



St. Michael's

Church of England Preparatory School



**90th Anniversary
Year Book
1922 – 2012**



Nursery 2012



RP 2012



RW 2012



IJ 2012



IC 2012



2W 2012



2P 2012

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Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this magazine which celebrates 2012, our 90th anniversary year. When it was first proposed that we produce such a magazine, and a volunteer to produce it was sought, I quickly put myself forward, little did I know what a daunting and absorbing task it would become!

Through many hours of searching through school archives the project soon became a labour of love, and now I feel a fount of all knowledge where the school history is concerned.

Of course, the school has developed and changed remarkably throughout its 90 years. The building itself has grown from a small college, for 12 boarders in 1922 under the Headship of Sister Lucy of the Order of St. Michael and All Angels (OSMAA), to a day school which now educates over 270 children. What was a bungalow is now a school that boasts a School Chapel, a dedicated Nursery, over 15 classrooms, a computer suite, an Art room, a Library, a Science room and much more.

Although the building has changed, the ethos of the school itself has remained steadfast. While researching for the magazine I have been in contact with pupils who were at St. Michael's as far back as 1939 and who

have very happy memories of their time here. "Sister Alice taught us more with her smile than with her words."

One special former pupil was Miss Pauline Durrant who sadly passed away in May 2012. Pauline first entered the school aged 10 and even after leaving school at 16 continued to keep in touch. She later served as a Governor for many years before becoming our first Honary School Governor until her death. Pauline produced a wonderful book in 1982 reflecting the first 60 years of the school and without this gem, my research would have been so much more difficult. Extracts from Pauline's book, "The First Sixty Years" are reproduced in this publication.

This magazine could never cover every detail of the changes that have happened at the school from 1922 until the present day but I hope that you enjoy our delve into the past 90 years along with a reminder of what a fantastic year pupils, staff and parents had throughout 2012 celebrating not just

the School's anniversary but also the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics and Paralympics. It was year I'm sure that the children will never forget.

L Kipps



Miss Pauline Durrant

Foreword



2012 was without doubt a remarkable and unique year and certainly one to celebrate for children at St. Michael's School with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games and the school's 90th Anniversary. The year also brought excellent levels of achievement in the children's academic studies and the wider curriculum including music, drama and sports.

Although the year of celebrations may be over, the legacy of our

90th Anniversary lives on in the lives of all those who have been or who continue to be part of the school. Much has changed over the last 90 years. The school building has grown and improved out of all recognition, and modern resources and technologies have supported the development of new ways of teaching and learning to maximise the children's achievement. The expansion of our extra-curricular activities programme has also added to the children's capacity to achieve success and effect personal growth. However, the traditional Christian values on which the school was founded, remain as a firm bedrock for all of the school's and children's activities. At the heart of our ethos are a belief that every child is unique and a commitment to work towards each child being a happy, self-confident and well-rounded individual able to make the most of the many opportunities

afforded to them and to make a positive contribution to the community in which they live.

I hope that you will enjoy this celebration of the school's 90 years, relive fond memories from 2012 or earlier and see for yourself something of why St. Michael's is such a special place.

My enormous thanks to Mrs Lorraine Kipps who has worked tirelessly on compiling this celebratory magazine. Knowing what to include and what to leave out are very difficult choices, but I hope that you agree that the pages before you give a real sense of St. Michael's both now and throughout its history. I would also like to thank everyone who helped to make our anniversary year such a year to remember.

With best wishes

Steve Tompkins
Head





From Small Beginnings

Mother Lucy from the Order of St. Michael's and All Angels (OSMAA) purchased 198 Hadleigh Road, a small school called Leigh Park College, from Mrs Alistair. (The bungalow was originally built as a sanitorium before the 1914 war). In the September of 1922, St. Michael's opened with 12 day pupils and 7 boarders from a school in Hammersmith run by the Sisters.



Back to 1911 or 1912 by Mary Pickering excerpt from "The First Sixty Years"

"I can trace the school back to its beginning, when this part of Leigh was lovely with trees and fields, where children could play with safety when not in school. Mrs Alistair, a widow, purchased the land and at that time we just had an army hut for the whole school."

