



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY

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**ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY
COMMITTEE 2016-2017**

President	David Wells-Cole (2015-17)
Treasurer	Tarquin Wiggins (2016-20)
Secretary	Tim Coles (2015-17)
Members	John Pepper (immediate past-President) Jenson Jones (2014-17) John Austin (2014-17) Michael Hart (2016-19) Edward Watson-Williams (2016-19) William Jenkyns (2016-19) Website Manager
Co-opted to edit the magazine :	Charles Beresford (2017)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2017

As I write these words in early March the daffodils are flourishing in my garden. I am reminded of how one noticed the passing of the seasons at St. Michael's in the 1950s. I remember in particular a long Sunday walk (led by Brian Demaus, I think), which ended up in a field covered with wild daffodils in Wordsworthian profusion. I think we did this walk *en masse* at the end of the Lent Term every year, and the sight of those daffodils was always a revelation. Whatever one may think in hindsight about the sheer remoteness of the College in those far-off days, there is no doubt that its location instilled in many of us a deep love and appreciation of the English countryside. Indeed I remember that at the time I wrote a poem about the daffodils, though Wordsworth would not have been challenged by my schoolboy efforts. Later in the year there were delicious apples and damsons to be scrumped on the junior sports field.



But I also remember how cold the winters could be in the days when the seasons seemed to be much more clearly-defined than they are now. Shivering on the football field, shivering in the big dormitory, shivering in the chapel. St. Michael's is located a long way inland, far from from any coastline, so winters could be hard.

Now as I approach Tenbury on the twisting road from Worcester through Abberley, I am struck once more by that sense of another world – the hop-poles in the fields, the first glimpse of the Clee Hill – which fascinated me back then and still does so today. I know that nostalgia is a powerful emotion and that distance lends enchantment to the view, but our annual Reunions help to reinforce and even add to the memories of that special time.

I hope that many of you will be able to join us for this year's reunion on Saturday 23rd September. The programme and reply slip are on the end pages - all are welcome at the AGM, the special Evensong in Chapel and the dinner at the Fountain Inn.

The speaker at the reunion this year is Dr Andrew Gant, lecturer in Music at St Peter's College, Oxford. Dr Gant is a composer, choirmaster, singer, university lecturer and writer. He has directed the choirs of The Guards' Chapel, Worcester College Oxford, and Her Majesty's Chapel Royal. He is also the author of *Music* (2017), *O Sing unto the Lord – A History of English Church Music* (2015), and *Christmas Carols – from Village Green to Church Choir* (2014), which have been very well received, including excellent reviews in the national Press.

Last year's Reunion saw a healthy turnout of some 55 members and many old friendships were renewed, indicating that it is not just nostalgia that encourages us to attend these annual gatherings. Colonel Gerry Wells-Cole O.B.E., R.M. entertained us all with a memorably poignant speech about his time at St Michael's and how it had influenced him in his life and career. A summary of this follows details of last year's Reunion.

LAST YEAR'S REUNION

The Society's AGM took place in the Library.

It was agreed that reunions would revert to being held in September.

President's report : A floral tribute would be laid at the Founder's grave after the service on Sunday. It was reported that the 55 expected for dinner was 20 more than 2015.

Committee : Tarquin Wiggins was re-elected Treasurer; Edward Watson-Williams and Michael Hart were re-elected and William Jenkyns was added to the committee.

Donations : £450 to the St. Michael's PCC and £200 to the College as before, with a review in two years.

AOB. The question of storing the memorabilia was raised. It was questioned whether there might be any space in the College.

Cricket

It's been great fun to play an annual match against St Michael's Village and our thanks go out to everyone involved getting the sides out and producing such wonderful teas, but it has become a struggle to keep the enthusiasm going on both sides and the hallowed turf is not so hallowed anymore and is, quite honestly, dangerous to play cricket on. Last year's cricket was cancelled and we played golf at Ludlow instead. There will not be a cricket match at the 2017 Reunion either.

Golf

The reunion match at Ludlow was won by James Mealings.

The Golf Society match was at Kington, and was won By Simon Banfield with 36 points, second was Ian Holland 29; third equal were Liz Weston and Tim Coles 27; fourth Penny Scott 26; fifth John Pepper 21.

Please contact Tim Coles about details for golf this year - probably 9 am at Ludlow on Saturday 23rd September and at Kington in August.

Choral Evensong.

David Barclay directed the Holgate Consort, who were augmented by members of the Society with many others in the congregation. Stanford's *Coelos ascendit hodie* was followed by *Ye holy angels bright*.

Over many Michaelmas Commemorations Ouseley's iconic *Jerusalem on High* has earned a special place in the affections of many an ex-chorister of St Michael's.

The Founder's chant to *Psalm 91* and his tune '*Contemplation*' with the hymn *When all thy mercies, O my God my rising soul surveys* also always raise our spirits.

The *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat* by his protégé John Stainer was another wonderfully tuneful setting of the canticles that is not often heard now, but worth catching on u-tube!

The anthem was Bairstow's fine *Blessed City, heavenly Salem* - unfortunately the organist of York Minster did not live long enough to visit his grandson at St Michael's.

The service ended with Parry's *O praise ye the Lord*, a fitting culmination to a joyful celebration of the Victorian Anglican tradition that was a musical foundation for many of us.

