

## CHAPTER EIGHT

## ST.MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

The foundation stone of St.Mary's church was laid on 9 May, 1836, by H.R.H. Prince George of Cambridge, who made a very brief speech. He presented £5 to be divided among the workmen, and a sovereign to each of the Charity children who had sung Psalm 100 during the ceremony.

The new church cost £3,200. The architect was W. Scamp, Clerk of the Works at Windsor Castle, who had designed St.Paul's Church, Malta; and the contractors were T. and H. George, of Windsor.

It was an exceedingly plain, oblong building of stock bricks, with ugly deal galleries on three sides of the interior, and inconvenient deal pews covering the floor. Bishop Wilberforce ridiculed these pews, in which it was hardly possible to sit or kneel, and called them 'sheep-pens'. The centre pews were appropriated, and were shut in by doors, and the poor were seated on uncomfortable open benches under the galleries, which were the only free seats. Steep stairs led up to the very plain and lofty pulpit, and the altar, which had been brought from the old church of St.Laurence, was so closely shut in by deal railings that the officiating clergyman could only pass between it and the rails with the greatest difficulty. The church built with so little consideration for the comfort or convenience of its users, was planned to hold about 700 people. (1)

The church was consecrated (2) on 1 July, 1837, by the Right Rev. J. Kaye, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, (3) in which Diocese the parish remained until 1845, and it was dedicated to St.Laurence. By an unfortunate oversight, the church was not registered for marriages, and all those which took place in the church until 1850 were consequently illegal. It was registered for marriages on 29 July, 1850, and a special Act of Parliament (4) was passed under Bishop Wilberforce's charge, declaring all previous marriages in the church legal. (5)

Although the restoration and re-consecration of St.Laurence's church had taken place in 1851, and St.Peter's Church, Chalvey, had been opened in 1861, the population was still increasing rapidly, and by 1865 the need for enlarging the Parish church was so strongly realised that the Rev. J. Cree, who was in charge of the parish during the non-residence of the Vicar, the Rev. E.T. Champnes, called together a committee for the purpose. Plans were prepared by G.E. Street, by which a new chancel, chancel aisle, and vestry were to be added to the existing building, giving accommodation for an additional 195 people. This plan was never carried out, but the wall surrounding the church-yard was built in this year.

In 1869, the Rev. R.J. Simpson, who had been appointed Vicar in 1867, proposed to build an entirely new parish church. The proposal received the support of an influential committee. Frederick Charsley generously gave a site in Mackenzie Street, and architects were invited to compete, and 110 plans were submitted. (6) A long and acrimonious correspondence (7) between the Vicar and W.G. Nixey followed, and the scheme fell through.

An alternative plan prepared for W.G. Nixey was also abandoned. The Rev. R.J. Simpson resigned in September, 1869, and his successor, the Rev. W. Oswald Thompson, also obtained plans for the alteration of the church, which never came to anything.

Naturally, so many disappointments rather disheartened the parishioners, but eventually a meeting was called on 28 October, 1874, under the presidency of the Bishop of Oxford. A committee was formed which included the Rev. P.W. Phipps, (who had become Vicar in 1873), the Churchwardens, J. Rowland Williams and H. Lovegrove; and Messrs. Armstrong, Bonsey, Charsley, Gilliat, Montrésor, Shakespear and Springhall Thompson, with H. Fleetwood Nash as treasurer. The plans of John Oldridd Scott were accepted, by which a chancel, chancel aisles, one bay of a new nave, and a vestry were to be added to the existing building, at a cost of over £12,000. Queen Victoria gave £100; Prince and Princess Christian, £10. 10s.; the Duke of Cambridge £10; the Duke of Buccleuch, £200; the Earl of Harewood, £50; F. Charsley, £1,150; A. Gilliat, £725; W.G. Nixey and family, £600; the British Orphan Asylum, £400; H.F. Nash, Upton Lea, £350, and others promised generous subscriptions.

