

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL



**The Old Hangar Church
of
St Michael's and All Angels**

Front Cover

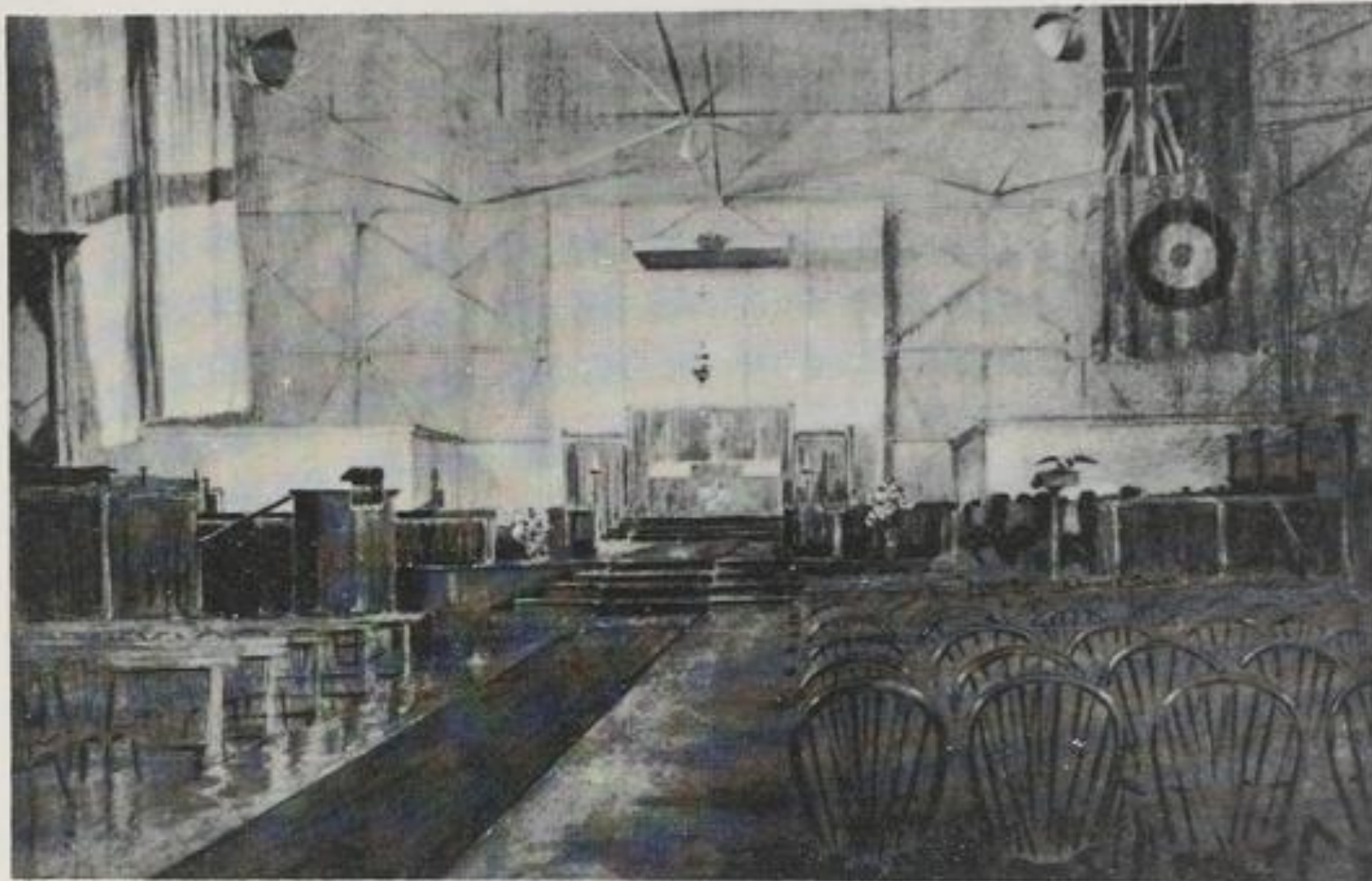
THE OLD HANGAR
CHURCH
of
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS



