

'TWIXT DOWNS AND THE SEA

The Story of
GORING
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

1940 to 1971

Barrington Road,
Shaftesbury Avenue, West Worthing.

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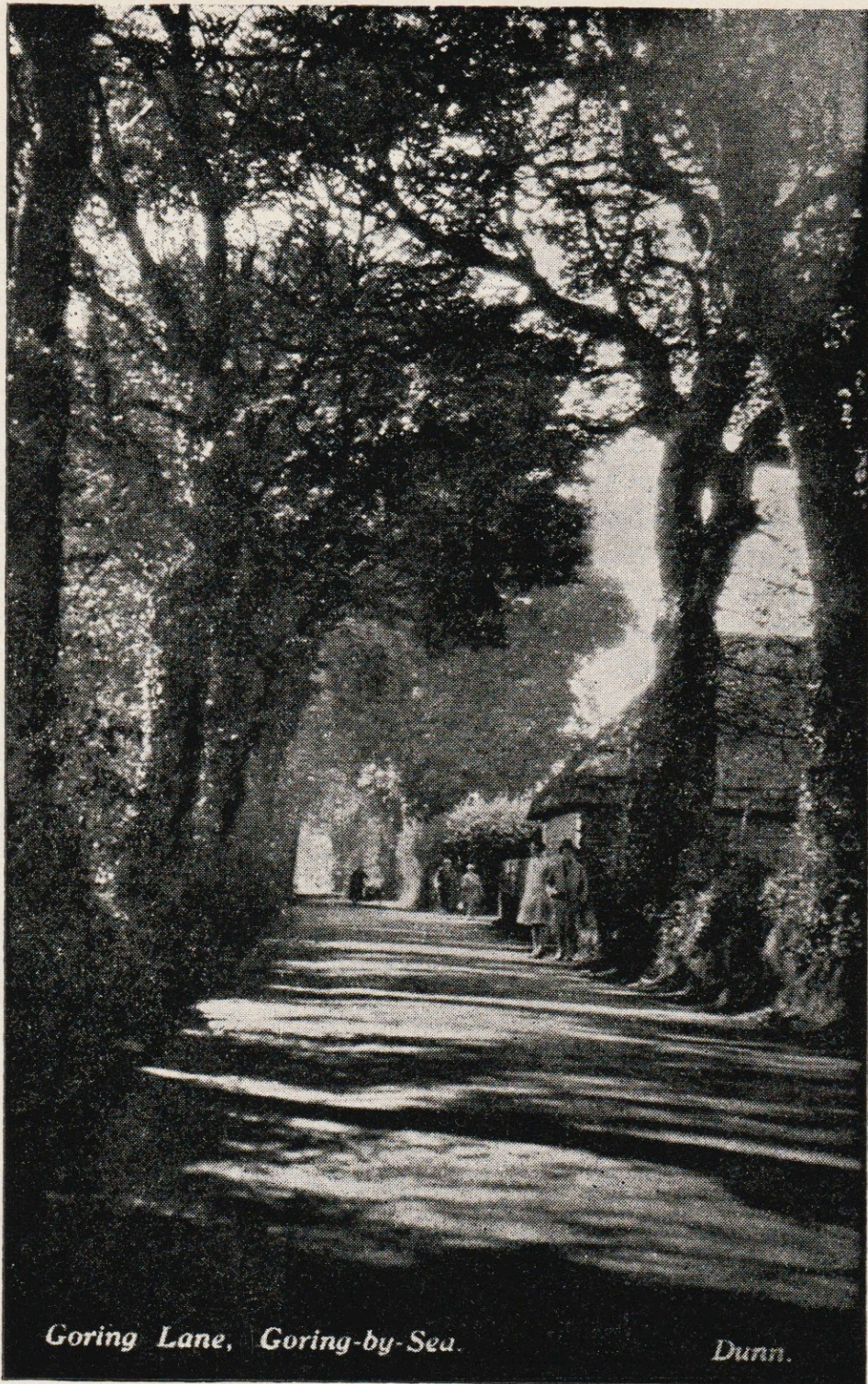
Compiled by C. H. CORNWALL

**To mark the opening of the New Church Building
September 1961**

**Revised and Supplemented
by H. A. Winterton.**

**To mark the 10th Anniversary of the
present Church
September 1971**

BARRINGTON ROAD, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, WEST WORTHING



Goring Lane, Goring-by-Sea.

Dunn.

"On every leaf, 'Creator, God' is written."

Goring Lane, 1927

(Now the Goring Road)

Photo by W. A. Dunn

P R E F A C E

The book deals with the history of the Goring Congregational Church, from the time it was formed in 1940, until the present time; and I am sure no one is better qualified than our friend to undertake this task. I have no hesitation in recommending the book to all who are interested in our Church.

The author is well known, of course, to most members of the Church, but for the benefit of friends who have joined us only recently, I would like to say that he has been a member of the Diaconate for many years and is now a Life Deacon. We know that whenever we seek his advice on Congregational matters we always receive the benefit of his wide experience and sound judgment.

With our new Church nearing completion the time of publication of this brochure would seem to be very appropriate.

It gives me great pleasure to write this preface and to put on record all that Mr. Cornwall has meant and still means to the life of the Church.

B. C. HOSKINS, Church Secretary.

Goring Congregation Church.

40 Robson Road,
West Worthing.

September 1961.

Mr. C. H. Cornwall died on the 9th September 1966

In bringing this history of the Church up to date for the tenth anniversary of the present building as little change as possible has been made in the original, but certain remarks are no longer applicable and aspects of the development change in relative importance with the passing of the years, so that some alterations and deletions are inevitable.

H. A. W.

The Committee responsible for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the building of our church has asked me to express in a few words, the gratitude of us all to Mr. Winterton for revising this history. This work has necessitated many hours of painstaking research and has been done with that devotion and attention to detail which characterised the whole of Mr. Winterton's work as Church Secretary (1962-1968).

The Church will for a long time be richer for the friendship and service of Bert Winterton, for which, God's Name be praised.

WALLIS HAYWARD, Minister.

In compiling this little book the writers have felt the full force of the warning that exemption from mistakes is not the privilege of mortals. Thus for any errors made, for faults of omission, or inadequate appreciation of services rendered by past or present friends, pardon is asked.

FOREWORD

The main object of this book is not primarily to congratulate ourselves on what has been achieved in building up a new Congregational Church in the Goring District of Sussex during the past 21 years. Nor need our great indebtedness to friends past or present be unduly stressed.

But those who have been privileged to watch the progress made will feel that the underlying motive for publication should be that of sincere thankfulness, and acknowledgment that the hand of God has been evident from the very start.

"We at times move towards some calling or task, yet in our perceptive moments we see the choice, although ours, was not ours. 'I, yet not I', was how St. Paul put it." These words here quoted serve to emphasize the injunction "Thou shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God hath brought thee."

So it is in that spirit of humble recognition that this brief survey of our Church history is compiled. And looking back over the years much that has happened seems to fall naturally into three periods, each covering seven years, and each distinctively different.

"A hope has cross'd me, in the course
Of this self-pleasing exercise, that ye
My zeal to his would liken, who possess'd
Of some rare gems, or pictures finely wrought,
Unlocks his cabinet, and draws them forth,
One after one, soliciting regard
To this, and this."

Wordsworth.

THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP AT ELM GROVE SCHOOL

For some years after the First World War residential West Worthing did not extend much beyond Wallace Avenue. But by 1927 Reigate Road was fast coming into being, almost its whole length being a mass of bricks and other building materials. Also a few scattered houses were being erected in Brooklyn and Pembroke Avenues, and The Rose Walk. Yet from Wallace Avenue to St. Mary's Church at Goring there still remained a lovely Sussex lane of considerable charm, and a large Estate Agent's board invited folk to "Come and live in this Old World Lane." By the courtesy of the late Mr. W. A. Dunn of Sea Place, his beautiful photograph of this lane faces the title page of this booklet, the farm building marking the spot which is now the turning for Shaftesbury Avenue !

By 1930, or a little later, the district westwards was noticeably altering, and rural scenery began to be lost as the first few shops were built in what was then called Goring Road. Recognising that changes in local life were imminent, the Congregational Church at Shelly Road began to consider what the future might hold, and a Church Extension Committee being formed this Mother Church eventually purchased three-quarters of an acre of land in Barrington Road, at the foot of the new bridge for the sum of £1,450, thus securing a site for the building of a Congregational Church in the new Goring district.

What followed was undoubtedly very unusual, and almost remarkably so. The Church at Shelley Road was itself passing through a time of change of ministry, and there was as yet no organised body of Free Church worshippers at Goring, and it required not only foresight but also a little faith and courage to incur liabilities of a financial nature, which could only be met if real progress resulted. Yet the order was given to Messrs. John Denman & Son of Brighton to prepare plans for a Dual-purpose Church to seat 300. Tenders were put out for construction, and that of Messrs. Patching & Co. was accepted for the sum of £4,290, excluding furnishings. The financing of the scheme for building was based on a loan for £4,000, with interest charges of 3½%, and a Maintenance Fund was also started. Other arrangements made were partly based on a generous residuary legacy for £5,000 left by a local friend and well-wisher, Mr. Charles Barrett. Although attending St. Columba's Presbyterian Church Mr. Barrett was extremely anxious that yet another Free Church should be erected in the new area expanding Westwards. So the date for the Stone Laying Ceremony was actually fixed for November 1939, but the outbreak of war meant that all such planning had to be abandoned for the time being, and subsequent events, and the rising costs of building,

made this an almost tragic delay. But let this be recorded. In accepting the call to the Church at Shelley Road in 1940 one of the first questions the Rev. B. R. H. Spaul, M.A. asked was whether Shelley Road Church had "the forward look." Recent planning although dramatically halted, proved a convincing reply.

SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE ELM GROVE SCHOOL HALL

In the closing months of the 1940 summer danger threatened Worthing, and even evacuees were leaving. Old folks were also advised to leave if possible. Those who remained felt that they did not care to be too far from home when attending a place of worship, and at that time many residents in our locality were members of the Church at Shelley Road. This problem suggested the opportunity for a Free Church Fellowship to meet together, somewhere near to the newly constructed Goring Road. So those responsible for such arrangements gratefully accepted the offer of Worthing Corporation, who expressed their willingness to loan the Elm Grove School Hall and Class Rooms for Sunday services, subject to certain conditions.

Thus it was that on Sunday, 4th August, 1940, some 37 friends attended the first morning service, 15 being present for evening worship. Mr. W. H. Young of Lancing, and Chairman of the Shelley Road Extension Committee, conducted both services, and collections for the day amounted to £2 8s. 0d. A week or so later the first Communion service was presided over by the Rev. F. H. Wiseman, B.Sc., B.D., the son of Mr. E.



Mr. E. T. Wiseman

T. Wiseman, who at that time combined the offices of Church Secretary and Treasurer for the Fellowship now begun.

When four years later Mr. Wiseman and family removed to Bexhill our Church "Chronicle" (recently started), made reference to this friend as "having literally lived for our work at Elm Grove." As an enthusiastic pioneer worker he had, in a sense, laid the foundations of what was to

follow. And when some eight years later the family again returned to Worthing, it must have given our old and valued friend very real pleasure to see the newly erected Church Hall, before he passed away.

OUR FIRST MINISTER

During the early years the Fellowship was controlled by a Management Committee, planning and hoping for future progress. And for a short time from March, 1941, for about 15 months, the temporary leadership of the Rev. Morris Bold, M.C., was very greatly appreciated. A semi-retired minister, Mr. Bold was well known for the prominent part he had taken in services held at the Dome, Brighton, where large congregations assembled on Sunday evenings. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bold quickly gained the affection of all at Elm Grove, and together they did much to knit into a closer unity those who attended. And under this leadership the first Church activity was initiated, No. 3, Goring Road (one of several private houses since replaced by shops), being brought into use. The Army's consent having been obtained this was opened as a "House of Quiet" for service men. One of the upper rooms was converted into a beautiful little Chapel, furnished with a simple Communion Table, draped in rich blue velvet, and adorned by the little brass Cross which has ever since been in use at Barrington Road Church. At the back was a small coloured reproduction of "The Last Supper," whilst downstairs a rest room and canteen arrangements met the needs of soldiers and airmen in the district. And at that time Sunday evening services had to be held in the lounge as the School Hall was not

PARTING WORDS

"I hope you will hold together.
I think you will. Otherwise
I should feel my work here
had been in vain."

Rev. M. Bold.

blackened out. But July 1942 brought the first setback to further progress, Mr. Bold yielding to a very urgent call to take over the pastorate of the new Offington Park Methodist Church, and the immediate future at Elm Grove now seemed very uncertain.

But prior to leaving Worthing Mr. Wiseman had done something for which the Fellowship owed him many thanks, and which was about to initiate a time of great progress. Finding that the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey, D.S.O. ex-President of the Baptist Union, and with a distinguished record in Free Church life, including notable ministries at Leytonstone, Norwich and Ealing, was now living in semi-retirement nearby, Mr. Wiseman ventured to ask for his help and interest. Asked "Would he become our temporary minister at Elm Grove?" what followed astonished those who knew of Mr. Humphrey's career, and without any doubt whatever it was a fine gesture on his part when he readily consented to aid a small and struggling Congregational Fellowship, as yet without a building of its own, and not yet officially recognised as a Church.

THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. F. J. H. HUMPHREY, D.S.O.

The ensuing five years proved to be the beginning of great and very encouraging days for us as a mixed fellowship. The

School Hall was now often filled to capacity, and worshippers included friends from many denominations, not only Free Church but Anglicans also, and even two or three Salvation Army representatives.

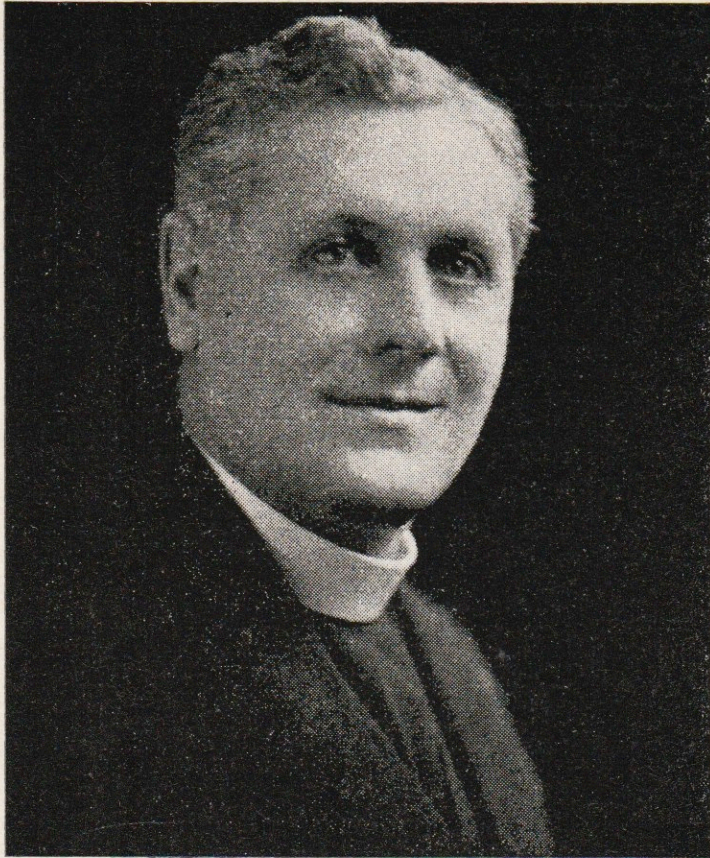
But previous to this, and somewhere about the autumn of 1941 the Church Minute book made a first reference to a newcomer who was to play a very prominent part in the work which lay ahead—Mr. A. J. Rule. Coming to us from Sheerness where he had been Church Secretary, Mr Rule proved to be richly endowed with a more than usually radiant personality. Making a new home in Worthing he had meant to live a quiet retired life, but it was contrary to his nature and experience not to give active co-operation to good work, if needed. Thus in a tactful and pleasant manner this new friend worked most happily with Mr. Humphrey, noticeably so in dealings with the Worthing Corporation, and this partnership and wise guidance proved extremely valuable, especially coming at a time when there were few to look to for help.

Without any building of our own so far, but in trustful anticipation of what might be, a Church Building Fund was now started, and being an expert bowls player himself Mr. Rule received an offer of £100 from a Club member, provided the Church raised a similar amount. Within ten days a gaily working thermometer showed that the required money had come to hand, with another £50 added. Little model church money boxes were also distributed, and Mr. E. W. West commenced what was to be six years of most efficient service as Church Treasurer.

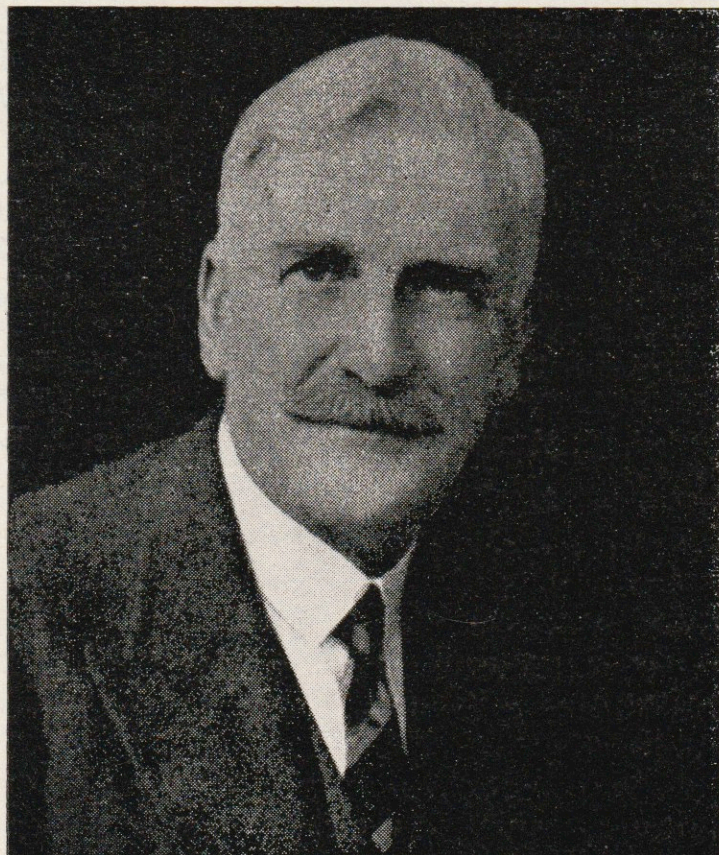
Another sign of progress was the gathering together of little folk under the leadership of "Auntie May," Mrs Humphrey's sister. Ample class room accommodation allowed of the little ones enjoying various activities after listening to their engaging sermonette in the larger Hall. Also by this time the Ladies' Working Party had now become firmly established as the outstanding organisation at Elm Grove, its members doing valuable work in connection with the "House of Quiet," besides providing meals for army recruits, and knitting countless garments for distribution.

But the general range of Church activities was still limited by Corporation restrictions, and for the holding of a Saturday afternoon social gathering special permission had to be obtained. Yet despite these limitations efforts were made to widen our interests, and create a mutual helpfulness. At Mr. Humphrey's suggestion a branch of the Bible Reading Fellowship was started, and a modest News Sheet was commenced, the latter "to arouse and create interest." Both met with a most encouraging response.