The contract for the foundations was given to Messrs. Wheeler, of Reading, who also made the bricks for the whole church which is, therefore, a Slough building not made with Slough bricks.

The first stone of the enlarged church was laid by Princess Christian on 4 May, 1876, with the Bishop of Oxford officiating at the service.

Subscriptions continued to flow in, and in July, 1876, a Grand Bazaar was held at the British Orphan Asylum, by which a sum of £758 was raised.

The enlarged portion of the church was consecrated on 24 September, 1878, by the Bishop of Oxford. Among the many clergy present were Bishop Lyman of North Carolina, Archdeacon Cust, Canon Carter, and the Provost of Eton. The opportunity was taken to put an end to the complications which had arisen by the restoration of the old church of St. Laurence, and the new church was re-consecrated to St. Mary, as this name had already found its way by mistake into an Ordnance map. (8)

The outstanding portion of the cost was paid mainly through the efforts and personal generosity of Frederick Charsley and Algernon Gilliat. On the last day of 1881, Mr. Charsley announced that the debt was virtually paid off, as he would take it upon himself to make up any deficiencies. (9) However, various functions continued to raise money. (10)

A theatrical performance was given at Aldin House School 'under the patronage of T.R.H. Prince and Princess Christian' on 31 December, 1881, and 1, 3 and 4 January, 1882, in which five of the six parts were taken by the gifted Hawtreys, including Charles, who later became famous as the actor-manager, Sir Charles Hawtrey. Princess Christian herself made a personal appearance at a 'Grand Amateur Concert' held in the Hall of the British Orphan Asylum on 26 February, 1882. The Princess played the pianoforte Solos Allemande & Sarabande by J.S. Bach and Ballo by Gluck in the first half, and Lieder Ohne Worte by Mendelssohn and Polonaise by Moniuszko (more correctly, Moniuszko) in the second half. (11)

Just over thirty years later, Slough had grown so rapidly that a meeting was called in 1907 to consider a proposal to enlarge the Parish Church still further, and the fund was given a start with a gift of £500 from Miss Elliman. Within three years, about £3,000 had been raised, which was augmented by another £1,000 as the result of a Fancy Fair. In the early part of 1911, work was commenced, John Oldrid Scott being the architect, and H.D. Bowyer the contractor. The commemoration stone was laid by the Dean of Windsor, Dr. F.F. Eliot, father of the then Rector, the Rev. P.H. Eliot. (12)

Almost immediately, donations amounting to £10,000 were received from James Elliman, towards the total estimated cost of £28,000. The enlarged nave and the new organ were dedicated in June, 1912, and the Dedication Festival, which lasted for a week, was attended by many high church dignitaries. During the celebrations, Sir Walter Parratt, Master of the King's Musick, gave a recital on the new organ, and a Public Luncheon was given at the Church Institute (which had been opened the previous year), at which tributes were paid to the work of the Rector, in connection with the re-building fund. (13) The work was completed in 1913, when the spire was added.

#### ST. PAUL'S, STOKE ROAD

The beginnings of the large parish of St. Paul's were due to Miss Kate Buée, daughter of Dr. Buée, of The Cedars, William Street who, about 1882, began holding meetings in a little cottage in Stoke Gardens. The community grew with the influx of Great Western Railway employees, until between two and three thousand people were living north of the railway. Algernon Gilliat built them a Mission Church, with a schoolroom and kitchen, in 1885. In 1905 it was decided to form a new parish, which was constituted by an Order in Council from parts of the parishes of Upton-cum-Chalvey and Stoke Poges. The project was largely made possible by the generosity of Algernon Gilliat, and the church was consecrated in 1906. A Vicarage was also built with a donation by Mr. Gilliat. After his death in 1925, a Memorial Fund was started, and the Gilliat Hall was opened in November, 1933.

A History of the Parish of St. Paul, 1906-1912, by the Rev. A.A. Dowsett, was published in 1942, with numerous illustrations, including a picture of the little cottage 'where the work started'.