NOVEMBER 1921 — MAY 1962

Painting by Alfred Walton Foster

THE OLD HANGAR CHURCH



*From a Painting by
Alfred Walton Foster*

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The story of the work of the Church in the Royal Air Force at Cranwell cannot be told merely by stringing data together or compiling statistics. It is more than a mere chronological process of chaplains. It is the story of the activity of the entire Christian community for over forty years, the worship of thousands, the immeasurable influence of the witness of the Church in the Cranwell community, in the formation of the Royal Air Force College, and in the lives of individual men and women who have passed this way.

It is, therefore, a story both Divine and human, Godwards and manwards. It does not end with Cranwell, but goes out into the wider life of the Royal Air Force, the Country and the Commonwealth. It is not a story of obvious and easy achievements, for the difficulties and disappointments have often been most marked; but, in spite of constant failure and apparent futility, it is a story that deserves to be told.

Incomplete records make it impossible to write a comprehensive survey of the work of the Church, and this booklet makes no claim to be more than an inadequate sketch; but it is offered as an expression of gratitude for God's blessing in His Church, an acknowledgement of the devoted work and witness of so many who have worshipped in this place, and a testimony and a challenge to those who are yet to come.

Cranwell

CRANWELL

The wide fields and scattered woods of this agricultural area were first appropriated towards the end of 1915 when it was chosen by the Admiralty as a site suitable as the central depot of the Royal Naval Air Service, where pilots could be taught to fly aeroplanes, balloons and airships, and learn something about armaments, wireless and navigation. So was born H.M.S. Daedalus, opened officially as the Royal Naval Air Service Training Establishment on 1st April, 1916.

The Royal Air Force was created on 1st April, 1918, when the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were fused into a third Service, and in 1919, when Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard was Chief of the Air Staff, it was decided to establish at Cranwell a Cadet College to train permanent officers for the new Service. So the College was inaugurated on Thursday, 5th February, 1920, with Air Commodore C. A. H. Longcroft as the first Commandant, and on West Camp there was established a Training School for boy apprentices.

In the early years of its existence the College had no permanent buildings and the war time huts were used as accommodation and for training purposes. But in April, 1929 the foundation stone of the new College was laid by the Lady Maude Hoare, wife of Sir Samuel Hoare, then Secretary of State for Air. The new building was ready for occupation in September, 1933, and officially opened by Air Marshal His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on 11th October, 1934.

It is a noble building, conforming to the best English architectural tradition, reminiscent of Wren. The proud columns of the central block present a dignified portico, surmounted by a pediment and a high tower from which by night a beacon flashes.

Much could be written of the story of the College since those early days, with biographical notes of many famous men who were trained here and have since received honour for distinguished service to their Country.

Its comparatively brief history scintillates with visits of the great—monarchs and princes, ministers of the Crown, dignitaries of Church and State, service chiefs of British and Commonwealth forces, eminent scholars and sportsmen, and constant important visitors from other lands.

As H.M.S. Daedalus it was twice visited by King George V. In 1920 it was visited by the Duke of York, who, as Prince Albert, had been stationed

at Cranwell for some months during 1918. As King George VI he honoured the College with four more visits from 1938 to 1948, and on the last occasion presented the King's Colour to the College, the first Royal Colour to be presented to the Royal Air Force.

The College was visited in 1951 by Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth, and in 1953 by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. In 1960 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II graciously consented to become Commandant-in-Chief of the College, and on a magnificent day in July, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she made a royal visit to review the Passing-Out of No. 77 Entry of cadets, to present a new Queen's Colour, and to open the new way called Queen's Avenue.

Carlisle has observed that "The history of the world is the story of its famous men." This young College — the oldest Air Academy in the world — has a brief story which glitters with the achievements of men who have made aviation history in war and in peace. Its future story is in the hands of the young men who stand confidently on the threshold of the space age, looking towards the stars.

