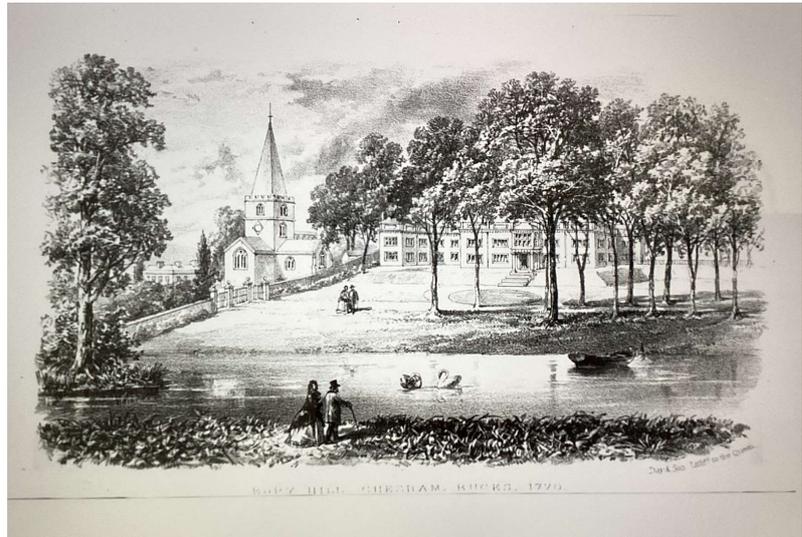


More History Pages



Col. Coulson Scottowe, (left), member of our church, husband of Anne Scottowe whose name is inscribed on our Communion chalice of 1774 which she gave to us, and (right) a print from 1790 showing St Mary's Church and the Scottowe's residence, the Upper Parsonage on Bury Hill at the top of what is now Lowndes Park. The Parsonage was subsequently demolished by the Lowndes family when it came into their ownership. Scottowe's Pond is in the foreground.



Aerial photo taken in 1928 showing The Broadway and our church building; to its right, this side and higher up is The Institute, demolished and the land sold to a developer in ~2010; a glimpse of High House beyond (once was the Manse and School but currently the vape shop); and the raised frontage and roof of the Westminster Bank building which make it impossible to see the whole of our roof from street level and cast a shadow over our front until later in the day.



Revd Thomas S Edwards moving into the Manse

Revd Thomas S Edwards 1966- 1974

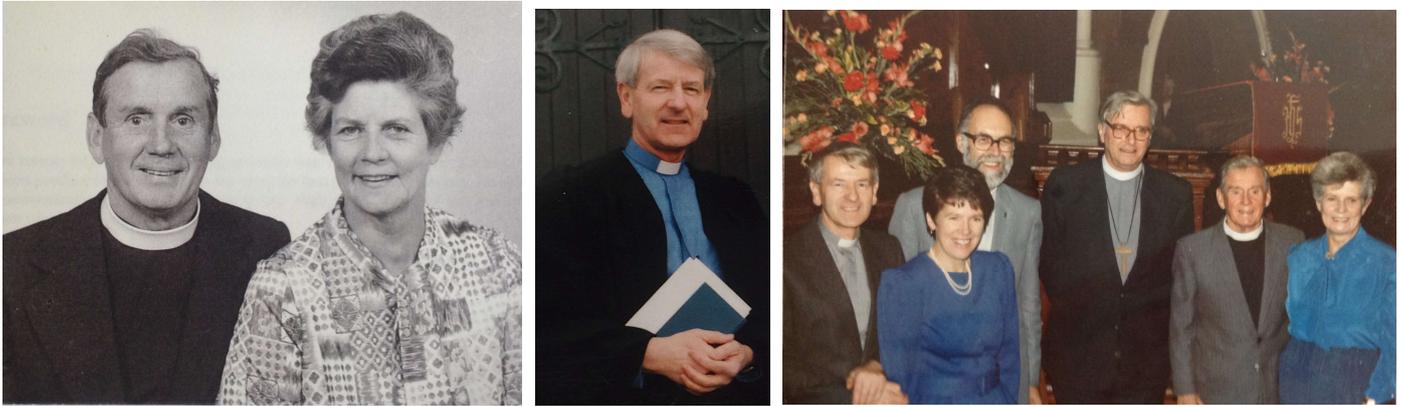
After a preaching visit the previous October, Revd Edwards, another Welshman*, immediately accepted our invitation to become our Minister following Revd E G Thomas's (1952 -1966) announcement that he had accepted a call from another church. Revd Edwards came from ministries in Leicester and Monmouthshire. He was married with two sons, Roderick aged 21, studying Sociology at London University, and Gareth, aged 15 who was to become a pupil at Dr Challoner's Grammar School.