## THE RECTORY

The Vicarage in Chalvey Park was built in 1869 on glebe land. £1,600 of the total cost of £3,539. 6s. 9d. was obtained by a loan from Queen Anne's Bounty, and the annual repayment of instalments of £50 and interest on the whole sum at 4% remained a heavy burden on the incumbent until it was finally paid off in 1900. (14)

The house was finished on 29 June, 1870, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Oxford. The children of the National Schools of Slough and Chalvey stood at the entrance as the Bishop and clergy walked to the house, and passed through the rooms, saying Psalms 15, 19 and 133.

On 2 February, 1882, Princess Christian signed the Deed of Covenant which converted the Vicarage of the parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey into a Rectory, but the vicarage did not actually become a rectory until 20 November, 1885, and then only by the generosity of Frederick Charsley, who bought up the tithes and paid all the costs of the Deed of Conveyance. The delay of three years between the announcement by Princess Christian and the final settlement was due to difficulties in merging all the tithe rent charges. (15) Various plots of glebe land in Upper Churchway had been let since 1844, and in accordance with a prepared scheme, about 1860 the rest of the land with the exception of that part to the north of the site of the future rectory, was to be laid out on building leases, the whole being called Chalvey Park, although it really belonged to the Slough Field, and was never in the Chalvey district. (16)

The present Rectory in Albert Street was built in the 1920's, during the ministry of the Rev. A.G.P. Baines (1921-44). The Old Rectory is now used for offices.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLICS

After the Reformation there was no specific place for Roman Catholic worship here until 1830, when Baylis House became a Roman Catholic School and Centre. At that time there was only one other Roman Catholic place of worship in the whole of Buckinghamshire, apart from the chapel of the Throckmortons at Weston Underwood.

The Roman Catholics of Slough and neighbourhood worshipped at Baylis House until St. Ethelbert's Chapel was built in Herschel Street, through the efforts of Father Clemente, who was appointed Chaplain to the Baylis House School in 1882. From the first, he was anxious to found a Mission in Slough, but as there were only five known Roman Catholic families in Slough at the time, the process of raising money for the project was slow, until he made a nation wide appeal in 1884. He also appealed to his friends abroad for help. Eventually sufficient money was raised to buy the freehold of a plot of land fronting Herschel Street, and extending into Victoria Street, on which there was a warehouse, a stable, and two sheds. These were converted into the chapel, the Sanctuary, a temporary school, and a hall with a soup kitchen attached.

Pontifical High Mass was celebrated there by the Bishop of Northampton on 4 November, 1885, the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, and the chapel was dedicated to St. Ethelbert, the first Christian Saxon King of England.

Father Clemente's Diary reflects the many difficulties he encountered. He had to fight not only the prejudice against Roman Catholicism then prevalent, but against himself as a foreigner who had at first little knowledge of the English language. How well he eventually overcame his difficulties I can remember from my own childhood, when my parents, and others of the Anglican Church, revered and loved him for his selflessness, humility and true nobility of character. When he was seriously ill in 1911, the Rector, the Rev. P.H. Eliot (afterwards Bishop of Buckingham) called in person every day to enquire after him, and asked his congregation for their prayers for Father Clemente's recovery.

The soup kitchen was opened on 16 November, 1866, for poor children of all denominations from Slough, Langley New Town, Salt Hill, Chalvey and Cippenham, and it is a reflection of the difficulty of life for the lower classes before the advent of the Welfare State that although funds did not permit the soup kitchen to open more than twice a week, no less than 10,040 meals of bread and soup were served in the first year. This work continued for many years, and its value was recognized by people of all denominations. Concerts to raise funds in its aid were organized not

only by Father Clemente, but by the Volunteers, and the Liberal Club, among others. (17) It was only one of the innumerable charitable projects organized by Father Clemente.

