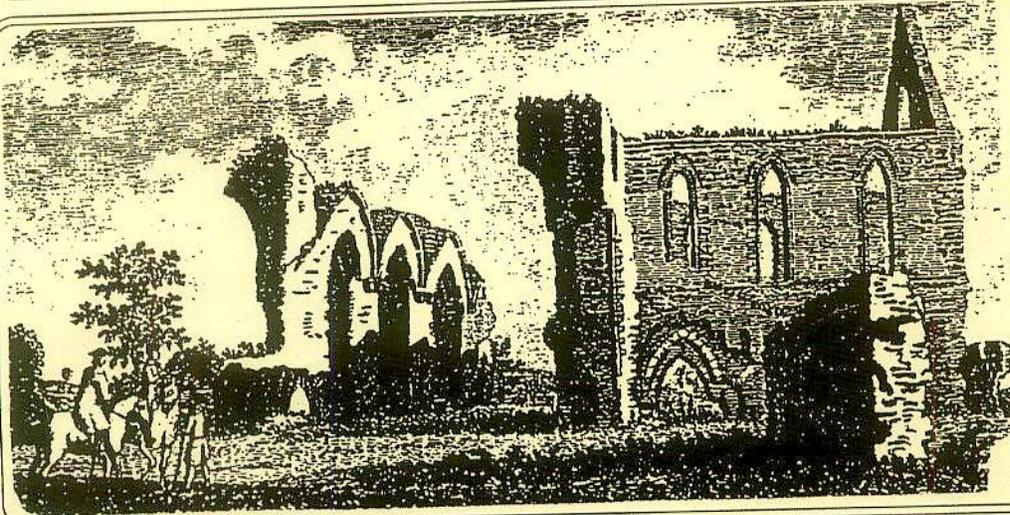


Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY
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NEWARK PRIORY

Journal Volume 5 No. 168

Jan/Feb 2003



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President: Mr K H Bourne MSc

Chairman: Les Bowerman

The Manor House, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JS. Tel: 01483 224876
Email: les@sendmanor.f9.co.uk

Secretary: Marilyn Scrace BA

10 Birnam Close, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JH. Tel: 01483 224025
Email: marilyn@wokinggalleries.co.uk

Treasurer: Christina Sheard

Old Manor Cottage, Send Marsh Green, Ripley, Woking GU23 6JP. Tel: 01483 224600

Newsletter Editor: Ken Bourne

Brunel House, 30 Brunel Way, Frome, BA11 2XU. Tel: 01373 455641
Email: kenbourne@novoloco.fsnet.co.uk

Journal Distribution: Norman Carpenter

Ufford, 106 Potters Lanc, Send, Woking GU23 7AL. Tel: 01483 714634
Email: carpenter@uffordsend.fsnet.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Catherine Davey

Waters Edge, 27 Potters Lane, Send, Woking GU23 7AJ. Tel. 01483 773452
E-Mail: katedavey@madasafish.co.uk

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Journal Volume 5 No. 168

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Cover illustration: The photograph is of the Methodist Chapel Ripley, which was taken on the 9th November 2002 by Ken Bourne with the assistance of Patrick Sheard who unlocked the church. See article on page 6.

Editors Comment

On 5th December I experienced one of those events, which was for me was totally unexpected, 'a heart attack', resulting in a few days in the Royal United Hospital in Bath. This happened just after the latest book the guide to *The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley Surrey* had been passed to the printers, (and on which I had been working for the last 6years), so it was, in a way, quite convenient but not, I hope, related. The treatment I received in hospital was first class, contrary to those images perpetrated by the 'popular' press. My most grateful thanks to everyone who sent me a 'get well' card, I am now almost 'as good as new'.

A happy and healthy new year to you all!

