

TALES OF CATISFIELD -

The Story of St. Columba Church

- Why it arrived in Catisfield
- How, 100 Years Later, It Disappeared

doug@glading.com 5/2024



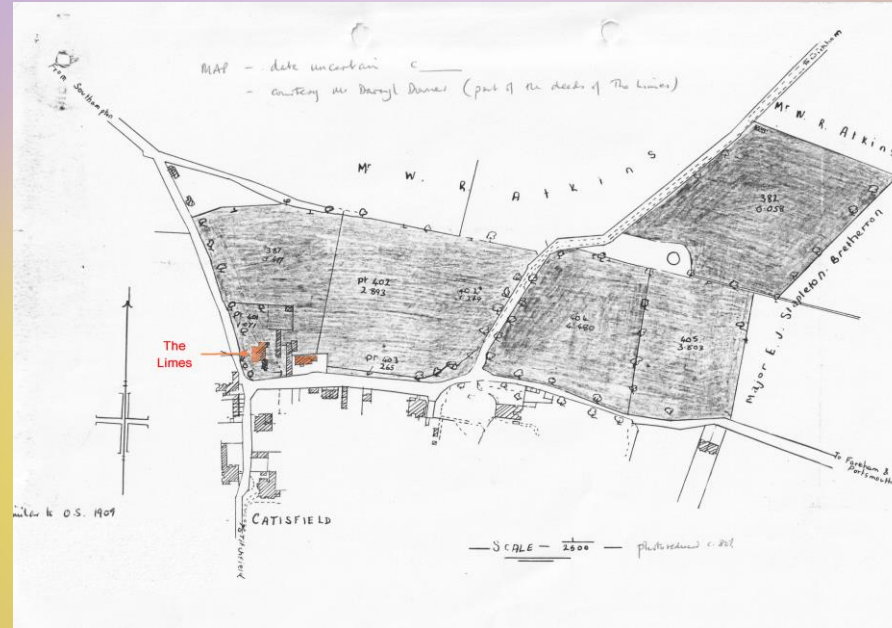
'Final' version last 18/4/2024
Doug Glading

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This story aimed at
For those new here
- and those who may not have known/remember all the goings-on....

I must pay tribute to the late Maureen Sygrove, who researched St Columba for Holy Trinity and I have drawn on her work

The Limes Estate c. 1910



My talk in 2023 covered THE LIMES ESTATE - The land owned by the Limes stretched to Highlands Road and beyond. Halfway down Catisfield Road.

You can see one little bite out of the estate -- and that is where Catisfield's Church was. And this is its story.....

Why a Church?

- The church was a daughter church to Holy Trinity Fareham.
- Designed as a mission church to serve the outlying parts of the parish
- it had three local Trustees, Rev. Arnold (Vicar of Holy Trinity) Captain William Thresher and Mrs. Alyne Matthias of Catisfield Lodge.

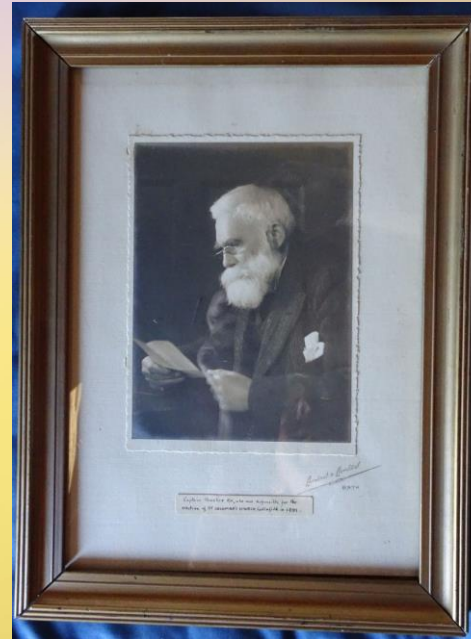
And another reason could maybe to stop Titchfield Church 'stealing' the worshippers of Catisfield

Mrs Alyne Mathias d 1923 Catisfield Lodge

Threshers were an old Catisfield Family

So Land Was Acquired / Donated

- By Mrs Holliday of The Limes.
- It was constructed in 1891
- A major driving force was Captain William Thresher, a retired naval officer, who was previously a Churchwarden at Holy Trinity church. He was known locally as 'Father Christmas'.
- *St Columba landed on the island of Iona, off the West Coast of Scotland in 563 AD, with the primary purpose of converting the Picts on the mainland of Scotland to Christianity.*
- *Columba had previously founded monasteries in Ireland, where he was a member of the royal family.*



Not sure how much, if anything, was paid for the land.

Quite why converting the tribes of Scotland was relevant to Catisfield I don't understand !