Foundation Stage

For the majority of children the start of their St. Michael's adventure is in Nursery or Reception. Here they quickly start to learn through play and practical activities in an attractive and stimulating environment. The focus in these early years is to ignite the children's natural curiosity and enthusiasm; and for establishing their capacity to learn, form relationships and to thrive. This forms the bedrock for success as they proceed through the school working towards fulfilling their potential in all aspects of school life and learning.

Favourite activities in the Nursery classroom include playing games and singing songs to learn letter sounds and numbers, creative activities involving paint and messy play and imaginative play in role play, construction and small world settings. Outside, the bikes and cars are firm favourites with the pirate ship being the stimulus for countless stories and adventures.

The past year has been a busy one as Nursery and Reception children helped to celebrate the school's 90th birthday. Nursery children really enjoyed creating stories around birthday celebrations and making sand, playdough and construction cakes. During the Anniversary pageant Nursery children, resplendent in Jubilee costumes, performed their own version of 'They're changing the guard at Buckingham Palace' and 'It's a small world' which soon became one of the children's favourite

songs. Reception children meanwhile dug for victory in the 1940s and turned a difficult period of British history into a colourful display of hope and determination.

A number of children in Reception had their fantastic Jubilee art work recognised in a Leigh competition and had their designs made into Diamond Jubilee greetings cards which were then on sale in the Lynn Tait Gallery. A Jubilee Tea party was met with great excitement by the children who wore their own crowns for the occasion.

Another exciting time for Nursery children was when they hunted for the Gruffalo in Thorndon Country Park. A fantastic day was had by all making homes for the

characters from the book, hunting for small Gruffalos and listening to the story of the Gruffalo whilst sitting on logs around a very large statue of the Gruffalo himself!

Reception children had a great time at Southend Sea Life Centre coming face to face with fascinating fish and all sorts of sea creatures. The children used their experiences at the Sea Life Centre to turn their own classrooms into colourful underwater environments as they learnt about and created their own lobsters and star fish



and undertook many other deep-sea inspired learning activities.

Being part of St. Michael's 90th Anniversary celebrations has been a big part of the children's experiences so far. The children loved leading the procession on St. Michael's Day, seeing the Bishop and joining in with the party and singing in the afternoon.

At Christmas, Nursery and Reception children joined together to perform 'Come to the Manger' to a packed Hall of proud parents and grandparents. This lovely version of the Christmas story was the perfect way to round off a very special year in the Foundation Stage.



1920's

Prospectus from St. Michael's School 1922

Healthily situated in the west of Leigh-on-Sea and standing some three hundred feet above sea level, St. Michael's Church of England School for Girls is among the best constituted in the country.

The air of Leigh is famed for its health giving properties, and the district altogether is highly suitable for girls. As will be seen from the accompanying illustration, St. Michael's stands in its own grounds, and there is an excellent tennis court in addition to extensive playing fields and playgrounds within five minutes of the school.

St. Michael's school is conducted by the Sisters of the Community of St. Michael and All Angels and is administered by the Mother Superior. Both boarders and day girls are accepted. The curriculum is comprehensive and well-proportioned and many examination successes have been attained in the

Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations.

Music is a special feature and in this branch also a flattering number of successes has rewarded the efforts of the school. Pupils are prepared for the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music Examinations.

The recreative side is well developed. Physical culture, swimming, bathing, tennis, and hockey are indulged in and the healthiness of the life is well evidenced in the absolute fitness of the girls.

The annual Sports' Day is a big event and this is an admirable index to the physical wellbeing even as the examination successes are indicative of the mental achievements.



The school premises were purchased by the Community in 1922 and the present number of pupils, both boarders and day girls, is considerably more than the original number.

The house itself is well designed and eminently suitable for educational purposes. Light and airy, all matters appertaining to sanitation are perfect. The further activities of St. Michael's will be followed with keen interest by all who are concerned with those educational centres which are contributing to the cream of England's cultured womanhood.



LEIGH-ON-SEA is now recognized as being one of the healthiest seaside resorts.

SCHOOL HOURS & CURRICULUM—The school hours are from 8 to 12 and from 2 to 4.

The School Curriculum covers the work necessary for the Oxford and Cambridge Local and Matriculation examinations. It includes the following subjects:

- Oratory, English Literature, Grammar and Composition, History, Geography, Mathematics, French, Latin, Elementary Science, Dancing, Class Singing, Needlework, Civil Nature Study.