“The Church which is His Body”

THE CHURCH AT CRANWELL

“The Church, which is His Body”

Any consideration of the work of the Church must begin with some sort of understanding as to what it is the Church is trying to do. In its origin the Church was called into being to fulfil the purposes of God in the world, and to continue the work of Christ among men. It is, then, His mystical Body, a living Organism of many members, indwelt by the Spirit of God; but to the world it is an institution visibly organised and active.

This activity is primarily Godwards, fulfilling the duty of worship; and then, stemming from that, manwards in its witness and service to humanity.

In its Godward direction its ministry cannot properly be seen and measured, because it is projected beyond the realm of natural perception and analysis into the spiritual realm. Like a space satellite, visible during the count-down and as it initially begins its journey into orbit, but then known to us only through the medium of radio communication; so too, worship, prayer and sacrament can be perceived (but imperfectly) in their visible and material setting, but when they ascend for ever and for ever into the Godhead they elude the description of the writer or the measuring rod of the scientist.

In its manward direction the ministry of the Church can be more clearly evaluated. Christian principles and ethics inform and influence the life of the community, and give meaning and purpose to the life of the individual, helping to integrate his personality at every level through establishing a harmonious relationship with God and with his fellowmen. These principles filter down to something immensely practical, affecting every detail of life.

This briefly is the two-fold work of the Church — an activity towards God and towards men.

Cranwell 1916

Cranwell — 1916

The first recorded Services at the Royal Naval Air Station at Cranwell were held on Sunday, 20th August, 1916, when the Reverend J. de Vitre, Chaplain, R.N., celebrated Holy Communion at 07.30 and there were four communicants. At the Service of Mattins at 10.30 the preacher was the Bishop of Grantham, whose text for the occasion was taken from Psalm 119, 59. "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies." Evensong was held at 18.30.

In the early days the Services were held in the Gymnasium which was accommodated, with the swimming pool, in a hangar type building on the edge of the south airfield. The building was provided with a large alcove which served as a chancel and sanctuary, and was furnished accordingly with altar and other items. This sanctuary was concealed by a partition when the building was in use as a gymnasium.

The first Confirmation Service was held less than a month later, on Wednesday evening, 16th September, 1916, and was conducted by the Right Reverend E. L. Hicks, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

More than forty years later, Padre de Vitre is still remembered as a man of extreme friendliness and untiring energy. He handed over his work in May 1918 to the Reverend F. W. R. Metcalfe, who continued until January 1919, when he was succeeded by the Reverend W. Guy Pearse (for four months) and then the Reverend H. C. Eddowes (for nearly six months).

The end of the Great War was marked at Cranwell on 6th July, 1919, with a great Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of Peace.

The Royal Air Force College

The Royal Air Force College

The Reverend Bernard W. Keymer was appointed the first Royal Air Force Chaplain for the new College in October 1919. He had served with the Royal Flying Corps in France, and was personally chosen for this new appointment

by the first College Commandant, Air Commodore C. H. Longcroft. His eminent P.M. & U.B. colleague, the Reverend A. M. McHardy, with customary generosity, wrote of Padre Keymer that he was a man "so greatly beloved . . . the ideal choice for Cranwell." The Reverend J. T. Skinner-Law was the first Chaplain appointed for the Boy Apprentices at the new School on east camp.

Advent Sunday, 27th November, 1921, was a great day, when the hangar Church was dedicated in the name of Saint Michael and All Angels by the Right Reverend W. S. Swayne, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, supported by the Chaplain-in-Chief, the Reverend H. D. L. Viener (formerly a senior naval chaplain), the Reverend B. W. Keymer (College chaplain) and the Reverend J. T. Skinner-Law. The Reverend A. M. McHardy also took part in the Service, which was conducted in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief. The Service was immediately followed by a Confirmation Service.

Padre McHardy wrote, in a letter, of that "very happy winter's morning" and of "the Church building which was destined to play such an outstanding part in the life of the new College, indeed of the whole new Service."