Attendance at Reunion Dinner

John Austin	41.1 - 44.1
Derrick Jenkyns	41.2 - 44.2
Julian Wiltshire	43.3 - 48.1
Nigel Fulton	44.2 - 47.1
Mike Benson & Reiko	50.2 - 55.3
Michael Hart	50.3 - 54.2
Gerry/Mrs Wells Cole	51.3 - 57.2
Charles Beresford	52.2 - 57.2
David/Mrs Wells-Cole	53.3 - 59.2
Roger Mortimore	55.3 - 59.2
Robert/Mrs Humphries	55.3 - 59.2
Andrew Yarnold	56.3 - 59.2
Jenson Jones	57.2 - 59.3
Peter Beresford	57.3 - 62.2
David Ritchie	57.3 - 61.3
Peter Brill	60.1 - 64.1
Martin Cox & Katie	64.2 - 68.2
Stuart Meikle	67.3 - 73.2
Tory Paxman	72.3 - 77.2
William Jenkyns	72.3 - 78.2
Ed Watson-Williams	73.2 - 77.2
Richard/Mrs Franklin	73.3 - 78.2
John Pepper	74.2 - 78.3
Tarquin Wiggins	74.2 - 78.3
Chris & Alison Coles	74.2 - 79.2

September 2016

Tim Coles	75.2 - 81.2
James Mealings	75.3 - 81.2
Simon Banfield	76.1 - 81.2
Guy Holland	76.3 - 82.2

Parents, Honorary Members and Supporters

Dick and Ann Fox
David & Jean Harrison
Ian & Mary Holland
Eric Hudson
Tony & Janet Penn
David & Sheila Pepper
Peter & Penny Scott
John & Liz Weston
Mark Willis
Jane Yardley

Staff

Lucian Nethsingha
Jenny Paxman

The speaker at the dinner was Gerry Wells-Cole, who was at St Michael's from autumn 1951 to summer 1957 and is David's brother. He entertained us with a variety of really interesting anecdotes from his eventful life.

After St. Michael's and Epsom he joined the Royal Marines. He served with 40 Commando in action in Malaysia, Aden, Northern Ireland and the Falklands. Then after three years in Bavaria and commanding the Logistic



Regiment in Plymouth he was Commandant of the Commando Training Centre at Lymington, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

After leaving the Royal Marines he was Director of the Somerset Branch of the Red Cross and then Chief Executive of the North West of England and Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadets for 14 years until he retired in 2013. During this time he also enjoyed being a Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, regularly attending the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool and concerts by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Reflecting on his time at St. Michael's he remembered arriving as a seven year-old, a long way from his family in Lincoln. Gerry's father was a medical doctor who had become paralysed from polio in 1947 and died in Gerry's first year at St Michael's. Gerry described how reacting against the trauma helped him to develop initiative, determination to do what he believed in and fierce independence. He ran away from school a couple of times and was told that if he did it again he would be expelled. "No such thing as pastoral care in those days!"

Settling down at the school he began to enjoy life. He passed his voice test and joined the choir shortly before the Coronation in 1953, and remembers the pride in knowing that our Head Chorister Michael Hartley had been selected to sing in the Coronation at the Abbey. Another musical highlight was the Centenary in 1956, when Benjamin Britten conducted the "Antiphon" that he had composed for the occasion and signed a copy for each member of the choir afterwards.

Sport played a big part in his life. He captained the cricket XI and was in the first teams for football and rugby. The activities of the cubs and scouts were also fondly remembered and stood him in good stead for later life. His uncle, who was Chief Scout of Worcestershire, came to inspect the troop.

He identified five ways in which he gained from his time at St. Michael's :

- * Boarding while overcoming his unhappy start at the school helped to forge his character and taught him to be resilient, determined and independent;
- * Learning to love the outdoors and countryside helped considerably during his early time in the Royal Marines that involved jungle, desert, moors and Norwegian snows;
- * The personal discipline learned at an early age from the musical training by Kenneth Beard was also enormously beneficial for later life in the Royal Marines;

* Being given responsibility in sport and the choir was a good grounding for developing and using leadership skills later in life.

* A lifelong love of music, in particular choral music, “can hardly be avoided by any boy who had the wonderful musical training experienced by those in the choir.” In the last three years since retiring he has been able to start singing regularly again with a couple of choirs in Taunton.

He summarised by saying that he loved his time at St. Michael’s and has nothing but happy memories of the place, considering himself fortunate to have been there.

OBITUARIES

Preb. Derrik Jenkyns and Shelagh Jenkyns

22 Oct 1930- 8 Mar 2017

SMC 1941.2 - 1944.2

Derrik was the eldest son of Rev Percy and Myfanwy Jenkyns and was born in Llandoverly on 22nd October 1930. His family moved to Bettws-y-Crwyn in the Clun Valley and then to Broseley, where his life-long love of the sights and sounds of steam and singing began with the Severn Valley railway and St. Michael’s.



Despite it being wartime, St. Michael’s was one of the foremost influences on his whole life. The highest of musical standards, the liturgy and the friendships combined to shape his personality. Its effect spilled over the generations and in 1972 he sent his son William to experience Tenbury winters in short trousers too.

After St. Michael’s he went to Ellesmere College in Shropshire. National Service in the Royal Signals was followed by a time as a trainee at Lloyd’s Bank. While at the Hammersmith branch he felt the call to the ordained ministry. While training at Salisbury and Wells Theological College he met Shelagh, who was teaching in Salisbury. He was ordained in Peterborough in 1961 and they were married a couple of months later.

Over the next 35 years he and Shelagh served in 5 parishes. His curacy was in Kettering, followed by a spell with the Missions to Seamen in Middlesborough. Then in 1964 he was appointed Vicar of St. George's Shrewsbury, where William and Jemma were born. He worked particularly with children and their mothers, with travelling families and he was chaplain to Shrewsbury hospitals.

