



ST ELPHIN'S SCHOOL
DARLEY DALE



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Darley Dale,

Matlock,

Derbyshire,

DE4 2HA.

Darley Dale 3263



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MOTTO: NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA

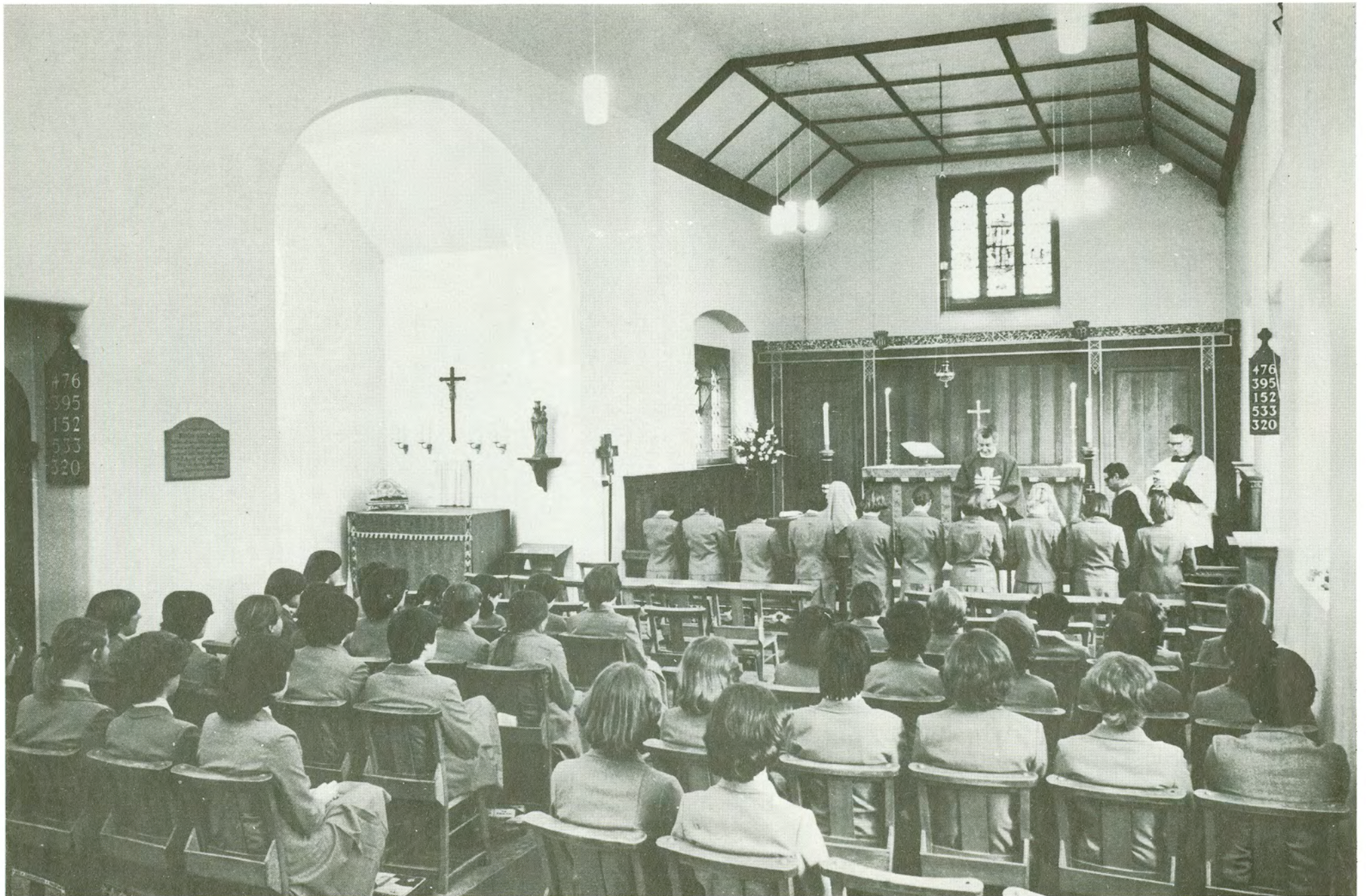
ST ELPHIN'S Church of England School, one of the oldest girls' public schools in England, sets out to provide a rounded education for girls between the ages of 7 and 18.

The school is run on Christian family principles, with the Headmaster, his wife and family providing the nucleus of the bigger school family of up to 420 boarding and day pupils. It has a balanced curriculum designed to provide a thorough grounding in all subjects.