The Church of St. Michael and All Angels was in fact a converted airship hangar, used originally as a workshop, but as a place of worship it soon became one of the outstanding features of Cranwell. To quote again from Padre McHardy, "The Church soon became the centre of Cranwell's family worship and inspiration, and also the focus of great friendships with Lincolnshire families and parishes for many miles around. The Sunday services were a special event each week for all Cranwellians and their friends. The Sunday School from the married families was large and enthusiastic."

Discussion groups and debates were held on Sunday evenings after supper, and there were often visiting speakers, including the Reverend "Tubby" Clayton of Toc H, Lord Hugh Cecil and Air Commodore Brooke-Popham. At these meetings the College tutors took a prominent part, Padre Keymer always presiding. He had a tremendous gift for "drawing out" the thoughts of the cadets, and in this he was greatly helped by the English tutor, S. P. B. Mais, and later by his successor, Rupert De La Bere, who was a tower of strength in all College activities for many years.

It is thought to have been the Reverend B. W. Keymer who suggested SUPERNA PETIMUS as the College motto — "We seek the higher things." It is recorded that one day in Church Squadron Leader Portal, the Chief Flying Instructor, asked Wing Commander Rees, the Officer Commanding Flying Wing, the meaning of the words over the altar, "Superna Petimus", and received the reply, "We spurn the petty things!"

The first Baptism was held on 3rd October, 1920, when Peter Charles Fasken Stephenson, the son of Flight Lieutenant Donald and Mrs. Janet Stephenson, was baptised by the College Chaplain, Padre Keymer. A new font was later designed and made, incorporating engine cylinder heads, supported by parts of aircraft propellers, and this font was dedicated by the Bishop of Lincoln on 15th April, 1923.

So the work of the Church continued, a work which from the beginning was deepened by the happy association and friendship with the successive chaplains of the Roman Catholic Church and other denominations.

The John Jagoe Era

It was in November 1923 that the Reverend B. W. Keymer was succeeded by the Reverend J. A. Jagoe, who gave long and devoted service to the College. Three times he was appointed chaplain—from November 1923 to September 1927, from September 1929 to October 1934 and again from April 1938 until November 1941. (In 1944 he became Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, and later was consecrated in Westminster Abbey as Bishop of Bermuda).

"A perfect gentleman and respected by everyone." This is how one of the old members of the Cranwell staff described John Jagoe. Of course, it would take a separate volume to do justice to the biographical notes that could be accumulated about this man, and some of the stories about him have become almost legendary. "I remember," writes one older member of the College band, "I remember a visiting chaplain who caused a sensation. He started his sermon but it never did end. He went on and on and on. The officers, cadets and airmen started shuffling their feet and coughing, and the band looked very uneasy. The College chaplain, the Reverend John Jagoe, could stand it no longer, so he stood up and said, 'Let us now sing the closing hymn.' Mr. Sims and the band were very quick on the 'up-take'."

We say nothing about his personal and direct influence for good over hundreds of young men who passed his way, but he gave of his very best for something over twelve years as Chaplain at Cranwell, and who can doubt that the moulding of the new College bears something of the impact of the power of his personality.

The College Journal for Autumn 1924 records, "The Church of St. Michael and All Angels was originally a hangar, but . . . it has become one of the features of Cranwell." The short article goes on to refer to the high standard of singing achieved by a volunteer choir of officers, cadets, airmen and boys, under the able direction of Warrant Officer A. E. Halford, the first bandmaster of the Cadet College Band, and it expresses the hope that "this standard may be

maintained and that new volunteers will come forward." The standard was maintained. On the 14th February, 1926, a surpliced choir was inaugurated at the Church Parade Service, and in the April of 1926 choral Evensong began and was continued every Sunday evening during the summer months. Through the years Evensong has been held in different chapels at Cranwell at different seasons; during the summer months sometimes in St. Michael's, during Advent and Lent in St. Christopher's Chapel and in St. George's Chapel in East Camp, sometimes sung and sometimes said.

Two Memorial Services of special interest and marked solemnity were held during Padre Jagoe's first tour as chaplain. Firstly, on Friday, 27th November, 1925, when Cranwell mourned at a special Memorial Service the passing of Queen Alexandra, and secondly on Sunday, 7th November, 1926, when, at the great Armistice Service, the Bishop of Lincoln was the preacher and Sir Hugh Trenchard took the salute at the march past.