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley Written by Ken Bourne and published by Send & Ripley History Society *Notes by Les Bowerman*

In 1963 R N Bloxam published a 24-page booklet, *The Church and Parish of Ripley, Surrey*. Only ten of the 5" x 8 ½" pages related specifically to the church and there were inevitably some mistakes, e.g. describing the Augustinian canons who founded Newark Priory as white instead of black (the colour of their robes/habits) and giving Herbert Liddell Cortis's second initial as S.

The booklet had been out of print for some time prior to 1975 when the Society was formed, and I have never succeeded in obtaining an original copy. It had been the intention to produce a new guide ever since Ripley was added to the name of the Society in 1982, but there always seemed to be something else to do. To fill the gap our former Treasurer, the late Janet Hill, in 1993 produced a duplicated 8-page *Illustrated History of the Church and Parish of Ripley* consisting of 2 sheets of A4. It has served well as a stop-gap for ten years, but repeated the error of Cortis's initial and compounded the error by stating that he was the first person to exceed 30 mph on a bicycle. In fact he was the first to ride 20 miles in an hour (in 1882).

The wonderful news is that the church now has the book it deserves. As well as carrying out the duties of President and producing this bi-monthly Journal to a standard that is probably unsurpassed among local history societies, Ken Bourne has now published in the name of the Society a comprehensive 68-page book devoted solely to the church. It is Perfect-bound with a semi-stiff cover and pages sized 6" x 8 ¼". The cover has a pen and ink illustration of the church drawn in about 1900 which most will not have seen before. Inside are two colour illustrations, plus some 30 in monochrome. By printing in dark brown on ivory paper a pleasant sepia effect is achieved.



Without doubt St Mary Magdalen, with its quality chancel dating from 1160, is a delightful and very interesting church. Ken has looked at every aspect of its history and architecture and produced a scholarly book, which will appeal to academics, local residents and outside visitors alike. Most church histories have hitherto tended to deal with Victorian work only superficially and usually in a somewhat disparaging way. A century on, and the Victorians are beginning to look more interesting. Ken has embraced this aspect of Ripley church enthusiastically and found much that is worth describing and discussing.

For such a comprehensive book of this size, there are remarkably few errors, and most of those are typographical. Unfortunately but not too drastically, the artist Charles E Shaw has been give the initials 'R L' and in one place the word 'emigrated' has become 'immigrated'. Apart from that I have found nothing worth mentioning. Even H L Cortis appears faultlessly!

I imagine most will agree that this new book, the Society's eleventh publication, is as good as any we have produced. It can only enhance our reputation. For the amount of research involved, the number of illustrations and the quantity of information contained, it has to be remarkable value at £5.

The book is available from our Museum on Saturday mornings and the third Sunday in the month, also from the Ripley and Send Post Offices and the RHS bookshop at Wisley Gardens. It may also be ordered by post from John Slatford, St George's Farmhouse, High Street, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6AF for £6 to include post and packing.

The Ritual Use of Plants

A Talk by Chris Howkins at the Society's Open Meeting on 20th November.

Notes by Les Bowerman

The Society first met Chris some years ago when he had recently given up school-teaching in favour of writing and lecturing on such matters as the Wey Navigation and Royalty in Surrey. He now specialises in ethno-botany – what people took from their gardens for daily use.

The subject is a mixture of natural remedies and the supernatural. It seems there have been House-leek (*Sempervivum tectorum*), plants in Surrey in old timber-framed houses since Roman times. To the Romans this plant was sacred, being dedicated to Jupiter and Job. Ewhurst and Witley have large clumps of it, notably in the south roof of the nave of Witley church.

In 1958, we were told, some farms avoided foot and mouth disease by the use of pulped onions. Chris's own mother used the same method to cure him of measles, but he admitted that he was also given orthodox medicine.

All trees were once regarded as endowed with spirit forces. This was an early faith, which was outlawed in 1017. Saxons looking for somewhere to settle did so near ash trees as their ancestors were believed to be in them – thus Esher, Eashing and Ashford. Trees have always been important in Surrey. Blessings were done on all trees in a Manor except hornbeam, the only wood, which won't split. All others trees could be split, which was important at a time when saws were not in use.

