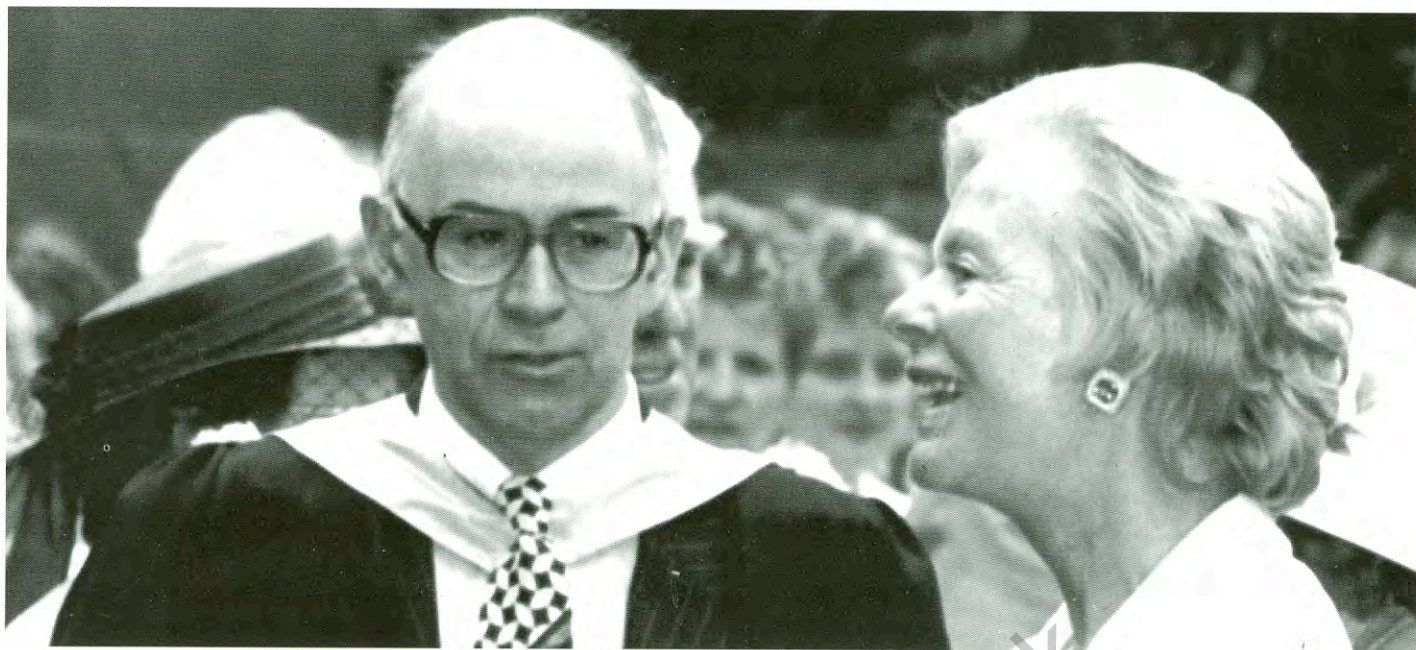




The Elphinian

Commemorative Issue

About this publication



H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent with Mr. Peter Pollard

Our School magazine - known for some years now as "The Elphinian" - did not appear as usual in 1994. Those who knew little about the celebrations in progress may have been disappointed since a magazine allows so many people to contribute and tries to present a more or less complete record of everything happening in a school year. This publication is selective and deliberately so. It is also largely pictorial. We realised that there was insufficient material for both a normal magazine and a commemorative record of 1994 and its special events and have plumped for the latter.

We had previously thought of writing a complete history of St Elphin's School from 1844 to 1994, but concluded that there would not be sufficient demand for this, an inevitably expensive tome. We felt, too, that it would have to be written by an expert historian. The St Elphin's archives are widely scattered and someone, someday, could do the School a service by collecting them together and putting them in order.

We still have copies at School of Miss Margaret Flood's mini-history of St Elphin's, written in Streatham in 1944., 11 years after Miss Flood's retirement as Headmistress. Aged 82 in 1960, she also produced privately her 'Memoirs', and taken together these two accounts convey as vivid a picture as we are likely to

have of the first 100 years or so of the School's history. Anyone who 'would like to know more about these booklets should contact the School for further information. More recently, of course, in 1990 we celebrated what would have been the 100th birthday of our most famous Old Girl, Richmal Crompton Lamburn, creator of 'William'. That scamp's enduring popularity - a new series of adventures is currently being screened on TV, to critical acclaim and the delight of a new audience - is proof of Miss Lamburn's genius. We were right to mark so memorably her birthdate, 15th November 1990, and that year's 'Elphinian' contained a splendid supplement compiled by Ann Hodgson, current Head of English, which is a further source of fascinating details about St Elphin's in its earlier years.

A great deal has happened in the years since 1944, and there is still scope for anyone who'd like to up-date the record fully. For the present, we hope that current pupils and staff, those who've recently left and, most of all, perhaps, the hordes of former pupils who've shown such a heartening interest in their 'alma mater' during 1994, will appreciate and treasure this largely photographic record of a school year which will surely live on in the memories of those who've shared in it.