The Reverend W. T. Rees succeeded the Reverend J. A. Jagoe and served from September 1927 until December 1928, when in turn he was succeeded by the Reverend A. H. Dolphin who served for only a few months from January 1929 until August 1929.

The John Jagoe Era

In the Spring of 1928, in the United Services Chapel in Lincoln Cathedral, the Royal Air Force Ensign was dedicated by Dean Fry in the presence of the Reverend Vernon Hanson (Chaplain-in-Chief), the Reverend W. T. Rees (College Chaplain) and the Commandant of the College, Air Vice Marshal Halahan. This Ensign, originally hanging in the R.A.F. section of the United Services Chapel, was later transferred when the Royal Air Force Memorial Chapel was opened in the Cathedral.

The great occasion in 1929 was the laying of the foundation stone of the new College building by the Lady Maude Hoare, on Friday, 26th April, when the Chaplain-in-Chief performed the act of dedication. The College Journal, recording the ceremony, includes these words, "At a later date it is hoped to complete the present scheme by the provision of a Church in character with the present buildings." It was a hope that awaited fulfilment for over thirty years.

In September the Reverend J. A. Jagoe returned for his second tour at Cranwell, and during this period the Church register records the tragedy of the R.101 disaster, with a Memorial service for the victims held on Sunday, 12th October, 1930.

The Reverend H. Thomas, a man of marked ability and great friendliness, served as senior chaplain after Padre Jagoe had departed for Singapore, from October 1934 until April 1938.

At the beginning of 1936 the whole Nation and Empire was plunged into mourning with the passing of King George V, and at the Memorial Service of His late Majesty, held on Tuesday, 28th January, 1936, at 13.20 hours, no less than two thousand three hundred people were present.

On Coronation Sunday, 9th May, 1937, a great Service of Thanksgiving was held to mark the occasion of the crowning of King George VI; this momentous event was of particular interest to many local people as the King had served at Cranwell. It is worthy of note that on 26th January, 1938, when the King made his first visit to the College after his coronation, he went to the Church where he was received by the Reverend W. E. Woosnam Jones, the Reverend Leslie Wright and the Reverend R. W. Briscoe. During his inspection he expressed his appreciation of the size of the Church and the beauty of the altar and chancel, remarking how different it was from the place in which they worshipped when he was stationed at Cranwell. He was glad to see the improvements, and complimented those responsible. He showed particular interest in the banners of the Squadrons which were first formed and trained at Cranwell in the 1914-18 war, which were now preserved in the Church.

The Second World War

The Second World War

The Reverend John Jagoe returned for his third tour as chaplain in April 1938 and remained until November 1941.

With the outbreak of war on 3rd September, 1939, the face and function of Cranwell changed considerably, and the work of the Church expanded enormously with the increasing numbers of men and women stationed in the war time establishment. The work of the College was suspended, and Cranwell became primarily a Flying School for war time pilots. In the turmoil of those days the Church continued to proclaim its message, and a clear illustration of this work was the Teaching Mission held in mid-January, 1941, by Bishop Neville Talbot.

The collapse of France and the epic of Dunkirk meant that Britain stood alone against the might of Nazi Germany, and in 1940 everything depended on the young men who kept the skies of Britain in face of the onslaught of the German Air Armadas. Many of the young men who fought and died in those days had been trained at the College, and on the first anniversary of the victory of the Battle of Britain, on 21st September, 1941, a great Service of Thanksgiving was held in the hangar Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

From the nineteen-thirties and through the war years, many were the junior chaplains who passed through Cranwell, and many of them, giving noble service to Cranwell in their early experience of the Royal Air Force, have since

achieved distinction in the Service and in the Church. Three of them became Chaplains-in-Chief:— the Reverend Canon Leslie Wright, C.B.E., M.A. (Rector of Wimbledon), the Very Reverend Alan Giles, C.B., C.B.E., M.A. (Dean of Jersey), and the present Chaplain-in-Chief, the Venerable F. W. Cocks, C.B., Q.H.C., M.A.