Ellen was the original mother goddess. Her sacred tree was the elder, or ellen-bower(?) Elder was said to be cursed by God and will not grow like a proper tree. Elder was used in 72 treatments – it is narcotic. Green elder ointment is still obtainable. Butchers were not allowed to use elder skewers for meat. Elstead was Ellens stead. Elders grew where badgers had their latrines. Elder was said to stop flies coming indoors.

Broom and gorse were great fertility plants. In Devon, newly-marrieds had to jump over the broom – a besom broom. At one time there were thousands of broom makers in Surrey. You could not buy or use new brooms in May.

You were supposed to change rushes on the floor every week. In Lower Bourne, near Farnham, they still had rushes in living rooms in the 1908 period. Churches changed half their rushes every year. Sweet flags for floors came with Cardinal Wolsey. You put strewing herbs into the rushes on the floor – rosemary, lavender and thyme.

Also flea-bane to get rid of fleas. Feverfew and lavender were insecticidal. Herbs such as sage are fungicidal. The herbs in stuffing were to kill bacteria after hanging meat until it was high.

Chris Howkins is writing the first history of the sweet chestnut in Britain, but is having some difficulty with commercial concerns that use chestnut, but would prefer to keep the fact secret.

Guildford by Night

by David Porter

My late uncle, Mr. Fredrick Sidney Hillman is today still remembered by older residents of Send, as having worked for the Dedman family at Send Post Office from about 1933 until the business was sold in the early 1960's.

Prior to coming to Send, Uncle Fred worked for the 'Home and Colonial' stores in Market Street, Guildford, where my mother clearly remembered watching elder brother 'Freddie' as she called him, 'Pat up the butter' with wooden 'butter-pats'.

My mother, Maud Ellen, Freddie's youngest sister, was often at his side down in the cellar of the family home in Sycamore Road, Stoke, Guildford, while he was engaged in his favorite hobby – photography. I have still in my possession two enamel dishes used for this purpose, given to me by his wife my late Aunt Lily.

My mother often told me, how, she would go out for long walks in the deep snow in winter simply to take photographs of Guildford, especially the Merrow and Pewley Downs. In summer, Hindhead and Frensham Ponds were favorite haunts on his 'Douglas' motorcycle, which he rode in the 1920's, referring to it as the 'Old Duggie'!

A few snaps from Uncle Freds collection of photographs is shown here, however the reason for the extra lights in Market Street, no doubt for a special occasion, is a mystery?



The first two photographs, above, are of Guildford High Street and that on the left shows the familiar view of the town clock. The photograph on the right was taken outside Jackson's Garage that stood at the bottom of the High Street prior to 1958 when it was demolished to make way for the new Milbrook Road.