The Building



- Corrugated Iron
- Wood lined
- The Chapel opened In 1891 and officially on St. Columba Day **9th June 1892** with a 7pm service attended by more than 130 people
- **1906:** The original small building was enlarged and a Chancel added in 1906

Photos - Exterior



The person in the older photo was Mrs EDNEY, who lived in The Terrace opposite and was the church caretaker. She was also for many years parlourmaid at The Limes.

She was born 1888, so anyone good at putting ages on ladies could work out the photo date....

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For 3rd photo

An early bus-shelter

Later Images of the Exterior



The rear. The building was painted green in 1956

Later Images of the Exterior



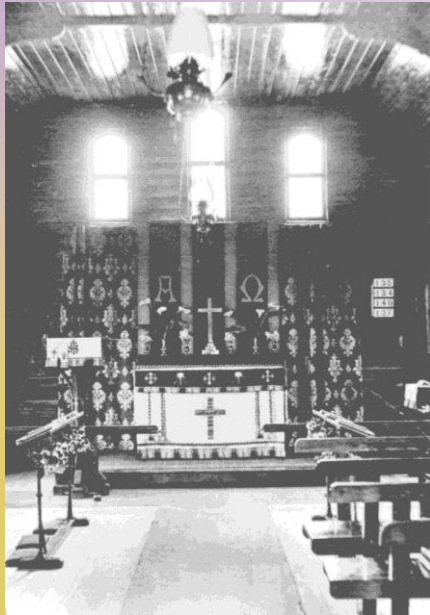
Notice-board for this hall on right

Looking pretty untidy - and it got worse

Without wall, newer bus-shelter

Waiting in the bus shelter late on a dark night would be a bit spooky (rustles in the undergrowth).
Last bus in 1978 was 23.03 !!!!!

Photos of inside - 1

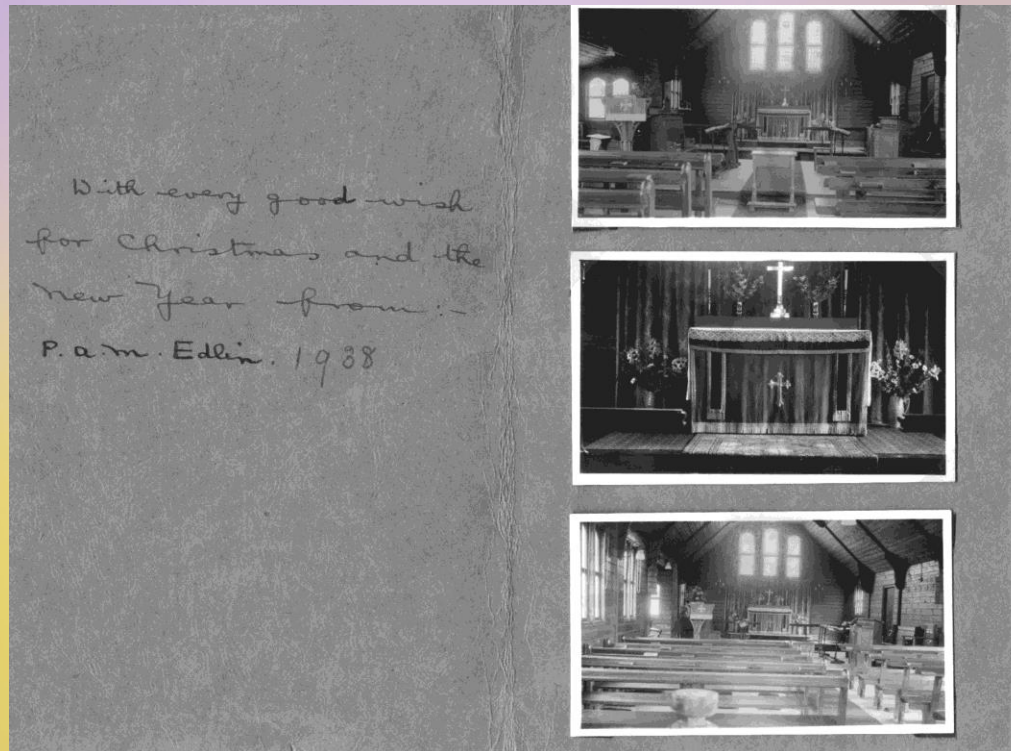


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For 2nd photo

Another view of Alter (flower festival?)