An outstanding event of this period, during the chaplaincy of the Rev. A. G. Gates, was the visit by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester on Thursday, 6th May, 1943, when she opened the new Y.M.C.A. building on east camp, the Chapel of which was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Reverend Stanton Jones. Since that time the Y.M.C.A. has continued to give excellent service to the junior ranks, as did the Church Army until their canteen was closed in 1959.

The Reverend W. E. Woosnam Jones became senior chaplain in June 1944 until July 1945. He had formerly served at Cranwell as a junior chaplain in 1937-1939. One entry of historical interest which he made in the Church register reads:

“8th May, 1945.

Complete capitulation of all German Forces in Europe. Laus Deo. Celebrations of Holy Communion in both Chapels — no collections taken. Immense voluntary Service of Thanksgiving in the Station Hall at 11 a.m. Chapels open all day for frequent services of intercession and thanksgiving.”

From July 1945 until November 1946 the Reverend G. H. Church served as chaplain, during a period of great re-organisation. No. 19 F.T.S. moved into the College in July 1945 and a special Service was held to mark the occasion, when the preacher was the Reverend Leslie Wright, Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief. A Service of Thanksgiving celebrating the final victory was held on 19th August, 1945. The war was over.

Post War Reconstruction

Post War Reconstruction

The Reverend E. W. P. Ainsworth took over from Padre Church in November 1946 and continued until January 1950.

The Church building itself needed fairly considerable rehabilitation. During the war it had been conscripted for other purposes and used as an Entertainment hall on week-nights because it was the largest building available for the huge numbers stationed at Cranwell. Part of the east end, with the chancel and sanctuary, was screened off, and the remainder of the building was used for dances on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A false roof of white canvas was erected above. It is recalled that during the Christmas week dances

there was a long queue from the west doors of the building to the main road. On Saturdays the Church was prepared for the services of the following day.

Thus it was, on the third Sunday after Easter, 27th April, 1948, that the hangar building was re-opened and re-dedicated as a Church by the Bishop of Grimsby.

Many of the old features had disappeared. The unique font has never been seen since the war time days, the aircraft propellers from which the lights were suspended and the old high pulpit have vanished. But the present pipe organ was installed, brought from Medmenham, near Marlow in Buckinghamshire; and during Padre Ainsworth's ministry the Church was arranged as a collegiate chapel, the chairs facing inwards to the central aisle, the lectern in the front centre, and the officiating chaplains and senior officers of the staff sitting at the west end facing the altar.

1948 was the year of the Lambeth Conference, and on Monday, 14th June, four of the Bishops visited Cranwell. They were the Right Reverend L. N. Fisher, Bishop of Natal, the Right Reverend H. E. Sexton, Bishop of British Columbia, the Right Reverend C. E. Stuart, Bishop of Uganda, and the Right Reverend J. Wellington, Bishop of Shantung. They were met by the Commandant, Air Commodore R. L. R. Atcherley, C.B.E., A.F.C. and conducted around the College before being taken to lunch. On Sunday, 25th July, the Bishop of Southern Rhodesia, attended by the Reverend J. A. Jagoe, Chaplain-in-Chief, preached at St. Michael's during the week-end of the Old Cranwellian Reunion.

It was also during this year that His Majesty King George VI, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret, again visited the College, and on this notable occasion presented the King's Colour. There, on the parade ground in front of the College, the Colour was consecrated by the Reverend J. A. Jagoe, the Chaplain-in-Chief.

Two more notable visits during Padre Ainsworth's chaplaincy occurred in March 1949. The first was on Sunday, 20th, when the preacher at the Morning Parade Service was His Grace the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Geoffrey Fisher, D.D., the Archbishop of Canterbury. The second was on the following Sunday, 27th, when the newly consecrated Bishop of Bermuda, the Right Reverend J. A. Jagoe, preached and conducted his first Confirmation Service, and thirty one candidates were presented to him. It was most fitting that he should begin his episcopal ministry at the College to which he had devoted so much of his work.