But shadows were already beginning to creep across our pathway, and in August, 1946 Miss May Green passed away. She had made the children's hour a labour of love, and the little ones must have very greatly missed her.



The Rev.
Morris Bold, M.C.



The Rev.
F. J. H. Humphrey, D.S.O.

College, pay an unforgettable tribute to our late minister.

So passed the first seven years. Shocked by the news when first hearing of our loss one saddened Church member suggested "this is the end!" The end for us as a young immature Church was meant. But this friend was wrong. **It was only the end of the beginning !**

THE FOLLOWING SEVEN YEARS

Residential West Worthing was fast altering by 1948. Fields and farm land were giving way to new roads and countless bungalows. Also extensive Inland Revenue Offices were being erected adjacent to the Church site, and in the immediate neighbourhood the Worthing Corporation began to build the extensive Maybridge Estate. All this meant that the population around was rapidly increasing, so looking ahead the full force of John Masefield's words began to be felt:

"My road calls me, lures me onwards,
West, East, South and North,
Most roads lead us homewards,
My road leads me forth."

Had Mr. Humphrey lived it had been his intention to hold a Gift Day that autumn, to augment the slowly growing Building Fund. So by kind permission of Mrs. Humphrey a Memorial Day for such contributions was held at her house on 5th November, 1947. With only a membership of 85 over £700 was given, in one sense yet another tribute to the ministry now ended.

And now at last the long awaited official permission to build a Church Hall was granted, **subject to certain conditions**. Planned to hold only about 200 this Hall would have been some six or seven feet shorter in length but for earnest pleading by our Church Secretary, Mr. A. J. Rule.

For temporary leadership the Church now turned to the Rev. S. O. Morgan, B.A., B.D., a semi-retired Presbyterian minister living close by. It must have required not only courage, but in addition a breadth of Christian outlook, to accept the invitation. Fortunately possessing these qualities Mr. Morgan soon acquainted himself with the problems that lay ahead, and shared in the possibilities relating to the future.

BUILDING THE NEW HALL

The work in connection with this started the following Spring, the architects being Messrs. Denman of Brighton, the cost of the building to be about £5,400, and the Charles Barrett

legacy helping to bear the major part of this sum. It was decided that the Hall should be known as "Goring Congregational Church," although several members favoured "West Park" as being more accurate and distinctive.

By this time the Church News Sheet had become a three sheet issue, a bi-monthly, but still distributed free. This proved a wise policy, not only resulting in a wider circulation, but also arousing greater interest, and gifts of money and kind began to come in. As the time for building drew near quite a long list of such gifts was recorded, including Church furniture and furnishings. In some cases little metal tabs gave the donor's name, and can still be seen on the Pulpit, Communion Table, and Chairs. The Mother Church gave the large coloured reproduction of "The Last Supper," and other gifts included 3-tier Communion Sets, Brass Reading Desk, and a Writing Table for the minister's vestry, etc.

The Stone Laying Ceremony took place on the sunny afternoon of 19th June, 1948 (a Saturday), the two Corner Stones, as now seen at the entrance, being laid by the Rev. Latimer Thomas, M.A., as Chairman of the Sussex Congregational Union, and the Rev. B. R. H. Spaul, M.A., minister of Shelley Road Church. Most appropriately as the benediction was pronounced a lark soared high adding music that had been lacking !

"He sees the bird that wingeth
Its way o'er earth and sky ;
He hears the lark that singeth
Up in the heavens so high."

"Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings ;
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings."



(photograph supplied by
Mr. L. D. J. Turnbull M.B.E.)

Goring Congregational Church Hall.

Laying the Foundation Stones, June 25th, 1948

Rev. B. R. H. Spaul, M.A. in centre. On his right Rev. S. O. Morgan,
B.A., B.D., and the Rev. Latimer Thomas, M.A. On the left Alderman
C. S. Green, Deputy Mayor.

FINAL SERVICES AT ELM GROVE

The Elm Grove School can hardly claim to be very beautiful architecturally. Yet it had become a place of happy memories, and spiritual uplift. But now the time had come to leave, and at the morning service on 30th January, 1949, Mr. Rule announced that he hoped to give good news the following Sunday, as regards the opening day of the new Church Hall. But once again the Church was to be shocked by tragic news. Whilst visiting his married daughter at Maidstone our good friend passed away the following Thursday morning. Thus



Mr. A. J. Rule

within 17 months the Church had lost two men who seemed almost irreplaceable. Our tenure at Elm Grove now being finished suggested the thought that 'promotion' was due for those who had done so much for the Church. Mr. Rule had been an outstanding member of the Church. Well endowed with those attributes which make a likeable man, he was a skilled receptionist at the School door, a fatherly smile, and playful word for the young, a cheery word for the aged, a warm handshake for the visitor, and (if needed), a little dignity for the stately ! All were welcomed, the most distinguished, or the humblest.

As a pioneer worker this friend had proved invaluable, although he never cared overmuch for the clerical side of his office and so was greatly helped by Miss M. E. Handford, appointed as Corresponding Church Secretary, But this second heavy loss coming at such a time meant that the opening of the Church Hall on Tuesday, 1st March, 1949, was a time of conflicting emotions. Yet in effect it was a striking illustration of the injunction "Make good the loss so heavy, in those that still remain."

Mr. Morgan himself with true Christian fortitude proved equal to this suddenly altered aspect of the life of the Church, and Miss Handford most readily and efficiently carried out all the duties as Church Secretary, and promptly completed the arrangements for the opening ceremony, and the Church was greatly indebted to her for such competent service at short notice. In addition, a newcomer, Mr. Eric Hodder, L.R.B.A., who with Mrs. Hodder, had only recently come to Worthing from Sanderstead, Surrey, readily offered to give help and advice if needed.

Special visitors for the opening of the Hall included the Moderator, Rev. O. Maxwell Janes, and the Rev. Maurice Watts, B.D., the Chairman of the Congregational Union of

England and Wales. In response to his knocking on the Church door, Mrs. Humphrey from within opened, she having been handed the key by Mr. Denman, F.R.I.B.A. Local ministers and others filed up the aisle, and so commenced the first service in the new building. The general impression of those coming as visitors seemed to be that the Church Hall possessed both charm and dignity, and at the evening service the "Sunshine" lighting was much admired.

THE FIRST DIACONATE

The Management Committee of earlier days now gave way to the first Diaconate, twelve deacons being inducted at the morning service on Sunday, 8th May, 1949, each having previously been given a copy of the booklet entitled "The Office and High Calling of a Deacon."

They were:— Miss B. J. Ford.
Miss M. E. Handford, (Secretary).
Miss V. Mumford.
Miss A. M. Thomas.
Mr. C. H. Cornwall.
Mr. E. E. Deslandes.
Mr. W. G. Hite.
Mr. S. J. Knott.
Mr. G. L. Nodes.
Mr. A. Truss.
Mr. E. W. J. West, (Treasurer).
Mr. C. S. Wood.

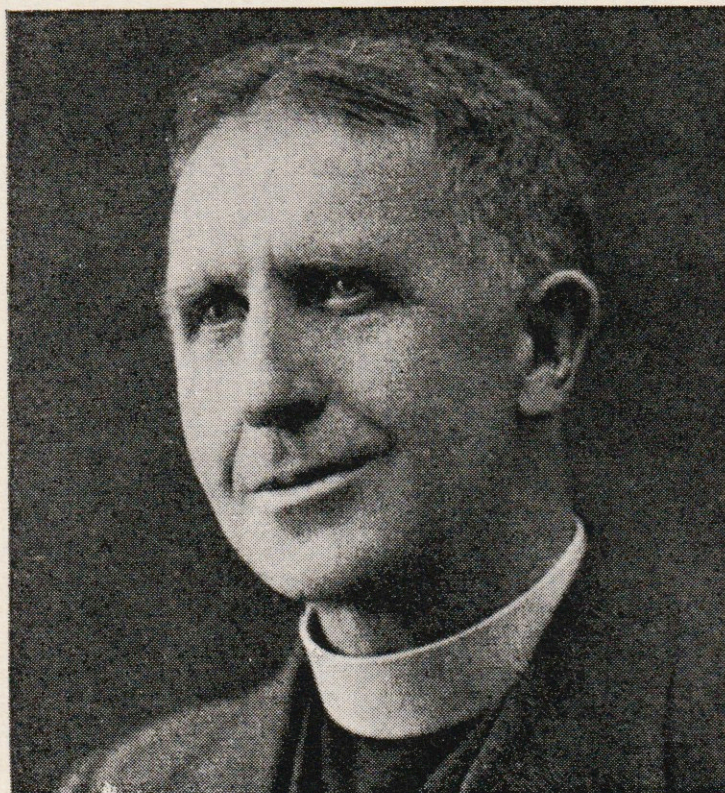
On the 22nd of the same month another little ceremony took place when at the morning service Lieut.-Col. Roy Humphrey came from Norwich to pay tribute to his father, and to unveil the Oak Memorial Board erected on the North Wall of the Church Hall. The main panel bears the following inscription:

THIS TABLET RECORDS THE FRUITFUL MINISTRY
OF THE REV. F. J. H. HUMPHREY, D.S.O., DURING
THE YEARS 1942-1947. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP
THE GORING CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAS
FORMED IN JUNE, 1947. IN LOVING MEMORY,
AND THANKFULNESS TO GOD.

Underneath the board an additional Brass Plate records the wording:

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
CHARLES R. BARRETT, TO
WHOSE INITIAL EFFORTS
AND GREAT GENEROSITY
THIS CHURCH OWES MUCH.

