

# Dober's Catholic Faith

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Roman Catholic Parish of The Good Shepherd  
St Paul's, Dover and St Finbarr's, Aylesham  
Dover, Kent, England

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**On the Front Cover:**

The exterior of Saint Paul's Parish Church and the Presbytery, viewed from the facing corner of Pencester Road in the mid-1980s. (Image taken by and reproduced courtesy of the late Mr Stan Newman).



The original Pugin High Altar and reredos in Saint Paul's prior to the 1959 restoration (courtesy of the late Mr Stan Newman)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We all owe a great debt to those who came before us and have a very great heritage to be proud of, and to live up to. Indeed, those of us alive today are writing, by the Grace of God, the future history of Dover's Catholic Faith. May we be worthy of those who came before us.

For the first edition of this work the late Father Michael Clifton (the then Archdiocesan archivist) and the late Father Michael Smith kindly provided supplementary details from the Archdiocesan archives of the post-Reformation Dover Clergy. Christopher Buckingham also gave permission to reproduce material from *Catholic Dover*. A number of parishioners kindly provided photographs and they are acknowledged under the images concerned. The late Father David Maher, the then Parish Priest, provided material from the Parish Archives and wanted this publication to commemorate the 1988 restoration of Saint Paul's after the devastating arson attack. He went to great lengths to help in the work and was very enthusiastic at all times. Deacon Ged Watkins undertook some research into the life of the Countess de Front and the funeral of Father Laws which was published in the Parish Magazine at the time. Father Leo has been very enthusiastic and supportive of the new edition of this work.

## 1: From the Beginning to Roman Times

It is impossible to fully understand the history of a place and its people without a knowledge of the local geography. Dover takes its name from the River Dour, which is derived from a Celtic word meaning "the waters". Other variants of this are found in the Rivers Darent, Dart, Derwent and Adur in England, Adour and Dordogne in France and Douro in Portugal, for example. Situated in the valley system cut by the Dour (shaped by the local fault systems in England's strongest earthquake zone), Dover has always been in a unique and important geographical position.

In the last 2.5 million years about 20 ice ages (glaciations) have come and gone. About 450,000 years ago, during an ice age, there were ice sheets about a mile thick as far south as the present location of London. There was a continuous chalk ridge between present day England and France. This acted as a dam to the meltwater in a large and deep glacial lake over the present southern North Sea, into which flowed the rivers Thames and Rhine. Eventually this lake overflowed the chalk ridge in a massive waterfall. Chalk is a soft rock and a gap was cut through the ridge at that time, forming what today we call the Dover Strait, although it was much narrower then. The resulting plunge-pools from the impact of the water falls has left indentations under the sediments on the modern sea bed, not far seaward of Shakespeare Cliff and stretching towards Calais. Another two ice ages came and went and sea level rose and fell. During the glacials rivers such as the Thames, Stour, Dour, Rhine, Somme and others flowed to a central Channel River which flowed over dry land to meet the sea at the edge of the continental shelf westward of Cornwall. 11,000 years ago the ice sheets of the most recent glaciation were in full and rapid retreat and sea level was 600 feet lower than today. Geological surveys have shown that most of the present harbour sea bed has gravel deposits associated with deposition from river flow, and the main course of the Dour seems to have been under what is now Cruise Terminal 2 and the outer end of the Admiralty Pier. The Strait of Dover remained dry land until inundated by the rising sea level about 8,300 years ago. Even before this event, indeed before the two most recent ice ages, there is some evidence in the form of flint artefacts being found on the North Downs around Dover that prehistoric peoples were using Dover as a main departure and arrival point to and from what we now call continental Europe. These Lower Palaeolithic artefacts date from about 400,000 years ago. Later Mesolithic sites dating from 8,000 to 7,000 years ago are found around Dover and on the coast. Neolithic pottery has been found in the Dour Valley and in the Warren, on the coast near Folkestone, and settled farming was in progress in the area c6,000 years ago. From the late Neolithic, the time of the peoples who built the numerous stone circles over northern Europe (of which Stonehenge in Wiltshire is the best example), there is no evidence of such henges in Kent. In the Bronze Age the area was well populated with highly organised farming and livestock rearing taking place involving major enclosures and field systems. Metalwork dating from 2,000 to 1,500 BC has been found in the Folkestone Road dry chalk valley. Dating from 1,500 to 700 BC are many metalwork finds from the Dour Valley. There is a Bronze Age shipwreck of a cargo vessel on the sea bed, in Langdon Bay (the protected location is marked on modern Admiralty Charts) and this is also the age of the famous and unique Bronze Age Boat. This boat was discovered in 1992 September during construction work for the pedestrian underpass under the A20 at the seaward end of Bench Street. The Boat can be seen in Dover Museum, where full details of it are available. Found at a depth of 7 metres below the modern street level, it is about 3,000 years old. In the Early (c700 to 300 BC) and Middle Iron Age (c300 to 150 BC) there were settlements in the Dour Valley and on the coast near Abbots Cliff. A small late Iron Age farmstead has been fully excavated at Church Whitfield. A round house made of timber,

wattle and daub with a thatched roof was used as the farming centre for animal husbandry and crop production. The site seems to have continued to be occupied through the first century AD. There are 50 Iron Age burials at a cemetery in Mill Hill, Deal, including that of a 35 year old buried with a shield and sword and a decorated bronze crown. During the Late Iron Age (150 BC to AD 43) there are sites of occupation at the Dour Valley estuary, Buckland, Whitfield, Alkham...

Julius Ceasar attempted invasions around 55 BC. By then Dover was a fortified haven and the only natural harbour on the coastline, with the estuary of the Dour probably at the present day location of Charlton. The continuing siltation of the estuary (a process which continues to this day) meant that by the time of the Christian era and the permanent Roman invasion in AD 43, the estuary was much further towards the sea. The site of the former *Roman Quay* public house at Stembrook and the former *Co-Operative* food store marks the location of the estuary in Roman times. The geographical location of the town and its excellent natural harbour at the position where the shortest crossing to the continent could be made have dictated that Dover has always been a place of commerce and home to innumerable travellers, from the most famous to the long forgotten. Thus the history of Dover, and indeed, the Catholic Faith in Dover, is inextricably intertwined with the culture, history and geography of Britain and northern Europe itself, and must be seen in this context.

The main Roman invasion in AD 43 led by Aulus Plautius established a strong foothold in Britain which was to last until the year 410. They established the *Classis Britannica*, the British headquarters of the Roman Fleet at Dover, on a site under the present day York Street. There was a residential area to the north of the fort, the town was prosperous and the Roman Painted House was built c200. To the Romans the place was known as *Portus Dubris* and this is the Latin inscription still used on the coat of arms today.

Pomponia Graecina, the wife of Aulus Plautius, and Claudia, a British lady who had married the Roman Senator Pudens, are believed to have been Christians. Tacitus mentioned Pomponia and Saint Paul himself refers to Claudia and Pudens in his second Epistle to Timothy (2 Tim IV, 21):

"Make haste to come before winter. Eubulus and Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren salute thee" (Douai version)

"Make haste, and come to me before winter. Eubulus and Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren send thee their greeting" (Knox version)

"Hasten to come before winter. Eubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia and all the brethren greet thee." (Confraternity version)

In a footnote to his translation, the late Mgr Ronald Knox states that the Linus referred to is he who became the first Pope following Saint Peter and quotes his source as Eusebius. A footnote to the Confraternity version says that Saint Irenaeus tells us that this is Saint Linus, the second Pope. His name is listed in the Roman Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I in the modern Missal of the Roman Rite).

It is possible, according to various sources, that Claudia was the daughter of Cozidubrus, a petty British King of Chichester at this time.

Prince Lucius wrote to Pope Saint Eleutherius (reigned from 175 - 189) desiring to

receive instruction and baptism. Lucius (who was a descendent of Cogidubrus) was sent Saints Fugatius and Damian by the Pope; was converted and baptised and became a leader of the British Christians. This was around the year 180. Lucius built one of the first Christian churches in this country, it is said, where the present Roman foundations under the church of St Mary-in-Castro are located. One of the Roman tiles bears the imprint of seagull feet and at its centre, the spoor of a Siberian wolf, both made when the surface was drying.

Records exist in the Vatican Library concerning Prince (now Saint) Lucius. The episode is also mentioned by Saint Bede the Venerable in his *History of the English Church and People*. Using this as a source, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* has an entry for the year 167 reading:

"Eleutherius received the bishopric in Rome and held it worthily for fifteen years. To him, Lucius, king of the Britons, sent men with letters, asking that he be baptised, and he soon sent back to him; after this they remained in the true faith until Diocletian's time."

Saint Lucius subsequently preached in Bavaria and Austria, underwent considerable persecution and was martyred there. The *Liber Pontificalis* (c530) records these details as well. The feast day of Saint Lucius is December 3rd.

A hierarchy was established in Britain before the end of the third century. At the Council of Arles (314) we find present Eborius, Bishop of York; Restitutus, Bishop of London; and Achelphius, Bishop of Lincoln. British Bishops were also present at the Council of Sardica (347) and Rimini (359). By 367 Britain was overrun by an 'alliance' of Picts, Scots and Saxons and began to see the return of Paganism. However, it is possible that pockets of Christianity survived the Pagan period. A monumental slab, bearing a cross and a chiselled memorial in Runic characters, dating from the end of the fifth century, were found in Dover in 1810.

## 2: Anglo-Saxon and Mediaeval Times

The story of how Saint Augustine was sent to convert England back to Christianity is a very well known one. He landed at Ebbsfleet in AD 597 and subsequently established his See at Canterbury. Ethelbert, King of Kent and fifth decendent from Hengist married his queen, Bertha, who was the only daughter of Charibert, King of Paris; a cousin of Clotaire, King of Soissons and Childabert, King of Austrasia. At this time Kent was prosperous once more, having been at peace for nearly a century, and was preeminent in Saxon Britain. According to Saint Bede, Ethelbert ruled as far north as the Humber. Bertha was both zealous and pious and had full liberty by the articles of her marriage to practise her religion. She was attended by a French Prelate, Luidhard, the Bishop of Senlis. He converted, by his preaching and example, several pagans at the court. Clotaire made a raid into Thuringia in 530 and captured a 12 year old girl, whom he educated in the Faith and then married. Some accounts say that he was cruel to her and murdered her brother c550; others that she was so full of good works that she did not like life at court and retired from it to Poitiers, where she established a monastery for 200 nuns. They followed the rule given by Saint Caesarius to the nuns of Arles. This lady, whom we know as Saint Radigund (sometimes spelt Rade Gund) had a close friendship with Saint Venantius Fortunatus, who became chaplain to her nuns. The gift of a relic of the true cross to the monastery at Poitiers inspired him to write the two well known hymns *Vexilla Regis* and *Pange, lingua gloriosi lauream certaminis* which feature widely in the Good Friday liturgies. Of Saint Radigund he wrote: "human eloquence is struck almost dumb by the piety, self-denial, charity, sweetness, humility, uprightness, faith and fervour in which she lived". Saint Radigund died on 587 August 13th (now her feast day) and is buried in the church of Our Lady at Poitiers. Many miracles were worked at her tomb. Thus is established a connection between Saint Radigund and Kent, which subject we shall return to shortly.

There is a mention of Benedictine monasteries at Reculver, Minster (on the Isle of Thanet, home of Saint Mildred), Lyvinge and Dover in the sixth century. There is a major Anglo Saxon cemetery at Buckland dating from before 525 and containing 440 burials. At this time the centre of the town's activity had shifted to the castle fort on the eastern heights (site of the later Norman castle). King Eadbald established a secular college of 22 priests or canons there in 620. King Wihtried moved them down to a new site on the old Roman remains to the west of the present Market Square in 696. When facing almost certain defeat in battle, he prayed for help to St Martin of Tours. According to legend, St Martin appeared to the King and promised him victory. In thanksgiving, the King built the church near the present day Market Square. (This legend is almost certainly the basis for St Martin of Tours becoming the patron saint of Dover). Writing about 700, King Wihtried mentions the monastery/church of Saint Martin built in the town "where ships before rode at anchor". This church was burnt by William of Normandy shortly after the 1066 invasion when he arrived at Dover and set fire to the town before taking the castle. It was rebuilt as the Norman church of Saint Martin-le-Grand. Archaeological excavations in the 1970s revealed the existence of a large Saxon wooden hall 40 feet long x 30 feet wide (one of the finest in England) near the Norman church of Saint Martin-le-Grand. It was speculated that this may have been associated with the long lost monastery referred to by King Wihtried. This seems to be the earliest connection established between Dover and Saint Martin of Tours and is lost in the mists of time. One writer has suggested that as Saint Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier before he became a bishop, it is possible that he may once have served in the Roman Legion in Dover. There is, however, no proof of this. Saint Martin died, according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, in 444. This is probably an error and modern accounts quote 397 November



8th as the date of his death, at the age of 81. He is still the patron saint of Dover and is portrayed on the town's coat of arms offering his cloak to a beggar. (Dover is one of only two towns in England to have its own patron saint: the other is Bury St Edmunds).

Records of Anglo-Saxon times are fragmentary and it is only as we move closer to the Norman invasion that they improve in detail. The church of St Mary-in-Castro, next to the eastern end of the only remaining Roman Pharos, is largely a Saxon building and dates from the tenth century. Built in the Anglo-Romanesque style, it was allowed to fall into decay and was not restored until 1862 and 1888. It is still one of the best examples of a Saxon church in England.

Count Eustace of Boulogne married Cyda, sister of Saint Edward the Confessor and travelled through Dover in 1050 to meet his brother-in-law. The people of the town are said to have not taken kindly to his "bombastic insolence" and in the ensuing conflict 19 Normans were killed, the Count fled and the whole country was roused.

After the Norman conquest Dover continued to play an increasingly important role and the number of Catholic churches and monasteries (before the Reformation all churches in England were Catholic) expanded. The entry in the Domesday Book in 1085 (Dover is the first entry in that book, such was its significance) shows a community resident largely on the eastern heights in the Castle area and also in the old town on the valley floor, near the Dour estuary. The entry starts:

"DOVER in the time of King EDWARD rendered £18, of which money King Edward had two parts and Earl Gowine the third. Besides this the canons of St Martin had the other half... It is now valued at £40..."

The Domesday Book shows the extent of the lands and properties owned by the "canons of St Martin of Dover"; for example:

"...Ralph de Saint-Samson holds 1 manor or prebend. It is called 'Charlton' and is assessed at 1 sulung. There he has 3 villans and 4 borders with 1 plough..."

The canons owned land at Buckland, Guston (25 acres), St Margarets at Cliffe (more than 50 acres), Deal (50 acres), Shepherdswell, Farthingloe, West Hougham and elsewhere.

The twelfth century seems to have been a time of growth and expansion. The magnificent Norman church of St Martin-le-Grand was built at this time and remained in existence for nearly 400 years. It was more than 200 feet long, enclosed three parish altars under its roof, including that of St Nicholas (the crypt of which was until the tragic fire in 1977, the basement of the Crypt Restaurant in Bench Street. This has now been infilled and a main sewage pipe has been driven through the ruins) and St John, and had a central tower rising to a height of at least 100 feet. Extensive archaeological excavations after the Second World War and in the 1970s confirmed the massive extent of this building, stretching as far as the present day site west of the Market Square. St Martin-le-Grand was built by Odo, Earl of Kent and Bishop of Baieux, who had control of Dover after the Norman conquest. William, son of Oger, the Norman beneficiary of the prebend in Charlton, also held a church (monasterium) in Dover from Odo. The Domesday Book notes that this church was claimed by the canons of the Priory, and was almost certainly St Mary's.

Esmelt (chaplain to Saint Edward the Confessor) held 'one sulung' (over a hundred

acres) in the parish of St Margaret which was worth 20 shillings in late Saxon times. After the Norman invasion he lost this and it was given to Robertus Niger and the value increased to 30 shillings.

Throughout early Mediaeval times, when the site of the present Market Square (of nineteenth and twentieth century origin) was the church yard of St Martin-le-Grand, a great annual festival known as St Martin's Fair was held on November 11th (the feast day of St Martin of Tours) and this continued even after the suppression of this church.

Another church built at this time was St James, under Castle Hill, and mostly destroyed by enemy action in the Second World War. This, too, was of Norman architecture with a central embattled tower rising between the nave and chancel. The south aisle was later used for the courts of the Cinque Ports and Admiralty. It was also known as St James Warden Down.

Under the present site of *Lloyds Bank*, across the Market Square from St Martin-le-Grand, lie the remains of the church of St Peter, dating from the same period. The centre of the Market Square was at this time marked by the Market Cross, which is still shown on plans as late as 1595.

Most of Norman central Dover seems to have been covered by magnificent churches which must have been an imposing sight indeed. On the northern outskirts of the town a smaller church was built. This is the sole church surviving from that original group. St Mary the Virgin is today the Church of England parish church, but originally started life in Norman times as a much smaller building. The tower is Norman with some Saxon work in the lower stages and the Norman font is of Purbeck marble. It was enlarged during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Whitfield church is of Norman origin and also contains some Saxon work, while the church at St Margarets-at-Cliffe is almost entirely Norman. Early ships are carved on some of the pillars.

This was also the time of disputes and jealousies in the Mediaeval Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Corbeil, was not happy with the monastic institution of St Martin-le-Grand. It had, over the years, been granted so many privileges that it was practically outside his control. In 1123 he was able to blackmail King Henry I to permit the establishment of a monastery for regular canons of the Benedictine order outside the town and transfer all the property and income of the old institution to the new foundation. Thus it was that the ancient institution was dissolved and the canons dispersed. The new foundation was known initially as The Priory of St Mary and St Martin of the New Wark (= new work), later to be referred to as St Martin's, Dover and Dover Priory, founded in 1131. One writer has summed up the history of the Priory as 200 years of constant quarrelling with the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury, followed by 200 years of subservience to them. On 1160 October 19th, a confirming charter from King Henry II altered the status of the Priory to complete submission to Canterbury. King Stephen is reputed to have died at the Priory. When the Priory was built, St Martin le Grand became a parish church.

The Priory Church was a magnificent sight on the edge of Dover. It was larger than any in Kent, being about 300 ft long and covering 25,000 sq ft. It had marble pillars and magnificent interior decoration and was the centre of the monastic buildings that were grouped around it. It was certainly one of the most important monastic houses in this part of

the country, lying on the direct route between England and Rome. Many Papal Legates, Archbishops and Prelates stayed for a while in its quiet seclusion before continuing on their way to London or Rome.

In 1147 a crusading fleet which had departed from Dover recaptured Lisbon from the Moors.

King Henry II built the (present) keep of Dover Castle. Barham Court, between Dover and Canterbury, was the home of one of the Knight-assassins of Saint Thomas Becket, martyred in Canterbury Cathedral on 1170 December 29th on the misinterpreted orders of the King.

The year 1189 saw the foundation of Langdon Abbey to the east of Dover at West Langdon. It was dedicated to St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury and the monks came from Leiston in Suffolk in 1190. The site is marked on the modern Ordnance Survey maps but almost no trace remains. This abbey was for the Premonstratensian Canons.

They founded another abbey in the area in 1193. The ruins of St Radigund's Abbey at Bradsole (= Brad sole = Broad Pond) still exist today: remnants of the gatehouse, nave, transept, chapter house, cellars and refectory. They are in private ownership. The site, to the north west of the area of Dover known as the St Radigunds Housing Estate, is also marked on the Ordnance Survey maps. The community was founded directly from the mother house of Prémontré. The community did not flourish at first and the General of the Order proposed to unite the Abbeys of Bradsole and Langdon; but it later increased in numbers and reputation and was renowned for the sanctity of its members. St Radigund's Abbey was very much in favour with the Plantagenet Kings who stayed there when crossing the Channel from Dover. So highly did they rate the institution that the Abbots were summoned to Parliament. The seal of the Abbey depicts St Radigund, Queen of France, enthroned and handing a pastoral staff to an abbot kneeling before her. Clearly the memory of the link between Queen Bertha and St Radigund may well have inspired the dedication of this abbey. In 1302 September, King Edward I received the Great Seal in the King's Chapel and delivered it to William Greenfield, who was then the Dean of Chichester. From the Visitation Book of Richard Redman, Bishop of St Asaph and Commissary-General of the Order in the British Isles (1472-1502) we find that successive abbots had allowed the buildings to fall into a state of decay. Leland, a few years before the suppression of the Abbey, wrote: "St Radegund's standeth on the top of a hill, 3 little miles by west, and somewhat by south from Dover. There be White Canons, and the choir of their church is large and fair. The monastery is at this time neatly maintained, but it appeareth in times past the buildings have been there more ample than they be now. There is on the hill, fair wood, but fresh water lacketh sometime". The abbey was suppressed in 1538 at the Reformation. The house was then being ruled by Prior Thomas Dale, the abbacy being vacant. The site was granted by King Henry VIII to the apostate Archbishop Cranmer, who shortly afterwards returned it to the King. Life-long leases were subsequently granted to various tenants. In 1590 Queen Elizabeth I sold the abbey to Simon Edolph, who altered the buildings and resided there. The abbey continued in his family until 1719, when it was purchased by Sir Peter Eaton; and subsequently, by marriage with one of his descendents, in 1750, to George Sayer of Pett Place, Charing, Kent. The owner in the 1950s was Mr Thomas Else.

The Castle Keep built by Henry II was used by Richard Coeur de Lion in 1190 when he was at Dover preparing for the Third Crusade. The expeditionary force set off from Dover. There is the Norman chapel of St John on the first floor of the Keep which was in use

at this time. Archbishop Baldwin of Canterbury, Hubert Walter, Bishop of Salisbury (later Archbishop of Canterbury), many Knights Templar and Knights of St John together with many warriors and sailors, were in the town. The huge flotilla set sail on 1190 March 6th and both Archbishop Baldwin and the Bishop of Salisbury sailed with them. Richard of Devizes described the scene:

"There were 100 ships and 14 "Coques" or "busses" (= large-sided vessel), vessels of great magnitude. There is appointed to the ships' command a most experienced steersman and 14 subordinate attendants; the ship is freighted with 40 horsemen and horse, 40 foot, 15 sailors, and with an entire years provisions for as many men and horses".

The Knights Templar had one of their main Preceptories in this country at Temple Ewell, just outside Dover. In 1185 the Templars are listed as having an estate of more than 300 acres. Archaeological excavations of the site from 1964-1966 revealed a late twelfth century hall built in flint and mortar with chalk foundations, chapel, kitchen and other rooms built a little later to the south side of the chapel. Part of the site overlaps land at Old Park. The Templars were totally proscribed and exterminated in 1312. After this their properties at Temple Ewell passed into the hands of the Knights Hospitallers.

The Knights of St John had their Preceptory at Swingfield, near Dover. It was one of their principal bases in Britain for Knights travelling between Dover and the Mediterranean. It remained until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. The Knights were driven from Palestine at the end of the thirteenth century, settling on the island of Rhodes where they built a castle, a walled city and a fourteenth century hospital. In 1522 they capitulated to the Turks, were allowed to evacuate the island, went to Cyprus and, after a short period, to Tripoli. They made their final home in Malta.

There was a violent quarrel between the Pope and King John: a conflict over who should be Archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope wanted to appoint Stephen Langton and the King wanted John de Gray, Lord Bishop of Norwich. Eventually Pope Innocent III placed the nation under interdict, proclaimed on 1208 March 23rd. (This effectively closed all the churches and suspended all religious services and functions, and is used as a penalty in Canon Law for persistent disobedience). On 1209 October 2nd Archbishop Stephen Langton was at Dover, but the King would not see him. The King came to Chilham Castle and sent messengers with proposals to the Archbishop at Dover. These proved to be unacceptable and the Archbishop returned to Pontigny in France. In 1210 King John came to Dover expecting to meet the Archbishop, but the latter refused to sail from France to meet him. In 1213 Pope Innocent invited all the Knights of Europe to assume "the sign of the cross" and war with John. In the end the King surrendered to the Pope via the Knights Templars as peace makers. Pandulph, the Papal Legate, sent over the Grand Master of the Templars, Almaric, and also Durendus, another Templar, who met King John at Temple Ewell. John agreed to the Pope's terms, including all the conditions imposed. On May 13th John was at the Preceptory and agreed to the appointment of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. The next day, May 14th, was spent in secret consultation. On the morning of May 15th there was a ceremony in the great hall of the Preceptory. Many English Prelates, Knights and Nobles were present. The King disarmed before the Papal Legate and put in his hands a charter subscribed by himself, 1 archbishop, 1 bishop, 9 earls and 3 barons. It granted to the Pope and his successors the Kingdoms of England and Ireland to be held in "freehold" for an annual rent of 1,000 marks, 700 for England and 300 for Ireland. The deed is addressed "At the house of the Temple, near Dover" and is in the Public Records Office. The King did homage to the Papal Legate, the form of words being:

"I will be faithful to God, to the blessed St Peter, to the Roman Church, to Pope Innocent and his rightful successors..."

Money was paid to the Papal Legate, who chose to trample on it. Only the Archbishop of Dublin dared to complain at this insolence! The Papal Legate then returned to France.

Archbishop Stephen Langton wrote the hymn *Veni Sancte Spiritus*. This is the Sequence in the Mass for Pentecost.

The present church at Temple Ewell dates from the mid-twelfth century and contains some seventeenth century stained glass depicting the life of St Joseph, the Wise Men in Bethlehem, and St Lawrence. This is believed to be of Swiss or Flemish workmanship.

On the Western Heights are the foundations of a circular church of the Templars dating from the thirteenth century. There was a long-gone village named Braddon at this location. The church had a nave 27 ft in diameter. They built their churches with circular naves as copies of the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. This was only one of ten such churches in England with this design. Built largely of flint, the walls were faced with blocks of Caen stone. It is thought that the Templars might have had a small quay at the harbour, somewhere just below the church.

Adjacent to the Priory in Mediaeval times was built the *Domus Dei*, better known as the *Maison Dieu*. It was built by Hubert de Burgh in 1203 as a hospital, hostel or hospice for pilgrims and other travellers. Countless pilgrims used to pass through Dover en route to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury and the national shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (dating from the apparition of Our Lady there in 1061). It survived in use until the reign of Henry VIII. The Great Hall was originally at a much lower level. This can be seen from the height of the earlier arches on the outside elevations which now only just protrude above the level of the modern pavement. (It is interesting to note that the remark "building on the work of the past" applies literally here, but it is a geological fact that South East England has been subsiding at the rate of 6 inches (0.15 m) per century for some centuries now. This is a consequence of the rise of Scotland and the north following the melting of the major ice sheets of the last glaciation - a process known as isostatic adjustment - and the continued collision between the African and European Plates and the consequent continuing slow rise of the Alps). The Connaught Hall today occupies the site of a large church attached to the hospital. An arch of the Lady Chapel of this church can still be seen in the former Magistrates Courtroom. The street outside is still called Ladywell to this day from the chalybeate (pronounced kal-ee-be-at, water enriched in iron) spring dedicated to Our Lady, close to this Lady Chapel, which had a reputation for miraculous healing properties. In its time, the *Maison Dieu* was visited by Henry III, who attended its dedication, Richard II and his bride Isabella of France and Henry V returning from Agincourt.

Henry III was quarrelling with the Barons for most of his reign. Dover Castle changed hands several times. The Queen, Eleanor of Provence, assembled a large army in Flanders but adverse winds prevented her sailing to England for several weeks. Meanwhile, the Pope placed the Cinque Ports under interdict and summoned four English bishops to appear before him at Boulogne. They consented to return with the sentence of excommunication against the King's enemies, but willingly allowed it to be taken from them by the Officers at Dover.

Saint Edmund of Abingdon was born about 1175 on November 20th. He went to Oxford University at about the age of 12 years, and, 3 or 4 years later, to Paris. On return from Paris he was Regent of Arts at Oxford for 6 years. Father Tanner tells us in his book that Saint Edmund's mother was dead and he had a dream about her, which he interpreted as a message to turn to more serious studies. He returned to Paris to study theology and came back about 1214, as Regent of Theology at Oxford. Long nights spent in prayer resulted in him often 'nodding off' during lectures. He would wake with a start and say: "I was not asleep - just thinking". Richard Poore appointed him Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral in 1222, with the annexed prebend of Calne, and he was responsible for raising the money to complete the choir of the cathedral.

In 1231 Richard le Grand, Archbishop of Canterbury, died. Several names were suggested for the succession but the Pope refused to confirm them. When the See had been vacant for 4 years, Pope Gregory IX intervened personally and 'gave the monks power to elect Master Edmund, Canon of Salisbury'. Edmund was reluctant to accept office, but agreed after two days on the grounds that, if he refused, the Pope might appoint a foreign ecclesiastic. He was consecrated at Canterbury on Laetare Sunday, 1234 April 2nd. Within months of his consecration he averted civil war by fearlessly exposing the evils threatening the land and reconciled Henry III and the Barons. Edmund had practised physical penances to an extraordinary degree since youth and men listened to him because of his virtue and the respect in which he was held. One of the Barons to be reconciled with the King was Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent and Constable of Dover Castle. He had earlier successfully defended the town against a French siege in 1216.

The success achieved by Edmund turned the King against him and in 1237 Henry III secured the appointment of Cardinal Otto as Papal Legate, hoping to embarrass Edmund and undermine his authority. However, the two men got on well and worked together. Edmund came to Dover to welcome the Papal Legate to England.

In 1240 Edmund set out for France from somewhere between Dover and Sandwich on an ad limina visit to Rome. He did not return. One of his last acts was to write a testimonial letter from Soisy indemnifying Eustace of Faversham, the one monk at Canterbury who remained faithful to him, against any actions the other monks might take. For the same reason he had written in the previous March to the sub-Prior and monks of St Martin, Dover, appointing Eustace to be their Prior, but there is no record of the appointment being taken up. Saint Edmund died at Soisy on 1240 November 16th and his body was taken to Pontigny to be buried and eviscerated. In his *Life of St Edmund*, Dr C.H. Lawrence (Oxford University Press, 1960) writes:

"After the body had been embalmed, therefore, the clerks set off with the remains of their archbishop.. The procession met with impressive demonstrations of popular devotion all along the route. At the village of Trainel enthusiasm became so intense that the abbot of Pontigny began to fear for the safety of his precious freight and decided to take a strong line with the thaumaturge. The saint was invoked and ordered in virtue of obedience (he was a confrater of Pontigny) to desist from his miracles until the procession reached home. Thereafter progress was better".

Saint Edmund was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in the cathedral at Lyons on 1246 December 16th. His feast day is November 16th. On 1247 June 9th his remains were translated to an elaborate shrine above the high altar at Pontigny in the presence of Louis IX of France. The shrine is still there today.

In Dover a new chapel for the Cemetery of the Poor had been built. Saint Richard, Bishop of Chichester, had been Edmund's constant companion as his Chancellor. They had almost a father-son relationship. Richard was with Edmund when he died at Soisy and it was he who broke the Archbishop's seal as a sign that his reign was over. Edmund bequeathed his goblet "to my beloved Chancellor, whom I have long and heartily loved". Richard later used this goblet to bless a crippled boy. As the boy drank from it he was cured. Richard decided to become ordained. He already venerated Edmund as saint and had set up a shrine to him. Richard became parish priest at Deal. He was elected Bishop of Chichester in 1244. The King considered Richard his enemy and opposed the election. Richard had to appeal to the Pope, who was at the Council of Lyons. The King sent messengers to plead his case, but the Pope decided in Richard's favour and personally consecrated him bishop. Other bishops were also consecrated that day and the story is told that the sacred oil flowed from the amphora only drop by drop, but when the Pope came to Richard it flowed in copious streams.

In the course of preaching the Crusade in 1253 Richard came to Dover and stayed in the Maison Dieu. He was asked by the Master, Michael de Kenebaston (1248-1271) and Brethren of the hospice to consecrate their new cemetery chapel to St Edmund. It is reported that "his face (indeed his whole body) lit up with joy, and he gladly agreed to their request. He went to the Chapel and solemnly consecrated it with great devotion". It was Laetare Sunday, 1253 March 30th. It was the fulfilment of a wish that St Richard had cherished for 9 years. The people of Dover gathered around the Chapel and St Richard preached:

"Dearly beloved: I ask you to bless and praise the Lord with me for allowing me to be present at this consecration, to his honour and to the honour of our beloved father, St Edmund. Ever since I was consecrated bishop, it has been my deepest wish - something I have prayed for with all my strength - that before my death, I should consecrate at least one church to his memory. From the very depths of my heart, I thank God that he has not cheated me of my heart's desire. And now, brethren, I know that I am shortly to die and I commend my soul to your prayers".

He finished the Mass of Consecration (this Mass would have been in the Sarum Rite. This was the main liturgical rite in use in England until the Reformation when most of its missals were destroyed. The structure of the rite was very similar to that which has erroneously become known as 'Tridentine' and which is now known as the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, except that there would have been a troped Kyrie, amongst other differences in the rubrics), blessed the people and returned to the Maison Dieu. He had preached his last sermon and celebrated his last Mass. As he lay dying he asked for a crucifix and kissed the places of the Sacred Wounds with great devotion and began to carress it very gently as if he saw Our Lord in the act of dying. He then said: "I give thanks to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given me, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me: on account of which this sad lament escaped your lips "There is no sorrow like unto my sorrow". You, Lord, know that if you wanted, I would suffer all manner of insults and torture and death itself for you, and since you know that this is true, have mercy on me because I commend my soul to you". Turning to Our Lady, both in his heart and on his lips, he said: "Mary, mother of grace, mother of mercy, protect us against our enemy, and receive us at the hour of our death". He then died. It was April 3rd at midnight. He actually forecast his death two days beforehand to Simon of Tarring. He was canonized in 1262 January and St Edmund's Chapel became a place of pilgrimage as well as a cemetery chapel.

St Edmund and St Richard were the first Oxford scholars to attain sainthood. They were re-united in Dover.

In the floor of the Chapel beside the altar you can see a small cist (pronounced 'kist') which is where the bowels of St Richard were buried. It is related that many favours were granted at this spot. The remainder of the body was returned to Chichester and enshrined. The shrine was destroyed by Cromwell's men after the Reformation.

Bavington Jones transcript of a 1764 manuscript reads: "St Edmund's Chapel is now to be seen entire, and a vast number of human bones have lately been discovered near it." C.R. Haines, writing in *Dover Priory*, 1930, relates that the floor of the Comet Inn, which stood in Priory Road immediately south of the Chapel, fell in and a vault was discovered, containing chalk coffins placed on shelves. Mr Barnes, the proprietor, kept one of the skulls and it was still on the mantelpiece when his widow died in 1891. In the mid-1970s when the adjoining site to the south (probably the same as that of the Inn) was excavated prior to new building works and the construction of the present car park, a number of coffins containing intact skeletons were excavated at the level of the Chapel. These were subsequently re-covered before the car park was built. (Note that the level of the Chapel requiring steps to access it from the modern highway is again the result of isostatic readjustment, referred to earlier).

The Chapel remained a place of pilgrimage until the Reformation. In 1534 the Master and Brethren of the Maison Dieu took the Oath of Supremacy as required of them by the King's commissioners. The monasteries and friaries had all been dissolved by 1540. On 1544 December 11th, the Master and Brethren duly signed the surrender of the Maison Dieu, St Edmund's Chapel and all its other property to King Henry VIII.

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### **Saint Richard's Prayer**

**Thanks be to Thee**, my Lord Jesus Christ, For all the benefits which Thou hast given me, For all the pains and insults which Thou hast borne for me, O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother. May I know Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly.

### **Saint Edmund's Prayer**

**Lord**, into your hands and into the hands of your holy angels, I entrust this day my life, my relatives, my benefactors, my friends and my enemies, and all Christians. Enlighten my heart with the grace of your Holy Spirit; grant that I may ever be obedient to your commandments, never let me be separated from You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer of Saint Edmund to Saint John**

**O Beloved Disciple of Jesus**, O Virgin Apostle, obtain for me from the Lord, that happy death which was accorded to Thyself - the beautiful death of the Saints. May I end my



life in true Faith, firm Hope, and perfect Charity. May I, preserving to its close a sound mind, and a clear intellect, be able, sincerely, to confess my sins, and to be fortified with the Viaticum of Salvation, and the Unction of the dying. May I expire consumed with an ardent thirst to see the desirable face of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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There were endless quarrels between the Monastery of Christ Church, Canterbury and St Martin's Priory, Dover. This reflected no credit upon the parties involved. Yet, there is one very special person in our history: someone very special indeed. In 1295 there had been war with France for two years and there were continual attacks and raids along the coasts. In the summer of that year a French ship had been blown ashore at Hythe and the entire crew was murdered by the English. The French made a reprisal attack on Dover on the night of August 1st. The following day, Tuesday August 2nd, John of Tynemouth relates "...a huge fleet entered the port of Dover.. at the third hour..and..1,500 well-armed men rushed ashore and set fire to many houses in the town..". The pirates took over the town, burning, ravaging and plundering. One band of men went straight to the Priory, broke in, murdered the servants and ransacked the buildings. The monks had rushed in fear to the safety of their church. One monk, Thomas de la Hale, seeing it was midday and time for the siesta according to the rule, went to his cell to lie down. In his cell was a small safe containing the Priory's valuables. Just after he had reached his cell the invaders caught up with him. He tried to prevent their sacrilege, saying: "Ye abominable men, what are you doing? Desist and cease your iniquitous deeds. Do you not know that it is unlawful for you to handle so irreverently with polluted and unworthy hands the consecrated reliquaries of God? Resign therefore peaceably things consecrated to the reverence and love of God and return by the way you came, that ye incur not for your misdoings that terrible sentence of the great excommunication." The Frenchmen replied, the chronicler reports: "You old bald pate, hand over to us your treasure which you have hoarded and hidden away, lest you die immediately by an evil death". To this he answered quietly, "I confess to you that I have a most precious and never failing treasure laid up in my heart, I mean my Lord Jesus Christ and his Virgin Mother Mary, my Lady. Of this treasure indeed, do what you will you can never rob me". He stood firm and they rushed at him, striking him with their swords "so that the brains of his head were plainly exposed to view". They made certain that he was dead by thrusting their swords into him and continued to sack the monastery. When they saw the inhabitants gathering forces to relieve the Priory they fled to their ships and sailed on the tide with £1,560 worth of treasure, as well as charters and relics "whose worth could not be estimated".

On returning, the monks were horrified to find their brother and were ashamed of their own flight. They buried Saint Thomas de la Hale in front of the altar of Our Lady and St Katherine where he used to go secretly in the middle of the night and kneel in prayer.

His biographer writes: "Immediately he was buried it pleased the Highest to show openly at once to the faithful with what favour of Divine Love He cherished him while still alive in the world". Many miracles were worked at his tomb "so that both men and women visiting the tomb from overseas publicly proclaimed that 'God, in His loving kindness for the merits of His servant, our brother, Thomas de la Hale, monk of Dover, has mercifully healed and delivered us from the tribulation, hardships, dangers and infirmities of this life in the power of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be honour and praise and glory for ever and ever. Amen.'".

Local devotion to the Saint continued until the Reformation, but the official canonization was prevented by the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury. The Bull of Inquiry was issued by Pope Urban VI in the third year of his pontificate on 1380 December 20th at the request of King Richard II and handed to Archbishop Courtenay by the precentor of the Priory (appointed as promoter for the cause) when he returned. The feast day is kept on August 2nd and is listed in the Roman Martyrology, under the heading "Thomas of Dover". There was an altar dedicated to Saint Thomas of Dover in the old Priory Church and he is represented in the paintings of the English Saints in the Venerable English College in Rome. He is the only candidate for canonization whose death was first officially attested by the granting of an indulgence to the faithful who prayed for the repose of his soul. In around 1322 Simon Simeon, an Irish friar passing through Dover on his way to the Holy Land attests to the honour given to him as a martyr and to the miracles taking place at his tomb. At Canterbury in 1370 October, Archbishop William Whittlesey granted a further indulgence. An inventory drawn up by the Priory sacristan in 1389 October includes a stone altar upon which Blessed Thomas was martyred and a linen winding sheet of Blessed Thomas. Thomas Rich, Vicar of Buckland was buried at Dover Priory in 1500 and left 8d in his will for the "altar of Blessed Thomas of Hales". The Priory continued to celebrate his feast annually on August 2nd, including an annual Trout Supper, until the Reformation.

It is recorded that in 1416 the Emperor Sigismund of Germany and Austria landed at Dover. There is a stained glass window depicting this in the Maison Dieu. He concluded an alliance with Henry V, was enrolled as a Knight of the Garter and sailed with Henry to Calais to attend a conference of various powers on the "state of the Church".

In 1430 April the young King Henry VI, then not yet ten years old, was transported to Calais in readiness for his French coronation. Due to the troubles in France he had to wait three months in Calais before going to Paris. He lodged in the same castle at Rouen at the same time as St Joan of Arc, who was then 19 years old. He was crowned in Paris on 1431 December 16th by Henry, Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester. He returned to England, landing at Dover on 1432 February 9th. In 1441 he founded the college of "Our Ladie at Eton"(now the famous public school) and died (being murdered) on 1471 May 21st. Many miracles were worked after his death of which 23 were accepted by the Church. A prayer to him was written by Pope Sixtus IV. Proceedings for his canonization initiated by Henry VII were interrupted by the Reformation and have yet to be resumed.

In Tudor times the well known composer Thomas Tallis (c1510-1585) was organist at Dover Priory in 1531. He later went to Waltham Abbey, but his employment ceased on the dissolution of the monasteries; he was subsequently employed at Canterbury. His pupil was the Tudor composer William Byrd. Thomas Tallis composed music used as two hymn tunes today. Tallis' Ordinal is the tune used for *Come Holy Ghost, Creator Come* and Tallis' Canon is used for *Light of all days that were and be* (Westminster Hymnal) and *Glory to Thee my God this night*. Parts of the modern Dover College organ date from the time of Thomas Tallis.

A chapel was built in Mediaeval times on the shoreline to the east of Archcliffe Fort, by a nobleman from the north of England in thanksgiving for being brought safely ashore from a shipwreck off Dover. It was dedicated to Our Lady of Pity. When John Clerk was planning to enlarge the harbour at the beginning of the sixteenth century, he cut an entrance channel through Archcliffe Rock, leaving the chapel standing on the southeast side of the entrance, on "chapel rock", detached from the mainland and dominating the harbour entrance. In 1530 the French ambassador to England, Joachim de Vaux, was shipwrecked

off Dover and he, in his turn, restored the chapel in thanksgiving for a safe rescue. He installed a French friar, John de Ponte, to celebrate Mass and serve the shrine. Unfortunately de Ponte was ambitious and unpopular in the town. When the Master of the Maison Dieu, John Clerk, died in 1535, de Ponte wrote to Thomas Cromwell (Henry VIII's Vicar General) asking for this position. However, the rector of St James', John Thompson, was given the post and thus enmity arose between the two men. Thompson, being also an ambitious man, acquiesced in all the Reformation demands. Henry VIII appointed him in charge of his works at the harbour. When the friar was away for a day, Thompson broke in to the chapel and reported to Cromwell that in the altar missal the name of the Pope was still placed before that of the King. The Mayor of Dover was another enemy of de Ponte and he tried to get him removed. However, de Ponte was protected by diplomatic immunity. When England went to war with France in 1538 it was alleged that de Ponte communicated with the French by keeping the light on "Chapel Rock" still burning. The Mayor was instructed to imprison de Ponte and this is the last time that his name appears in history. Bad weather conditions and coastal erosion began to affect the chapel and its foundations. One writer suggests that it was swept away in a severe storm in 1576. However, a map of the town and harbour dating from 1605-10 still shows "Arclief Chappell". Christopher Buckingham reproduced the relevant part of this map in his *Catholic Dover* (1968). A cross continued to mark the location of the chapel after it was gone.

Henry VIII had himself offered gifts at the Chapel of Our Lady of Pity in better times. In fact, Henry VIII particularly liked Dover and frequently stayed in the town. At different times he had three of his wives here and made the town his home on several occasions of great feasting and jousting. In 1520 Cardinal Wolsey and his entourage were at Dover. This was associated with the visit of the German Emperor Charles V on May 26th. The Emperor left on May 31st and Henry VIII sailed to Calais on June 1st. He was at the Field of the Cloth of Gold on June 4th.

By the time of Henry VIII Dover Priory was practically insolvent. There were too few members to celebrate even the Passage Mass regularly; the two or three novices were receiving no instruction and the buildings were in a state of decay. The previously magnificent church of St Martin-le-Grand was in a bad state of repair; in fact it was in a state where it would have been well nigh impossible to repair it. The twelve religious occupants of the Priory were living the leisurely lives of gentlemen, served by 17 servants and retainers. Their behaviour fell far short of their professed standards. The 1511 official visitation by Archbishop Warham noted that the behaviour of the monks left much to be desired, but that they lived well. Their larder was constantly stocked with all kinds of meat, fish and continental wines. The cost of their farm employees alone was £22-11-8 per annum. There was a Prior, subprior, three novices and three or four monks. They had many hundreds of acres of land and owned mills. Their traditional vows had long since been abandoned.

The local clergy and monastic establishments in Dover made no effort at all to defend the Faith and willingly submitted to the Reformation decrees and acts. The monks of the Priory were pensioned off (a pension of £4 or £5 per annum; the Prior receiving a much more generous settlement, lived as a country gentleman for several years), the Priory being surrendered into the King's hands on 1535 November 16th, and their leper hospital (St Batholomew's) on Chapel Hill granted to a Dover man for the duration of his lifetime. He had all the buildings razed to the ground and used the land for another purpose. All the Priory treasure was taken to the Tower of London. The Priory buildings themselves soon became a total ruin, the magnificent church was desecrated, dismantled and destroyed, and the buildings were later used as a source of building material for other buildings. The more

serviceable structures were adopted for use as farm buildings. Those now remaining are incorporated in Dover College, a public school founded in 1871. It is worth noting that the road going towards Folkestone outside the location of the Priory is even today named St Martin's Hill. The present day site of the of the Priory church is Effingham Street, Saxon Street and Norman Street. Yet another part of the monastery is now the approaches to Dover Priory railway station.

Thus over 1,300 years of almost continuous union with Rome in the 'Dowry of Mary' came to an end and what became known as the "Old Faith" and its traditions and practices were legally suppressed.

### 3: Persecution and Exile

To suggest reasons for the Protestant Reformation is an almost impossible task. It was not an instantaneous, overnight phenomenon. In Britain it was closely linked with politics, which complicated the situation even further. Saint John Fisher had been martyred on 1535 June 22nd and Saint Thomas More on July 6th of the same year. From this time onward the treatment of Catholics in this country began to degenerate. On the continent, dissenting voices were being raised in the Church: Luther, Calvin and others were expounding their heresies. One step easily leads to another in this situation: the argument about Indulgences; the suggestion of Justification by Faith Alone; the denial of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the consequent substitution of the Lord's Supper, leading to the destruction of altars and their replacement with wooden tables, the abolition of the use of incense, bells and the use of Mass vestments; the denial of the existence of Purgatory; the denial of Our Blessed Lady's unique role and the intercession of the Saints, leading to the wholesale destruction of shrines; the denial of the supremacy of the Pope; the destruction of Images; - so the litany continues. Within less than a generation the religious thinking of the country had been totally changed. The Catholic Church was very slow to react in some of these matters. Certainly there were abuses and corruption within the Church herself. The desire to put her own house in order and clearly define the Dogmas of the Faith resulted in what historians have called the 'Counter-Reformation'. Pope Paul III convoked the Council of Trent in 1545 and this continued to sit until 1564. This Council guaranteed safe transit to the Protestants so that they could appear at the Council and explain their position. The offer was never accepted.

When Queen Mary succeeded to the throne, she wanted to make England Catholic again. On 1554 November 17th Cardinal Pole (pronounced 'pool') landed at Dover in order to help Mary reconcile the country with Rome. In 1556 apostate Archbishop Cranmer was burnt at the stake, and in the same year Cardinal Pole accompanied by Bishop Thornton, came on visitation to Dover. Officers of St Mary's Church were ordered by Bishop Thornton to provide a Mass book, candlesticks, tapers, a pyx, a cross...at the cost of some £3. He also discharged Christopher James, priest of St Mary's, because he was married, and replaced him. In 1555 Mayor Richard Elam had been turned out of Office, together with several members of the Corporation, because they did not conform to the Catholic Faith. When Mary died England reverted to Protestantism.

As the Gateway of England, Dover provided one of the main escape routes for priests trying to get abroad and an entry point for missionary priests coming into the country. Reginald Cardinal Pole, the last Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury, died on 1558 November 17th. There is a tomb for Cardinal Pole in Canterbury Cathedral. In 1559 the curate of St George's, Canterbury, William Basendon (or Bashenden) was caught at Dover, trying to escape. In the *Acts of the Privy Council* for 1559 May, William Crispe, governor of Dover Castle, is thanked for this. He is told that if the priest can find sureties he can be released. In 1564 March it is recorded that Bernard Bonard was arrested. The year 1568 saw the opening of the seminary at Douai.