Peter Pollard Ann Hodgson



Pictured on Speech Day: Louise Stuart (Deputy Head Girl), Mrs. Valerie Fisher (New Headmistress), Miss Mary Moon (Guest Speaker), Lucy Baxter (Head Girl).

This publication has been compiled by Peter Pollard and by Ann Hodgson, who took most of the photographs. The compilers are most grateful to Mavis Hunter, who prepared the copy, and to all those who have helped in various ways.

Celebrating a triple jubilee

We have no evidence at St Elphin's of the ways in which the Warrington Clergy Daughters' School celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1894. Only 10 years later, in 1904, the School moved to Darley Dale, leaving the teachers' training college in Warrington and making the diamond jubilee a significant point in its history. The centenary year, 1944, coincided with the time of the Second World War, when celebrations of school landmarks would have had little priority. We know from the St Elphin's Magazine of July 1944 that the centenary year began with a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in Warrington Parish Church. January fog and war conditions clearly made travelling difficult, but the school was well represented at all levels, the Bishop of Chester preached an inspiring sermon, and doubtless the effect of this Service on all those present was comparable with that felt in Derby Cathedral on January 15th, 1994.

This Service apart, there seems to have been little public recognition of the School's centenary. There were several parties at school - pupils, academic staff and 'domestic, laundry and outdoor staffs' enjoyed separate gatherings! - and a former pupil of that era tells me that there was a 'happening' of some kind in the Whitworth Institute in Darley Dale, but I have no further details of this. Bearing in mind the prevailing conditions, such as shortage of paper, even producing a school magazine must have been a major achievement. It was apparently impossible to get the whole School photographed ('the shortage of the photographer's quota did not allow of this') and they had to be content with a few group photos. In her foreword to the 1944 Magazine, the then Headmistress, Miss Stopford, lays emphasis on the School's motto and the importance of strengthening the foundations of "true religion and sound learning" upon which the School was founded. When we came to draw up our plans for the 150th Anniversary, we, too, took 'Nisi Dominus Frustra' as a starting point. How fortunate we are today, and how clearly our celebrations showed the changed conditions over 50 years. We were able to commission two works based on this: Betty Roe's splendid anthem, which so impressed HRH The Duchess of Kent during her May visit - the Duchess is a knowledgeable musician and sings in the London Bach Choir - deserves to be more widely known. It made an unforgettable impact on the Derby Cathedral congregation, when performed for the first time, in the presence of the composer. A later article tells how we could also commission a stained glass window, crafted by some of the country's most talented makers of glass.

The specially arranged Services - in Derby, Warrington, Chesterfield and finally in the Stopford Hall on St Nicholas's Day -

were the pillars on which all other activities rested. A further priority was that all activities should have an educational benefit. Wherever possible, we wanted the year's events to make some impact in the classroom. The technology department, inspired by Mrs Ainscough, undertook several projects whose starting point was St Elphin's over 150 years, and I think that in general most girls were made aware of the full significance of 1994 in this particular school's history. Of course, this awareness had really started in 1990, during our 'Richmal Crompton' celebrations. Since she was a pupil both in Warrington and Darley Dale, where she also taught for some years, Richmal Crompton's school career was the perfect starting point for exploring the School's earlier history.

St Elphin's is proud of its musical and dramatic traditions, and we were determined that these should be well represented on all occasions. The 'Messiah' performance, the Buxton Opera House Music Hall, and the involvement of singers, instrumentalists and actresses in all the special events of 1994 showed just how talented our pupils are, and were also a fitting tribute to the work of Stephen Yeo and Kate Caryl in recent years. If we had had some initial apprehension at our boldness in hiring the Opera House for an evening, this ultimately proved needless, and even Colonel Hobbs as Bursar could rest content with its financial success! At one time we'd hoped to entice a 'star' from "Coronation Street" to perform with us at Buxton. We were unsuccessful, but drew such a large and enthusiastic audience anyway that it seemed not to matter. Even thunder and lightning failed to dampen the performers' spirits - the theatre was plunged into darkness during the interval, thank goodness - and their performance lives on in a video film shot at the time.

All along we had dreamed of the possibility of a Royal visit, as the 'icing on the cake', but that was something over which the organisers had no control. We could only ask officially, then wait and hope. Here, I think, fortune played into our hands. Throughout his years as the County's Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Sir Peter Hilton - together with Lady Hilton - proved to be a loyal friend and supporter of St Elphin's. He, too, was about to retire from his post, and Sir Peter and Lady Hilton were undoubtedly the prime movers behind the Duchess of Kent's visit in May. All those privileged enough to meet Her Royal Highness realised just how lucky we had been. As the pictures show, from the moment the Royal party arrived, it was clear that the Duchess was pleased to be with us and wanted genuinely to share in the spirit of the occasion. She had done so much homework on the School, she at once talked with small

The Rt Rev Michael Henshall

The Bishop of Warrington Church House 1 Hanover Street Liverpool L1 3DW

6 January 1995

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS.

Significant celebrations are important as markers in the lives of individuals and institutions. Individuals don't reach 150, but schools do! St. Elphin's is numbered among the oldest of Girls' Public Schools. The celebrations for our 150th anniversary have been carried out with panache and aplomb. We approach the millenium with confidence and with a fine record of achievement. I am personally grateful to all who contributed to this celebration of our triple jubilee.

