



Isaac Williams, Vicar of Elham 1935-57

The Rev. Isaac Williams had studied at Merton College, Oxford, and the college appointed him to the living of Elham in succession to Alard de Bourbel, Vicar since 1900, who had lavished money on the adornment of the church. However when Isaac arrived, he found the church roofs in a shocking state and his early focus was on making the church watertight.

By 1939, this had been accomplished for the body of the church, and the tower was reroofed in 1948.

He had founded the Parish Magazine in 1938, and the thoughtful Letters which he wrote for it form part of our time-line of the War. Early in his priesthood he spent two years from 1911 in upstate British Columbia, establishing a church at Prince George, then a small community, which expanded rapidly after the railway arrived. He always retained an interest in the church worldwide.

He had played cricket for the college at Oxford, and most years, even quite late in life, he would field a team of friends against the village team. One year, an accident while he was keeping wicket meant the churchwardens had to search frantically to find a parson to take the following day's services.

His wife, Emily, had trained as a surgeon, and served for some years as the local Medical Officer of Health.



OWING TO PETROL RESTRICTION the Rev. R. H. I. Williams, Vicar of Elham, now visits his parishioners by motorcycle. In peace time he used to drive a car, then, when war broke out, he rode horse-back. This, although he enjoyed it, had its disadvantages, so in spite of his age he has learned to drive a motor-cycle. We congratulate him. Incidentally, amongst his many other interests he is Local Military Welfare Officer for the Elham District.



The vicar's 4 daughters with their Swiss Governess. Folkestone Sea Front 1938



The Vicarage Driveway, Elham. Friends, including Audrey Ruston-Hepburn and Audrey Holmans having fun. Circa 1939

Elham Vicar's 21st Anniversary



The Vicar and his wife at home.

"Busy And Happy Time"

THE Rev. R. H. Isaac Williams, has just completed 21 years as Vicar of Elham.

Recording this fact in his parish magazine this month, the Vicar says: "Incidentally, there have been only three Vicars of Elham during the last 110 years!"

"It has been a very happy and busy time, and many changes have taken place," continues the Rev. Isaac Williams. "The village (or town as it is called in ancient deeds) and its inhabitants were more rural then than now. There was no electricity and most houses used well-water.

RAILWAY STILL OPEN

"The traffic on the road has about quadrupled since those days; but the railway was still open, and it was possible to board the 7.45 train at Elham station and arrive at Cannon Street in London at 9.30 a.m.

"I felt almost overwhelmed when I discovered how much the church needed repair—especially the roofs. However, together we all tackled them with a will, and the work has now been completed at a total cost of about £6,000.

"The war was an exceedingly difficult and lively time for us all. Much of the Battle of Britain was fought over our heads, and we all shared our joys and sorrows together. When the Queen's Regiment had the honour of fighting the last expensive rearguard action at Dunkirk, I remember an officer of the regiment, who had been left behind with a remnant at Elham, coming to the vicarage and crying like a child at the loss of all his pals.

"I was glad to be able to

comfort him in some degree, for I was privileged to read from the pulpit to the soldiers in church a special message of thanks from H.M. The King.

"In those days, Mr. Anthony Eden was a parishioner and on one occasion Mr. Winston Churchill stayed with him. Being in the Home Guard, and on sentry duty all night, I found myself on one occasion feeling more dead than alive preaching to the unmistakable figures of Lord Halifax and his lady in the congregation.

"Well, they were great times and as friends we laughed and cried together. But how we longed and planned to welcome our men home again.

"But after the war came that most difficult of all periods of readjustment; and in some ways it is not yet over. For the time being spiritual values seem to be lost, but church congregations have slowly but surely increased. I hope, moreover, that the forthcoming Mission by the Franciscans will be a help to us all.

THEIR DAUGHTERS

"During all this time our daughters have been growing up in your midst; and in fact Elham Vicarage is the only home they ever remember. I should also like to say now that during all these 21 years I owe more than I can ever express or even know to the affection and quiet ungrudging help of my exceedingly clever and capable doctor wife.

"We are most grateful to you for the many kindnesses you have shown us in so many ways, and I ask for your prayers that I may continue to do my best to serve the parish in the years that remain."

Stanford Church Repair Fund

RECENT events arranged in aid of Stanford All Saints' Church Repair Fund have been a whist drive and a concert.

On both occasions snow and icy roads did not deter people from attending and another small sum has been added to lessen the £600 still needed.

Major Kenyon and a friend entertained with "Magic and Music." The school children and some of the members of the choir provided the rest of the programme.

No further social activities will be held until after Easter, but Lenten boxes are being distributed to parishioners, the money to be devoted to the Repair Fund.

Council Pays £50 Damages

MR. Albert James Allchin, of 17, Keyes Place, Folkestone receives £50, the agreed damages in settlement of his action in the High Court against the Folkestone Corporation, arising from an accident, when in their employment, on October 28th, 1955, at Bradstone Depot.

Mr. Allchin sustained injury to his left foot, as he was assisting a fitter to bend a bracket in a vice, which slipped off a work bench upon his foot and disabled him for work for one month.

Mr. Allchin, who is 54 years of age and married, is a member of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, who instructed solicitors on his behalf.