE

On **Sunday evening, July 10th** at 6pm there will be an **Open-Air Service** with music by the **Aldershot Brass Ensemble** and a **Procession of Witness** from **St. Mark's Church**.

THE CENTENARY EVENSONG

The actual date of the Dedication of the church was **July 14th** and a great service will be held on that date with representatives from many walks of life. In addition to special music from our own choir and organist we hope to welcome members of the **Farnham Wind Ensemble**.

THE CENTENARY EUCHARIST

The day following the Dedication Service, *Holy Communion* was celebrated for the first time in the new church. We shall commemorate this with a special Eucharist on Friday, July 15th (St. Swithun's Day) at 11.15am.

CHILDREN'S WEEK

An ambitious programme has been drawn up for Children's Week beginning on Monday, August 15th. There will be a daily pattern of worship, instruction and fun. The latter will include participation by members of the Redgrave Theatre Company.

AN ELIZABETHAN EVENING

There is a close bond between the parish and Farnham Castle no doubt through the association of our great benefactor Bishop Charles Richard Sumner. Through the kindness of the Director of the Centre for International Briefing we shall be holding an Elizabethan Evening in the Great Hall of the Castle on Saturday, September 24th beginning at 7.30pm.

The music will be provided by Tarleton's Jig a band composed of four highly versatile professional musicians who specialize in performing on Early musical instruments. The band plays a wide spectrum of English music from the 13th to the 18th centuries. Music from both the court and the countryside is played on the authentic instruments of the period.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 9th will be observed as Harvest Festival and in the afternoon there will be a special service for Senior Citizens. The preacher will be the Venerable Paul Barber, Archdeacon of Surrey.

REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On Wednesday, November 2nd, All Soul's Day, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in St. Mark's using the music of Faure's Requiem.

The Requiem will be sung by members of Heath End School Choir under the direction of Mrs Valerie Hoppe. Rehearsals will begin after Whitsun and participation by the general public is most welcome.

Faure completed his Requiem in 1887, when he was forty-two. The work is very different from the traditional pattern and points to the "human transcendence of suffering". The last two sections — Libera Me and In Paradisum — contain some of the best loved music ever written.

REMEMBERING YOUTH

Towards the close of the Centenary Year as though pointing to the future comes a Youth Weekend. This will include the ever popular Disco on Friday, December 9th and, two days later, on Sunday, December 11th at 4pm a Confirmation Re-Union when we look forward to a visit from Bishop Kenneth.

The Chancel Paintings

The Wall Paintings in the Chancel and Sanctuary are the work of Miss Kitty Milroy, a member of the congregation who designed and painted them between 1911 and 1920.

The paintings on the East Wall represent the *Magnificat* and depict the meeting of the Virgin with the Angel. The setting is a meadow carpeted with wild flowers. The illustration conveys an expression of humble thankfulness to God for the Incarnation of his Son, as the crowning proof of Divine love.

Round the arch of the window is entwined the vine symbolic of Christ and our union with him. On either side of the window is the lion — symbol of the Evangelist St. Mark. Symbols of the other three Evangelists are also depicted whilst at the summit of the arch is a ship representing the Ark of Christ's Church.

The two other walls depict scenes from the *Benedicite* — the great hymn of praise offered by all creation to its Creator. Although no attempt is made to illustrate each verse the four large figures on either side represent various powers of nature. Below them are smaller pictures illustrating typical wonders of creation.

On the North Wall (from left to right) the figures are:—

Showers, where the attitude of the figure suggests the gentle falling rain.

Sun, imparting gifts of light and warmth.

Moon, a placid and serene figure, wrapped in a cloak the colour of moonlight.

Clouds, a figure in soft grey and dove colour, lifting a veil from his face.

On the South Wall the figures are:—

Waters, a man, typical of vigorous age, standing on the shore.

Summer, a youthful figure symbolic of ripening corn.

Winter, hooded and closely muffled.

Winds, the hair and dress of the figure fluttering in the breeze.

The figures on either side stand under an arcade of apple trees with appropriate spring flowers at their feet. Below the figures are fifteen large medallions showing the beauty and perfectness of the works of God. Included in these illustrations are two local scenes — a view of Crooksbury Hill at sunrise and a group of pine trees, known years ago as Elephants Clump, standing out against the shades of evening.

The theme is continued on the Chancel Arch in a festoon of various fruits of the earth with the Angels praising God with musical instruments. At the summit of the arch is the Circle, symbolic of God's eternal existence, traversed by the Cross, the symbol of his love.

The Centenary Competition

It is hoped that many children and young people who either live in the Parish of Hale; attend school in the Parish or have been baptised in the Parish will want to enter the Centenary Competition. Winning entries will be displayed in Newcome Church House during the "Community '83" Exhibition.

Classes	Entry	Subject
I Under 8 years	Painting or Collage	"Hale"
II 8 years and under 12 years	Collage or Model	"A Village Scene"
III Over 12 years	Art Work or Written Work	"St. Mark's"

Age as at 1st April 1983. Entries should be delivered to Hale Vicarage by 1st April 1983. Winners will be announced on Monday, April 25th at the Official Opening of "Community '83";

The first prize in Class I will be £5;
in Class II will be £10 and
in Class III will be £15.

There will be no entry fee.

Another Special Event in 1983



Once every seven years, the Churches of the world meet together in a formal Assembly – part business session, part consultation.

From July 23rd to August 10th 1983, the World Council of Churches' Assembly will meet in Vancouver, Canada. There will be 930 delegates from 300 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Churches in over 100 countries. Visitors, advisers, official observers (including Roman Catholics), press and staff will bring the total number attending to about 3,000.

The theme of the Assembly is to be –

Jesus Christ – the Life of the World.

Four sub-themes will help to focus discussions:–

Life, a Gift of God
Life confronting and overcoming Death
Life in its Fullness
Life in Unity

Under these headings, various issues will be raised, including:–

Learning in community – the Church must discover how best to be a learning, teaching community, bringing liberation for ministry.

Naturally this last section will have special significance for us particularly through our Lenten studies and our Exhibition "Community '83".



The Vicar admires the new bell.

A Letter from the Vicar

My dear Friends,

I very much hope that this Centenary Brochure will help you all to enter into the spirit of celebration which should mark 1983. Some of our friends are thousands of miles away. We hope they will pray for us especially at this time. We do value their links. Hopefully they help us to have a wider vision of God's Church.

We look forward to sharing some of our celebrations with friends in other denominations. Their support and encouragement means much to us.

Whilst it is important to look back with gratitude to God for his many blessings through St Mark's Church over the past hundred years and to thank him for those who have served him faithfully in this place in that time, we should be failing in our duty if we were not concerned in proclaiming his love to our whole community and seeking to encourage others to share in worship.

More than this, I would ask that we dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God, his kingdom and his people.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Michael H. Sellers