GAMES & PHYSICAL EXERCISES—Swimming, Bathing, Tennis and Hockey.

FEES.

BOARDERS—
From £22 12s. to £28 10s. per Term according to class.
Weekly Boarding from £12 12s. to £14 12s. according to age.
Laundry £1 10s. per Term.

DAY PUPILS—
From £7 10s. to £11 according to age and Term.
Boarding pupils, send 1s. extra if not £7 10s.

EXTRA SUBJECTS.			
From (including Term)			
Paint (Annual)	—	—	—
Music	—	—	—
Wool Sewing	—	—	—
Handwriting	—	—	—
Dancing	—	—	—
Drawing	—	—	—
German	—	—	—
Music Express	—	—	—
Typewriting	—	—	—
Games	—	—	—

All Fees are payable in advance.
A Term's notice, or in Term's Fee, is required before the withdrawal of a pupil.

Luckier than we thought by Sheila Thomas nee Fisher (1925-29) excerpt from The First Sixty Years

My earliest memory of St. Michael's was in 1924, when at the age of six, I was introduced to the strange new world of boarding school. Mother Lucy, the Mother Superior, was to me a remote, awesome figure who led us in school prayer in the chapel and who presided over the top table at school meals.

Having been sent to board at St. Michael's because I was so fussy about food at home, I still remember vividly the stodge I learnt to eat at St. Michael's.

Apart from food there are, of course, many things I remember about the early days at St. Michael's. I remember the cold dormitories and colder bathrooms and hardships like practising the piano with icy fingers and marching around the school room to restore the circulation before breakfast, with

the old-fashioned stove belching forth smoke without heat at all.

There were the annual highlights - sports day and the school concert at St. Clement's Hall but my general impression looking back at the early days of St. Michael's is of a sheltered life in a close knit community, where we as borders accepted our daily routine of work and play and knew practically nothing about what went on in the outside world.



Boarders' food

Mountains of boiled rice, mushy brown beans, and endless porridge and suet puddings. Dinners good if they were sausages, to be avoided if stew!

Teas Spartan but wholesome, as much crusty white bread as one wanted with butter or golden syrup (but never both), cake on Sundays.

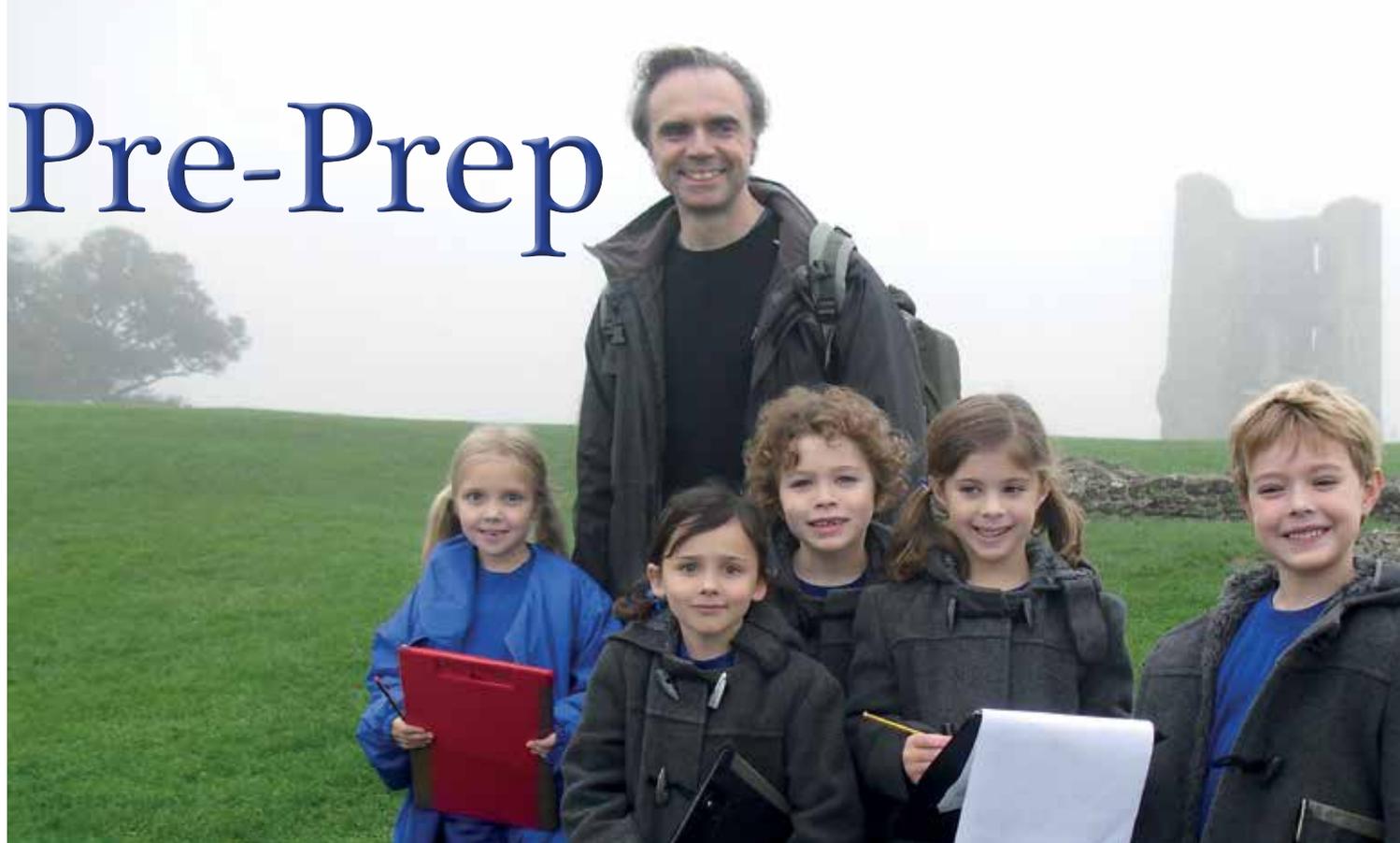
Sheila Thomas remembers not eating her food, "Only once did the suet pudding defeat me. That was the day Mother Superior spoon fed me in front