Seven years later he moved to an urban parish as Vicar of St Paul's Wood Green, Wednesbury, where he made a great impression, even before he arrived. On the morning that his appointment was announced in church a huge stone monument to the church benefactor fell from the wall with a resounding crash. A sign of things to come? No, the five years here were some of the most productive and influential in his ministry and included the building and consecration of a new church in the parish.

In 1976 Shropshire was calling again and he served in Stokesay for ten years, achieving several successful social action initiatives, ranging from a respite home and a residential travellers' site to a 5-minute feature every Sunday on local pirate radio station Sunshine. He was also Rural Dean and Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral. After ten years he moved to the Kington group of parishes for a further decade of service before retiring to Llantroft, which is still just in Shropshire, and Ludlow.

An active retirement included looking after a section of the Offa's Dyke path and involvement in the Severn Valley and Bishop's Castle Railways. But above all Derrik remained involved with the St. Michael's College Society, not only returning annually to share memories, but serving as President and often leading Evensong.

Shelagh's death last summer after a very short illness was a great shock. Following a fall six months later, Derrik was very well cared for in Hereford and then Ludlow hospitals during his last days. We feel enriched by memories of him and his influence on so many lives. At the heart of his ethos was a deep conviction that mankind should seek peace wherever it can be found.

William Jenkyns

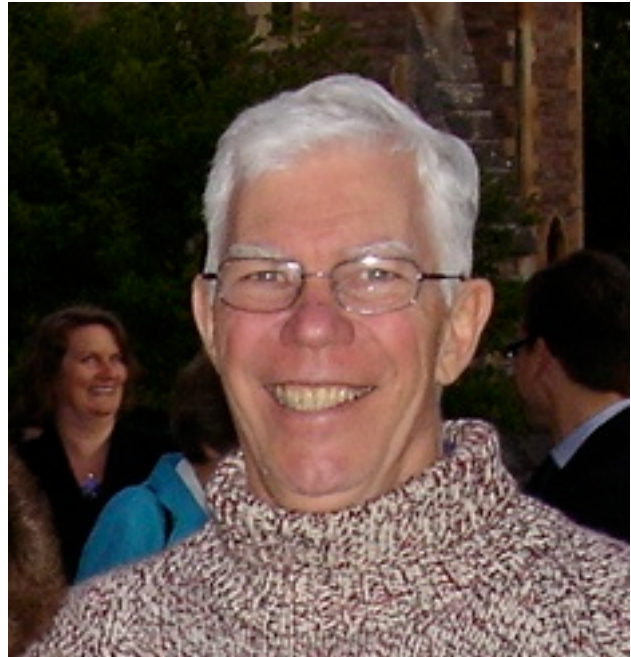
Robert Arthur Edwards : 2 April 1926 - 12 January 2016
SMC 1937.1 - 1939.2

His daughter Liz wrote that he lived all his life in Stourbridge and often spoke of the happy time he had at St. Michael's and the beautiful quality of the music-making there.

Peter Kugelman

SMC 1952.3 - 1953.3

Peter Kugelman, who died last year, brought his wife when he came to the reunion in 2009. He lived in Charters Towers, a town in North Queensland, Australia that was settled when gold was found in the late 19th century. He had taught science there for many years and was well-known in the community. I visited him in 1998 and was amazed that he recognised me by name immediately although we had only known each other at St



Michael's for a year in the 1950s when his clergyman father spent that year in England. We enjoyed touring his father's parish of Elton, near Peterborough, when he came over for his only subsequent visit to this country. His cheerful and friendly character is typified in this photo taken at the reunion.

Maureen Parry, nee Evans

SMC Matron 1962-1967. Died 2016.

Maureen met her husband Dennis Parry when they were on the staff at St. Michael's. Frederick Appleby and Peter Harding-Roberts have written warmly about their memories of her.

Nora Brown

SMC 1968.3 - 1975.2. Died 2016.

QUINQUENNIAL SNIPPETS FROM PAST MAGAZINES : 1932 - 1982

Dipping into the contemporary magazines every five years illustrates some of the issues, people and places that may trigger memories ...

1932 Warden : Mr Swann

“In the Lent term the College consisted of only 29 boys. This number rose to 35 in the Summer Term and an extra master was engaged; ... Those who joined the College in September were, however, a special vintage, for they included Anthony Brian Demaus”... “A performance of

Messiah was given in conjunction with the Tenbury Musical Society and conducted by the Warden. The bass soloist was our own evergreen George Coles.” (From the 1982 magazine “50 years ago”)

1937 Warden : Mr Buckmaster

There were 41 Boys in the school. A broadcast on 27th July included eleven musical items.

The Cubs and Scouts went to the Eastnor Jamboree with others from Gloucester, Hereford and Worcestershire and met the Chief Scout. A weekend of festivities at the summer half term included a cricket match against the Fathers, swimming and athletics sports.

1942 Acting Warden : Mr Billen

Staff changes caused by the war included the Warden, Mr Buckmaster, serving as a Chaplain in the Royal Navy and the Choirmaster Mr Menzies, serving in the army. His role was carried out by Sir Sydney Nicholson, who brought the School of English Church Music to St Michael’s after their London office was bombed and their Chislehurst College was closed and let. This led to holiday courses and summer schools at St Michael’s, attracting choirboys and men from churches in all parts of the country. There was also a festival for affiliated choirs in the neighbourhood and the formation of a village choir that sang at two services each Sunday during the holidays.

SMC Librarian Dr Fellowes broadcast a programme on 25th August with musical illustrations on the SMC Library ... it was a fascinating account and made one realise how important the College is.