Photos of inside - 2



A 1938 Christmas Card

Choir, Services

- The Chapel had a Choir from its earliest days, boys and men only, possibly in black robes,
- then with Women, -- and then without robes -- and finally in purple.
- Services seem to have varied but Harvest Festivals and Christmas were always well attended.
- In 1893 8am Communion and Evensong at 6-30 (3-30 in the winter months) started and in 1907 Matins
- In the 1950's certainly the Church flourished



It had a harmonium and a choir, - there are members around today,, and an organ was fitted in 1948.

There was some rivalry in the early days between the boys choir of St. Columba and Holy Trinity, which led on one occasion to a threatened strike over a rumour (which proved unfounded) of Easter eggs to be given only to the Trinity boys

Weddings, Funerals

Sunday School, Nativity, Clubs

By 1965, the Sunday school was 250 strong, but meeting space was difficult to arrange.

❖ "The growing congregation was notably augmented by the "mustard" or "Custard" tops of Lysses House boarding School. The boys walked in crocodile from the School (now the Oast & Squire) for morning service."

"**The Guild**" held services in the church from 1942 to 1945, and this was the forerunner of the Catisfield Ladies Guild



- A **flower show** at the last Fete (1959) of the Church led to the formation of the Catisfield and District Horticultural Society.

The Sunday school flourished, at first in a hut in Catisfield Lodge grounds, then in the church and the first Catisfield Memorial Hall opened in 1948.

By 1960, Sunday Schools became held elsewhere too, in Fareham Park School and the W.I. hut in Oak Road to cater for the children on the new estates.

*****CLICK*****8

Garden Fetes, once held in (the grounds of the big houses, were held in the Memorial Hall

grounds until replaced by "planned giving" in 1959. And the Flower Show led to the formation of the predecessor to today's Gardening Club....

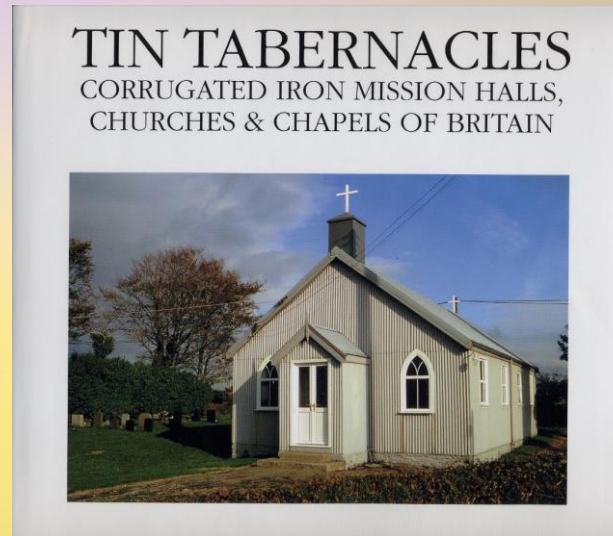
Replacement

- But by the end of the 1950's it was felt that the site of the old tin tabernacle was inappropriate as it was small and at the western edge of the parish
- It could not cope with the new housing estates, which were developing further east, both north and south of Highlands Road
- So a decision was made to build a new St Columba as a Mission among the new estates.
- This opened Feb 1963

Hillson Drive had room for a big new church, church hall, parking and vicarage

The Tin Tabernacles

- **Book**
- If you are interested in '**Tin Tabernacles**' there is an interesting book describing 200+ examples across Britain - including Catisfield's St. Columba.
- *by Ian Smith,*



And there's a website: <http://www.tintabernacles.com/>

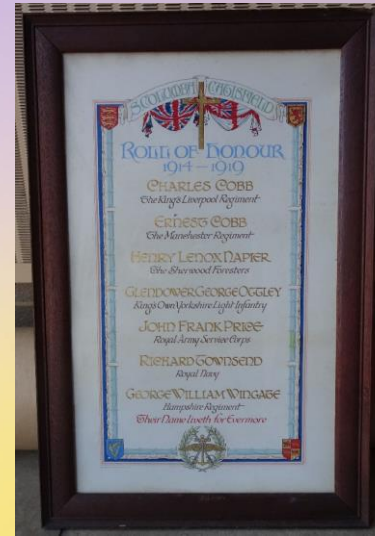
Published by Camrose 2004. ISBN 0-9547126-0-9

Tin Chapels Project, Camrose Organisation, Camrose House, 106 Main Street Pembroke SA71 4HN, UK

I contributed the Catisfield info and photos

The Dove and the WW1 Plaque

- In 1934 a stained glass window in memory of Mrs Ellin Napier had been dedicated in the old church



The new church incorporated many items from the old church, including the Dove from Ellin Napier's window, the Roll Of Honour for 1914-18, plus clergy chairs and the candlestick holders. And a pew.