+MICHAEL WARRINGTON.

From our Visitor, Her Grace,

The Duchess of Devonshire, Chatsworth House.

My association with St. Elphin's goes back over forty years to when Miss Stopford was headmistress and my elder daughter, Emma, (now a grandmother) was a day girl. At that time the brilliant English teacher, Miss Smith, was an inspiration to the girls lucky enough to learn from her. Since those far off days I have watched the progress of the school with intense interest. I send my best wishes for a secure and successful future.

DEBORAH DEVONSHIRE

children and put them at their ease, and she proved to be such a gracious and easy guest during our luncheon in the Stopford Hall, when it was the Headmaster and Head Girl who were anxious about how well they'd learned in advance the skill of banana eating with a knife and fork! The Duchess clearly loved the performance of the juniors on the stage and it was she who insisted on hearing the full performance of 'Nisi Dominus Frustra' in Chapel, even though the organisers were so anxious lest she miss the 'plane taking her back to London. Her personal interest even in how to look after the plant which Keith Morris presented to her as she was leaving was something which will always be remembered by those who saw and heard it.

The Duchess's visit came in the middle of a hectic ten-day period in May which also included the Choral Evensong in Warrington Parish Church and the Old Girls' Weekend Reunion. We were grateful to the Rector of Warrington, Canon Colling (a governor of the School) for his help and support with all aspects of this Service which we wanted to make a joint celebration with S Katharine's College - part of our original foundation - and by this means we could share together one major event during the 150th year. The Service paper for the Warrington Service held in January

about the past. On the Saturday there were splendid meals and formal talks, both at lunch time and at an anniversary Dinner, during which two more recent leavers, Fiona and Rachel Cooper, also sang delightfully. There was an AGM and a Service in Chapel. One's abiding memory, though, is of talk, and the many appreciative letters received in the days after the event made clear how much people had enjoyed being back in Derbyshire. A number of former pupils stayed on for a Service in Chapel on the Sunday morning, and took the opportunity to thank the Rev'd Robert Owen - soon to leave to work, as she herself pointed out, at the Duchess of Kent's old school near York - for all that he had done for the spiritual life of the school during his 8 years as Chaplain.

The final ingredient of the 1994 festivities had been the merchandise designed to recall particular events and to promote the School's name. In a world of slogans and stickers - again, how unlike the war-torn England of 1944 - these are now an essential part of every school activity. We tried hard to preserve good taste in every article created: the delicate plate and mug, the tea towel and small tumbler (produced by the Old Girls' Guild); the 1994 Calendar which Ann Hodgson suggested and put together proved especially popular. We hope that people everywhere (literally in all parts of the



Colonel Kenneth Hobbs, Mrs. Valerie Fisher, Mr. Peter Pollard

1944 makes no reference to S Katharine's College, and there is no evidence in fact that their students took part on that occasion. This time the College was represented equally with the School, and it was a joy to share in the singing of Parry's great anthem 'I was glad', as well as in the Stanford 'Magnificat'. Once again, Betty Roe's specially composed anthem was sung by the St Elphin's choir. On this occasion, too, we welcomed two further governor bishops, those of Liverpool and of Blackburn: the Bishop of Blackburn being the guest preacher. As at Buxton in June, once again the heavens opened and the rain poured down, but fortunately did not prevent the procession to the grave of Horace Powys and other ceremonies taking place outside at the end of the Service. The St Elphin's girls representing the School were astonished to see how part of the area around Warrington Parish Church is now a housing estate and it was a strange and unnerving experience to parade in quite so public a way. Fortunately the Community Centre - once the School Chapel, the only building to survive the disastrous fire of 1923 which destroyed the old building - remains in place, and it was in this building that everyone enjoyed a delicious tea on 4th May at the end of Evensong.

The Old Girls' Reunion Weekend was a triumph for Christine Codling, the Guild Secretary, who had borne the brunt of the organisation, together with the Bursar and Mrs Renshaw at School. Well over 300 former pupils re-visited St Elphin's at different times during the weekend of 14th-15th May, many returning after a very long time away. The age range was from 85 down, and it was lovely to see (and hear!) the sheer delight that everyone felt on meeting old friends, touring the buildings and being able just to reminisce

world) will keep and treasure the items bought and will fondly recall throughout their lives one very significant year in the life of St Elphin's. *Nisi Dominus Frustra* - and may this always be the School's guiding principle.

Peter Pollard.

All the events in 1994 took place against a background of significant changes of staff. Mr Peter Pollard, the School's first Headmaster, who had come to St Elphin's in September 1979, had already announced his decision to retire during 1994. He moved to North Yorkshire in July and during August, Mrs Valerie Fisher, the new Headmistress, moved to Derbyshire with her husband and 15-year-old son. At the end of the Summer Term the School also said goodbye to the Rev'd Robert Owen and Mr Stephen Yeo, respectively Chaplain and Director of Music since 1987, and to Mrs Kate Caryl, Head of Drama since 1989. These members of staff had played a significant part in devising the 1994 celebrations, as also had Colonel Kenneth Hobbs, who retired in December 1994 after 20 years as Bursar, to be succeeded by Mrs Eva Ainscough. Full tributes to their work at the School are not possible in this publication, but the success of the 1994 activities speaks for its self.