Some old Kent families never gave up their practice of the Faith. These were the Hawkins of Nash Court, the Guilfords, the Parkes and the Lynsted branch of the Ropers. They were content to live quietly and bear the consequences of recusancy. In accordance with the Act of 1582 they paid up to £260 per year per head, or alternatively forfeited part of their estates. During the reign of Queen Mary many Catholic clerics were reinstated, but

with the accession of Elizabeth I they either resigned their livings, were deprived (Thomas Austen, vicar of East Langdon was one of these), or, in the majority of cases, submitted to the new regime. In 1570 Pope Saint Pius V published the Bull of excommunication of Elizabeth I, *Regnans in excelsis*. This effectively deposed the monarch and allowed Catholics to plot against her. After this, the persecution of Catholics intensified and hatred of Catholics and all things Catholic became a matter of national pride.

From 1577 onwards the number of young men arrested at Dover increased. In that year Blessed Edward Stransham went to Douai with Richard Naylor and Nicholas Wheeler.

Blessed Edward Stransham (alias Barber) was born in Oxford and educated at St John's College, Oxford, Douai and Rheims, was ordained a seminary priest in 1580 and subsequently hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1586 January 21st.

In 1577 February Thomas Wells was tried before the assizes in Kent. In 1578 Edward Burnell was brought before the Mayor of Canterbury for having brought into England, through Dover, Catholic books and other religious objects. In 1579 May John Donne was trying to leave England via Dover, but only got as far as Canterbury before he was caught.

Blessed Edward James left Oxford without a degree because he would not take the Oath of Supremacy, a condition of graduation at the time. The ardent faith of one Bradley influenced him, completing his conversion. Bradley supplied monies for his journey to Rheims and in 1579 October Blessed Edward James set sail from Dover. Born at Breaston, in the parish of Wilne, near Derby and educated at Derby Grammar School and St John's College, Oxford, he subsequently spent 9 months in Rheims and then went to the English College, Rome. Ordained in 1583, he was subsequently hanged, drawn and quartered at Chichester on 1588 October 1st.

Also travelling from Dover that October was Blessed William Filby, en route to Rheims. He was born in Oxfordshire, educated at Lincoln College, Oxford, converted to the Catholic Faith, studied at Rheims, was ordained a seminary priest in 1581 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1582 May 30th.

The year 1580 saw the launch of the Jesuit missionary expedition to England. In June of that year Father Robert Parsons landed at Dover, in disguise. He played the part of a jovial traveller, telling the searchers (who he chatted to and joked with) that he had a merchant friend, a certain Mr Edmund, who dealt in jewels and would be coming to England, via Dover, soon. Attracted by his amiable manner, they promised to keep a special lookout for his friend and give him every consideration; these men even went to the trouble to get a horse for Father Parsons to take him to Gravesend.

On June 25th Saint Edmund Campion, accompanied by Ralph Emerson, duly arrived at Dover. The Searches - a sort of coastguard - had recently been reprimanded by the Council for their carelessness in allowing priests to enter England and they were now on the lookout for Gabriel Allen, brother of the future Cardinal Allen, who they thought was coming to England to visit some friends in Lancashire. They suspected Campion and took both him and Emerson before the Mayor of Dover to be questioned. Alarmed, but apparently outwardly calm, Edmund was accused of being Allen, travelling under a false name and being "a friend of the Old Faith", returning to this country in order to "propagate popery". Suddenly, the Mayor said that he would have to send them to London and disappeared with the other interrogators into an adjoining room, leaving the two of them alone. After a few

moments an old man came out, saying to them "You are dismissed. Good-bye". They were allowed to proceed to London, in time for Saint Edmund Campion to preach his first sermon there on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

Saint Edmund Campion was a Jesuit priest, born in London and a fellow of St John's College, Oxford. He studied at Douai, was admitted to the Jesuit order in 1573, ordained at Prague in 1578 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1581 December 1st.

Ralph Emerson was later imprisoned for bringing in "seditious and papistical literature" through Norfolk.

Four days later Blessed Thomas Cottam, accompanied by Fathers John Hart and Edward Richton, together with a layman, Dr Humphrey Ely (a professor at Douai), landed at Dover. Cottam was arrested immediately and the Town Mayor, Thomas Allyn (according to Bishop Challenor's account) asked Dr Ely (himself disguised as a Mr Havard) to take him to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Lord Cobham, "for the avoiding of charges". As soon as the two men were out of town, Dr Ely declared that as a Catholic himself, he would not give Cottam up. They went immediately to a friend in London to ask for advice and were told that it was wrong for him to escape in this way. Cottam asked then for the letters which Allyn had given to Dr Ely to deliver with the prisoner, saying that he would go and hand himself over to Lord Cobham. He was dissuaded from this course of action, but a little while later when Ely was in danger of being arrested for having allowed him to escape, Cottam gave himself up.

Blessed Thomas Cottam, a Jesuit priest, was born at Dilworth, Lancashire; educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and after his conversion to the Faith, at Douai, became a Jesuit in Rome and was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1582 May 30th.

The October of the same year saw Blessed John Munden returning to Douai for a few months. He was arrested at Dover, taken before Mayor Thomas Allyn, and searched. He was carrying nothing incriminating so the searchers stripped him of all that he had and let him go free. The diary of the English College at Douai reports that he refused to declare the Pope a knave as he had been ordered to by his searchers. In a certain sense justice was done, because on 1582 September 3rd, it is recorded that Thomas Allyn, Thomas Andrews and John Knoppe, "citizens of Dover" were accused of misconduct, in that Thomas Allyn "in his Mayoralty apprehended and imprisoned one John Munden, a papist, and took from him £15 in money which he keepeth from the town unto this time".

Blessed John Munden returned to England on 1582 August 6th, at Dover. A Jesuit priest, he was born at Coltley, South Maperton, Dorset; educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford; was a schoolmaster in Dorset; studied at Rheims and Rome; was ordained in 1582 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1584 February 12th.

During 1584 the mayor of Dover gave Blessed George Douglas a passport to take him to Edinburgh by land or sea after his ship had been attacked by pirates on the crossing from Calais. The mayor also gave him a doublet, since all his luggage had been stolen. Unfortunately, he spent the night at Gravesend, sharing his bedroom with a boy who subsequently stole his new doublet and passport. He was able to get to Rutland before being arrested.

Blessed George Douglas was a secular priest, born in Edinburgh and a schoolmaster

in Rutland; ordained in Paris soon after 1574 and was hanged, drawn and quartered at York on 1587 September 9th.

All was quiet at Dover until 1586 October, when Blessed Robert Dibdale and Edward Pole were both arrested. Blessed Robert Wilcox arrived at this time as well.

Blessed Robert Dibdale was a seminary priest, born in Shottery, Warwickshire; educated at Douai; ordained in 1584 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1586 October 8th.

Edward Pole was a seminary priest who died in prison in London. He is a 'dilati', i.e. his cause for canonization has been deferred at the moment by the Holy See.

Blessed Robert Wilcox was a seminary priest, born in Chester, educated at Rheims, ordained in 1585 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Canterbury on 1588 October 1st.

Yet another arrival during the autumn of 1586, on a lonely stretch of the Downs between Dover and Folkestone was a Jesuit priest aged 25. Saint Robert Southwell was born in 1561 at Horsham St Faith, Norfolk; educated at Douai and Rome; received into the Jesuit order in 1578; ordained in 1584 and hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1595 February 21st. He wrote the hymns *Behold a simple tender Babe* and *Let folly praise what fancy loves* (Westminster Hymnal).

The year 1587 saw the arrival at Dover of Blessed Christopher Buxton, Blessed Edward Campion and Blessed Robert Widmerpool.

Blessed Christopher Buxton was a seminary priest, born at Tidewell, Derbyshire; educated at Tidewell Grammar School and, after his conversion, at Rheims and Rome. Ordained in 1586, he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Canterbury on 1588 October 1st.

Blessed Robert Widmerpool was a layman, born at Widmerpool, Nottinghamshire; educated at Gloucester Hall, Oxford, and subsequently a schoolmaster. He was hanged at Canterbury on 1588 October 1st.

After the Spanish Armada in 1588 Catholics were less willing to be associated with foreign plots against the monarch. They preferred to practise the Faith quietly and await the death of Queen Elizabeth. However, circumstances did not really change: Blessed Francis Dickenson (or Dicconson) and Blessed Miles Gerard were arrested at Dover in 1589 November. Again, in 1591 September, John Cecil and John Fixer were arrested.

Blessed Francis Dickenson (alias Lawrence and Keighley) was a seminary priest born at Otley, West Riding, Yorkshire. He was a convert to the Faith, subsequently educated at Rheims and ordained in 1589. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Rochester on 1590 April 13th or 30th.

It is recorded that during 1593 January a Thomas Clarke, upon being questioned by the suffragan (Anglican) bishop of Dover, admitted being ordered to England by the President of Rheims, but he "had persuaded none to the Catholic religion, having consorted with none but Catholics".

Blessed Roger Filcock, S.J. was born at Sandwich, Kent, the son of Simon and



Margaret Lowe (or Low). He entered the English College at Rheims on 1581 June 15th. From there he was sent on 1581 September 29th to the English College, Valladolid, where he arrived on 1591 February 20th. There is no record of where and when he was ordained a priest, but this happened by 1597 October, when he left the college and sailed from Bilbao to Calais in December. His desire was to enter the Society of Jesus, but it was considered prudent that he first gain some experience on the mission, as indeed he did. He was admitted as a Jesuit novice by Father Henry Garnet, S.J. (Superior of the English Mission) in England, who described him as a man of quiet and virtuous disposition in 1600 and should have proceeded to Flanders to the novitiate, but was in the meantime arrested on suspicion of being a priest and sent to Newgate gaol in London.

During his time as a missionary he had known Saint Anne Line, a convert to the Catholic Faith and widow whose husband had died in exile after being caught attending Mass. She had managed a variety of safe-houses for priests and lay faithful. Blessed Roger Filcock had also been Saint Anne Line's confessor.

On Candlemas Day, 1601 February 2nd, Father Francis Page was about to celebrate Mass in her lodgings when priest-catchers broke in. The priest escaped in the confusion but his hostess was arrested and put on trial at the Old Bailey on 1601 February 26th, indicted for harbouring a priest. Although this could not be proved, she was condemned and led to the gallows the next day. She was executed at the same time as Dom Mark Barkworth, a Benedictine monk, and Blessed Roger Filcock, who had gone on trial on Monday, 1601 February 23rd. His trial (which he protested to be unfair) was by the Protestant Bishop of London. When sentence was pronounced Blessed Roger said: "Benedictus Dominus Deus in donis suis"; this was the day that he had heartily desired. Captured in 1600 before July in or around London, he had been betrayed by John Ingleby, a former student of his at Valladolid. On Friday, 1601 February 27th, a snowy and extremely cold day, he was drawn on a hurdle to Tyburn. Approaching the gallows, they stopped while St Anne Line was being hanged. Some of his last words were: "I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ". Only a few fragmentary relics of his are known.

In 1599 June Friar Collier, Mr Higham and George Askew were arrested at Dover. Also in that year, Martin Audins was questioned by the Council. Having confessed that at Dover in 1598 May he met a William Gelke, a Kentish Man who offered him £40 per year to bring books from the Jesuits at St Omer and Douai to England, he had complied with this and gave the books to the Lord Warden. Upon returning to Calais he had met Gelke and Father Slack, a Jesuit, and told them that he had distributed the books in accordance with their instructions. He claimed that by landing at Dover he showed his innocence; he would not have landed here if he had been in the service of the Spanish. The result of his interrogation is not recorded and it is highly probable that he was one of a number of government spies trying to locate and trap Catholics at that time.

In 1601 George Askew is again arrested at Dover and two years later, in 1603, the arrests of Thomas Strange and Thomas Bramston, O.S.B. are reported.

It is recorded in 1604 that the last outward bound Catholic to be arrested in Dover during the reign of Elizabeth I was John Chapperton. He was an unlucky man, for his ship was blown into Dover by strong winds when he was on his way to France. He was imprisoned, but before he could be brought to trial Elizabeth was dead and James I of the Stuart Dynasty succeeded to the throne of England.

Catholics generally had an easier time under the Stuarts. Under examination in 1605, Roger Gwynn declared that one third of England was Catholic, although at this time the official returns gave a figure of 1%. In 1606 February, John Middleton was arrested at Dover, but in 1621 July Owen Shell was arrested and then released. While James I was arranging the marriage of Prince Charles with the Spanish Princess, the Penal Laws were largely inoperative. Lord Zouch, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, complained to the Secretary of the Council about the situation in 1623. He enclosed with his complaint the examination of Thomas Wright and John and Thomas Westley, from Douai, and held at Dover. Two days later (July 7th) he wrote again, to say that the famous Jesuit, Thomas Everard, had landed, disguised as a soldier. He asked what he should do about him. During August he asks for orders concerning all the Jesuits held at Dover. The King ordered the release of Everard to travel with the Spanish Ambassador. One source quotes the presence of 2,400 Jesuits in London alone in the year 1624. At Christmas, 1623, the King ordered the Secretary to forbear entirely all persecution against Catholics; to discharge from prison all "priests, Jesuits, friars and other Roman Catholics"; and not only to refrain from the shilling fine for not attending the established church, but to make "restitution of monies paid since Trinity term last". Other events recorded include the arrest of Thomas Cutler in 1623 and the passage to Calais in 1624 July of Henry Isham. In the same month James McDonnell refused the oath of allegiance. In 1630 March Anthony Britton and Thomas Tonke were arrested at Dover.

The last arrests reported are those of Anthony Geoghegan in 1633 April; John Boniface in 1637 May and Blessed Henry Heath in 1641.

Blessed Henry Heath was a Franciscan priest, born in Peterborough, Northamptonshire. He studied at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and at Douai. He was received into the Franciscan Order c1624, ordained at Douai and was three times the Guardian of St Bonaventure's at Douai. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1643 April 17th.

It is, perhaps, hard for us to appreciate what life for a Catholic was like in Dover during these times. We are used to the modern easy-going and fairly friendly or indifferent climate. The people of Dover at this time resented Catholicism. One eyewitness account tells of a priest (who is not named) who had already suffered much for the Faith in England. The account reads:

"Arriving at the Port of Dover, he was betrayed and seized by, I know not what, cunning of those lynx-eyed searchers. After enduring with invincible courage, a load of insults and ignominy heaped upon him, on account of his priesthood, they finally sowed him up in a bear or bull's skin, and exposed him in the public streets to be torn in pieces by dogs, and sported with as a monster; but, by the goodness of God, he was rescued through the interference of some humane person standing by." The writer continues: "...sacrilegious plunder may likewise be seen there (Dover), exposed for sale in the market-place and shops, such as chalices, patens, crosses and crucifixes, ...pieces of consecrated altars... These sales were not only public, but were announced, by leave of the magistrates, with the town-crier's bell". Apparently, Dovorians boasted and expected praise "for the mutilation and desecration of so many religious men and women they had effected: so many images of saints and sacred hosts they had found and broken up and desecrated in churches: so many holy altars and relics of saints defiled or broken in pieces or burnt, and so many missals and breviaries and books ...torn up and destroyed".

Such was the attitude of the common people. Yet in aristocratic circles the Queen herself had a Catholic court. One fifth of the peers of the House of Lords were Catholic in 1626. Comment was made in Rome when most of them attended the heretical coronation service in Westminster Abbey. In Kent, all the Catholics who received knighthoods and baronetcies from James I were convicted recusants. The Exchequer Officer responsible for collecting the recusant's fines, Sir Henry Spiller, was himself a Catholic. Such was the strange dichotomy extant in those days.

During the reign of Charles I, complaints were made at Dover against the French merchants, a lot of whom were, of course, Catholic. In 1636 December a special meeting of the King's Council considers what can be done in law about "certain merchants and strangers (foreigners) residing at Dover, being of the Romish Religion, by Papish priests christen their children in their houses". In 1637 the "bold and unfitting demeanours" of foreigners living in the town caused such a scandal that the government intervened and the Secretary ordered the Mayor to hold an enquiry. The Mayor's report went to Secretary Coke in 1637 September:

"...first, we find that all the persons named are strangers and live in the town as factors, merchants, or masters of ships. For the second, we hear not that the strangers openly perform the ceremonies of the Popish Religion, but often oppose our religion by disputes obtruded on the Protestant strangers here residing. And for the third, we cannot understand any popish priests harboured amongst them in the town, or where they use privately their ceremonies, but we suspect the same, for some of them most Sundays in the morning ride forth of the town and return again towards evening, and it is to be suspected it is to hear Mass at some place not far from the town".

The Mass Centre referred to was in a private house, probably in the village of Alkham. A Bill of Recusants dated 1605 April 17th names four persons in the parish of Alkham. Christopher Buckingham writes that he met someone who was restoring a Tudor house in the village around 1970, who had discovered what he thought could well have been a priest's hiding place or "priest hole".

With the main report, the Mayor enclosed a summary of his examination of certain witnesses. One of these was a churchwarden of St Mary's, Humphrey Mantle. He declared that one Sunday morning "when the French Bishop was in town, at the sign of the George, he went into the said house, and, in the great chamber there, saw kneeling at Mass about a hundred persons, and a priest, in his priestly habit, reading Mass". Some of those present asked him not to disturb them and, when he said "he came not to disturb them, but to take notice of who were present, they thrust him and others who were with him out of the chamber".

The 'George' referred to in the account was the George Inn in Bench Street, mentioned in 1608 as the residence of Robert Garrett "next the tower in Bench Street". Robert's father, John, was also an innkeeper and had succeeded Thomas Allyn as Mayor in 1580-81. Robert was also a churchwarden and died in 1625. His successor at the George Inn must have been a Catholic. The main religious trouble at Dover at this time was constant disputation between Catholic and Protestant foreigners "on the Bench", i.e. in Bench Street. This is said to have perpetuated anti-Catholic feeling in Dover for many years to come.

After the Civil War the old Penal Laws were again enforced. After the Restoration of the Monarchy (Charles II landed at Dover: the site is marked at the western end of the modern sea front), Charles II tried to repay Catholics for their loyalty to the Stuart Crown,

but waves of anti-Catholic feeling swept the country. In 1660 Prince James, the Duke of York, became Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, being appointed only two months after the Restoration. He had to resign the post because he was a Catholic.

James II tried to make England Catholic again, but both the Stuart cause and the Faith were outlawed with fresh Penal Legislation and the situation for a century after 1688 was one of self-assured Protestant indifference. The ancient Catholic family houses in Kent, and the new ones established under the post-Restoration Stuart rule, continued the Faith. The inaccurate Compton census of 1676 reports 6 Catholics in St Mary's parish and 15 in St James' parish. At that time the local Mass Centre was at Hales Place, Hackington, near Canterbury. The first Catholic in the Hales family was Sir Edward, deputy warden of the Cinque Ports and Lieutenant of Dover Castle (Christopher Buckingham speculated in his *Catholic Dover* that Mass may have been celebrated in the Castle in his day). He accompanied James II, disguised as Sir Edward's servant, on his escape through Faversham in 1688. Hales Place continued to serve as the local missionary centre until the construction and opening of St Thomas' Catholic Church at Canterbury. Bishop Challenor, Vicar Apostolic of the London District visited Kent in 1742 July and reported that 30 people attended Mass at Hales Place, with a Catholic population in Kent of 300. On another visitation in 1773 he reports a Mass attendance of 100 at Hales Place, with a Catholic population still only of 300 in Kent. In 1790 Bishop John Douglas took charge of the London District and visited Kent that year. He reported a Catholic population of 600 in Kent, with five missionaries. The situation remained largely unchanged in 1803 except that Margate had become a permanent centre.

At the end of the eighteenth century Catholicism in Dover was sustained by the French. Mass was celebrated by emigré priests fleeing from the French Revolution and its consequences. Of five entries referring to Dover in an early register at Hales Place, only one concerned a Dovorian.

Looking at the difficult times for Catholics in Dover in those days and the hostility and persecution that they faced, we cannot help but call to mind the words of the well known martyrs hymn written by the late Mgr Ronald Arbuthnott Knox (1888-1957):

O English hearts, what heart can know  
How spent with labours long ago  
Was England's Church that bore you?  
The paths you tread, in lane or street,  
Long since were trodden by the feet  
Of saints that went before you;  
When priests, like sudden angels, came  
to light in distant shires the flame  
That faith's dull embers cherished,  
When Mass and shrift were sought for still  
In silent farm, on lonely hill,  
Ere ancient memories perished.

Their kindred and their homes forgot,  
The traitor's name, the wanderer's lot  
For all their portion choosing;  
God's hungry sheep they toiled to save,  
The peace that only exile gave  
For love of Christ refusing:  
Till, late or early, go they must  
(Who not in princes put their trust)  
Where earthly justice waited;  
From rack and dungeon, freed at last,  
The hurdle's way, to death they passed,  
From death to life translated.

O saints of English speech and race,  
Caught up to heaven, of heavenly grace  
A double portion send us;  
From faint resolves and mean desires  
And all this languid age inspires  
Of worldly aims, defend us!  
And, if such influence love can earn,  
O bid the faith you loved return,  
The land you loved awaking;  
An England sunk in long despair  
To holier thoughts, sublimer prayer,  
And larger hopes awaking.

(In case you are not familiar with the term: 'shrift' refers to the sacrament of Penance - Confession. In those times people used to get 'shriven', i.e. go to Confession.)

Sanctae et Beatae Martyres Angliae ora pro nobis  
Iesu converte Angliam

## 4: The Faith Returns

Life in Dover in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was not pleasant by modern standards. The main sewer often consisted of a gutter running down the centre of the street, frequently churned up by horses hooves. The roads were generally not made up and muddy. The poor sanitation and living conditions meant that disease was abundant. At this time the town was confined to the valley floor to the south of the Maison Dieu and along the land at the foot of the Western Heights as far as Archcliffe Fort.

Just before Christmas in 1787 the Rev John Greenway was asked by Bishop James Talbot, the Vicar Apostolic, to visit Dover and follow up a request made by a local Catholic innkeeper. John Greenway had been ordained in 1777 and became a professor at and finally vice-rector of Valladolid in 1781. He left Spain for England in 1787 June. So it was that he spent the Christmas of 1787 in Dover, somewhat to his inconvenience. The Westminster Diocesan Archives show that he wrote to his Bishop on December 27th that he went by horse to see "Mr Allan at Sir Edmund Hales's near Canterbury... As to the situation of my intended mission, I discovered yesterday upon seeing Mr Allan that I was better able to give than receive information from him. His opinion is, that the designed plan is premature and will not be accompanied with success, as there are very few Catholics, and fewer still, that attend carefully to their duty; that a priest here will have too little to do, and be very expensive, and that other parts of the district stand in much greater need of a Pastor than Dover; that the only proper thing to be done, in his opinion, is to appoint someone to visit from time to time the few Catholicicks (sic) scattered up and down and to assist the dying, as a poor sailor, or wandering Irishman may stand in need of such assistance... The only new information I received from him, relative to my settlement, was a very bad account of a nominal Catholic family lately removed from Canterbury to Dover, with a design to appear on the stage, and upon enquiry I find this to be verified; have nothing, said he, to do with them; they will at least have nothing to do with you, for they pay no attention to the duties of religion... The French family with whom 'twas proposed I should lodge, seem very worthy people and well instructed in their Religion but remove next week to Sandwich. When they are gone I shall have no house wherein I can say Mass, unless one be hired for me..."

The French Revolution resulted in many religious fleeing France. Many of the Emigré Catholics settled in Dover and it was really the French emigré priests who can be considered to have started the return of the Faith to Dover. In 1794 Abbé Augustine Prix from Beauvais celebrated Mass in the town and in 1797 Abbé Jean Baptiste Lambert, Secretary to the Archbishop of Paris, stayed here for a time. These visiting priests used to celebrate Mass at 45, Snargate Street for a congregation comprising a mere handful of French emigrés.

In 1803 the Margate mission opened and this was nearer for Dover Catholics than Hales Place which had served for Baptisms and Marriages until then. This was the time at which the great Catholic revival in East Kent really began. With only 600 Catholics in Kent in 1803, it is estimated that there were 3,317 by 1814. Behind the great revival in Dover was Father Thomas Costigan, a "tall, powerful man standing 6ft 5in without shoes", who used to travel along the coast from Sheerness to Hastings, walking from one coastguard station to the next. Canon Grady, in his *History of St Paul's Parish, Dover* calls him the "wandering apostle of the South Coast". He frequently celebrated Mass at Dover. Father Costigan was born on 1788 January 24th at Kilkenny, Ireland and was educated at St Edmund's, Ware. Ordained at the age of 29, he was posted to the Margate Mission in 1821, taking up residence

at a house called St Austen's in Prospect Place. On one occasion he rescued Princess (later Queen) Victoria when he stopped the pony on which she was riding when it bolted. After that he wrote to her on the anniversary of the incident each year, and received a reply.

On one occasion Father Costigan was called out to take Holy Communion to a sick person. On his way a thunderstorm broke out and he had to battle through the torrential rain on foot. As he walked along he heard a coach approaching from behind. It slowed down as it neared him and a voice invited him to jump in. He gratefully climbed in. You can imagine his surprise when he found Dr Philpotts, the Anglican Bishop of Exeter, to be his benefactor. Due to the violence of the weather, the Duke of Wellington with whom Philpotts was staying at Walmer Castle, put him up for the night and he returned home the following day.

Father Costigan died after a protracted illness in Margate on 1860 October 9th and is buried at the former St Augustine's Abbey (now shrine) at Ramsgate, where a great cross serves as his monument.

The first entry in the parish registers, marking the establishment of the Dover mission is for 1822 April 18th: a Baptism. The first marriage is not recorded until 1826 October 3rd. At this time our registers covered Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Hythe, Rye, Appledore, Romsey and Hastings.

In 1824 Father Patrick Portal became Dover's first resident Catholic priest since the Reformation. In 1825 he appealed in the *Laity's Directory*, saying that the mission was "miserably poor" and begging "most earnestly and respectfully ...the assistance of their more wealthy brethren". This appeal had little immediate effect and Father Portal left in 1827. Father Costigan was again serving the mission at Dover.

In 1829 March the Catholic Relief Bill passed through the Commons and became law. From that time Catholics had the same rights as Protestants, except that they could not hold office as Lord High Chancellor or Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, or succeed to the throne. Catholic Emancipation had arrived. This does not mean, however, that attitudes changed overnight: on the contrary, attitudes were very slow to change.

Progress was slow. The wealthy Catholic Robinson family secured the appointment of Father Francis Jarrett as their chaplain, by Bishop Bramstone, in 1834 and Mass was celebrated regularly over Thomas Marks' Carpenters Shop at 60, St James' Street. One Sunday early in 1835, while celebrating Mass in the little attic chapel, Father Jarrett heard one of the rafters give way. The 88th Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, garrisoned at the Castle, had not yet arrived. As he did not want to cause a panic, he continued with the Mass. The soldiers came, and went, and all was well. However, he took the warning to heart and immediately looked for another chapel. He persuaded his employers to buy the old Methodist Chapel in Queen Elizabeth Square on the corner of Limekiln Street. This chapel had been built in 1781 and Mr Robinson bought it for £425 on 1835 May 3rd. He immediately also paid an additional £400 for repairs to be made to the roof. John Wesley had preached in this chapel, but the pulpit was removed to the new Methodist chapel near the entrance to the Grand Shaft, in Snargate Street, when the building passed into Catholic hands. Father Jarrett blessed the chapel. Mr Robinson also bought the house next door to the chapel for £315 and this served for a time as the presbytery.

It is related that on one occasion the Connaught Rangers were marching along the street and were on the point of meeting Father Jarrett, when the commanding officer led him

aside into a narrow lane, to prevent the meeting, and told him that it was forbidden to present arms to a Catholic Priest, but felt certain that if the soldiers had to pass him, they, being Catholics, would salute him, and to prevent a breach of discipline and the punishment consequent upon it, begged him to remain there until the soldiers had passed.

In Father Jarrett's time there are only two entries in the register, both in 1834 November. He did not stay long (probably leaving to enter the Jesuit novitiate - he is recorded later as having become a Jesuit) and was followed by a rapid change of missionary priests. His successor, Father John Hearn, signs the register only three times.

Later in 1835, Father Joseph Savage arrived and started to build up the mission, staying until 1863. (He was absent for some months in 1837 and 1838 due to illness). He was often down-hearted and in 1853 promised to "re-open" the mission if the Bishop would give him "a promise of £20 per annum from the Bishop's missionary fund". This sum was to be paid until a legacy promised to the mission was received. He complained that his annual income had been suspended so that he had to manage solely with the help of his friends. The congregation varied on a Sunday from a Mass attendance of 70 to 400-600 when the Military were in town. In 1854 he reported that Catholicism "had retrograded" due partly to the Crimean War but "some little also to prejudice, for the Catholic labourers are not employed on the works so much now as they used to be". He also complained that there was no school and that seven Catholic children were in a nearby school.

Father Savage owned a house in Guildford Terrace, Dover and in 1858 he put it up for auction. He had been receiving an income of £34 per year as rental on it. At auction the bidding failed to reach the reserve price, only reaching £300; the house therefore remained unsold.

As early as 1856 there were rumours that the Railway Company wanted to build a new station on a site which included the church property. The London, Chatham & Dover Railway Company was buying property on the north side of Elizabeth Street and on 1860 December 5th they bought the presbytery for a price of £650. This was generous compensation indeed and the money was used to build a small schoolroom for £150. The work was carried out by Mr Tim Widge. Within a few years it was recorded that at the first government inspection all 33 children passed the tests.

During these days the population of the town was extending eastwards and Father Savage suggested in a letter to the Bishop that a new site should be found for a church. Through Major Molyneux Seel of Dover and at the expense of the Diocese, Father Savage arranged the purchase of a piece of land in Ashen Tree Lane for £500 on 1861 April 29th.

The Restoration of the Hierarchy had taken place in 1850 and from 1851 the mission was canonically part of the Diocesan territory of Southwark. The first Bishop of Southwark was Dr Grant.

The Countess de Front was born in 1750 as Mary Fleetwood into a long-established English family from Lancashire whose records go back to the fifteenth century. (The town of Fleetwood in Lancashire is named after her family). The family was involved in both Royal and Parliamentary circles. It was not a Catholic family (indeed at the time of Elizabeth I her ancestors persecuted Catholics) and she must have been a convert to the Faith. She became acquainted with the Count de Front, Royal Sardinian Ambassador to England; they both travelled regularly through Dover to the Court at Windsor, and subsequently married. She



was a great figure in the Catholic society of her day and patroness of many charities. When the weather was bad she often had to spend several days in Dover. She felt the need for churches both at Dover and at Windsor and left money in her will for this purpose. When she died on 1830 January 7th (at her residence in Stanhope Street, Mayfair; she was buried in the crypt at Moorfields) she left the interest on her fortune to her brother, Sir Thomas Fleetwood. He subsequently died in 1860. However, legal complications arose for her beneficiaries, since she had stated that Dover was in the Diocese of London. (At the time of her death, Dover would have been in the London District under the jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic, but with the Restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850, boundaries were reorganised and Dover became part of the Diocese of Southwark). There was an unsuccessful attempt to contest the will, but eventually the initial capital for Dover's new church was handed over to Dr Grant. Some sources state that this sum was £1,000. (A plaque mounted on the porch wall in St Paul's Church commemorates her patronage and a Foundation Mass is celebrated for the repose of her soul in St Paul's Church annually).

In 1863 May Father Savage retired and Father James Laws came to Dover. He had been ordained in Lisbon in 1854 by Cardinal Pietro. His first appointment was to Bermondsey, where he remained for four years before being transferred to Rotherhithe, where he built a new church. He was an accomplished wood carver, only 5 ft tall and frequently seen around the town on his tricycle. When Father Laws arrived the Mass attendance was 190.

Subsequently the Surveyor came to inspect the Ashen Tree Lane site. Finding that half the money would be needed to level the site, he advised that it be sold and a more suitable one purchased. (On this site in modern day Dover may be found St Mary's Church of England Primary School). Father Laws agreed and a new piece of land was purchased at a commanding location in Maison Dieu Road, at the top of Pencester Road, in a fast-developing area of the town. The land had previously belonged to Johnson's Nursery, and they sold it to the Diocese for £450.

Work began on the new church on 1867 June 1st. The architect was the famous Edward Welby Pugin who created the building as an architectural masterpiece in the Early English Style. The font was given by Mr Edmund Robinson in 1863 and was originally in the Queen Elizabeth Square Chapel. When completed in 1868 the new church measured 90 ft x 40 ft. With the apsidal east end still incomplete Saint Paul's Church was opened on Friday, 1868 May 15th. Bishop Grant sang the Solemn High Mass and Cardinal Manning preached the sermon on the text "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism". The Rev J. Wilfrid Alcock and the Rev J. Cuthbert Downey, both from the Monastery at Ramsgate, officiated as Deacon and Sub-Deacon. The choir came from Gravesend and sang Mozart's Twelfth Mass. The instrumental portions were supplied by Mr Binfield of Dover. Thus the modern history of Dover's Catholicism began. The *Dover Express* of the same day described the event:

"The new Roman Catholic Church in Dover was opened this morning with much pomp and circumstance... The opening was to have taken place on Wednesday but owing to an invitation Dr Manning had received to be present at the laying of the foundation stone of St Thomas' Hospital by the Queen the ceremony was postponed until today. The postponement was the cause of an odd mistake which has caused quite a flutter of excitement in the breasts of Constitutional Protestants. The handbill announcing the postponement was drawn up in so slipshod a fashion as to make it appear that Her Majesty had invited Dr Manning to be present. The blunder was too gross to mislead ordinary people..."

Father Laws wrote to the paper, correcting the report.

The Church had so far cost £2,300 and £800 was still on the debt, which was paid off slowly by gifts and offertories. An organ was purchased from Messrs Bevington for £250 and it was said to have "proved a very good one". It was probably of continental, possibly Belgian origin, was second hand and installed c1870. The actual date is not recorded and unknown.

Bishop Grant died in Rome on 1870 June 1st, with Blessed Pope Pius IX at his bedside. He was attending the First Vatican Council.

The old chapel in Queen Elizabeth Square and the adjoining schoolroom were sold in 1870 and two large rooms rented in Castle Street for a school. The roll increased to 66. The Diocese bought the newly built 102, Maison Dieu Road, next to and north west of the Church, for a new presbytery. Father Laws, who had lived at 43, Snargate Street and then in St Martins Street, moved into the new house. The necessity for a school nearby resulted in the building of a boys school next to the east end of the Church. It was opened in 1872 and had cost £527.

The Church was completed by adding the apsidal east end (an additional 30 ft) due to the increasing congregation, and a second opening followed in 1873 when Bishop Danell celebrated the Mass. Assistant at the throne was Father Laws; the Deacons at the throne were Rev J. Scratton of Deal and Rev T. Lloyd Coghlan, Chaplain to the Forces. The Deacon at the Mass was the Rev E. Luck O.S.B. from Ramsgate and the Sub-Deacon the Rev D. Spillane from Ashford. Also present in the Sanctuary were the Revv J. Becuive of Lille, France; T. Molony, Military Chaplain of Shorncliffe; R. Power of Canterbury; W. Morley of Chatham; F. Foy of St Leonards; and J. Wyatt of Gravesend. The Rt Rev Mgr Capel delivered a very instructive sermon on the words: "Then if any man shall say to you 'Lo here is Christ, or there', do not believe him, for there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, &c".

Father Laws reported to the Diocesan Synod in 1879: "Authorities bigotted - dissenters unfriendly... the progress of the Catholic Faith is very slow". At that time he claimed that there were about 450 Catholic civilians.

In 1882 the Bishop asked Father Laws if he would be willing to have a religious order of women in the parish. Father Laws agreed that he would be "if they are suitable", suggesting either Benedictines or a similar order. They would counteract the evil, he claimed, of Protestant visiting nuns. So it was that on 1883 August 15th the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul settled in the parish in the convent presented by Messrs Robinson, in Eastbrook Place. This order was founded by St Vincent de Paul to bring help to the poor in the way of food and education and came to England in 1857. The sisters set to work vigorously in Dover, despite the bigotry of the times, and opened a convalescent home for the children of the Dioceses of Westminster and Southwark. At the same time, the Bishop asked them to do some visiting in the parish.

Ten years after the boys school was built, a girls school was added. This was to the east of and adjoining the boys school, in 1882. In 1886 the Sisters of Charity started to teach in St Paul's School. In 1889 an Infants School was added to the east of and adjoining the girls school and in 1890 there were 170 children on the roll. Mass attendance at St Paul's was 700.

The house in which the Sisters of Charity were living in Eastbrook Place had to be enlarged in 1893 to accommodate more members of the order.

Father Laws had his own tiny confessional in St Paul's Church at the foot of the stairs leading to the gallery. Owing to an accident followed by illness, he resigned as Rector in 1891 and spent a few years in Southampton before returning to Dover to live.

The Sacristy was built next to and north of the Church utilising a private legacy to Father Laws. The builder, Mr Wray, completed the work in the time of Father Laws' successor, Father William Linnett.

A local newspaper ran a series of articles about "New Dover Preachers" at this time. It is interesting to quote an excerpt:

"The pretty Roman Catholic Church in the Maison Dieu Road has, since the departure of the Rev J. Laws, been in charge of the Rev W. Linnett, a Priest who makes himself very pleasant to all sorts and conditions of men. It was with the idea of hearing him address his congregation that we visited St Paul's on Sunday, but, instead found Father Clarke the occupant of the pulpit. That circumstance served equally well to the plan of these sketches, for he, too is one of Dover's new preachers, one of whom members of the congregation who hear him frequently, speak with affection and admiration. The sermon at this church stands out, as a part of the service, in bolder relief than at other churches and chapels in the town, for the simple reason that it is almost the only portion of the service rendered in the vulgar tongue. In her liturgy the Church of Rome speaks the same language throughout the world; a novice joining one of her congregations, if poetic and fond of music, is charmed with sweet and harmonious sounds, while the cloud-like incense ascending, pleases the eye, and is suggestive of primitive forms of worship..."

In 1893 Father Linnett was replaced by Father Nicholas Broder.

The organ in St Paul's Church was completely rebuilt in 1896 by F.H. Browne & Sons Ltd. (based in Deal; they later moved to Canterbury and in 1993 were based in Ash).

The year 1897 saw the debt on St Paul's finally paid off and Bishop (later Cardinal) Bourne celebrated the Solemn Mass of Consecration on Saturday, September 25th. Father Broder had become the first Rector when St Paul's was formally erected as a Missionary Rectory in 1894.

During 1898 Father Broder asked the Ursulines of Jesus to open a school in Dover. A lack of money and personnel obliged the Superiors in France to refuse this request. In 1899 Father Broder wrote: "Dover is still available and I wish more than ever to have a school in the Mission. Moreover, I would like to have what is rare in this country, Sisters and children who would take part in Parish services". The answer was again negative.

The need to have good relations with non-Catholics was important in Dover with the presence of Catholic regiments often among the military at the Castle. Before 1870 the Missionary Rector had been "chaplain and Spiritual Director" to the soldiers, but from 1870 to the end of the century a special Military Chaplain was appointed to serve the garrison. The soldiers still came to St Paul's for Mass and the Chaplains lived in the town nearby. The first Chaplain was Father Thomas Lloyd Coghlan, who lived in Maison Dieu Road. Father Frederick Gascoigne lived in Laureston Place when in Dover in 1882. His successor, Father

William B. Alexander, lived in Eastbrook Place. The fourth and last Chaplain was Father H.P. Kelly. He was in Dover for only a few years and left in 1895 or 1896. During the time of the Military Chaplains it was decided to build a gallery in St Paul's to accommodate the soldiers. The War Office made an allowance of £50 towards the cost. After the Boer War (soon after Father Kelly's departure) Military Chaplains were withdrawn and the Missionary Rector once again had to minister to the soldiers in Dover.

The Ninth Baron Beaumont was desirous of founding a community of Catholic Knights to live together in a semi-monastic existence and bought Westmount (off Folkestone Road, north west side) and all the land around it, down to the railway line. The scheme never got past the planning stage due to internal dissension and the project fell through. Westmount House was sold in 1893 to Dover College and became their Junior School. By 1968 it was part of the Dover Technical College and then became the Adult Education Centre, before falling into disuse. The only surviving commemoration of the name is in Beaumont Terrace, built in 1889.

The close of the nineteenth century saw once again a strong Catholic presence in Dover which had been achieved by the Grace of God and despite many obstacles. The future looked bright: the Faith had truly returned.

## 5: Twentieth Century Growth and Change

In many ways the opening years of the twentieth century marked a critical era of change. The death of Queen Victoria in 1901 January was truly the closing of an age. The ensuing chaos and rivalry among the inter-married Royal Families of Europe, many of whom were related to Victoria, ultimately resulted in the tragedy of the First World War (1914-18), and dramatic changes in the political map of Europe. Our Lady appeared at Fatima throughout 1917, culminating in the Miracle of the Sun at the October 13th apparition, warning of the dangers to come and the errors that would be spread around the world by Russia. Shortly after the last public Fatima apparition the Communist Revolution took place in Russia and Russia became an atheistic state, annexing many nearby countries and being responsible for great persecution of Christians. Equally remarkable was the rise in technological development which had its roots in the Victorian era, and before that in the Industrial Revolution which started in England. Soon the first aeroplane would fly, the first car would be on the roads. Already there was a good railway network. Bleriot would soon fly the Channel, landing in the Northfall Meadow, behind (north east) of Dover Castle. Marconi was conducting early wireless experiments by transmitting signals from the South Foreland Lighthouse across the Channel to the Boulogne area. The population was increasing, particularly with the advent of advances in the medical sciences, and towns began to expand and change more quickly. Dover saw the beginnings of the modern day ferry services with many boat train passengers and increase in the number of 'ordinary' people travelling. The great Outer (Admiralty) Harbour was built at this time (being completed in 1911) and visits by famous passenger liners were a regular event.

The shift in population from the Snargate Street area to the more residential northern part of Dover, which had prompted the building of St Paul's Church was still not really a movement of Dovorians, but an extraneous suburban development involving more newcomers settling in the town. The west end of the town continued to thrive, with its pubs and places of entertainment and a church was still needed there. In fact, during the 1890s there had been a further expansion westward. Built on a site procured by a non-Catholic, the necessary church was constructed with an initial gift of £700. Situated at 123, Snargate Street, the church was hewn out of the cliff at the apsidal east end and built to resemble the style of the Roman Catacombs. It was rather plain and without windows and had a seating capacity of about 250 to 300. The church was built by Mr Geo. Munro to the designs of Messrs Bowles and Hawkins, the Architects. The top of the front elevation had "Deo" in large letters and halfway down the words "sub invocatione beatae Mariae et sancti Martini" (God, under the invocation of the Blessed Mary and Saint Martin), for this church was dedicated to Our Lady of Pity and St Martin. The dedication marked an important link with the past history of the Faith in Dover: here again was a church honouring Our Lady of Pity (the former chapel at Archcliffe Point) and St Martin of Tours (the former St Martin-le-Grand and the dedication of the Priory). The altar stood before the apse and around it was the inscription "Ipse Est Dominus Deus Noster Nos Autem Populus Eius et Oves Pascuae Eius" (He is the Lord Our God, and we are the sheep of His pasture) in gold. Lighting was provided by a long skylight in the roof and by electric lighting (something very modern in 1906) installed by Messrs John Wright and Sons of Cannon Street. There was a debt of £1,164 when the church was opened.

On Thursday 1906 March 29th the new church was opened by Bishop Amigo in the presence of the clergy of the district (Mgr Daniewski; Mgr Wallis, the master of ceremonies from Westminster Cathedral; Canons St John and Tooke, the Prior of Ramsgate, Revv Power

(Canterbury), Rogers (Military Chaplain), Limpens, Broder, Laws, Boone, O'Gara, Mason, Reid, Kirwan, Foulton O.S.B., Delafie O.S.S.R. and l'Abbé Fournier) and a large congregation. He spoke about Our Lady and St Martin and asked everyone to pray for the success of the new mission. The Bishop's throne, with a canopy of yellow, and bearing the Papal arms, was situated at the left front of the altar. The Litany of the Saints was sung, and the responses were made by the whole congregation. The Bishop then passed down the centre of the church, sprinkling the walls with Holy Water. The Bishop said that Almighty God had blessed Roman Catholics in Dover with a very great blessing indeed, in giving them the privilege of another church... "They felt that the church of St Paul's which once was sufficient for the needs of this place, was now no longer sufficient, and they felt their hearts burning with joy when they thought that the number of Catholics was increasing so much; that while the population of Dover was increasing, the Catholics were growing day by day in this place which was once such a Catholic quarter... both priest and people were going to kneel down before God, who after the consecration, was going to deign to look upon that little place". The Bishop asked them fervently, earnestly, to pray for God's blessing on the new mission beginning that day; to pray that this new mission might be the means of making all those who lived near to the church, more fervent than they had been hitherto; to pray that it might be the means of getting together all those who had been living careless lives; to pray that the priest who undertook the charge of this mission might devote himself to their service. A free indulgence was granted by the Bishop for 40 days to all the members of that congregation. The High Mass was sung by Father O'Gara O.S.B.. In the afternoon the ceremony of blessing the bell was carried out.

Our Lady of Pity and St Martin's was situated only 100 yards down the road from Elizabeth Street, where Mass had been celebrated in the early days of the Dover mission. The first missionary rector of this church was Father Kirwan, who stayed only a few months. He was replaced later in 1906 by Father William Thompson. He lived initially at 124, Snargate Street, but moved in 1908 to the presbytery at 122, Snargate Street when a small repository was opened at 124. Father Thompson left in 1911, being replaced by Father Martin G. Gifkins. In the early 1930s there were two Sunday Masses at Snargate Street and four at St Paul's, and Dover was very well served, but we are getting ahead of ourselves...

That great man to whom the Faith in Dover owes so much, Father James Edward Laws, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination on 1904 April 5th. A committee, consisting of the members of St Paul's Conference, with the Rector N.V. Broder as secretary, assisted ably by Father O'Gara, was set up to organise the festivities. The Solemn High Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated in his church, St Paul's at 11 a.m. by his nephew, Father A. O'Leary of Chelsea, assisted by the Rev Dr Ryan as Deacon and a Jesuit priest from Canterbury as Sub-Deacon. The Rt Rev Mgr Daniewski, Father Laws and the venerable French Redemptorist from Kearsney were in the Sanctuary and many priests from neighbouring parishes were present in the Church. It was also attended by the Mayor of Dover, Sir William Crundall, and many non-Catholic friends. Turner's Mass of St Mary Magdalene was sung by the pupils of St Ursula's Convent; Sister Bernardine presided at the organ, as usual. Father du Plenny conducted and Fathers O'Gara and Ward with Mr Grimm F.R.A.M., were a great addition to the efficiency of the singing. After Mass the Te Deum was heartily sung by the choir, and many of the congregation joined in. At 1 p.m. there was a special banquet in the Council Chamber with about 50 guests in attendance. The menus were hand-painted by the girls of St Ursula's Convent. The Mayor proposed the toast and spoke of the sterling qualities of Father Laws, whom he had "known, respected and admired for years". Mr Worsfold Mowll, in a few well-chosen words, also spoke highly of Father Laws, and of the good work he had done since he came to the town. Father Laws, in responding to the

toast, thanked them most sincerely for their kind expressions in his regard, and said it gave him much pleasure to receive not only the good wishes of Catholics in the town, but also those of members of other communities. At 3 p.m. in the grand hall of the Town Hall, Father Laws was presented with an address (by A. Anstead in pen and ink, framed in carved oak) and a testimonial in the form of a substantial sum of money. Selections on the organ were played at intervals by Mr Taylor, F.R.C.O.. The presentation was made by Mgr Daniewski. Abbot Bergh O.S.B. of Ramsgate also spoke. Letters and telegrams were read by Father Broder, including congratulatory letters from the Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop Cahill (of Portsmouth), Bishop Brindle, D.S.O., Mgr Fenton, Bishop Amigo, the Hon Mrs Stourton and one from Father Laws' brother, Father Thomas Roche Laws O.P., the Dominican Prior of Holy Cross, Leicester. He deeply regretted being unable to attend due to illness. The address read:

"Dear Father Laws, - Words can faintly express our feelings of gladness in offering you our most hearty congratulations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your Priesthood.

"During fifty years as a priest, by your never-failing goodness and kindness, you have won the hearts of all. Your aim, which you have reached in a most remarkable degree, has always been to practice that religion pure and undefiled, which your patron Saint James teaches, by visiting the fatherless in their affliction and keeping yourself unspotted from the world. Your work has been to preach the Gospel to the poor, and spread the Kingdom of Jesus Christ; and the Church and Schools which you have built here in Dover are everlasting witness of your success. Accept then, dear Father Laws, this purse of gold as a token of our affection. May our Divine Master bless and keep you, and give you still many years of life and strength in our midst to help us with your advice and encourage us by your example.

"Signed on behalf of the Committee by

N.V. Broder, M.R.  
A.E.D. O'Gara O.S.B.  
P.E. Ryan D.D."

People used to say "he has only one name - dear old Father Laws".