The temporary ministry of the Rev. S. O. Morgan was now drawing to a close, having lasted just over two years under exceptionally difficult circumstances. Mr Morgan had conducted the Sunday services in a dignified and helpful manner, and his sympathy in times of illness and bereavement had been greatly appreciated. One of his homely addresses given at a week-night service included a very apt and telling illustration for a young Church in time of grievous loss. He very appropriately recalled the incident of the Welsh shepherd, who made his sheep face the coming storm, rather than retreat before it.



Rev. S. O. Morgan, B.A., B.D.

Up to this time the Church had been led by semi-retired ministers of three different denominations, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. But the early days were now over, and it was felt that the time had come for a settled ministry. So at a well attended Church Meeting, held on November 30th, 1949, it was

decided to invite the Rev. H. M. Springbett, M.A., he at that time being Assistant Minister at The Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church. This invitation to the pastorate at Barrington Road was followed by a letter of acceptance, and Mr. Springbett commenced his Goring ministry on Sunday, 9th February, 1950, when he preached, his theme being "It is on these things that we take our stand." I Cor. 15 : 3, 4, 5.

This was also an important year for the Church in other ways too. It had previously been realised soon after the building of the Church Hall that the Sunday School and Junior Church urgently needed additional accommodation, numbers having rapidly increased under the leadership of Miss Brenda Ford, who had taken charge of the younger ones after the passing of Miss May Green in 1946. To raise the money for this Children's Hall an enthusiastic and very successful effort followed.

Since Elm Grove days the outstanding organisation in Church activities had been what was originally termed the

"Ladies Working Party," and it was largely due to their initiating plans, and valuable support which followed, that Sales of Work held in successive years of 1949 and 1950 raised over £1,000 to meet the cost of the much needed additional Hall. Designed by Mr. Eric Hodder, L.R.B.A., this extra building was opened on the 4th November, 1950. With accommodation for about 100, the new building was 40 x 20 feet in size, included a large screen for showing lantern views or film strips. Towards the total cost of £1,500 a generous London friend contributed £100.

Two months later on January 1st, 1951 a new Church appointment was made when Mr. G. L. Nodes was elected Church Treasurer, thus succeeding Mr. E. W. J. West. The very efficient service of the latter for over six years had been much appreciated. But in matters of finance the ensuing years became increasingly important, and the continued faithful services of his successor were marked by a time of ever-increasing expenditure, and the handling of considerable sums of money for the Church.

This time also saw the widening of interests and activities, and some changes in the Sunday service. The "Ten Orders of Public Worship" as published by the Congregational Union, and which had been used since Elm Grove days was now discarded. Maybe it had served its purpose, but it contained many beautiful prayers, and gave worshippers more opportunity for taking audible part. Other changes included the abandoning of a musical setting for the Lord's Prayer, and the use of a Vesper verse at the evening service.

CHURCH GARDEN

A beautiful approach to any Church has much to commend it, and although surrounded by rough and uncultivated ground a brave attempt was made to make the wilderness blossom as the rose, and for a time attracted a good deal of attention. Later it was gradually realised that not only were conditions most difficult, but in addition comparatively few felt able to help keep in order the gaily planted flowers beds, so later it was felt best to retain some measure of order and cultivation, without any pretence at perfection. All the same, useful gifts for such work included a garden shed, a mowing machine, a bird bath, and a memorial garden seat.

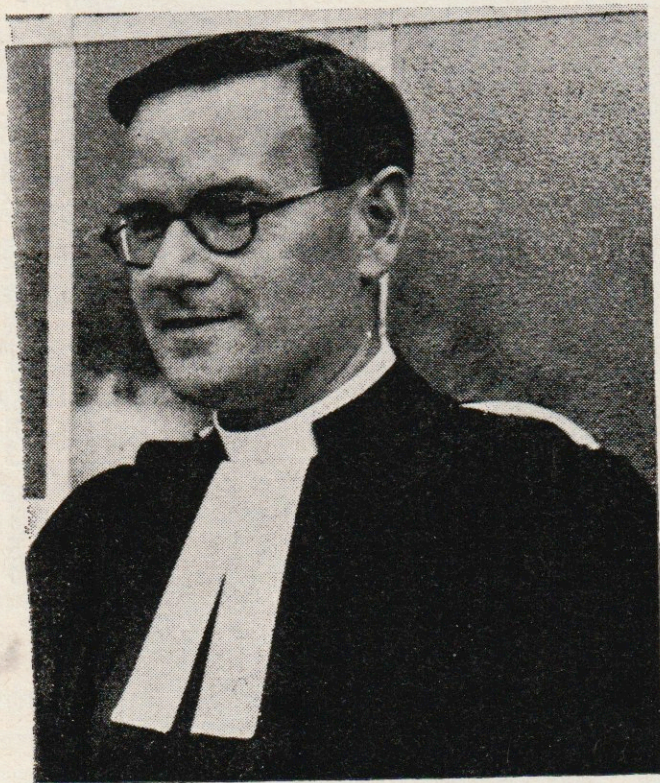
BIBLE READING AND CHURCH YEAR BOOK

By 1950 over 100 members were taking in Bible Reading notes, much to Mr. Springbett's satisfaction. The same year also saw the first publication of what has found to be the very necessary and helpful "Year Book." Although the Bible Reading fellowship had been initiated earlier, the endeavour to

establish such a branch firmly together with the start of the Church Manual and garden work, owed much to the energy and tireless efforts of a former member and deacon of the Church, Mr. E. E. Deslandes.

In 1951 "Family Evenings" were first started, following a Harvest Supper, and an interesting programme being arranged a Brains Trust drew a large audience, amongst those taking part being the Vicar of Ferring, Rev. G. Diamond, Vicar of St. George's Church, East Worthing, Rev. H. Stickler of West Worthing Baptist, and the Rev. S. O. Morgan. The questions asked covered a wide area, and aroused considerable interest.

A year later a branch of the Girls' Life Brigade was successfully inaugurated, and likewise a Boys' Club, both evidence of the desire to keep the younger folk attached to the Church.

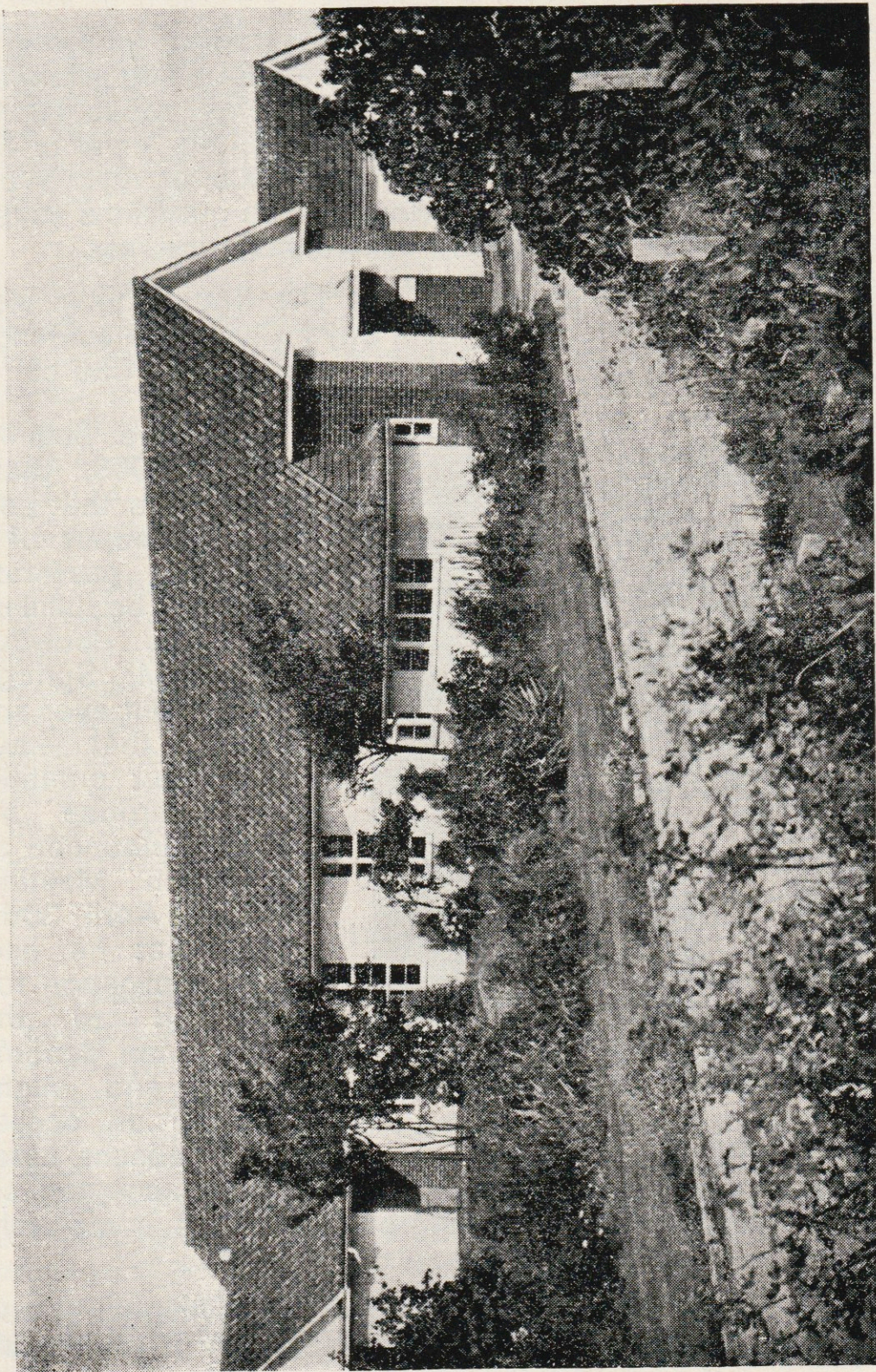


Rev. H. M. Springbett, M.A.