1866



1882



1901

The modern schoolgirl evolves



1911



1935



1926



1955



1940's



1960's

Saturday, 15th January -

A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving

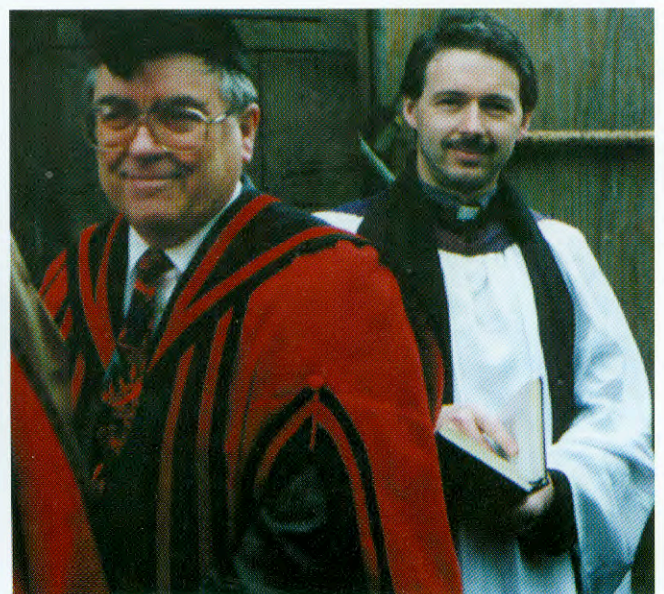






Wednesday, 4th May -
Choral Evensong in Warrington Parish Church, given in conjunction with S Katharine's College,





Faces of the present -

Staff and Governors



Academic Staff

BACK: Dianne Hewitt, Elizabeth Hughes, Elizabeth Hooper, Sylvia Hall. FOURTH: Diane Blount, Kate Barrett, Vanessa Hailey, Ann Topham, Andrea Banks, Edwin Hunt, Ruth Owen, Sabine le Jariel, Sheila Taylor, Teresa Goodwin. THIRD: Kathleen Cartlidge, Oranna Speicher, Kate Caryl, Anne Phillpot, Rosemary Cuff, Pamela Simpson, Gillian Leach, Anne Halliday, Margaret Johnson. SECOND: Angela Mellor, Eva Ainscough, Helen Cawood, Susan Hayward, Patricia Outram, Jenifer Taylor, Elizabeth Wass, Elizabeth Prince, Susan Spriggs, Mavis Hunter. FRONT: Stephen Yeo, Sheelagh Willies, Robert Owen, Judith Crook, Peter Pollard, Patricia Miles, Ann Hodgson, Judy Corfield, David Farrer.



Administrative and Domestic Staff

BACK: June Critchlow, Vye Price, Suzanne Barker, Jayne Barnes, Rose Crooks. SECOND: Iris Taylor, Rose Boam, Neil Hicks, Mark Wildgoose, Robin MacDonald, Keith Morris, John Wibberley, Elizabeth Smith, Patricia Harrison, Pauline Milne. FRONT: Marian Thorpe, Graham Lambert, Sally Wheeldon, Peter Pollard, Kenneth Hobbs, Margaret Renshaw, Margo Nicoll, Margaret Walker, Janet Liddicot.



The Governors

BACK: Mrs Frances Grant, Mr Derek Plowright, Revd George Matthews, Revd Stephen Malkinson, Mrs Mavis Hunter, Col. Kenneth Hobbs, Mrs Jenifer Taylor, Mrs Brenda Bruce, Revd Mary Dicker, Mrs Clare Macfarlane, Mrs Patricia Outram. FRONT: Mrs Rosemary Chambers, Canon John Colling, Lady Osmond, Mr Peter Pollard, Bishop Michael Henshall, Mr Timothy Bowles, Mr Richard Horne, Mrs Brenda Bower, Mr George Ashcroft



Upper Sixth

BACK: Joan Bertie, Emma Carter, Janet Ho, Angela Billington, Sara Hurn, Winnie Fong. THIRD: Emma Watson-Neish, Helen Fox, Clare Jurczyk, Emma Cummins, Emma Jackson, Victoria Pope. SECOND: Katherine Core, Julia Faulkner, Elizabeth Kelly, Stefanie Yearn, Bethan Lewis, Roberta Tomkinson, Michelle Willetts. Anna Michell FRONT: Tohan Ayewoh, Shirley Chong, Karen Smyth, Mrs A Hodgson, Nicola Burrows, Kristy Johnson, Georgina Glover.



Lower/Upper Sixth

BACK: Maria Chan, Eleanor Taylor, May Lee, Suzanne Leung, Zoe Baxter. SECOND: Louise Stuart, Alison Carminke, Karen Cartledge, Lubna Zaman, Gemma Meredith, Devanie Hutton, Sunita Nair, Lucy Baxter. FRONT: Jeanette Fyfe, Amy Turner, Kerris Thompson, Mrs P Outram, Emma Atkinson, Miranda Ludlam, Christina Kong.