St Elphin's was founded in 1844 by the Reverend Horace Powys, Rector of Warrington. Its aim was to provide education for the daughters of clergy, who still form a proportion of the pupils and are able to enter the school at much reduced fees.

In 1904 the school moved from its original site in Warrington, Lancashire, to Darley Dale, where it now stands in beautiful Derbyshire countryside beside the main A6 road, within reach of motorways giving access both north and south.

St Elphin's stands in its own grounds surrounded by extensive playing fields, tennis courts and a large all-weather games area which has recently been created. New school buildings have been added in a planned programme and existing buildings are currently being modernised. Recent additions include an assembly hall/dining room, a large gymnasium and two new teaching blocks. Within these blocks are science laboratories, the library and specialist rooms for particular subjects — one of which is a small modern language laboratory.



The new Upper Sixth Form house has study-bedrooms and accommodation for a married Housemaster.

The school is divided into two sections: the junior department for girls aged 7-11 and the senior school for those aged 11-18.

Boarders

THESE form the majority of pupils and the school is run as a boarding community with special emphasis on weekend commitment by staff and girls. Junior boarders live in a separate boarding house in which their own staff provide a happy, homelike atmosphere.

From the ages of 11-16 girls live in one of several Houses, where a Housemistress, assisted by a Matron, is responsible to the Headmaster for the girls in her care. Each House has its own common room where girls may relax.

Sixth Form girls, whilst living in separate accommodation, remain members of their previous boarding house and help staff in the running of that House.

Day Girls

THERE are over 100 day girls, who are expected to play a full part in school life. Each girl is attached to a boarding house and participates in all House activities. Senior day girls are at school each weekday from 8.30 am until 6.10 or 7 pm, according to age. This includes time for preparation. Junior School day girls normally leave by 4 pm.

The Chapel

WORSHIP in the Chapel is a central feature of school life. Morning prayers are taken by the Chaplain, the Headmaster and

Opposite: Worship in the Chapel is a central feature of school life.

Right: St Elphin's is a boarding community with a special emphasis on weekend commitment by staff and girls.





Above: The School stands in its own grounds. New school buildings have been added in a planned programme and existing buildings are being modernised.

Opposite: Girls are taught a wide range of subjects and prepared in them for GCE at ordinary and advanced levels. The School has five science laboratories.

other members of staff, and boarders attend one Service each Sunday.

Religious instruction is given by the Chaplain and qualified members of staff in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England.

Girls are prepared for Confirmation by the Chaplain and there is an annual Confirmation service held in the Chapel as well as special Services on other occasions.

The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

CURRICULUM

Junior Department

THE junior department is run by a qualified Head who, with her staff, is directly responsible to the Headmaster. The aim at this stage is to teach the basic subjects to a thorough level of understanding and to prepare pupils for the senior school. Girls work in small classes where they receive close individual attention. Outside the classroom many activities are offered, ranging from recorder groups and choir to drama and physical education. Specialist training is available in all these areas. Educational and cultural visits suitable for this age-group are arranged regularly.

Senior School

GIRLS are taught a wide range of subjects and prepared in them for G.C.E. at Ordinary and Advanced levels (London Board), entrance to university and for all other forms of higher education. A few girls each year take C.S.E. examinations in Mathematics and French.

Subjects taught include English language and literature, history, geography, French, German, Latin, religious education, classical studies, mathematics, logic, economics, physics,

chemistry, biology, home economics, art and crafts, needlework and music.

There are two or three Forms in each year leading to 'O' level. After the first year girls are streamed or put into 'sets' according to ability and pupils who need individual attention have the added benefit of being put into smaller classes. Most girls take between 8–10 subjects at 'O' level.

The sixth form offers G.C.E. 'A' level courses in a wide variety of subjects. University entrance may be gained after obtaining the required number of 'A' level passes. Girls may stay a further term at the end of the two-year course to sit the Oxford or Cambridge entrance or scholarship examinations.

Careers guidance

DURING school life each girl receives close pastoral attention and as she progresses through her education every care is taken to ensure that individual help and advice are available to guide her choice of a suitable career.

St Elphin's is a member of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation and has a comprehensive programme of careers advice from the third year onwards. A number of staff members have been trained to give careers advice. Particular attention is paid to vocational guidance and matching a girl's ability and aptitudes to her choice of a career. Parental involvement in career choice is welcomed and encouraged, and lectures and visits take place frequently.