Father Laws recalled his coming to Dover 40 years previously, when Sir Richard Dickeson introduced him to the people. In the course of his reply he said that he felt he was nothing "Non mihi sed tibi, Domine omnis honor et gloria". (Not to me, but to you Lord, be all honour and glory). He could only say that now, coming to the end of his course on Earth, he must think of the dreadful account which a Priest had to give before God's tribunal, "What shall I say when the Judge shall come to call all to a strict account?". He thanked all who had subscribed to the testimonial.

In the evening, at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall, there was a concert in honour of Father Laws and it was a great success. It included items such as "The Holy City", operatic solos and "Father O'Flynn". On the following evening there was a second concert in his honour and a presentation, at St Mary's Convent. This was organised by the Children of Mary and the Guild of St Agnes. A presentation was also made by the Mothers Meeting. Father received many presents.

The local press gave good coverage of all these events. So Dover honoured its great

man, with the whole town, Catholic and Protestant joining in, as the mayor said, apart "from creed and prejudice", to accord him congratulations. Father Laws was a friend of the composer Liszt. The story is told that on one occasion when Liszt was passing through Dover on the train he had his compartment disconnected and shunted into a siding so that he and Father Laws could have a long chat.

All too soon came the time for Dover to honour Father Laws in a different way. He died on 1907 March 11th at the age of 77. The *Dover Express* published on Friday, 1907 March 15th noted:

"We record, with great regret, the death of the Rev. James Laws, a retired Catholic priest, who for many years was a familiar figure as head of the Catholic Mission in Dover, and who, during his retirement of about 15 years, has continued to take an active part in the services at Dover Convent, where during his retirement he has resided. He had passed his 70th year, and for a considerable time had been failing in health. Six weeks ago he was confined to his bed, and medically attended, but he got better, and for the last two weeks was able, as usual, to officiate at the daily services at the Convent. On Sunday morning he said Mass at the Convent, and was quite cheerful all day, spending the evening in his room, chatting with an old friend, a priest from Ramsgate. According to his custom, he retired to rest early, but on Monday morning, at the usual time for officiating at the Convent Chapel, he was not there, and on his room being visited, it was found that he was dead in his bed, having apparently passed away quite peacefully in his sleep. Dr. Ord was sent for and he could only confirm the obvious fact that death had taken place, but having attended him recently, was able to certify the cause of death, so that an inquest was unnecessary.

"The connection of Father Laws with Dover has been long and honourably. Three years ago he celebrated the jubilee of his ministry, when he was the recipient of the warmest expressions of love and affection from the Catholic section of Dover, as well as the highest approval of his career as a Dover public man from the Mayor, Sir William Crundall and other leading townsmen, who took part in the Jubilee celebrations; and on the same occasion, he received a testimonial in the form of a purse containing 130 guineas, intended to be a practical way of showing the labourer was worthy of his hire...

"Personally, Father Laws was very pleasant and agreeable to all classes of persons with whom he came into contact, and was always ready to interest himself in any movement for the benefit of Dover. Naturally, his long residence had engendered a love for Dover and its surroundings, and since the greater leisure afforded by his retirement he might have been frequently seen starting from the Convent in Maison Dieu Road, where he had his apartments, mounting on his tricycle to make a tour of the neighbouring villages, the ancient churches of which he regarded with keen historical and archaeological interest. His duties as a priest, in later years, were mainly associated with the Convent where he resided. He also represented the Catholic community on the Education committee, and he was frequently to be met with in the reading room of the Dover Institute, the tables of which he regularly supplied with the leading Catholic newspapers. He was very specially interested in the early history of the Maison Dieu, and was never tired of searching out details connected with its origin and remote annals. His long and useful life now being brought to a peaceful close, it is pleasant to reflect that the evening of his days was so calmly spent".

The whole town gave itself a day off to attend the funeral and lots of picture postcards of the ceremony were available afterwards. The funeral took place on Friday, 1907 March 15th at St James's Cemetery, where a large number of mourners were present. Prior to the



service at the graveside, the Office of the Dead was sung in St Paul's Church, where the body had been brought overnight. The Solemn Requiem High Mass commenced in a crowded Church at 10 a.m., a large number of the townspeople being present in addition to the Catholic community, including Sir William Crundall and Alderman H.M. Baker. The Mass was sung by His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark, Dr Amigo, assisted by the Rt Rev Mgr Daniewski (from Walmer) and Fathers Limpens (from Deal), Fournier (from St Margaret's Bay) and O'Leary (Father Law's nephew) who acted as the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies. Also present were Fathers Power (from Canterbury), Sheppard (from Canterbury), Thompson (from Snargate Street, Dover), Reid (from Hythe), Delaflic (from Kearsney), Rogers (from Sandgate), Burne (from Herne Bay), Thomas Laws (Father Law's brother), the Very Rev Canon Tuke, O'Gara (from Ramsgate), Broder (St Paul's, Dover) and Peall (St Paul's, Dover). When the solemn Gregorian chanting of the Mass had terminated with Requiescat in Pace, an address was given by Father O'Gara, O.S.B., who preached from Ecclesiasticus xxxi (Douai version) "Blessed is the rich man that is found without blemish, and that hath not gone after gold, nor put his trust in money, nor in treasures; who is he and we will praise him"...recalled Father Law's Golden Jubilee..His life was singularly without blemish; he was a good priest from his ordination to the day of his death. He never relaxed his efforts, never gave account to the things of this world, nor amassed money. He never cared for it. There were special points in his life - his unostentatious piety, thorough charity and determined enmity to idleness...at certain hours of the day he would be always found in prayer...Even when they saw him riding to the country on his tricycle it was with the intention to take out his breviary and meditation book in the quietude of the country, with no one to interrupt, because he used to say that in the city noise one could not concentrate one's thoughts for a short time with one's Maker. Everyone spoke of his charity, though it was not indiscriminate. He understood thoroughly that there were professional beggars...He was a skilled workman in wood carving...The Church they were in was built by him, and their schools were the work of his hands. They stood as monuments to his piety, zeal and charity...

After the Mass, the procession formed in the Church, headed by the Bishop and priests, the organist playing the Dead March in Saul as they left the Church. The pall bearers consisted of the workers of the Church, Messrs Crompton, Horgan, O'Callaghan, Pierce, Tucker and Blackman. As the coffin was placed on the hearse the Bishop blessed the body. The procession proceeded through the streets, headed by servers, the Bishop's carriage preceding the hearse, followed by nine carriages with priests, sisters, etc... Walking behind were a large number of the Catholic community and the boys and girls of the Catholic schools. The coffin was carried to the grave, situated at the foot of that of the late Father Kelly. The coffin was made of polished oak, with polished brass gothic handles. The inscription read:

Jacobus Eduardus Laws  
ad sacram Presbyteratum ordinatus  
die 11 Aprilis, 1854,  
Pie obdermiist in Domino,  
die 11 Martii, 1907,  
Actatis 77,  
R.I.P.

There is one more incident to relate in the story of Father Laws and we must make a temporary jump in time to the year 1968 in order to do so. Father Tanner was in correspondence with John G. O'Leary F.S.A. of Saffron Walden, Essex, in July of that year.

Father Laws' nephew was Father A. O'Leary, you will recall. Father A. O'Leary's brother was the father of John G. O'Leary. Father Tanner loaned Father Laws' Scrapbook from the parish archives to John O'Leary for a while. John O'Leary related to Father Tanner that the Laws belonged to Costessey; once a village, but now within the City of Norwich. Father Laws' Scrapbook relates that in the summer of 1844 his brother William, since dead, and he went to visit their aunt at Isleworth. They went fishing in the Thames opposite Richmond and his brother's line became entangled in the weeds. In pulling to free the line it snapped, and his brother fell into the deep water. The tide was carrying him out when a woman sitting down at the side of a stile nearby called out "Put in your line and pull him out". He threw the line in, his brother caught it, and was pulled out. His mother was at that time in London and his cousin (who subsequently became a nun) was in the room with her. She noticed that her aunt became very pale and asking the cause, his mother answered "my boy is drowning, let us say the Rosary". At the end of the five decades, his mother said, "my boy is saved". The place where they were fishing was a deserted part of the river and the future Father Laws aunt made enquiries of the boatman, who attended the ferry, what woman had been by that way that morning. He said that no one had passed. Some months later James Laws told his mother that he wanted to become a priest, and she answered "Well it is evident that God made you to become a fisher of men". Soon afterwards he left England for Lisbon to begin his studies.

We have already seen that Father Laws was an accomplished wood carver and John O'Leary tells Father Tanner that he has in his possession a picture of Pope Pius IX with the original carved frame, including the coat of arms carved above the frame by Father Laws. John O'Leary visited St Paul's and was pleased that the stained glass window depicting Father Laws survived the Second World War.

In 1903 the Sisters of Charity, in cooperation with the Southwark Rescue Society and the local workhouse, opened an orphanage. War conditions in 1917 subsequently caused the children to be dispersed.

There was a parish magazine being published monthly around 1903-4. It used to sell for 2d and was simply called *The Dover Catholic Magazine*. It apparently failed due to lack of support. At that time a large greenhouse stood between the church and the present (2023) presbytery. Father Broder, Missionary Rector, was assisted by Father Douglas O'Gara O.S.B. and Father P. Ryan. Father Broder introduced plainchant to St Paul's in 1906 and sent the organist, Sister Mary Bernardine to Quarr Abbey, for a study holiday.

We have already seen that Father Broder was anxious to persuade the Ursulines to start a school in Dover. Religious persecution in France around the end of the nineteenth / start of the twentieth century led to the flight to England of several religious congregations who wished to avoid suppression and remain intact. The Augustinian Sisters of the Precious Blood, a nursing order, came from Arras in 1903, being expelled from their homeland by the French government, and with the approval of the Bishop of Southwark founded a house on the edge of Kearsney Manor Estate. They arrived on 1903 September 29th; the Community under their Mother Superior numbering about a dozen. The larger building was added in 1907. They had a spacious chapel, added in 1913 and served by their own chaplain and a modern well-equipped nursing home. Immediately on arrival the Nuns established a guest house for Ladies and a small school for French and English children. The school was continued for only a few years, but the guest house was still operative in 1948. During the Second World War the Nuns were evacuated to Leamington Spa, from 1941 to 1945. During this time, the large building then occupied by the military was rendered uninhabitable by a

serious fire. During the late 1940s the Convent Chapel was packed for Christmas Midnight Mass, with a large number of visitors and a few non-Catholics. Nearly all the Catholics present received Holy Communion and the Nuns sang carols in both French and English. The resident Chaplain was Father Daneels.

The Annonciade Sisters, founded in 1501 by Saint Joan, daughter of Louis XI and Queen of France (died in 1505), fled from Boulogne and arrived here penniless in 1903 to found their new house on top of the white cliffs, overlooking the Channel at St Margarets Bay: this was their only house in England, the others being in France and Belgium. Their purely contemplative life had a special intention for the conversion of England. In the late 1940s their Chapel was crowded for Midnight Mass at Christmas sung by the resident Chaplain, Very Rev Canon Delpierre.

During 1901 Ursuline Superiors arrived from France and stayed with the Sisters of Charity while they pleaded their cause with the Bishop to open a school. On 1901 December 13th Bishop Bourne finally gave his approval, stipulating that no English girls should be accepted as boarders. On 1902 January 3rd three Ursuline sisters moved into 95, Maison Dieu Road (which became known as 'St Ursula's) and the school opened on January 13th with three pupils. Growth was slow and times were hard. Eventually 'Fairview', 22, Park Avenue was bought with money borrowed from the Mother House of the order from Maria Cecilia Mackenzie, wife of Donald Fraser Mackenzie, and the sisters moved in on 1902 December 8th. On the 10th Father Broder came to bless the house. In 1903 May the first Mass was celebrated in the convent chapel, but the Bishop would not allow the Blessed Sacrament to be reserved. At this time there were no boarders and only seven day pupils. An abortive venture was started by the sisters: they opened a school (St Angela's) for "children of the lower classes". As an additional drain on their meagre resources it was recognised as being detrimental to the development of St Ursula's and was finally closed in 1907. The last act of Bishop Bourne as Bishop of Southwark, before transferring to Westminster and being created Cardinal Bourne, was in 1903 September, when he gave permission for the sisters to take up to twelve English boarders, provided that they did not advertise for them. By 1908 December there were 28 pupils and this number had reached 54 by 1910 December.

In 1912 the Brothers of the Christian School arrived in the parish and set up house in what became in later years (state run, non-Catholic) Castlemount Secondary School. Better known as the Christian Brothers, this establishment was a novitiate house for the De La Salle Congregation. They did much to further the liturgical traditions of St Paul's Parish.

After the departure of Father Broder on 1907 July 16th there were two priests in charge of the Mission who stayed only a short while: Father Edmund Buckley was here from 1907-1910 and Father Edmund Miller from 1911-1915. On 1915 October 1st Canon George W. Grady arrived in Dover as the new Missionary Rector. The first letter in the archives from this time is from Bishop's House to Canon Grady on 1915 September 28th hoping that he will be very happy indeed in Dover and mentioning the small debt existing at the Mission. Within three days of his arrival Canon Grady insured the buildings against "air craft risk" at the request of the Diocese, for these were the days of the First World War. The records show the Mission debt of £78-10-10 being paid off in instalments by Canon Grady, the debt finally being cleared on 1928 January 23rd. On 1915 June 30th approval was given by the Bishop for Masses to be celebrated at St Paul's "in perpetuity" on January 7th annually for "Mariae Comitissae de Front" and on March 11th annually for "Rev Jacobi Laws" (These documents were in Latin, as was the norm).

The year 1918 saw the signing of the Armistice (1918 November 11th) and the end of the War. It is recorded that the sisters at St Ursula's went to their chapel to sing the Te Deum in thanksgiving for the return of peace.

On 1920 June 28th St Paul's was formally canonically erected as a Parish and Canon Grady became the first Parish Priest of St Paul's and the first resident Parish Priest in Dover since the Reformation.

On 1925 January 12th Canon Grady became Military Chaplain and was in receipt of a salary of £150 per annum for this. Father M.J. Mullin D.C.E., the Chaplain to the forces, departed at this time.

During 1930 Canon Grady was occupied with the design and construction of a cemetery crucifix for the Catholic ground in St James Cemetery. On 1930 November 6th he wrote a letter to the Burial Board requesting extension of the Catholic burial space and permission to erect the crucifix. This was agreed on November 10th. The crucifix was approved on 1931 August 5th. It was designed by the Studio Jo. Linthout of Ste Croix-Bruges, Belgium and constructed in Belgian grey granite with bronze figures and mosaic incrustations around the cross head. The correspondence indicates that Canon Grady did not like the figure of the crucifix after it had been made. The installation of the crucifix took place on 1931 September 14th. The total cost of £124-16-0 was raised by subscription.

Brother Denis Victor F.S.C. was a novice at Castlemount in 1915 when Canon Grady first came to Dover and asked the Brothers to sing the Office of Tenebrae during Holy Week at St Paul's. He was also at Mass in St Paul's when a bomb fell in 1940 and brought down the ceiling. Father David Leo F.S.C. was sent a copy of *Catholic Dover* by Father Tanner. He had spent 18 years at Castlemount and often led the Brothers to St Paul's for Tenebrae or other liturgical ceremonies. Brother Elwin was a novice at Castlemount from 1923-1926, recalled that some 20 Brothers used to sing Tenebrae in St Paul's, and in his correspondence with Father Tanner referred to his memories of Canon Grady and Father Gifkins and to serving the latter's Holy Week.

A glimpse of the liturgical ceremonial of those days in St Paul's Parish is given to us by contemporary accounts of the various processions. The Corpus Christi procession in 1921 June left the church and proceeded along Maison Dieu Road, up Castle Hill and in through the back entrance of Castlemount Monastery where Mass was celebrated. The young girls were given buckets of flower petals to throw at the feet of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The route was lined with the children's parents and, indeed, half the people of Dover. The pathway down through the trees was beautifully made with flower petals and coloured sandstones portraying the life of Jesus and Mary. The priest and the Knights of St Columba led the procession and there was public hymn singing. A return was made to the church for Mass.

Around 1934 there used to be an annual outdoor May Procession where two members of the Children of Mary carried a statue of Our Lady shoulder high on a platform. Also, in the early 1930's, the annual Corpus Christi procession was still being made through the streets to Castlemount, ending there with Benediction.

In 1935 August St Paul's Parish benefitted from the will of a Mrs Catherine O'Brien who left £50 to Canon Grady to provide "requisites for the Church".

The Duke of York's Royal Military School was served by the Parish and in 1926 there were 120 Catholic boys there. By 1930 March 17th this number had risen to 136 including some staff and families and the authorities at the school proposed that the then existing temporary hut in use as a chapel be demolished and sold to partly cover the costs of alterations they were going to make to the north wing of the students block in order to convert it into a new Catholic Chapel. On 1930 December 4th the Old Boys Association of the school made a very generous donation of £21 (only £12 was expected) to cover the cost of two statues (one of Our Lady) and the candlesticks for the new chapel. The Old Boys Association was in direct communication with Canon Grady about his requirements for the chapel. In a letter dated 1931 January 5th their representative thanks Canon Grady for his Christmas Card and says that he was able to collect a further £12 from the Old Boys. By 1931 January 21st he was able to report to Canon Grady that he had, in fact, collected £14, and added: "Myson, who was at the school with the Bandmaster for a few days, tells me how beautiful the altar looks". The altar was designed and manufactured by J. Linthout & L. Verstraete of Bruges. The opening of this chapel had long been an ambition of Canon Grady. Unfortunately, Bishop Keating, the Bishop responsible for the armed forces, was unable to be present as he was out of the country. The chapel was opened by Canon Grady on 1931 January 28th and the Chairman of the Old Boys Association (who was not a Catholic) insisted on being present. The total cost of the work had been £81-2-5.

There was also a chapel - a mere army hut - on the Western Heights, for the use of the military. The Parish paid for it to be erected and the army maintained it. In time, the authorities would no longer repair it and insisted that Canon Grady repair it or evacuate the site. Shortly before Father Porter came to Dover in 1932, Canon Grady gave the hut to Newing the builder, on condition that he cleared the site by an agreed date. The troops came to St Paul's Church for Mass.

During 1922 the Convent of the Annonciade at St Margarets Bay made the first hesitant moves to re-establish their order in Paris.

One of the last publications to be produced by Canon Grady was his *Catholic Calendar Blotter* for 1935: an approximately A4-sized publication with a deep blue cover, with the title embossed in gold, the Papal arms centred, and inscribed "With the compliments of the Very Rev Canon G.W. Grady, Rural Dean, St Paul's Church, Dover". The title page contains a beautiful photograph of the interior of St Paul's - the magnificent Pugin High Altar and reredos. The Church is shown with the banners of the Saints hanging from the roof down adjacent to the pillars. The reason for this is not known. At that time Holy Mass was celebrated in St Paul's on Sunday at 7, 8 and 10 a.m., High Mass and Sermon at 11 a.m.; Catechism and Benediction at 3 p.m.; Devotions, Sermon and Benediction at 6.30 p.m. On Holydays of Obligation Mass was celebrated at 7 and 8 a.m. High Mass was at 10 a.m. on these days and Benediction at 7 p.m. On Weekdays, Mass was celebrated at 7 and 8 a.m. (evening Mass was not permitted in those days). Benediction was on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m. Baptisms and Churchings were on Sundays at 3.45 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Confessions were heard on the Eves of feasts from 12 to 1 p.m. and on Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. It is interesting to see listed the Confraternity Meetings in the Parish. On the first Sunday of the month the Sodality of the Children of Mary met at 3.30 p.m. and the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30 p.m. On the last Sunday of the month the Guild of Altar Servers met at 7.45 p.m. Each Sunday the Society of St Vincent de Paul met at 12.30 p.m. and the Guild of the Holy Angels at 3.45 p.m. Each Friday, the Apostleship of Prayer met at 7 p.m. This publication contains a brief Parish History by Canon Grady in addition to all the usual information you would expect to find, together with

a very brief two page Catholic Dictionary. The distinct impression is one of a thriving and very active Catholic Parish.

It is related that Canon Grady used to enjoy visiting the children in St Paul's School and playing games with them on occasion. He had a sense of humour, liked gardening, and was a former army chaplain before coming to Dover. He died on 1936 March 30th and is buried in St James' Cemetery. Many people may still have in their families the First Holy Communion certificates bearing his signature and the medals issued on these occasions in those days.

In these years between the Wars the population of Dover continued to grow and expand. In fact the town population was higher then than it is today (2023). Expansion and development saw the town move up the valley towards Buckland, Elms Vale and River. One of the consequences of this was that the Snargate Street Parish of Our Lady of Pity and St Martin never really flourished. Father Gifkins retired in 1936 but went on living at Snargate Street until he was tragically killed at sea on 1940 June 22nd. From 1936 Our Lady of Pity and St Martin's was served by Father R.E. Florance, curate of St Paul's. During 1936 an estimate for £193 from Hayward & Paramor was accepted for the installation of new skylights, repairs to the external roof, wall plaster and redecoration of the interior of the Snargate Street Church. On 1937 April 15th a letter from Bishops House grants Father Gifkins the faculty to celebrate the Votive Mass of Our Lady every day or any other Votive Mass approved by the Holy See, and on Ferias, the Mass for the Dead. In 1939 March H.E.Frost of London Road was paid £65-11-6 for alterations and decorations to the Snargate Street Church. In 1940 the Church was finally closed and the Parish re-united with St Paul's. The Church itself subsequently stood empty for 20 years, but that is part of the future story.

The new Parish Priest in 1936 was Father Oscar Leake. On June 23rd of that year Bishop Amigo approved the construction of an extension to the presbytery at 102, Maison Dieu Road and was gratified that Father Leake was going to pay for the work himself. The work was carried out by Hayward & Paramor Ltd. Quite a considerable amount of building work was carried out in the Parish at this time. On 1936 July 27th Hayward & Paramor started work on re-roofing St Paul's Church, including the installation of new battens and counter battens, re-slating with Welsh slates secured with galvanised nails, and the installation of fanlights to give extra light. Most of the leadwork was renewed as well. For an estimated cost of £489, this work was finally completed in 1938. J. Martin, the Electrical Firm then in Dover High Street, installed 6 floodlights above the High Altar in St Paul's in 1939. The asphalt forecourt to the Church was taken up in 1937 as part of the works and new concrete paving laid for the additional sum of £68-14-0. On 1937 April 8th the Bishop allocated £100 from the Fogarty legacy to help with the cost of the work on the Church. During 1937 February Hayward & Paramor were paid £48-15-0 to reinstate damage to the School caused by a small fire. There is correspondence between Father Leake and the Diocese on 1937 March 11th-13th reference insurance of the Snargate Street Church due to possible damage by falling cliffs, but this did not progress any further.

On 1937 March 8th a letter to Father Leake from Bishops House read: "His Lordship does not see the necessity for the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers, and suggests that you make use of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament which no doubt has been erected in your parish. The Confraternity is much more suited for your purpose than the Guild of St Stephen".

During 1937 the Papal Envoy to the Coronation of George VI arrived at Dover and

Bishop Amigo asked Father Leake to represent him and meet the Envoy.

On 1938 February 8th the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was erected in the parish. The year 1938 also saw some correspondence between Adrian Taylor O.S.B. of Ramsgate and Archbishop Amigo about the chaplaincy at Kearsney Convent. The Archbishop discussed this with Father Leake (the letters are signed by Cyril C. Cowderoy, the Archbishop's Secretary) and on 1938 September 17th the Augustinian Convent accepted the services of a priest from St Paul's Parish. By 1939 January 16th the convent was complaining that their work suffered from their not having a resident chaplain as they had previously done and on January 24th Archbishop Amigo agreed to the appointment of a chaplain, stipulating that he must be fluent in both English and French. Father Leake had a Belgian priest friend whom he thought would be suitable for the chaplaincy and there is a note in Father Leake's writing on the foot of the letter: "It was arranged for Fr H. Daneels to go to Kearsney and he arrived and took possession on Mar 10th 1939".

1938 March 19th saw the Forty Hours Exposition at St Paul's Church and on April 3rd of that year the Dominicans began a week-long mission in the parish.

In 1939 February Archbishop Amigo travelled to Dover, arriving at the Marine Station on the Boat Train, and lunched with Father Leake at the presbytery before meeting the Apostolic Delegate who entered the country here that day. The Archbishop went on to a visitation of Margate in the evening.

Father Leake was granted leave of absence from the parish for six weeks in 1939 commencing on Low Sunday and on July 14th a letter from Bishops House to Father Leake asks him to discuss the site for the location of a military chapel with the Diocesan Finance Committee. During that year Father Leake was also trying to purchase some Wesleyan property near Leighton Road, but this fell through. He was also involved in discussions about the means of obtaining money to purchase a site at Buckland.

The year 1939 was the end of an era, not just for Dover, but for the whole world. The Nazis were in power in Germany and had already annexed Austria. The invasion of Poland by the forces of Adolf Hitler resulted in Great Britain declaring war on Germany. It was Sunday September 3rd at 11 a.m. The Second World War had begun. Even at that moment Dover had its first air raid warning when a plane flew over the area and refused to identify itself. It was a false alarm, but much worse days were to follow. At the 11 a.m. Mass in St Paul's on that day Father Leake had just read the weekly notices and was about to start preaching when the Air Raid warning sounded: he told the people to leave the Church and take shelter. Sunday Masses in St Paul's Church that day were at the normal times, but it was stated that all Pilgrimages were cancelled and there would be no Children of Mary meeting on the following Sunday. By Sunday September 10th notice was given of the Archbishop's orders for the *De Profundis* to be said after all Masses for the souls of those who died in the War. Confessions on Saturday were in future to be from 5 to 7 p.m. and no Confessions would be heard after that time. The 9 a.m. Mass in St Paul's was discontinued, but Mass would be said at that time every Sunday in the Snargate Street Church. All evening devotions were to be held at 5 p.m. On Sunday September 17th the children of the Parish are reminded that their monthly Holy Communion is to take place as usual, but the School remains closed until proper protection is provided against air raids.

During 1940 it was considered necessary to evacuate the school children to a place of greater safety for the duration of the war. On 1940 May 31st Father Taggart, curate at St

Paul's, celebrated Mass at 3 a.m. for the staff and pupils of St Ursula's and at 3.45 a.m. the first contingent of Sisters and pupils left by coach for Wales. The children of St Paul's School were evacuated on 1940 June 2nd. Mass was celebrated in St Paul's for the School at 7 a.m. and the School left on a train which they shared with the Dover Grammar School for Boys, from Dover Priory Station at 8 a.m. No parents were allowed on the platform to say goodbye. The children were on the train all day, which avoided travelling along all the main lines for fear of attack from the air. This was a long and tiring journey, especially when you consider that there was one child as young as three years old. Eventually the train arrived at the destination of Ebbw Vale in what was then Monmouthshire (in the latest boundary changes, Ebbw Vale is the county town of Gwent), South Wales, at around 5 p.m. The children were taken by coach to Willoughton School where they had to wait for the local people to come and collect them and take them to their new, temporary homes. Some had to wait until as late as 10 p.m. In Ebbw Vale, St Paul's School shared All Saints Catholic School for one year with part-time schooling, and then used the crypt of All Saints, the Catholic Parish Church of Ebbw Vale. Father Ryan was Parish Priest of Ebbw Vale then and St Paul's School was readily adopted as part of the Ebbw Vale parish. Father Ryan had no sisters in his parish and was therefore particularly pleased to have the Sisters of Charity from Dover. Four Sisters went to Ebbw Vale: the teaching staff of the School - Sister Vincent (headteacher), Sisters Philomena and Theresa, and Sister Louise to be housekeeper for them. They stayed in a house in Tredegar Road, Ebbw Vale. Many of the children made many friends in Ebbw Vale and some of these friendships have been maintained between families to the present day. Consider the courage and bravery of these children embarking on an unknown life with the knowledge that they might never see their families again (and some never did) and of the parents who were brave enough to allow them to go. These were very special days when everyone worked very closely together. Consider too, the great charity and kindness of those who took the children in and gave them a home, often treating them as an addition to their own family, although a small minority were not always so lucky as to be treated in this way.

On 1940 August 16th Archbishop Amigo wrote to Father Leake saying that he was glad that it was not necessary to move Father Taggart to Ebbw Vale and that no Southwark priest was needed there. On August 28th the Archbishop is discussing sending money to the South Coast parishes to compensate for their loss of income but on September 3rd Father Leake wrote back to say that he did not need any financial assistance yet. The first war damage to St Paul's Church occurred on Tuesday, 1940 August 22nd at 2100 hours when two shells struck the adjoining property at 103, Maison Dieu Road (the modern-day presbytery, then in private ownership). Two people were rescued from the damaged building as the Air Raid warning then sounded. During October of that year Father Leake was recovering from illness.

The subject of the provision of a priest for the children in Ebbw Vale arises again on 1941 February 3rd when Archbishop Amigo says that he is thinking of sending Father Coleman from Camberwell to look after them. The question of financial support from the Dover parish is mentioned as other evacuated priests were paid a salary of £100 and the parishes taxed accordingly. The correspondence mentions Father Healion who was ill, had travelled to Ebbw Vale with the School, and died only a few weeks later on 1940 July 27th, to the shock of the children. The Archbishop undertook his regular visitation of St Paul's Parish on 1941 June 24th despite the war conditions. On 1941 December 11th the War Commission paid £75-9-11 compensation for damage to St Paul's, while on 1942 January 20th we find more discussions in the correspondence about land at Buckland.



The pressures and tensions of life in war-torn Dover were proving to be too much for Father Leake and correspondence from Bishops House shortly before he moved in 1942 says that it is good that he will be having a "rest and a change". Father Leake was replaced by Father William Sewell.

On Monday, 1942 November 9th, between 1956 and 2235 hours a shell exploded at the rear of 22, Pencester Road. More than 50 houses in Maison Dieu Road and the Paddock were damaged. There were no casualties.

In his description (private correspondence) of the Parish during the latter half of the War, Father Sewell says that the stained glass on the south side of St Paul's was shattered by a bomb/shell blast. Most gutters were damaged. The windows in the Sacristy had been damaged before he arrived. Nineteen shells fell within 50 yards of the Church and presbytery. The slates were always being re-installed on the roof and very considerable damage was done to the organ by water penetration from the leaking roof. One shell destroyed the house opposite the presbytery (on the corner of Pencester Road, where this is now the small Council-owned garden opposite the Church: it is believed that St Paul's parishioners assisted in establishing this garden after the end of the War). It buried itself deeply before exploding and the explosion shook the presbytery and Church "tremendously". Another shell fell a few yards to the south of the outdoor crucifix. Father Sewell was in the air raid shelter behind the crucifix at the time. The Church was only 3 yards distant and was very shaken, with much ceiling plaster being brought down. On yet another occasion Father Sewell was at the hospital, visiting for the night, when a shell blast pulled out the frame of his bedroom window. The west window of the Church was repaired repeatedly. At the east end of the building the only real damage was to the windows. Truly it can be considered a miracle that St Paul's survived the War and avoided any direct hits by bombs or shells.

During the War a triptych 4 ft high x 8 ft wide from St Paul's was sent to Aylesham Parish for safe keeping and an ivory crucifix was dismantled, packed in a box and placed in a big safe in the Church.

Snargate Street Church was severely damaged by the explosion of a motor torpedo boat in the Harbour nearby.

St Paul's School returned to Dover in 1943 but the school buildings next to the Church were in too damaged a condition to use. The School was granted the use of some rooms in St Ursula's for a while and then in 1945 January when St Ursula's School returned to Dover, St Paul's School had use of the dining room in St Mary's Convent until the School buildings were repaired. During part of the War some of St Ursula's buildings were used to temporarily house people made homeless by bombing and shelling. On Monday, 1943 April 5th between 0020 and 0315 hours, a shell landed in the garden of St Ursula's Convent School in Castle Avenue, but it failed to explode. When St Ursula's returned they reopened their School with 26 pupils and by 1948 they had 170 pupils and the school was steadily rising to its pre-War standard of efficiency. During 1945 November St Ursula's purchased 'Claremont' due to their expansion.

The War in Europe ended (VE Day) on 1945 May 8th and in Japan (VJ Day) and hence the world on 1945 August 15th, the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption. Conditions slowly returned to a new kind of normality over the next few years. The Diocese purchased two acres of land on 1945 October 30th at the top end of Union Road (now named Coombe Valley Road) near the roundabout, with the construction of a church or school in mind.

There is considerable correspondence between Canon Cahill at Bishops House and Dr Sewell on this subject. When this land was purchased from Dover Corporation, a 12 year covenant was imposed on it to the effect that if no church or school had been built within that period the Corporation had the right to buy the land back at the original purchase price.

Father Sewell left Dover in 1946 and was replaced as Parish Priest by Father Charles Jones. He first arrived on a cold winter night in 1946 March and one of the very first tasks he had to do was shovel snow from the forecourt of St Paul's Church! Due to the War damage, everything was in a mess. In fact, this was probably true of most of Dover at this time which had endured being 'Hell Fire Corner' and a front-line town. All the windows of the Church were boarded up and the plaster ceiling was hanging in festoons all over the Church. In wet weather pieces of it came down and in correspondence with Father Tanner in later years Father Jones recalled that some Ursuline nuns had near misses on these occasions! The Sacristy floor proved to be unsafe and was found to be suffering from dry rot. In fact the Sacristy was riddled with dry rot and it had spread to the adjacent part of the Church in front of the High Altar. The cause of this had been the installation of defective air bricks when St Paul's was first built. Floors had to be ripped up and Father Jones made reference to the "smell reminiscent of dead bodies needing burial". The windows and the ceiling were restored by Hayward & Paramor Ltd (this work was supervised by W.N. Scaife F.R.I.B.A. from Temple Ewell: the cost was £81-6-7). In order to reach the high ceiling of the Church a travelling scaffold tower was needed and people have memories of Christmas 1946 when they could gaze at the High Altar through that tower. St Paul's had been one of the darkest and gloomiest churches in the Diocese until Cathedral Glass was installed in that year.

An annual Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Walmer was started by Mr Green in 1946 on the Sunday following the feast of the Sacred Heart, in reparation for St Paul's being spared during the War. The pilgrimage continued on an annual basis (excluding 1948) until 1957. (The Convent of the Visitation at Walmer closed in 1958).

It was also in Father Jones' time that a statue of St Paul was erected in St Paul's Church.

In those years after the War the Corpus Christi and May Processions were revived and used to process from St Paul's Church to either St Ursula's Convent, or, on other occasions, the Pencester Gardens.

In 1948 St Paul's Sanctuary Guild (Chaplain: Father A.H. Fowler) was formed, with Senior and Junior Divisions. The male members of the choir were ex-officio members of the Guild. The first meeting was held on Sunday, 1948 March 7th, at which Mr E. Huntley was elected president; Mr A. Smith as Prefect of Ceremonies; Mr Coyne as Treasurer; Mr F. Watts as Secretary, and Mr A. Huntley as Prefect of the Junior Division. The Guild was congratulated on the dignified way in which the ceremonies were carried out during Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and during the Forty Hours Devotion.

Father Jones left Dover in 1948 after only two years as Parish Priest to look after his elderly parents. He was replaced by Father Michael Fahey.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul was active in the parish in the late 1940s and the 1950s. The War had necessitated the temporary closure of the Dover Conference. Mr W.B. Smith continued in office as President and Mr C. Green "who is identified with so many

Parish activities" rejoined. The organisation was under the Chaplaincy of the Parish Priest.

In 1948 it was reported that the Sodality of the Children of Mary (President: Miss Brueton; Chaplain: the Parish Priest; Treasurer: Mrs Castle; Secretary: Miss Chapman; Entertainments Officer: Miss Mack) had undergone a fairly successful year. One of the things they did was to make toys for the Parish Christmas Fair and ran their own stall. Sister Vincent kindly allowed the use of St Mary's Convent for their meetings and social events.

Also at this time the Legion of Mary Praesidium was active in the Parish, under the Spiritual Directorship of Father G.J. Sansom. There were 14 active members and 56 auxiliaries. A major part of their work was the sweeping, dusting and polishing of the Church each week. A certain amount of census work was undertaken, and various parishioners were visited. One invalid parishioner had housework done for them for some weeks.

Father Roy Wratten had been curate at St Paul's from 1945 to 1947. News of his death at St Chad's, South Norwood on 1948 July 6th came as a great shock to parishioners. As the Priests and People were unable to get to Norwood for his funeral, a Solemn High Mass of Requiem was sung for his soul in St Paul's by the Priests of the Deanery on July 15th. The Celebrant was Father C.E. Jones, the late Parish Priest of Dover and a special friend of Father Wratten. The Deacon was Father Sansom and the Subdeacon was Father Whatmore. The Rural Dean Father (later Canon) C.H. de Laubenque and most of the Priests of the Deanery were in Choir, and the large attendance of the People of the Parish showed the respect and affection in which he was held.

Mention is made in print at this time about St Paul's Choir:

"A word of appreciation should be given in this Magazine to the members of the Parish Choir. It has now commenced its third year. Its first function was the singing of Midnight Mass at Christmas, 1946. All the members are very keen, regular in attendance, and work extremely hard to render the Church's music with dignity and precision. The Choir has several plainsong Masses and a few four-part Masses in its repertoire.

"1948 has been a most interesting year, though a difficult one, for the members of the Choir; most interesting because they have been introduced to the most beautiful Offices of the Church's liturgy such as Tenebrae, Vespers and Compline; difficult, because the unfamiliar and sometimes involved music of these Offices, such as antiphons, psalm-tones and hymns at Vespers, had to be learnt, and the difficulties to be overcome. But the Choir has triumphed and we offer the members our most sincere congratulations..."

Remember that in those days all the Liturgy was in Latin, and these lay Choir members coped with it very well indeed.

There was a tradition at the time of Parish New Year's Parties, taking place as late as 1949 January 22nd and organised by Father Fowler: it was noted that the new Parish Priest, Father Fahey, first met his new Parishioners at this party on 1948 January 17th..."and many of the Parishioners got their first glimpse of Father Fahey. Both survived the shock, and have got quite used to each other by now".

There was also a Girls' Club in the Parish in the late 1940s, which held social events, such as a Fancy Dress Party in St Mary's Convent, e.g. on 1949 January 5th. After tea, games

were played, crackers pulled and Father Fahey distributed gifts from the Christmas Tree. The Girls' Club was under the patronage of St Agnes, for girls aged 11 to 15, and met every Wednesday evening at 6.30 p.m.

The annual elections of the Children of Mary in 1948 December resulted in Thea Brueton becoming President; Miss Hilda Chapman becoming Secretary, Miss Norah Smith becoming Treasurer and Miss Mary Huntley, Councillor for Entertainments.

In 1949 January *St Paul's Parish Magazine* appeared, apparently on a monthly basis.

During the late 1940s there were 60 Catholic boys in the Duke of York's Royal Military School and the clergy from St Paul's gave instruction in the Faith there on Saturday mornings; offered Mass in the Chapel there on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation and provided a service on Sunday evenings.

Rev Mother Michael, Superioress of St Ursula's Convent, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her profession on 1949 December 8th. She had entered the Novitiate at Chavagnes, France, in 1899 August, and after completing her canonical year, was sent to Paris, where she taught Art and English. After two years in Paris she was called to Dover. She served in various other houses of the congregation, but was finally recalled to Dover and named as Superioress in 1948.

Pope Pius XII granted an extraordinary concession for the start of the Holy Year 1950. There was a Holy Hour in St Paul's from 11 to 11.50 p.m. on 1949 December 31st, when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given and this followed at midnight on 1950 January 1st by Solemn High Mass, sung by the Parish Priest, Father Fahey. A large crowd attended this Mass and received Holy Communion.

Sister Catherine of the Sisters of Charity did much Parish visiting in the year 1949, after arriving in Dover early in that year. Later in the year she celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Profession and to the sadness of the Parish, she died on 1950 January 18th.

A branch of the Association of Catholic Trades Unionists was established in Dover early in 1950 and Father Fahey was anxious that every man and woman in the parish who was a member of a Trade Union should join it. Meetings were held in the School on the second Monday of each month at 8.30 p.m. Mr Bennett was elected as the first Chairman of the Dover branch.

On 1950 January 5th about 230 Catholic children were entertained at the Christmas Party, organised by Miss Brueton and her helpers. Messrs Cook and Smye-Rumsby provided a "most enjoyable cinema show". The Parish New Year's Party was held on January 20th that year, organised by Father Fowler with the assistance of Messrs A. Smith and E. Huntley.

Ash Wednesday 1950 opened solemnly in St Paul's Church with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes, followed by Sung Mass. There was a very large congregation, and for those unable to attend the morning ceremonies, the Holy Ashes were again distributed after the Evening Devotions. Father Fahey wrote: "A very pleasing feature of the Mass was the singing of the Common by the children of St Ursula's High School. This is a big step towards interesting the congregation in the Liturgy, and by the time that this appears in print, the children of St Paul's School will have joined with those of St Ursula's in singing the Common of the Mass for St Patrick's Day".

During Lent 1950 the parish had Stations of the Cross and Benediction every weekday evening except Wednesday at 7 p.m. "Wednesday evening is, as usual, devoted to the Holy Hour of Adoration and Reparation..."

The feast of St Patrick's Day, 1950 March 17th was celebrated with Low Mass at 7.30 a.m., then at 11 a.m. the Parish Priest solemnly blessed and distributed shamrock and sang the Mass of the Feast. There was a very large congregation. The Common from the *Missa de Angelis* (Mass VIII) was sung by the schoolchildren of St Ursula's and St Paul's. In the evening the Parish had its traditional St Patrick's Day Dance at the Town Hall. This was arranged by Father Fowler, and a committee of boys and girls, and was considered to be a huge success.

A Mission was preached in St Paul's Church by Father Callaghan and Father White of the Catholic Mission Society from the last Mass on Sunday, 1950 March 19th until Evening Devotions on Sunday, April 2nd (Palm Sunday), when there was the renewal of Baptismal Vows, Plenary Indulgence and Solemn Benediction. During the previous fortnight the Priests had worked very hard at visiting and preaching. The time was too short to allow every house in the Parish to be visited. The crowds at Holy Communion on Palm Sunday and Easter Day were thought to be a record for St Paul's.

Congratulations were extended to the Sanctuary Guild and Choir for Holy Week and Easter:

"The Choir, under the baton of Father Fowler, was excellent. It is no small achievement to render all the music of this Holy Season in such a dignified and worthy manner, especially with the limited opportunities for practice that our people have. We believe that there are very few Parish Choirs who cover in a year so much liturgical music as ours, and they show themselves most adaptable to the rendering of plainsong and harmony alike.

"Special mention must be made of Mr Sellens and Mr Coyne, who undertook the singing of lessons at Tenebrae, and acquitted themselves so well. The organ was in the capable hands of Sister Vincent, and the lady members of the Choir can be best praised by saying that they kept up their consistently high standard.

"The Sanctuary Guild, under Father Hogg, are quite at ease in the performance of the most exacting ceremonies. Here again, though comparisons must be avoided where possible, we should like to pay special tribute to Mr Alfred Smith, the Prefect of Ceremonies and to Mr Patrick McVey, who are so reliable and so keen on the correct performance of the Liturgy. This year we were fortunate too, to have the services of Mr Eric Williams, a Church student, who is doing his military service, and his acquaintance with the ceremonial and his cheerful willingness to help were of great assistance.

"Father Hogg has made a great success too of the Junior Division of the Sanctuary Guild. It is most edifying to see so many boys in procession for High Mass and Vespers..."

On 1950 September 21st the Guild of St Monica assembled in St Paul's Church at 9 a.m. and recited the Five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. They then took their places on a coach and travelled to Aylesford Priory. On the way there they sang the hymn *Hail, Queen of Heaven*. They arrived at the Priory gates at 11 a.m. and walked through the apple orchard reciting the Five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. As they approached the Priory buildings

they were met by one of the friars, who led them to the Chapel. While walking up the stairway into the Chapel, they all recited aloud the *De Profundis*, for the repose of the souls of all those priests and religious who had lived and ministered at Aylesford Priory. After prayers in the Chapel they had a tour of the buildings, and then had Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel. The Prior put the large hall at their disposal as a dining room. Just after 2 p.m. they were back on the coach, going to Hartley (then a small village between Gravesend and Dartford, in the heart of the Kentish orchard country. The church at Hartley was a thatched Tudor-style barn, containing the shrine to Our Lady of Hartley (a title granted to it by the Pope, together with related indulgences)). They had Benediction in the Church and recited the Five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, before having tea in a nearby restaurant and then returning to Dover. Sister Vincent played the organ at Aylesford and Hartley and Sister Anne also accompanied them.

The year 1950 marked the centenary of the Restoration of the Hierarchy in England and Wales. On Sunday, October 1st there was a Pontifical High Mass at Wembley. Bishop Cowderoy ordered the appointment of Parish Organisers to ensure the success of the Pilgrimage to Wembley. Father Fahey asked Mr C. Grilli to undertake this work in Dover. There were 130 parishioners who went on that Pilgrimage, leaving Dover Priory Station on a special train at 10.20 a.m. and arriving at the Stadium Station just after 1 p.m. After the Pageant and High Mass they left for home at 5.30 p.m, arriving back in Dover about 9 p.m.

During the 1950 Holy Year, in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on November 1st, Pope Pius XII made the infallible proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption (a Feast of the Assumption had been kept on August 15th for most of the history of the Church; in this country it is mentioned in calendars associated with the *Anglo Saxon Chronicles*, for example). In accordance with the wishes of Bishop Cowderoy, a triduum of thanksgiving took place in St Paul's Church on November 3rd, 4th and 5th. On Sunday, November 5th, Father Fahey sang the Mass of the Assumption in thanksgiving and the *Te Deum* was sung after Mass in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed. There was Exposition all day, and in the evening Father Fowler gave the Holy Hour and carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession.

Many Priests said Mass at St Paul's during the 1950 Holy Year, either on their way to Rome or on the way back. On August 1st Bishop Cowderoy together with Canon Bogan and Father Carey were in Dover. Bishop Cowderoy said Mass at the High Altar on Tuesday, August 2nd, and left for the Continent on the same day. On Saturday, October 21st, the Most Rev Dr Michael Browne, Bishop of Galway called, accompanied by Canon Glynn, Parish Priest of St Joseph's in Galway. They said Mass the next day and both expressed their pleasure at the beauty of our Church and its spotless cleanliness.

On 1950 September 25th, the Feast of the Consecration of St Paul's Church, Father Fahey sang Mass at 10.0 a.m. The Common of the Mass was sung by schoolchildren from St Ursula's and St Paul's and the ceremonies were carried out by members of the Junior Sanctuary Guild. In the evening Solemn Benediction was given by Father Michael Breslin of St Leonards assisted by Father Fowler and Father Hogg.

On All Saints Day, November 1st, Father Fahey sang the Mass at 10.0 a.m. At 7 p.m. Solemn Second Vespers of the Feast were sung followed by Vespers of the Dead.

On Sunday, 1950 November 12th by permission of the Bishop, a Solemn Requiem Mass was sung at 11 a.m. by Father Kearney C.S.Sp. for the Dead of the two Great Wars.

The Absolution was given at the catafalque and after Mass the Dead March in Saul was played on the organ.

In 1953 November the Diocese purchased a plot of land at Roosevelt Road on the Buckland Estate for £1,314. (The Buckland Estate was a major post-War housing development, marking the further expansion of Dover into the surrounding countryside.)

Father Fahey published a *Year Book* for 1953-54, which he had printed in Ramsgate. Mass was celebrated in St Paul's on Sundays at 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m., and there was Vespers and Benediction at 6.30 p.m. On Holy Days Mass was celebrated at 7, 8, 9 and 10 a.m. and there was an evening service at 7 p.m. Every weekday, Mass was celebrated at 7.30 a.m. (additionally at 10 a.m. on Thursdays) and there was an evening service at 7 p.m., and a Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. Confessions were heard on Saturdays from 12 to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. The Parish was also serving the Duke of York's Royal Military School and Old Park Barracks, Whitfield, where Mass was celebrated in the NAAFI at 9 a.m. every Sunday.

During the 1950s the Passion was sung in Latin on Good Friday by Father Fahey, Father Salmon and Father Vincent Murphy. On Holy Thursday, the Knights of St Columba had their feet washed. The Church Bell was rung before Masses (usually by Len Cook or Ralph Coyne).

The Redemptorist Fathers preached a mission in the Parish from 1955 March 20th - April 3rd. In the early fifties St Ursula's School had about 256 pupils and the numbers continued to increase. By 1955 the Sisters had decided to purchase 55, Park Avenue as extra accommodation for their 285 pupils.

The shift in population outwards from Dover continued with the development of the Buckland Estate in the 1950s. During 1957 Mass was celebrated on Sundays for a while in the Wheelwright Arms pub on the Estate, but this was soon discontinued.

There was a Parish pilgrimage to Lourdes in the Spring of 1958 at Ascensiontide.

The year 1957 marked the beginning of the Space Age and the dawning of an era of rapid and sophisticated technological advancement and change. St Paul's Parish was about to embark on its own period of astonishing change and development: bigger than anything comparable in the past. Father Fahey left Dover in the autumn of 1958 and his successor took office as Parish Priest.