Father Clemente did not give up his Chaplaincy at Baylis House until 1888. He took No. 1, Church Street, as his Presbytery, and later moved to 8, Victoria Street.

In 1889, with money borrowed from the Bishop of Northampton, he bought the land for a new church in Curzon Street, a project which received the blessing of the Pope, yet it was not until 1907 that work was begun on the actual building. The *Golden Jubilee Souvenir Magazine* (18) of this church says that in 1907 'Father Clemente was able to tell his congregation that the Lady Superior of St. Bernard's Convent had signified her intention of building a new church at Curzon Street in memory of her parents lately dead'. Canon Drake, who superintended the work on behalf of Dame Lucy Destailleurs, told me that Dame Lucie's parents were wealthy Belgians, who came over to Slough to see her, and were so distressed by the contrast between the humble little chapel in Herschel Street, and the magnificent churches of their own country, that they left money in their will especially to build a more worthy Roman Catholic Church in Slough. This was the origin of Dame Lucie's wish to commemorate their memory by the building of the present church of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Ethelbert, the opening ceremonies for which took place on 19 and 20 April, 1910.

The parish still covered the enormous area originally allocated to the Herschel Street church. It included not only Slough, but Stoke Poges, Fulmer, Gerrards Cross, Denham, Farnham Royal, Taplow, Datchet, Eton, Colnbrook, Wexham, Wraysbury and Dorney, although there were only 85 Roman Catholics in the parish when it was formed. The first major division was not made until 1914, when a new church was built at Eton, but others followed as the Roman Catholic population increased.

It is typical of the universal esteem in which Father Clemente was held for his untiring work for charity that James Elliman, who had taken such a prominent part in the rebuilding of the Parish Church of St. Mary, gave the Roman Catholic church its baptismal font. In the same year of 1912, Father Clemente acquired the statue of Christ which stands outside the Church, and which was originally intended for Westminster Cathedral.

In addition to his work for local charities, and all in need, Father Clemente found time to engage in wider activities. He organized and led pilgrimages to Lourdes and Rome, and attended a Eucharistic Congress, and the Italian Colonial Congress. During the latter Congress he was knighted by the King of Italy, and received from the Pope the gold medal *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, in private audience. He died suddenly on 17 July, 1918, and was buried in St. Mary's churchyard. An inscription in the Curzon Street church reads: 'The Rev. Cav. Joseph Maria Clemente, founder of the Slough Mission, first priest of this church. Born 24 September, 1845, died 17 July, 1918'.

There has also been a chapel at St. Bernard's Convent since it was opened (see p. 94).

Two other Roman Catholic churches have been built in Slough in recent years, and a 'Shared' Church at Cippenham (see p. 88-89). All come within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton. (19)

### THE CONGREGATIONALISTS

The Rev. George Bulmer, of the Chalvey Congregational Church, began to hold services in Slough in 1846, in a room hired for the purpose, known as the Buckingham Chapel. It was later part of the premises used by Mr. Luff as a printing office in Buckingham Gardens. It was pulled down in June, 1937. Mr. Luff rented this room to the Congregationalists for £6 a year.

In 1847 the members bought the site of the present Congregational Church in Church Street, for the sum of £140. The church was built at an estimated cost of over £2,000, to seat 700 in the church itself and 300 scholars — a remarkable instance of optimism in a Church with a total congregation in Chalvey and Slough of only 58, but fully justified in after years.

The foundation stone was laid in August, 1852, and a tea was provided afterwards in the neighbouring Mechanics' Institute, at which 270 sat down. The Chapel was opened in the following



year, and over £800 of the total cost had been subscribed by that date. Among the well-known local names on the list of subscribers were Messrs. Elliman, Nixey, John Nash, Luff, Henry L. Nash, Hetherington, and William Nash.

One of the preachers who visited the church in its earlier days was the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, who preached a sermon there on 26 August, 1858. He attracted such a great congregation that fears for the safety of the building were expressed. In 1862, a new service of Communion Plate was presented to the church by Mr. Merrilees, and the old set was given to the London Missionary Society, and sent by them to Madagascar.