Music

MUSIC plays an important part in school life. All girls in the first three years in the senior school study music in their curriculum. Girls are entered annually for G.C.E. 'O' and 'A' level in this subject.





Above: Music plays an important part in school life. All girls in the first three years in the senior school study music in their curriculum. St Elphin's has an active orchestra and choirs.

Opposite: There is a well-equipped studio which provides opportunities to study many different types of art and craftwork including pottery.

St Elphin's has an active school orchestra and choirs, as well as string, recorder and woodwind groups. Individual tuition is available to girls playing piano, organ, violin, violoncello, woodwind, brass instruments and the classical guitar.

There is an annual House music competition, and music workshop sessions are held regularly, linking with other schools and colleges in the area. Girls are prepared for all grades of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and the Guildhall School of Speech and Drama in both theory and practical subjects.

There is a large music room and other smaller rooms where pupils may practise or receive tuition. Recitals and concerts are given by visiting musicians, and there is an annual school concert.

Drama

PLAYS are performed regularly by girls of all ages in a variety of settings. These may take place either in the School Hall with its formal stage, or alternatively in the Chapel or 'workshop' situations. The productions often grow from work within the classroom. In addition, House drama competitions are arranged periodically.

Art

ST ELPHIN'S has a well-equipped studio which provides opportunities to study many different types of art and craftwork, including pottery. The school has its own pottery wheels and an electric kiln.

Domestic science

DOMESTIC science may be studied for public examinations or as part of the general curriculum, and the modern domestic science room has excellent facilities. Needlework and dressmaking are also taught, and pupils are encouraged to develop these in their



free time. There is a fully-equipped dressmaking room.

Physical recreation

ST ELPHIN'S has established an enviable reputation in many sports, particularly hockey, tennis, athletics and lifesaving. Each year girls from the school are chosen to represent the County in these events.

Hockey and netball are played in the winter, whilst tennis, rounders and athletics form a part of the normal summer timetable.

Swimming lessons for all girls are held throughout the year at the nearby Matlock Lido.

Qualified coaching is given in all the sports mentioned.

Dancing and gymnastics are part of the weekly curriculum and take place in the gymnasium. Self-defence instruction is given to sixth formers.

Driving lessons at a local motoring school can be arranged for girls of 17 and upwards. Lessons at a nearby riding school may be taken by girls of any age.

Social activities

THERE is a very wide range of extra-mural activities, ranging from walking in the dales to Scottish dancing or playing golf or badminton, a debating society, photography and electronics. The school has its own minibus and holiday parties abroad are arranged, and many expeditions organised throughout the year. Recently there have been educational visits to Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland and Holland.

The more senior girls have regular social contact with neighbouring schools, chiefly Denstone College, Repton, Welbeck College and Worksop.

Younger girls have social events with Stancliffe Hall, a nearby preparatory school for boys.



Sixth form girls live in self contained study bedrooms, but remain members of their previous boarding House and help the staff in the running of that House.



Girls in the Junior School live in a separate boarding house in which their own staff provide a happy, homelike atmosphere.

Social service

AN active Social Service society organises fund-raising events for various causes including Oxfam, Inter-Church Aid, Red Cross and for the local community. Senior girls visit elderly people in the neighbourhood as part of their voluntary social service.

The Society of Friends of St. Elphin's

THIS Society, which includes governors, parents, staff and friends of the School, was formed in 1952 to help the governors in every way possible to improve the amenities offered. Besides financing many building projects, the society provided the minibus in 1980. Various activities are arranged each year, including a sponsored walk for members of the School and their friends, and a Christmas bazaar. A parents' dance is the climax of each year's activities.

Entry

APPLICATIONS for admission should be sent to the Headmaster. A form for this purpose is provided at the back of the prospectus.

The Headmaster is always pleased to see parents, with their daughters, by appointment.

Admission at the ages of 8, 9 and 10 plus is by way of the Junior Entrance Examination. Girls entering at 11, 12 or 13 plus sit either the Common Entrance Examination for Girls' Schools or an examination set and marked by the school. Entrance at Sixth Form level depends upon 'O' level results.

Individual tuition is available to girls playing piano, organ, violin and violoncello. Woodwind, brass and classical guitar tuition is also available.



Fees

FEES for each term are payable in advance; fees for extra subjects are paid in arrears.

A full term's notice of intention to withdraw a girl from school must be given in writing to the Headmaster not later than the first day of that term. In default of such notice a full term's fees must be paid.