of a full silent dining room. I knew better than to never leave anything on my plate again.

Of course, there was always a handkerchief or a pocket in your school knickers!"

Pre-Prep



Form 1 and Form 2 classes are always busy ones with children actively engaged in learning. This last year has certainly been no exception with the children using experiences both inside and outside the classroom to build on the foundations they laid in Nursery and Reception.

No sooner had Form 1 children settled into their new routines, they were off to the Hollytrees Museum in Colchester as part of their history topic of Toys. After a fascinating day learning about Toys from the past, back at school children enjoyed comparing their own toys with those of former generations and discovering that there were toys before the Play Station!

As part of their historical studies Form 2 visited Hadleigh Castle to look for clues for what happened in a medieval castle; and Old Leigh to find out about smugglers from yester year. A day in Victorian costume at the Museum of Kent Life gave Form 2 a real taste of what Victorian life would have been like.



In March, all Form 2 children took part in the Infant Music Festival along with other Year 2 children from a number of other local schools. Although understandably nervous about performing in such a large room full of people, the children sang with obvious enjoyment



and confidence and were a credit to the school. So too were the children in the Form 2 football team who competed in a Southend Schools Sports Partnership Football tournament later in the term.

With the year in full swing thoughts turned to the school's 90th anniversary, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and, of course, the Olympic Games. Form 1 certainly got in the swing with their 1950's theme for the Anniversary pageant and performed a fantastically colourful and energetic rendition of 'Rock around the clock'. Not to be outdone, Form 2 relived the colourful world of the 1960's bringing back to life the age of hippies, long hair and flared trousers.

On a suitably sunny June morning, children in Forms 1 and 2 joined with others in the



Prep department on the beach in Southend to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by flying their own crafted Union Jack kites. On a much cooler (and wetter!) afternoon children cheered with excitement and waved Union Jack flags with gusto as they witnessed the Olympic torch being carried along the London Road, near the school.



These and other memorable moments, as well as the children's achievements, were the focus of the Pre-Prep Celebration of the year in July which featured all children from Nursery to Form 2.

Parents were treated to the children's own highlights, singing and a wonderful slide show of photographs from the year before the presentation of prizes.