1947 Warden from January 1947 : Mr Kemp-Welch

A performance of Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* in the Dining Hall featured Mrs Kemp-Welch both playing the violin in the orchestra and standing in for the part of Third Witch. Her duet with Christopher Robinson as Second Witch “sounded beautifully spirited and was one of the highlights of two wonderful performances.”

1952 Warden : Mr Kemp-Welch

The Quarry Wood has become once again the scene of energetic hut-building, and there are patrol huts, independent Scout huts, and even huts high up in trees. The Elephant Hut has been entirely rebuilt and re-thatched with yew.

The Athletic Sports were held on Saturday July 19th. Once again the weather was absolutely perfect and a very large number of parents and friends were present Canon Alderson gave away the prizes and afterwards made a delightful speech in which he compared the athletic sports of today with his own time at St. Michael's in the far distant days of Sir Frederick Ouseley's "reign".

1957 Warden : Mr Stride

In the rush of cricket, work, eating and sleeping, the daily dip in the swimming bath takes the form of a 'cooler' after an hour on the cricket field and the bath is crowded ... To encourage the boys to make an effort to learn and practise, a series of eight progressive tests was drawn up last summer... We began with fifteen swimmers and finished with twenty-seven ... passing 98 tests. This year we began with twenty and have already more than half the school able to swim - over 150 tests passed ... if this progress can be maintained the time may not be far off when most boys learn to swim in their first term at St. Michael's ... (Mr Oldroyd)

1962 Warden : Mr Stride

Regular readers of these notes will want to know if the optimism I indicated last year about football was justified : it is a great pleasure to be able to report that neither of our soccer teams was beaten and that our rugger team won every match... Games are not all-important, but if they are worth playing at all they are worth playing well. (Warden)

During the past few months we have had to turn away a number of prospective new boys because of lack of room. Entries for the future are also very good ...

1967 Warden : Mr Paxman

In July the old kind of school desk was used for the last time... The new facilities provided in the Art Room resulted in a veritable outburst of painting. Some real enthusiasts among the boys have been rising early from their beds and going off at first light to work with brush and pen ... a painting by MJ Brisbane was selected for showing in London and then to tour the provinces as part of the National Exhibition of Children's Art ...

There are now some Public Schools which will accept a boy who does not offer Latin ... Oxford has decided to keep Latin as an entrance requirement for all undergraduates our policy must be to continue

teaching Latin to every boy capable of profiting from it. The boy who does not do Latin must be the rare exception rather than the rule.

1972 Warden : Mr Paxman

“St. Michael’s College is quite used to losing the services of gifted organists for more important posts. Indeed the College has always tried to choose a young man of the right calibre who, after some years of the unique experience that St. Michael’s affords, would secure distinguished promotion. There have been many examples of this since our Founder spotted the talent of young John Stainer in 1857, and the roll of our College organists includes future chief musicians of both St Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. But while we are proud of this as well as accustomed to it, that does not lessen our sense of loss when the moment of parting comes..... “The last four organists were Mr Menzies (1935-1952) to Maidstone Parish Church then Portsmouth Cathedral, Mr Beard (1952-1957) to Southwell Minster, Mr Nethsingha (1957-1972) to Exeter Cathedral, and 1985 Mr Judd to St.George’s Chapel, Windsor.

1977 Warden : Mr Walters

The Pioneers had some interesting expeditions ... a hike over the Malvern Hills ... a climb up Bredon Hill ... rowing on the Teme at Ludlow ... the Long Mynd ... canoeing at Llangorse ... the Black Mountains ... We erected a flagpole on the huge climbing frame which we had constructed on the tennis court and which has been used a great deal; we reconstructed the “Swing Points” and the Tree House had a face-lift; and the Fancy Dress Parade included some really impressive costumes... (Mr Grey)

1982 Warden : Mr Walters

Old Boys will be delighted to learn that the centre of the big dormitory has now been carpeted, thus providing greater warmth and comfort. (*So no more hiding midnight feasts under loose floorboards? ed*) ... The girls’ boarding dormitory opened and a shower and washbasin area for them provided at the end of the Chapel Dormitory. The boys bath room area has been altered very considerably. The cast iron baths have been removed and a set of showers put in their place; the old wash-basins, which had been put in in 1915, have been removed and a set of new wash-basins put in their place. Some of the piping to both these areas was, to say the very least, precarious and water now flows at an exciting rate... (Warden)

ST MICHAEL'S in the 1940s : Three memories from John Austin

i. Cub badges

I find it hard to recall details of my days in the Cubs, except that by doing or achieving certain things we could obtain 'badges'. We could sew these onto our cub sweaters. Some boys had quite a few.



I certainly had one, which was for cooking. In order to gain this Miss Ashley said I had to poach an egg. So one afternoon after lessons I went down the Cinder Track to the big open shed, which I think we called the Den. I took some paper and a box of matches, collected some twigs and small pieces of wood and made a small fire. I got a jerry-can of about 6 inches across and 8 inches tall and put some water in it. I then balanced it on the sticks of the fire and this is where I made my first major culinary error - I cracked two eggs into it. They float down, rather like two miniature parachutes. I suppose some time later the water heated up and boiled. When all was done I went and told Katie Ashley that I had poached my eggs. When she looked down and saw the two white circles lying flat she said "Well John, if you can manage to scrape them off the bottom, and if you take them into supper and eat them, you can have the badge."



(Wartime rationing of one egg per week perhaps adds poignancy to this memory ... ed)

AKELA

ii. Chariot Races

In the cubs we used to have Chariot Races down on the bottom field, turning right off the Cinder Track. Every cub and scout had a six-foot pole of wood, which could be used for a number of purposes. (*I still have mine, which is 4'9 with faded blue ribbon attached - ed*).