By the beginning of 1953, there were signs that perhaps the hopes of a prolonged pastorate might not be fulfilled, and it is doubtful whether Mr. Springbett himself ever anticipated that view. So without creating great surprise he briefly announced at a Church Meeting held on April 30th, 1953, that he had made application for admission to the Presbyterian denomination, and might therefore on occasions be absent. Later

the Church was told that the application had been accepted, so once again the outlook at Barrington Road was completely altered.

Yet previously to this Mr. Springbett had evidently at one time contemplated with interest the necessary preliminaries for the building of a new Church on the vacant site, and formed a small committee for this purpose. Also Mr. Gerald Nodes, son of the Church Treasurer was asked in his professional capacity to draw up a plan to be somewhat square in shape, with a centralised pulpit as a focus point. The actual findings of this committee were never fully known, and the suddenly changed circumstances meant that the careful work and drawing were now laid aside.



Goring Congregational Church Hall
Built 1949

The Rev. Harold M. Springbett, M.A., will best be remembered as a sincere and scholarly preacher, and a very great admirer of the hymns of Isaac Watts and the Wesleys; and therefore he was more than pleased that a generous offer of £100 by the late Mrs. Handford, made it possible for the Church to have the new hymn book "Congregational Praise."

Mr. Springbett's musical interest and ability was also recognised and found helpful, and like his predecessor, his kindly visitation of the sick was much valued. His Bible Study meetings had been sparsely attended, but his conduct of the same revealed most helpful expository qualities, and his Presidential year of office with the Worthing Free Church Council was highly esteemed.

But by July 1953 our first Congregational minister had left us for Scunthorpe Presbyterian Church, together with Mrs. Springbett and family (now numbering three little ones), our best wishes going with them.

The end of the second seven years period was now approaching, and that much used modern word "frustration" could have been applied to the position. Yet from the very start at Elm Grove our Church has never really faltered in courage or faith in what might still be possible.

So by the following November an Electronic Organ was installed in the Church Hall, thus at last superseding the piano music of former days. Purchase at a cost of £550 from the Independent Press Company, Memorial Hall, London, no special appeal was made for this, but the money was subscribed by a few members, and all felt that the service of praise became more helpful.

The Church also once again turned to the Rev. S. O. Morgan for further help as temporary Acting Minister, although thoughts were again on the future. Less than 14 years had passed since the early days, and the longest pastorate had been that of the Rev. F. J. H. Humphrey. Who was to follow?

Somewhat strangely the Church Chronicle for that year had perhaps sensed the coming changes, and the January issue contained the following:

1952

—

THE WAKE

—

1953

I cannot always trace the outward course
My ship must trace ;
But looking backwards I behold its shining wake,
Illumined with God's light of love; and so
I onward go,
In perfect trust, that He who holds the helm,
The course must know.

This verse is here again repeated, since in a corporate sense it gives emphasis to the position in which the Church now found itself. Even now not seven years old as an officially recognised Congregational Church, new problems presented themselves.

Yet by this time the personnel of the Church was very noticeably altering, and newcomers of experience and capabilities were about to help the Church face the future. The "course" was altering!

Having given most valuable service as Church Secretary during critical days Miss Handford now resigned, and Mr. Graham Askew accepted the post. A life-long Methodist Mr Askew had filled several important offices in that denomination, and his readiness to help was just one more instance of happy unity. Unfortunately an early and unexpected removal to another part of Worthing meant he was with us for a short time only, and by October 1953 the Church had lost two valued members, Mrs. Askew having proved most helpful in the Junior Church work.

Yet despite these losses the Church was more than fortunate at this time to have the help and guidance of someone well qualified by former years of service and experience, and the passing away of this good friend, Mr. A. E. Harrison in 1960 at Ealing, only served to accentuate what the friendship meant during the eight years Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were with us. For 23 years Mr. Harrison had been on the Diaconate at Roath Park Congregational Church Cardiff, and also Superintendent of their Sunday School. Later a Life Deacon at Ealing Green Congregational Church, and one of the directors of the Independent Press Ltd., He and Mrs. Harrison came to Worthing in 1949, and joined our Church the same year. By 1951 this new friend accepted a position on our own diaconate, and by 1954



Mr. A. E. Harrison

he was elected Church Secretary, with Mr W. G. Hite as his assistant. This meant wise guidance and leadership just when it was most needed and proved of great value. In the September Chronicle our comparative newcomer, as Church Secretary, asked members for their loyalty, and prayerful co-operation.

Also at this time another change took place. After a period of over nine years as Editor of the Church "Chronicle," Mr. C. H. Cornwall made way for yet another new friend, Mr. A. E. Pearn, he and Mrs. Pearn having

only recently come to us from Sutton Congregational Church where Mr. Pearn was Church Secretary. Hardly having had time to settle down the new Editor made light of this handicap, and the Church quickly sensed that his services to the Barrington Road Church would in many ways prove of great value. This has since proved to be the case.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

The closing months of this second seven years stressed the point that a rapidly expanding Church, with a membership not yet 150, was inevitably faced with difficult matters of finance, and the raising of considerable sums of money. Gift Days, or Sale of Work, which should it be ? Both methods have their advocates, and both have met with wonderful success. Altogether during the twelve years from 1945 onwards the Church raised over £8,000, almost unaided. These amounts were in the main obtained by constant effort, and even persistent giving, covering the years. The "Rainbow Bazaar" held in

"There is no satisfaction in mean giving. Generous giving opens the heart of the giver himself."

I. B. R. A. Notes.

the autumn of 1953 resulted in so large a total that the local press phoned up to ascertain whether the amount for a one day Sale was correct, the total being £829 ! And later the Gift Day of March 1957 realised just a little short of £2,000, the actual figures being £1,946.

But let this be strongly emphasised. The story of Barrington Road Church has been marked not only by friendliness to all who come, and unusually generous giving, but allied to this there has always been prompt, and equally responsive spirit, to what may be called outside appeals of special nature.

1954 ONWARDS THE THIRD SEVEN YEAR PERIOD

To appreciate fully the progress made the backward look is sometimes necessary. And the building of the new Church at Barrington Road is a reminder that in the clouded days of war, frustrated by limitations and restrictions there were courageous hearts at Elm Grove patiently waiting, working, and believing, that the day would still come when the harvest of their efforts would be reaped. The age of seventeen is said to be the time of dreams. But Joel 2 : 28 tells us that "Your old men shall dream dreams," and much that has since happened has at last been made possible by the unquenchable optimistic spirit of former days, and pays tribute to many who have now passed away.

The evening of 17th December, 1953, proved to be one of importance when at a special Church Meeting a practically unanimous vote was recorded, that the Rev. C. C. Franks, at that time minister of Abercarn Congregational Church, Monmouthshire, should be asked to fill the vacancy at Barrington Road.

THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. C. C. FRANKS

Mr. Franks commenced his Sussex ministry on March 14th 1954. He came into a situation ripe for expansion and full of opportunity. He brought the zeal and enthusiasm of a man in the prime of life, a vision of the possibilities, courage, a deep sincerity and radiancy of spirit. So by the grace of God, the Church grew and bore fruit. Membership stood at 135 at the end of 1953. It had increased to 407 (inclusive of Junior members) when he left in 1963.

To foster friendship among the growing numbers attending the Church, the Men's and Women's Fellowships were inaugurated, the latter with Mrs. Franks as President. For a time the men also experimented with an evening Fellowship.

In 1957 Mr. Franks held the first Monthly Day of Prayer with three sessions a day, subsequently reduced to two, but with Holy Communion following the morning service. Midweek devotional services were held, and for a time intercessory services for the sick were held fortnightly after Sunday evening services. Bible Study sessions at the manse were regularly attended.

By 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Franks had a family of four and a new Manse was required. The old one in Brook Barn Way was sold for £2,820; the present one with extra accommodation and more conveniently situated was purchased for £4,500. At the time the Sussex Congregation Union helped to meet the cost but successful Sales of Work, together with various money gifts, disposed of this deficit.

Mr. Franks had a great love of children and a flair for visual aids which were often made by himself, so that his children's addresses will long remain in the memory as a most effective part of his ministry.

NEED FOR EXPANSION

It was the rapid growth in the work amongst children and young people which necessitated the building of the Children's Hall in 1955 at a cost of £1,400, and the small hall for Primary children in 1959, and later still the temporary hut.

Even this was not sufficient. The seating for 200 in the Church (now the Church Hall) was quite inadequate. The children had to be excluded from family worship and even

adults were sitting hearing all, if lucky, but seeing nowt, in what is now the kitchen but was then the Minister's vestry.



Rev. C. C. Franks
Minister of Goring Congregational Church
from March 1954 to June 1963
and Mrs. Franks.

AFTER TWENTY YEARS BUILDING THE NEW CHURCH

Ever since the Church Hall was ready for worship visitors repeatedly asked two questions. First, "Why was not a larger Hall built?" The answer to this kindly implied little criticism was that although the war was over, war-time restrictions were still enforced, and official sanction did not permit of a larger building. But as time went on another question was often asked, "When will the new Church be built?" That was a more difficult query to reply to.

Yet the latter part of this seven year period was marked by such a rapid numerical increase in Church membership as to force to the front the problem "To build, or not to build?" And the position reached could be summed up thus— "That there is no action in life which is not the beginning of a long chain of consequences." Yet this also could be true—no action, **but still consequences**. The enforced delayed action of the brave venture of Mother Church in 1939 prevented a building being erected which would only have cost about one-fourth of the money now required!

At the close of 1954 the Church Building Fund was only a little over £1,000, and the suggested target for building a new Church costing at least £20,000 sounded almost prohibitive, despite conditional legacies which might at some time or other materialise. So opinion was divided, and there was not a little to be said for a cautious approach to a problem of some perplexity. Yet on special occasions, as at Easter and Harvest time, the need for a larger building was more than obvious, and even ordinary morning congregational found the cramped seating unpleasant.