The new school year saw the culmination of the 90th Anniversary celebrations with an extra-special St. Michael's



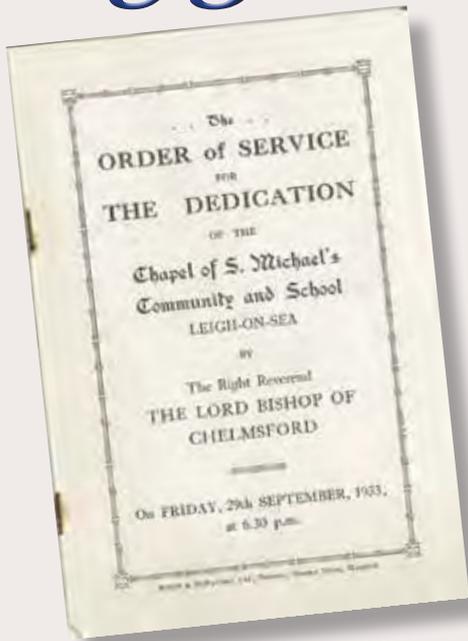
Day. With their customary St. Michael's dragons and banners, children in Forms 1 and 2 eagerly took part in the procession with the rest of the school and the Bishop, and later enjoyed the parties and singing.

With our special year almost over, Form 1 and Form 2 combined to produce 'Hosanna Rock', a lively version of the

Christmas story for this year's Crib Service. Not only were parents treated to a wonderful performance, but thanks to the generosity of Pre-Prep parents a car full of children's presents was donated to the local homeless charity HARP for distribution to needy children in their care.

2012 will surely be a year for the children not to forget!

1930's



The dedication of the New School Chapel taken from the "The St. Michael's School Magazine 1934"

The great event to which all members of the community and School have looked forward to has taken place. On the evening of St. Michael and All Angels' Day the beautiful new Chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

The pupils in white dresses and veils came along in a line after the Sisters and Mother superior. The Chapel already filled with parents of pupils and so many friends of St. Margaret's.

The Service of Dedication was very beautiful. The Bishop directed his address, as usual chiefly to the pupils, who regard him now as a special friend; but the subject was no less helpful to the adults.

One cannot over-estimate the importance of the building of the new Chapel in the life of

the community of St. Michael and All Angels. Previously to this event it has only been possible for the Mother Superior to set apart and furnish a room in the school building as a Chapel, where the sisters have said their daily offices, and where, in term time, the pupils joined daily in the Office of Vespers. It is the crowning point in the work of the Reverend Mother Superior; it is a beautiful thought and wish of hers which has at last taken material shape. May she be spared for a long time to take her part in the worship of God, for which the Chapel has been designed.



ST. MICHAEL'S
MAGAZINE
Leigh-on-Sea

No. 1.

Pri...



MY SWING

Where the violets twinkle blue,
 Where the dew-drops twinkle too,
 My friend and I swing high and low
 Beneath the trees that shade us so.
 Where the pools are bright and deep,
 Our swing goes past, the fishes leap.
 We nearly touch the tree-tops high,
 And coming down, we heave a sigh.
 And now the shades of evening fall,
 We hear the sound of duty call.
 Home to tea; a little play;
 And all is finished for to-day.

ROSALIE CRAFT (age 8).

PRIZE-GIVING DAY

On December 19th, 1938, the annual School Prize-Giving was held in S. Scholastica's Hall. On previous occasions, the event had taken place at the end of the summer term.

Rev. M. B. Morgan of Hockley kindly consented to present the prizes, and of course our Chaplain, Rev. F. Leolin Hilditch—without whom no Prize-giving would be complete—was present.

Two of the youngest members of the School, Josie Smith and Beryl Conley, opened the proceedings by presenting Mother Superior and Rev. M. B. Morgan with bouquets, which were graciously received. After this Miss Perry read the report of the year's work, which was followed by a very humorous speech by Rev. F. Leolin Hilditch.

The distribution of the prizes came next, and this was to many people the most important event of the evening.

Rev. M. B. Morgan then delivered an interesting and jovial speech, which made a profound impression on even some of the smallest children present.

The climax of the evening came with the announcement that there was to be a short Nativity Play. This took place after the vote of thanks to Rev. M. B. Morgan. Its beauty and simplicity brought the evening to a reasonable conclusion.

STELLA DAVIS (age 14).
16



Rosalie Craft

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL MAGAZINE

No. 1.