The Last 12 Years - Rev EW May

The Last Twelve Years

From 1950 to 1962 five senior chaplains have served the College, and although much could be written about the work of the Church in this decade, only isolated items have been picked out for special mention, the normal ministry and services of the Church continuing unbroken from day to day and from year to year.

The Reverend E. W. L. May—from January 1950 until September 1951.

In 1950, over a week-end from 30th March to 1st April, a special course on Christian Leadership was held for officers of Flying Training Command. It was a powerful week-end, conducted by the Right Reverend Cuthbert Bardsley, then Bishop of Croydon, the dynamic Bishop to the Forces.

The Last 12 Years - Rev BE Knight

The Reverend B. E. Knight—from September 1951 until February 1953.

In 1952 the Nation was shocked by the news of the death of King George VI. He had suffered long and painfully, but the end seemed so sudden; and as the Commonwealth mourned, Cranwell also, with fond and proud memories of his late Majesty, held a great Commemoration Service on Friday, 15th February, attended by about 2,600 people.

On Sunday, 16th November, 1952, a Morning Service was broadcast on the Light programme of the B.B.C. from the Church of St. Michael, when the preacher was the Right Reverend Cuthbert Bardsley, the Bishop to the Forces.

An outstanding event in 1951 was the Dedication of St. Michael's Chapel in the main College building on the 22nd June. The Dedication was preceded by a Service in St. Michael's (hangar) Command Church, after which a procession of clergy and officers proceeded to the College Chapel. The Dedication was performed by the Right Reverend Maurice Harland, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, supported by the Chaplain-in-Chief, the Reverend Canon A. S. Giles, and the Cranwell chaplains, the Reverend B. E. Knight, and the Reverend Morrison Harper. The Comandant was Air Commodore L. F. Sinclair, G.C., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. During the war an aircraft crashed into the upper floor of the south-west corner of the College building, and in the subsequent restoration it was felt that a new Memorial Chapel could be created, enshrining the Rolls of Honour bearing the names of the members of the College who gave their lives for their Country in war and in peace. Everything was contributed for this Chapel, the altar and surrounds, the panelling, the pews, the font, the prayer books. It was a magnificent enterprise, and stands today, a worthy shrine, dedicated in the name of Saint Michael to the memory of the men who died. The bells of the College chime were dedicated by the Bishop of Croydon in 1952. They also were given to be a daily reminder of the "gallantry and sacrifice" of Old Cranwellians.

The Last 12 Years - Rev WEG Payton

The Reverend W. E. G. Payton—from February 1953 until January 1956.

Three years of sound and solid work in which the influence and energy of the chaplains extended into every sphere of College activity, not excluding the cricket pitch and the drama group.

During this period the Church was again re-embellished, with a new design in the Sanctuary, including a tester board over the altar.

An outstanding occasion was the Service on Whit Sunday, 24th May, 1953, which formed a great united act of Thanksgiving and Preparation for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and on the 2nd June a big Coronation parade was held.

The Last 12 Years - Rev LJ Ashton

The Reverend L. J. Ashton—from January 1956 until October 1960.

On 10th February, 1956 the Royal Air Force was bereaved by the death of Marshal of the Royal Air Force, the Viscount Trenchard, and on Tuesday, 21st February, the College mourned its founder in a special Memorial Service for Lord Trenchard, whose cap and sword were later presented to the College and displayed in the Founder's Gallery.

In the early wintry months of 1956 the heating system of the Church failed and was out of action for the rest of the winter, but renovated later in the year. The great cold expanse of the Church was dotted with about fifty oil stoves. In 1957 the roof of the Church was in danger of collapse and had to be replaced. At the same time windows were made in the walls of the building to replace the glass just below the roof of the hangar.