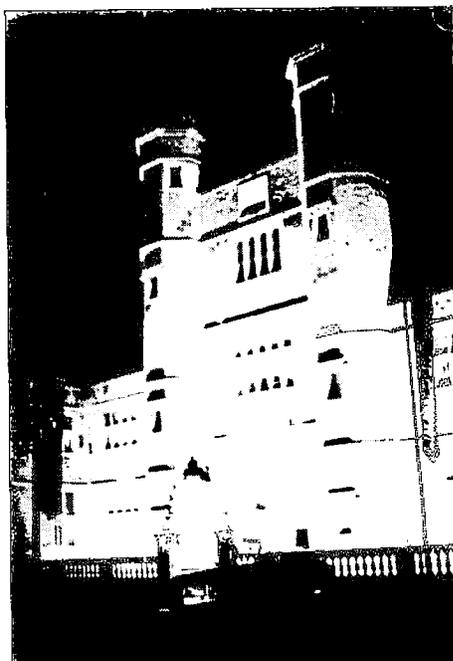
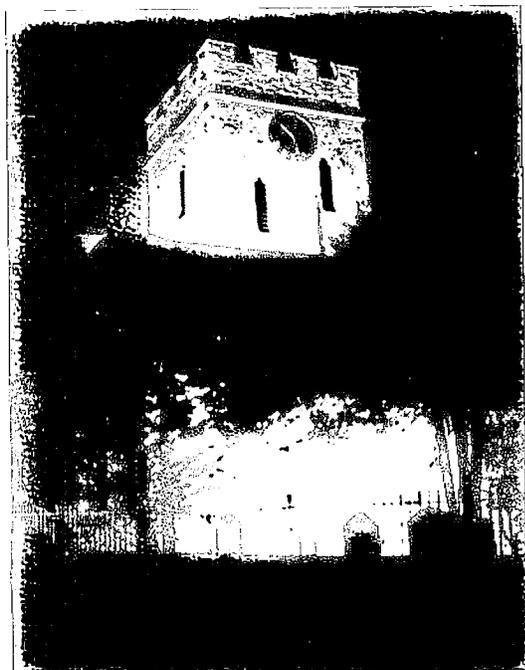
The photograph on the right on the next page shows Market Street where Uncle Fred worked. Taken from North Street, the shop on the right hand corner is 'Lovells' sweet shop. Next door is 'Liptons' the grocery rival to the 'Home and Colonial' just two doors away! Between these shops was 'Gammons'.

This scene in Market Street remained unchanged until well into the 1950's when my mother still purchased our groceries from the 'H&C' with me at her side. I clearly recall Gammons shop next door wherein a large lady sat behind an equally large 'till' or 'National' cash register as they were properly known. After purchasing our goods paid for in 'old money', which in addition to the £1 note could include a 10-shilling note (50p) and perhaps some small coins.

The bill and the money, was loaded into a small circular container, its top screwed tightly on. The container was hooked onto an overhead cable like a miniature ski-lift cabin, which was then propelled at great speed, aided by spring propulsion to its destination - the fat lady behind the National cash register. Back would come the change with receipt, equally fast, perhaps in half crowns (12 1/2 p), florins (10p), sixpences (2 1/2p) and/or pence (1/2p) and half pence. This conclusion to the purchase was far more exciting than the monotonous 'bleep' of today's supermarket computerized scanner register!



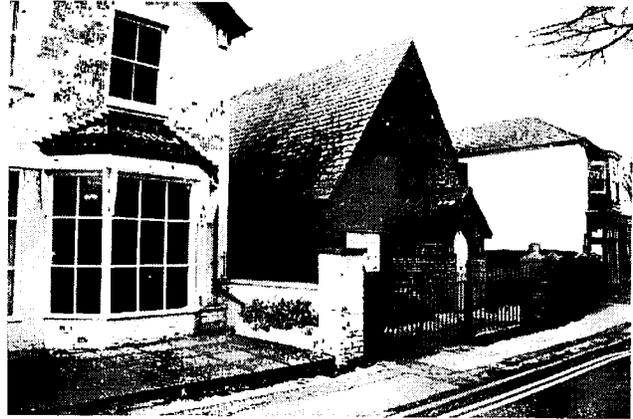
The last two photographs show St Mary's Church in Quarry Street and Abbot's Hospital in the upper High Street.



Ripley Methodist Church

By Jane Bartlett

The last service at Ripley Methodist Church was held on the 25th August 2002 after over 140 years in the village. During its history it has had a small but dedicated congregation, but there was no one able to take over the running of it when ill health prevented Frank and Ella Gadd continuing. For the last 12 years Frank has been steward and treasurer, and Ella has been organist, as well as opening up, and giving lifts to other members.



The site of the church as shown in the Tithe map of 1841 was once pastureland and paddocks owned by Thomas Greenfield, the grocer. (His shop was where One Stop now is.) The first building recorded on that corner by the green in the 1870 Ordnance Survey was our Wesleyan Methodist Church, and no other buildings were shown. It wasn't until the revised O.S. map of 1895 that we are given both chapel and its new neighbours - a Post Office, (now the dentists) and a corner building, (now the newsagents). Kelly's directory in its description of Ripley, first includes 'Chapel for Wesleyans' in 1874. The church was in fact built in April 1869, earlier than is shown in either of these records at a cost of £200, financed by Mr. W. Willmer Pocock.