1930.

EDITORIAL.

The work of preparing the pioneer magazine of St. Michael's has been interesting as any embarking upon a new venture is bound to be. Here it will not be out of place briefly to indicate what we have hoped to achieve by the production of this magazine.

It is not simply that all schools worthy of the name produce magazines and therefore it is "the thing" to do, although in time to come, if we exchanged magazines with other schools our efforts might be stimulated and our standard raised. The main idea of having a magazine is to leave a permanent record for all those interested in the School from any point of view of all the activities which go to make up the life of our School. This record will be of two-fold interest

first, as a summary of what has taken place during the year, and second, as an illustration of the literary ability of individuals. Perhaps in time we may also discover whether the production of our first number is a venture financially sound. We are relying on everyone interested in the School to help us by buying a copy, so that we may cover the cost of printing. We need scarcely add the explanation which was necessary to some junior members of the School, that the magazine does not exist to provide pocket-money for the Editorial Staff!

All praise is due to those who have contributed to this number, and to the Sub-Editor and the Committee who set to work with great energy and extracted articles from many who would have been too modest to proffer them voluntarily, and performed the more disagreeable but necessary work of rejecting what was unsuitable from any point of view. If this Editorial has exceeded its limits (for surely brevity is a virtue in Editorials), it may be excused on the plea that it is the first of its kind. Here is success and long life to our Magazine!

S. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL MAGAZINE

No. 5

1939

EDITORIAL

This year's Magazine is more than usually retrospective, for our last publication appeared in 1937, and we have had to record the outstanding events of our history since then. We go to press full of thankfulness for the growth of our school and the widening of its influence in the interim. There have been changes in the personnel of pupils and staff. Some girls who were treading our courts in 1937 beneath grey mists, have left us to 'put into practice the lessons in disciplined service unto the common joy that they were then learning, beneath flaming orient skies; and other seniors to whom the lines have fallen in pleasant homely places have had time to realize that the grown-up, emancipated life to which they looked so eagerly has brought them duties in home and office and studio that are no whit less unremitting and no whit less exacting than those that sometimes irked them in the classroom, though because they are self-chosen they may be all-engrossing, and the vista they open up may seem to lead on and on, and to be sunshiny all the way. To these alumni whom we greet again after an interval of silence, we wish continued happiness in the wider sphere into which they have entered; and we are quite sure that they in their turn will read our pages with avid interest and rejoice to hear of the beneficent changes that have appeared within our walls.

Since our life necessarily finds its inspiration in worship, and unto worship bears its fruit, we rejoice especially in the installation in our Chapel of the new pipe organ. Great was the jubilation in the hearts of all those who were privileged to be present at the Dedication Service on April 1th, when it was blessed by the chaplain, the Rev. F. Leolin Hilditch; after which the whole school listened entranced to the sweet, full-toned harmonies of a recital by Mr. Bass, the organist of S. Margaret's Church; and heartily did we congratulate Mother Superior on her choice of an instrument that so dignifies the hymnody of the Community, and Sister Francis on the devotion that enables her in the midst of

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
MAGAZINE
On-Sea
1930.
One Shilling.

Music

As always 2012 has been an extremely busy year for St. Michael's music department delighting audiences both locally and further afield. The first performance of the year was Year 6 participating in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in London. During the rehearsal they were introduced to one of the solo artists, Randolph Matthews, with his unique act of combining many different musical styles as well as using his voice to create any number of sound effects. Also performing were the Irish group, High Kings, who played 13 different instruments between them and the dance troupe and Urban Strides, with their energetic street dance. They also met the band and David Lawrence, the conductor, who clearly relishes directing such a large scale performance.



From pop songs to folk music to rock music as well as some classical singing Year 6 had a fantastic time and the children and staff performed with great energy and spirit. By the end of the concert everyone was tired but very happy and I am sure that this day will remain in everyone's memory for a very long time.

Each year in March, children from Year 2, take part in the South East Essex Schools Music Infant Music festival. The theme for this year's festival was "2012".

The pupils were encouraged to learn songs about the world, the Olympics, trying hard and making new friends. The children joined in well with the massed songs and listened with interest to the Director as she worked with the schools to create a composition. For our solo performance, we sang a song about trying hard and doing our best, "You can do it" and another about the world, "We all live in a big wide world." The children sang with gusto and enthusiasm and gave a fantastic performance which their parents thoroughly enjoyed!