## **6: Restoration, Expansion and Vatican II**

Father Terence Edmund Tanner arrived in Dover on 1958 November 9th as the new Parish Priest of St Paul's. Born in 1916, as a young man he had double pneumonia and tuberculosis in both lungs and it was only with a special dispensation from Archbishop Amigo that he had been able to study for the Priesthood. Part of his studies were carried out in Switzerland (he sometimes referred to "my Swiss professors") and he was one of the last people out of France before Dunkirk in 1940. Ordained in 1941, he was curate for many years in Putney with Canon Pritchard. He was Parish Priest at Hindhead from 1954-58 and was something of a specialist in church design and decoration, undertaking the completion of the church at Hindhead. His interest in the arts was exemplified by his beautiful handwriting and he was deeply versed in Jungian psychology. He had a great love for Our Lady.

Immediately upon his arrival in Dover Father Tanner found it obvious that both St Paul's Church and the Presbytery at 102, Maison Dieu Road were in urgent need of repair. He contacted Mr Arnold Keen of Messrs Stanley Hicks & Son and asked them to inspect the properties. The report on St Paul's was received on November 28th, and still he had not been one month in Dover! On 1959 April 9th Bishop Cowderoy agreed to the acceptance of tenders, with the contract for the work being awarded to R.J. Barwick & Son. On 1959 May 18th Father Tanner reported to the Bishop that the tabernacle lock had been broken by a visiting priest 5 or 6 years previously. Since then it had been possible to open the tabernacle with a penknife, screw driver or piece of strong wire. Every local locksmith had been invited by Father Tanner to examine it, but none of them could help. A new tabernacle was clearly required and the surrounding masonry would also need replacement.

Work on the restoration of St Paul's started on 1959 June 1st, the ninety second anniversary of the starting of the original building. The Blessed Sacrament was removed from the church and the building closed during the week. The workmen took over, floorboards were taken up and treated for dry rot. The old gas radiators and pipes were removed and oil fired heating installed (this being far more economical to run at that time). The church was rewired and a solid oak door to the Sacristy installed. When the Sanctuary floor was exposed, because of the extensive dry rot, the foundation of the High Altar was found to be built on piers which were in a very dilapidated state. At that time the whole Sanctuary was up two steps from the floor of the church, and the High Altar itself up a further three steps from that. Father Tanner's plans involved the Altar being a whole 2 ft lower, up three steps from a Sanctuary at a lower level. Consequently, the altar had to be dismantled and Father Tanner wrote: "it seemed reasonable to remove the reredos, which was only plaster and badly damaged and to construct a new English Altar out of the remnants of the previous altar". The old Pugin altar was referred to in books on church architecture as a beautiful example of its type and quite a few parishioners were not pleased by this move. This old altar was constructed of brick with a 2 in. facing of Caen stone and a plaster moulding. As we have seen, it was impossible to preserve the reredos, but the altar from the mensa down was carefully demolished and reconstructed, despite the increased cost of doing this compared to just buying a new altar, as Father Tanner wrote "for sentimental reasons". The new tabernacle was bought from Hayes & Finch. Bishop Cowderoy designated Canon de Laubenque, Parish Priest of Canterbury, to reconsecrate this altar on his behalf in 1960. During all this work a 4 ft deep cavity was found under the Sanctuary floor. This was filled with hardcore and cement and surfaced with wood blocks. For the first time it was now possible to accommodate the Sanctuary Guild in the Sanctuary and increase the seating capacity in the church. Barwicks replaced 1,000 slates on the roof and criticised the



"previous unskilled labour used". They found one roof truss twisted and part of the roof out of position due to blast damage in the War. The outside elevations of the church were restored in Kentish Rag Stone (the same as the original stone work) using stone from the same quarries which supplied the original. On 1959 December 18th Bishop Cowderoy approved the design of a new statue of St Joseph for the church, carved by Mr Forsyth (a local craftsman) from a lime tree which had been blown down in Kearsney Abbey. On October 29th of that year the Bishop approved the design of the new east window of St Paul's; the picture of St Paul in stained glass with the inscription: "Faith, Hope and Charity. The Greatest of these is Charity". The Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of St Paul's took place on Sunday 1960 February 28th at 11 a.m. The Te Deum was sung, followed by the Mass of Quinquagesima Sunday with Panegyric. The music used was the Mass of St Brigid (Seymour) and the motet was Ave Maria (Gounod). The hymn *All people that on Earth do dwell* was sung and at the end of Mass *God Save the Queen*, followed by Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Father Tanner was active in those days in acquiring a new presbytery for the Parish. This was necessitated by the now sub-standard living conditions in 102, Maison Dieu Road and the increase in the number of priests resident in the Parish. A letter from Canon Callanan on 1960 March 17th speaks of the long term policy being to acquire 101, Maison Dieu Road, demolish both 101 and 102 and build a new presbytery on the site, suggesting that a financial "carrot" be offered to the owner of 101 in order to get this moving. Formerly known as 'The Cedars', 109, Maison Dieu Road came on the market and Father Tanner completed the purchase of this as the new presbytery on 1960 July 25th for £5,249-0-7. Barwicks did a further £3,441 worth of work on the property to modernise it before the clergy were ready to move in. Shortly before the planned date of the move Father Tanner became very ill with jaundice. However, he made a good recovery and the move went ahead as planned. Turnpenny's were awarded the contract for the removal and the supply of some new carpets, furniture and furnishings, at a cost of £255-13-6. The move took place in 1960 early October, shortly after Father Kenneth McCarthy took up residence in the Parish on September 27th. Father Tanner was on holiday from September 29th until October 19th and when he returned Dover was again a four priest Parish. The old presbytery remained Parish property and was used partly for storage and partly by the senior class of St Paul's Primary School.

The group of men from Barwicks who had been primarily responsible for the restoration of St Paul's, went straight to the site owned by the Parish at Roosevelt Road on the Buckland Estate, and began work on the construction of a new church. These men were hand-picked by Father Tanner for their craftsmen skills and the same team did most of his work for him.

In 1959 Father Tanner established that there were 550 Catholics living on the Buckland Estate, but that only 80 of these attended Mass and that there was urgent need for a church in the area. The Church of Our Lady of Dover was completed in time for Bishop Cowderoy to open it on 1960 November 11th, the feast of St Martin of Tours, Patron of Dover. The dedication was to commemorate the original dedication in Dover of the Archcliffe Chapel to Our Lady of Pity, subsequently continued in the dedication of the Snargate Street Church. Bishop Cowderoy sang the Pontifical High Mass at 7 p.m. and referred in his preaching to "Mary, Mother of God and Mother of Dover" and to the desecration and sacrileges of the Reformation.

The Church of Our Lady of Dover was designed by F.G. Broadbent F.R.I.B.A. and

built by Messrs R.J. Barwick & Sons. Father Tanner was particularly pleased with the Baptistry. He wrote that it was correct to go down into a Baptistry as this symbolised going down into the River Jordan. The font was made of Portland Stone by Joseph Cribb. The floor was of green mosaic and ceramic tiles, symbolising water, and the walls were blue, symbolising Our Lady. He tells us that "in olden days baptistries were often called 'Our Lady's Womb'". It was designed to be a replica of the baptistries at Hindhead and Putney. Father Tanner incorporated some Hopton Wood Stone in every building he had been associated with. It is, as he said, sometimes called English Granite. The Holy Water Stoups at Buckland were made from it at a time when it was becoming very rare indeed. Buckland is very much the daughter church of St Paul's: the finial cross over the entrance is an exact replica of that at St Paul's. A special feature incorporated in the building was a quiet room with a large soundproof glass panel overlooking the Sanctuary. This was designed for parents with young children and Father Tanner hoped to install a playpen there. The nave seats 252 and there are another 100 concealed seats. The choir loft seats 24 and the quiet room seats another 24. The transept was planned to be eventually incorporated into the church and would seat 56. Under flagstone heating was installed by Smye-Rumsby Ltd. John Trinick designed and Harold Luxford made two stained glass windows (Father Tanner wrote "shades of St Paul's"). Both carry the symbol of a rose, the sign of perfection and therefore of God. This is designed to try and convey St Augustine's idea of God as "Always active but always at rest"; so they are wheel-windows. The west window conveys the idea of flames. Father Tanner pointed out that from primitive times fire has been the symbol of God. The east window, above the altar, is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the west window, above the entrance door, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Pieta was carved by Mr Robert Forsyth. Father Tanner had tried without success to discover details of the Pieta in the pre-Reformation shrine of Our Lady of Pity at Archcliffe.

Immediately Our Lady of Dover opened the Mass attendance was 200. Mass was celebrated at 8.30 and 11 a.m. on Sundays, 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, 8 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Holydays. There was Catechism on Sundays at 3.15 p.m. and Benediction at 4 p.m. Confessions were heard on Saturdays from 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 5.30 - 6.30 p.m., and on Eves of Holydays from 7.30 - 8 p.m. Weekday Mass and Rosary were very well attended. Father Tanner wrote: "Buckland Church has brought more souls back to God... than could have been hoped for had all the clergy spent the last two years in non-stop visiting. As one person who wrote to me after the ceremony put it: "Buckland as splendid as it is, will be increasingly beautified by the souls which through its building will be won back to God". We teach and are taught that God's Presence is irresistible, that "if I be lifted up I will draw all men to myself" but we often act as though everything depended on us... and all too often we take the credit when all honour and glory is truly His".

A special poem *Our Lady of Dover*, first appeared in *St Paul's Courier*, the Parish Magazine, at this time, to mark the opening of the new church, and it is worth quoting here:

Through England did Our Lady pass,  
Her Son clasped to her breast  
Her mantle lightly touched the grass,  
The stones her feet caressed  
Through wood and field, down leafy lane  
to shrines once fair to see.  
"Lo! here and here I once did reign  
Now, none remember me!"

Through dusty streets, in busy town  
Brushed by the hurrying throng.  
Mid noise and clamour, up and down  
Unseen, she passed along.  
And oft where once her shrine had been  
She paused, tho' none might see,  
"Here, too, was I acknowledged Queen  
Yet none remember me!"

Our Lady came to the tossing sea  
where white cliffs guard the shore  
"Even here was once a shrine to me  
Now, men come here no more!"  
Her Infant gave a tiny cry  
She looked, to see His will  
And lo! against the cloudy sky  
Her church, on a windy hill!

Then joyful, up the hill she pressed  
(The wind played with her gown)  
And there, her Child clasped to her breast  
Our Lady sat her down.

*St Paul's Courier* was published regularly on the first Sunday of each month from about 1957 until the early 1960s. It contained many diverse contributions and seemed to indicate an active Parish. To give us a 'flavour' of those times I would quote one letter to the editor:

"Dear Sir, Can anyone tell me an easy way of learning hymns? It is 8 years since I was received into the Church and... you are able to burst into song without the aid of a hymn book... Having attended several missions, I am now quick to recognise 'Faith of Our Fathers' and am able to join in with gusto. I feel this is slow progress, but I am assured by a fellow convert that if I add 'Soul of My Saviour' to my repertoire, I shall be well equipped for most occasions. It was with bated breath that I awaited the return of my daughter from her first day at a Catholic School. Did you sing hymns in Assembly, I asked. "Oh yes" she replied. "You all have hymn books, I suppose?" "Oh no - everyone just stands there and sings". After this, I retire defeated to await the discovery by scientists of some extra chromosome by which the words of the Westminster Hymnal are passed intact to Catholic children..."

This amusing letter was signed 'CONVERT': in fact, a lot of items in the *Courier* seem to have been signed in this manner, or by initials. In *St Paul's* at this time hymnals were in use and hymn numbers displayed. Perhaps the letter was intended totally as a joke...I

digress.

Much had already been achieved. The Usuline Sisters decided during 1959 that due to their continued expansion they would need to build a new school on the site of their kitchen garden, near the tennis courts in Castle Avenue. The Diocesan Education Committee was initially opposed to this, fearing that it would be detrimental to the future St Edmund's Secondary School. Barwicks won the contract to build the school and the foundation stone was laid by Father Tanner on 1960 June 22nd. in the presence of the Mayor, Town Clerk, Architect, Builder, priests, nuns, parents, friends and pupils. On September 21st the senior pupils moved into the building and on the next day it was blessed by Father Salmon.

All these achievements speak for themselves, but building programmes have to be paid for. What were the parish finances like? Early in the construction programme Father Tanner announced that £183 was needed to run the parish, but the income was only £150 per week. In 1960 December he wrote: "It is always a difficult subject to mention the Christmas Offering. This, as you know, is your personal gift to your priests and is divided equally among them. Unless a priest has private means he depends largely on his Christmas and Easter Offerings for the money to buy his clothes, toothpaste, etc. A priest is not paid a salary. He usually gets somewhere between £175 and £200 a year and well over half of what he gets in a year comes from the gifts of his parishioners at Christmas and Easter. I have never in my life made public references to this delicate subject and I do so now for two reasons: because I know how much the priests of this parish depend on these Offerings and because I know how small these Offerings are". A few months later, in 1961, he wrote: "Be a little restrained in your criticism. Remember Our Lord said, "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also". Offertories are a barometer for measuring the spiritual health of a parish. No one who loves God has to be reminded of his duty to give. Instinctively, spontaneously, he gives... and all is well. It is people who do not love God enough who have to be continually reminded of their obligation - and it is an obligation and something of a bind because they do not want to do it". The fact that the Parish Priest felt the need to write in this way shows the enormity of the problem which the parish faced at this time. Dover has never been a wealthy area, but it was felt that, perhaps not everyone was "pulling their weight". Special measures were called for. On 1961 October 27th the former church in Snargate Street was sold for £1,304-6-11. The land which the parish owned at Union Road had been neglected. Most people had forgotten that it existed! The 12 year covenant on the land had expired in 1957 with no action taken and the Corporation wanted to purchase the land back. The Town Clerk at the time, James A. Johnson, was a personal friend of Father Tanner. Father Tanner was able to negotiate an increased price from the Corporation, who eventually paid £450 for the return of the land which was actually worth about £3,000 at that time. The Bishop gave permission for the sale on 1962 July 4th. Father Tanner mentioned to Canon Callanan at Bishops House that no records existed in Dover about these matters when he came.

Between 1940 and the sale of the property in 1961, the Corry family lived in the flat at Snargate Street after the death of Father Gifkins. It is thought that Father Leake installed them as caretakers and that possibly some rent was paid. There were no written records and everything seems to have been done by verbal agreement. The building is currently in the hands of a Catholic family, being the headquarters of Smye-Rumsby Ltd.

Also, in 1960 a sum of £1,300 was received in compensation for war damage to St Paul's Church. All this helped to alleviate the situation, but the parish still had a crippling debt: by 1963 July 14th this had reached £83,000.

Late in 1960 there was daily Rosary in both St Paul's and Our Lady of Dover. The 9 a.m. Sunday Mass became a Dialogue Mass at St Paul's and was specifically intended for children. St Ursula's nuns were responsible for looking after the linen at both churches and actually made a great deal of it. The Altar Society looked after the altar at St Paul's, with the Parish Priest writing: "We probably spend more on furnishings and upkeep (silver, linen, laundry, etc) than any comparable altar anywhere. We make no apology for extravagance. This is the most sacred spot to us and it must be beautifully clean, delicately appointed". The Altar Society contributed £20-15-0 during 1960 and a quarterly Mass was offered for their intentions. Christmas Eve Confessions at St Paul's during 1960 were heard from 12 - 1 p.m., 2 - 3 , 4 - 5 and 6 - 7 p.m. and were well attended. During Lent in 1961 there was the normal Rosary every evening of the week (except Sundays) at 6 p.m. at both St Paul's and Our Lady of Dover, plus additionally Mass was celebrated in St Paul's every weekday evening at 7 p.m. There was an encouraging Mass attendance with an average of 200 Holy Communions every day in the parish during Lent that year.

Some work was done to St Paul's in 1961. The north (side) door of the church was cut on the site of a confessional. This meant that only one confessional remained in the church, so Father Tanner increased the hours during which Confessions were heard each Saturday to 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. and 2 - 8 p.m. At that time Catholic papers were still available at the church: 67 copies of the *Universe* and 17 of the *Catholic Herald* were regularly sold. When the person responsible for selling these retired from the post that year Father Tanner asked people to place orders with their newsagents for these papers instead. Finances continued to be very tight and there was great concern when the weekly Offertory collection fell to only £53. A retiring collection was introduced at all Sunday Masses, partly for Lenten Alms, partly for Bishop's Collections and the remainder for the parish debt.

Use of the organ is prohibited in the Lenten liturgy and opportunity was taken in 1961 to have it overhauled. Normally this needs to be done every 20 years, but this was after an interval of only 10 years. It was felt that dust had got into the instrument during the restoration work and, in view of this, Barwicks agreed to pay two thirds of the £130 bill for the work. All the clergy were "spending a lot of time on parish visiting". The town was divided into areas and each area assigned to a priest to make a monthly visit to all parishioners in the area.

During 1961 April Father Tanner planned a series of talks for non-Catholics which actually started on July 3rd and were very successful. Parishioners were invited to come and sit and read in the garden of the old presbytery after visiting the church in the week, if they wished. Dover Borstal boys took part in the washing of the feet at the Missa in Cena Domini on Holy Thursday.

In July of that year the archives show Father Tanner writing: "I hope that it is only my imagination but it seems to me that there is more talking in the church before and after services than there used to be...and may I mention that women (except widows at their second Nuptial Mass) should never wear gloves when receiving any of the sacraments. Otherwise you are well-behaved and I like you".

In a newsletter in 1961 August it was reported "We have among our Church plate a Silver Chalice dated 1788" and any information as to its origins was requested. As far as I can tell, none was forthcoming.

Work on the construction of St Edmund's Secondary Modern School was in progress

at this time and the school was opened on 1962 May 2nd. The school was built on land which had been owned by the parish for a good few years and had originally been Clarke's Nursery. This land, off Old Charlton Road, was originally intended for a new primary school, but, as we shall see, that did not prove necessary.

Plans for a new Catholic Church at Aycliffe were drawn up in 1961 February and revised in May, July, August, September, October and November of that year. They were then rejected by Bishop Cowderoy and hence further revised in 1962 January, February and May. The Bishop finally approved them in a discussion with Father Tanner on Tuesday 1962 May 29th. Father Tanner recorded in his notes "The Bishop has more faith than I. His anxiety is not the present cost but "that it can be easily extended in a few year's time"". A suitable site was found to the south of Old Folkestone Road on the landward end of Shakespeare Cliff and the land was purchased from Dover Corporation for £1,200. This was 0.406 acres of grassland, including a strip of land overlooked by the Corporation 17 ft x 20 ft, which they subsequently gave free of charge to the parish. Again, the architect was F.G. Broadbent & Partners and the builders R.J. Barwick & Sons Ltd. The church was built to a then modern design with a seating capacity of 120. The exterior roof came almost to ground level and consisted of Cedar Shingle. The interior rafters were of Douglas Fir and the floor and benches of English Oak. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the Aumbry for security reasons. The altar was moveable and made of wood. It was originally planned that the altar could be screened off and the church used for social functions. The basement of the building consisted of meeting rooms. The final cost of the construction was £18,049-17-11.

Parish visitation had revealed the presence of 120 Catholics on the Aycliffe Estate (built in the 1950s as a further expansion of Dover), 80 of them under 12 years old in 1963. There was a very strong community spirit among the young families who used the church and special permission was given for Mass to be celebrated facing the people.

The Church was dedicated to St Martin of Tours in continuance of the tradition of the dedication of St Martin-le-Grand, Dover Priory and the Snargate Street Church. The Blessing of the Church took place on the title feast 1963 November 11th at 7 p.m. and the first Mass was celebrated by Father Tanner on behalf of Bishop Cowderoy who was in Rome at the Second Vatican Council. The Bishop had given Father Tanner verbal permission to do this and when he queried if this was good enough Mgr Charles Henderson replied that this was so and that the 1951 edition of the Roman Ritual should be used. Mass was celebrated every evening during the first week that the church was open so that Dover parishioners could be shown the building.

In a letter to Mgr Henderson on 1964 January 21st, Father Tanner wrote: "...just over 100 Catholics (all young families) living on the Aycliffe Estate and before the church was opened, less than 18 of these came to Mass on a Sunday. I have put in a lot of visiting there over the years and now there are about 60 people using the church on a Sunday. In the last few months I have convalidated 4 or 5 marriages, there are 4 men under instruction, and about 10 children are waiting to be Baptised". The parents insisted that their children be baptised at Aycliffe. Mgr Henderson wrote back on January 23rd saying that the Bishop willingly granted permission for the baptism of infants and adults and the reconciliation of converts at Aycliffe. Special registers must be kept at the church. On 1964 March 19th Father Tanner again wrote: "I now say Mass facing the people at Aycliffe". The Bishop did not see the church until his parish visitation on 1964 April 19th. The KCC Child Welfare Clinic used the hall under the church during 1964, paying rent to the parish.

Following the demise of *St Paul's Courier*, Father Tanner still felt the need for a written form of communication with parishioners and introduced newsletters in the form of parochial letters from himself. In one of these in 1963 May he complains about people arriving late for and leaving early from Mass. He said that about 12 people were present at weekday morning Masses of whom 4 were over 70 and another 4 over 60! Father Elliott wanted to start something in the parish especially for young people.

During 1963 the Corpus Christi procession was held in the grounds of St Edmund's School. Sister Vincent who had been head teacher of St Paul's School for numerous years before retirement, and was parish organist for many years, died in 1963 in her "home" - Dover.

On 1964 February 16th the Bishop decided to create Buckland as a separate parish, something which he had first proposed in 1962 August. This relieved St Paul's of about £25,000 - £30,000 of debt and made the work of restoring the rest of St Paul's possible much sooner. The revised parish boundaries of St Paul's were from the Eastern Arm of the Harbour over Castle Hill, through Mayfield Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue, up Bunkers Hill to Bushy Ruff, Alkham, Hougham and back to the coast just short of Capel-le-Ferne. Buckland Parish would comprise the town north of Mayfield Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and Bunkers Hill: the villages of River, Kearsney, Temple Ewell, Lydden, Whitfield, Guston, East and West Langdon, St Margarets Bay and the Army Chaplaincy. Father William O'Riordan was appointed as the first Parish Priest of Buckland. He was helped by a Carmelite Father resident at St Margarets. Father Tanner and Father McCarthy remained at St Paul's, assisted by Father Felix Watts O.P.. Father Merron and Father O'Connor moved to other appointments. In a letter dated 1964 March 23rd Father Tanner wrote to Mgr Strand at Bishops House about the new parish boundaries, saying: "The building of a church at St Margarets Bay cannot be delayed many years longer. A site for a church should, in fact, be acquired in the very near future". This does not seem to have been pursued any further.

Bishop Cowderoy gave his approval for the completion of the restoration of St Paul's on 1964 June 28th, the work starting later that summer. The wooden floor was taken up and the cavity beneath it filled, the present stone paving floor being laid on top. Father Tanner and Father McCarthy together with Mr Webb and Mr Davis of R.J. Barwick & Son spent many hours designing the new pews. Sorbo rubber, 3/4 in. thick was provided on the kneelers. The pews cost £3-10-0 per foot run and it was calculated that it cost £7 to seat one person! The standing radiators were moved against the walls and side pews were eliminated, leaving the side aisles clear. The plan was to seat a minimum of 240. Father Tanner thought that he might provide chair kneelers in the side aisles in due course. The existing confessionals were known not to be sound-proof enough and new ones were built on the site of St Joseph's Altar next to the door to the Sacristy. St Joseph's Altar was moved to the site of a former confessional on the south side of the church. Father Tanner was of the opinion that the old location near the Sacristy was not good enough for a devotional shrine and said that priests saying Mass there in the summer were disturbed by the flow to the Sacristy (concelebration had not been reintroduced at that time and it was sometimes the case that more than one Mass was celebrated in the church at the same time). The new confessionals were fitted with special sound-proof tiles and the adjacent Sacristy door kept locked during confession times. A small occasional confessional was installed at the back of the church near the spiral staircase to the gallery, for use during weddings. The Altar step of Our Lady's Altar was extended to bring it in line with the previously extended Sanctuary. A suggestion that the reredos to the Lady Altar be gilded and painted was felt to be improbable in the immediate future and did not get carried out. The pulpit was removed as it had blocked the

view of the Sanctuary for many people and the priest would in future preach from the Sanctuary. The cost of this work was about £5,500, with the church remaining in use on Sundays only while the work took place.

Father Tanner received permission from the Bishop to bless the chapel at Dover Borstal during 1964 September.

On Sunday 1964 November 8th a special three-part Afternoon Service was held in St Paul's in the presence of David Ennals M.P., Alderman E.A. Bushell M.B.E., the Mayor, Council Members, the Principal Officers of the Corporation and their guests. The organist and choir master in those days was John Howlett (a non-Catholic). The service ended with Latin Benediction.

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### **Father Tanner's Prayer for the People of Dover (1964)**

Lord Jesus Christ, bless all who dwell in this Borough of Dover. In it may all things prosper; may nothing disturb it; may charity abound in it, may all be ever well with it. Let no evil spirit draw near, but send us a good angel from heaven to watch over us. May his coming put new heart in us, may he protect us and be with us to defend us from all harm.

Teach us to hold your name in honour; give your blessing to all we do and say. Sanctify us you who are holy and so good to us, who live with the Father and the Holy Ghost for ever. Amen.

### **Litany of Dover Saints**

Christ have mercy	Christ have mercy
Holy Trinity one God	Have mercy on us
Holy Mary	Pray for us
Saint Peter	Pray for us
Saint Paul	Pray for us
Saint Andrew	Pray for us
Saint James	Pray for us
Saint Batholomew	Pray for us
Saint Martin	Pray for us
Saint Nicholas	Pray for us
Saint Richard of Chichester	Pray for us
Saint Thomas de la Hale of Dover	Pray for us
Saint Radigund	Pray for us
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world	Grant us peace (Father Tanner, 1964)

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From 1965 June 23rd - July 3rd a local history exhibition was staged in the Town Hall. Entitled "Dover Past & Present - An Exhibition of Local History", it was arranged by the Dover Corporation Library and Museum Committee. Father Tanner provided a special stand and display: *The Church in Dover*. St Paul's was the only Church in the town to provide such a display. Explanatory literature was available free from the display stand.

At a parish meeting on 1965 March 1st financial tables were provided which clearly



showed that the parish needed an income of £260 per week to break even. The actual income at this time was £171 per week. A Mass attendance of 850 (of whom it was estimated 450 were regular wage earners with an average income of £15 per week) paid only £40-7-3 in *two* collections on February 21st that year. People seemed to be giving, on average, 1% of their income. It was stated that planned giving would result in offerings of 10/- per week from an average wage earner, but Father Tanner was always opposed to planned giving. St Martin's at Aycliffe were giving £10 per week at this time. In 1965 September the Parish Committee agreed to visit parishioners in their homes and seek their views on matters, but it is not known whether this actually happened. Father Tanner published a "Parochial Examination of Conscience" which was an amusing document with a serious message. It ended with the words "I rather expect some of you will hit back and that this week several Examinations of Conscience for Parish Priests will be dropped into our letter box. That would only be fair... but remember, we have been on retreat this summer and our consciences are still rather tender".

The Second Vatican Council had closed on 1965 December 8th and these years saw the beginning of the liturgical changes inspired by the Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. The vernacular was introduced into parts of the Mass in 1965. At St Paul's in those years the High Mass was celebrated at 6.30 p.m. except on Palm Sunday and Remembrance Sunday, when it was transferred to 11 a.m. The atmosphere of holiness at those Sunday evening Masses was a feature of Parish life. Sometimes the Mass would be celebrated by Father McCarthy, with his beautiful chanting in Latin of the Ordinary of the Mass and the Preface, while Father Tanner preached the sermon. The Midnight Mass at Christmas 1965 had the laity singing the Missa de Angelis (Mass VIII) and ended with *Adeste Fideles* - something of a parish tradition.

## 7: Post Vatican II Developments

In 1966 January Mass attendance at St Paul's Church was 700 to 750 on a Sunday. The parish was well represented on the Borough Council and Catholics were running the Save the Children Fund, the Ladies Lifeboat Association, the St Martin's Club for the Physically Handicapped, the Arc Old People's Club and the Dover Old People's Welfare Centre. They were prominent in International Aid for Children, the League of Friends of Dover Hospitals, the Lifeguards and the Rotarians. The relationship with other churches was excellent, both among the clergy and the laity. The Anglican Rural Dean thought that the ecumenical situation in Dover was "as good as anywhere and far better than in most places". By the end of 1966 it was expected that the parish debt would be well below £20,000 and Father Tanner expected the debt to be cleared by 1971. He thought that the proportion of practising Catholics in the Parish was slightly higher than the national average. The convert rate was good: the parish headed the lists published at the beginning of 1965 for the parishes in the South of England and some of them were 4 or 5 times the size of Dover. Only three out of every five adults received Holy Communion weekly and the attendance at weekday services was "terrible". This may have been more due to the times of Mass than the attitude of the people and may have been a factor resulting in the introduction of more weekday evening Masses in the parish. During Lent 1966 a two-pulpit discussion was held in the church every Monday evening between Father John Pledger (one time professor of Philosophy and Apologetics at the Senior Seminary at Womersley) and Father Tanner. Non-Catholics were invited.

St Patrick's Day 1966 saw a Social Event to finance a window of Irish Saints in St Paul's, assembled from Irish Saints already in different windows. The cost of re-leading and re-assembly was £75.

The Holy Week Liturgies which had been restored in 1950s by Pope Pius XII were partially in the vernacular in 1966. The Easter Vigil started at 10.45 p.m. with a fire in a brazier outside the north side of the church (on the former car park), all the seven readings were used, Mass started at midnight and ended at 1.30 a.m. on Easter Sunday. To promote lay participation (a 'new' concept then), Father Tanner reminded everyone of the Greek origin of the word 'liturgy' - from *leitourgia* - 'action of the people'.

Father McCarthy left in 1966 May and was replaced by Father Hubert McCauley.

By 1966 June the increasing cost of running an independent school was becoming a serious financial burden to the Ursuline Sisters. Critical decisions were taken. For many years St Paul's Primary School buildings behind the church had been officially described as "a disgrace", "appalling" and condemned. It had been planned to erect a new building on land to the north east of St Edmund's Secondary School. However, the Ursuline Sisters decided to close St Ursula's School and, in a very generous move, offered their building to the Diocese for a new primary school. The Divisional Education Officer was of the opinion that the building would "certainly make the finest primary school in the county and probably the finest in the country". The Ursulines hoped, after the offer was accepted by the Diocese, that the Sisters of Charity would run the school with them as a team and that Sister Philomena would remain as head teacher. Everyone was amazed that the teaching staff at St Paul's School had continued to achieve such excellent results in such bad working conditions. Despite the hopes of the Ursulines, the Sisters of Charity viewed matters differently and Sister Philomena and Sister Bernadette both resigned from the teaching staff of St Paul's

School in 1967 July. The school transferred to its new location in Castle Avenue that autumn and a new head teacher from the Ursuline order, Sister Dympna, was appointed. In 1968 January the School officially became St Richard's Primary School, with capacity for 320 children. The Sisters of Charity were teaching at St Edmund's School in 1968, and also continued their work of parish visiting, especially of the sick and housebound. Many will recall the sight of one of the Sisters travelling around the town on a moped at that time. Others did their visiting walking and travelling by bus. Only in the 1970s did it become the norm for the Community to own a car.

When the old liturgical calendar was in use (prior to 1969) a separate feast of St Paul used to be kept on June 30th and this was the Parish titular feast. (In the revised calendar this is now kept on June 29th, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul). In 1966 Father Tanner transferred the feast of St Paul to the following Sunday, July 3rd, for the convenience of parishioners and a special parish Mass was celebrated at 6.30 p.m. Father Peter Griffin, Professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley and one of the great English authorities on St Paul, came to preach. Father Tanner wrote a few weeks later: "I do not think there are many more devout congregations than ours. I personally draw great comfort and encouragement from it".

Finance continued to be a serious problem in the Parish and no contributions had been made to the Diocesan central fund since Father Tanner had arrived in 1958. By early 1967 the shortfall in income was £1,500 per annum and Father Tanner wrote: "We are literally living off our weekly offertory gift... and it simply cannot be done. The financial strain of running the Parish these last few months has been very great... The Parish is very near bankruptcy".

Late in 1966 Father Tanner celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood. He refused to allow a collection to be taken for this in the Parish, but invited parishioners to a special Votive Mass for the Forgiveness of Sins and asked them to pray that the faults of the past 25 years of his priestly life would be forgiven.

On 1967 January 25th at 7.30 p.m. a Mass for Christian Unity was celebrated in St Paul's in the presence of members of the Church of England and the Free Churches. The Church was packed with over 500 people and extra seating had to be provided. On Sunday April 23rd the Dover Orchestral Society gave a recital in the church. Earlier in the year, on January 11th, a small fire damaged Catholic literature in St Paul's and detectives were called upon to investigate this.

Archbishop Cowderoy made his Canonical Visitation of the Parish on Monday 1967 June 26th, when he also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at 7.30 p.m. The Church was packed and Father Tanner later wrote: "The Archbishop went away feeling that I was not so wrong in saying that this is the best parish in the Diocese". In his Visitation Report the Archbishop later wrote:

"This Parish seems to be very active and there are some very good people who are anxious to play a part in the lay apostolate.

"I cannot understand why the Confraternities of the Blessed Sacrament and of the Christian Doctrine are in abeyance. Canon Law says they should exist in every parish where possible.

"The Church is beautifully arranged and is very well kept. The new pews and confessionals are a great improvement and the new floor adds very much to the beauty of the church".

The debt was then £928 on St Paul's and £20,359 on Aycliffe Church. Aycliffe was not in a position to be able to reduce its own debt and on 1967 November 5th Father Tanner wrote: "We could get along quite nicely if we had not built a church at Aycliffe. We did build it - and it was right - but now it has to be paid for...". One of the popular ways of raising money in those days was the Parish Football Pool (by the 1980s it was '200 Clubs!') There seemed to be a local consortium of these consisting of four parishes, but Buckland withdrew at the beginning of 1968 (to join another one with bigger prizes!) and Aylesham soon followed suit, leaving only Deal and Dover. This was a further blow to the financial situation.

At the end of 1967 October, the organist, John Howlett had to retire on doctor's orders. Along with the gardener and housekeeper, he had been paid a small salary by the parish. His place was taken by a young student of Mr Reginald Adams (the then Borough Organist). She was also organist to Father Peter Farmer at Cheriton. There was some concern about the state of the choir at this time and an appeal was made for new members. From 1967 December 3rd the Canon of the Mass could be recited aloud in its vernacular translation as a valid option.

A new presbytery was built at Buckland during 1967.

The archives show that during 1967 November-December Father Tanner was engaged in privately trying to sell a 16th century hutch that he owned: "My parish is terribly hard up, and I am thinking of selling this hutch, if it would reduce substantially our parish debt". As far as I can tell, he was not successful.

One of the major liturgical events at the start of 1968 took place on January 25th in St Paul's when a concelebrated English Mass was offered for the reunion of Christendom and members of congregations and clergy of the other churches in the town were present in the packed church.

This year of 1968 was to be a very special one in the history of the Parish and despite the crippling financial difficulties, one of celebration and rejoicing. There was, however, a 'near-miss' when on February 23rd the church was found to be filled with smoke. The firemen and police were called and the smoke was found to be coming through the ventilator system from the Boiler House at the rear, and was caused by a defective boiler. The windows in the church were opened to clear the smoke in time for a Requiem Mass one hour later.

Earlier in this work I referred to the consecration of St Edmund's Chapel by St Richard in 1253 and its subsequent demise at the Reformation. In the course of the centuries buildings were constructed and reconstructed to the north, south, east and west of the Chapel. At times they abutted the Chapel itself, which became lost to view and forgotten. When it was first rediscovered it was thought to be "St John the Baptist Church, which before the Reformation stood by the Maison Dieu". The British Archaeological Association held a congress in Dover during 1883 August and their honorary secretary, Mr E.P. Loftus Broch F.S.A. published his account in 1884 of how the Rev Canon Scott-Robertson had read a paper on the old churches of the town. Discussion had ensued afterwards during which Edward Knocker F.S.A. said that he had heard of the existence of some ancient masonry behind the

houses and shops in Biggin Street, not far from the Maison Dieu. Mr Loftus Broch surveyed the spot before leaving Dover and found "a small building all but perfect". Some alterations and adaptations had been made to the original structure. A blacksmith was using the east end. Doors had been broken through the walls and fireplaces inserted, together with a dividing wall. In his paper he wrote: "The position must have been a conspicuous one, standing at the entry of the town, at its northern or principal approach, and close under, and outside, the boundary-wall of the great Priory of St Martin's, which was on the opposite side of Priory Road. The details of the simple architecture show clearly that the date is to the end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th..." The Rev T.S. Frampton F.S.A. first mentions the Chapel by its right dedication in an article *St Richard at Dover* in *St Mary's Parish Magazine* in 1909 July. Two shops in Priory Road that hemmed in the Chapel were destroyed by shells on 1943 August 24th and the ruins were levelled and earthed over, a small garden being planted. The first suggestion of restoring the Chapel was made in 1944 by the Borough Engineer, Mr Philip V. Marchant who proposed a restored Chapel located in a strip of gardens and lawns fronting Biggin Street, and that the War Memorial be moved there. The plan was filed and forgotten. Lieutenant-Colonel R.F.H. Drake-Brockman tried to get it scheduled as an ancient monument in 1953, but the Dover Corporation were unwilling to do this. A service was held in St Mary's Church of England Church to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the consecration of the Chapel. The Rev P.B. (Tubby) Clayton, founder Padre of Toc H, was present. The service was conducted by the Rev Canon A. Stanley Cooper and the address was given by the Rev Canon A.R. Browne-Wilkinson M.A., Canon Residentiary of Chichester Cathedral. After the service there was a procession with a short stop for prayer at the Chapel which then continued to the Maison Dieu for concluding prayers and a blessing by the Anglican Bishop of Dover.

Father Tanner's interest in the Chapel began soon after he came to Dover. He got to know the local officials and introduced the subject into conversations. Some were sympathetic, but the building was scheduled for demolition because it was "of no historic or architectural value"! At a meeting in Biggin Hall on 1964 March 12th to discuss building an Old People's Community Centre, Father Tanner suggested the building of such a centre on land adjacent to the Chapel when it was redeveloped. A prominent official said: "The site on which the Chapel stands is too valuable. The Chapel has no historic or architectural value, and no power on Earth can save it from demolition". Now there was a note of urgency and Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, Honorary Director of the Friends of Friendless Churches gave expert advice that the best way to preserve a church was to put it into regular use.

The initial intention was to restore the Chapel as a Chapel of Unity. Canon T. Ewart Roberts B.A., Anglican Rural Dean of Dover, was enthusiastic. The Anglican Clergy voted unanimously to join in the restoration and an ecumenical centre with a hostel attached was envisaged. On 1964 August 7th Canon Roberts wrote that the "Archbishop of Canterbury is anxious that the Chapel of St Edmund should be preserved" and he asked if the Anglican Church could raise all the money for the freehold. On 1965 March 12th he informed the Dover Fraternal of Ministers that an inter-denominational appeal would be needed. On 1965 June 4th he reported that neither the Anglican or the Free Churches would raise the money to preserve the building and personally withdrew from any money-raising efforts. "It was agreed to leave the project alone". The idea of a Chapel of Unity was thus abandoned.

St Paul's Parish had its enormous debt and could not afford to spend any more. Father Tanner hesitated, but heard that a speculator was interested in buying the Chapel. He mentioned this to his friend, Father Leonard Whatmore, who felt so strongly that he made out a cheque for the purchase price there and then. It was paid to the agents on 1965 August 2nd,

feast of St Thomas de la Hale, and Father Tanner owned the Chapel.

Now the restoration work could begin. The building was restored to its original thirteenth century condition. A large amount of original material had remained in the building. The only concession to twentieth century practice was the construction of a tabernacle in the east wall for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. (The Blessed Sacrament would not have been reserved in a thirteenth century cemetery chapel). The Chapel has one of the best preserved thirteenth century roofs in England, with 70% of the timbers being original. Messrs R.J. Barwick & Sons were the contractors for the restoration. The Patron of Father Tanner's restoration appeal was the Rt Hon Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister until 1963 and Chancellor of Oxford University. About 1,300 people subscribed to the fund and when money ran out with the job three-quarters completed, Dr A.B. Emden gave virtually all the money needed to complete the job. Large donations were given by Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy, Bishop Wall (Brentwood), Bishop Cashman (Arundel & Brighton), Bishop Worlock (Portsmouth) and Bishop Christopher Butler O.S.B.. Half the money came from Church of England sources, including the Rt Rev A.C.W. Rose, Bishop of Dover; the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral; the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral and the Rev W.M. Martin C.F. (St Mary-in-Castro, Dover). The Kent County Council and the Dover Corporation contributed and the Friends of Friendless Churches and the Friends of Kent Churches gave generous donations, in each case the first time they had donated to a Catholic Church. £500 was given by Dover Catholics, quite a number being donations made on the occasion of Father Tanner's Silver Jubilee. The Catholic weekly paper *The Universe* ran a special publicity appeal. Work commenced on 1966 November 16th, the feast of St Edmund of Abingdon and the total cost was about £11,000. This is now the smallest church in regular use in England and the only church dedicated to a canonised Saint by another canonised Saint. The full account of the restoration of the Chapel is told by Father Tanner in his excellent book *Saint Edmund's Chapel and Its Restoration*, published in 1968 and now, regrettably out of print.

In preparation for important days ahead Father Tanner took the unusual step of sending a newsletter to all the homes of the parish on 1968 February 23rd. He announced that 1968 was the centenary year of the opening of St Paul's Church. The actual date of the centenary was 1968 May 15th but as the Archbishop could not be in Dover that day the centenary would be kept on Monday 1968 May 27th. A concelebrated Mass was planned for the evening and Father Tanner wrote: "I have already told the Archbishop that I do not intend to invite any visitors... I feel that this should be a parish occasion..." As the financial situation was critical, the local parishioners were invited to "spruce up" the church, by dusting, painting and window cleaning. Dover Corporation did a special floral display in front of the outdoor crucifix to mark the centenary. A special book describing the history of the Parish, *Catholic Dover*, was written by Christopher Buckingham at the request of Father Tanner, to celebrate the centenary. A group of men organised themselves into a committee to start converting the former St Paul's School behind the Church into a Parish Club and Youth Room. The great majority of this work was carried out by voluntary labour. The old presbytery at 102, Maison Dieu Road was in a near-derelict condition and the outside had not been painted for 9 years. It received a coat of paint in honour of the centenary.

When the great day of May 27th arrived it was to embrace a number of special events. The morning saw the reconsecration of St Edmund's Chapel. This was a private ceremony, but due to the generosity of Mr Bernard Smye-Rumsby the service of consecration and the first Mass in the Chapel since the Reformation were relayed to the Maison Dieu by closed circuit television. There were three screens with about 100 people seated around each of

them. Archbishop Cowderoy and his ministers vested in the then Council Chamber at the far end of the Maison Dieu, processed through the Stone Hall at 10.55 a.m. and down Priory Road to the Chapel. Despite this road being the main A20 into the town in those days, Dover Corporation and the Police had been more than willing to close it to traffic for several hours on that day at Father Tanner's behest. The service of consecration began at 11 a.m. and the first Mass in the Chapel since the Reformation was celebrated by Archbishop Cowderoy at noon, and ended about 12.30 p.m. The Archbishop, his ministers, the Mayor and Town Clerk of Dover, the Mayor and Town Clerk of Abingdon and three laymen who helped with the restoration work were the only people present at this Mass. Space was very limited in such a small building. The Chapel was first opened to the public at about 3 p.m. Father Tanner had the idea of completing this work as a centenary present to the Parish and this was indeed possible.

St Paul's Centenary Mass was celebrated at 7 p.m. on the evening of that sunny day. (The Votive Mass of St Paul was celebrated and Father Tanner borrowed some vestments from the Benedictine Abbey at Ramsgate because the Archbishop felt that those at Dover were "not gorgeous enough"). The benches of the north (Gospel) side of the church were reserved for visiting clergy and the parishioners who had attended the parochial choir practices for some weeks beforehand. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Father Peter Farmer. Trotman's *A People's English Mass* was sung (one of the first vernacular settings of the Mass, using the original NLC texts) with the Latin Credo No. III. The opening hymn was *Immortal Invisible; The Head that once was crowned with thorns* was sung at the Offertory and the final hymn was *For all the Saints*. A wooden table altar was placed temporarily in front of the High Altar and Mass celebrated facing the people. The chief celebrant was Archbishop Cowderoy assisted by seven priests who were Dover vocations. Father Tanner was present in the gallery, but did not concelebrate the Mass.

The final 'celebration' of the day was a Parish Centenary Dinner at St Edmund's School.

The *Dover Express* later reported:

"Seven Dover-born Catholic priests concelebrated Mass at St Paul's Church on Monday as part of the church's centenary festival.

"Afterwards there was a parish dinner at St Edmund's School attended by 210 of the district's Catholic community. Father Terence Tanner, Dover's parish priest, presided..."

These Dover-born priests were the Very Rev Canon J.A. Callanan (Financial Secretary of the Archdiocese of Southwark), Revv Francis Callanan (Parish Priest at Camberwell), Charles Waller (ex-Duke of York's School pupil, Parish Priest at Midhurst), Michael Collins (Parish Priest at New Addington), Anthony Castle (curate at Abbey Wood), William Howell (Parish Priest at Tunbridge Wells) and Richard Dunne (Superior of the Salvatorians at Chester).

On Wednesday evening, 1968 October 2nd at 7.30 p.m. parishioners gathered in St Paul's to participate in a special recording of the texts of the various parts of the Ordinary of the Mass and selected hymns (this was not an actual celebration of the Mass) for subsequent use in broadcasts by the local Hospital Broadcasting Service.

The autumn of the centenary year marked the completion of ten years as Parish Priest

by Father Tanner. In reflective mood he discussed his feelings about the past years in a newsletter issued on November 3rd:

"East Kent parishes have the reputation of being apathetic. It is said that you have to make three times as much effort to get one third of the result that you could get elsewhere. That may be an over-statement, but there is truth in it.

"Dover has particular disadvantages: young people have to leave the town to find suitable employment, and there is a rapid turnover in its population. It makes the establishment of a parish very hard. As soon as you organise anything, the key persons have to leave the town. That sounds very negative, but negative or not, most people would agree with what I have said.

"I do not want to sound fed up with the parish, because I have it in very high esteem. Our congregations are as devotional as any, and the "nucleus" of the parish is very dedicated. A lot has been achieved in the last ten years... You must have noticed that the offertory collections have fallen considerably in comparison to even a year ago... The Diocesan authorities are well aware of the position, and they have told me that I should call on each parishioner, personally, and ask him to increase his financial assistance to the parish. It might work, but it would be so foreign to my character that I could not do it. If people don't want to give, I see very little religion in trying to force them.

"Although it started with high hopes, the church at Aycliffe is now hardly justifying its existence: it costs the parish £30 a week, and is the main source of our financial problems. The Priest's House is far too large for our present needs. When it was bought in 1960, I told the Bishop that it was a viable proposition only on the supposition that Dover would not be divided for at least 10 years. Two years later, the parish was divided.

"...So please do your best, and even though the Parish Priest is losing faith in himself, prove to him that he has no reason to lose faith in his parish".

I quote this account in some detail because it gives a major insight into the problems faced by the Parish at this time and the way that a Parish Priest under great pressures responded. There are clearly some lessons to be learned from history here. Authorities situated 72 miles away in London did not have enough understanding of the local geography and population to perhaps appreciate that a church at Aycliffe was not a viable proposition: you really need to live a long time in a place to understand it and its people. Priests are perhaps moved far too often and this is a disruptive influence on the development of the community. In 1968 the offertory collections were £423-11-11 less than in 1967, and £150 was contributed to the Archbishop's funds. The parish deficit for 1968 was £590-6-9.

Clearly more action was needed, but what could be done? On 1969 May 18th Father Tanner announced that he no longer had a resident housekeeper; that he was going to let the top floor flat of the house and hire someone to cook a midday meal. At this time, the Parish Social Club (which had not yet opened) already had 60 members. The club only cost the parish £500. It was estimated that the voluntary work done in the conversion of the building was worth £12,000.

On 1969 October 29th at 11 a.m. Father Tanner celebrated a Mass in the French language (which he spoke fluently) in St Paul's following a letter from La Frère Directeur de l'École Saint-Genès in Bordeaux. Fifteen Christian Brothers wished to celebrate the fortieth



anniversary of their taking of vows at Castlemount, in St Paul's on that date.