Year 11/Lower Sixth

BACK: Mimi Chan, Octavia Yip, Caroline Bond, Rachel Woodhouse, Zoe Blount, Randima Wickramasinghe, Joanna Ho, Karen Sands. THIRD: Anita Liu, Elizebeth Turner, Rachel Lai, Emma Lai, Rebecca Hawley, Julie Smith, Hannah Wicks. SECOND: Linda Lee, Nicola Strivens, Masee Toure, Helen Winlow, Katherine Tatler, Lisa Wilkinson, Anna White, Jane Stafford. FRONT: Hayley Lord, Sophie Clayton, Miss P Simpson, Mrs J Corfield, Emily Draycott, Eponine Wong, Ruth Gilkes.



Year 10/11

BACK: Alison Moncrief, Winnie Tam FOURTH: Tamara Hinchliffe, Theresa Kwan, Ruhi Singh, Morwenna Whawell, Laura Vernall, Annie Littlewood, Joanne Mapp, Susan Proctor, Anna Farmer. THIRD: Anna Thwaites, Anya Taylor, Fleur Pozzi, Abigail Meredith, Sarah Wood, Anna Steeper, Melissa Heathcote, Sally Hurn SECOND: Zoe Smith, Sarah Allsop, Joanne Ko, Zoe Short, Leanne Longdon, Gabrielle Glover, Betsy Wong, Man-yi Tsang, Emily Schaerer FIRST: Gillian Hyde, Caroline Ludlam, Mrs J Taylor, Mr D Farrer, Ada Ho, Janet Pang, Katrina Codling.



Year 9/10

BACK: Louise Gray, Sophie Wragg. FOURTH: Hayley Clarke, Caroline Mowatt, Elizabeth Allsop, Elisabeth Sumper, Samantha Marshall, Georgina Elder, Louise Benoist, Joanna Batten. THIRD: Emily Purrett, Annabel Gilman, Millicent Holdsworth, Amy Barnes, Katie Taylor, Caroline Turner, Jennifer Liu. SECOND: Sally Walton, Elisabeth Hughes, Amanda Lee, Eleanor Wicks, Kate Rodgers, Louise Huxtable, Fiona Hibbert, Sarah Marshall-Hilton. FRONT: Sarah Patterson, Sarah Watson, Mrs V Hailey, Mrs E Prince, Mrs A Halliday, Pamela Sheldon, Sara Vinall.



Year 8/9

BACK: Frances Elson, Jessica Sverdlhoff, Olivia Riley, Victoria Fenwick THIRD: Kathryn Shipman, Catherine Benoist, Claire Hildred, Nkulu Banda, Chola Chilufya, Daminie Hutton, Anna Bradfield. SECOND: Helen MacBain, Verity Walker, Faye Mellor, Cher Kwong, Rebecca Gatt, Jennifer Kenning, Rebecca Parker, Philippa Heathcote. FIRST: Helen White, Emma-Jane Wiecekovicz, Katherine Hyde, Mrs E Ainscough, Carolyn Thomas, Christina Thwaites, Anne Hudson.



Year 7/8

BACK: Fleur Rayner, Amy Gould, Ayesha Zaman, Sophie Liu. SECOND: Hannah Atkins, Rachel Carberry, Gemma Farmer, Rachel Longden, Abigayle Makin, Natalie Clifford, Alice Sumper, Nicola Millican. FRONT: Frances King, Felicity Wright, Zoe Froggatt, Miss H Cawood, Katherine Hillard, Katie Weightman, Hannah Sutcliffe.



New members of the School

BACK ROW: Elizabeth Hammond, Hannah Fox, Jessica Logan, Ruth Spokes, Katie-Marie Baughan, Manna Lai, Elinor Chan, Rebecca Adamson, Veronique Yonnet. SECOND: Robyn Lawrence, Louise Hinchliffe, Erin Greene, Miss C Emery, Mr A Teague, Revd H Robinson, Davinia Harrington, Liliane Ntirandekura, Tamara Dudziak, Winnie Kam. THIRD: Katy Thurman, Hannah Bourne, Rebecca Volli, Olivia Walker, Charlotte Burnham, Emma Shirley, Anjana Nair, Lea Owen, Rebecca Moncrief. FOURTH: Elizabeth Hayward, Teresa Leung, Bryony Lawrence, Michelle Thompson, Cathryne Hicklin, Amelia Teague, Marsha Rigden, Miriam Hammond.



Infants

BACK: Amy Harvey, Grace Owen, Phoebe Ryan, Rosemary Proctor, Katie Baker, Nicola Yates, Jasmin Winnard. SECOND: Jessica McLean, Chloe Tharme-Loose, Georgina Grant, Stefanie Kenning, Lauren Rigby, Amie Owen, Jamie Grant, Stacia Grant-Nicholas. FRONT: Harriet Holt, Miss T Goodwin, Revd R Owen, Mrs R Cuff, Mrs A Topham, Miss A Mellor, Katie Hammerton.