W.W. Pocock FRIBA, having joined his father's architectural practice in the 1840's, helped build and finance several churches for established societies in the Southeast. He was a lay preacher himself, said to be a sensible but not a popular preacher. He wrote books such as 'The history of Wesleyan Methodism in the southern counties of England', published in 1885 and became president of the 'Local Preachers Local Aid Association'.

Although, John Wesley had preached in several neighbouring towns, Dorking, Guildford, Cobham, and Chilworth as early as the 1760's and 1770's (in fact his last sermon was given in Leatherhead in 1791), the movement was slow in developing in the Southeast. Many small Methodist groups met in private houses or in rented rooms and few chapels were built until the 19th century. It is understood that Ripley 'supporters', similarly held their early meetings in a tin shed on a local farm until the chapel was built. The local revival may well have started in Cobham where in the late 1850's, the owner of 'Pyports' held meetings in his barn. Preaching centres were soon after set up in Ockham, Elm Corner, West Horsley and Ripley. Ripley became part of the Cobham circuit, and occasionally in the 1890s the quarterly meetings of the circuit stewards were held here. After the re-organisation of 1894, Ripley became part of the Woking circuit sharing a minister and a pool of lay preachers. The Rev. Nigel Wright who took the last service in Ripley, was also responsible for Knaphill.

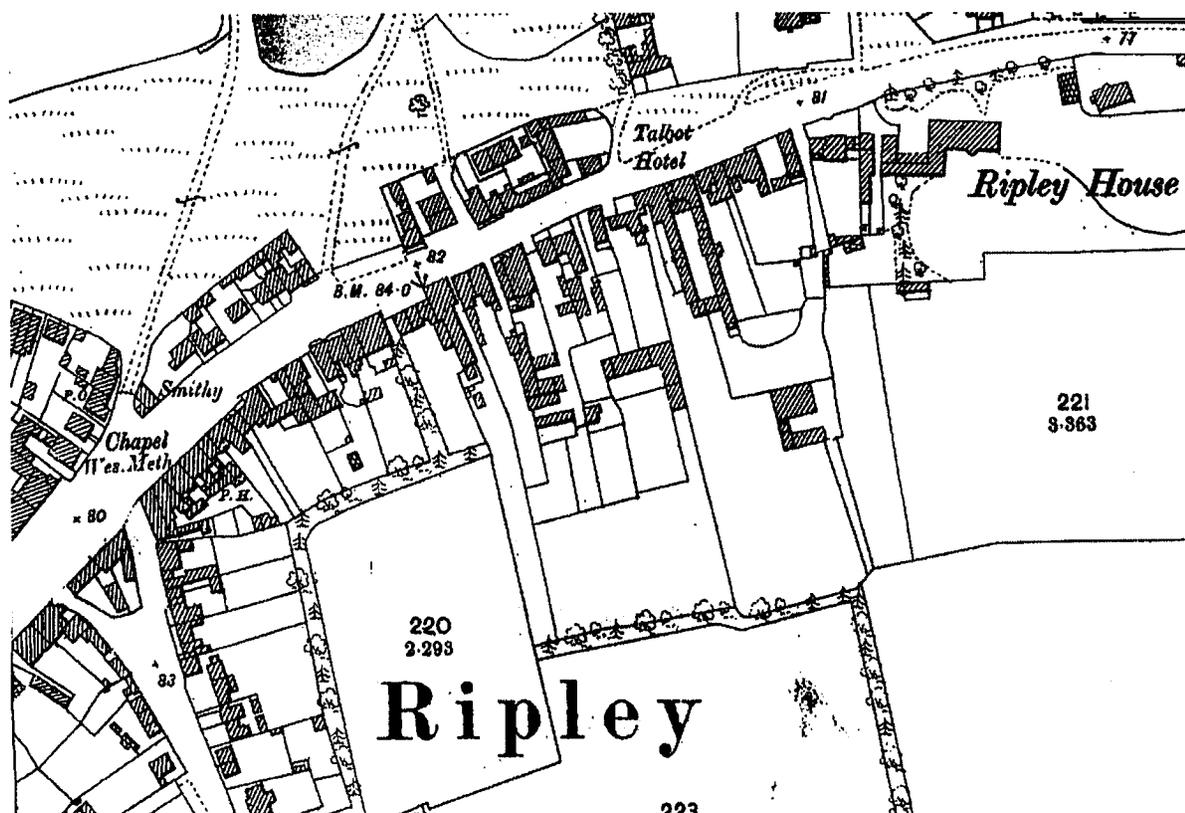
Several changes have taken place in the building. In 1895 a schoolroom and kitchen were added, built by John Pullen (local builder and later innkeeper of the White Hart) at a cost of £244.5.0, partly financed once more by W.W. Pocock and partly through the generosity of local people. Stones were laid in July by Mrs. F. Street widow of a local draper, Mr. J.F.W. Gibson a draper from Woking and Miss Kate Gatley from Homewood Farm. Bricks were given by four other people and the subscription list included many of the local residents. The opening ceremony was on October 30th. All but £43 of the cost had been raised, the balance paid for from bazaars and rummage sales. This enlargement is shown on the 1895 Ordnance Survey, (was this done from the foundations I wonder?). A porch was built in 1897 and again, the subscriptions were supplemented by bazaars, magic lantern shows and a 'Fruit Banquet'. Electricity replaced the oil lamps in the 1920's and sanitation was provided.