Liturgical development after Vatican II continued apace and Pope Paul VI published the revised *Missale Romanum*, the use of which became obligatory on 1970 February 15th. On February 1st Father Tanner requested the formation of a rota of flower-arrangers and the setting up of a readers list, both of which tasks have been capably in the hands of the laity ever since. A parish meeting on 1970 May 13th attracted an attendance of about 100 parishioners. As an enticement to attend, Father Tanner had written: "It is far better to speak openly, when others can agree or disagree with you, and when possibly you may carry the day, than to speak privately to your neighbours, when no great deal can come of it, and possibly a certain amount of harm". On 1970 September 27th it was pointed out that the Sanctuary Guild had a membership of approximately two dozen and was entirely lay run and trained. Twenty four people usually attended the weekly choir practice and the choir was run by the organist, Barbara Philpott, who was a non-Catholic. A Women's Guild was set up in the parish at the request of a group of women and was entirely lay run. The initial membership was over 20. It was estimated that about 200 people were actively involved in running the parish in one way or another. Father Tanner suggested the introduction of an additional mid-week sung Mass on a regular basis.

Father Felix Watts O.P., who came to Dover to look after his elderly parents at Sutton, left on 1970 October 1st, after they had died. Due to a shortage of priests Dover became a two priest parish. On the advice of the Vicar General the mid-week evening Mass was transferred to Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. It remained there until the second decade of the twenty first century. The changing attitude of people to confession and the lamentable decline which began to set in at this time meant that from 1970 October 17th confessions were heard only from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Saturdays in St Paul's.

On 1970 November 1st it was reported that the parish debt was £13,000. Father Tanner wrote: "I would find it hard to convince you how heavily it weighs upon me nowadays. Twelve years ago, when the debt was four times its present size, it did not bother me at all. Now, when it is only £13,000, it bothers me all the time".

A monthly Holy Hour was started on a Wednesday evening in 1970 September and was very well attended. More than 20 younger people were present in the congregation each month.

Due to the fact that he had been unable to find a suitable hymn book, the evening High Mass on Sundays had always used duplicated hymn sheets, which were stored in a cupboard in the choir loft (= gallery). Finally, on 1971 February 22nd Father Tanner announced that he had bought 200 copies of *The Parish Hymn Book* at a cost of £82, plus a further £8 for their protective coverings. By 1971 January 1st the debt had been reduced to £11,048.

Father McCauley had left the parish and been replaced by Father Stanley Luff, a member of the National Liturgical Commission at that time and an author and geologist. One of Father Tanner's newsletters refers to the situation of life without a housekeeper and is well worth reproducing:

"I am getting more and more steamed up in the kitchen. In comes Fr Luff obviously het up about something. He dashes into an account of monastic deviations on Mount Athos in the 4th century. I counter by throwing in some remarks on the deprivation of the ego by

the monastic persona in the 12th century, but he is not listening because he is proving that the architecture of our church is a pastiche. I ignore that and explain the relationship of the Caledonian orogeny to organic evolution but he has just remembered the welcome the Polese brothers used to give him in the Piazzzi Sforza Cesarini. The meal is cooked and we sit down without noticing (thank goodness) what we are eating for he is devising the rehabilitation of St Radigund's and I am wondering where he could have left his shoes when he took them off the night before!"

A parish meeting held on 1971 February 22nd was attended by 74 parishioners. Work commenced on an update of the Parish Index and the Hospital Broadcasting Service was now using 102, Maison Dieu Road as their headquarters. The Friday evening Mass in St Paul's at 7 p.m. was always a Latin Mass and a Saturday morning Mass at St Edmund's Chapel had been celebrated at 10 a.m. since it was reconsecrated. The local Schola Cantorum (an amateur group) sang William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices* at a High Mass in St Paul's on Wednesday 1971 May 12th at 7.30 p.m.

Shortly after this it became apparent that Archbishop Cowderoy wished to move Father Tanner to the parish of Goudhurst to be responsible for building a new church there. Quite a number of parishioners felt very strongly about this and a delegation went to meet the Archbishop to ask him to change his mind. Father Tanner appealed to the Holy See against the decision of the Archbishop and left the parish while the appeal was being heard, in the summer of 1971. In his place the Archbishop appointed Father Thomas Connelly as administrator. At the same time Father Luff left and was replaced by Father Patrick Fitzsimons. Father Tanner's appeal was not successful and the Archbishop appointed Father Thomas Connelly as Parish Priest some months later.

The Latin Mass on a Friday evening was discontinued on the grounds that the books "had disappeared". However, about two years later the 10 a.m. Saturday Mass at St Edmund's Chapel became the weekly Latin Mass. It continued as such for many years. The 11 a.m. Mass on a Sunday in St Paul's reverted to being the High Mass. A Legion of Mary praesidium (which had been active in the parish until 1963) was reconstituted in 1973 under the same title - the Praesidium of Our Lady of Pity. This survived, with some difficulty, until 1980.

Father Fitzsimons left after only one year in the parish and was replaced by Father Michael Boland, a late vocation. He remained until 1975, when he was replaced by Father Paul Hough. Some months after Father Hough arrived, and at Christmas time, the Sacristy adjoining the Church was set on fire one evening. A teenager with a grudge against the church used candles to start the fire. The smoke was spotted by a person walking up Connaught Hill, who telephoned the Fire Brigade. The Sacristy was gutted and all the vestments, books and processional cross were destroyed. It was possible to see the starlit sky through the Sacristy roof. The Church itself had a very near miss, being saved only by the solid oak door near the Sacristy which Father Tanner installed during the earlier restoration.

While rebuilding work was in progress (R.J. Barwick & Sons won the contract) the space behind the High Altar at St Paul's was used as a temporary Sacristy. Opportunity was taken during the rebuilding to improve the premises by providing toilet and kitchen facilities on the ground floor and two Parish Rooms on the upper floor, which were mainly used for meetings by various organisations in the parish. The total cost of this work was around £30,000, paid for mostly by insurance.

On 1972 May 31st, the feast of the Visitation of Our Lady, Father Connelly celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood and a special evening Mass was celebrated and a collection made by the parish, as is traditional on these occasions. The Mass was concelebrated by Fathers Joseph, John, Michael and Thomas Connelly and the homily preached by the Rt Rev Mgr W. Westlake. The Mass of the feast was celebrated and the Offertory hymn was *O purest of creatures! sweet Mother, sweet Maid*.

As an example of the level of Mass attendance at that time, there was a Saturday morning Mass in St Edmund's Chapel, concelebrated by the three Connelly brothers, at which the Chapel congregation was so large that people were literally standing against the front of the altar with no room to move!

On 1972 October 11th, Father Thomas Connelly and Mr John Huntley (Social Club Secretary at that time) drew up a 'Gentleman's Agreement' (including an explicit note saying that the agreement was NOT to be a legal document and not binding on any succeeding Parish Priest) to this effect: "The Club premises, including outhouses, car parks, boundary walls and fences, shall remain the property of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark".

Father Cridland arrived in the parish in 1976, initially to recover from poor health and then to serve the parish. A musician, he assumed responsibility for the choir during his stay here. Mrs Veronica Mitchinson took over as organist soon after the arrival of Father Connelly.

In the mid-1970s there was considerable debate about the future of St Mary's Convent. Sister Bridie Costello, the Superior appointed on 1975 September 22nd faced the task of seeing if the building could be renovated to comply with new fire legislation. The Provincial Council decided to close the Convent and Dover was searched for suitable locations, at length and to no avail. Consequently, the Provincial Council decided to undertake extensive alterations to the building and this work was completed early in 1981. Ceilings were lowered, extra floors put in; all the residents had single rooms; a new therapy unit was opened and the chapel was redesigned.

Father Connelly was able to sell 109, Maison Dieu Road and purchase 103, Maison Dieu Road (adjoining and south of the church) as a new presbytery when it came on the market. This was a much more satisfactory arrangement.

The interior of St Paul's Church was redecorated at about this time. Weekday Masses were celebrated in St Mary's Convent Chapel while this work took place. It was during this work that the Altar Rails were removed from the church. Later, the Baptistry was converted into a confessional room, the confessionals at the east end of the church were left unused and the font sited in the north aisle.

Due to a decline in the number of vocations to the Priesthood (which became very serious during the 1970s and still continues today) the Convent of the Annonciade at St Margarets Bay closed. They returned to their house near Orly Airport, Paris, in 1976 November. Likewise, the Augustinian Sisters at Kearsney Manor left in 1981 (Father Gerard Duson retired as well after more than 25 years as Chaplain), returning to their mother house in France, but Father Connelly was able to arrange for a new order to take over the property. The Sisters of the Christian Retreat moved in and the nursing home continued in existence. Father Geoffrey Dove became their resident chaplain, and occasionally helped out in St Paul's Parish.

During 1976 April the first ACROSS trust pilgrimage from Dover to Lourdes took 22 handicapped people. In 1978 there was an ACROSS holiday to Innsbruck. Further pilgrimages to Lourdes were made in 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984 and 1985 and a total of 182 pilgrims were taken. Father Thomas Connelly was the driving force behind the organisation of these pilgrimages and used to accompany them personally. His immediate successor followed this tradition.

Aycliffe Church continued to prove a financial drain on the parish and late in the 1970s Archbishop Bowen agreed that it should be closed and put on the market. The Altar, Font and Candlesticks were transferred to St Paul's Church. The pews were transferred to the church at St Margarets Bay.

Former Parish Priest, Fr. Michael Fahey died in 1978 (he was born in 1904) in the parish of St John the Evangelist, Heron's Ghyll, Buxted, East Sussex and is buried in their churchyard. On one prior occasion Father Connelly brought Father Fahey back to this parish and concelebrated Mass with him.

Father Hough left in 1980 and Father Cridland in 1981, being replaced by Father John Wingfield, a member of the Southwark Diocesan Liturgical Commission and a man with a great interest in Scouting. He founded Scout troops within the parish. Dover was once again a two priest parish.

A Holy Hour in preparation for the Parish Visitation was held in St Paul's Church on 1980 September 21st from 8 p.m. until Benediction at 9 p.m., to ask God's blessing on the Priests and people of the Parish. From Friday, 1980 September 26th until Monday September 29th Bishop Jukes undertook the visitation. He celebrated the 10 a.m. Mass at St Edmund's Chapel on the Saturday morning.

At Christmas 1980, the congregation at the Midnight Mass in St Paul's Church was the "largest ever seen" and 100 extra seats had to be put out, all of which were taken by 11.25 p.m.

On Saturday, 1981 May 9th, 150 people from Knokke-Heist in Belgium visited Dover. They accompanied the music at the 7 p.m. evening Mass in St Paul's (the Missa de Angelis, Mass No. VIII was sung).

On Sunday, 1981 October 18th Sister Jennifer Sanders F.M.D.M. (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood) made her Final Profession of Vows in St Paul's Church and was grateful for being invited to do this in the Parish by Father Connelly.

Father Wingfield commenced a series of talks for non-Catholics on Friday, 1982 February 5th at 7.45 p.m.

Bishop Jukes administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 1982 February 12th. He returned on March 12th to celebrate a Lenten Station Mass.

A new chapel at the Duke of York's Royal Military School was blessed by Bishop Walmsley, the Bishop to the Forces, during 1982 October, at which time he also confirmed two of the boys. Father Connelly wrote in a newsletter on 1982 October 17th: "We are still one of the very few churches left open all day...we have been disturbed recently by a few unfortunate incidents in the church..." It was announced that in future confessions would be

heard on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Saturday afternoon confessions were cancelled. At this time Sunday Mass was celebrated in St Paul's on Saturday at 7 p.m. and on Sunday at 8, 10 and 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Weekday Mass in St Paul's was on both Tuesday and Friday at 7 p.m., at St Edmund's Chapel on Saturday at 10 a.m.; in St Mary's Convent on Wednesday at 7.30 a.m. and in St Ursula's Convent on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7.30 a.m. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in St Edmund's Chapel and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and a Thursday evening prayer group were active in the Parish. Father Connelly introduced the Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal after the Friday evening 7 p.m. Mass during his time in Dover.

Father Connelly was appointed to a new parish in early 1983 and was replaced by Father David Maher. Father Maher was born on 1936 January 8th in Ballinlough, Co. Cork, Ireland. He was educated at Ballinlough National School and then at a Technical Institute. Upon leaving school he undertook a two year apprenticeship as a cabinet maker, attending night school to continue his studies. Feeling the call of a religious vocation, he attended the Divine Word Missionaries College for late vocations before going in 1962 to the Apostolic School, Mungret College in Limerick. Later that year he transferred to All Hallows College, Dublin. He was ordained to the priesthood on 1966 June 19th. His first appointment was to St Gregory's, Earlsfield, London, where he remained until 1970. He was then appointed to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs as Assistant Priest, then in 1975 August to St Peter's, Woolwich, where he had responsibility for St Joseph's Church, Shooters Hill (then part of Woolwich Parish). In 1978 May he returned to Broadstairs to assist Canon O'Friel and was there until his appointment as Parish Priest of Dover. On 1983 January 23rd he published the first of his regular weekly newsletters, which he decided would replace the previous practice of reading notices aloud during the Sunday Mass. This newly introduced procedure was more in keeping with the liturgical norms now in force. The Misalettes introduced for use at Sunday Mass during the 1970s were discontinued and replaced by a more substantial *Parish Mass Book*.

Father Connelly's induction as Parish Priest of Chislehurst took place on 1983 February 14th at 8 p.m. Parishioners from St Paul's Parish travelled by coach to the event, and Father Connelly telephoned Father Maher the next day to express his gratitude for the marvellous support from Dover.

Bishop Jukes formally installed Father Maher as Parish Priest at an Induction Mass on 1983 February 15th at 7.30 p.m. Father Maher felt that the Choir were magnificent and a video recording of the Mass was made for his family in Ireland.

On Friday, 1983 February 25th Father Connelly returned to the Parish to celebrate the 7 p.m. evening Mass, which was concelebrated. Afterwards he was presented with a set of vestments by the Altar Servers Guild. There was then a Parish social function (American Supper) at St Edmund's School during which he was presented with a Music Centre (which he had chosen) and a cheque. The Social Club presented him with an inscribed clock and gifts were also presented by the Women's Guild, Cubs, Prayer Group and the Dover ACROSS supporters club.

The first issue of the new *St Paul's Monthly Parish Magazine* appeared on 1983 March 6th under the editorship of Mr John J. Huntley.

On 1983 March 13th the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass became a Folk Mass, with a very capable Folk Choir being formed. The 11 a.m. Mass continued to be the traditional Solemn

Mass at which the Parish Choir led the singing. The practice of having Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 3 p.m. on Sundays during Lent continued.

A parish meeting was held on 1983 March 7th at 8 p.m. in the Parish Social Club. Various matters were discussed. Father Connelly had kept the parish financially stable on an income of around £25,000 per annum. The debt was £13,000 when Father Connelly left and substantial expenditure was again needed for renewals to the Church, Presbytery and Schools. Roof repairs to the Church cost £704.95 in 1983.

Mrs Kathleen Huntley made new Tabernacle Veils and Lectern (Ambo) Frontals.

Father Maher wrote: "The casual chatter inside the Church must greatly frustrate parishioners who wish to remain in prayer after Mass. But it is above all disrespectful to the Blessed Sacrament. Maybe we could all examine our attitudes".

Mass counts taken over four Sundays in 1983 April showed attendance figures between 579 and 661 people, resulting in an average over the four weeks of 625. In 1983 August Father Patrick Best took over the chaplaincy to both the Borstal (by then known as the Youth Custody Centre) and the Duke of York's Royal Military School. The loss of these chaplaincies resulted in a drop in the annual income of £3,500 at a time when more urgent repairs were needed: rain was dripping on to the High Altar, through the fanlight in the roof and also into the Choir Loft.

During 1983 May there was Rosary and Benediction every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Father Maher reminded people that "the family that prays together, stays together".

The ACROSS pilgrimage to Lourdes took place in 1983 in the week after Pentecost, (May 27 - June 5) starting with Rosary and Benediction on Thursday evening in St Paul's at 7 p.m. A special Dover Banner made by Mrs Kathleen Huntley was blessed and two Jumbulances travelled via the Eastern Docks.

The Rosary was recited daily in St Paul's at 11.30 a.m. for the intention of world peace. The Perpetual Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal continued to be recited every Friday after the 7 p.m. evening Mass: a practice introduced to the Parish, as we have seen, by Father Thomas Connelly.

On 1983 June 12th at 3 p.m. the first Deanery Corpus Christi procession was held in the grounds of Kearsney Manor, by the kind permission of Sister Marcelle. This was to become an annual event in those years.

Bishop Howard Tripp stayed overnight at the Presbytery on 1983 June 22nd while on visitation to Dover Youth Custody Centre and Canterbury Prison.

On Monday, 1983 June 27th, following Mass at 7.30 p.m., Bishop Jukes unveiled a plaque in memory of Father Tanner on the interior wall of the Chapel at St Edmund's School (the cost of the plaque was £157).

A coach of parishioners went to the Silver Jubilee Mass of Archbishop Bowen at Aylesford Priory on 1983 July 9th.

Alterations were carried out to a Confessional and the Church porch by Mr Stan Newman.

Henry Campbell F.R.S.A., a Florentine Painter from Birchington and a friend of the Parish Priest offered to paint a fresco of the Last Supper on the wall at the back of the Sanctuary in St Paul's Church, free of charge. Work began on this in 1983 July and was completed in the October. The curtain behind the High Altar was removed at this time. Pictures of the fresco subsequently appeared in *The Times* and *The Catholic Herald* and Father Maher was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday Programme* and on the TVS news magazine *Coast to Coast*.

On 1983 October 1st confessions at 6.30 p.m. on a Saturday were introduced and the next day the 10 a.m. Mass was moved to 9.30 a.m. to allow more time between Masses which would ensure a more orderly liturgical preparation.

The Sisters of Charity celebrated their centenary in the parish at a special Mass on 1983 July 23rd at noon at which Archbishop Bowen concelebrated with former Dover Priests. Sister Joan Dwyer, the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity attended. Afterwards, she wrote a thank you letter to the Parish which was published in the weekly Newsletter. A floral decoration in the packed church depicted the Community Crest and in the evening a centenary concert and dance were held at St Edmund's School. One resident at St Mary's Home at this time had been baptised by Father James Laws. The noon Mass started with a trumpet fanfare; the opening hymn was *Our God Reigns* and after Holy Communion the choir sang the Beatitudes. Representatives of other churches were present. The Archbishop blessed the renovated Convent/Home at 3 p.m. and unveiled a commemorative plaque outside the chapel. Later there was a concert and dance at St Edmund's School. It was also the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Company of the Daughters of Charity in 1633. The co-founders were St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac, both of whom subsequently died within minutes of each other.

Pope Saint John Paul II declared 1983 to be the Holy Year of the Redemption, running from 1983 March 25th until Easter Sunday 1984. A Jubilee Indulgence could be gained. A coach took 45 parishioners on pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine at Aylesford Priory on August 24th where a special Mass was celebrated and fifteen decades of the Rosary recited on the Rosary Way. Prayers for the Holy Father's intentions were said in the Jubilee Chapel.

On Saturday, 1983 September 10th, a group of parishioners travelled by coach to a Fayre at the home of Bishop Jukes at West Malling, where he invited them to see over his home. Mr Dennis Tait ran a stall at the Fayre to raise funds for the ACROSS trust.

Religious instruction classes for all Catholic children attending non-Catholic primary schools were held on Saturday mornings from 10 - 11 a.m. in term time, in addition to a special First Holy Communion class.

In 1983 there were 240 children attending St Richard's School. Many of them came from outlying districts and did not belong to St Paul's Parish.

Roof repairs on St Paul's Church were completed at a cost of £704.95.

Mass attendance had risen to 651 by the October of that year.

Bishop Jukes celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the centenary of St Mary's Home on Tuesday, 1983 October 11th.

On 1983 November 14th 35 parishioners went on pilgrimage to the shrine of St Laurence O'Toole at Eu in France (80 miles inland from Boulogne). Father Thomas Connelly and Father Geoffrey Dove concelebrated the Mass there.

Father Wingfield celebrated the Harvest Thanksgiving Mass at St Richard's School, the Harvest gifts later being distributed throughout the parishes. The School Hall was crowded with parents.

The Superior General of the Ursuline Order, Sister Elena, visited St Ursula's Convent in 1983 December.

Father Patrick Fitzsimons died at Tooting Hospital and the Parish arranged a coach for parishioners to travel to his Requiem Mass at St Boniface's, Tooting on Monday, 1984 February 6th. The principal celebrant was Archbishop Bowen, together with the three area Bishops and over 200 Priests. Canon Bill O'Riordan spoke of his great friend and the work he achieved throughout the Diocese. Bishop Henderson, accompanied by 27 Priests, travelled to Ireland for the burial.

Mr Alf Huntley completed 50 years of Altar Service at St Paul's during 1984. Archbishop Bowen was the Principal Celebrant at a Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday, February 10th. Mgr Joseph Callanan (a Dovorian), Vicar General of the Diocese, travelled with the Archbishop to the Mass and Father Patrick Taggart from St Gertrude's in South Croydon who claimed to have known Alf for 46 years was also present, together with Canon O'Riordan from Tooting Bec (formerly Parish Priest of Buckland) and Father Alban McCoy O.F.M. Conv. from the Franciscan Study Centre at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Fr McCoy had associations with St Paul's from the time when Father Connelly was Parish Priest, having conducted a Parish Mission, and preached at the Mass about Alf's work for the Parish. The Mass was sung in Latin and concluded with the *Salve Regina*. Afterwards there was an American Supper at St Edmund's School, with the food being prepared by Sister Bridie and Sister Anne. Archbishop Bowen presented Alf and his wife Kathleen with tickets for a trip to Rome, commenting: "I understand Alf has always wanted to go to Rome to see if the liturgy was carried out correctly at the Vatican". Alf presented Father Maher with a set of embroidered blue vestments for use on Feasts of Our Lady.

On 1984 March 18th Sister Anne Healy of the Ursulines celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Profession. She had been in Dover from 1936-39; 1958-64; 1967-78 and most recently from 1983. She was responsible for the building of St Richard's School (and the opening of a nursing home while in Swansea) and had in the past been "whizzing around Dover in her car (veil flying!), been skiing in Connaught Park..."

On 1984 March 24th (the transferred Solemnity of the Annunciation) the Holy Father, Pope Saint John Paul II and all the Bishops of the world carried out the act of entrustment of the world (especially Russia) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as had been requested by Our Lady of Fatima all those years ago, in order to bring about the conversion of Russia. The Archbishop carried it out in St George's Cathedral and the Area Bishops in the parishes that they were visiting at the time. St Paul's Parish united with the Holy Father and the Bishops on the Third Sunday in Lent by carrying out the act of entrusting in special Bidding Prayers at the Masses. An initiative of the Holy Father, he afterwards contacted Sister Lucia (the last



remaining living of the three seers of Fatima) to make sure that he had carried this out correctly. She confirmed that Heaven had accepted the carrying out of the entrustment.

During 1984 Lent Father Wingfield gave a series of talks on the Catholic Faith. Father John Brookes and his Redemptorist Mission Team gave a Lenten Retreat at St Edmund's School.

Mass attendance at St Paul's was now 570 and the future Father Roy Pierce was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil in 1984. In May of that year the Parish Priest made an appeal for interest-free loans from parishioners for a two year period to clear the £12,000 bank debt and avoid the £500 per year interest payment. Repayment of the loans was guaranteed by the Diocese. One third of the money was raised within a two week period and the debt was finally cleared in 1984 December.

There was a Parish ACROSS Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1984 May, when Father Maher was accompanied by 22 parishioners.

On Tuesday, 1984 May 1st the Paschal Candle and two window candles and holders were stolen from St Paul's Church during the daytime.

On Friday, 1984 July 13th, Father Wingfield, accompanied by 28 Cubs and 14 Scouts, departed from the Parish for the annual summer camp.

Sister Bridie Costello and Sister Margaret Marden were moved from St Mary's Home in the early autumn of that year. Sister Margaret was moved to Provincial House of the Order at Mill Hill, London to become Provincial Secretary. Sister Bridie was moved to become Superior of the Order in Birmingham. She had been previously in Dover from 1956 March 2nd - 1964 January 14th and had returned to St Mary's Convent on 1975 September 22nd, being responsible for the rebuilding of the Home in 1981 and the 1983 July 23rd centenary celebrations. She wrote a letter to the Parish expressing her thanks for the time in Dover. Sister Angela Hanevy from Liverpool was the new Superior in Dover, taking office on 1984 September 17th.

Planning approval was granted during 1984 for the construction of a block of flats on the previous site of the old presbytery at 102, Maison Dieu Road. This site had been sold by Father Connelly. The terms of the sale gave the Parish a right of way to the Social Club, access for a delivery lorry and stated that the Parish would be responsible for half the cost of maintaining the driveway.

Aycliffe Church was successfully rented to a secular organisation (being used by them as a gymnasium) for an annual rent of £5,000. The parish had to pay £1,550 compensation to Dover District Council due to the change of use from a church! The parish contribution to the Diocesan Development Fund was assessed at £6,000 for 1985. Father Maher successfully appealed against payment in 1984.

The Parish sent a coach full of parishioners to the Forty Martyrs celebration at Aylesford Priory on 1984 October 28th.

Mass counts taken in St Paul's Church during 1984 October revealed attendances of 568 on one occasion and 615 on another (in the latter total, there were 126 children included in that number).

In 1984 November, Father Maher wrote about Altar Servers: "The position for the 11 a.m. Mass on each Sunday is critical. We are never sure who is going to attend. On the Feast of All Saints we had only two servers for the evening Mass, which meant less solemnity..."

Sister Teresa of the Daughters of Charity had been carrying out the role of Parish Sister for the previous five years. In the autumn of 1984 she was moved to Deptford, and Sister Finbarr was moved to Dover and appointed as the new Parish Sister. Her home was in Cork in Ireland. Sister Bridie returned to Dover on Friday, 1984 November 16th for the presentation of a cheque towards the cost of her work in Birmingham.

The statue of St Joseph in St Paul's Church was renovated by the sculptor Bob Forsyth in 1985 January.

During 1985 February, in response to an invitation, only half of the parents of Catholic boys at Dover Boys Grammar School requested religious instruction for their children.

On 1985 February 17th Brother Bill Nash, S.J., visited Dover. He had been at St Paul's from 1934-1938 and was based in 1985 at the Farm Street Jesuit Church in London.

A new Parish Youth Group started to meet in the Parish Room after the Sunday evening Mass and there was a St Patrick's night Ceili at St Edmund's School on Saturday, 1985 March 16th and again, in the Social Club on Sunday, March 17th.

The Sisters of Charity returned to teaching in St Edmund's School in 1985 September when Sister Pauline Farrelly became head of Religious Education there. She had previously been teaching at St Thomas More High School in Wigan.

Father Wingfield did *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio Kent and the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) started in the Parish on 1985 April 19th covering the parishes of both Dover and Buckland. Mrs Cathy Huntley was elected as the President and Mrs Moya Munro as the Secretary. There was also a SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) meeting in Dover at this time.

Father Wingfield was moved from the Parish at the end of 1985 May and Father Lyndon Brown arrived on 1985 June 8th. He had been ordained in St George's Cathedral by Bishop Jukes on Friday, 1985 May 3rd, Dover being his first appointment.

Mass attendance figures at this time were averaging 574 persons.

Father Wingfield returned for a presentation at St Richard's School on Friday, 1985 June 14th at 9.15 a.m. He celebrated the Mass, which was packed. Father Maher thanked him for his work in the Parish, while Father Wingfield presented a large icon of the Blessed Virgin to the School as his 'thank you gift' and paid tribute to Sister Dympna, the Head Teacher.

In 1985 June there was a Parish ACROSS Pilgrimage to Lourdes, which returned on Sunday, June 30th.

On Sunday, 1985 June 21st a coach load of parishioners went to Aylesford Priory for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Choirs from South East Kent (including from

St Paul's) sang the Pontifical Mass at which the principal celebrant was Bishop Howard Tripp.

At the August Bank Holiday an annual fun day was held for both the parishes of Dover and Buckland at Chitty's Playing Field at Kearsney. This became a regular event for quite a few years. Meanwhile, Father Lyndon Brown had organised a summer film festival for young people, at which 42 attended.

The Social Club paid for converting the old St Paul's School Playground behind the Church into a car park. Voluntary work was carried out as well on the old School buildings (completed by 1985 August 25th) and by 1985 September 15th the Parish Rooms were being redecorated.

A special Mass was concelebrated at Kearsney Manor by Bishop Jukes, Father Dove and Father Maher to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Canon Charles de Laubenque, former Parish Priest of Canterbury (1940-1975), who was resident there. He subsequently died at Kearsney on 1985 October 16th and the Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Thomas' Church, Canterbury.

St Paul's Church was packed on Sunday, 1985 October 27th at 6.30 p.m. for an ecumenical service at which Bishop Tripp preached. The Youth Group, Choir, Folk Group and UCM were present, together with an attendance of over 400 people. To accommodate this, the Sunday evening Mass was moved to 5 p.m. that week.

Father Lyndon Brown and the Youth Group attended an all-night vigil at Allington Castle (Mass was celebrated at 3.30 a.m.) in 1985 October.

Father Tanner died on 1982 December 17th. After leaving Dover he founded the Roma Housing Association as a residential centre for the care of drug addicts and spent the next six years of his life as Director. When his health started to fail, he lived in Hertfordshire, undertaking some tutoring. During his lifetime he had been a regular contributor to *The Tablet* for many years. A memorial tablet of Welsh slate, designed and cut by John Skelton, pupil of Eric Gill, the world-famous sculptor, can be seen on the south wall of St Edmund's Chapel. It was donated in his memory by the late Laurie Tanner, his brother, and blessed by Father David Maher. At a special Mass of Thanksgiving, Father Maher spoke about the work of Father Tanner. Father Tanner's ashes are interred at St Edmund's Chapel, under a flagstone just to the north of the tabernacle. The building is a lasting memorial to his work in Dover.

At Christmas 1985 the Poplar Tree next to the church was decorated for the first time with coloured lights, which were also installed around the church building. On a dark late December night these were a magnificent and beautiful sight. There were large numbers of people at Confession at Christmas, 1985. The Parish Carol Service on the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday of Advent was "well attended and prayerful". At the 6.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, 300 children were present. The Church was filled for the Solemn Midnight Mass and the Altar Servers wore their new cassocks for the first time.

The Rt Rev Mgr Joseph Callanan, Vicar General of the Diocese and a Dovorian, died on 1986 January 20th.

On 1986 January 22nd Sister Margaret Clare of the Ursuline Order left Dover for

Swansea. She first came to the Parish on 1948 August 23rd as a teacher at Claremont, Salisbury Road. She taught there until 1960, when it closed and subsequently taught at St Ursula's and then St Richard's Schools. She also instructed children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in Buckland Parish.

It had become evident that the organ in St Paul's Church was in need of major repair, and a substantial sum of money would need to be raised. The contract for the work was signed on 1986 March 23rd and a 10% deposit of £1,160 paid. Work began on July 21st and it was found that the whole structure had been in danger of imminent collapse. The work finally cost £12,000 and the organ was brought into use in time for the 1986 Christmas liturgy. During the period when the organ was under reconstruction a temporary organ provided by Julia Hogan was situated by the side door of the Church. During 1986 September it was noted that the Choir had 25 members. At Christmas 1986 Dover Harbour Board provided staff and resources to help decorate the tree next to the church. Father Maher became the Catholic Chaplain to the port.

Sunday, 1986 May 11th saw the Parish May Procession and crowning of the statue of Our Lady, organised by the UCM. The procession started in the car park at 3.25 p.m. and processed into the Church, concluding with Benediction.

## 8: Fire, Devastation and Restoration

When 1987 opened it seemed that it would be very similar to the past few years in St Paul's Parish. Events were, however, to prove that very different.

Wednesday, 1987 February 25th saw volunteer members of the Parish redecorating parts of the inside of the Church and on Thursday March 12th Adrian Boynton gave an organ recital at St Paul's as a thank you to the supporters of the Organ Restoration Fund.

During 1987 March the Townsend-Thoresen ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* unfortunately fell on to her side while turning in Zeebrugge Harbour with the bow doors open. Many crew and passengers lost their lives. It was, perhaps, the most devastating event to affect Dover for many years. The first gathering of the town and port community to pray for the repose of the souls of the dead was at a special concelebrated Requiem Mass in St Paul's Church a few days afterwards. The principal celebrant was Bishop John Jukes O.F.M. Conv., Auxiliary in Southwark with special responsibility for Kent. All the deanery priests concelebrated with him except for the Parish Priest of Buckland, Father Doetsch, who was actually ministering in Zeebrugge at that time. The entrance hymn was *Abide with me; The day Thou gavest Lord is ended* was sung at the Offertory when a special collection for the Disaster Fund was taken (£1,172 was collected from a packed church of 500-600 people); the final hymn was *Eternal Father, strong to save* and the plainchant *Missa pro Defunctis* was sung. Bishop Jukes preached the homily and Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Managing Director of Dover Harbour Board read the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah. The effect of the Zeebrugge disaster could be 'felt' in the town for many weeks and there is still an annual commemoration of the event today. Vatican Radio broadcast a telephone interview with Father Maher about the disaster, immediately after the Pope's Angelus Address.

On Thursday, 1987 May 14th at 7 p.m. Bishop Jukes and the Priests of the Deanery concelebrated Mass at St Edmund's School to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the opening of the school. The school choir sang at the Mass and a few days later, on Tuesday, May 19th at 11 a.m. Archbishop Bowen celebrated Mass for the staff and pupils of the school and spent the remainder of the day with the pupils.

The annual UCM pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory took place in late 1987 May, during the school half-term period.

Pentecost 1987 marked the start of the Marian Year and the Parish Folk Choir organised a special Pentecost Vigil in the church, while Pope Saint John Paul II celebrated a Pentecost Vigil in St Peter's Square in Rome for the first time. The present Roman Missal includes the Pentecost Vigil and Mass as an option for use in all parishes.

Bishop Jukes led the annual Deanery Corpus Christi procession at Kearsney Manor on the afternoon of Sunday, 1987 June 28th.

On 1987 June 6th, Offertory, Appeal, CTS and Votive Light money was stolen when a burglar cut one of the window locks and gained access to the Presbytery.

In 1987 June a Mass was celebrated to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Father Pat Best.

On 1987 July 4th the annual Parish Strawberry Garden Party was held in the Presbytery garden. Also in the summer of that year CAFOD envelopes were introduced at the back of the Church by the Justice and Peace Group and £65 was donated in the first week.

On Sunday, 1987 August 30th, the Parish Clergy supplied for the Masses at Kearsney Manor Convent to cover for the holiday of the then Chaplain, Father Geoffrey Dove.

On 1987 October 11th a coach load of parishioners travelled to Aylesford Priory for 'A Day with Mary'.

Friday, 1987 October 23rd started out as a cloudy day. Just around 1.40 p.m. could be seen the very unusual phenomenon of a waterspout a mile or so off the Eastern Arm of the Harbour. This remained a very easily visible feature and travelled slowly south-westwards down the Dover Strait in the next half hour or so. Anyone watching this who momentarily turned around, would have noticed a massive column of smoke rising from the town and drifting south-westwards across the Dour Valley. Disaster had struck Dover again; and this time in a very personal way indeed for the Catholic Community. The word spread quickly that St Paul's Church was on fire and the entire roof was ablaze from end to end: at one stage it was thought that the bell tower would fall in and the building become a total ruin. Firemen came from all over Kent to fight the blaze and both Maison Dieu Road and Pencester Road were closed to traffic. Water from the River Dour was pumped by the firemen to the site of the fire. Most Catholics in the town that afternoon and those who had been associated with St Paul's all their lives experienced indescribable emotions and feelings that they never wanted to have to face again. Parishioners left their jobs and homes and went to the site to see how they could help.

Father David Maher was out of the parish visiting the Parish Priest of Aylesham, Father John O'Callagan, who was ill and in Bon Secour Home, Ramsgate. He mounted the stairs to room 16 and Sister appeared at the top. Let Father David Maher relate the following events in his own words:

"..."Father, I have bad news for you... (she paused long enough for me to wonder what had happened to Fr John) ... your church is on fire".

"I could not, would not, believe it. I telephoned Father Lyndon. "The roof is blazing", he said; "come back". I found myself driving behind a long procession of traffic - leading the way a breakdown truck towing a bus. I broke free at the Jubilee Way roundabout and as I watched the pall of smoke soar high above the town I knew something was very, very wrong.

"Roads were sealed off but, somehow, I found myself parked in Taswell Street. Then I was one of the crowd... watching, feeling nothing. Had the Lord in recent years been preparing me to accept any kind of shock? I turned my gaze from the blazing roof and saw the REAL tragedy - the tear-stained faces of parishioners young and old. Nobody was speaking much. The scene emphasized once again for me that for my parishioners St Paul's was more than a building, more than their Church. It was their home, the fount of their memories, both joyful and sad - Christenings, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings... Funerals. The uniqueness of St Paul's was all too evident and too moving. I am a 'quite crier' myself and ached for the privacy of my room, but the Fire Chief had declared the presbytery 'out of bounds'.

"I ambled along to St Mary's and managed to gain control of my emotions on the way.

What happens next? I telephoned the Archbishop and I know he was deeply shocked. Next I spoke to Canon Rotheron at the Diocesan Finance Office. He has had plenty of experience in matters of fire and damage, and he advised immediate contact with a local builder to render the building safe. As I walked back to the Church there was still much to be observed by the large group of onlookers. I spotted Francis Watts and he made quick contact with Barwick's whose workers were soon on the scene. I then got permission to enter the Church and, accompanied by the Fire Brigade Chief was able to remove the Blessed Sacrament. There must have been 3 or 4 inches of water and debris (it came over my shoes). Firemen were still shooting water at the smouldering timbers. The altar was covered in charred segments from the Sanctuary roof and broken slates. Part of the veil hung limply from the tabernacle. I opened the door and inside all was as it had been a few hours before. As I carried the Ciborium from the Church, the fire fighters ceased their operations and stood reverently.

"Barwick's men were still sealing windows and erecting safety barriers at 10.30 p.m. The Fireman's task was not yet over but they took time off to 'brew up' and enjoy a cup of tea sitting on the wall. The firemen were back at 3 a.m. - "Just checking".

"...We must faithfully restore our Church to its former beauty, strive to retain its unique atmosphere and feeling of 'homeliness'. But we must also grasp the opportunity to improve wherever possible so that future generations will bless us for our vision.

"...The beautiful ceiling of the Sanctuary and the side wall paintings are irreplaceable".

"...1987 has not been a good year for Dover but 1988 holds great promise as we look forward to the 120th anniversary of St Paul's when we can say again 'I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy House'.

"Clergy and ministers of every Christian denomination in the area offered the hospitality of their churches and halls so that our parish worship could continue uninterrupted. The love and prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ is a source of great consolation and brings us all into even closer fellowship.

"Words cannot adequately express our admiration and gratitude for the magnificent men of the Fire Brigade. Their bravery and professionalism filled us with pride. We thank them for saving our church from total destruction".

The fire was a deliberate act of arson. One David Fitzgerald, aged 24, 'of no fixed address', but originally from Dublin, arrived in the town around 1 p.m., asked a postman for directions to the Catholic Church, set fire to the Church and immediately left for Canterbury, where he robbed St Thomas' Catholic Church. He was apprehended by the police a few days later. A principal witness in his apprehension was Peter Erridge, a local member of the Parish Social Club who was a postman at that time and actually directed the culprit to St Paul's. He was, therefore, able to identify him in court. The case was brought to court and on Friday, 1988 May 27th he was handed four life sentences for setting fire to four churches, and two years imprisonment for the robbery at Canterbury; all the sentences to run concurrently. He apparently had a 'grudge' against the Catholic Church. The only fire he pleaded guilty to starting was that at St Paul's. He had started the fire in the disused confessional at the east end of the church where some empty paint tins and dust covers were temporarily stored. It spread rapidly upwards to the roof, along the roof to the west end and completely destroyed the organ. So intense was the heat that even the organ pipes completely melted. The brilliant

work of the firemen, who put their own lives at risk to save the Church, ensured that the walls, bell tower and stained glass windows were preserved intact. The rose window at the west end suffered some damage (and needed to be replaced due to the subsequent brittle state of the glass) and one of the rose windows at the east end was destroyed. The 'St Paul' window at the east end also needed to be rebuilt. The intense heat stripped the paint from the upper part of the walls exposing to view the fleur-de-lis and pattern which was part of the decoration scheme many years earlier. Of David Fitzgerald, Father David Maher wrote: "We are proud and grateful that the vigilance of our parishioners helped apprehend the culprit. Apart from wanton destruction, this young man caused anguish and heartbreak to many people. Let us pray that God will enter his heart and bring him peace. Pray also for his family".

The 7 p.m. evening Mass that Friday was transferred to Our Lady of Dover on the Buckland Estate and celebrated by Father Lyndon Brown. The Rev Allan Simper and the parishioners of St Mary's Church of England Church most generously made their church available for the celebration of Mass on the following two Sundays. This was at the expense of delaying their own services to a later time at the inconvenience of their own parishioners, and they would have done it for longer had this been necessary. The Catholic Community of Dover was tremendously in debt to them for this truly ecumenical gesture. These were the first Masses in St Mary's since the Reformation, and in such unique circumstances. Who will ever forget Father Maher elevating the Sacred Host at the consecration at the High Altar, illuminated by a shaft of bright sunlight? Such is the majestic setting of the Mass.

Messages were received from all around the world - we can only quote a few here:

"I am still feeling quite stunned by the news... you and your people are in my thoughts and prayers. You can rely on any support from me that you need". +MICHAEL (Archbishop of Southwark)

"From my sister and myself a message of deepest sympathy... our prayers and thoughts are with you" Rev Dr Edward Hughes, Sandwich (former Vicar of St Mary's Church of England Parish)

"News of the disaster has caused us much distress... our sympathy is with you and all at St Paul's" Councillor Brian Young, Mayor of Dover.

"Having just come through a similar experience accept our prayers and sympathy and this little offering towards restoration (£150)" Mother Concordia & Community, Minster Abbey.

"For our family, as for so many others... the Church has been the centre-point of all our family celebrations - Reception into the Church, Sacraments, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, my Final Profession." Sister Jennifer, F.M.D.M., Victoria, Australia.

"Many prayers have been said for you all here... Sister Eileen was very distressed at the news." Sister Aloysea, U.J., Swansea.

"Dear St Paul's...how awful...the parishioners will rally round - in a few months the Church will be even more beautiful." Sister Bridie, D.C., Birmingham.

A restoration fund was opened and £8,000 received within the first week.



Mass was celebrated in the Social Club next to the ruined church on Remembrance Sunday, 1987 November 8th, reverting to the normal Mass times, except that the Sunday evening Mass was abolished henceforth. Mass continued to be celebrated on a Sunday in the Social Club for some weeks to come. The weekday evening Masses were celebrated in the Convent Chapel of St Mary's Home by kind permission of the Sisters and confessions heard in their Sacristy.

Work commenced on making the Church safe. The pews were removed and stored at the Youth Custody Centre on the Western Heights. The debris was cleared. Barwicks began work on erecting a temporary sheet metal roof supported on scaffolding, and special scaffolding was erected to encase the bell tower. By Sunday, 1987 December 20th the Church was ready to use again as a temporary venue for Sunday Mass. Assisted by young men from the Youth Custody Centre who were anxious to help, the interior was given a coat of white paint. Dover Harbour Board provided a lorry and staff to bring back the pews and to help in drying out the Church after its exposure to rainfall, and in the decorating. Donations continued to pour in for the restoration fund, including one from Paris, from Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

On the feast of St Edmund, 1987 November 16th, there was a candlelit ecumenical service at 8 p.m. in St Edmund's Chapel when the relic of St Edmund was venerated.

On the afternoon of the Solemnity of Christ the King, Sunday, 1987 November 22nd, there was Exposition and Benediction with the Consecration of the Human Race to Christ the King and the Litany of the Sacred Heart at St Mary's Convent at 3.30 p.m. Similarly, there was an Advent Service and Benediction at the same venue one week later on Sunday, 1987 November 29th.

The Choir at SS Peter & Paul Anglican Church at Charlton held a music evening and donated £136 to the Restoration Fund.

There was a joint Carol Service with St Mary's Anglican Church on 1987 December 20th at 4 p.m., in their church.

The workers on the Channel Tunnel site (it was then under construction) took a spontaneous collection for St Paul's Restoration Fund. Parishioners erected very effective temporary lighting in the Church and the public address system was restored to use. A temporary organ was installed. Christmas Trees were erected to hide burn marks in different parts of the Church and the building beautifully decorated with flowers ready for the Christmas season. The Children's Mass on Christmas Eve was attended by 500 people. As the evening drew on heavy rain set in. The Church was again packed for Carol Singing and Midnight Mass, with rain dripping on parts of the congregation and on the altar, but nobody seemed to mind. In an atmosphere electric with emotion, everyone was pleased and grateful to be in the Church at all. Bishop Jukes was the principal celebrant at the concelebrated Midnight Mass and briefly spoke about the analogy between what had happened to the Church and to its future in the light of the Resurrection of Our Lord. This was a unique occasion which many would remember for generations to come.

So a new year dawned with the hope that it would soon see the restoration of our Church. These things, however, take time if they are to be done properly. The Diocese appointed T. Houlihan & Associates from London as the Architects for the restoration and preparation of the drawings began in 1987 November and continued until 1988 March. The

Architects very kindly gave their time to attend a special parish meeting on 1988 January 18th at 7.30 p.m. in the Social Club to answer the questions of parishioners about the work to be undertaken. Meanwhile the Church continued in use with parishioners making minor improvements.

On 1988 January 3rd the Choir won first prize (£500 worth of music) in a competition organised by Oxford University Press.

On Friday, 1988 January 8th Sister Angela Hanevy ended her term of office as Superior of St Mary's Home and was moved to Scotland. She was succeeded by Sister Miriam McGovern.

Early in 1988 Father Lyndon Brown was moved to Beckenham and due to a continuing shortage of vocations, Dover became a one Priest parish. From 1988 February 21st-28th a number of parishioners accompanied by Father David Maher went on a special Marian Year Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima. The work of the restoration of the Church was entrusted to Our Lady of Fatima. Bad weather conditions (gales and rain) resulted in falling debris in the Church and Sunday Mass temporarily returned to the Social Club and weekday evening Masses to St Mary's Convent Chapel. Mr Jonathan Sloggett immediately despatched two members of staff from Dover Harbour Board to assess the situation and help put matters right. The people were able to return to the Church on 1988 March 20th. During Lent Stations of the Cross and Benediction took place in the Chapel at St Mary's Home every Sunday afternoon. Magnificent Holy Week Liturgies were celebrated in the Church - everything went smoothly and normally despite the unusual surroundings.

Father Pat Best took over the celebration of the Masses in St Mary's Home: every weekday and Saturday at 9 a.m.

Herne Bay Catholic Social Club made a donation of £100 to the Restoration Fund and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Broadstairs donated £150.

On 1988 May 4th tenders invited for the restoration work were opened and the contract awarded to Kier-Wallis. This contract would be of 20 weeks duration and access to the Church would be denied during that time. There was some debate about where the Sunday Mass should be celebrated. Zettlers Bingo Club was suggested as a possible venue, but did not prove suitable.

Father Lyndon Brown returned to the Social Club on Saturday, 1988 May 7th at 8 p.m. for a Parish presentation.

A special Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was celebrated on Sunday, 1988 May 8th at 3 p.m. in St Paul's Church.

Access to the Church ceased on May 31st, the last Mass celebrated there at noon that day being the Requiem for Mr Alf Smith, a long-standing and worthy parishioner who had recently died. The church was then handed over to Kier-Wallis and the restoration work began in earnest.

The problem of a suitable location for the celebration of Sunday Mass was solved. The Saturday evening and 8 a.m. Sunday Masses were celebrated in St Mary's Convent Chapel. Dover Harbour Board again came to the rescue and offered the use of their Social

Hall as a temporary church on Sunday mornings. Mass was celebrated there at 9.30 and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday with the caretaker ensuring that all the seating, etc., was beautifully arranged. Minute details were attended to, with dishes of Holy Water being available at the entrance to the Hall and parish notices temporarily displayed! Father David Maher was delighted to have the use of this Hall. Clearly the Catholic Community in Dover owed Dover Harbour Board a debt it could not repay, for such a great act of charity. This Hall was situated about 100 yards east of the former Snargate Street Church, exactly over the spot where the River Dour flows into the Wellington Dock and not really *that* far from the site of the pre-Reformation Chapel of Our Lady of Pity at Archcliffe Point, or, indeed the start of the Mission in Elizabeth Street all those years ago. (The Social Hall was demolished in the 1990s to accommodate further developments in the area, which is now a quayside car park).

As the restoration work began Mgr C. Sepe of the Vatican Secretariat of State wrote to Father Maher: "His Holiness wishes you to know that he invokes God's blessings on you and your parishioners".

Father Innocent Eje (a Nigerian studying in Rome) was helping out in the Parish during 1988 July and August. Father Martin Symons, O.S.B. (Ramsgate - attached to the Benedictine Community in Ghana, which he established) was also helping in the Parish, so that Father Maher could have a 'mini-break'.

On Sunday, 1989 June 19th the annual Deanery Corpus Christi procession was held at Kearsney Manor.

Father Parkinson and the parishioners of St John's at Mongeham donated £210 to the Restoration Fund.