Two would make a tent pole and four would make a chariot. This was how it was done. You need four poles tied together in a square shape, with perhaps 12 inches projecting at each corner. Place it on the ground. Get two cubs or scouts to lift up the front by holding the projecting pieces, whilst the other two projecting pieces are resting on the ground at the back. Get a third cub or scout to stand on the pole at the back whilst hanging on with his hands to poles at the front. This is the Charioteer. Just decorate where the Charioteers' hands are resting with small pieces of blue or green ribbon, and it is finished.

For a race you obviously put three or four chariots in a row on the starting line. You determine a place at the bottom of the field where you all turnabout, and race back to the finishing line. The winning team gets an extra piece of toast at teatime!

iii. Dr Billen

The Reverend Arthur Victor Billen, DD, was the Acting Warden during the war while Mr Buckmaster served as a Naval Chaplain. I'm sure Dr Billen was a good headmaster, but he was very distant from us boys. That is unless one of us misbehaved and then he would cane the culprit - he pronounced it "kine".

He was a scholar of some note, speaking ancient Greek quite fluently. One Sunday a trick was played on him. There was a copy of the Bible in ancient Greek in the Library and someone had put it on the lectern open at the appropriate place. When the time came for the Epistle or the Gospel Dr Billen walked up the steps to the lectern. All the boys were 'in the know' and watched with bated breath. Without any hesitation he proceeded to read the lesson in ancient Greek.

Dr Billen's wife's name was Gertrude and she was a large, important-looking woman. In retrospect I think she looked a bit like a Wagnerian Brunhilde, but perhaps this is because I first heard about 'The Ring' in a talk by Dr Billen in the library. She never spoke to us boys, which was a pity. I think that she should have done.

THE ORIGINS of the ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE LIBRARY

Michael Hart

Sir Frederick Ouseley's father, Sir Gore, died while Frederick was still an undergraduate at Christchurch, Oxford. He inherited his father's baronetcy and the family estate of Hall Barn Park, near Beaconsfield. When the Founder decided to build his own college he had sufficient funds to carry out this mammoth task. He asked his architect, Henry Woodyer, to include a room where the Ouseley family library could be housed. Until 1919 the room we all knew as the famous Music Library only housed this general library of about seven thousand books.



From 1855 the Founder was Precentor of Hereford Cathedral and spent most of his time in Hereford. He had his lodgings at the college and kept a general eye on things, but it was run by John Hampton and other laymen. The Founder kept the College financially afloat when necessary.

During his lifetime what became the Music Library was gradually built up and housed in the middle ground floor room of his lodgings and in various cupboards on the first floor corridor. Its gradual growth was due to the extraordinary flair that Ouseley seems to have possessed for discovering the existence of treasures in hidden places, as well as to his expert knowledge. He was well served by a number of discriminating buyers. Fortunately, too, he had the necessary wealth, but prices of such things then were trifling in comparison with those of today. In addition to this, several of his friends gave him presents, chief among these being the priceless manuscript of Handel's Messiah which the composer used when conducting the first performance of that famous work in Dublin in 1742.

Sir Frederick died in 1889 and John Hampton took over as Warden. He almost worshipped the Founder and decided that absolutely nothing at the college should change after his death. This situation continued until

1916 when John Hampton resigned and Ernest Henry Swann was appointed. 60 years had passed since the college was founded and nothing had been done to “modernise” the place, such as the provision of running hot water, central heating and decent sanitation.

It was at the funeral of Sir Hubert Parry in St Paul’s Cathedral in the autumn of 1918 that Edmund Fellowes met William Barclay Squire, who asked him if he would undertake the much-needed task of putting Sir Frederick’s music library in order. Shortly after this, Fellowes paid a visit to Tenbury where he wanted to examine certain manuscripts. At that time he was overwhelmed with work on his madrigals and Tudor Church Music edition, but after some hesitation he decided to embark on the task.

It could be seen at once that it was going to be a big undertaking. The greater part of the books was housed in the central ground floor room of the Founder’s lodgings in complete disorder; but a large number, including many extremely valuable volumes, were scattered all over the college in small book shelves and in cupboards. There were few that did not urgently need repair. This unfortunate state of things must have developed mainly since the Founder’s death thirty years earlier. The catalogues, such as they were, proved to be very inadequate and incomplete. Two ponderous tomes, laboriously compiled, were of no practical value.

The task that faced him was to make an entirely new arrangement of all the 4000 volumes and to assemble them in one place; then to make a card index of the printed books and a catalogue of the manuscripts. After that the volumes themselves needed putting into a state of good repair.

All this took about 25 years to complete. Henry Swann, the third warden, agreed to the proposal that accommodation for the books should be found in the room occupied by the Ouseley family library. For this purpose many unimportant books were removed and the bookcases were raised to the ceiling. This is how most of us remember the library. It was considered to be the most important music library, not only in



DR. EDMUND H. FELLOWES, C.H.

Photo: *Windsor, Singh & Alex Koper*

England, but also in Europe and America. In the mid 1950's a fireproof room was built in what was the Train Room. The Pilgrim Trust gave a grant for this work. In his Will the Founder stipulated that should his college ever close then the Bodleian Library at Oxford University was to be offered the Music Library. This was what happened and all the books are catalogued under the Tenbury numbers.