J.A. Harding, who died in December, 1907, was one of the staunchest supporters of the Congregational Church. He claimed to be a direct descendant of the Thomas Harding, the last of the Lollards, who was burned at the stake at Chesham in 1532. He bequeathed a house in Church Street to be a place of residence for the Pastor of the Church. It was subsequently sold, and the Trust vested in the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Among the preachers during the Centenary Celebrations in 1935 was Dr. H. Elvet Lewis (Elfed), a former Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, who was also a distinguished Welsh poet and hymn-writer and Past Archdruid of Wales. (20)

### THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Talks began between the national Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church (21) in 1933, and on 5 October, 1972, the Congregationalists of England and Wales and the English Presbyterians became one denomination as the United Reform Church. (22)

### THE WELSH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Between the two World Wars, the Eglwys Annibynnol Cymraeg (Welsh Congregational Church) was established in Slough through a chance meeting of Tom Owen, a production worker at Horlicks, and D.E. Davies, Station Master at Burnham, on Christmas Eve, 1934, which led them to become the joint founders.

Meetings started in the vestry at the Baptist Church, Windsor Road, after the Baptists had held their services. Later a church was established at the Thomas Gray School. Capel-y-lon, Stoke Poges Lane (then Marystrong Church) was bought in 1946. It still holds its services in Welsh, and comes under the Welsh Congregational Union. (23)

### THE WESLEYANS

There does not appear to be any record of the earliest days of the Wesleyans in Slough, but there can be little doubt the movement had been established here for some while before the building of the Wesleyan Chapel in Herschel Street. The site was acquired, and the building constructed in 1847. Slough bricks were used, and the total cost of construction was about £550. About the time war broke out in 1914 plans were under consideration for a larger chapel, but these were, of course postponed, and by the time the war was over, negotiations for the union of Wesleyans and Methodists were so far advanced the scheme was abandoned in favour of a joint hall.

When the Wesleyan Chapel was abandoned in 1932, the building was bought by F. Witney, who constructed shops in front of the old building. Eventually he sold the whole site, and the chapel was used by the Slough Branch of the County Library, manned by volunteers, until the new Library building was opened in William Street in 1939. Woolworth's loading dock now occupies the site.

Among those buried in the churchyard attached to the chapel, whose bones were removed and re-interred in the cemetery in Stoke Road, were George Snowball, who had been for many years Superintendent of the Chapel; and Frederick and Mary Lewis, the grandparents of Alderman E.O. Lewis. An old Wesleyan Handbook of 1878 shows that the chapel at that time came under the care of Humphrey Hughes, the Superintendent at Windsor, and William Sharpley, the Junior Superintendent at Maidenhead. One of the chief officers of the chapel was Mr. Craske, who was Manager of the London and Westminster Bank for many years. He died in 1915. Thomas Willett,

later Secretary of the China Inland Mission in London, originally went from the chapel as a missionary, and the two Misses Dunsdon also went from there to the East as Missionaries. (24)

### THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS

Primitive Methodists, who had begun their work in Chalvey about 1848, built an Iron Church on the west side of William Street (now the B.416) in 1877, as a temporary structure, but plans did not mature for a larger building until 1914. As in the case of the Wesleyan Chapel, the plans had to be suspended during the war, and were abandoned finally in favour of the joint scheme for the Central Hall. (25)

### THE METHODISTS

After the Union of the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists, the Central Hall was built on the corner of High Street and The Grove, at a cost of £31,000, most of which was raised within two years. The foundation stone was laid on 3 February, 1932, and the new hall was opened by H.R.H. The Duchess of York (now H.M. the Queen Mother) on 10 November of the same year. It was designed by Mr. Arthur Brocklehurst, and the contractors were Messrs. A. & B. Hanson, Ltd., of Southall. Furnishings were supplied by Slough firms. The imposing dome of the hall was a landmark in the High Street for over 30 years, until it was demolished to make way for office and shop development. (26)