"God gives us raw materials, not finished products. He gives us stone, but He does not give us cathedrals. So He gives us potentialities, but they have to be made into achievements."

Rev. L. J. Tizard.

The continual increase in numbers resulted in a special meeting of the Church and Congregation in the spring of 1956, being called together to consider what should be done. Writing his letter for the Church News Sheet Mr. Franks made reference to "a certain feeling of restlessness within me. I do really believe God is saying to me 'Build my Church.' God forbid that I should lay my restlessness at His door, when it is of my own creation, but I cannot escape the belief that He is doing it."

This meeting led to a decision to hold Gift Days which followed, one in 1957, and another two years later, the combined totals realising £3,627. In addition the Sussex Congregational Union promised £3,000, and the Congregational Union of



BUILDING COMMITTEE 1960

Left to right, back row: Mr. H. Horsfall, Mr. A. B. Mercer, Mr. E. Tilbury, Mr. J. Latham, Mr. R. O. Parker, Mr. K. Silverstone, Mr. B. C. Hoskins
Front row: Mr. H. Lord, Miss M. E. Handford, Rev. C. C. Franks, Mr. F. L. Wills, M.B.E., Mr. G. L. Nodes.
 Miss M. E. Handford, having left Worthing, her place was filled by Mrs G. L. Nodes.

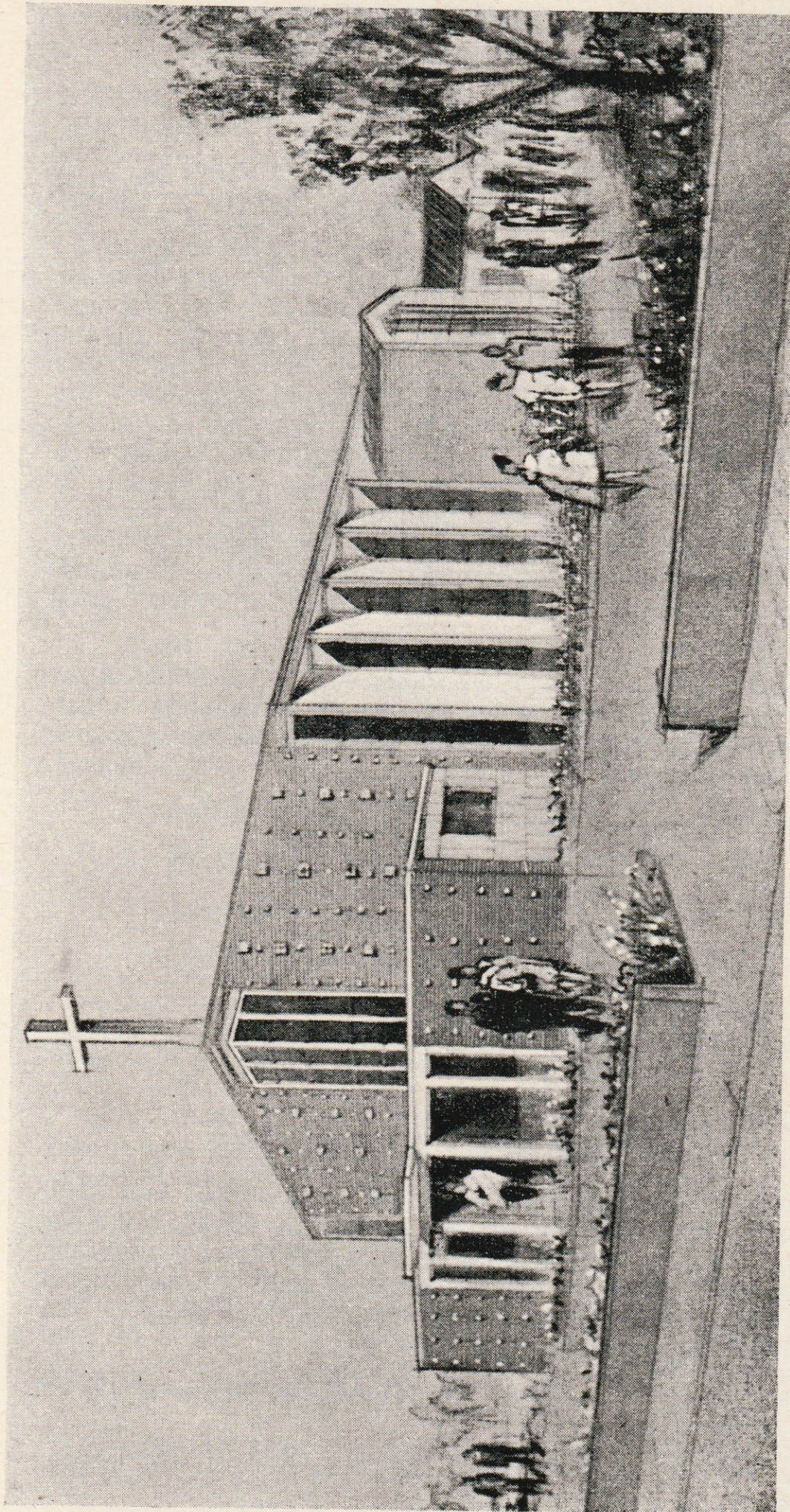
England and Wales another £500, with an extra £200 from Trust Funds. This was supplemented by another generous gift from a local friend, and together with other contributions the total had now reached more than half the minimum amount thought to be necessary for building, and with the possibility of legacy money being realised the general position had greatly strengthened.

Thus in July 1959 another special Church Meeting gave approval to the Deacon's recommendation that efforts should be made to erect a new Church, and a Building Committee being elected speedily got to work.

The Church had now grown in strength and capabilities, and tireless as Mr. Franks had been in his efforts to initiate building plans, he himself more than once testified to the highly effective and able support this committee began to render, and which has placed the Church under a heavy debt of gratitude for their labours which have entailed much time and very careful deliberations concerning the various aspects of the proposed new Church. This committee led by Mr. F. L. Wills, M.B.E., and re-inforced by others, expert in their experience of building, planning, and electrical knowledge, etc. resulted in the Church accepting their recommendations with considerable confidence, and general agreement.

By 14th November, 1959, resolutions were passed that Messrs. Weston, Burnett & Thorne, of Southampton, be appointed as architects for the new building, and their preliminary plan and elevation be accepted as a basis for negotiation.

It is only fitting that mention should be made of the sincere appreciation felt by the Church, and more particularly those of the Building Committee, for the work of the firm engaged as architects, and distinction of the new Church is due to the expert advice of Mr. F. Winward, of the above firm, who has given his personal attention to the project.



THE NEW CHURCH

From a Drawing by Mr. F. Winward

Photo by South Farm Studios.

The architect was Mr. F. W. Winward of Messrs. Weston, Burnett and Thorne of Southampton and the builders Wm. Willett (Contractors) Ltd. of Hove and London.

The cost was in the region of £27,000.

MEETING THE COST

In 1954 this sum had indeed appeared prohibitive, but by gifts great and small from our own members and friends, from the Sussex Congregational Union and the Congregational Union of England and Wales, by Gift Days and Sales and other efforts and by a generous legacy of nearly £5,000 from Miss Bennett, the outstanding loans were finally repaid and the faith of those who believed in the call of God to raise and build was confirmed.

THE CHURCH ORGAN

(Members of the Organ Selection Committee : Messrs. S. E. Grew, H. J. Harland, C. S. Stevens, E. Tilbury, and Mr. Stanley Alderson, Organist.)

Thanks to the members of the Committee appointed to deal with this important matter, the Church is happily assured of an instrument worthy of the building.

Following many enquiries and investigations contact was finally made with the noted firm of Henry Willis & Sons, Ltd., London, and the Church was asked to accept the recommendation that the firm should install a pipe organ, which although not new, was strongly commended as an instrument of quality, this for the sum of £2,900.

Composed of two separate sections, one on either side of the Choir, the organ is electrically connected to a playing console in the Choir. There are two manual keyboards, and pedal keyboard, with 17 speaking stops, seven couplers, and five pistons, the whole organ comprising some 830 pipes. These will not be seen, being placed behind grills above the choir stalls.

This, the largest item to be provided for out of special funds, was quickly followed by two outstanding gifts which largely off-set the cost. The Mother Church at Shelley Road most generously promised a contribution of £1,000 from a Trust Fund, and an anonymous friend and well-wisher offered another £1,500. It is not easy to express the gratitude felt for these munificent gifts, but the appreciation is indeed sincere. Together with other liberal contributions the somewhat heavy cost was unexpectedly met without any extra effort.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH

Saturday, September 16th 1961

On a day of golden sunshine, while an expectant congregation awaited within, the architect Mr. F. Winward presented the key to the Rev. H. A. Hamilton, B.A., Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, who unlocked the door and declared the new church opened for the high purpose for which it was to be dedicated.

The Minister, Rev. C. C. Franks, presided over the service at which the Moderator of the Southern Province of the C.U.E.W., the Rev. W. Andrew James, M.A. led the congregation in an Act of Dedication and Rev. H. A. Hamilton preached the sermon. This was followed by a service for children addressed by Mr. Hamilton.

The Moderator preached at the evening Service of Thanksgiving which was conducted by Rev. B. R. H. Spaul, M.A., minister of Worthing Congregational Church, Shelley Road, the Mother Church.

The Choir who on this occasion were gowned for the first time, were joined by the choir from Shelley Road in presenting a musical programme preceding the service.

On the four following Saturdays recitals on the new organ were given by Dr. Eric Thiman, Clifford Roberts, Basil Waymark and Richard Hews. The proceeds were intended for the Choir Gown Fund, but the cost of these was defrayed by a Church member, and so they were devoted to the Building Fund.