On his many visits to St Michael's to work on the library Edmund Fellowes came across some exciting and unknown books. Delving in cupboards in the cellars during one visit, he found, together with some tin cans and other lumber, the very handsome Bible and Prayer Book believed to be those used at Westminster Abbey at the coronation of Charles II. The covers of these books were heavily embroidered in silver bullion work on light blue velvet, displaying the Royal Arms and Cypher. These books had come into the possession of Sir Bulstrode Whitelock in the time of Charles II, and had passed by inheritance to Sir Frederick's mother, the last representative and heiress of the Whitelock family. They were very suitably sold by the trustees of the college in 1919 to Queen Mary, who presented them to George V. They are now in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. I wrote to the Head Librarian at Windsor last May and explained the links with St. Michael's, including Edmund Fellowes, a Canon of Windsor, and Sir Walter Parratt, who was a Fellow of St Michael's, 'Master of the Queen's Musick' and organist of St George's Chapel, as was our own Dr Christopher Robinson. I asked if it might be possible to obtain a photograph of the front covers of these books. As yet I have not received a reply.

OUSELEY and BEDFORD'S MUSICAL SOCIETY

Mike Benson

My book about the history of Bedford Choral Society was published at the end of 2015 by Boydell & Brewer, on behalf of Bedfordshire Historical Record Society. This would be irrelevant for the St. Michael's College Society Magazine, except that The Rev. Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley features a couple of times in the book.

The founder of Bedford Choral Society (originally Bedford Amateur Musical Society; "Amateur" was dropped in 1880; "Musical" was changed to "Choral" in 1988) was Philip Diemer, who was a student at the Royal Academy of Music in the 1850s at the same time as Arthur

Mike Benson



Sullivan. Philip Diemer was appointed organist of Holy Trinity church when he returned to Bedford in the late 1850s.

Holy Trinity church was enlarged late in 1866, a couple of months before the Bedford Musical Society was founded. Ouseley was among the dignitaries who attended the special sung Holy Communion and Evensong to celebrate the re-opening. There are three possible reasons why he may have been there: first, Ouseley had been a university friend of Rev Henry East Havergal (1820-1875)* who by then was vicar of Cople, a village near to

Bedford; second, Ouseley may have been related to Thomas Ouseley, a parishioner of Holy Trinity – Thomas's daughter, Florence, regularly played the violin in the Musical Society orchestra; third, by 1866 Ouseley was prominent in church musical circles. He had recently been involved in the compilation of the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (with Rev. Sir Henry Baker and W. H. Monk).

Another point of interest, noted in the newspaper report, is that the Rev. J. Hampton of St. Michael's, Tenbury was one of three clergy who assisted Philip Diemer with the choir. The chants for the *Venite* and the psalms in morning prayer which preceded Holy Communion were by Ouseley, and the *Anthem* was his well-known "From the rising of the sun". The sermon at evening prayer was preached by Ouseley and the newspaper report describes it as "... an able and persuasive discourse upon Isaiah lvi,7 ...".

The March from Ouseley's oratorio *The Martyrdom of St. Polycarp* was performed twice by the Bedford Musical Society in its early days – in 1868 and in 1878.

The Society's second conductor, Dr. Harry Alfred Harding, appointed in 1900, took his Doctorate of Music at Oxford University in 1882, composing an oratorio on the subject of St. Thomas. It was performed in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, at his own expense as was then the custom. Ouseley, as the Professor of Music at Oxford University for over thirty years, was the examiner and gave the oratorio the commendation of "great credit". Dr. Harding's obituarist in the *Bedfordshire Times and Independent* wrote: "How many hundreds of pupils have been shown with pride that bulky full score, page after page of firm, clear notation?"

* Henry East Havergal was the son of Rev. W. H Havergal (from 1845 Rector of St. Nicholas, Worcester). One of his brothers was Francis Tebbs Havergal, author of *The Memorials of F.A.G. Ouseley*. Henry's youngest sister was Frances Ridley Havergal, whose religious poetry was very popular at one time. She is now probably best known as author of the hymn *Take my life, and let it be*. The tune now usually used for this hymn is based on the *Kyrie* from Mozart's *12th Mass*, generally attributed to Wenzel Muller (1747-1835). The *12th Mass* was sung in 1868 by Bedford Musical Society.

THE OUSELEY TRUST

www.ouseleytrust.org.uk/

The Ouseley Trust administers the funds that arose from the closure and sale of St Michael's College. It is a registered charity numbered 527519 constituted by a Scheme made by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales on 6 December 1989.

The object of the charity is:

'to [promote and maintain] to a high standard the choral services of the Church of England, the Church in Wales or the Church of Ireland (whether simple or elaborate) in such ways as the trustees... think fit, including... promoting the religious, musical and secular education of pupils attending any school in which instruction in the doctrines of any of the said churches is given and the performance of the liturgy is observed.'

The Trust's income is almost wholly derived from its historic endowment and, in recent years, it has enabled the trustees to make grants averaging £130,000 per annum. By 2016 over £2.5 million had been distributed.

Up to forty grants have been awarded each year since the Trust was established, ranging from £150 for the purchase of music to £50,000 for the endowment of a cathedral choristership bearing Ouseley's name.

The Trust is administered and managed by a body of twelve trustees - six nominative and six co-optative. The nominative trustees are appointed by the office holders or institutions named below. The co-optative trustees are appointed by the trustees themselves.

The trustees usually meet twice a year - in March and October.

Trustees

Nominative trustees

Mrs Gillian Perkins (by the Archbishop of Canterbury)

Dr Christopher J Robinson CVO CBE (by the Royal College of Organists)

Canon Richard White MBE (by the Choir Schools Association)

The Very Reverend Mark Boyling, Dean of Carlisle (by the Archbishop of York)

Timothy Byram-Wigfield (by the Church Music Society)

Canon Paul Mason (by the Royal College of Music)

Co-optative trustees

Canon Stephen M Darlington

Adrian Barlow

N Adam Ridley

Dr John Rutter CBE

The Reverend Canon Joanna Spreadbury

Vacancy

Clerk

Martin B M Williams FSA

MUSIC AT ST MICHAEL'S, SPRING & SUMMER 2017

Musical Events telephone number: 07866 411146

(For general queries and ticket reservations)

Tickets available on the door,

by phone and from Harlequin Gift Shop, Tenbury

one month prior to the event.