A New Life

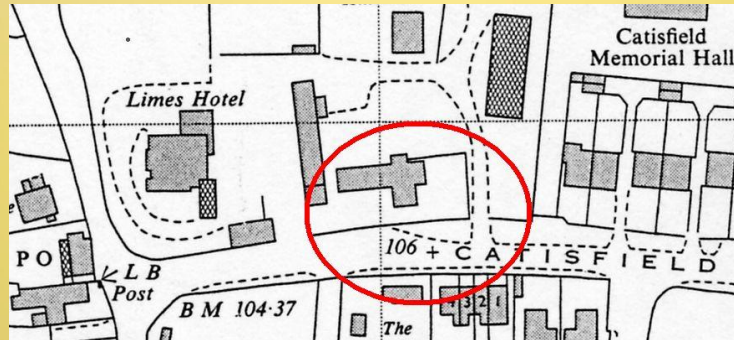
- **the '106' CLUB, CATISFIELD, 1963 – 1979**
- **1963** In May Mr Dicky Downes bought the deconsecrated Tin Tabernacle, St Columba, built in 1891. Later that year he opened the building as the 106 Country Club.
- Rather than have two Country Clubs, he changed the Limes into a hotel and pub. He gave the ownership of the 106 Club to daughter Daphne and her brother, Richard. equally, though Mr Downes continued to run the club.
- **1979.** The '106' Club closed. The running had been leased to a Hugh Curtis. The standards of the club had deteriorated. Richard and Daphne discussed stepping in to run it themselves 'under new management', but they couldn't agree, and as they were equal partners, the club closed

Venue Location

Today: Businesses use Google Maps to show where they are

Then: The 106 could use Ordnance Surveys Maps for free !!

The 'spot height' in the road says 106



Downhill



After 1979 the tabernacle was left to rust and decay. It became more and more an eyesore

The End

1992



Demolition

- 1992



Amen



Thank you


Concluding Thought....

- Many 'old hands' have their own memories.
- Of this site and other Catisfield things.
- It would be great to capture these – while people still here
- I would very much like the CVA to coordinate some '**Oral History**' work.....


See also the Website:

www.catisfield.com


CATISFIELD.....Ancient and Modern



Map of 1932 showing the 'big' houses and the 'small' terraces/cottages for the workers.



The centre of Catisfield, from an old aerial c. 1920, compared to today. Many more houses -- and much more greenery!



The Cottage (now known as 'Horse Cottage') and 'The Terrace' still stand, on what is now named Catisfield Lane.

Click on a photo to see enlargement. and here: Individual Pages have the last update date at the bottom - later pages may have newer information about a topic, for example in The School. Pictures will etc.

You can explore this History of Catisfield in a number of ways..

PAPERS - Reports, Papers, Tabulations of things Catisfield.

Demolished Buildings of Catisfield
No Longer There - The Demolished Buildings of Catisfield last update 4/23

The End of Colonel FRANCIS HERWARD BRACE -
His rather rapid **SUICIDE** REQUEST & FUNERAL (And Was it at Catisfield Lodge - or Catisfield House?) last update 1/2022

CATISFIELD - Heathfield Farm and its Estate
Heathfield Farm and how its Estate was sold - last update 2/2019:

CATISFIELD CRICKET CLUB -- an active, well-regarded club, in the 1860s, 1870s, 1880s.... last update 3-1-2018

CATISFIELD LODGE - Its Residents and Events through the years - 2021

Schools Schools in Catisfield Through the Years 1871 - 2020 - refreshed 2/2024

Catisfield (Hampshire) ROADS and their evolution. - 2020

*Information Summaries about each of the people named on the dedication tablets/plaques for **WW1 and WW2**:*

Catisfield St Columba WW1 World War 1 Dedications
Details amplifying the Plaque at St Columba 11/2018

Catisfield Memorial Hall WW2 World War 2 Dedications Details amplifying the Plaque at The Memorial Hall - 8/2018

KEY ITEMS

-- **The most important works about Catisfield.**

The BIG OR OLD HOUSES of CATISFIELD - And Who Lived Where
-- a 'catalogue' and tabulation - last update 11/2/2017

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN CATISFIELD - And Who Lived Where - a list
a collection of biographies - last update 11/2/2017

CATISFIELD HOUSE- ITS OCCUPANCY THROUGH THE YEARS
a comprehensive 'TIMELINE' for The House == Who might have lived there, when, with evidence..... last update 1/2022

Several hundred PRESS REPORTS about Catisfield.
... A collection - last update 1/23


LOCATIONS

MAPS


-- a sequence of Maps from 1611 to 1961 that will give you an insight into how Catisfield has grown and changed
- last update 27/12/2017

click here to go to: MAPS

Example Maps:



Catisfield in 1816 (before the Acorns)



1909