Revd Mary Frost was our first lady Minister, inducted in 1974, the year of our 250th Anniversary celebrations, who went on to serve this church for 15 years. Mary's husband, the Revd Alan Frost became the minister of Gerards Cross United Reformed Church in 1973. Mary had been ordained 14 years previously and had already served as Minister at Newport Pagnell.

Mary and Alan had four children. Yvonne and Peter are in the photo above with their parents. Among Mary's missions in our church were to make it lively to the changes in society and within the church, and to make it aware of the pressures of the time.

In the photo with Mary are also the Moderator of Thames North Province Revd R J Hall shaking her hand, Ken Reynolds our Church Secretary, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Chesham Mr and Mrs William Sills.



The Revds Horace Thomas and John Maitland, 1988 to 1991

Horace (yet another Welshman*) and John shared a half ministry in the ratio Horace one third and John one sixth. The pictures L to R show Horace and his wife Joan; John; John with his wife Sally and Horace and Joan, and behind them Revd Keith Forecast, the then Moderator of URC General Assembly (bearded) and Revd Michael Davies, the then Moderator of Thames North Province of the URC at Horace and John's Ordination into our ministry.

Edward Horace Thomas (Horace) was born on 11th October 1911 in Ferndale, Rhonda Valley, South Wales. He moved to London and attended Acland Central School, Camden from 1930 - 36, matriculating in 1939 from London University. He then undertook a Theology degree at Kings College London (1939 - 41). (He once told us that he had wanted to go on the stage but then the call to ministry came that enabled him to make a very different use of those talents.)

He did military service in the Artillery Regiment (Medium) from 1941 – 45 in North Africa, Italy and Germany and was demobbed in 1945.

In 1946/7, he continued his Theology degree at Oxford University and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1948. He immediately went to Salisbury (Harare), Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) with responsibility for a congregation of over 1000 members, also conducting services in five outstations. 1950 Induction and ministry to Gwelo Presbyterian Church and the local African Church. 1958 Inducted to establish a new church in the suburbs of Harare with erection of a new church building - congregation rose from 7 to 1400 by 1970. 1965 Went to Pittsburgh Seminary USA under a Fulbright Scholarship. Returned to Harare - 1966 Ministry to African churches in the area – built a holiday cottage in the highlands for those needing rest and respite in a Christian environment. 1970 Inducted to St Columba's Church, Queenstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa. 1975 Returned to Greencroft Church, Harare. 1978 Became Moderator of the Presbyterian Churches of Southern Africa from the Cape to Zambia. 1979 – 80 Involved with other church leaders in peace-keeping talks between leaders of the warring sides, and in 1980 Zimbabwe celebrated independence. 1982 Left Greencroft and came to the UK and became Minister at Aylesbury URC, serving there for 5 years. 1988-91 Joint ministry with Revd John Maitland here at URC Chesham followed by retirement with occasional Sunday ministering to churches in the Chilterns and Surrey.

A service in loving memory of Horace was held here at Chesham URC on 8th June 2000. Joan continued to worship with us after his passing. The 90s were designated "The Decade of Evangelism" and Horace's message to us was the urgency of the situation – "Do it now!" Quite a few of Horace's sermons were published in book form.