Later in the month 20 pupils from Form 6 gave up their Saturday morning to entertain the members of the Saturday Morning Club at St Michaels and All Angels Church Hall in Leigh. We always try to choose an appropriate programme that will be appreciated by our audience and it seems this year we really succeeded by the orchestra playing Chariots of Fire, We are the Champions, Land of Hope and Glory and If You're Happy and You Know It. The choir sung World in Union and The Winner Takes It All, from the Young Voices concert and some well-known hymns. The audience joined in with the



London in the summer. Songs were chosen to represent different sporting events, uniting the world and celebration. The Finale, with all three choirs and performers from all of the groups involved in the concert, created much excitement as it was the first time that the

related pieces, Superman, We are the Champions, Pomp and Circumstance March and Chariots of Fire which ended with a lone runner carrying the Olympic torch!

All the children involved worked really hard, not only with the choirs and orchestras, but



actions and some of the singing, and by clapping and playing instruments. The audience is always very supportive and appreciative of the children's efforts and the pupils are able to see the effect that their playing and singing is able to achieve

After working hard during the Lent term the choirs, orchestra, drama groups, ballet classes and gymnasts prepare the end of term concert. This year's theme naturally was "Going for Gold!" This Olympic themed concert was designed to prepare pupils for the excitement of welcoming the Olympics to

children had performed all of the songs together. The Senior Orchestra opened the concert playing a number of

also during their individual performances and agreed that it was worth all the effort.



1940's



School history 1940 - 1949

Because of World War II St. Michael's School closed and the few boarders that remained were sent to Hamersmith in London.

In 1945 Mother Lucy asked the Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete (an educational order from St. Hilda's, Whitby, Yorkshire) to take over because there were only 4 nuns remaining in the Order of St. Michael's and All Angels, not enough to cope with the increasing number of pupils. The following year Sister Mary Francis became Headmistress and by the end of 1947 the changeover was fully complete. On the advice of Southend Education Department the boarders and older girls were "sacked" and it became a Day Preparatory School for Girls.



"So all the older girls had to go

except for Mrs Greenslade who said "not so".

They cut down the legs of the tables and chairs

except Mrs Greenslade's who hung on to hers.

Since she was the Head Girl they had to look out,

They couldn't get rid of her or push her about!"



By the summer of 1948 there were 120 pupils and the school was divided into four houses: St. Hilda, St. Monica, St. Margaret and St. Osyth, each with its own colour and emblem. A new Brownie Pack was also formed, Leigh 11th with Mrs Puxley as Brown Owl. In 1949 the school uniform was a check blouse and a skirt without straps. It was also decided that homework should be abolished except for Form IV! A school post office was organised to be open each break, deliveries were made on a Monday and the sole rule was that all letters must be answered.

From School log

Class Photo: Back Row 4th from right Anne Johnson (later Mrs Anne Greenslade, School secretary from 1971 to 2003.

Right: Reception depicting 1940's at 90th Pageant.



St. Michael's School,
LEIGH-ON-SEA
REPORT BOOK.

Name of Pupil *Jean K. Beth*



Half day pupil

St. Michael's School,
LEIGH-ON-SEA.

Report of *Jean K. Beth*
Form *7* Average Age *Christened Term, 1942*
Conduct *Very good* Order Marks *100%* Position *6* out of *9*
Times on weekly Roll of Honour *11* out of *11*

SUBJECT	Placed for Term	% for Exam.	REMARKS	Signature
Old Testament			<i>Good.</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
New Testament				
Prayer Book				
Literature			<i>Joan has improved.</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
Grammar				
Composition				
Writing				
Spelling				
Latin			<i>A good beginning</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
French				
Oral French				
History			<i>Joan's low position is due to illness</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
Geography				
Map Work				
Nature Study				
Botany				
Science			<i>A good worker. Movement. Good.</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
Arithmetic				
Algebra				
Geometry				
Drawing				
Physical Training				
Music				
Etymology				
Piano				
Violin			<i>Joan is interested in all musical subjects.</i>	<i>S. H. W. M.</i>
Singing				
Theory of Music				
Needlework				
Handicraft				

EXAMS.