Friday 31st March 7.30pm

An Evening of Song and Poetry. Jane Field and
Rose Rowley (singers) and poetry read by members
of The Border Poets.

Good Friday 14th April 7 pm Mozart Requiem

performed by The Holgate Singers, Director: David Barclay

Friday 21st April 11.30am

Visit by the Bristol and District Organists' Association

Sunday 23rd April 10 am St. George's Day

Choral BCP Communion sung by St. Michael's Church Choir.

Director: John Swindells; Organist: Roger Judd

Saturday 6th May 3 pm

Choral Evensong sung by The Ferncumbe Chorale.

Director: Alastair Sampson; Organist: John Swindells

Saturday 20th May 7.30 pm

Concert given by The Edge Chamber choir
"From Light to Darkness". Director: Ros Crouch
Including music by McDowall, MacMillan, Whitacre, Stanford, Elgar,
and a world premiere written especially for the concert by local
composer and musician Richard White.

Sunday 28th May 10 am

Choral BCP Communion sung to William Byrd's Mass
for 4 Voices. The Birmingham Consort.

Sunday 11th June 12.30 pm

Lunch with light organ music.

Saturday 24th June 7.30 pm

The Film Orchestra in concert.
Music from the small and large screen.
Director: Jack Campey

Sunday 25th June 10 am

Choral BCP Communion sung to Hummel Mass in Bb.
The Hereford Church Singers.
Director: John Eden; Organist: John Swindells

Saturday 15th July 7.30 pm

Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle
performed by The St. Michael's Singers
with soloists from the Elgar School of Music.
Pianists: Stephen Halstead and Cath Ainsworth
Harmonium: Roger Judd ; Director: John Swindells

Sunday 23rd July 10 am

Choral BCP Communion sung by the choir of
St. Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham.
Director: Paul Carr

3pm Choral Evensong sung by St. Paul's Choir.

MUSIC AT ST. MICHAEL'S, AUTUMN 2017

Saturday 23rd September 6 pm

Choral Evensong : The SMC Society Reunion
The Holgate Consort. Director: David Barclay

Sunday 24th September 10 am
Choral BCP Communion for the Patronal Festival.
Emmanuel Church Choir, Sutton Coldfield.
Director: Richard Mason

3 pm Choral Evensong, Emmanuel Church Choir.

Sunday 12th November 10 am Remembrance Sunday
CW Communion,
The St. Michael's Church Choir. Director: John Swindells

Saturday 9th December 6.30 pm
Christmas Carol Service,
The Birmingham University Singers.
Director: Dr Paul Rodmell

Sunday 10th December 10 am
Choral Communion.
The Birmingham University Singers.

3pm Choral Evensong
The Birmingham University Singers.

Regular Monthly Service Schedule at St Michael's:

First Sunday of the Month:

Family Service 10 am
An informal, short, lay led service.

Second Sunday of the Month:

Parish Communion, Common Worship 10 am

Third Sunday of the Month:

Family Communion 11.30 am
Preceded by refreshments from 11am

Fourth Sunday of the Month:

Choral Communion BCP 10 am
*A choir-led service following the
1662 Book of Common Prayer.*

Musical Director: John Swindells B.Mus. ARCO
Organist Emeritus: Roger Judd FRCO
Assistant Organist: Maureen Murfitt-Swindells FRCO
Musical Events Secretary: Dr Naomi Percival

NOTICES AND MISCELLANY

St. Michael's and the World-Wide Web

<http://www.smcsociety.co.uk>

The Society has for a number of years now had a presence on the web, with several members getting back in touch as a result of coming across the website via Google or other search engines.

Delivery of the annual Newsletter by electronic methods has also meant that we can reach a wider membership and keep our costs down at the same time. It's always a surprise to see what memorabilia is being uncovered in the form of photographs/school lists/magazines and so on, and much of this is being made available via the website.

If you haven't visited the site recently, please feel free to do so. You can even fill in a new Banker's Order on-line if you aren't yet up to date with your subscription!

We hope that you find something of interest on our website, and that perhaps you will be encouraged to contribute SMC memories of your own.

William Jenkyns, SMCS website.

SMCS Subscriptions

The Society subscription is currently **£15** per annum.

This is a suggested figure - you may donate more if you wish!

The Treasurer is Tarquin Wiggins,
3 Green Meadows, Hom Green, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. HR9 7RE

A bank Standing Order form is available on our website

<http://www.smcsociety.co.uk>

or on request from the Secretary or Treasurer

Newsletter 2018

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

(Preferably electronically as it saves substantial re-typing)

Email to: tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk

or post to Tim Coles, The Moor Hall, Cleedownton, Ludlow, SY8 3EG

The following may be available to purchase at the Reunion, if not sold out previously. Please bring any such items that you wish to part with, in case anyone else would like them.

SMCS ties (£10)

SMCS Centenary mugs (£3.50)

'Memories of St. Michael's' (£7) (edited by Charles Beresford in 2006)
Flashbacks by 30 people who were pupils between the 1920s and 1980s,
together with articles and appendices with names of staff and pupils.

Recordings of St Michael's Choir : 2 CD set compiled by William Jenkyns (£10), available from Michael Hart.