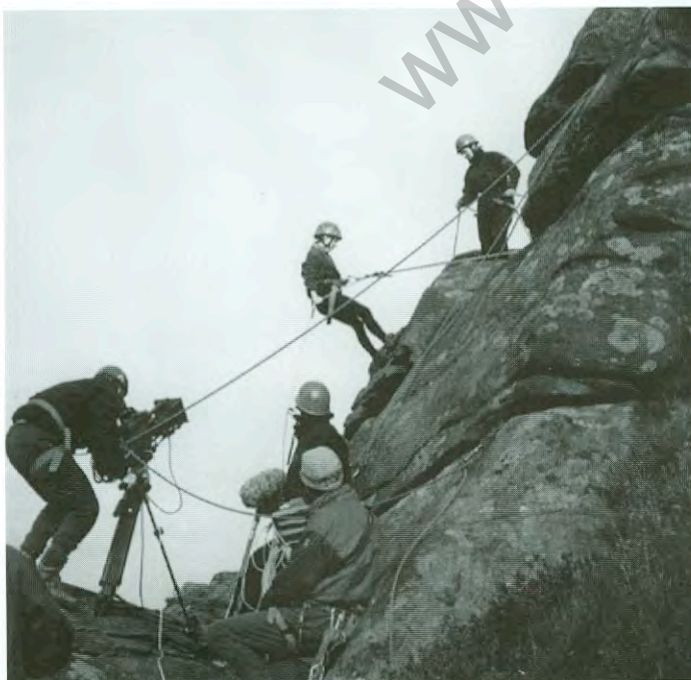
Junior School

BACK: Christine Smith, Claire Darley, Charlotte Brown, Elizabeth Christian, Victoria Sheldon, Melanie Rigden, Suzanne Parker, Eleanor Hughes, Bianca Tharme-Loose, Anika Weightman. FIFTH: Elice Koemans, Helen Radford, Kirsty McCarrison, Jennifer Millican, Rebecca Hildred, Gabrielle Grant, Jessica Burrows, Claire Harrison, Rebecca Kingsland. FOURTH: Abigail Plowright, Alexandra Vernon, Amy Robson, Victoria Fox, Amy Rodgers, Mary Franklin, Holly Page, Stephanie Thomas, Sophie Thwaites, Danielle Ford-Edwards. THIRD: Miss A Mellor, Mrs A Banks, Revd R Owen, Mrs K Cartledge, Mrs S Willies, Mrs D. Blount, Mrs M Johnson, Mrs S Hayward, Miss T Goodwin. SECOND: Ruth Barnett, Charlotte Nunn, Lauren Owen, Jessica Holt, Sarah Phillips, Catherine Leteve. FRONT: Helen Fox, Gemma Hammerton, Lucy Gell, Hannah Hall, Charlotte Rigby, Stephanie Grant, Laura Keighley, Anna MacDonald.



Juniors in Scotland

The Great Outdoors 1994



Sixth form sport – television debut



D of E expedition

Tuesday, 10th May -

*A visit by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, who took lunch in school,
shared in several activities and unveiled a commemorative plaque*