From late 1988 August until 1989 May, the Deacon Rev James Spencer from St John's Seminary, Womersley was appointed to serve in the Parish by the Archbishop.

At a meeting on 1988 August 28th, the Social Club Committee decided that the profit from the first 'cycle' of their weekly draw would be used to purchase a stained glass window for the Church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. (This was subsequently installed in the restored building immediately adjacent to the Lady Altar, replacing a window which Father Tanner had installed, dedicated to his late mother, Mary Tanner).

Other developments in the Parish continued and it was announced that St Edmund's School would become a Comprehensive School on 1988 September 1st. The Irish Chaplaincy in London was able to send Father David Murphy from Cork to reside in the Parish, with special responsibility for the Channel Tunnel workers (many of whom were Irish). Father David Murphy arrived on 1988 September 25th.

Once again, we must call attention to a strange coincidence: the restoration work on St Paul's to all intents and purposes got underway on 1988 June 1st. Building had started on 1867 June 1st. Father Tanner's major restoration started on 1959 June 1st.. The last Sunday Mass in the Church before the work commenced was the 11 a.m. Solemn Mass on the Solemnity of Trinity Sunday, 1988 May 29th.

Spontaneous gifts from parishioners, ex-parishioners, Priests who had served the Parish and well-wishers, amounting to nearly £35,000, had been received by 1988 July.

Some changes were made to the interior of St Paul's during the restoration work. The Sanctuary floor level was raised and moved further back to create more room in the Church. The Pugin Altar which was temporarily stored at Canterbury Cathedral by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury (it cost £2,000 to move it there), was brought forward to the centre of the Sanctuary (now three steps above the level of the nave) for the celebration of Mass. It was refurbished and redecorated for a total cost of £3,590. The entire Sanctuary floor was carpeted in blue. The Sanctuary ceiling was decorated in dark blue with gold ornamentation bearing an 'ears of wheat' motif, and the roof panels over the nave were painted light blue. A new tabernacle altar was built at the back of the Sanctuary (cost - £1,800), occupying the full width of the space under the centre of the fresco and a new rectangular tabernacle 25 in wide x 14 in high x 14 in deep, clad in silver-plated heavy gauge brass sheet on a 1/4 in thick steel carcass, with a single door and an interior lined in white silk, was installed. The new tabernacle was a gift from the relatives and friends of Father David Maher from his home City of Cork, Ireland, and it was designed by Laurie Quigley: £5,000 was donated, with the tabernacle costing £2,605 and the rest of the donation financing other improvements to the Church. The new Sanctuary Lamp was a gift from the Cinque Ports Circle of the Catenian Association, costing £2,162 and being made in the shape of a galleon, in silver. Six new altar candlesticks in the design of a lighthouse were made in silver and Father Laws' chalice together with other church plate, was sent for replating. A new missal stand, silver-plated and engraved with a cross on the flat desk surface, was manufactured (£375). Two flower bowls based on a ships bollard design were also made (£790), together with a silver thurible stand (£423). All refurbishment to panelling and pews and the new timber items were carried out by local craftsman Mr Barry D. Gibbs of *Classic Restoration*. A replacement large crucifix to hang from the roof at the entrance to the Sanctuary was made and donated by Major A.J. Evans. The Stations of the Cross were beautifully restored by Carol and Paul Smye-Rumsby and family. The statue of the Sacred Heart was installed in the alcove in the south aisle of the Church, where a special side altar for this purpose had been donated by St Edmund's Comprehensive School, and a special stained glass window depicting Our Lady of Fatima and marking the re-opening of the Church, installed in honour of the Marian Year, 1987-88. The silver work was carried out under the direction of Mr A.C.Rose of *Henwood Decorative Metal Studios Ltd.*, The Bayle, Folkestone. Two new paintings: Emmaus, the Breaking of Bread; and the Sacrifice of Abraham, were painted by Dr Henry Campbell, M.A., Ph.D., A.C.P., F.R.S.A., for the Sanctuary walls, to replace those destroyed in the fire (the original paintings had been of the four great Doctors of the Church: on the Gospel side St Gregory and St Jerome; on the Epistle side St Ambrose and St Augustine (of Hippo)). A plinth for the statue of St Joseph was erected near Our Lady's Altar in the Church. The window above the old east end confessional was bricked up and the entire wall used for a 10 ft high fresco painted by Henry Campbell. This was the site of the new Baptistry in the Church, which was sponsored by St Richard's School. The site also incorporates a memorial to the victims of the tragic Zeebrugge disaster of 1987. Carpet tiles were laid in the Organ Loft and the existing rose window in the west elevation replaced due to the brittleness of the glass. The 'St Paul Window' at the east end also needed to be rebuilt, together with the Father Laws memorial window near the seat of the fire. This work was not completed until the Christmas Season of 1988. The stained glass work was carried out by Gasking Bros., Glass Merchants, of 59, London Road, Dover; the electrical work by E.R. Longley of 1, Priory Road, Dover and the sound and amplification systems by Smye-Rumsby Ltd of Snargate Street, Dover. The 'Loop System' for the hard of hearing was installed. It rapidly became apparent that the cost of replacing the pipe organ in its original form would have been prohibitive. It was therefore decided to purchase an Allen Digital Organ for a cost of about £15,000, deferring the replacement of the pipe organ until the Parish could more easily afford it. A Sanctus Light was donated (£327.75) and a Lectern for £450. The main contractor was

Kier-Wallis Ltd of Maidstone, Kent and the Architects were T. Houlihan & Associates of Croydon, London. Many other organisations and parishioners gave donations, including St Edmund's Comprehensive School. Much of the behind-the-scenes administrative work was handled by Mr Dennis Tait, who was responsible for running the Parish Finances since Father David Maher arrived in Dover. He attended meetings with Architects, Surveyors and Builders and administered the subscriptions to the Restoration Fund.

The days of intensive work in restoring our beautiful Church showed very clearly the involvement of the entire local community in the work and the friends of the Parish around the world, new and old. The overwhelming generosity of so many in giving of both time and money could only be described as magnificent. Our gratitude to them is very deep and Our Lord will reward their work.

On Saturday, 1988 October 22nd Cardinal Hume came to see the restoration work and led prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for the future of the Parish. He posed for a few photographs, gave his blessing and was gone. He was returning through the Port from a Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

On Friday, 1988 October 28th at 7 p.m., the Solemn Mass to mark the re-opening of St Paul's Church was concelebrated. Archbishop Michael Bowen was the Principal Celebrant and priests who had worked in the Parish in the past also concelebrated, together with the Deanery Clergy, Father Murphy and Father Maher. The Organist was Barbara Wenborn and the Choir Mistress was Mrs Veronica Mitchinson. There was a trumpet fanfare at the start of the Entrance Procession, which was accompanied by the singing of the hymn *All People that on Earth do dwell*. Father Maher welcomed the Archbishop and all the guests including representatives of the contractors and sub-contractors who had worked on the restoration of the building. He said that this was very much a day for our parishioners who had endured such great hardship and we looked forward to the future in the best tradition of St Paul's. In reply, the Archbishop spoke of the sense of tremendous joy and thanked the people for inviting him. "We must thank God and recognise that all good things come from Him". The choir sang the Mass in A minor by Claudio Casciolini (c1600), edited by R.R. Terry. The first reading was read by Mr Jonathan Sloggett, Managing Director of Dover Harbour Board, from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians (3: 12-17) and the singing of the Responsorial Psalm and Alleluia were led by the Cantor, Mr Mark Gravener. The Gospel (Luke 17: 11-19) was read by the Deacon, Rev Jim Spencer.

In his homily the Archbishop wanted to reflect on the Gospel of the ten lepers: they were outcasts with a totally incurable disease and socially abandoned. "You have great love for your Church which has undergone a great tragedy. I have been reading the book by Robert Mackenzie, *Dover's Catholic Faith*: it is a most excellent book. There are some very interesting pictures in it showing the scorched shell of the Church. There is a beautiful picture of the cross still hanging from the charred remains of the rafters. It reminded me of very similar pictures of St George's Cathedral, burned in the War, with Archbishop Amigo looking up at the sky...clothed in sincere compassion...we forgive the young man who set the Church on fire; we hope that he makes something of his life and does not waste it on senseless acts... God brings good out of disasters. The Firemen who risked their own lives; with great bravery they saved the walls, bell tower and much of the stained glass. We are very grateful to them and the members of other Christian Churches for their offers of help, particularly St Mary's for accommodating us on two Sundays; Dover Harbour Board for their great hospitality to us and allowing the use of their Social Hall for Mass on Sundays; the generosity of countless people who gave time, energy and endless sums. Many people were

involved in the restoration: surveyors, contractors, insurers, craftsmen, artists, loss adjusters. The Church is a beautiful place again, we are delighted with it, a wonderful job has been done and I congratulate Father Maher in particular. Well done, Father! (At this point the congregation broke into applause). We say thank you often during the day, but our gratitude is deeply felt and we acknowledge the great good done to us and the need we have for each other. My own personal gratitude to everyone involved. We also praise Almighty God; the Church is where we assemble as God's people to give Him praise and thanksgiving. We thank Almighty God, through Our Blessed Lord, especially through the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving. Thank God that no one lost their lives or was injured. I am glad that we have a beautiful memorial for those who lost their lives in the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster. The Church has been beautifully restored, we rejoice today and offer our prayer and thanksgiving through Christ Our Lord".

Credo No. III was sung in Latin; the Offertory hymn was *And did those feet in ancient time* (Jerusalem); Eucharistic Prayer III was used; the Pater Noster was sung in Latin and during Communion the choir sang *The Lord's my Shepherd* to Brother James' Air, arranged by Gordon Jacob. At the end of the Mass, Father Maher thanked everyone for coming and invited them to the Parish celebration at St Edmund's School Hall at which the Archbishop would be present. The recessional hymn was *Now thank we all our God*, followed by the organ voluntary March Triomphale by S. Karg Elert.

An abbreviated video of most of the Mass and also containing dramatic scenes of the fire, entitled *Then and Now* was produced by Heathwood Studios and made available to parishioners.

On Wednesday, 1988 November 16th, the feast of St Edmund, an Ecumenical candlelit service took place in St Edmund's Chapel.

Sister Eileen (Annunciata) died at the Ursuline rest home in Swansea on Saturday, 1988 November 26th. Aged 83, she had spent 46 years teaching at St Ursula's in Dover. Appointed headmistress after the War, she retired to Swansea in 1983. Apparently, it is reported that some young ladies in those days thought that her name (Annunciata) was Sister 'Nancy Arthur'!

A united Carol Service took place in St Paul's Church on 1988 December 18th at 4 p.m. with Rev Allan Simper (Anglican) and friends from St Mary's Church of England Parish and involving the choirs of both parishes.

On 1989 January 1st the new bell outside the Sacristy was stolen.

Bishop Jukes carried out a Parish Visitation from 1989 January 26th - 27th. In his written report the Bishop wrote: "...This parish has always demonstrated a very long tradition of lay involvement in the whole life of the parish and this should certainly be continued...Inevitably the last two years have been somewhat unsettled...now the chance to look again and take stock of how the parish should develop".

The Church was kept closed during the week, except for the porch area. It was only opened for Masses. "We cannot risk further loss or damage", wrote Father Maher. An attempt to draw up a list of 'watchers' in order to enable the Church to be kept open failed to gain the support of enough people.

On Sunday, 1989 February 19th (the Second Sunday in Lent), Archbishop Bowen administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 75 candidates at 3 p.m. Some of them came from the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School and from the Youth Custody Centre and had been prepared by Father Pat Best.

On Sunday, 1989 February 26th, the 7 p.m. Mass in St Paul's was arranged by the Youth Group.

On 1989 March 19th a Junior SVP Conference was set up at St Edmund's School.

On Easter Sunday, 1989 March 26th, Father Murphy celebrated Mass at Farthingloe Village at 5.30 p.m. for the Channel Tunnel workers.

The usual parish May Procession and crowning of the statue of Our Lady (1989 May 14th), UCM Pilgrimage to Aylesford (May 30th); a Pentecost Vigil from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. and the Deanery Corpus Christi procession, this time at St Edmund's School (1989 June 18th) all took place.

Archbishop Michael Bowen ordained the Deacon, Rev Jim Spencer to the Priesthood at a special Mass celebrated in St Paul's Church on Saturday, 1989 June 3rd at 3 p.m. A Reception and celebration were held afterwards at St Edmund's School. Father Spencer was the first Priest to be ordained in St Paul's and over 30 of his friends were present for the occasion. A retiring collection had been taken at all Masses in the Parish earlier for a presentation to be made and other contributions were made as well. The Church was packed for the Ordination Mass. Father Spencer celebrated his first Mass in St Paul's on Sunday, 1989 June 4th at 9.30 a.m.

The annual Parish Garden Party took place in the Presbytery Garden on 1989 July 8th and from Thursday, 1989 July 13th, 7.30 p.m., the Parish Prayer Group had an hour long Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Innocent Eje, who had helped out in the Parish in the summer of 1988 presented and defended his thesis in Rome on 1989 June 21st and was awarded a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology with a 'Magna cum Laude'. He took up a post on the staff of the Major Seminary in Jos, Nigeria, at the end of that summer.

Sister Finbarr was transferred to the Provincial House at Mill Hill on Friday, 1989 August 25th and Sister Bridie Costello, returning to Dover again, was appointed as Parish Sister. Sister Farrelly (head of Religious Education at St Edmund's School) was appointed to a new mission in Sierra Leone.

The annual Parish Fun Day was again held at Kearsney on Chitty's Playing Field on 1989 August 27th.

The *Highway* programme broadcast on TVS at 6.40 p.m. on Sunday, 1989 September 3rd featured Father Murphy in the Chapel at Farthingloe Village.

Father Maher wrote in the Newsletter about the flowers depicted in the east (St Paul) window of St Paul's Church. On the left-hand side Almond Blossom symbolises hope; in the centre wild grapes symbolise charity and on the right-hand side heliotrope symbolises faith. The white flowers depicted are auricular, the artist's flower.

Following the atrocity perpetrated by the IRA at the Royal Marine Barracks in Deal, Bishop Francis Walmsley (Bishop to the Forces) and the Deanery Clergy offered a Requiem Mass in St Paul's for the ten victims of the bombing on the evening of Friday, 1989 September 29th. Bishop Walmsley quoted Cardinal Hume's letter to the Commandant General:

"The futility of such wanton barbarism is plain for all to see. The perpetrators must be in no doubt that this crime is condemned by the whole Church as totally against the Law of God. The whole Catholic community shares your sorrow and your loss and will be praying for the dead and injured and their families".

"To call the IRA an 'army'", said the Bishop, "was an insult to the decent men and women who served their country. What army would shoot in cold blood the defenceless wife of a soldier?...The Catholic community has no sympathy with the IRA".

In 1989 October the Rose Window at the west of St Paul's Church was replaced following the fire damage. The new window had a nautical theme. The lighthouse is representative of Christ, the light of the world shining out above rocks symbolising the Church. The crescent Moon signifies the glory of the Blessed Virgin Mary and reflects Heavenly guidance, together with the stars. The natural elements combine with the supernatural protection and directional guidance given to seafarers. The outer triangular sections of the window enclose the form of an anchor which is a traditional symbol for Christ and the virtue of Hope. The colours used: blue and gold show the traditional colours of Heavenly Love and Holiness of life. Purple signifies God the Father, turquoise Hope. Above the Rose Window is a small quatrefoil depicting the Chi Rho, an ancient Greek sacred monogram of Christ.

On 1990 February 9th Father Tom Doyle of the De Montfort Fathers was given permission by his Superiors to work in the Parish "until further notice". Archbishop Bowen was grateful for his help while Father Maher was having a 'wee rest'. Father Wolsoncroft was also helping out. (Father Doyle's brother, Father Michael Doyle had also rendered valuable service at St Paul's). Father Doyle left the Parish on 1990 April 2nd.

From the year 1989 into the 1990s, the sudden and dramatic collapse of Communism took place in Russia and the former Eastern Bloc Countries, and Russia returned to being a Christian country, in fulfilment of the promise made by Our Lady at Fatima all those years ago.

Father Maher became ill and had to attend St Thomas's Hospital in London for tests on a number of occasions in 1990 April and June.

Sister Clare Riordan, D.C. died on 1990 April 8th. Born in 1899, she became a Sister of Charity in 1920 and spent 20 years in Dover, 6 years as Superior at St Mary's Convent. She retired to Dover in 1976. Her Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Mary's Home on Holy Thursday.

The May Procession took place at Our Lady of Dover, Buckland on Sunday, 1990 May 13th. The UCM annual pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory took place on 1990 May 29th.

Father Maher returned to the Parish on 1990 June 3rd, prior to returning to St Thomas's Hospital on June 21st. He was again in the Parish from July 7th-17th.



On 1990 July 29th Father Christopher Keen was appointed the new Chaplain of the Catholic Children's Society, effective from September. Until then, he was resident at St Paul's and helping in the Parish.

Dr Michael Mullins, Vice-Rector of St John's Seminary in Waterford, Ireland, visited the Parish en route to Australia, also visiting Deacon Rev Tim Murphy from that seminary who present in the Parish from 1990 July 6th until the end of August.

On 1990 August 30th 50 Christian Pilgrims arrived in Dover at the end of a 170 mile walk from Chichester, following in the steps of St Richard. They arrived between 4.30 and 5 p.m., when there was a service of thanksgiving for their safe arrival at St Edmund's Chapel. They then moved to the Maison Dieu to pray at the place of the death of St Richard. On Saturday, September 1st at 10.30 a.m. there was a Sung Mass in St Edmund's Chapel. This pilgrimage had been organised on behalf of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton by Father Bill Haynes, Parish Priest of the Church of St Mary at Guildford.

Father David Maher was in St Thomas's Hospital in London and had a heart by-pass operation on Monday, 1990 September 24th. The Newsletter included a photograph of him taken on the Wednesday after the operation, showing him in a hospital bed reading the newspaper. He was discharged from the hospital the next week to convalesce. He wrote an open letter to parishioners in the Newsletter dated 1990 October 21st. He initially went to Kearsney Manor, but then flew home to Ireland to convalesce with his family. He thanked all his friends in the Parish for their help.

The Feast of St Edmund on 1990 November 16th marked 750 years since the death of St Edmund at the age of 65. Bishop John Jukes presided over an ecumenical inter-church service in St Edmund's Chapel at 8 p.m.

On 1990 November 18th an X-ray located a 3/4 in-sized stone in Father Maher's kidneys. He was in hospital in Dublin for surgery to remove it, and back at home in Cork in time for Christmas.

Father Thomas Connelly died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 68 on 1991 January 17th. He was buried in Chislehurst on 1991 January 25th following a concelebrated Requiem Mass at which Archbishop Michael Bowen was the principal celebrant, together with Bishop Tripp, Bishop Jukes and 121 Priests. A coach of 44 parishioners travelled from Dover. The recessional hymn at the funeral was the Lourdes hymn. A Deanery Requiem Mass for Father Connelly was concelebrated in St Paul's Church on Friday, 1991 February 8th at 7 p.m.

Father David Maher returned to the Parish on 1991 March 3rd (mid-Lent) to undertake limited Parish duties.

In Spring 1991, the first Parish convoy with aid for Romania departed and was accompanied by a BBC television crew. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated on Monday, 1991 May 13th at 7 p.m.

The normal annual May procession took place on Sunday, 1991 May 19th; the UCM pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory on Tuesday, 1991 May 28th; the Corpus Christi procession at Kearsney Manor on Sunday, 1991 June 2nd and the UCM Garden Party on 1991 July 13th.

Father David Maher celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination to the Priesthood

on 1991 June 28th. He was the principal celebrant at the Concelebrated Mass at which Bishop John Jukes O.F.M. Conv. was present in the Sanctuary. He welcomed everyone at the start of the Mass and said that it was very important for the Parish family to gather to thank God for years of achievement together. The entrance hymn was *All people that on Earth do dwell* and the Missa de Angelis (Mass VIII - Latin) was sung with Credo No. III. The Pater Noster was sung in Latin. The first reading was read by Robert Mackenzie, the Cantor for the Responsorial Psalm and Alleluia verse was Mark Gravener and the Gospel was read by Father David Murphy. The homily was preached by a visiting priest who congratulated Father Maher on 25 years of loyal and devoted service. He spoke of his work in the restoration of St Paul's Church and about the priesthood. "...priests are men, with faults and failings, we cannot expect them to be perfect...God chooses them with criteria different from ours...we can't judge them by the standards of the world...what does God want of His Priests? If we do what God wants then there is no trouble. God's Holy Spirit will guide them. No man is ever worthy of the vocation to the Priesthood...it is God's gift. Why he chooses some men, God only knows...At his Ordination, the priest gives over his life into God's service...The Priest is not a Doctor, welfare worker, lawyer, or citizens advice worker..." He ended by saying: "Father Maher, this is your life". The congregation applauded at the end of the homily. At the end of the Mass Mr Alf Huntley made a presentation to Father Maher on behalf of the Parish, to further applause. Father Maher jokingly replied that he wondered why no collection had been taken - it was not very Catholic not to take a collection... The Blessing at the end of the Mass was given by Bishop Jukes and the Mass was followed by a Parish social event in St Edmund's School, a minibus being laid on to take people there, making as many journeys as necessary.

On 1991 July 7th Father Maher, writing in the Newsletter, thanked parishioners "for making the parish celebration of my Silver Jubilee such a wonderful occasion...".

At the end of the 1991 summer term Kathleen Huntley retired from teaching at St Edmund's School after just over 29 years. She was the last of the 'original' teachers from when the School opened on 1962 May 2nd.

On 1991 August 11th it was noted that donations to CAFOD from the Parish since 1987 June 21st had reached £8,699.43.

Father Wolsoncroft left the Parish in 1991 September.

On 1991 October 27th it was noted that Father Maher had returned to the Mater Hospital in Dublin and had been diagnosed with a further kidney stone, which was subsequently treated by "blasting". He recuperated in the west of Ireland.

On Saturday, 1991 November 16th there was a Solemn Mass in St Edmund's Chapel at 10 a.m. The Mass was sung by Father Edward Westrop, O.S.B.. (Very ill with terminal cancer, he had travelled from the Pilgrim's Hospice to celebrate the Mass. He subsequently died on Monday evening, 1992 February 17th). At 6 p.m. that day there was a candlelit ecumenical service in the Chapel.

On 1991 November 30th another convoy with aid for Romania departed from the Parish. These were organised by parishioners Chuck and Iris Brennan.

A further aid convoy departed for Romania on 1992 April 20th. The Social Club donated £1,200 for a lorry when the arranged group from Yorkshire could not stop at Dover.

Ten members of the UCM went on the National Pilgrimage to Walsingham by coach on Tuesday, 1992 July 7th.

On Tuesday, 1992 July 21st at 7.30 p.m., 27 orphans from Romania (girls aged 9 to 16 years) were welcomed at the Social Club and entertained by the Parish Folk Group. They were presented with silver crosses and chains.

The Parish Scout group undertook a trip to Austria from Friday, 1992 July 24th until Sunday, August 2nd.

Sister Margaret Clare, U.J. died in 1992 August and her funeral took place in Swansea.

At the request of Father Maher, Ged Watkins and Mrs Moira Sykes of the Laity Commission attended the Southwark Diocesan meeting on Priestly formation at St John's Seminary, Womersley on 1992 September 4th and 5th. This was held in the light of the Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* and was also attended by four Bishops, 31 Priests, 20 members of the Laity Commission, 18 Deanery representatives, 8 Seminary staff, 11 Seminarians and other delegates. The meeting was closed by Archbishop Michael Bowen.

The Farthingloe Village for Channel Tunnel workers which had opened on 1989 January 8th, closed on 1992 September 5th.

From 1992 September 19th - 26th, Father David Maher and 23 parishioners were on pilgrimage in Rome. Anne Castle wrote about it in the *Parish Magazine*. Seven others joined the pilgrimage at Heathrow. Mass was attended at the High Altar of St Peter's Basilica, visits were made to the crypt of St Peter's, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, St John Lateran (the Pope's Cathedral), the Scala Sancta and Castel Gandolfo (the Papal summer residence 15 miles south of Rome). At the Wednesday General Audience, the Holy Father, (now Saint) John Paul II welcomed "the group from Southwark, England". On September 24th they all travelled to Assisi and there was a group Mass at 3 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Church of Santa Maria dell'Angeli. The Portiuncula Chapel was also visited. On Friday, September 25th, Father Maher celebrated Mass in St Peter's Basilica and most of the group had front row seats.

Yet another of the aid convoy journeys to Romania, seemingly now under the name of St Paul's Rainbow Group, departed on 1992 October 17th.

Mass counts during 1992 October resulted in the attendance figures averaging 496 on a Sunday in St Paul's.

Regular appeals for altar servers at this time elicited no response.

Dover parishioner Paul McBride took the name Oswald and completed the Novitiate at Ampleforth Abbey. He made his Simple Profession during Solemn Mass at the Abbey on Sunday, 1992 December 12th.

During 1993 it was noted that the Social Club, which had opened on 1970 July 17th had repaired buildings, donated money to the Parish and paid for the heating and lighting of the Church, to the sum of £118,449 in total over all those years.

From 1993 February 19th - 22nd Bishop John Jukes was undertaking a Visitation of the Parish.

Saturday, 1993 April 3rd marked the 740th anniversary of the death of St Richard in the Maison Dieu. There was a Sung Mass in St Edmund's Chapel at 10 a.m. where the 'Gregorian Singers' from London took part.

Archbishop Michael Bowen administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 16 candidates on Sunday, 1993 May 2nd at 11 a.m. Mass. Accompanying the Archbishop, his Private Secretary, Father Richard Moth made his first official visit to the Parish.

The 125th anniversary of the opening of St Paul's Church occurred on 1993 May 15th. There was a Parish Anniversary Party in the form of an American Supper at St Edmund's School from 8 to 11.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15th and the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 16th was a Mass of special thanksgiving.

"Have we lost respect for the Blessed Sacrament?"

"We have had many complaints about the talking in Church after the Masses - especially the 9.30 a.m....The 'racket' is more akin to Fair Day at Cahirmee!...Please do not treat the House of God like a market place."; wrote Father David Maher in a Newsletter at this time.

Father David Murphy left the Parish on Ascension Day, 1993 May 20th. He was presented with a cheque at a Parish party. Having arrived on 1988 September 18th, he administered the parish during the illness of Father Maher; he also served Mongeham and Sandwich Parish for five months before the appointment of Father Bateman as Parish Priest there.

Starting on 1993 May 29th, Father Maher introduced the recitation of the Angelus at the start of the 6 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass and at the end of the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass in St Paul's Church.

Discussion about Mass times in the Parish took place, particularly about the number of Sunday Masses. The 7 p.m. had been introduced for the benefit of shift workers at the Channel Tunnel construction site (they later had a 5 p.m. Mass on site). There was also a 7 p.m. Mass at Buckland. Bishop Jukes wanted the views of parishioners and Father Maher noted: "It is not encouraging to see the top half of the Church empty while the bulk of the congregation are huddled nearest the exit!". Following discussion and consultation, Mass times were changed to: Saturday 6 p.m. in St Paul's; Sunday at 8 a.m. in St Paul's; 8.30 a.m. at Kearsney Convent; 9 a.m. at St Margaret's Bay; 9.30 a.m. in St Paul's; 10.30 a.m. at Our Lady of Dover, Buckland; 11 a.m. in St Paul's; and 6 p.m. at Buckland. There was also a 7 p.m. Mass on Saturday in St Mary's Convent. Bishop Jukes approved these Mass times for implementation from 1993 July 3rd.

On Monday, 1993 June 28th at 7 p.m. Bishop Jukes ordained Ged Watkins to the Permanent Diaconate in St Paul's Church. This was followed by a reception in the Social Club.

On 1993 June 20th Paul Smye-Rumsby repainted the cross and figure of the large Crucifix hanging in the Church. The Crucifix is 9 ft 6 in tall and 4 ft 6 in wide. His son

Anthony and Mr Stan Newman helped in erecting the huge scaffold needed to do the job. Henry Campbell, M.A., Ph.D., A.C.P., F.R.S.A. was commissioned to paint the panels on the Crucifix.

A Sunday Mass count at this time revealed an average attendance of 447.

In 1993 July Henry Campbell, M.A., Ph.D., A.C.P., F.R.S.A. was sketching scenes from the life of St Paul for the panels on the face of the Choir Loft in St Paul's Church.

Work commenced on 1993 July 18th, with contractors repainting the interior of St Paul's Church.

In 1993 August Sister Margaret Canny, U.J. who had spent 18 years teaching in St Richard's School went on missionary work to found an international community in South America.

Father Henry Schembri, S.J. arrived from Malta, landing at Gatwick Airport on Monday, 1993 August 30th at 10.30 a.m., to take up his appointment in the Parish. Aged 59 years, he had spent 30 years as a missionary in India.

Parishioner Roy Pierce entered St Joseph's Seminary in Dublin in 1993 September to begin his studies for the Priesthood with the Mill Hill Missionaries.

On 1993 October 9th at 1.30 p.m. Sister Bridie Costello celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Profession with a concelebrated Mass in St Paul's Church. Father Maher, Father Schembri, Father David Murphy, Father Tim Murphy, Father Panario, Father Best, Father O'Neill and Father Cassidy concelebrated. At that time, Sister Bridie had spent a cumulative 23 years in Dover: 1957-1964; 1975-1984; and from 1988.

A summary of the Parish financial situation in 1993 showed that "the Social Club subsidises the Church lighting and heating and of the Parish Rooms and maintained the fabric of the building". The Church was completely redecorated after eradicating damp patches. The ceiling was repainted white to increase the lighting efficiency. Major roof work was undertaken to prevent rainwater cascading down the walls of the Choir Gallery when the wind was in a certain direction. The Choir Gallery was tiered to enable the members to see the Altar and Priest when seated. The small room beside the kitchen was converted into a changing room for Altar Servers. Paintings from the scenes of the life of St Paul were installed on the front of the Choir Gallery. The cost was substantially subsidised by the Social Club Committee from the weekly draw. This was gratefully acknowledged. Expenditure also included: Diocesan Development Fund, £7,000; Auxiliary Bishop, £380; Retired Priests Fund, £360 and Loan to the Diocese, £5,000. The current account contained £8,070.47.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Profession of Sister Anne Healy, U.J. (a native of Cork City, Ireland) took place on 1994 March 13th. In 1958 she had become Ursuline Superior in Dover, was responsible for building a new school in 1960 (Father Tanner laid the foundation stone on 1960 June 22nd, as we noted earlier) and had been teaching at the Dover Grammar School for Girls in 1968.

On 1994 March 20th the new paintings of the scenes from the life of St Paul were installed on the front of the Choir Gallery.

Aid convoys destined for Bosnia from the Parish continued into 1994.

Brother David Leo, De la Salle Brother of the Christian Schools died at 6 p.m. on Good Friday, 1994 April 1st. He had taught at Castlemount from the 1920s until the Second World War and led the singing of Tenebrae and other Holy Week services in St Paul's at that time. For 12 years in the 1960s and 1970s he lived in Rome and was Secretary to the Heads of Religious Congregations. He spent his holidays at St Margarets Bay where he was well known to the Annonciade Sisters. He would spend time tending the graves of the De la Salle Brothers at St James' Cemetery and always paid his respects at the grave of Canon Grady, at whose funeral he had led the singing in 1936 April. He always loved to attend Mass at his 'beloved St Paul's'. His funeral took place in Oxford on 1994 April 12th.

The UCM pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory took place on 1994 June 1st and the coach was almost full. Mass at 11 a.m. in this Year of the Family was concelebrated by Bishop Jukes, Father Schembri and several other priests. In the afternoon there was a procession, Rosary and Benediction.

Bishop Jukes administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 35 candidates on Thursday, 1995 June 1st at a 7 p.m. Mass in St Paul's Church. It was noted that the presence of only three altar servers was "disappointing".

On 1995 March 5th it was reported that the Aycliffe Church building had been vandalised over the years, even the roof had been damaged. A massive clean up of the premises utilising voluntary labour had been taking place over recent weeks.

On Saturday, 1995 April 22nd the UCM celebrated its tenth anniversary in Dover with a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Paul's at 6 p.m., followed by a celebration at St Edmund's School.

Sister Louise Bullen, D.C. died at the Provincial House at Mill Hill in 1995. She came to Dover in 1940 and spent 54 years at St Mary's Convent / Home and had been transferred to Mill Hill in 1994 for extra nursing care. Her Requiem Mass was celebrated and her burial took place at Mill Hill on 1995 June 2nd.

On Tuesday, 1995 June 27th the New Technology Building at St Edmund's School (Margaret Clitherow House) was officially opened by H.E. Archbishop Barbarito, the Papal Nuncio to the United Kingdom.

The year 1995 saw the 700th anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed Thomas de la Hale. The Anglican Canon Tyzak invited parishioners to a commemorative service at St Andrew's Church on Wednesday, 1995 August 2nd at 7.30 p.m. when an icon depicting the scene of the martyrdom would be blessed.

On 1995 August 20th Sister Miriam McGovern D.C., Superior for seven and a half years at St Mary's Home, was replaced by Sister Anna Marie O'Reilly.

Bishop Jukes undertook a Visitation of the Parish from 1995 October 26th - 29th and celebrated a Mass for local teachers at 9 a.m. on the 29th.

Sunday Mass attendance in St Paul's Church during 1995 averaged 485.

The re-establishment of the Knights of St Columba in the Parish was tried without any success.

On Tuesday, 1996 February 27th a Pilgrimage to Tyburn took place, offered to all the Deanery Parishes, in honour of local martyr Blessed Roger Filcock. Mass was celebrated at Tyburn Convent by Father Laurence Hobbs from Deal and a talk was given by one of the Sisters on the subject of the English Martyrs who had suffered at Tyburn.

Sister Dympna Nevin U.J. retired at the end of the school term as Head Teacher of St Richard's School on 1996 April 21st, having been in the post since 1967. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Saturday, 1996 April 27th at 6 p.m.. This was followed by an American Supper at St Edmund's School afterwards. Many former pupils travelled long distances to be there. The new Head Teacher of St Richard's School was Mr Stephen Grant.

Sister Alice Cronin, U.J. (at St Ursula's, 1959-1988), then retired, celebrated 70 years as a nun in 1996 April.

Father David Maher left the Parish to retire on medical grounds at the end of 1996 August. He went to live with his family in Cork, Ireland. A presentation took place at a Parish Party at St Edmund's School on Saturday, 1996 July 13th at 7.30 p.m. Father Maher expressed his thanks for the event and the presentation.

## 9: Onwards into the Twenty First Century

The newly appointed Parish Priest of Dover was Father John Ryan, M.B.E.. Born in Inniscara, Co. Cork on 1941 November 30th (just outside Cork City, the birth place of his predecessor, Father Maher) of a family of eight, he was educated at the National School until 1955 when he went to a private boarding school at Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick. In 1960 he joined the Seminary at St Kieran's College, Kilkenny to study Theology and Philosophy and was ordained, with 32 others, on 1966 June 5th by Dr Peter Birch. His first appointment was to Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen, Richmond on 1966 July 20th. His first Parish Priest was Father Howard Tripp (later Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese). He served in St Michael's, Chatham from 1970 until 1972, when he was asked to become a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. He had the opportunity to serve with the United States Navy in southern California and the Western Pacific. He left the Navy in 1988 when appointed Parish Priest at St Francis de Sales Parish, Hartley. He remained there until appointed to Dover in 1996, where he arrived on Wednesday, August 28th.

Also resident with Father Ryan in the Parish was Father Philip Tandoh. He was born in Sekondi, Ghana on 1954 July 7th and ordained on 1983 July 24th. His first parish was St Paul's in Sekondi, where he was Assistant Priest from 1983-1987, in charge of 16 outstations. In 1987 October he was sent on special assignment to the Diocese of Grand Basson in the Ivory Coast. He was Parish Priest of Notre Dame de L'Assumption, Koumassi Prodomo in Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast from 1988-1992. He returned to Ghana in 1992 October where he was appointed Parish Priest of St Theresa, Bibiani. He had been in England on study leave since 1994 March 26th and was to continue his studies in Business Management at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1996 October.

On the advice of the Bishop, Father Ryan had been seeking a suitable candidate for the position of Parish Secretary. Announced to the Parish before his arrival, he appointed Mrs Veronica Mitchinson to the post.

On 1996 September 8th it was announced that Sister Bridie Costello, D.C. would be transferring to the community in Bristol in October as Superior. A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Monday, 1996 September 30th at 7 p.m., followed by a reception and presentation in the Social Club afterwards. Sister Bridie thanked everyone for the event and the very generous donation.

On 1996 September 29th the sudden death of Father Pat Best took place. His body was brought into the Church before the 7 p.m. Mass on Tuesday October 8th. Born in 1928, after Army service he studied for the Priesthood at St Augustine's House, Walworth and St John's Seminary, Womersley. Ordained in 1957, he served in Maidstone, Whitstable, Balham and Addiscombe before going to Sheerness in 1974 and being appointed Parish Priest there in 1975. In 1978 he moved to Cheriton and in 1983 was appointed to the Chaplaincy of the Duke of York's Royal Military School and the Young Offender Institute at Dover. His health had not been good for some time (he was also a diabetic). The Requiem Mass was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Wednesday October 9th at 12 noon. Archbishop Michael Bowen was the principal celebrant. The entry hymn at the Requiem Mass was *Faith of our Fathers*, the Ordinary of the Mass was sung in Latin, with the Communion hymn *The Day thou gavest, Lord, is ended* and the *Salve Regina*. The recessional hymn was *O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder*. Father Best's family extended their deepest gratitude to the Parish for such a hospitable and respectful atmosphere. Father Best was buried in the local



cemetery, his family saying: "He loved Dover so much that the obvious decision was to bury him here rather than elsewhere".

Bishop Jukes asked the Parish to assume responsibility for the Masses at St Mary's Home and the pastoral care of the Duke of York's Royal Military School and the Young Offender's Institution.

Sunday Mass attendance in St Paul's Church during 1996 averaged 501.

On 1996 December 26th at the 10 a.m. Mass Mr Alf Huntley was presented with a long service medal for serving for 60 years and Mr Bernard Doolin received a medal for 30 years service.

Bishop Jukes concelebrated the Induction Mass for Father Ryan on Thursday, 1996 October 31st at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, 1997 January 5th Father Ryan sent out a questionnaire with the weekly Newsletter asking for opinions about the Parish. He wrote: "...From my personal observations to date the Parish is a happy one and has many strengths and (is) full of goodwill and support. Many people are active in many ways in the Church..."

Father Maher wrote to parishioners:

"Dear Friends: Greetings from Ireland...I am overwhelmed by the letters and cards I have received and thank you for your good wishes...Life here continues at a drastically reduced pace and I am at last, physically beginning to feel the benefit, despite a short spell in hospital after minor heart problems and some painful experiences with kidney stones - now, mercifully, "passed on"! Spiritually, I miss the involvement of parish life, and often think of you all...I am able to celebrate Mass regularly and pray for you often and ask that you too, will remember me in your prayers".

On Sunday, 1997 January 26th, in the Newsletter, Father Ryan thanked parishioners for the large response to the questionnaires and said that they provided much food for thought. There were little or no criticisms, all were very positive and generally expressed satisfaction with the management of the parish.

A Mother and Toddler Group started meeting in the Social Club from 9.15 until 11.30 a.m. on weekdays.

The 1997 February edition of the *Parish Magazine* was the last to appear in the then current A4 format and the editor Mr John Huntley thanked all those who had supported him over the years. Father Ryan announced that a small group of parishioners were appraising the format of the publication. At the request of Father Ryan, Robert Mackenzie wrote in the Newsletter on Sunday, 1997 February 2nd: "Following appraisal, a new editorial team for the Parish Magazine has been set up consisting of Father Ryan, Father Schembri, Robert Mackenzie (editor), Nicholas Harby and John Huntley (Production and Advertising). The magazine will in future be known as *St Paul's Parish Magazine*, published quarterly, appear in a new A5 format and will be free of charge..."

On Sunday, 1997 April 13th it was announced that the Archbishop had appointed Father Schembri as Parish Priest of Minster, in Thanet. A farewell Mass followed by a social

evening in the Social Club took place on 1997 June 10th. Father Ryan thanked Father Schembri for his work in the Parish.

Parishioner Steven Fisher was ordained to the Diaconate at St John's Seminary, Womersley on 1997 June 28th.

On 1997 July 20th the Archbishop appointed Father John Weatherill as the new Assistant Priest in Dover. He had been Ordained to the Priesthood in St George's Cathedral on 1997 July 13th. He studied at the Beda College in Rome (a Seminary for late vocations), having converted to Catholicism while a student at Oxford University, where he achieved a degree in languages. He worked abroad for a bank for many years. Father Weatherill arrived in Dover on 1997 August 1st, celebrating the evening Mass at 7 p.m.

The Deacon Rev Steven Fisher arrived in the Parish on 1997 July 20th for a two week stay and preached at all Sunday Masses on August 9th-10th.

Parishioner Oswald (Paul) McBride, O.S.B. was ordained a Deacon at Ampleforth Abbey on 1997 August 10th. He had also just gained a First at Oxford University (M.A. in Theology), obtaining the highest marks ever achieved in the Ampleforth Community...as well as already being a qualified medical doctor.

The centenary of the Consecration of St Paul's Church was celebrated at a special evening Mass on Thursday, 1997 September 25th at 7 p.m. The entrance hymn was *All people that on earth do dwell*, the Ordinary of the Mass was sung in Latin (Missa de Angelis - Mass No. VIII, with Credo No. III); the Offertory hymn was *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation*. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the Choir sang *The Lord's My Shepherd* (Brother James' Air by Gordon Jacobs). Father Weatherill preached the homily. After the Mass there was a Parish social event (American Supper) at St Edmund's School.

At the annual Peace Light Service in St Paul's Church on 1997 December 11th the Church was almost full and about 30 churches and scouting groups sent representatives. The Peace Light was brought from Bethlehem to the Parish.

The year 1998 was proclaimed the Year of the Holy Spirit. The annual Deanery Pilgrimage to Tyburn in honour of Blessed Roger Filcock took place on February 27th. Father Weatherill started a series of Lenten Reflections in the Presbytery on March 5th at 2.30 p.m, repeated at 7.30 p.m. Bishop Jukes carried out a Parish Visitation from March 21st-22nd. The May procession took place on May 3rd and the UCM Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory on May 27th. Bishop Walmsley (Bishop to the Forces) administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Duke of Yorks School on June 14th. This was also the date of the Deanery Corpus Christi procession at Kearnsey Manor.

Deacon Rev Ged Watkins left the Parish on 1998 May 10th.

Father Peter Ayoung Maguin from the Archdiocese of Khartoum in the Sudan was helping in the Parish at this time.

On 1998 June 27th at Mass at 12 noon, Bishop Tripp ordained parishioner the Rev Steven Fisher to the Priesthood in St Paul's Church. This was followed by a Reception Buffet in St Edmund's School afterwards. On the following day, Sunday, 1998 June 28th, Father

Fisher celebrated the 11 a.m. Mass and gave his first blessing afterwards.

Father Ronald Salmon, who had been appointed to Dover after his Ordination and served here as Assistant Priest for 10 years, died aged 82 in 1998.

Father John Otieno arrived from Kenya on 1998 July 5th to assist in the Parish for a year.

Father Geoffrey Dove died and his Requiem Mass was celebrated at Kearsney Manor on Tuesday 1998 August 4th at 12 noon.

Father Peter Ayoung Maguin returned to the Sudan after assisting in the Parish for the few months.

On 1998 November 8th Robert Mackenzie retired from the post of Parish Magazine Editor and on November 14th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Father Maxwell-Stewart led a Day of Prayer for the Deanery, arranged by the Deanery Pastoral Council. Also, during that weekend of November 14th-15th Father Weatherill temporarily swapped parishes with Father Fisher (Father Weatherill had been Deacon at Dartford for the summer months before his Ordination), with the latter celebrating Mass at St Paul's.

During 1998 Parish Mass attendance averaged 500 people and a Parish Meeting was attended by approximately 60.

During 1999 it was noted that Father Ryan visited St Richard's School once a week and Father Weatherill maintained contact with St Edmund's School. Mass was celebrated in the schools, but attendance at the Mass in St Edmund's School was not good. There was also a problem in recruiting Altar Servers in the Parish.

On 1998 May 30th it was announced that the Archbishop had appointed Father Weatherill to be Parish Priest of an inner London parish. He moved to St Gertrude's, Bermondsey on Monday, June 28th, but returned to celebrate a leaving Mass in St Paul's Church on Friday, 1998 July 9th at 7 p.m., followed by a social event afterwards in the Social Club. Father Weatherill thanked everyone, including for the presentation of a very generous cheque. Father Weatherill was also appointed to work in the Diocesan Finance Office and was subsequently appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter.

On Sunday afternoon, 1999 June 13th, the Sacrament of the Sick was administered at a special Mass celebrated in St Paul's Church. The SVP Conference arranged transport for the sick parishioners and 19 of them were anointed.

In the summer of 1999 Mrs Maureen Johnston retired after teaching at St Richard's School for 27 years.

Parishioner Rev Oswald (Paul) McBride, O.S.B. was Ordained to the Priesthood at Ampleforth Abbey on Sunday, 1999 June 27th. The newly ordained Father McBride celebrated Mass in St Paul's Church on Tuesday 1999 July 6th and spent a week in the Parish. He celebrated many of the Masses during the week, including his first Latin Mass at St Edmund's Chapel on Saturday, July 3rd at 10 a.m. He had been an Altar Server in the Parish for many years and said that the seeds of his vocation were nurtured here.

The Parish sent a coach load of parishioners to Father Weatherill's Induction Mass at Bermondsey on Sunday, 1999 July 25th.

It was announced that Father John Otieno would be continuing to stay in the Parish and that the retired Priest, Father Tony Pyle (then resident in Deal) would become part of the Parish team.

On 1999 November 14th it was announced that Anglican Priest, Father Gary Gill would be staying at the Presbytery for some time. He wanted to come into full communion with the Catholic Church and was under instruction. Dover was his home town. He was subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church at a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, 1999 December 7th, followed by a small reception in the Social Club. It was announced that he desired to become a Catholic Priest.

On 1999 December 31st at 6 p.m. a 'Millennium Clocks' celebration began in the grounds of Dover College with an ecumenical service of reflection led by Christians together in Dover. About 500 people took part. Each of the lanterns was lit from the flame of the Bethlehem Peace Light, originally brought to St Paul's Church by the Deep Sea Fellowship Scouting movement. This was followed by a procession to the sea front.

The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 arrived, marking the start of the third Christian Millennium and Father Ryan made printed copies of information on the associated indulgences and the Holy Father Pope Saint John Paul II's Encyclical available to parishioners.

On 2000 April 30th it was announced that Father John Otieno would be staying in the Parish for a further two years and that Father Gary Gill was beginning his studies for the Catholic Priesthood.

The annual May procession took place on Sunday, 2000 May 7th and the UCM Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory on May 31st. Aylesford had been designated by Archbishop Bowen as a shrine where the Jubilee Indulgence could be gained.

On 2000 June 11th Mrs Veronica Mitchinson resigned as Parish Secretary and left Dover for new employment with the Diocese of Clifton, in Bristol. She would be living close to other members of her family. Father Ryan thanked her for her work and wished her well. She had been organist for nearly 30 years and ran the Choir for 18 years. An American Supper, farewell presentation evening was arranged at St Edmund's School for Saturday, 2000 July 15th. Mrs Mitchinson thanked everyone for the enjoyable and emotional evening and arranged for the 11 a.m. Mass on August 13th to be celebrated for all their intentions.

A coach load of parishioners travelled to Aylesford Priory on Saturday, 2000 July 8th where Archbishop Bowen celebrated Mass as part of the Millennium Celebrations.

Father John Otieno's Superior arrived in the Parish and concelebrated the 11 a.m. Mass with Father Ryan on Sunday, 2000 June 25th.

Father John Otieno returned to Kenya, Africa at the end of 2000 October. A presentation to him was made in the Social Club after the 11 a.m. Mass on October 29th. He expressed his thanks for the very generous donation, and also to those who had given him separate gifts of money and other items.

Father Francis Ackaah-Mensah from the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana arrived in the Parish on 2001 February 16th to assist for a period of two years.

Archbishop Bowen wrote to Father Gary Gill inviting him to make plans with Bishop John Hine for his Ordination to the Priesthood. As a prelude, he became an Oblate Novice of the then Benedictine Abbey, Ramsgate on Sunday, 2001 April 29th at a Mass celebrated there at 3 p.m. He was then Ordained to the Diaconate at St Paul's Church on Friday, 2001 June 8th at 7 p.m. by Bishop John Hine. He was subsequently ordained to the priesthood in St Paul's Church at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, 2001 December 9th by Bishop John Hine.

Sister Anne Healy, U.J. died in 2001 July.

Near the end of 2001 Father Tony Pyle was in hospital recovering from a heart attack. Due to ill health he did not return to helping out in the Parish.

The Parish Magazine ceased publication in 2001.