In 1965, work was begun by Messrs. H.D. Bowyer on a new church at 19-21, The Grove, to the design of Mr. Alick Gavin, of London. It was opened on 10 December, 1966. All arrangements had been made for the opening ceremony to be performed by H.M. The Queen Mother, who was unable to carry out the engagement owing to her illness, which was so sudden there was not time to remove her name from the programmes. She visited the church in the following year, 1967. (27)

### PLYMOUTH BRETHERN

Ten years after the Plymouth Brethren had come to Chalvey, they transferred their activities to Slough, holding meetings in a building on the site now occupied by No. 127, High Street. Shortly afterwards they acquired a plot of land in Hencroft Street, where they built a Meeting House. (28)

### THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Although the Baptists started work in Slough so much later than other dissenters, and without any of the legal disabilities of their predecessors, they had a smaller beginning and many difficulties, which they overcame with equal determination. They, too, have been rewarded with a progress that has made them a recognised and respected section of the community.

In 1889, three Baptists met for prayer in the Leopold Coffee House. Later, services were held in the home of Mr. Vivian, who conducted a private school in the Bath Road. Subsequently a granary in Chandos Street, owned by Shirley Sons and Kitto, was used under the name of Trinity Hall, until 1890, eight people being asked to guarantee the rent of 8s. a week. Then Messrs. Butler and Bowden allowed a few Baptists to use one of their vacant shops at No. 168, High Street (rebuilt in 1938 and now No. 224, High Street), also at a rental of 8s. a week. In August, 1890, Mr. James, a student, was sent by the Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon to conduct the opening service, on which occasion the collection amounted to £1. 1s. 0d.

As the small community were weekly tenants, and the shop was 'to let', a meeting was called in June, 1891, and it was decided to rent a plot of ground behind Nos. 95-103, High Street (now Suters, Nos. 155-161). The landlord was at first willing to rent it for £10 a year, but as the community consisted of poorly-paid working men, he eventually demanded an advance of two years' rental. Benjamin Burtch, one of the leaders, and himself a working man with a large family, took his savings from the bank and paid the amount required — an act of self-sacrifice which deservedly earned him the love and gratitude of the community. He died in 1942, at the age of 88, and is buried in St. Mary's churchyard.



A temporary building, costing £160, was built on the site thus acquired, but three years later another meeting of the congregation was called and although there were still only 17 members, it was decided that a Baptist Church should be formed, student pastors being supplied from Spurgeon's College, amongst whom A.E. Phillips (29) is remembered with special gratitude, for it was during his time that the Church was founded on 27 September, 1894, with seventeen members.

On 22 September, 1896, the Rev. Theo Cousens came as a student pastor, preaching on alternate Sundays with the Rev. R.F. Elder, the latter of whom soon afterwards sailed for the Argentine, where he did pioneer evangelistic work for the Southern Convention of the American Baptist Union. He later became a Tutor in the Argentine Theological Seminary, and died in Buenos Aires in 1947. He had ten children, of whom eight survive. The majority of them live in South America, but Frank H. Elder, an architect, works in London, and designed the new Britwell Baptist Church Hall.

In 1897, Alderman Arthur P. Reavell, of Windsor, secured the present site in Windsor Road, and gave it to the Baptist community, who built an iron church, where the Rev. Theo Cousens began his ministry in Slough. He continued here until 1933. The iron church was replaced by the present building in 1905. It was built by Mr. Flint, of High Wycombe, who also built St. Paul's church. The adjoining Memorial Hall was built in 1933; £5,000 of the cost was given by Mrs. Reavell in memory of her husband, and the small balance of £500 was subscribed by the congregation. Mr. Cousens remained as Pastor until 1933, and died in 1939, at the age of 70.