'Elgar, Ouseley and St Michael's' (£2.50) A personal account by John Austin (2006)

'Ouseley and his Angels' The life of St Michael's College and its Founder (£21) by David Bland (2000)

Where are you?

The lists of postal and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers are currently being updated.

It would be very helpful if those members who have not already done so could send updates to the Secretary, Tim Coles. tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk

The printed version of the magazine includes the current list of addresses known to the Secretary. This will be sent by post to the membership in the near future.

REUNION 2017

Profile of DR ANDREW GANT, the Speaker on 23rd September 2017

Singer - Choral Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, and subsequently sang with several leading ensembles including the Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, The Monteverdi Choir and the Cambridge Singers. He was the first tenor and musical director of the Light Blues, for whom he wrote arrangements and with whom he toured in several countries. He was a Lay Clerk at Westminster Abbey for a couple of years and directed choirs at Selwyn College, Cambridge, the Guards Chapel in London, Worcester College, Oxford, and the Chapels Royal.



Academic - Stipendiary Lecturer in Music at St Peter's College, Oxford. His London PhD (2002) was in composition and contemporary music.

Composer - He won prizes for composition at Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music. Works include oratorio, operas, a symphony, a song cycle for counter-tenor James Bowman and several works for choirs. He has also edited collections of hymn preludes and anthems, which are published by Mayhew.

Author - *'A history of our favourite Christmas Carols'* (2013) is an inspiring journey through the hotchpotch of popular carols that "have the power to summon up a special kind of midwinter mood, like the aroma of mince pies, mulled wine and the twinkle of lights on a tree. It's a kind of magic - but how did they get that magic? "

'O sing unto the Lord' (2015) "follows the contours of English church music" - it is a lively biography of "a tradition of enduring value and beauty". If you've ever wondered what was the place of Ouseley's "big

idea” of founding St Michael’s in the larger context of church music, this is a significant account. There are also references to compositions by Ouseley and many of his friends and others associated with the College. Gant illustrates changes in musical fashion, for example “It seems hardly credible to us that music like Ouseley’s rather maudlin *O Saviour of the World* was seen as dangerously jolly and subversively modernistic” (by Nathaniel Woodard).

“*Music*” (2017) is a wide-ranging and thoughtful account of what music is and the place of music in society. He juxtaposes compositional styles effectively and draws out logical threads. For example :

“Music students today quite happily study Byrd by day and play grunge death metal by night. By contrast, it’s a bit hard to imagine Britten or Vaughan Williams in the 1930s playing the washboard in a skiffle band. Perhaps they should have done.”

“If you spend time sight-reading a contemporary piece by Jonathan Harvey (*ex-SMC*) or James MacMillan, then turn back to Palestrina, the fourths and fifths in the Renaissance music don’t make quite as much sense as they did before, at least until you get used to them again ... meaning, like so much else, is fluid ... reports of the death of the diminished seventh have probably been exaggerated.”

“How does music let us unweave its secrets? Learn about it, then forget what you’ve learned. Be critically engaged, but be open to everything. Take the same approach to music as you do to people - be liberal. Be inquisitive, be informed, then listen. Just listen.”

Public service - He was elected to Oxford City Council as a Liberal Democrat councillor in 2014 and has led the LibDem group and the opposition since 2016, becoming the interim prospective parliamentary candidate for the Cotswold constituency. *Charles Beresford*

St. Michael's College Society

2017 Reunion

Programme and Timings

23rd September 2017

Families and guests are most welcome to attend.

The following events will take place in St. Michael's Church,
with meals at the Fountain Inn, Oldwood Common.

Lunch	Available at the Fountain Inn. Please book direct.
2.00	AGM This year it will take place in the Church.
3.00	Choir Practice As at several previous reunions, David Barclay will be leading the Holgate Consort and will welcome SMCS members and friends who would like to sing in the choir.
5.30	Evensong The canticles will be to Stanford in B flat
6.45	Photograph A visual record of the 2017 reunion
7.00 for 7.30	Annual Dinner at the Fountain Inn Guest Speaker : Dr Andrew Gant

SMCS Annual Reunion Dinner

23rd September 2017

at the Fountain Inn, Oldwood Common

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Please reply to Tim Coles :

email : tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk
post : The Moor Hall, Cleedownton, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3EG
phone : 01584 823 209 or 07912 122 763

**Please return the Booking Form overleaf,
enclosing a cheque to 'St Michael's College Society'
at least one week before the dinner.**

Cost : £20 each

Starter	Tomato and Basil Soup Pate Prawn Salad
Main course	Roast Beef Chicken with red wine sauce Salmon with a white wine sauce Caramelised onion and mozzarella tartlettes
Sweet course	Chocolate and Baileys cheese cake Lemon meringue pie Fresh fruit Pavlova Cheese and biscuits
	Coffee and mints



SMCS Annual Reunion 2017 Booking Form

Name :

Years at SMC :

Telephone :

e-mail :

Address *(if different from the list of members on a previous page)*

1. **Reunion Dinner** : 23rd September 2017
(Wives, husbands, Partners are welcome too) Number _____

Please see menu overleaf :

Starter :

Main course :

Sweet course :

Any Dietary requirements :

2. **Golf** : Would you like to play in a Reunion Golf Competition
- probably at Ludlow GC - on the Saturday morning?

Please circle :

Yes / No

3. **Evensong** : Would you like to sing in the choir at Evensong?

Please circle :

Yes / No

Soprano Contralto Tenor Bass



*Another meal, about sixty years ago,
including at least five of last year's attenders
and several others whom they recognise.*

*Staff include the Warden Mr Kemp-Welch, Mr Beard
& Mr Heywood-Waddington.*