The year 2002 saw the Ursuline Order celebrate 100 years in Dover (1902-2002). They arranged some celebratory centenary events culminating in a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Church on Monday, 2002 April 8th at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, 2002 June 2nd at 11 a.m. a special Mass was celebrated for the Golden Jubilee of the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II. Special readings authorised by the Episcopal Conference of England and Wales were used and the National Anthem was sung at the end of Mass, before the Angelus.

On Friday, 2002 June 21st at 7 p.m. Bishop John Hine Ordained parishioner Roy Pierce to the Priesthood for the Mill Hill Missionaries. Father David Maher returned to the Parish to attend the Ordination Mass. Father Roy Pierce celebrated his first Mass on Saturday, 2002 June 22nd at 10 a.m. in St Paul's Church.

Father Gary Gill was serving as Chaplain to the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School. Mass was celebrated in their Chapel at 8.45 a.m. every Sunday. One student was received into the Church and five were later Confirmed in St Paul's on June 18th.

In 2002 August the Young Offender's Institute ceased to exist and was converted into an Immigration Removal Centre. The regular Chaplains from the Parish to this new Centre were Father Gary Gill and Mr Nicholas Harby.

In 2002 December the Archdiocese approved plans for a new staircase to the Choir Loft in St Paul's Church. Under the terms of modern Health and Safety requirements the old metal spiral staircase was deemed hazardous (indeed, there had been a few accidents on it over the years). The total cost of the new staircase was £8,260 and installation was completed on 2003 April 7th. The old metal spiral staircase was sold.

Father Francis Ackaah-Mensah returned to his home Diocese on 2003 January 28th to open a new parish. His last (farewell) Mass was celebrated on Sunday, January 26th at 11 a.m. and was followed by a buffet in the Social Club.

The annual Deanery Pilgrimage to Tyburn in honour of Blessed Roger Filcock took place on Thursday, 2003 February 27th under the spiritual direction of Father Jeff Cridland.

At this time, Father Rolo, a Filipino Priest was resident in the Parish and assisting for a few weeks. Father Rolo was a Salesian who had just completed a year of study at St Anselm's Institute in Cliftonville. He remained in Dover until 2003 August 25th and celebrated the 11 a.m. Mass on August 24th. This was followed by a small buffet in the Social Club.

The Archbishop appointed Father Gary Gill as Parish Priest of Holy Cross, Plumstead Common, South London. He celebrated his farewell Mass on July 20th at 11 a.m., which was followed by a small buffet in the Social Club and a presentation. He left the Parish on July 22nd.

Father Joseph Tawiah from Ghana (Ordained in 1986) arrived in the Parish to help for a two year period on Tuesday, 2003 July 1st.

Father Bhagyam Chinnabathini arrived in the Parish from India during 2003 August to similarly assist for up to a two year period.

Scaffolding could be seen on each side of St Paul's Church in mid-2003 December. Some roof slates had come loose and some others had to be replaced.

In early 2004 January an underground leak had been found in the Church central heating system. While work was in progress investigating and repairing this, weekday morning and evening Masses were celebrated in the Sacristy.

On 2004 January 25th, the Church suffered some damage by the entrance of a robber. He smashed the glass door on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the Church and pilfered the money from the candle box: approximately £10. Father Ryan stated that the security of the Church was to be assessed. The glass door was repaired by March 14th and the Church (porch only) was open each day until 4 p.m. In the interim it had been kept locked all day except at Mass times.

On Saturday, 2004 April 24th, Michael Docherty was Ordained to the Priesthood at St Mary's Catholic Church, Egremont, Cumbria. He had been involved in St Paul's Parish for many years as a Catechist, Choir member and teacher at St Edmund's School. He studied for the Priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome.

On Sunday, 2004 May 16th it was announced that the Daughters of Charity (St Mary's Home) would be leaving the Parish in 2005 March.

On Sunday, 2004 July 11th it was announced that the Archbishop had appointed Father Ryan as Parish Priest of St Mary of the Crays in Crayford, located in the Borough of Bexley. Father Ryan wrote:

"It was my request to seek a new appointment as I feel that this Parish now needs a new vision.

"Your new Parish Priest is Father Peter Madden. He has visited us and is looking forward to coming from Crayford (a direct swap) on August 31st. He was born in Surrey, attended St Joseph's College and spent his early career in accountancy before studying for the Priesthood to be ordained in 1974".

Father Ryan stated that on Sunday, August 29th there would be a small buffet in the Social Club after the 11 a.m. Mass. A brief history by Robert Mackenzie would be published as an addendum to the Newsletter for a few weeks.

Father Ryan continued:

"Father Madden has served in Tolworth, Canterbury, the Travelling Mission in Kent, was Parish Priest at Park Wood in Maidstone South for some years and then was Parish Priest at Crayford. He loves walking, swimming, camping, gardening and cooking. He is a Priest of great Pastoral experience. I wish him and you every blessing for the future. He will be celebrating his first Mass in Dover on August 31st at 7 p.m."

The Induction Mass of Father Peter Madden as Parish Priest of Dover was concelebrated with Bishop John Hine as the principal celebrant on Friday, 2004 September 10th at 7 p.m. The entrance hymn was *Praise my soul, the King of heaven*; the homily was preached by Bishop Hine and the letter of appointment was read by the Dean, Father Roger Nesbitt. Father Madden then took the solemn oath required which included a public Profession of Faith (the Nicene Creed) and a declaration of belief in all the teaching of the Church..."especially the teaching concerning the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, the Sacraments, the Sacrifice of the Mass and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff". During Holy Communion the Choir sang the Motet *O taste and see* (Vaughan Williams) and the recessional hymn was *We have a gospel to proclaim*. Everyone was invited to the Social Club for refreshments after the Mass.

Bishop Joji, Father Bhagyam Chinnabathini's Bishop (and his Uncle) was staying at the Presbytery for 5 days around 2004 September 15th. They concelebrated a Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart in St Paul's Church on a Friday evening.

Father Madden visited both the schools and invited them to install and maintain their own noticeboards in the Church. St Richard's School subsequently proceeded with this.

On Sunday, 2004 October 31st Father Madden wrote that he wanted to buy a Book of the Gospels to be kept close to the Sanctuary in the Church and used in procession at the Liturgy of the Word during the Mass. He invited donors to contribute to the cost in memory of some special occasion or person.

On 2004 December 5th Father Madden wrote: "After Christmas I shall be on my own for several weeks, so there won't be a Mass every weekday. If any of the ministers of the Eucharist would be willing to lead a Eucharistic service [= Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion], I would like to know so that we can prepare..."

A Mass of Thanksgiving for the immense work undertaken in Dover on the occasion of the departure from the Parish of the Daughters of Charity was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Friday, 2005 February 17th at 7 p.m.. The principal celebrant was Bishop John Hine and the homily was preached by Father Fergus. This was followed by a reception in the Hall.

On 2005 March 6th Father Bhagyam Chinnabathini returned to India (some years later he was appointed Bishop of a diocese in India) and the Vicar General of the Diocese asked Father Valentine Nna Nna Nurachukuru from Nigeria to stay in Dover.

Father Michael Doyle (who had assisted in the Parish in the past) died on Wednesday, 2005 April 15th.

Father Valentine Nna Nna Nurachukuru left the Parish on Wednesday, 2005 August 3rd to move to the Sacred Heart Church, Camberwell. Father Madden wrote in a letter to parishioners: "The Archbishop has appointed only ONE priest to the Parish of St Paul...Looking at the finances of our Parish, I do not consider that we can afford to 'employ' another priest..."

Following consultation, the final 8 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish was celebrated on October 16th. There would also no longer be an 8 a.m. Mass on Holydays of Obligation or on Christmas Day. Father Madden also reported paying the annual insurance for the Church buildings: a cost of nearly £5,000.

Friday evening Masses in St Paul's generally ceased and were replaced with a Mass at 10 a.m., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of the Mass until 11 a.m.

On Friday, 2005 October 26th the St Paul stained glass window in the Church was damaged by a brick.

Sunday Mass attendance in St Paul's Church during 2005 October was an average of 323 parishioners.

In 2006 February contracts were awarded for repairs to the most badly damaged of the stained glass windows in the Church. It was noted that £2,600 was needed to protect the windows on each side of the building and a further £600 for the St Paul window above the Sanctuary. Within two weeks donations of £2,200 were received. Work commenced in late April, with the south side windows being protected externally with polycarbonate sheeting (the same material that riot shields are made of). Protective metal grills were fitted to the exterior of the St Paul Window and the Rose Window above the Lady Altar. The final phase of the work took place in December with the fitting of polycarbonate protective sheeting to the north side windows. The total funds donated amounted to £6,286.60 and the total cost of the work was £7,981.81, the deficit being made up from the general Parish fund. Father Madden thanked all those who had contributed.

Father Humphrey Chinedu Anamaja from South Africa was resident in the Parish to cover for Father Madden's summer holiday during 2006 July. During his holiday in France, Father Madden prayed at the tomb of St Edmund Rich in Pontigny.

A Parish Meeting recommended to withdraw the use of Parish premises from the Social Club, but Father Madden decided to give the Club another chance for the current committee to accept revised working conditions and to attempt to control the excesses of behaviour which had led to the recent letter of complaint from the Dour House Management Committee and other problems.

On 2006 August 27th it was noted that the cement was crumbling away from the Rose Window at the west end of St Paul's Church and both external and internal repairs were needed. The necessary work was undertaken, with scaffolding erected at the western (front) elevation of the Church during 2006 November. At the same time, a survey was also undertaken of the tower and the bell.



A special Sung Mass was celebrated in St Paul's on 2006 September 28th at 7 p.m. to mark a new feast of Our Lady, Star of the Sea (Bishop Thomas Burns, Bishop to the Forces, had been authorised to keep this feast). Deacon Rev Dan Mulcahy from Whitstable (Apostleship of the Sea) preached the homily. Prayers were said for all those involved in the Port of Dover and its allied activities.

On 2006 October 15th Father Madden announced his intention to alter the times of Confession in St Paul's Church on Saturdays to 10.30 - 11 a.m. and 5.30 - 5.55 p.m..

On Tuesday, 2007 March 6th at 7 p.m. the Mass was celebrated for the victims of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster and their families on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary. The Church was open all day for people to visit the memorial, pray before the Blessed Sacrament and light a candle.

On Sunday, 2007 June 10th Father Madden announced that the then Parish Secretary, Mike Nice had been very ill in hospital and not working for quite some time. He asked for help for about 12 hours per week.

Father Humphrey Chinedu Anamaja returned to the Parish to cover for Father Madden's summer holiday during 2007 July.

On Sunday, 2007 September 16th Father Madden wrote that he had celebrated Mass at the Duke of York's Royal Military School for two and a half years and not on one occasion was it possible to start on time. There were also other difficulties and he had brought the arrangement to an end. He had offered them Mass in St Paul's Church, but this was declined.

The 110th anniversary of the Consecration of St Paul's Church was celebrated at the Mass on Tuesday, 2007 September 25th at 7 p.m. There was a small celebration in the Presbytery afterwards.

During 2007 October in compliance with the Child Protection legislation, a window was installed into the door of the Confessional in St Paul's Church. Later that month Father Madden had an eye operation.

A candlelit Mass was celebrated in St Edmund's Chapel on the Feast Day, Friday, 2007 November 16th at 7 p.m.

Mass in Polish for the growing local Polish Community was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Sunday, 2008 April 6th at 12.30 p.m. These continued until 2008 June 15th when Father Krzysstof said that they would cease until further notice.

Father Madden announced on 2008 April 13th that the residue of the estate of Margaret Cecilia Fellowes (died 2007 July) had been left to the Parish, the sum being just under £20,000.

The 140th anniversary of the opening of St Paul's Church took place on 2008 May 15th.

A new Church noticeboard, fixed to the front exterior of St Paul's was in place in 2008 June and had been paid for by a benefactor at a cost of £900.

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Saint Paul to run from 2008 June 28th until June 29th the following year.

Father Humphrey Chinedu Anamaja again returned to the Parish to cover for Father Madden's summer holiday during late 2008 June.

Sister Bridie Costello died in 2008 July, her Requiem Mass and burial taking place at the Provincial House at Mill Hill on Tuesday, July 8th. Her sister, Sister Lily, wrote and thanked the Parish for their sympathy, numerous Masses, messages and prayers.

It was possible to gain the Plenary Indulgence for the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Saint Paul in every Church and Chapel of the Diocese on the Solemnity of June 29th and the Feast on January 25th.

Canon Pearson celebrated all the Masses in St Paul's on Sunday, 2008 September 14th while Father Madden was away from the Parish with the Ministry-to-Priests support group.

On Thursday, 2008 October 9th at 7 p.m. Father Roy Pierce visited the Parish to celebrate a Mass for the repose of the soul of Sister Bridie Costello. There were refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

On Sunday, 2008 October 12th Bishop Paul Hendricks (Auxiliary for the S.W. London Area) represented Archbishop Kevin McDonald who was too ill to be present, and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 11 a.m. Mass. He also celebrated the 6 p.m. Vigil Mass on the Saturday. There was a reception in the Hall after the Confirmation Mass.

It was noted that 2008 was the first time for many years that no one was paid for working in the Parish and expenses were thus reduced.

Various groups in the Parish were asked to volunteer to take it in turns to lead the Stations of the Cross on Sunday afternoons in Lent.

In late 2009 March work was underway repairing the Church roof and the iron work on the Presbytery roof, together with loft insulation. This was funded by the legacy received during the previous year.

On Saturday, 2009 June 27th the Women's Guild travelled by coach to Aylesford Priory to the Diocesan Celebration of the Year of St Paul. Archbishop McDonald celebrated Mass at 12 noon.

During early 2009 August Paul Smye-Rumsby installed a new, modern public address system in St Paul's Church.

On Saturday, 2009 October 10th the Women's Guild travelled by coach to Aylesford Priory where they were able to venerate the relics of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux) which were on visit to the Archdiocese during their unique tour of England and Wales.

Father Madden had book shelves installed on the wall of the north aisle of St Paul's Church and a small Parish Library set up where parishioners could borrow books for study.

On 2009 November 22nd it was reported that the Sacristy was being repainted (for the first time since the 1987 fire) and the carpet tiles were replaced with new carpet.

Sister Mary Dympna Nevin, U.J. died suddenly and unexpectedly while getting ready to attend the 9.30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, 2009 November 29th. Her Requiem Mass was celebrated on Thursday, 2009 December 17th at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Barham and a reception afterwards in the Churchill Hotel. As reported elsewhere in this work, she was the retired Head Teacher of St Richard's School.

Reaching the age of 65 on 2010 April 14th, Father Madden wrote in the weekly Newsletter that his pension would pay for his food, thereby benefitting the Parish.

A new website with the history of St Edmund's Chapel was set up by Paul and Greg Smye-Rumsby in 2010 June. Carol and Paul Smye-Rumsby are trustees of St Edmund's Chapel. The address is: [www.stedmundschapel.co.uk](http://www.stedmundschapel.co.uk)

Father Frederick Mbiere from Nigeria, studying in Rome, served the Parish to cover for Father Madden's summer holiday in 2010 July.

While on holiday Father Madden suffered a lung infection which was treated with strong antibiotics. He wrote in the Newsletter: "...Suffice to say, I have a serious health problem, which is under investigation..." In the Newsletter on Sunday, 2010 October 17th he wrote: "Several weeks ago, I was diagnosed with Myeloma, i.e. bone-marrow cancer, and confirmed last Tuesday, following tests".

On the Solemnity of Christ the King, Sunday, 2010 November 21st, Father Madden presented a long-service medal to Mr Alf Huntley (Altar Server for so many years) at the 9.30 a.m. Mass and from 3 until 3.30 p.m. there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament including the consecration of the Human Race to Christ the King and the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

On 2011 June 12th Father Madden wrote: "I am now on a course of chemotherapy..."

On Sunday, 2011 June 19th it was noted that lead had been stolen from the roof of St Paul's Church during the week. Repairs were carried out using parish voluntary labour and non-valuable materials.

In 2011 September the new English Translation of the Mass was introduced in England and Wales. From 2011 November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent, this was the only lawful translation to be used in this country.

Archbishop Peter Smith administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Paul's Church on Sunday, 2011 June 26th at the 11 a.m. Mass. He recalled that he had been at the Seminary with Father Madden 45 years previously and that they had both worked in the City. Father Madden had been on the intercession list that he used at Morning and Evening Prayer since the autumn of the previous year.

Father Frederick Mbiere returned to the Parish to assist during 2011 July, returning to Rome on July 29th.

Due to the illness of Father Madden various Deanery Priests (including those in retirement) were celebrating the Sunday Masses in St Paul's from Sunday July 31st onwards. These included Father Peter Rolph from Folkestone, Father Christopher Lindlar from Mongeham, Father Bradley, Father Whelan, Father John Panario, Father Michael Bateman (Kearsney Manor) and Canon Jeremiah Cronin. Father Madden was still able to celebrate the weekday Masses.

Sunday Mass counts taken in 2011 October showed 264 people at Mass in St Paul's on average.

On Sunday, 2011 November 20th it was announced that Mr Alf Huntley had resigned from his role in running the Altar Servers due to ill health. He suddenly collapsed and died during the afternoon of Sunday, November 27th. His Requiem Mass was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Friday, December 9th at 10 a.m., followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery.

It was noted in the Newsletter on Sunday, 2012 January 8th that the parish finances showed a healthy balance in the bank and that most of the Parish savings were on loan to the Diocese.

On Sunday, 2012 February 12th, Father Whelan administered the Sacrament of the Sick to Father Madden at the 9.30 a.m. Mass.

During Lent 2012 Father Madden was in King's College Hospital in London undergoing transplant treatment. The Archbishop appointed Father Justin Daanaah to the Parish in the interim. Father Daanaah introduced the recitation of the Rosary before all Masses in St Paul's with the intention of the recovery of Father Madden. On Tuesday, 2012 March 13th Father Madden was moved to the residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Lambeth to convalesce for a couple of weeks. He returned to the Parish in the week commencing March 25th. Father Madden had received 150 cards from parishioners while in hospital and he noted that some of the clergy who had helped out paid compliments about the Parish and its liturgy.

The Holy Week and Easter liturgies were shared between Father Daanaah and Father Madden, who was now in remission from his cancer. Father Daanaah left the Parish in mid-2012 April to assist at St Anselm's, Dartford, where Father William Scanlon, the Parish Priest was very seriously ill, and subsequently died.

On 2012 April 22nd Father Madden reported that the vestments were in a "sorry state" and suggested that the Parish should buy a new set.

Father Madden wrote about the arrival of two new parishioners, Sue and Barry Barton in the Newsletter on 2012 May 6th. Barry was an ordained married Permanent Deacon who wanted to exercise his ministry in the Parish. The Rev Barry Barton started his service in the Parish on 2012 May 20th. He would also work in the Parish of Our Lady of Dover, Buckland.

Following the retirement of Father Roger Nesbitt as Dean and Parish Priest of Folkestone, Father Jeff Cridland (Parish Priest of Saint Finbarr's, Aylesham) was appointed Dean in late 2012 June.

On 2012 September 16th, after 110 years in the Parish, the Ursuline Order left Dover.

While Father Madden was away from the Parish, Father John Weatherill made a return visit to celebrate all the Masses at the weekend of 2012 September 23rd. Father Whelan and Father Stephen Bould (Parochial Administrator of Folkestone) celebrated the Masses on the weekend of September 30th.

A special Deanery concelebrated Mass with Father Cridland was celebrated in St Paul's on Saturday, 2012 October 13th at 6 p.m..

On 2012 November 16th St Edmund's School celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a concelebrated Mass in Canterbury Cathedral at which Archbishop Peter Smith was the principal celebrant and all the Deanery Priests concelebrated.

By 2012 October 21st Father Madden had taken delivery of all the new chasubles and dalmatics (made in Poland) and expressed his gratitude to the benefactors who had paid for them.

On Sunday, 2012 November 25th it was noted that the cupboards upstairs in the Hall had been broken into during Social Club hours.

A letter from the SVP Conference President, Mr Joe Johnston, published on Sunday, 2012 December 22nd stated that as no one was willing to take over the role of President, St Paul's Conference was to be closed down. He thanked everyone for their support over the years and Father Madden thanked the SVP for its work in the Parish.

Father Madden noted that there were significant numbers of people in the Parish from India, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia and parts of Africa.

In the Newsletter published on Sunday, 2013 June 2nd, Father Madden wrote: "Please pray for me as my bone-marrow cancer is causing difficulty again, and I shall shortly begin another course of chemotherapy. Inevitably, weekday Masses will be limited.". Father Roger Nesbitt celebrated the Masses that weekend and Father Stephen Langridge, M.A. (then Diocesan Vocations Director) celebrated all the Masses in St Paul's Church the following weekend. He preached about the importance of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and of praying daily for them. In a retiring collection, parishioners gave £433 towards the cost of running the Vocations Centre at Whitstable. On Sunday, 2013 June 23rd all the Masses were celebrated by Father Peter Rolph from Folkestone and it was announced that during the week Father Madden had gone into hospital.

Weekly Sunday Masses in the Parish continued to be celebrated by priests from the Dover Deanery, with occasionally other visiting priests while Father Madden returned to the parish. This included the soon to retire from the post Catholic Bishops' Prison Advisor for England and Wales, Monsignor Malachy Keegan. He celebrated all the Masses on Sunday, 2013 August 4th, with Father Madden present in the sanctuary. After the 11 a.m. Mass he visited the Dover Immigration Removal Centre on the Western Heights, where he also celebrated Mass.

During the autumn of 2013 Father Madden was able to resume his normal duties in the running of the Parish. Also during this period, a food bank was established in Dover as an ecumenical venture and the Parish participated in it with great enthusiasm, donating far more food than any other organisation involved. Donations from parishioners continued on a monthly basis. (The need for food banks around Great Britain had arisen as a consequence of

the then Coalition Government's attempted reforms of the benefit system, which resulted in delays in people receiving benefits and the risk of them starving.)

At Mass on Sunday, 2014 March 9th, Father Madden announced that he had received a letter from the Social Club following their meeting on the preceding Wednesday, stating that they intended to cease trading with effect from that day. In the *Parish Newsletter* published on the following Sunday, 2014 March 16th, Father Madden wrote that social life had changed and the St Paul's Catholic Social Club had long ceased being a valuable parish activity. He invited parishioners to discuss and consider the use of these parish buildings for the future now that the Social Club had ceased to exist.

Father Madden experienced a further deterioration in his health and from Sunday 2014 March 16th supply priests were again celebrating the Sunday Masses in St Paul's Church and weekday Masses were replaced with a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 9 a.m. each weekday except Saturday. Saturday morning Confessions were suspended until further notice, but the Saturday evening ones continued with the supply priests. Regular celebrants included all those mentioned earlier as well as Canon Bunce (retired Parish Priest of Canterbury, resident in the Deanery). The liturgies of the Sacred Triduum in Holy Week were celebrated by supply priests and the Solemn afternoon liturgy on Good Friday was celebrated by Father Paul Mason, the recently appointed Episcopal Vicar for Kent. Confessions were heard by Father Whelan that day. Father Roger Nesbitt celebrated the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and Father Peter Rolph celebrated the Easter Vigil.

Towards the end of 2014 May there was some improvement in Father Madden's condition, which enabled him to concelebrate at some Sunday Masses and resume Saturday morning Confessions. Sunday, 2014 June 22nd was the Solemnity of Corpus et Sanguis Christi, as well as being the Feast day of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More and the Ruby (40 years) anniversary of Father Madden's ordination to the Priesthood. Preceded by many weeks of organisation and special fund-raising events coordinated by Deacon Barry, there was only one Parish Mass (at 11 a.m.) that Sunday morning to mark the occasion in thanksgiving. Father Madden was fortunately well enough to celebrate the Mass. While other Deanery Priests had a first duty to their Parishes that morning, the Mass was concelebrated by Father Michael Bateman (Kearsney Manor) and Canon Jeremiah Cronin. Family members and relatives of Father Madden were in attendance. Extra seating was provided in the side aisles to accommodate the congregation from both the normal Sunday Masses. The Mass began with the entrance hymn *Majesty*, and there was a separate Children's Liturgy in the Parish Rooms. The First Reading was read by Keith Wells, Jane Francis was the cantor for the Responsorial Psalm, and the Second Reading was read by Kathleen Huntley. The Gospel was read by the Deacon, Barry Barton. Father Madden preached about the Priesthood and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Apostle's Creed was recited and the Bidding Prayers were in several languages (including Polish), being repeated in English, which reflected the then current ethnic diversity of the Parish. The Offertory hymn was *This is my body broken for you*. Eucharistic Prayer III was used; the Communion Hymn was *Love is His word*; the Final Hymn was *Firm in the Faith of God* and the recessional organ voluntary was played by Nicholas Harby. Before the end of the Mass Father Madden spoke about the joy of the day and thanked everyone for the great support he had and was continuing to receive; particularly in prayers. He mentioned the times when he was confined to the top floor of the Presbytery and thanked those who telephoned him to give him support and encouragement and said how welcome that was. The Mass was followed by a Parish social event in the form of a Hog Roast at St Richard's School. Parishioners donated a total of £1,615.62 for a presentation to

Father Madden, who had expressed a wish to fulfil a lifelong desire to visit Rome and hoped to do so in the following October accompanied by other priests.

Another part of the celebrations had been Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Paul's Church on the preceding Friday, June 20th, concluding with Benediction at 6 p.m. The children of St Richard's School led 100 minutes of prayer in the Church on that morning.

Father Madden wrote about his ordination and included some thoughts about his time in the priesthood in the Newsletter that week. On the the following Wednesday, June 25th, he began a further four week course of chemotherapy.

From the summer of 2014 Father Madden was celebrating Sunday Masses more regularly and during the week as well. The annual national Mass count (taken on each Sunday during October in each Parish, and averaged) showed that Mass attendance at St Paul's had risen from 255 in 2013 to 292 in 2014.

Father Peter Rolph (retired at Folkestone), who had helped the Parish by celebrating many Sunday Masses (and the Easter Vigil) during Father Madden's illness, was himself informed that he was suffering from a terminal condition and died during the early autumn of 2014. Archbishop Peter Smith concelebrated his Requiem Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Aloysius, Guildhall Street, Folkestone.

During the autumn months of 2014 Father Madden was grateful for being well enough to be able to travel both to Lourdes and to the Venerable English College in Rome (on that visit with other priests celebrating the 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of their ordination). He expressed a desire to return to Rome to see much more.

A local builder was hired to replace / repair loose slates on the roof of St Paul's Church in 2014 October.

Father David Maher, after many years of poor health, died on 2014 December 21st in Co Cork, Ireland and his Requiem Mass and burial took place in his home town on Christmas Eve. A Memorial Mass for him was celebrated by Father Peter Madden at the request of parishioners on Sunday 2015 March 15th in St Paul's Church. The entrance hymn was *Hail Queen of Heaven, the ocean star*, the Offertory hymn was *Love is his word, I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship* (to the tune of Londonderry Air) was the Communion hymn and the Mass ended with the singing of *Hail, glorious Saint Patrick*. Parishioners were invited to the Parish Room for refreshments after the Mass.

Father Madden was able, with the help of Deacon Barry and parishioners to celebrate all the Holy Week liturgies during 2015 without any other help. He contrasted this with the previous year, when the Parish had been helped by seven priests.

During 2014 October, a consultation process was initiated in the Dover Deanery by Father Paul Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Kent on behalf of Archbishop Peter Smith, to look at the future provision for the Faith in this area, particularly in view of the increasingly older clergy and the decline in vocations to the Priesthood to replace them. Each parish undertook the consultation independently with the Deanery meeting with Father Mason in 2015 April to discuss ideas and summarise the progress to date. In his letter to the "parishioners of Dover Deanery" dated 2015 April 16, Father Mason reported on and summarised the results of the consultation process, noting:

"...Inevitably, any suggestion of amalgamation or change to the *status quo* is usually met with alarm, especially so when it involves our place of worship...

"So please take heart, the findings of the consultation do not mean that plans will instantly be made to put them into action. Rather, as things develop in the deanery, as priests retire and move on for example, we now have a sense of the possibilities for rationalisation and can approach the evolving situation more proactively and will have a starting point for further discussion at the appropriate time.

"...It is also my hope that this process will help you develop your sense of being a deanery, working more effectively together than as individual parishes..."

Shortly after this, Father Madden wrote in the *Newsletter* inviting those who could afford to do so to consider giving £10 per week in the Offertory collection, pointing out that the church boiler really needed replacing and that initial estimates suggested a cost of £12,000. He also invited those with building skills in the Parish to come forward and referred to a St Paul's Development Programme and a "new hall".

On Sunday, 2015 August 2nd, Father Madden announced at the Masses that Archbishop Peter had given him permission to take semi-retirement and that the Archdiocese had found him a property to live in. This would be in the area (Hythe) as he was attached to the Kent and Canterbury hospital for treatment. He thanked all those who had been continuing to pray for him and expressed the hope that his successor would be able to build up a centre of Christianity here.

A letter from Father Paul Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Kent and dated "All Saints 2015" (i.e. 2015 Nov 1st) was addressed to "Dear parishioners of St Paul's, Dover". He wrote:

"I thought it important to write to you now that Fr Peter has moved into semi-retirement and you are awaiting the appointment of a new parish priest. I say 'semi-retirement' since Fr Peter has now moved out of the presbytery but is still taking on as much pastoral and sacramental care of the parish as he can. All the same, not having a resident priest, and being in a period of transition, can be an unsettling time for a parish and I know it can start to feel adrift, so it is with this in mind that I put this letter together.

"Given the current situation, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Fr Peter, not only for his years of service in Dover, but also for continuing to support the parish despite his own state of health. I would also like to thank all parishioners, with particular mention of Theresa and Keith Wells and Deacon Barry, who have done so much to support Fr Peter and keep the parish heart beating.

"Being at the far end of the Diocese I know there can be a temptation to feel semi-detached, or even worse, forgotten by the wider Church. Let me assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. The situation in Dover is a priority for the Archbishop and his Council. At this particular time, however, demand for priests is outstripping supply, and working out the transfer of priests across the Diocese can be a rather drawn out process since it necessarily involves moving several priests at the same time.

"So I crave your patience during this period and ask you to continue praying and working for the good of the parish. I hope to be able to inform you soon about your new



parish priest as St Paul's begins a new chapter in the Catholic life of Dover.

"With every blessing..."

A fortnight later, Father Mason wrote another letter to parishioners, dated 2015 November 15th:

"I am very pleased to inform you that from next Sunday Fr Jeff Cridland will be taking on St Paul's as Parochial Administrator and will be moving into the presbytery. We hope to be able to appoint an assistant since Fr Jeff will still have responsibility for Aylesham... This does not mean that the Diocese will stop looking to appoint a Parish Priest but it does mean that for the near future St Paul's will have a good and experienced priest at the helm now that Fr Peter has retired..."

The new assistant, Father Petros Gebremichael (a Vincentian Priest from Ethiopia) arrived in the parish in mid-December 2015. Father Cridland was also assisted by Father Michael Smith, S.J.; a Jesuit from London. Running both parishes in a combined team ministry meant that one priest served Dover each Sunday while the other(s) served Aylesham parish (which also included a church at Eythorne and a Mass Centre at Wingham), and they alternated from week to week.

Father Cridland initiated discussions in the parishes about the future way forward. Father Petros was called back to Ethiopia by his Order and left the Parish on the Wednesday of Holy Week in 2016. Work began to find a replacement for him by the Diocese. In the meantime, after more discussions and meetings, particularly at Aylesham Parish and between their parishioners and Father Paul Mason, it was announced that the Parishes of St Paul's Dover and St Finbarr's Aylesham would be amalgamated.

A special Parish lunch following the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, 2016 April 17th was held for the retirement of Father Peter Madden. He was well enough to be able to be present at and concelebrate both the Masses on that Sunday, and had been present at the Good Friday and Easter Sunday liturgies as well. He subsequently wrote to Father Cridland to express his thanks for the occasion and the presents that he had received.

Following further discussion in and between the two Parishes, the amalgamation of Dover and Aylesham Parishes was completed in 2016 June. Both the Parish Churches (Saint Paul's and Saint Fibarr's) retained their original names. Following a consultation process in the Parishes culminating in a meeting and a vote, the new name of the combined parishes was chosen as "The Parish of the Good Shepherd". Archbishop Peter Smith signed the document legalising the merger of the two Parishes on 2016 October 4th.

## **10: The Parish of the Good Shepherd**

Father A.G. 'Jeff' Cridland's induction Mass as the first Parish Priest of the newly combined Parish of the Good Shepherd was celebrated in St Paul's Church at 5 p.m. on Sunday, 2016 November 27th.

Following the great difficulty in finding priests available to assist in the celebration of weekend Masses in the Parish, consultation with parishioners took place and with the approval of the Bishop in Kent, Bishop Paul Mason, the last Sunday Mass in the Anglican Church of St Mary in Wingham was celebrated on 2016 December 4th. Similarly, the last Saturday evening Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Apostles, Eythorne, also took place that weekend. From Sunday, 2016 December 11th, revised Mass times in the Parish were introduced: 6 p.m. on Saturday and 9.15 a.m. on Sunday in St Paul's Church, Dover and 11.15 a.m. on Sunday in St Finbarr's Church, Aylesham. This was necessary to facilitate one priest being able to celebrate all these Masses.

Early in 2017 the Parish Hall was redecorated and then the interior of St Paul's Church, both under the auspices of Dover Outreach Centre, who were given the use of part of the former Parish Social Club buildings, an idea promoted by Deacon Barry Barton. Opportunity was taken to extend the sanctuary outward at that time to provide more room for liturgical celebrations. Stonework on the front exterior of the church was also repaired at a cost of £7,400. The bell was also removed from the bell tower and sent for repair, subsequently being replaced with an electric motor to ring the bell in a fixed position at a cost of £5,988. It was discovered that the bell was inscribed with the words "London 1878" and we recall that an early photograph of St. Paul's Church shows no bell present. After many years, the bell was again rung before the Sunday Masses.

On sabbatical from Zimbabwe, Father Reason Mlilo took up residence in the Parish on 2017 March 20th.

The Sion Community for Catholic Evangelization undertook a week long mission in St Richard's School during 2017 January and subsequently undertook a Deanery Mission based at St Paul's, Dover from 2017 July 1st to 7th and at Our Lady Help of Christians, Folkestone from July 8th to 16th.

Mary Smye-Rumsby was appointed as parish secretary and treasurer in 2017 June, as well as continuing in her role as newsletter editor.

One consequence of the celebration of only one Mass in St Paul's on Sundays was that in 2017 September the Folk Choir merged with the former 11 a.m. Choir to form one single liturgical choir for the 9.15 a.m. Sunday Mass.

A Dover Deanery pilgrimage to Fatima (in the centenary year of the apparitions) took place in 2017 June, when 38 people undertook the journey.

The final Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Apostles, Eythorne was celebrated on Saturday evening, 2017 October 7th with the Church eventually being offered for sale, and finally being later sold for £20,000.

In 2017 November Archbishop Peter Smith telephone Fr Cridland and gave

permission for a Columbarium (a place for ashes to be interred) to be installed in front of Our Lady's Altar in St Paul's Church. Construction was completed on 2018 May 6th. Marie McGeeney's family provided the funds for the work and Paul Smye-Rumsby supervised the operation. Room was provided for 48 caskets and this was the first parish to provide such a facility.

Lifelong parishioner Mary Stokes died on Sunday, 2017 July 9th. She was secretary to the Managing Director at Dover Harbour Board before her retirement and had provided voluntary secretarial assistance to Father Tanner in years gone by. She left a legacy to the Parish of £175,000.

Archbishop Peter Smith wanted to visit Father Peter Madden in Kearsney Manor Nursing Home on 2017 December 16th and a request was made that Deacon Barry Barton should also be present. Father Madden died while they were present. His body was brought into St Paul's Church on Sunday, 2018 January 21st, followed by a Mass at 5 p.m. Archbishop Peter presided over his Requiem Mass on Monday, 2018 January 22nd and Father Peter Madden was buried in Canterbury City Cemetery, Westgate Court Avenue, Canterbury. Father Madden had provided funds for parishioners to attend a reception at the Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall) that afternoon and his family presented his library of books to the Parish, where they were absorbed into the parish library. A choir of 20 persons provided an excellent standard of music at the Requiem Mass and 36 priests attended, remarking on the welcome that they received from everyone.

On 2018 May 20th, former parishioner Jane Bertelsen who became a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood and had been Mother General of the Order for several years, was made a member of the Papal Commission for the Protection of Minors.

It was announced on 2018 June 3rd that the Catholic Nursing Home at Kearsney Manor was to close.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of St Richard's Primary School, Bishop Paul Mason celebrated a special concelebrated outdoor Mass in the school ground on 2018 June 22nd at 12 noon.

The 150th anniversary of the opening of St Paul's Church was marked on 2018 July 18th when Archbishop Peter Smith concelebrated a special Mass at 11 a.m. in the Church. There were "beautiful flower arrangements and music" and the Archbishop commented on the way that everyone joined in.

Father Jeff Cridland announced that the parish accounts for the year 2017 showed a deficit of £18,156.14.

Both the Southwark and Westminster Justice and Peace Commissions met at St Paul's on 2018 October 20th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and undertook a walk to the seafront to pray at the memorial plaques for migrants who had died trying to reach this country.

Archbishop Peter arranged for pre-seminarian Andrew Bishop to reside in the Parish.

From 2018 November 13th both Fr Reason and Fr Jeff Cridland joined 28 people from the Deanery on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Mgr Matthew Dickens looked after the

Parish on weekend of November 17th/18th.

Fr Reason left the Parish on 2019 March 18th. This was a year that was to see the non-availability of St Edmund's Chapel for two months from March 31st due to internal works being carried out; and Fr Jeff Cridland's 75th birthday as well as the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. This was marked by a special Mass concelebrated in the grounds of Dover Castle on the mound below the Keep. The Syro-Malabar community led the entrance procession; a congregation of more than 1,000 was seated on the Palace Green and the music was provided by the combined choirs of the parish schools, Aylesham and Dover Churches and an African Choir soloist (Dana Jarvie) rendered the Panis Angelicus. The Jubilee raised almost £800 for Parish funds, in addition to presenting Fr Jeff with a gift. All the events were organised by Natalie Elphick M.P.

Father Stephen Simonin from the Community of St John helped out in the Parish from 2019 May to August.

Father Gary Gill died and Archbishop Peter celebrated the Requiem Mass in St Paul's Church on Monday, 2019 June 17th at midday.

Father Patrick Adusei Poku (a Spiritan Father originally from Ghana) arrived in the Parish on 2019 October 2nd. He had been working in Manchester training people for the apostolate and it was the first time that his superiors had asked him to work full time in a parish.

On 2019 September 26th Andrew Bishop went to the Beda College in Rome to begin his 4 year training course for the priesthood. He would return to Dover for his holidays.

Pope Francis canonised Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman in Rome on Sunday, 2019 October 13th and special Masses were celebrated in St Paul's Church to mark the occasion. Saint John Henry Newman had travelled through Dover when crossing the Dover Strait to this country.

It was reported on 2020 February 16th that for the second time in as many years there had been a break-in at St Paul's Church. The padlock on the side glass door had been cut and money stolen from the candle stand by also cutting off the padlock there,

Father Jeff Cridland used his Jubilee present to travel to Australia and New Zealand.

The year 2020 saw the rapid spread of Covid-19 coronavirus around the world from its origin in China. The new archbishop (John Wilson) issued a decree to the effect that there would be no sign of peace at Mass, no communion under both kinds, encouraging communion in the hand, that Holy Water stoups must be emptied, hymnals and Mass books must be removed from the Church and hymn sheets could be provided which were to be destroyed immediately afterwards. The Women's Guild cancelled their evening celebration to mark the Feast of St Patrick.

As the situation worsened, from 2020 March 20th no Masses would be celebrated in public in the country until it was safe for people to gather again. Parish newsletters were sent as email attachments to people and by March 29th Masses were being livestreamed from St Paul's everyday (with no congregation present). Paul Smye-Rumsby had installed the necessary cabling in the Church to facilitate this, funded by an anonymous benefactor. The

whole country was in the first of the Covid-19 lockdowns. People were able to watch the streaming of the Masses in their homes and make the act of Spiritual Communion composed by St Alphonsus Ligouri. After only two weeks the streaming from the Parish was reaching 37 countries around the world. Also 13 ships tuned in to it every Sunday: two in Australia, three in the Caribbean, one on the U.S. coast, two in Portugal and several others in the Mediterranean, one off Bolivia, another in the Panama Canal and a third in port in Panama. Fr Jeff noted that we had a new apostolate.

Fr John Panario at Buckland celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on 2020 June 25th. Celebrations were postponed due to the situation with Covid-19 coronavirus.

St Paul's reopened for private prayer only from Wednesday, 2020 July 1st from 11 am to 1 30 pm. Reopening for Mass took place on the weekend of July 12th with Masses at 9.15 and 1130 a.m. It was for limited numbers only due to the need for social distancing and people had to fill in track and trace forms and book tickets, wear face masks and there was no music. Hearing of confessions was allowed again from July 19th, but this could not be in the confined space of a confessional. The large room in the Presbytery was used.

Fr Patrick left Dover to become Parish Priest of Hartley from 2020 September 1st. His reflections during the Covid-19 lockdowns were published on the parish website and then in a book entitled *Alone but Together*, which was sold to raise money for the Missionaries of Charity, Ghana, founded by Mother Theresa. Over £2,000 was raised and the publication of the book was organised by Sue Barton.

Fr Patrick was replaced by Fr Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp. He arrived in England on Wednesday 2020 September 9th and was then isolating in a Spiritan House in London, finally arriving in Dover on Thursday, 2020 October 1st. In his own words, Fr Leo wrote: "I was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood on the 2008 July 29th in Nigeria. I belong to the Holy Ghost Fathers, (The Spiritans). For the last twelve years I did Missionary work in the Philippines. I had a very flourishing and joyful experience among the Filipino People. I was helping the poorest people in the island of Mindanao. I was a chaplain to University students, and later took charge of the Spiritans Social Actions which builds houses for the poor, provides food for those affected by natural disasters (typhoons) and the constant Muslim conflicts in Mindanao. In 2014, I served as the Provincial Superior of the Spiritan Mission in the Philippines. I also served as the Parish Priest at the Resurrection of the Lord Chinese - Filipino Parish, Iligan City from 2017 to 2020. I am very happy and blessed to share my life with you here at the Parish in Dover. God bless."

Another Covid-19 lockdown began on 2020 November 8th and on November 22nd Fr Jeff wrote that his cancer had become "more active". St Paul's reopened for Mass on Wednesday, 2020 December 2nd and face masks had to be worn unless a person was exempt for medical reasons.

Father Michael Boland died on 2021 January 10th.

On 2021 January 31st it was reported that the monthly viewing figures for the online streaming of the liturgy from the Parish showed 3,717 viewing in the U.K., 835 in Ireland, 296 in the U.S.A., 47 in India, 33 in the Philippines, 10 in Germany and Italy, 8 in Spain, 6 in Canada and Poland, 5 in Switzerland, 4 in Austria, France, South Africa and the U.A.E., 3 in Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago, 2 in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Belgium,

Gibraltar, Sweden, Slovakia and Lithuania, and 1 in Pakistan, Lebanon, Zambia, Barbados, Turkey, Czechia, Denmark, Jersey, Brazil and Jamaica!

Accounts showed that the Parish was running at a deficit of £14,877 in 2019 and £5,093 in 2020.

In early 2021 Father Jamie Houghton (a priest of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham) moved from Folkestone to Dover Parish and a regular Ordinariate Mass was introduced into St Paul's, initially weekly and later monthly at 10 am on a Thursday morning. He wrote on the Parish website: "I was brought up in North London, and was ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1969. I have had over fifty years of ministry which I have loved. I discovered early on, that God is full of surprises in how he uses his people in sending us to places and people we would never have dreamed of. As in any ministry, it is full of challenges, but they all add to priestly development. I was a diocesan youth chaplain before becoming a school Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies in both comprehensive and boarding schools. It was not until I was 55 that I had my first parish, or rather three parishes, near Uckfield, before moving to Eastbourne to be vicar of an Anglo Catholic Charismatic Church. Along, with many other Anglicans, I left the Church of England in 2011 to become a priest in the Ordinariate set up by Pope Benedict XVI. This meant three years of training before Archbishop Peter Smith ordained me priest at Our Lady Help of Christians in February 2015. As many ex-Anglicans have said, be received into the Catholic Church is like 'coming home'." The document from Pope Benedict XVI forming the Ordinariates was *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

On Friday, 2021 April 30th Fr Jeff was taken into hospital. A cancerous growth had caused a major blockage and it was taken out in surgery that night. He spent three days in intensive care and did not return to parish life until July 4th.

From 2021 July 18th singing was again permitted at Mass, but all other restrictions remained.

Father Kenneth McCarthy died aged 92 at his home in Walton on the Hill, Surrey in 2021 October. He had retired from active ministry in 1999.

On 2022 January 16th Typhoon Rai brought devastation to the Philippines and the priest there asked for help. The parish held a special collection on the weekend of February 19th-20th and in the end more than £6,000 was raised. Fr Leo expressed his thanks, which was echoed from the Philippines.

Alpha courses were introduced in the Parish.

By 2022 January 30th Covid-19 infections had eased and the special procedures in place were reduced. However, it is worth noting that as late as 2023 November, Government statistics showed about 4,000 new cases of Covid-19 in England each week, with around 400 deaths resulting from it. Official medical advice stated that even if vaccinated it was still possible to be infected by the virus. People who could not receive the vaccines (e.g. due to allergies) and were clinically extremely vulnerable, still had to take precautions, such as wearing face masks in large groups and continuing social distancing.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Claudio, visited the Parish on 2022 March 31st to attend a gathering of refugees and those helping them. He attended a service at the memorial

on the seafront and was preparing a report on the situation for Pope Francis.

By the end of 2022 March Mass attendance in the Parish (two churches) had reached 297, compared to an average of 265 before the pandemic. By July 24th Fr Jeff was given permission to make the second Sunday Mass at St Paul's permanent and it was moved to 11 a.m. from November 6th.

Andrew Bishop was ordained to the diaconate in the Basilica of Saint Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome on 2022 June 15th. Fr Jeff travelled to the concelebrated Mass which took place behind the tomb of Saint Paul, with about 40 concelebrants. On 2022 June 7th Andrew had been awarded a 2:1 degree in theology.

The Archdiocese of Southwark Justice and Peace Commission held its spring assembly at St Paul's Hall on Saturday, 2022 June 25th, preceded by the 10 am Mass at St Edmund's Chapel.

A solemn pilgrimage from the Parish to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham took place on 2022 August 27th, culminating with Mass celebrated by 20 priests and deacons of the Ordinariate.

The Peace Light distribution was no longer possible due to the presence of Covid-19 in Europe.

Late in the year Fr Jeff announced that he would be retiring and that Father Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp, would be the new Parish Priest. Fr Jeff Cridland left the Parish to take up residence at Bexleyheath on Tuesday, 2023 January 10th and was visited the next day by Fr Leo and Mary Smye-Rumsby. Dover had its first African Parish Priest and became a Spiritan Parish. On Saturday February 5th a special Mass in St Paul's at 5 pm was followed by Fr Jeff's retirement party at St Edmund's School. A presentation of about £4,500 was made. A similar farewell event was held at St Finbarr's in Aylesham on Sunday, March 10th.

Bishop Paul J. Hendricks, Bishop in Kent, presided over the induction Mass of Fr Leo at 6 pm on Friday 2023 May 12th. The Provincial Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in the U.K., the Very Rev Fr Ugo Ikwuka, CSSp. was present with the Deanery Clergy, Fr Jeff, Fr John Panario (Dean) and some from further afield for the concelebrated Mass. After the Mass, refreshments were provided at St Mary's Anglican church hall. Civic leaders also attended.

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Father Leo writes:

### **WHO ARE THE HOLY GHOST FATHERS? (THE SPIRITANS)**

**The Congregation of the Holy Ghost also called the Spiritans (C.S.Sp.)** is a Roman Catholic order of priests, brothers and lay associates founded in 1703 in France by Claude-François Poullart des Places. Originally began with the training of seminarians, the congregation gradually took an active part in missionary work all over the world. Suppressed by the French Revolution, it was restored under Napoleon, but persecution kept it weak until 1848, when the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary merged with it, and Fr. Francis Libermann, a convert from Judaism, became its superior general. The congregation pioneered in the resumption of African missions in the 1800s. Besides its missionary efforts, it carries on educational and social works and response to the poorest of the poor all around the world.

The Spiritans are consecrated to the Holy Spirit and dedicated to the poor. The members bound themselves by simple vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The purpose of the congregation, to bring "the Gospel everywhere, to undertake the most humble and laborious works for which it is difficult to find labourers," deeply committed to missions in all the continents.

The Spiritans have sent more missionaries from Europe to Africa than any other organization. Thanks to the many French and Irish missionaries who took the missions round the world. Their most famous missionaries in Africa include Abp. Alexandre le roy of Gabon, Abp. Prosper Augouard of the Congo, Bp. Joseph Shanahan of Nigeria, Rev. Charles Duparquet of Angola, Rev. Antoine Horner of East Africa, Rev. Laval of Mauritius, etc.