Part of Ripley from the Tithe Map 1841



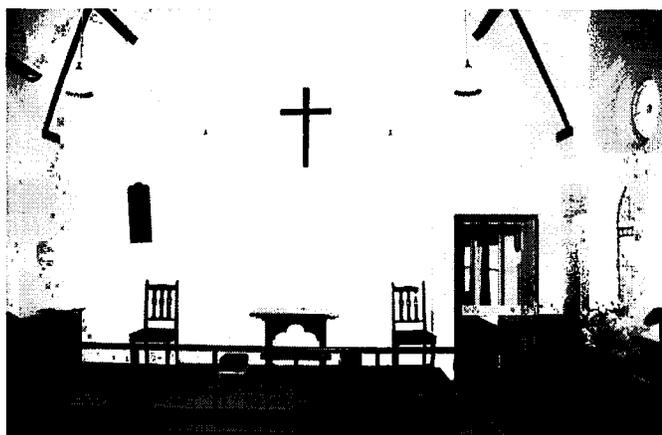
Ripley Wesleyan Chapel on OS Map 1870



Part of Ripley from OS Map 1896

The pulpit, which was originally in the centre as the focal point, was moved to provide a larger sanctuary area, but it was found to be unsafe, and was replaced by the present small lectern with has the original brass plate inscribed: *Sir we would see Jesus.*

There was an organ of some sort as early as 1898 recorded in the Woking Schedule of Trust Properties, and the Woking Year book of 1900 gives Miss Gatley as organist. (She was also chapel steward and treasurer of trustees from 1894 -1913). There was a piano played amongst others by Mrs Anscombe, then Charlie Nokes until his death. The piano was replaced in the 1970s when the Crowther brothers gave a small electronic organ. This was played for some time by Stan Gilliver (who was also steward and treasurer) until his eyesight failed him. It was halfway through a service that he asked Ella Gadd to take over, although she had never played an organ before. Stan then donated his own small organ to the church, which Ella has continued to play.



Bill Gadd, (now aged 97) fondly remembers the Sunday school run by Charles Nokes, (He ran the ironmongers and cycle shop by the green) assisted by Monty Worsfold, the village postman. They met on Sunday mornings before joining in the main service. Strangely they had to go in by the side entrance and not the main door. The children also had mid week activities, such as magic lantern shows, mainly about missionaries and, for some, their very first movie. As many of the families were very poor the Christmas party with its food was a highlight of the year.