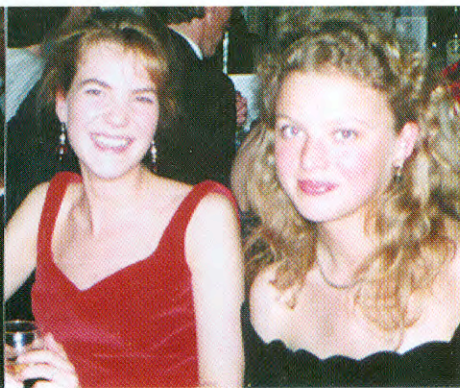


Saturday, 14th - Sunday, 15th May -

A weekend Reunion, attended by over 300 former pupils of St Elphin's







Friday, 24th June -

An Old Time Music Hall, performed by members of the School in Buxton Opera House



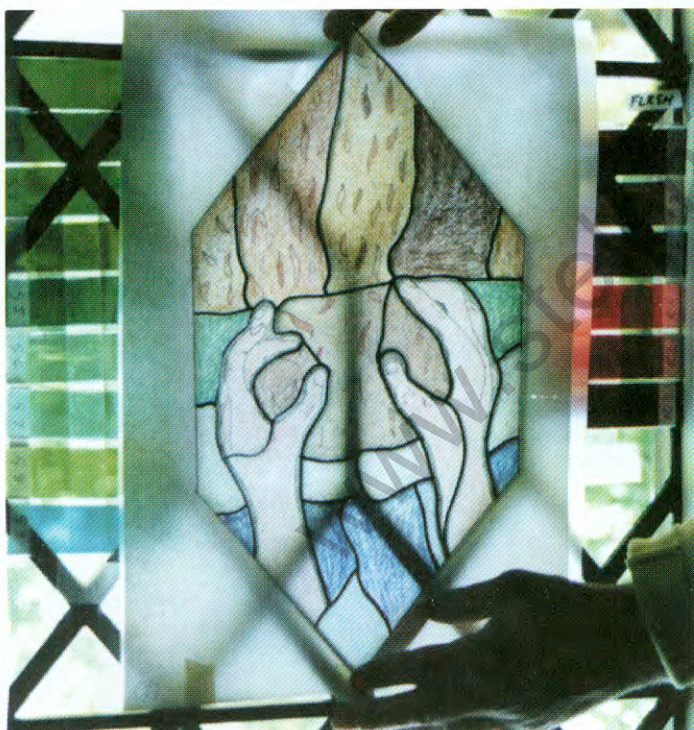
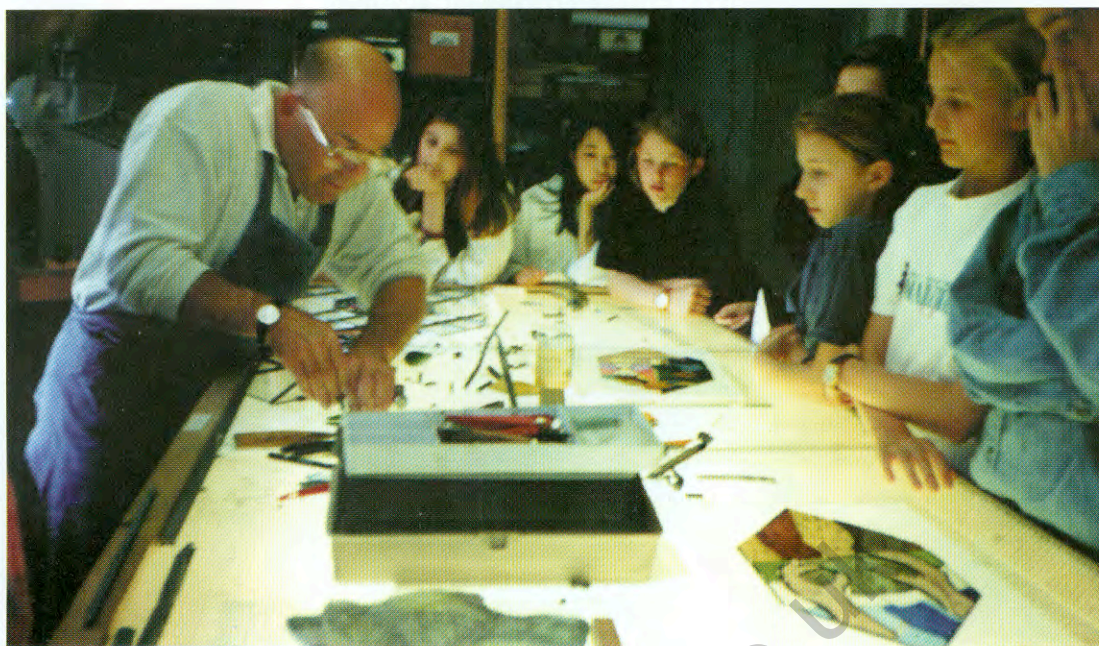






Monday, 19th September -

During a special Service in Chapel, the Bishop of Warrington formally installed Mrs Valerie Fisher as Headmistress and dedicated the Stained-Glass Window given by the Old Girls' Guild to commemorate the 150th year of St Elphin's School



Psalm 127

'Nisi Dominus Frustra'

*Except the Lord build the house,
their labour is but lost that build it.
Except the Lord keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain.
It is but lost labour that ye haste
to rise up early, and so late take rest,
and eat the bread of carefulness;
for so he giveth his beloved sleep.
Lo, children and the fruit of the womb;
are an heritage and gift that cometh of the lord.
Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant;
even so are the young children.
Happy is the man that hath his quiver
full of them;
they shall not be ashamed when they
speak with their enemies in the gate.*





Saturday, 10th December -

The Friends' Annual Christmas Bazaar, took a Victorian theme, in recollection of the School's foundation in Warrington in 1844.



We are grateful to the following patrons of this issue:

Slacks Coaches,
Matlock Electrical,
J. F. Johnson & Sons (Plumbers),
AHS/EMSTAR (Heating Engineers),
Thorntons plc,
Wm Twigg (Matlock) Ltd.,
E. W. Coates (Butcher)



Tuesday, 6th December -

St Nicholas's Day Service, Stopford Hall This brought together all sections of the School, sharing with parents and visitors, in a Service of carols and readings. The greetings in different languages which had opened the Derby Cathedral Service so memorably were repeated, with a difference: at this final ceremony it was the message of 'Happy Christmas' spoken in the tongues of five continents, which came as the climax .



ST ELPHIN'S SCHOOL: PERSPECTIVE OVER 150 YEARS

written by Mr Pollard and spoken at the Service in Derby Cathedral on 15th January, 1994.

On this memorable day, the 150th birthday of our school, I've been asked to put in context the reason for our coming together here in Derby. Neither Derby nor its lovely Cathedral church played any part in our foundation. As most of you know, the School began in Warrington, Cheshire and takes the name of Elphin (which it shares with Warrington Parish Church) from an obscure 7th century saint killed in battle in Mercia at that time.

In our earliest years, we were inextricably linked with the Church of England and with teacher training. We were established to give a boarding education to the daughters of clergymen in the Archdeaconry of Chester; we were also set up to train elementary school mistresses within the same community. January 15th, 1844, saw the school open with but 5 pupils: three clergy daughters and two aspiring teachers. Horace Powys, Rector of Warrington, later Bishop of Sodor and Man, was the moving spirit in those early years and is honoured as our Founder. Ultimately, of course, the two sides of the foundation diverged. A teacher training college, S Katharine's, was established in Liverpool after fire had destroyed the Warrington building in the early 1920s. The girls' school had previously moved to Derbyshire.