The Slough members fostered and encouraged causes at Cippenham, Langley, Britwell, and other places in the neighbourhood. (30)

#### SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army made several attempts to get established in Slough, but did not finally settle here until 1926. They bought their first headquarters in William Street (B.416) from the Primitive Methodists in 1932. When this was demolished for road works, they removed to The Citadel in Stoke Road. (31)

#### CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISTS

Christian Spiritualists came to Slough between the two World Wars. They settled first in Herschel Street, and then moved to No. 30, Mackenzie Street, and held their meetings in the Labour Memorial Hall in Chandos Street until the demolitions in connection with the building of the new Town Centre. They now meet in the Red Cross Hall, Osborne Street and in Baylis House Annexe, Stoke Poges Lane. (32)

#### THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Members of the Society of Friends came to Slough in 1938, but it was not until the following year that they began holding meetings at No. 6, The Grove. They acquired land on the south side of Ragstone Road, and close to its junction with the Windsor Road, (now in the angle between the M.4 and the A.332) on which a new Meeting House was built. It was opened in June, 1966. (33)

#### SLOUGH CHURCHES IN 1973

Churches and chapels of many denominations have been established in Slough since 1938, particulars of which can be found in the current Official Guide to Slough, or in the list kept at the Public Library. It has only been possible to deal here with the rise and expansion of churches and chapels established in Slough itself before it became a Borough. Even the splendid 12th century church of Langley Marish is omitted, although it was brought within the Urban District boundaries between 1930-31. Its story belongs to Langley, which calls for a History of its own, (see p. 146-149).

#### THE SHARED CHURCH

The Shared Church of St. Andrew, Cippenham, however, calls for special mention, as it is the first parochial church in England to be specially commissioned jointly by an Anglican and a Roman Catholic community, for everyone to use.

It was opened on St. Andrew's Day, 30 November, 1970, by the Bishop of Oxford and the Bishop of Northampton. It is managed by a limited liability company, whose directors are half Church of England, and the other half, Roman Catholic, and is a multi-purpose building, designed to be shared simultaneously by different groups of people, both for worship and many other community activities. (34)