Within six weeks there was an attendance of over 500 at morning service, sixty chairs having to be placed down the aisles, and small children were sitting three in two chairs.

THE CLOSE OF A MINISTRY

With the opening of the new Church and consequently larger congregations new problems emerged. The most obvious was that of making contacts. On his part Mr. Franks arranged to make himself available for consultation in his vestry at regular times. The diaconate initiated a new visitation scheme by which some 500 members of the Church and congregation were placed in groups with a deacon or deacons in charge and a band of visitors was drawn from each group. This assisted greatly in bringing the fellowship together, especially through group socials, and in maintaining care for those in special need.

Within eighteen months of the opening of the new Church a number of resignations of those in key positions took place. In April 1962 Mr. B. C. Hoskins retired from the Church Secretaryship after six years' quiet and most efficient service and

was replaced by Mr. H. A. Winterton. A few months later Mr. G. L. Nodes, who for almost twelve years had meticulously taken care of the Church's finances, having previously been an Auditor, resigned from the Treasurership and was accorded the highest honour of Congregationalism, being made a life Deacon. At the end of the year Mr. S. Alderson had to resign as Organist and Choirmaster on health grounds and early in 1963 Miss E. Gilby was succeeded by Mr. S. E. West as Editor of the "Chronicle." Mr. R. O. Parker very ably filled the gap left by the departure of Mr. Nodes.

Mr. Franks had himself been for a year Chairman of the Sussex Congregational Union and the Autumn Assembly 1962 had been held in our Church. It was becoming obvious that other glances were being cast in Mr. Franks's direction and it therefore came as no great surprise that he received and accepted a call to Purley.

So was transported into other spheres of service one who had been used of God to build up a young Church into a strong Church. In all he was well supported by Mrs. Franks, who although bringing up a family, made her influence felt, especially among the Women's Fellowships and the Drama Group. The affection in which both Mr. and Mrs. Franks are held was demonstrated not only at their farewell but by the large numbers that attended the Induction at Purley and the invitations they still receive to revisit us.

BETWEEN TWO MINISTRIES

The year that followed was not an uneventful one. After eleven years Mrs. Hite resigned as Secretary of the Working Party, a position which she was to resume at a later date. The deaths occurred of two gentlemen who were greatly respected among us. - Rev. S. O. Morgan who had twice served as temporary pastor, and Mr. G. L. Nodes our esteemed Treasurer for the period 1950-62 and Life Deacon.

A combined Gift Day and Sale was held which raised over £1,000.

In October Mr. Garland Hughes was appointed organist.

Early in 1964 Miss Ford resigned as Junior Church leader, a position she had held for 17 years, and the Beginners suffered the loss by death of Miss E. M. Curtis, who had been their leader for 16 years.

In April the Mayflower Club for lonely people in the district was launched and from its inception the Church has played a very full part in its work; Miss Gilby was for a number of years the Secretary.

We were well served during the year by our visiting preachers and were particularly indebted to Rev. W. J. Ashford who undertook certain pastoral duties. He was a preacher with a beautiful flow of language and a great lover of little children, Despite his age his sudden death in November 1964 came as a shock to all who knew him.

Throughout this period the members of the Church and congregation showed a wonderful sense of devotion and loyalty.

A Ministerial Committee was set up and after one call was declined an invitation was extended to Rev. Wallis Hayward of Buckland Congregational Church, Portsmouth. This was accepted and Mr. Hayward was inducted to the pastorate on July 2nd 1964.

REV. WALLIS HAYWARD

The Induction Service was presided over by Rev. W. A. James, M.A., Moderator of the Southern Province of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. The charge to both Ministers and Church was given by Rev. W. J. F. Huxtable, M.A., Principal of New College and Secretary-Elect of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. His theme was the call to service as Pastor, Preacher and Priest and reminded the Church of the Priesthood of all believers. Others taking part in the service were Revs. B. R. H. Spaul, M.A., S. A. Sheppard and H. J. Rowse and the Church Secretary, Mr. H. A. Winton, B.A.

A fortnight later the feelings of the Church overflowed in the Thanksgiving Day resulting in a total of over £1,100.

On his first Sunday Mr. Hayward asked the children for their friendship and it is significant of his concern for young people that among his first actions was the inauguration of the Young People's Fellowship for the Over-18s and the Minister's Class as a preparation for Church membership for the 14-18 age group.

Early in 1965 Mr. Garland Hughes resigned as Organist and Choir master, but the Church was fortunate to secure the services of Mr. J. Rathbone.

It soon became apparent that greatly enlarged premises were required for existing organisations to function adequately and for any expansion of the work to be contemplated. Accordingly all organisations of the Church were invited to submit details of their considered needs to a Development Committee, and this led to the formulation of the Development Plan which was to be carried out in three stages. A scale model devised by Mr. L. D. J. Turnbull, M.B.E., showing the proposals stands at the back of the Church.



Service of Dedication and Opening of the Cornwall Room
March 12th, 1967

L to R. The late Mr. W. H. Mobsby (representing Mr. Cornwall's family),
Mr. E. C. Bond (Junior Church Secretary), Mr. E. G. Hite,
Mr. C. Sweeney, Miss Challis (Mrs. Tuley),
Mr. R. O. Parker (Church Treasurer),
Mr. D. W. Stewart (Boys' Brigade Captain), Mr. Porter (Builder),
The Minister, Mr. K. Croydon, Mr. L. Cleverly (Architect),
Mr. H. A. Winterton (Church Secretary).

taken by Mr. A. Birch and Mr. E. C. Bond as Co-Secretaries, a happy arrangement still persisting.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

A worshipping Church A praying Church.

A People of a book - and that book the Bible.

Throughout the past decade morning congregations have continued to fill the main body of the Church, but apart from use by the Primary Department seats in the transept are rarely occupied. The evening congregations are relatively small. Minor experiments and alterations in the order of service have been made from time to time.

The weeknight service has been discontinued but the monthly Day of Prayer has been maintained, latterly with the morning session only but a sermonette is delivered at the monthly Church Meeting.

Bible Study groups have met regularly and a number of members use the Bible Reading and Prayer Fellowship Handbooks.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE

Within the Congregational fellowship, in anticipation of the covenanting together of churches of the Congregational Union of England and Wales into the Congregational Church in England and Wales, at the beginning of 1968 seven local churches including our own seceded from the Western District of the Sussex Congregational Union of which Mr. Hayward was at that time Chairman to form the Worthing District, Mr. Hayward being the first Chairman.

A closer bond was forged between this Church and Amberley Congregational Church when Mr. Hayward became Minister of that Church also in September 1968.

The Church has given prolonged consideration to the Scheme of Union between the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England and will make a decision on the proposed Scheme in October whether or not to join a United Reformed Church.

Throughout the years the Church has supported the Home Churches Fund, the London Missionary Society and the Commonwealth (formerly Colonial) Missionary Society which are now amalgamated in the Congregational Council for World Mission. Interest and support have been maintained through District Rallies, Film Evenings, and by means of the Prayer Fellowship (formerly the Watchers' Prayer Union) and the

L.M.S. "Chronicle" and now "Enterprise." The annual quota for which the Church is responsible has risen steadily and is now £900.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayward are Chairman and Secretary respectively of Lomas House, the home in Worthing for retired missionaries. The Church gives financial support to Fen Place, the home for retired ministers, and many members have attended the annual Garden Party there.

Hospitality has been given to friends from some of the London churches and Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies have held their summer camps on our premises.

JUNIOR CHURCH and YOUTH WORK

Following the retirement of Miss Ford re-organisation took place in the Junior Church. The Secretary, Mr. Bond, became leader and Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. J. Dearsley were appointed to their present positions as leaders of the Junior Department and Bible Class respectively. It was a severe loss to the Junior Church when Mr. Bond was "promoted" to Church Secretary. His successors have been Mr. Knight and the present leader Mr. Popplestone.

"Family Church" has never really caught on at Goring, but in recent years in Junior Church there has been a new approach in line with developments in religious education in the schools as the concept of a "partnership in learning" between teachers and scholars has grown. Further, the same theme is pursued at different levels of understanding in the various departments. These may lead up to a united Festival Service such as the annual Youth Festival which has replaced the "Sunday School Anniversary." The most widely-embracing of these programmes was perhaps the first experimental one in the autumn of 1967 entitled "Nine Weeks to Christmas", when the Sunday morning services including the sermon had the same thematic basis as those in Junior Church and culminated in a Christmas Festival of Praise.

The Minister has recently relinquished the Minister's Class whose members now form the newly-constituted Youth Forum.

Youth services conducted by our own young people have been held on a number of occasions in our own Church and also at Amberley and elsewhere, notably in Old People's Homes. We have been host to Young Congregationalists from all over the county of Sussex.

THE BRIGADES

The Girls Brigade has always been a strong organisation, under the captaincy of Mrs. Stratton and since her resignation

that of Mrs. Dobson. Highlights of the year are the Summer Camp and the Annual Display. Mention must be made of the new look in uniform introduced in 1966. The Boys Brigade has had a more chequered history. Foundations were laid by Mr. Hodge and Mr. Stewart, and now the Minister, who has always had this organisation very much at heart, is consolidating the work. Through the generosity of a Church member a joint Band has been equipped. Both Brigades have an outreach of service particularly among the "Senior Citizens" of the town, and the Girls Brigade have collected for a Guide Dog for the Blind.

FELLOWSHIP

Goring Congregational Church has cherished the reputation of being a "caring" Church rejoicing with those who do rejoice and weeping with those who weep, showing friendship to the stranger within its gates and a special concern for those in any kind of need. This cannot be done solely by gathering together for Sunday worship. Visitation is one means of manifesting this attitude, but members need other opportunities of meeting together. These have been provided by such groups as the Men's Fellowship and the Women's Guild, the Drama Group and the Badminton Club.