On Easter Day 1959 the last Service of Evensong was held in the little wooden Church of St. George on east camp, prior to its demolition. St. George's Chapel had been dedicated on 9th May, 1937 by the Reverend J. R. Walkey, Chaplain-in-Chief, and served Cranwell so loyally and for so long. It will be remembered with affection by many of the apprentices and airmen and members of the W.R.A.F., who met and worshipped there. In the Summer of 1959 the Church Army Canteen also closed down, after many years of service to many hundreds of men.

At this time it was decided to introduce a Graduation Service of Dedication on the occasion of the graduation of cadets, and a fifteen minute Service was devised (based on similar Orders of Service) first being used for the Passing Out of No. 75 Entry in June 1959. The Service was held in the little Chapel of St. Christopher at 10 o'clock on the morning of the Passing Out Parade, attended by the cadets of the graduating entry, their parents and friends. The Dedication was taken by the Right Reverend Kenneth Riches, the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, who has since taken part in other similar Services.

This Dedication Service for No. 77 Entry was incorporated into the Sunday morning Service on 26th July, 1960, when the Bishop of Lincoln preached the sermon. The next day stands out as a landmark in the history of the College, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, paid her first visit to the College as Commandant in Chief, and presented a new Queen's Colour, which was consecrated by the Chaplain-in-Chief, the Venerable F. W. Cocks. After the Passing Out Parade the old Colour was laid up in the Memorial Chapel of St. Michael in the College building, "until such time as it shall turn to dust like the men whose courage and valour it enshrines."

It was during this period, after long and protracted deliberations, that at last the building of a permanent Church was approved, to be incorporated in the new building projects for the College, and the plans were set in hand.

The Last 12 Years - Rev TR Quin

The Reverend T. R. Quin—from August 1960.

There can have been few periods during which so much activity in connection with Church affairs took place. Pride of place must be given to the detailed planning of the new St. Michael's, which clearly had to be of a standard that reflected the Church's central place in life at Cranwell. The Memorial Chapel from the College was transferred to the new building, and this decision automatically set the standard which somehow had to be maintained.

An Appeal and Embellishments Committee was formed consisting of:—

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh A. Constantine, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. (Chairman).

Air Vice-Marshal H. R. Graham, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C.

Air Commodore E. D. McK. Nelson, C.B.

Group Captain E. H. Lynch-Blosse, O.B.E.

Mr. J. Tanner, M.A. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer).

The Appeal proved successful, and the Church is furnished with oak panelling and pews, a specially designed altar, fine silver, frontals, and all the other embellishments so necessary to ensure that the new St. Michael's becomes a worthy and fitting centre of worship and remembrance.

As this work is completed there begins a new chapter in the story of the work of the Church at the Royal Air Force College; for although the old hangar Church of St. Michael and All Angels holds many happy and holy memories, and its demolition cannot be contemplated without feelings of affection, the traditions of the College will be more worthily enshrined, and the work of Christ's Church in the ministry of the Word and Sacraments will be yet furthered, by the beauty and dignity of the great building which has taken its place.

Cranwell - Senior Chaplains

CRANWELL SENIOR CHAPLAINS

J. De Vitre	August	1916	—	May	1918
F. W. R. Metcalf	May	1918	—	January	1919
W. G. Pearse	February	1919	—	May	1919
H. C. Eddowes	May	1919	—	October	1919
B. W. Keymer	October	1919	—	November	1923
J. A. Jagoe	November	1923	—	September	1927
W. T. Rees	September	1927	—	December	1928
A. H. Dolphin	January	1929	—	August	1929
J. A. Jagoe	September	1929	—	October	1934
H. Thomas	October	1934	—	April	1938
J. A. Jagoe	April	1938	—	November	1941
F. W. Cocks	November	1941	—	July	1942
A. C. Gates	May	1942	—	June	1944
W. E. Woosnam Jones	June	1944	—	July	1945
G. H. Church	July	1945	—	November	1946
E. W. P. Ainsworth	November	1946	—	January	1950
E. W. L. May	January	1950	—	September	1951
B. E. Knight	September	1951	—	February	1953
W. E. G. Payton	February	1953	—	January	1956
L. J. Ashton	January	1956	—	August	1960
T. R. Quin	August	1960	—		