## NOTES

1. Phipps, p. 24-5.
2. Documents relating to the consecration are preserved in the Lincoln Record Office. I am much indebted to Mrs. Judith Hunter, of the Local History Group, for noting these, and the reference numbers Consec. BG/9/1831 and Consec. Reg/I/1837.
3. Correspondence with Bishop Kaye regarding the proposed new church from 1829 onwards is preserved at the Lincoln Record Office. I am indebted to Mrs. Judith Hunter for the reference number for this bundle of letters: Cor. B/5/3/4.
4. 13 and 14 Victoria, c. 38.
5. Phipps, p. 25.
6. *ibid.*, p. 26.
7. Extracts from the *Windsor Express* reporting these letters were collected by Victor B. Clark, and reprinted in the *Slough Observer* on 13, 20 and 27 August, 1937.
8. Phipps, p. 28.
9. Phipps, p. 29.
10. *ibid.*, pp 26-32, including statement of expenditure and description of the furnishings. Contemporary reports in the *Windsor Express*, collected by Victor B. Clark, were published in the *Slough Observer* on 3, 10 and 17 September, 1937. A short editorial preface to the series of reprints, on 30 July, 1937, is headed 'On July 1st, 1837, St. Mary's Church was consecrated, but no newspaper reported it. The King died on July 1st 1837': but the death of William IV and the accession of Queen Victoria took place on 20 June, 1837.
11. I have in my possession a programme of each of these special fund-raising concerts.
12. The Rev. P.H. Eliot (1863-1946). Ordained Priest, 1887; curate of Portsea until 1889; Vicar of Winslow, Buckinghamshire, until 1896, when he became Rector of Slough, and held that office until his appointment as Suffragan Bishop of Buckingham in 1921. He resigned owing to ill-health in 1944, and died in 1946. In 1900 he married Ethel Stirling Marshall, daughter of the Rev. Stirling Marshall, Rector of Farnham Royal. They lived in Slough for over 50 years (latterly at 'Somerton', Bath Road, Slough) and identified themselves with the life of the town.
13. Full details were published in the *Windsor Express*, 15 June, 1912. I have a photograph of the laying of the foundation stone, in which the Rector is clearly shown with some of the members of the choir, among whom is my father.
14. Phipps, pp. 53-4.
15. *ibid.*, pp. 54-8, including a copy of the deed of conveyance.
16. *ibid.*, pp. 52-3.
17. I have in my possession a photograph of Father Clemente with members of the 'Third Grand Popular Concert' party organized by 'Mr. E. George Carter . . . In aid of King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and the Slough Free Soup Kitchen, held in the Public Hall, Slough . . . on January 17, 1910', under 'the immediate patronage' of Princess Christian, and 'a host of Patrons and Patronesses'.
18. Church of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Ethelbert, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir Magazine*, 1910-1960, kindly lent to me by Major Michael Lee, who was born in Slough after his father, Lt.-Col. James Lee (1873-1959) settled in Slough in 1911. Lt.-Col. Lee was a parishioner of St. Ethelbert's for 48 years. During the 1914-18 war, he was appointed Town Major of Ypres, and after the war, became Foreign Sales Manager of Horlicks, where his mastery of many languages enabled him to expand their overseas trade. Major Lee, who is the author of a *History of Netheravon, Wiltshire*, and his elder brother, Joseph, author of a *History of Leeds*, are now living in Leeds, but their sister, Miss Margaret Lee, still lives and teaches in Slough, and they revisit the town frequently.  
I am also much indebted to Miss Rose Beard, who put me in touch with Major Lee.
19. The foregoing account of the Roman Catholic churches in Slough is compiled from information kindly furnished by Canon Drake, Canon Davidson, and Father Carey, and from the *Golden Jubilee Magazine*, and personal knowledge.



20. The Centenary Souvenir of the Congregational Church, 1835-1935, and information kindly supplied by the Rev. Arnold P. Lansdown.
21. A Presbyterian Congregation was formed in Slough in 1941, and a church was built in Windsor Road in 1950, largely as a result of the influx of Scots into Slough. It is now the United Reform Church.
22. I am indebted to the Rev. Winston Reed and the Rev. James Badcock for this information.
23. Information kindly supplied by Mrs. Mary Morgan and Mr. Goronwy Lewis. A short history of the church, written in Welsh by Tom Owen, was found after his death by his son David, and quoted in the Slough Observer on 8 December, 1972, in the obituary of Tom Owen.
24. The Centenary Souvenir Programme of The Methodist Church, Ledgers Road, Slough, 1848-1948; Wesleyan Handbook, 1878; Slough Observer, 11 November, 1932; members of the Wesleyan congregation, and personal knowledge.
25. Slough Observer, 11 November, 1932, and members of the Primitive Methodist congregation.
26. Programme of the Foundation Stone-Laying; Slough Observer, 11 November, 1932, and personal knowledge.
27. Information kindly given to me by the Rev. L.G. Bridgman, and personal knowledge. There is an inscription in the church commemorating its opening, and the subsequent visit by H.M. The Queen Mother.
28. Information from the late Mr. Abraham, whose grocers' shop, R. Abraham & Sons, was at 84, High Street (now No. 134, High St)
29. The Rev. A.E. Phillips died at St.Albans in 1940.
30. Information from the Jubilee number of the Slough Baptist Messenger, 29 September, 1944, and from the Rev. P.H. Crunden, the late John Hull, Mrs. Hull (née Widdington) and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lake.
31. Information supplied by the Salvation Army.
32. Information from the Christian Spiritualists.
33. I am obliged to Mrs. Nora Bishop, Clerk of the Society of Friends, for this information.
34. Information from leaflets kindly sent to me by Father Charles Crawford of Britwell, Burnham.



35. *The Methodist Central Hall, 1932*