No remission of fees is given for absence through illness. However, there is an insurance scheme arranged by the school under which fees are recoverable for periods of absence through illness; the minimum period is eight days. Full details and application forms for this scheme are sent before girls join the school. The Headmaster has the right to require the withdrawal of a girl for unsatisfactory conduct.

Uniform

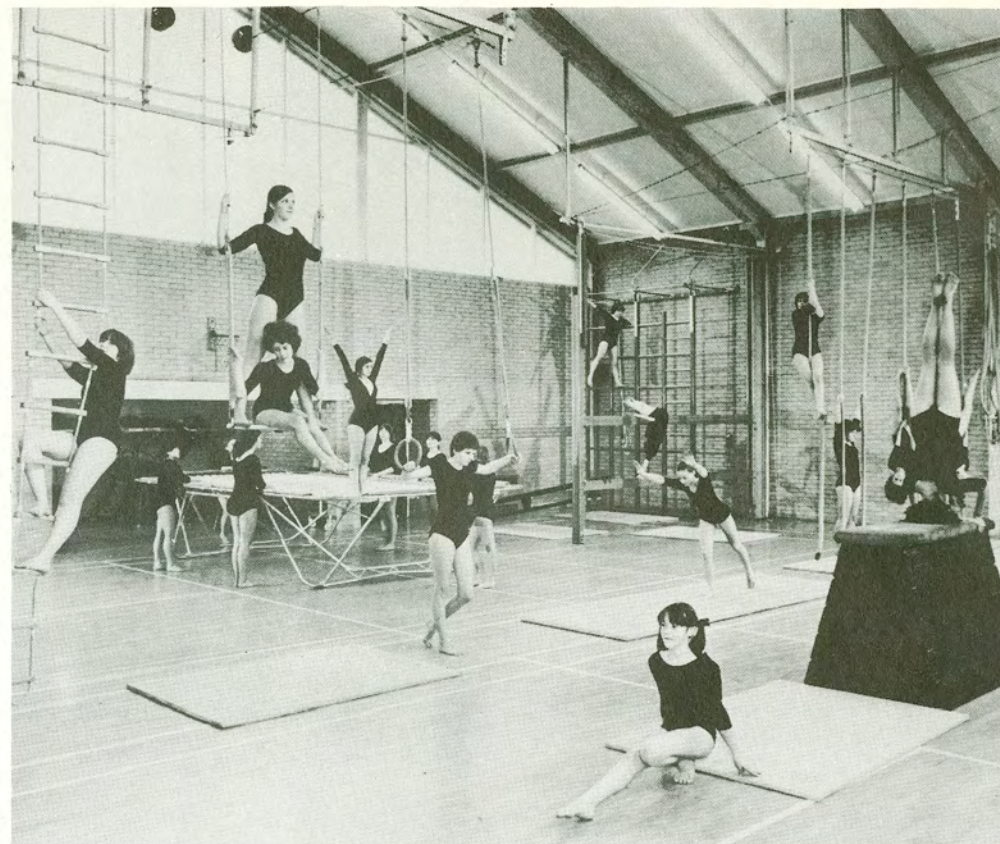
THE school uniform is compulsory for all girls except those in the Sixth Form; main colours are grey and blue/green tartan, and clothing is practical and comfortable. A clothing exchange shop is organised by the school. Uniform outfitters are Lady Fair, Matlock.

Health care

THE school has a fully qualified nursing Sister in charge of its sick bay and the school doctor holds a surgery at the school twice a week. Girls normally register with the school doctor under the National Health Scheme.

Safety

REGULAR fire drills are held during term. The School is equipped with modern fire fighting appliances and



St Elphin's has a superbly equipped gymnasium complex with changing rooms and shower facilities.



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with exterior escape staircases. It is inspected by Fire Prevention officers of Derbyshire County Council.

Travel arrangements

ESCORTS are provided for coaches travelling to and from Derby station at the beginning and end of term, and at half term, with a member of staff accompanying girls on the London train. The school secretary works closely with parents over arrangements for girls flying abroad.

Exeats

AT half-term the school is closed and all girls go away. In addition, there are certain fixed exeat weekends when girls may be away from 11.30 am on Saturday to 8.45 on Sunday. These dates are printed in the school calendar. Girls may also have two visits a term on a Saturday or Sunday, and be out from 11.30 am to 8.45 pm. Such visits are not allowed in the first or last weekend of term. Girls in the sixth form are allowed two extra optional exeats each term.

Other leave of absence cannot be granted except in special circumstances at the discretion of the Headmaster, to whom written requests should be made well in advance.

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