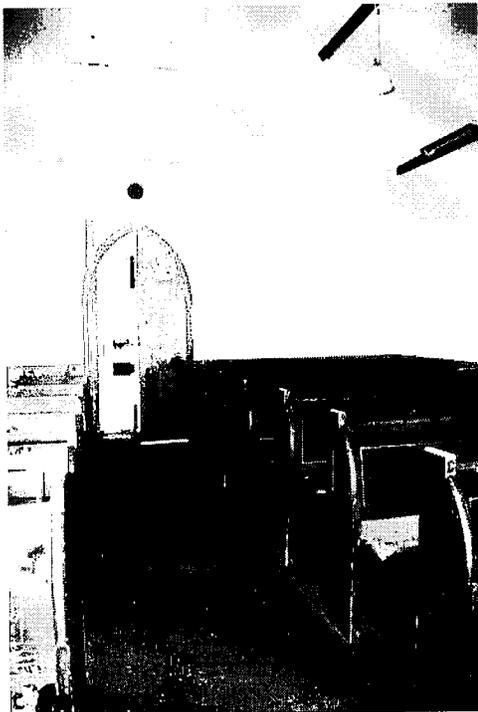
Bill called it their beanfeast. In the early days before the First World War they had a summer outing to Guildford, by barge pulled by horses. In later days there were Charabanc outings to Bognor or Littlehampton. There was also participation in village activities. The children took part in the bonfire night procession. During the Second World War, when the arrival of the evacuees caused overcrowding in the school, the chapel was used as an overflow schoolroom. For many years Betty Nokes organized the loan of tables to go in the flower show marquee at the Ripley Event. In return many of the exhibits were given to decorate the chapel.

The church was equally well bedecked for the Harvest Festival. In the earlier days the produce was auctioned,(for many years by Leslie Richardson). There was also on display, a fish, a glass of water and a piece of coal. The coal was never auctioned, but put away in the cupboard for the following year.

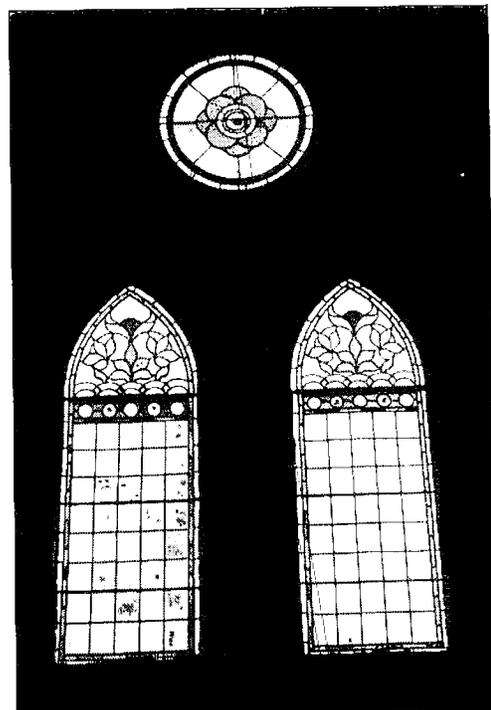
Once the 40-'Moody and Sankey' hymn books were in full use when Mr A.W.Gadd (1885-1959) used to find the right page for his grandmother Mrs West, who, although with failing eye-sight, used to sing with great gusto. (Moody and Sankey were the American evangelists who came to England in 1883, and whose rousing hymns are still sung.) The Christmas service, when joined by the Byfleet choir must have sounded more like the earlier days.

Sadly, though the church survived many setbacks, such as the burst boiler in 1936 and again in 1962 that left everything soot blackened, or the floods in 1983, which swamped the kitchen and schoolroom, the numbers have continued to decline. There has been no Sunday school for many years, and the regular congregation has dropped to half a dozen people. These remaining members are invited to attend the neighbouring Methodist churches of Byfleet or West Horsley.