The first Spiritan to step foot in England was Fr. Jacques Bertout, from France. A refugee from the persecution of the Church during the French Revolution, he arrived on 19th September, 1792 and immediately began missionary work here until he was able to return to France in 1802.

The permanent establishment of the Congregation in England was in 1904 in the Diocese of Clifton when a large property called Prior Park was rented. The Province has however continued to experience growth and renewal with the mission-appointments here of Spiritans from other Provinces of the Congregation. The Province has enjoyed some great missionary successes and expansion in Britain and overseas, and has maintained an international character in all its missions.

We are determined to serve with the power of the Holy Spirit, touching lives, witnessing to the needy, leading people to Jesus with the total sacrifice of our lives. Our motto is: *Cor Unum et Anima Una* (One heart and one Soul). Acts 4:32. Fr. Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp, the new Parish Priest of Dover is a Spiritan, Ordained in 2008 and has since served in the Philippines before assuming the new mission in Dover in 2020. He has assisted Fr. Jeff Cidland until he succeeded as the Parish Priest in January, 2023. The assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Godwin Alkali, CSSp is also a Spiritan, ordained in 2018 and has served for many years in Nigeria before coming to serve in Dover in March, 2024. They come with lots of gifts and experiences, dynamic with a compassionate heart for the people they serve. May the Ministry of the Holy Ghost Fathers flourish with joy and grace in Dover. Amen.







Location of Spiritans in the UK



On Tuesday 2023 May 2nd at 10 am there was a concelebrated Mass presided over by Bishop Paul Hendricks with Fr Leo and Deacon John Fogarty from Stella Maris (formerly the Apostleship of the Sea). This was to commemorate the 100+ years of the service to seafarers and fishers by Stella Maris, in association with their around Britain sailing pilgrimage. Skipper of the yacht, Russ Fairman and the crew were present at the Mass and people could see the yacht in the Marina afterwards.

The Parish raised funds to support sending 13 young people to attend World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Portugal in the first week of 2023 August, including a visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Fr Leo accompanied the young people.

On 2023 May 21st there was a Marian Rosary procession from the Pencester Gardens to St Paul's Church with the crowning of a statue of Our Lady. This was accompanied by Fr Panario.

The Ordination of Andrew Bishop to the priesthood, scheduled for 2023 July 15th was postponed for health reasons.

Mrs Stefania Watson had died on 2020 May 18th in the midst of the pandemic. She left a legacy of £400,000 to the Parish and a special Memorial Mass for her was celebrated in St Paul's Church on Sunday 2023 August 27th at 9.15 am.

The Parish set up special Altars of Remembrance for all the deceased parishioners in both churches of the Parish during 2023 November.

The Most Reverend John Wilson, Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark, travelled to St Paul's Church on Friday, 2024 February 23rd in order to ordain the Deacon Andrew Paul Bishop to the Sacred Priesthood at a special Mass at 6.30. p.m. The Ordinary of the Mass was chanted in Latin (Missa de Angelis) together with the Pater Noster. The Archbishop chanted the Preface in English. The entrance hymn was Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, the Offertory Hymn was Praise my soul, the King of Heaven and the Communion Hymns were Soul of my Saviour and O Jesus Christ Remember. At the end of the Mass the Salve Regina was chanted, followed by the singing of Hail, Queen of Heaven, the Ocean Star. The Brother and Niece of the Deacon and the Rt Hon Natalie Elphick, MP for Dover were present at the Mass, together with ecumenical guests and a packed church. In his introduction to the Mass, the Archbishop said that Mgr Rod Stange was present representing the Beda College in Rome and that Fr Jeff was not well enough to attend (he was undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer). The Archbishop sent "lots of love and gratitude" to Fr Jeff and sent a special greeting to those participating via online streaming of the ceremonies. The first reading was from Jeremiah 1: 4-9, the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 3:8-12,14-19 and the Gospel (read by Deacon Barry Barton) was from John 15: 9-17. The Archbishop started his homily by noting that during his journey to Dover he had received a 'phone call from the operating officer of the Diocese wanting to know where he was, and who then asked the question "If Andrew is made a Bishop will he be called Bishop Bishop?"...He continued to speak about the four foundational words for discipleship - love, joy, friendship and choice - and told Andrew that he may not realise it but his entire life had been a preparation for this and you can now be completely at peace. Christ wants you to be His priest: be certain of the Lord's love for you and be certain of His call to you...He quoted Pope Benedict XVI..you must love others without discrimination, a sacrificing love, always self-giving, generously not seeking reward...a heart united to Christ. Quoting Blessed Columba Marmion he noted that

joy is the echo of Christ within us. "You will make mistakes, we all do. This is ordination, not canonisation."..Christ has destroyed death. Announce the joyful Gospel of salvation. Announce the Good News to everyone. Tonight a new and permanent intimacy with Christ begins through the laying on of hands. As Christ's friend you are at the service of the Church and His people. Know his mother Mary: make sure that your Rosary is never far away. Before you ever thought of Him, He had chosen you... to do something beautiful for God (St Teresa of Calcutta), especially in our age, about mercy... lead people to His Church. "Andrew, the Lord has chosen you to make a difference. Christ will speak through you...look forward in joyful expectation to all the priesthood will bring - do not be afraid, rejoice that you are a priest with and a priest for us. Thank God that you are here and well."

At the end of the Mass, Fr Leo thanked the Archbishop for travelling all the way to Dover for this moment of history. "We continue to pray for Andrew and the Archdiocese of Southwark." He thanked the choir and the schools who were represented (St Edmund's, St Joseph's (Aylesham) and St Richard's). The Archbishop responded by saying that bishops always like to have the last word and thanked everyone for the beautiful ceremony, the choir for the music which was really beautiful, and he congratulated Andrew. The congregation applauded. The Archbishop then paid tribute to the Beda College, where Canon Philip Gillespie is rector. "In a sense this evening this church has become the cathedral and has given the Diocese a new priest." The Archbishop also said that people had told him how much they loved Fr Leo and he hoped that they also told Fr Leo this.

Father Andrew Bishop celebrated his first Mass in St Paul's Church on Saturday, 2024 February 24th at 6.p.m., wearing gold-coloured vestments and using incense. Fr Leo, Fr Jamie, Fr John Panario (Dean of the Dover Deanery) and Deacon Barry were present. In his introduction, Fr Andrew gave thanksgiving for the grace he was given yesterday and the love from the parishioners during the 5 years which he had been present here. He offered the Mass for the repose of the soul of his mother, Eileen Bishop. The readings were those of the Second Sunday of Lent, Year B and the Responsorial Psalm was chanted. Fr Leo preached the homily stating there was a tradition that a priest is not allowed to preach the homily at his first Mass. Fr Jeff was to have preached the homily, but poor health prevented this and Fr Leo was preaching it on his behalf. Fr Leo congratulated Fr Andrew and thanked God for the gift of priesthood -"your perseverance - the difficult challenge of seminary training. Thank God for your life. Give God the glory. He chose you before you ever came into this life. You will become a stranger even in your own home. Heal all wounds. Have a heart of fire for charity, long for chastity. Nourish God's people through the Eucharist." What matters now is what he has become in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Your lying down during the Litany of Saints is a symbol of being dead to the world and alive in Christ. You are configured to be the alter Christus. This can sometimes be overwhelming. The master who called you is with you. As the Bishop reminded you yesterday, don't seek to please people. The people of Dover have an obligation to accompany you with their prayers. He thanked the people of the Parish for everything that they did and Fr Jeff as a mentor...Everyday the Holy Spirit will be with you. You will never be alone...The Offertory hymn was Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. The Ordinary of the Mass was sung in English and Eucharistic Prayer I was used. The Communion Hymn was The King of Love My Shepherd is...Fr Andrew thanked the whole Parish for everything they had done over the last five years and particularly in the last few days...choir, servers, those who printed the booklets, cleaned the church, etc.. Fr Jeff, Fr Reason, Fr Patrick, Fr Stephen. He would be forever linked with Deacon Barry who was ordained to the diaconate 21 years ago on the day that Fr Andrew was ordained. He continued to thank Fr Leo and Fr Jamie and said that he wanted to dedicate his priesthood to Our Lady and presented a bouquet of flowers which was put on the Lady Altar.

The hymn Immaculate Mary was sung at that time. He gave his blessing as a new priest after the Mass, starting with Fr Leo, followed by Fr Jamie, Deacon Barry and many people.

--ooOoo--

The pilgrimage of the Parish through time continues and perhaps this is well reflected in the words of a hymn attributed to St Columba of Iona:

Alone with none but thee, my God,  
I journey on my way:  
What need I fear when thou art near,  
O King of night and day?  
More safe am I within thy hand  
Than if a host should round me stand.

My destined time is known to thee,  
And death doth know his hour;  
Did warriors strong around me throng,  
They could not stay his power:  
No walls of stone can man defend  
When thou thy messenger dost send.

My life I yield to thy decree,  
And bow to thy control  
In peaceful calm, for from thine arm  
No power can wrest my soul:  
Could earthly omens e'er appal  
A man that heeds the heavenly call?

The child of God can fear no ill,  
His chosen, dread no foe;  
We leave our fate with thee, and wait  
Thy bidding when to go:  
'Tis not from chance our comfort springs,  
Thou art our trust, O King of kings.

---ooOoo--

This book has a beginning, but no end, for Dover's Catholic Faith is still being daily lived and practised in the Catholic Community. Let us pray that through the intercession of Our Lady of Dover, Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Paul, Saint Edmund, Saint Richard, Saint Thomas de la Hale and all our local Saints, that Our Lord will grant us a long period of peace, prosperity, growth in the Faith, an increase in the number of vocations and Catholics and the Conversion of England.

*The Faith of our Fathers is living still. We will be true to thee till death.*

---ooOoo---



## Appendix 1: Dover Parish Clergy in Communion with the Holy See

### 1. Parish Priests (a) Pre-Reformation

#### St Nicholas

(1293)	Denis	
1302	Stephen de Polton	
1308	Thomas Clement	
1316 Dec	John de Sutton	
1318 Aug	Peter Scott	
	John Haseberry	res 1349
1349 Jun	John Godeboar	res 1349
1350 Apr	Richard of Woodstock	
1355 Jun	Nicholas Godaventure	res 1376
1376 Nov	Simon Passemere	exc 1400
1400 Aug	John Fleure	d 1402
1402/3 Jan	Thomas Harry	res 1407
1407 Sep	Henry Bysshop	exc 1416
1416 Aug	Thomas Radford	exc 1420/1
1420/1 Jan	John Dalby	
	Richard Blake	res 1445
1445 Aug	John Laseyngham	
	John Skales	res 1447
1447 Jul	John Hunt	
	Richard Blake (again)	res 1459
1459 Aug	William Fuller	
	Roger Hoose	res 1467
1467 May	Thomas Smale	d 1468/9
1468/9 Jan	John Skales (again)	
	John Kydde	d 1480
1480 Jul	Canon Richard Multon	
	Robert Smyth	d 1516
1516 Jun	John Gynor or Joyner	

#### St John the Baptist

(1246)	Andreas	
(1293)	Richard	
(1346)	Andrew	
(1349)	John Gibbe	
1349/50 Mar	Henry Fraunkelyn	
	Thomas Cokyl	exc 1375
1375 Oct	Thomas Wit	d 1400
1400 Apr	Thomas Coytere	d 1400
1400 May	Batholomew de Krypton	res 1406

1406 Apr	Thomas Wake	
	Thomas Watch	d 1407
1407 Sep	Thomas Harry	exc 1419
1419 Oct	Milo Faunt	d 1426/7
1426/7 Mar	John Goldsmith	res 1447
1447 Apr	John Skales or Scaleys	res 1468/9
1468/9 Jan	Stephen Willes	

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### St James

(1246)	Silvester	
(1252?)	Lawrence de Lincoln	
(1282)	Walter de Brampton	res 1286
1286 Jun	William de la Knolle	
(1314)	Richard Langley	
(1319)	John	
1349 Dec	John Guodebour	
1354 Sep	John Pycart	
	John de Stratford	res 1357
1357 Dec	William Graunt	
	William Guico	res 1363
1363 Aug	John Benyt	
1406 Jun	Thomas Mansfield	
	John Panter	exc 1407
1407 Jun	Peter Gyles	d 1420
1420 Nov	Peter Saunder	
1444 Apr	William Hawkeswell	
	Robert Mellone	d 1477
1477 Aug	John Byrlyngham	res 1479
1479 Nov	James Bones	res 1482
1482 Aug	William Ryall	res 1488/9
1488/9 Mar	Richard Acastre	
1509/10 Mar	Roger Derley	
	John Thompson	res 1541

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### St Peter

(1232)	Ernulf de Berkley	
(1234)	Nicholas de Berkley	
1279 Oct	Robert of Wincheste	
(1302)	William de Silva	
1321 Jul	Walter de Merton	
(1349)	Robert de Chylendenne	
1349/50 Feb	Nicholas atte Saghele (Stighel, Sayle)	d 1370
1370 May	Thomas de Rupe	
1370 Oct	William Swanton	exc 1378
1378 Oct	Roger de Assheby	exc 1382
1382 Oct	John Palmer	d 1427

1427 Sep	John Scolis	
	Richard Blake	exc 1445
1445 Aug	Richard Halywyk	
	Thomas Tryll	res 1460
1460 Dec	Hugh Shereff	res 1465
1465 Apr	Robert Overton	res 1470
1470 Jul	John Mountayne	exc 1477/8
1477/8 Jan	William Barker	d 1480
1480/1 Mar	Drue Walsh	
	Richard Colfox	res 1487/8
1487/8 Mar	Simon Wilkes	d 1499
1499/1500 Feb	Thomas Squier	
	Launcelot Ffollofeld	d 1518
1518 Nov	William Greene	d 1524
1524/5 Feb	John Ffyshe MA	

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## **(b) Post-Reformation**

### **St Paul's**

1822-1824	Thomas Costigan
1824-1827	Patrick Portal
1827-1834	Thomas Costigan
1834-1835	Francis Jarrett
1835	John B. Hearn
1838-1863	Joseph L. Savage
1863-1891	James E. Laws
1890-1894	William Linnett
1894-1907	Nicholas V. Broder
1907-1910	Edmund Buckley
1911-1915	Edmund J. Miller
1915-1936	Canon George W. Grady
1936-1942	Oscar Leake
1942-1946	William Sewell
1946-1948	Charles E. Jones
1948-1958	Michael J. Fahey
1958-1971	Terence E. Tanner
1971-1983	Thomas Connelly
1983-1996	David Maher
1996-2004	John Ryan M.B.E.
2004-2015	Peter J. Madden
2015-2016	Anthony G. 'Jeff' Cridland (Parochial Administrator)

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**The Parish of the Good Shepherd  
(incorporating the Churches of St. Paul's, Dover and St. Finbarr's, Aylesham)**

2016	Anthony G. 'Jeff' Cridland (Parochial Administrator)
2016 - 2023	Anthony G. 'Jeff' Cridland
2023 -	Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp

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**Our Lady of Pity and St Martin**

1906	Lawrence Kirwan
1906-1911	William Thompson
1911-1936	Martin G. Gifkins
1936-1940	Richard E. Florance (curate of St Paul's)

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**Our Lady of Dover**

1964-1976	William O'Riordan
1976-1983	David O'Regan
1983-1988	Josef Doetsch
1988-	John Panario

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**2. Curates / Assistant Priests  
Post-Reformation**

**St Paul's**

1888-1890	Thomas Ford
1893-1896	Francis Clarke
1896-1899	James Hayes
1899-1906	Douglas O'Gara O.S.B.
1901-1904	Peter Ryan
1906-1911	John Peall
1911-1913	James O'Donoghue
1913-1923	John Evans
1923-1926	Gerald Fothergill
1926-1929	Peter Dorman
1929-1932	Joseph Morley
1932-1937	Henry A. Porter
1933-1934	William Brady
1936-1940	Richard E. Florance
1938-1947	Patrick Taggart
1940	Patrick Healion
1945	Arthur Porter
1945	John Cambell Price
1945-1947	Roy Wratten
1947-1949	Geoffrey Sansom

1948-1951	Aubrey Fowler
1950-1951	William Hogg
1950	Edward Kearney C.S.Sp.
1953-1959	Vincent Murphy
1953-1962	Ronald Salmon
1961-1966	Kenneth McCarthy
1963	Henry Reynolds
1963	Joseph Sheridan
1964	Alan Wright
1963-1964	Bernard Merron
1963-1964	Patrick O'Connor
1964	John Elliott
1966-1970	Felix Watts O.P.
1966-1971	Hubert McCauley
1971	Stanley G. Luff
1971-1973	Patrick Fitzsimons
1973-1975	Michael Boland
1975-1980	Paul Hough
1976-1981	Anthony G. 'Jeff' Cridland
1981-1985	John Wingfield
1985-1988	Lyndon Brown
1988-1993	David Murphy
1990	Tom Doyle
1990	Christopher Keen
1990-1991	Tom Wolsencroft
1993-1997	Henry Schembri S.J.
1997-1999	John Weatherill M.A., S.T.B.
2001-2003	Gary Gill
2005	Valentine Nna Nna Nurachukuru
2012	Justin Daanaah
2015-2016	Petros Gebremichael

### **The Parish of the Good Shepherd**

2017- 2019	Reason Mlilo
2019	Stephen Simonin
2019 - 2020	Patrick Adusei Poku, CSSp
2020 - 2023	Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp (appointed Parish Priest, 2023)
2024 -	Godwin Alkali, CSSp

### **3. Also Resident**

#### **St Paul's**

1996 - 1998	Philip Tandoh
1997 - 1998	Peter Ayoung Maguin
1998 - 2000	John Otieno
2001 - 2003	Francis Ackaah-Mensah
2003	Rolo
2003 - 2004	Joseph Tawich
2003 - 2005	Bhagyam Chinnabathini
2018 - 2024	Deacon Andrew P. Bishop
2024	Andrew P. Bishop

### **4. Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham**

2021 -	James Houghton
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### **5. Permanent Deacons**

#### **St Paul's**

1993-1998	Gerald Watkins
2012-2016	Barry Barton

#### **The Parish of the Good Shepherd**

2016-	Barry Barton
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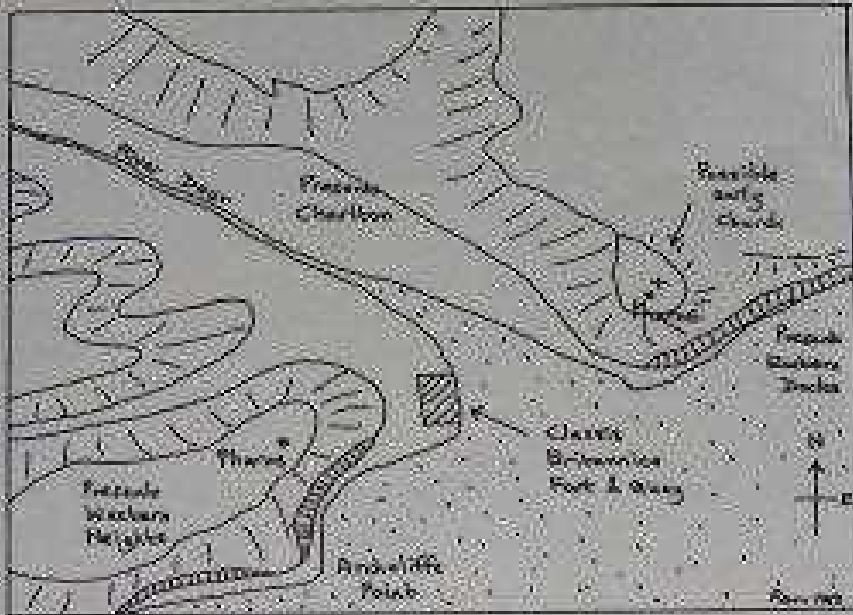
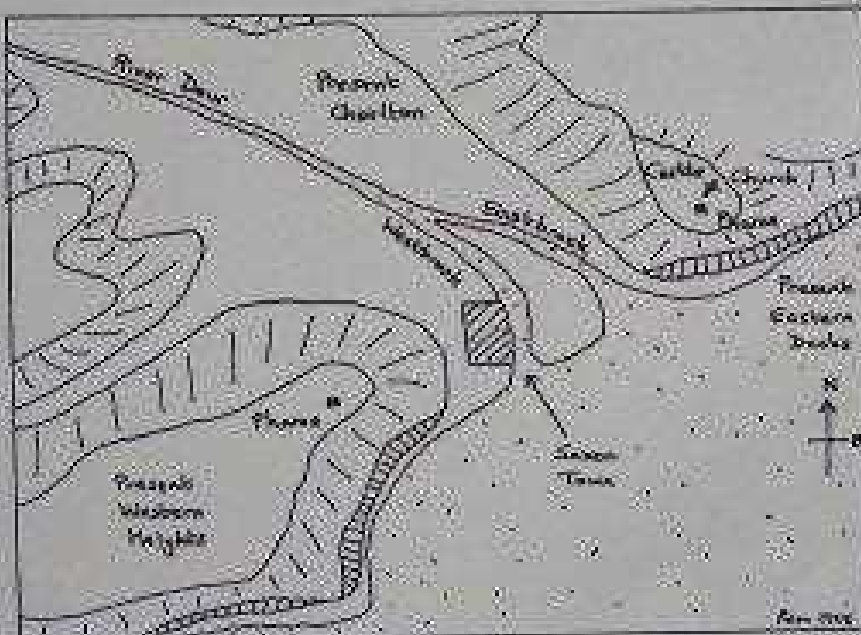


Fig 1: Dover in Roman Times



Dover in Roman Times (top) and Saxon Times (bottom)

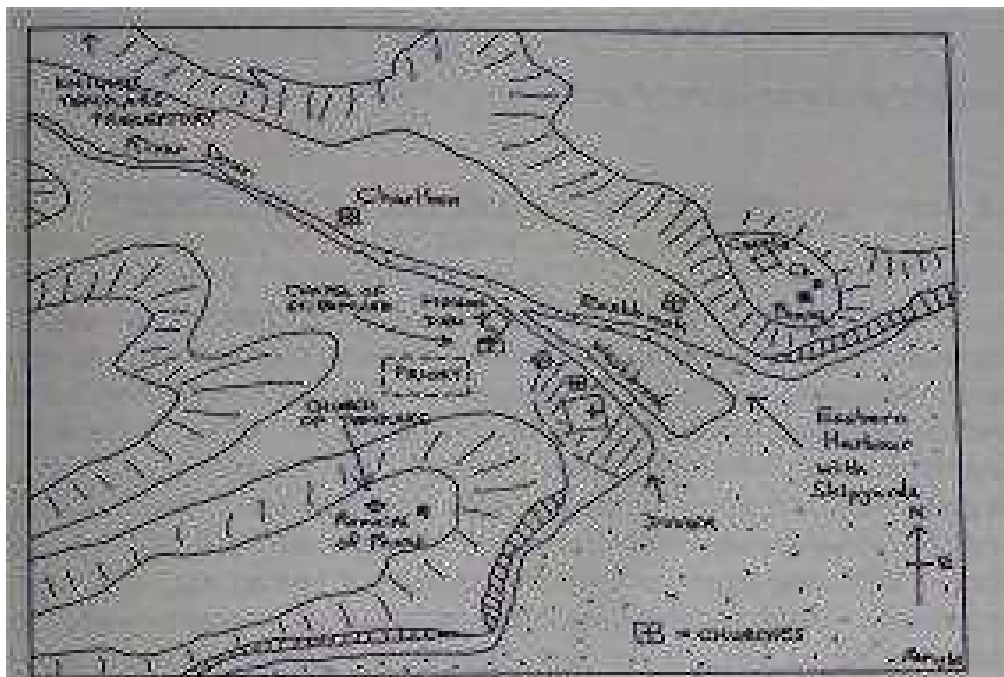
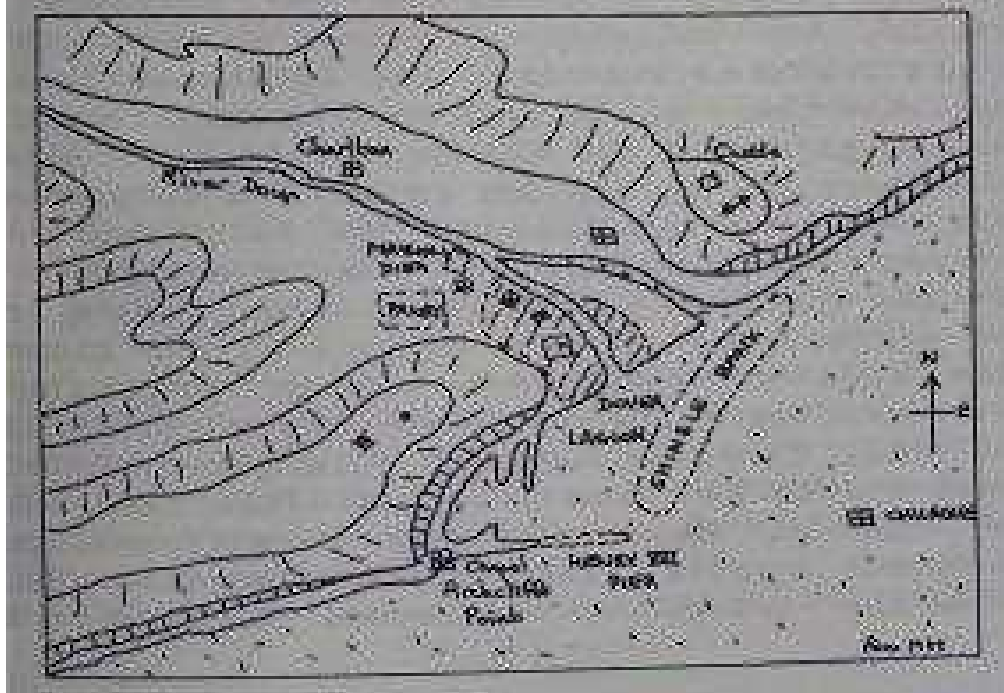


Fig. 3. Norman Dover: c1066 - 1300



Dover in Norman Times (c1066-1300) (top) and Tudor Times (c1520-1540) (bottom)



Saint Richard consecrating St Edmund's Chapel, 1253 March 30th  
(Father Terence E. Tanner)



Saint Richard dying in the Maison Dieu, 1253 April 3rd, welcomes  
the Crucifix (Father Terence E. Tanner)



Father James E. Laws, builder of St Paul's Church and the 'great architect' of the Parish and its faith.

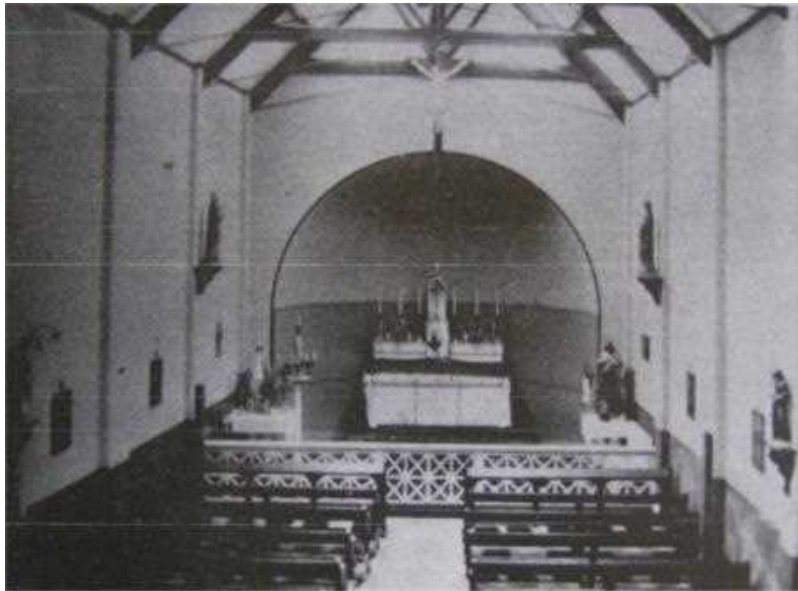


The Church of Our Lady of Pity and Saint Martin, Snargate Street





The Sanctuary of the Snargate Street Church  
(courtesy Mr Paul Smye-Rumsby)



Another view of the interior of the Snargate Street Church  
(courtesy Mr Paul Smye-Rumsby)



Canon George W. Grady, Rural Dean and first Parish Priest of St Paul's



1931 September 17th - Canon Grady blesses the new Crucifix in St James' Cemetery  
(courtesy Dover Express)



Another view of the Crucifix in St James' Cemetery taken on 1931 September 17th  
(courtesy Dover Express)



One of the first photographs taken of St Paul's Church, c1870  
Note that there is no bell yet and the present presbytery and the apse East  
end had not yet been built



The exterior of St Paul's viewed from Pencester Road, c1904  
Note the greenhouse next to the church and the front railings.



The exterior of St Paul's viewed from Pencester Road, c1920



Easter Sunday, 1949 April 17th, High Mass at 11 a.m. in St Paul's



Interior of St Paul's prior to the 1959 restoration; the Sanctuary, including Pugin High Altar and reredos and Our Lady's Altar



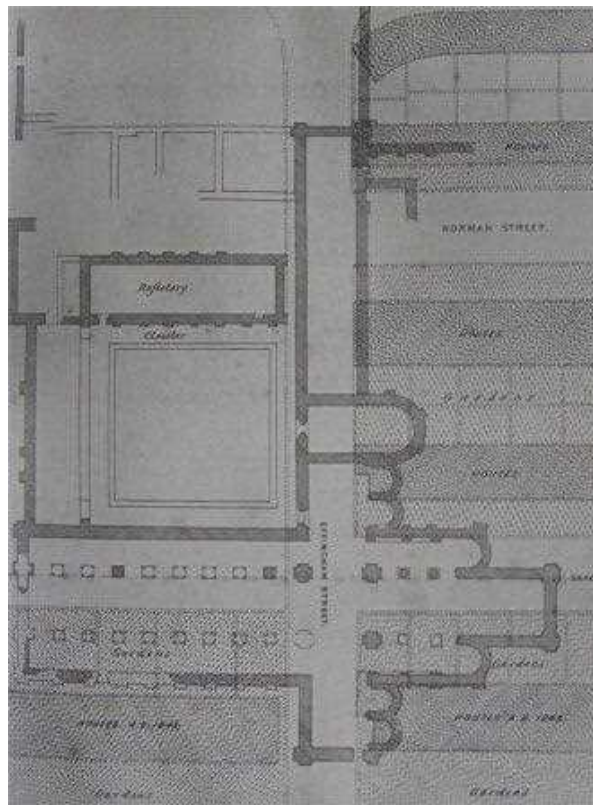
Interior of St Paul's prior to the 1959 restoration; view towards the former St Joseph's Altar (the north aisle) showing the Pieta and Confessional



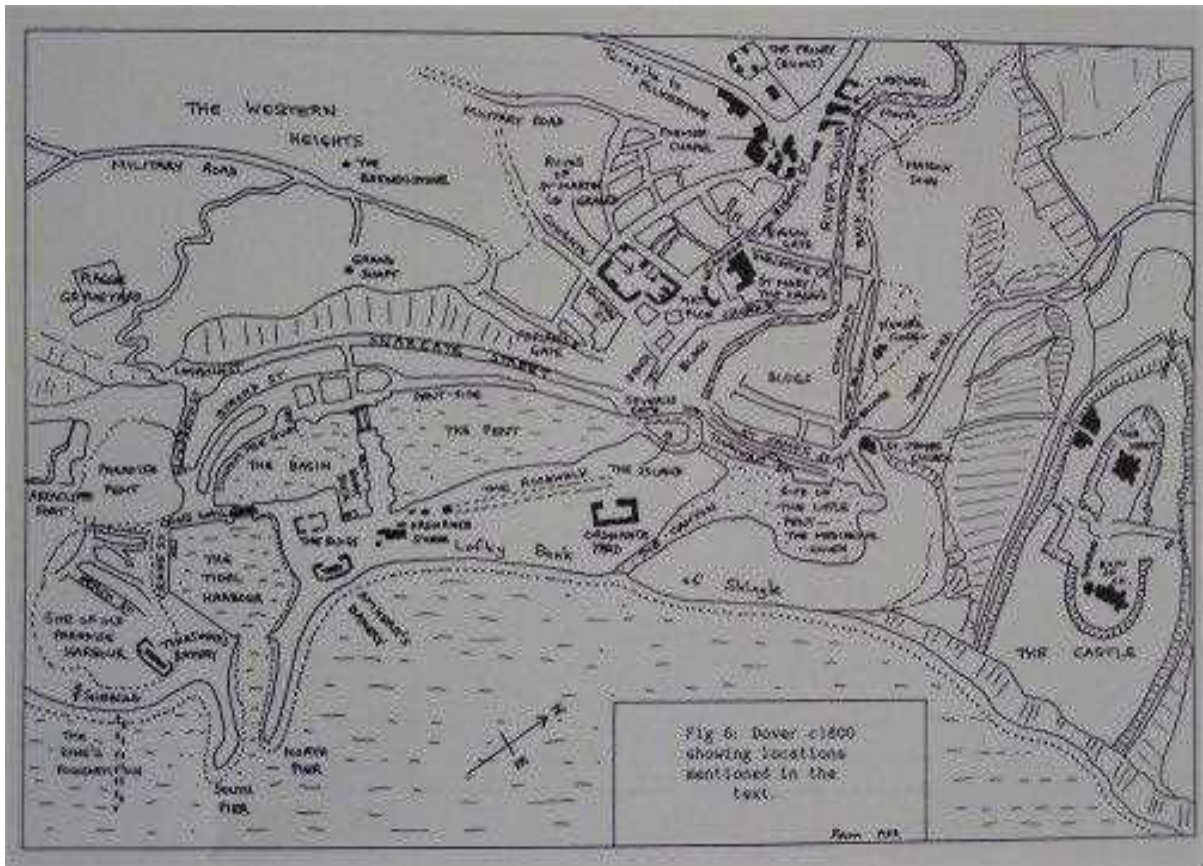
Interior of St Paul's prior to the 1959 restoration; view towards Our Lady's Altar (the south aisle), showing St Anthony and the Confessional



Bishop Cowderoy at the High Altar of St Paul's during the 1950s  
Note the statue of St Paul (courtesy the late Mrs M. Richards)



Location of the Priory Church of St Mary and St Martin of the New Wark  
compared to the modern street plan



Dover c1800 showing locations mentioned in the text

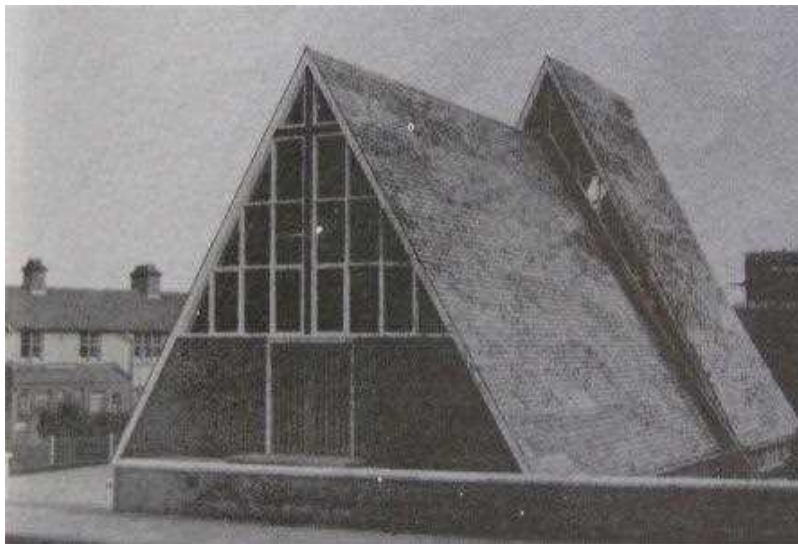


The interior of St Paul's after the 1959 restoration. Note Father Tanner and Altar Servers leaving in procession (courtesy the late Mrs A. Doolin)





The Church of Our Lady of Dover, Roosevelt Road, Buckland Estate



The Church of St Martin of Tours, Old Folkestone Road, Aycliffe Estate



Open air Benediction in the Pencester Gardens, 1955. Father Fahey gives the blessing with the Monstrance (courtesy the late Mrs A. Doolin)



Father Tanner lays the foundation stone of St Ursula's new school:  
1960 June 22nd (courtesy St Ursula's Community)



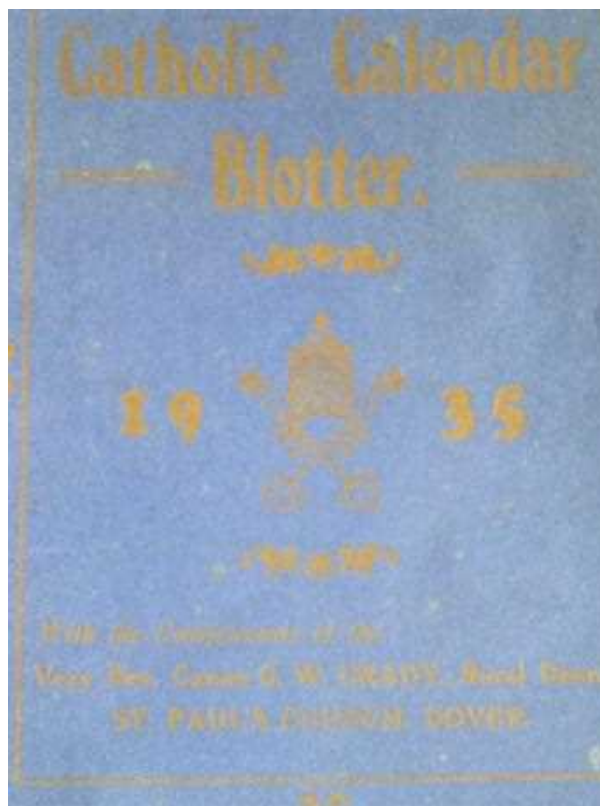
Archbishop Cowderoy concelebrates the Centenary Mass of St Paul's Church: 1968 May 27th. Elevation of the Sacred Host at the Consecration (courtesy the late Mrs J.M. Mackenzie)



The St Paul's Clergy and Altar Servers of the mid-1970s. The clergy are (left to right): Father A.G. Cridland, Father Thomas Connelly (Parish Priest) and Father Paul Hough



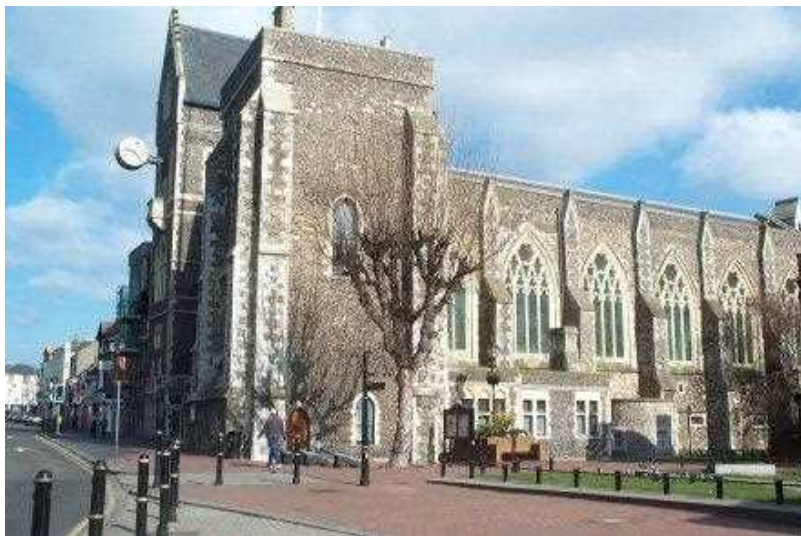
Blessed Roger Filcock, S.J.; local Deanery Reformation Martyr



The cover of the Catholic Calendar Blotter published by Canon Grady for 1935



Interior of St Paul's Church in the early 1930s, as published by Canon Grady in his Blotter for 1935. Note the banners hanging down the side of each pillar.



The Maison Dieu (modern day Town Hall)



Aerial view of the Maison Dieu and St Edmund's Chapel (the Chapel is located at the bottom centre right of the image) taken in 2000.



The modern Parish from a height of 438 miles, taken by NASA's TERRA satellite (EOS AM-1) on 2001 March 14th. Taken seven days before the Vernal Equinox in mid-local morning, the Sun illuminates the famous White Cliffs of Dover. The Harbour walls and features are clearly delineated, including a ferry near the Eastern Docks. The dry chalk valleys are shown by their shadows and the areas of urbanisation are clearly seen.



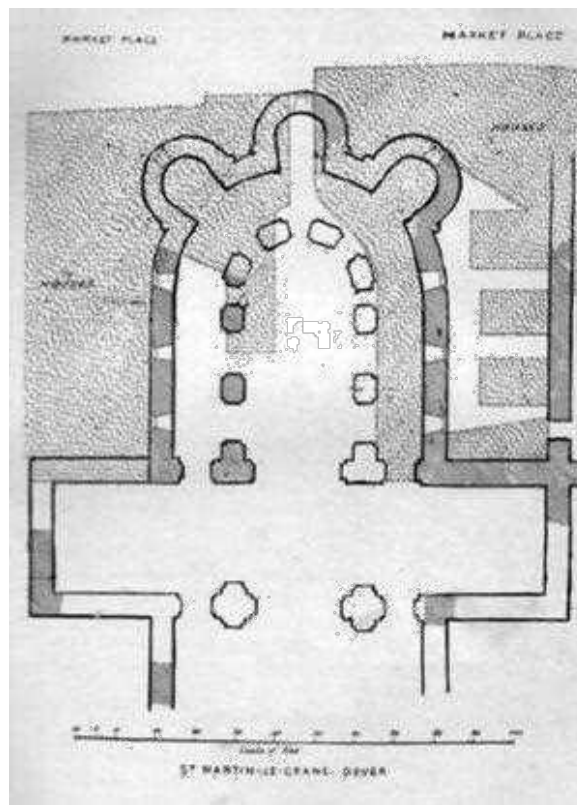
The exterior of St Edmund's Chapel in Priory Road viewed from the south west in the early twenty first century



Saint Martin of Tours depicted on the coat of arms of Dover



Modern day remains of the Mediaeval Church of St Martin-le-Grand



Ground floor plan of the Mediaeval Church of St Martin-le-Grand





The disaster of 1987 October 23rd. The Kent Fire Brigade tackle the blazing roof of St Paul's



Another view of the tragic 1987 fire, showing the severe damage to the roof.



Father David Maher, Parish Priest (left) and Father Lyndon Brown, survey the damage inside St Paul's after the fire.



The remains of the Confessional where the arsonist started the 1987 fire in St Paul's Church



The desolation of the Cross: the once beautiful and now charred Crucifix hangs in stark desolation from the remains of the roof structure following the 1987 fire



Father David Maher celebrating Solemn Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints 1987 in St Mary's Church of England Parish Church



Solemnity of All Saints, 1987: Father David Maher leaving St Mary's Church of England Church in procession at the end of Mass



First Solemn Mass in St Paul's after the fire, 1987 December. This is a view of the Offertory Procession. The celebrant is Father Lyndon Brown.



First Solemn Mass in St Paul's after the fire, 1987 December. The Parish Choir (standing); also showing cleaning equipment loaned by Dover Harbour Board.



The Sanctuary of St Paul's at Christmas, 1987



Midnight Mass, Christmas 1987. The end of the procession reaches the Sanctuary after the Blessing of the Crib. Father Michael O'Hagan, Father David Maher and Bishop John Jukes.



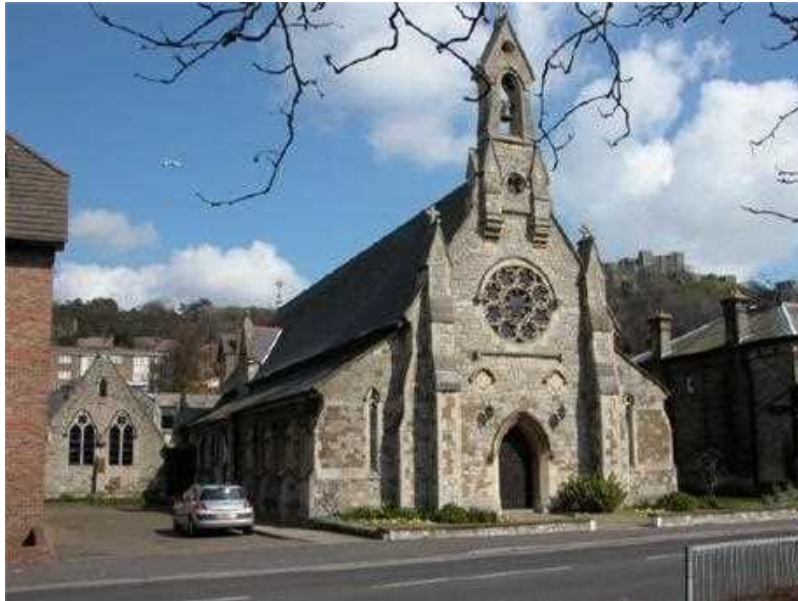
Resurrection: the new roof trusses and associated structure are in place as work advances on restoring the Church: 1988 July



The modern day interior of St Paul's Church: the Sanctuary, after the 1988 restoration



The modern day exterior of St Paul's Church (Father John Ryan is standing outside)



Another modern day view of the exterior of St Paul's Church



Aerial view of St Paul's Church, Hall, Presbytery and associated buildings in 2000





Father John Ryan, M.B.E., Parish Priest 1996-2004



Father Peter Madden, Parish Priest 2004-2015



Confirmation at the 11 a.m. Mass in St Paul's, 2011 June 26th. The principal celebrant is Archbishop Peter Smith. View towards the Sanctuary



Another view of the Confirmation Mass in St Paul's, 2011 June 26th. Father Peter Madden is seated in the Sanctuary on the right, Archbishop Peter Smith on the left.



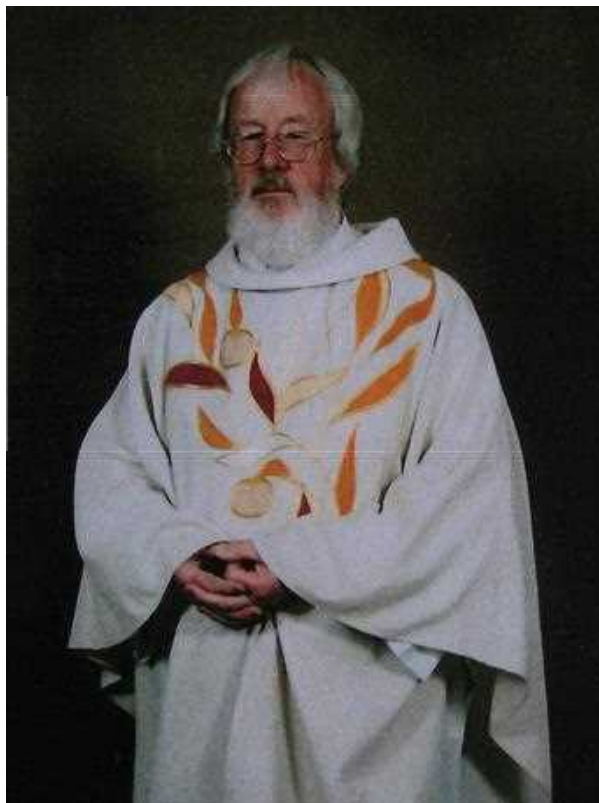
Confirmation Mass in St Paul's on 2011 June 26th: view down the nave of the Church from behind the High Altar during the Bidding Prayers (Oratio Universalis)



Concelebrated Mass (principal celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith) with all the Deanery Clergy in Canterbury Cathedral on 2012 November 16th (Feast of St Edmund) to mark the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the school



St Edmund's School Golden Jubilee celebrations: 2012 November 16th. Archbishop Peter Smith, Deanery Clergy and Altar Servers at the concelebrated Mass in Canterbury Cathedral



Father Peter Madden on the occasion of his Ruby Jubilee: 2014 June 22nd



Father Gifkin



Father Jeff Cridland at the Golden Jubilee Mass  
at Dover Castle



Father Jeff Cridland at his retirement Mass



Father Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp: at his Induction Mass as Parish Priest, with Bishop Paul Hendricks on the left and Keith Wells in the background



Bishop Hendricks, Father Leo, Deacon Barry, Father Panario and concelebrants at Father Leo's Induction Mass



Father Jamie Houghton



Deacon Barry Barton



Edward Welby Pugin (1834 - 1875): Architect of St. Paul's Church. This image dates from 1867, the year that construction of St. Paul's commenced.



Fr Andrew Bishop with Archbishop John Wilson at his ordination Mass: 2024 February 23rd





Group photograph including Archbishop John Wilson, Fr Andrew Bishop, Fr Leo, Fr Jamie, Deacon Barry and attending Clergy at the end of Fr Andrew's ordination Mass: 2024 February 23rd



The Bell in the tower at St Paul's Church, Dover



Another view of the Bell, showing the date inscribed on it