Why Darley Dale? By the turn of this century, not only had Warrington become a busy industrial centre, making a change of environment desirable, but an outbreak of scarlet fever in the early 1900s had also spurred the School Authorities into action. Darley Dale Hydro near Matlock was for sale and in 1904 - when Richmal Crompton of 'Just William' fame was a pupil - the School moved lock, stock and barrel to the Derbyshire countryside as it then was.

Its ability to adapt to changing circumstances has always been a crucial factor in the School's success. The narrow confines of one Archdeaconry developed

into a catchment area of several Anglican dioceses. Lay pupils were admitted as boarders after the move to Darley Dale, and from 1933, weekly boarders and day pupils were welcomed. Nowadays we are truly international, as the beginning of this Service has shown.

Miss Catherine Kennedy and Miss Margaret Flood, those great Headmistresses who guided the School's destiny from 1896-1933, were noted educators in their time and established a reputation for scholarship which other girls' schools must have envied. A steady stream of pupils won scholarships or places at Oxford and Cambridge, most often in the Classics: a tradition we still maintain with pride. They encouraged excellence in music, drama and games (including cricket for earlier generations) and this continues. Skill in technology and business enterprise, the development of Duke of Edinburgh's activities and outdoor pursuits are recent developments enjoyed by today's pupils. Whereas in the past only a privileged few, perhaps, had the benefits of higher education and a range of career opportunities, in addition to those followed in teaching, nursing or the secretarial/ commercial fields, it is now the norm for Sixth Form leavers to take degrees and enjoy fruitful working lives, both in England and abroad.

In recent years the Governors have built new buildings and provided magnificent facilities. Our Association with the Woodard Corporation since 1988 has extended and strengthened the church link from which we sprang. My role as Headmaster since 1979 serves as a reminder that in its early years the School was under the supervision of a succession of resident married clergymen, (the clerical Principals) assisted by ladies (be it noted!) designated as Chief Governesses.

I hope that this sketch may give you some idea of the ways in which St Elphin's has evolved since 1844. The School undoubtedly has an interesting, unusual history and now stands ready to face new challenges as the 21st century approaches.

THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONS TWO NEW WORKS

Thanks to the generosity of the Old Girls' Guild, the Chapel now has a splendid new stained-glass window, the crowning glory of the School's celebrations throughout 1994. The design for the six lozenge-shaped panels is based on Psalm 127, from which the School takes its motto, 'Nisi Dominus Frustra' - also the text of the anthem specially commissioned from the composer, Betty Roe, and first performed by the St Elphin's Choir in Derby Cathedral on January 15th. Each of five panels reflects one of the verses of the psalm, and the final lozenge that of the doxology: 'Glory be to the Father'

Five Year 7 pupils - Abigail Makin, Hannah Sutcliffe, Sophie Liu, Rachel Longden and Hannah Lenton - designed the six lozenges, originally as an art exercise at the suggestion of Miss Helen Cawood, Head of Art. The original intention was that the new window should be designed by a member of the world-famous York Glaziers Trust. However, when Mr Peter Gibson, the Trust's Director, saw the girls' work, he was so impressed that he decided it would be more appropriate to use their designs. Only a few modifications had to be made to transfer them to glass. It is therefore humbling, yet very exciting, to think that our pupils' work has

been turned into a window created by the hands responsible for restoring such famous medieval windows as the Rose Window at York Minster. Mr Rodney Beaumont was the craftsman particularly concerned with the work on the St Elphin's window; it is the first completely new window the Trust has made, and provided a different challenge from restoring the glass of previous centuries.

The window was dedicated by the Bishop of Warrington, Chairman of Governors, during the special Service held in Chapel in September 1994 for the installation of Mrs Valerie Fisher as Headmistress. Later in the term, on Advent Sunday, November 27th, the School was able to thank the Old Girls' Guild for its generosity. There was a Choral Evensong in Chapel, attended by Mrs Christine Codling, Guild Secretary, and by Mr Peter Pollard, who read a Lesson, returning to St Elphin's for the first time since his retirement. Before this Service Mr Peter Gibson, MBE, who is a world authority on stained glass, had given an enthralling illustrated talk in the Common Room. He is returning to the School in due course to talk to a wider audience, and this visit is eagerly awaited.

The Sporting Life



Hockey 1913



Tennis 1911



Cricket 1933



Cricket 1905



"Find a space" 1927



Sports Day 1935



Gymnastics 1935



See-saw 1930



Sports Day 1953



Netball 1994



Riding 1994



Sports Day 1994

Faces from the past



Miss Beal Headmistress, 1882-1885



Miss Kennedy Headmistress, 1896-1910



*Richmal Cropmton, 1903
(authoress)*



Miss Flood Headmistress, 1910-1933



John Betjeman and the Duchess of Devonshire attend Speech Day with Miss Stopford, 1958



Penelope Mortimer (authoress), 1935



Miss Robinson introduces girls to Princess Margaret, 1962



The Clergy Daughters' School, and Teachers' Training College, Warrington, 1884.

The changing faces of St. Elphin's



Miss Margaret Flood (pictured on right) in 1912



*Front of School in 1993, featuring the canadian maple planted in 1990
by Richmal Ashbee, niece of Richmal Crompton.*