The Men's Evening Fellowship proved of short duration, but over the seven years from 1954 to 1961 when Mr. Pepperdine was Secretary and Mr. P. S. West was Treasurer the afternoon Men's Fellowship greatly increased in strength. They were succeeded by Messrs. Spencer and Edmonds respectively. Mr. Pearn served as Deputy Chairman for fourteen years from the inception of the Fellowship.

The Women's Guild Working Party, whose history goes back to the Elm Grove days, has continued to flourish and throughout the years in cash and kind has contributed generously to the Church. Mrs. Hite as Secretary and Mrs. Parker as Treasurer served most devotedly for long periods.

Both the Women's Guild Women's Fellowship and the Monday Evening Fellowship (formerly the Young Wives and later the Young Women's Fellowship) have had, as a matter of policy, a more frequent change of officers.

Mrs. Hayward has succeeded Mrs. Franks as President of the Women's Organisations.

The Drama Group, for a time known as the Shaftesbury Players, and at the moment not functioning, has had mixed fortunes, but over the years performances ranging from the "sublime" to the "farcical" have amused, educated, delighted or inspired their audiences.

In these various organisations there have been opportunities for fostering friendship, occasions for enlightenment and entertainment and outlets for service.

THE SERVICE OF PRAISE

On August 9th 1959 the Church confirmed the appointment of Mr. H. Dalton as our organist and choirmaster. A fortnight later conducting the Choir Practice he collapsed and died on the Church premises his last music played being "Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face." A marvellous and most beautiful passing into Life Eternal.

Since then three men with vastly different personalities have occupied the position. Mr. Alderson brought great technical knowledge and experience but ill-health compelled his resignation in December 1962. Mr. Garland Hughes endeavoured to train younger people in choral work. Mr. Rathbone, who served from 1965-1971, blended an attitude of devotion with a kindness of spirit. All three men aimed to make music an instrument of and an aid to worship. Nor must be forgotten the Deputy Organist, Mr S. E. C. Jones who has often stepped into the breach.

Members of the choir have given loyal and faithful service, some for many years. The singing of anthems has depended on many factors, but special music, at times with augmented choir, has enriched our worship particularly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Now a new chapter has opened with the appointment of Mr. R. Colbourn B.A. (Mus.) as Organist and Choirmaster and the Church looks forward with eager anticipation to his services in the ministry of music.

BROADCAST SERVICES

The B.B.C. on three occasions broadcast Sunday services from what is now the Church Hall but was then the Church. The first was on Sunday evening, 10th June 1956, when the Rev. John Huxtable, M.A. then Principal of New College, was our visitor for the Church Anniversary. Services conducted by the Rev. C. C. Franks as Minister were broadcast on 18th September 1960 and 16th July 1961. Then on July 19th 1970 Mr. Hayward conducted the first service to be broadcast from the present Church. It was the evening service which was relayed by Radio Brighton the following Sunday morning.

UNITED SERVICES

This Church has for many years participated with churches of our own and other denominations during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and on Maundy Thursday. A further occasion for worshipping together has been the United Service of Holy Communion. During the present ministry the churches of Goring have forged closer links, all combining in

one Church for at least one service a year, and during Lent joint weeknight devotional services are held.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Nor has the Church been merely inward-looking. Members have given strong support to, and taken an active part in, such local projects and organisations as the Worthing and District Council for Social Service—particularly in respect of its work regarding elderly people and adoption—, the Mayflower Club, the Goring and Durrington Friendship Centres, the Goring and Ferring Friendship Service, and the Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Social (formerly Moral Welfare) Work.

In 1969 a major project was launched by the formation of the Goring (Sussex) Congregational Housing Association Limited with the objective of providing flatlets for elderly folk. Although not strictly speaking a church organisation the Association's first shareholders and officers and committee are Church members, and the cost of over £20,000 for purchasing and converting the premises will necessarily be mainly the responsibility of those associated with the Church.

Further afield support is given to New College, London, the Schools for Missionaries' Children, Queen Alexandra Hospital Homes, the National Society for Cancer Relief, The British Leprosy Relief Association, the British Leprosy Mission, the British and Foreign Bible Society and the United Nations Organisation.

Special mention must be made of Christian Aid through which the Church channels all its support for the under-developed areas of the world and appeals at times of major disasters such as earthquake and flood and devastation and refugee problems caused by war. This cause has been the special concern of Mrs. Hayward and the numbers contributing regularly to Christian Aid has gradually increased so that in the last financial year no less than £382 was donated through her collection as well as Harvest and Memorial gifts.

It is right and proper that Christians should be in positions of responsibility and influence in many spheres of life. Individual members of this Church have served and are still serving the community far and wide with distinction, often unknown to their fellow-members. While it is obviously impossible to mention all such, a sample selection of three names may indicate the diversity and merit of such service.

Captain Norman Dobson, Commanding Officer of No. 9 (Worthing) Independent Cadet Battery of the Royal Artillery was awarded the 12 years long service medal. Mr. Dobson was also the first Lay Chairman of Worthing Youth Committee for Christian Affairs, and still serves in that capacity. He was also Chairman of Worthing Leaders' Council for two years.

Mr. C. S. Stephens was for 12 years Treasurer of New College and became Chairman of the Board of Governors of that College 1956/6.

Mr. A. E. Pearn worked for 25 years for the Schweitzer Hospital Fund for 10 years of which he was sole Treasurer. He was also President of the Worthing Free Church Federal Council 1966/7 and served for many years as a lay preacher.

FINANCE

After the long term of service as Treasurer by Mr. Nodes from 1950-1962 Mr. R. O. Parker also served the Church faithfully and well until his retirement at the end of 1969 when he was succeeded by the present Treasurer Mr. N. F. Redman.

Reference has already been made to the major building items, but other larger items of expenditure have included such matters as the sound reinforcement system, gas firing in the halls, the reconstruction of the perimeter roadway, manse redecoration. There has been the general maintenance of the Church and all ancillary premises as well as the manse, and lighting and heating costs have steadily risen.

Church members have always responded generously to all calls that have been made upon them whether for work immediately connected with the life of the Church or in its wider aspects.

Many have given through the "envelope scheme," their gifts often augmented by "covenants." Mr. Gregory has served as Free Will Offering Secretary and Mr. Stephens as Covenant Secretary for a number of years. Gift Days and Sales of Work have been very well supported, the results ranging from about £400 to over £2,000.

THE CHRONICLE

Following the opening of the new Church the "Chronicle" was given a new cover in October 1961, the line drawing of the Church being by Mr. C. Hunniball of Rodney Press, which firm executed the work of printing it, and are indeed printers of this booklet.

Changes of editorship have already been mentioned apart from the resignation of Mr. S. E. West in the summer of 1968 when the present Editor, Miss Walsh succeeded him

THE MINISTER

As these words are being written Mr. Hayward commences the eighth year of his ministry. He came to a young Church where strong foundations had been laid, and yet his task from

the beginning has not been an easy one. Many of the children come from homes with no religious background and it is difficult to hold them. Youth is restless and many leave their home town never to return-or at any rate not to Church. Older folk generally remain loyal, though fewer nowadays are "twicers."

Mr. Hayward came with a vision of what this Church and its people might become. Much of the "Development Plan" was a child of his imagination. He has seen some hopes fulfilled, some frustrated, some ideas have had to be put in cold storage, some abandoned.

To some his theology has been "new," to others he has given a fresh insight into the meaning of the Bible; his preaching has been thoughtful and challenging, always presenting the changeless love of God, his definition of a Christian as one who consciously and conscientiously strives to follow Jesus Christ being applied to life in this day and age.

With a congregation where there is much sickness and loss of loved ones we praise God for the zeal with which both Mr. and Mrs. Hayward have carried out their pastoral visitation bringing solace and strength to many. We pray for God's rich blessing on their continued ministry amongst us.

THE OTHERS

In preparing the story of the life of the Church the problem arises—"What names are to be included?" The easiest answer would be "None." But this would make a lifeless account without flesh and blood. If names there be it is almost inevitable that leaders of organisations should be mentioned, but even here the list is too long to include all. It is therefore only right to record that loyal and efficient service has been rendered through the years by countless men and women whose names do not appear in these pages but who have found happiness by serving their Master in this place.

CLOSING WORDS

It is no easy task to take up and continue another's work, especially when that other is as saintly and wise a man as Mr. Cornwall. The present writer is as conscious as his readers will be of the imperfections and omissions of the latter part of this booklet.

He has left virtually unaltered the text up to the commencement of Mr. Franks's ministry, but it has seemed necessary to re-write the remainder of the original supplementing it with the material dating from the Opening of the Church.

In order to keep the size of this booklet within reasonable limits there is much that is inevitably omitted, but an attempt has been made to present a picture of the development and

progress of the Church from its war-time beginnings and of its life and work at the present time.

To conclude, Mr. Cornwall wrote: "The late Dr. Leslie Church defined the sanctuary as a holy place because therein men have kept tryst with God. And for its power, its influence, its radiancy the Church depends upon men and women who are God's representatives, not merely in attendance at public worship, but also manifesting discipleship in the ordinary routine ways of life, and revealing itself in the commonplace of life and practice.

When God wants things done, His gospel preached, His work extended, and His power shown to an indifferent world, He calls upon His followers to carry out the work. And that is why "Twixt Downs and the Sea" a new Church has been built at Barrington Road, West Worthing."

THE FOUNDATION AND THE SUPERSTRUCTURE

("Other foundation can no man lay than is laid, which is in Christ Jesus." I Corinthians 3 : 11.)

"The foundation is laid, it is the superstructure which depends upon us. Given the foundation we are to be the builders. Whether we think of the building of Christian character or of the Christian Church, the foundation must be Christ our Saviour, and we can only establish our work by faith in Him."

The late Dr. Leslie Church.