Many thanks to Frank and Ella Gadd for much of this information.



Entrance and seating



Stained glass above entrance

Forthcoming Events

All the meetings are at the Ripley Village Hall or the Village Hall Annex unless stated otherwise.

Wednesday 19TH February 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

A G M. Nominations for committee can be made to the secretary anytime up to and including the evening of the meeting. The formal part of the evening being short, will be followed by member's reminiscences of longer meetings, or past-times. There will also be a second-hand bookstall. Anyone wishing to donate books well beforehand please contact Anne or Les Bowerman.

Wednesday 19th March 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk on 'The History of Guildford Castle' by Mary Alexander, Collections Officer of Guildford Museum

Wednesday 16th April 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk on **Syon House** by Andrea Cameron

Wednesday 21st May 1.50 pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green

A visit to **Syon House**. Meet at The Manor House at 1.50pm or at Syon House car park at 2.30pm.

Sunday 22nd June 2.0pm – The Manor House, Send Marsh Green

A visit to **Wisley and Pyrford churches**.

Sunday 20th July

An all day visit to Rottingdean, Sussex, details to be announced.

Wednesday 24th September 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

A talk on **The History and development of Pyrford** by Ian Wakeford

Wednesday 15th October 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk by Carol Brown of Guildford Museum, entitled '**Follow the Drum**', Women in the army from 1790.

Wednesday 19th November 8.0pm – Ripley Village Hall

An illustrated talk entitled **The Wey Navigator and other Surrey Waterways** by Gordon Knowles.

For further details of the above events, unless stated otherwise, contact Anne Bowerman; Programme Organiser, tel. 01483 224876.

Journal Contributions: Closing date for the next edition is **Friday 21st February 2003**



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'Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life' Reprinted 1998	£10
'Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send'	£1.25
'Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley'	Reference copy
'The Straight Furrow', by Fred Dixon	£1.50
'Ripley and Send – Looking Back'	£4.95
'A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey'	£2.00
'Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey'	£2.95
'The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey'	£4.00
'Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures'	£6.00
'Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools'	£10.00
'The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey'	£5.00

The reference copy is available at the museum. The others are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of 'Ripley & Send Then and Now' and 'Two Surrey Village Schools' can also be obtained from Send Post Office.

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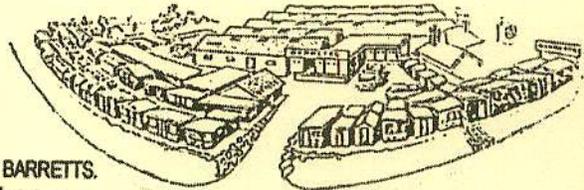


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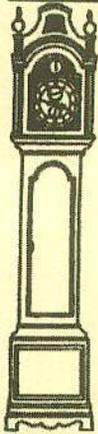


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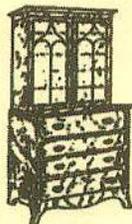
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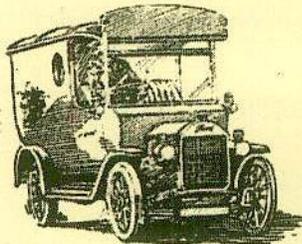
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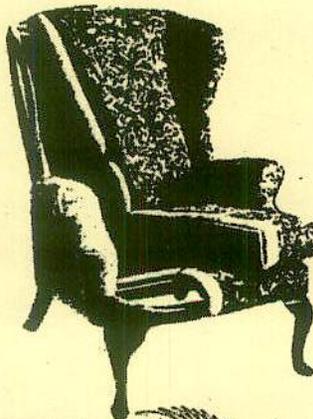
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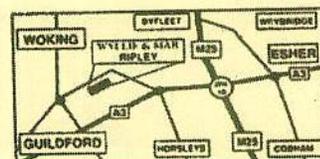
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