Excellent 80% and above.
Very Good 70%
Good 60%
Very Fair 50%
Fair 50%

School opened *12.5* times.
No. of Times Absent *72*
School opens next Term *Jan. 19th 1943*
No. of Times Late *0*
Signed *Walter Simpson*
Principal.



Library

This year St. Michael's took the opportunity of the celebrations for World Book Day to launch a week of events called the Big Read. As well as dressing up as their favourite book characters, they also took time out to sit and read quietly. Year 1 had a visit from a local author, Claire

Freedman, creator of "Aliens love Underpants". She told the children about how she writes, what inspires her and also informed them about a new book she is writing. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. The Big Read also coincided with a charity event, Readathon,

which encourages children of any age to read for pleasure. A quiz for parents and children in Pre and Pre-Prep had a good response and the winning families received Book Tokens. As well as some parents coming to Pre-Prep to read some of the books



they had read to their own children.

This academic year has been a good one for the Library, with a successful Book Fair enabling the school to receive free books for both the main Library and class libraries. The stock of books in the Library has been added to

in all areas but particularly in Geography and in this Olympic year, books about sport and the origin of the Olympics. Two Kindles have been purchased and will provide another method of engaging children in reading. As always the Year 6 Librarians, Grace Johnson, Alex Reynolds, Emma Jarrett and Lewis Parker have provided valued assistance to Miss Docherty in the Library.



1950's

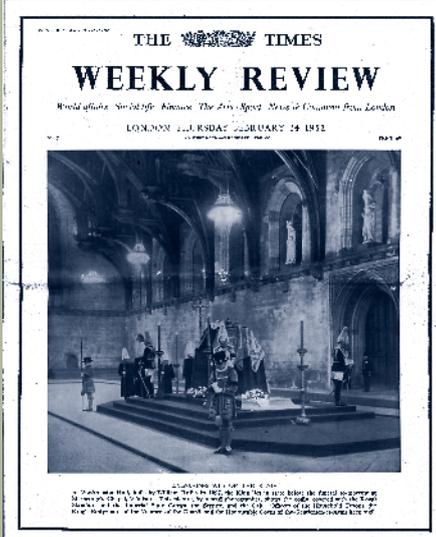


Notes taken from the School Log 1950 – 1959

Jan 31st 1950 Serving out in the Dining room- every child will be given larger portions and there will be no 2nd helpings in the future.

Nov. 9th 1950 – Meeting of 50 parents to discuss vexed question of school uniform – it was decided to keep old school tie, white blouse, royal blue pullovers for Junior and pixies*.

Feb 6th 1952 – News came through during the morning of the death of H.M King George VI.



Feb 8th 1952 – Whole school in hall to listen to the Proclamation of H.M Queen Elizabeth II.

15th February- school closed – Funeral of the King Many children watched it on television.

22nd Sept 1952 – Staff Tea and Staff Meeting – mainly re rules and general discipline – no comics to be allowed in school- detentions for bad work or bad conduct to done on Tuesdays.

Feb 1st 1953 – 1.00a.m Sea wall at Canvey breached in many places – Canvey flooded- 60-70 drowned – 2000 remained on the island, but 8000 were evacuated. Our two children are safe. We have taken in a refuge family of 5.

Feb 6th – Miss Ratcliff took two Prefects to Crufts' dog Show.

May 6th 1953 Miss P. Durrant showed film strips of her journey by bus across U.S.A and Canada.

June 1st & 2nd – Coronation Holiday

Nov 9th 1953 "St. Gabriel's". First day in *St. Gabriel's for the Infants- Lower KG; Higher KG; Transition and Form I – the house will hold 70 (64 this term). There are two bedrooms for resident staff.

22nd March 1958 – Leigh Festival of Music – we did not do very well.



Sister Jean went and spent the whole morning there. Learnt from one of our parents that that a rumour is circulating to the effect that St. Michael's will soon close, and that due to this rumour we are losing some of our children.

15th Feb 1959 – during the previous week negotiations had taken place with a London firm, Daniel Neal about summer uniform.

20th Feb 1959 – Mrs White and Mr Taylor from Daniel Neal's came to measure the children for dresses and blazers. The dress is in a small blue and white unusual check and the mode is plain but attractive. The blazers are



going to be plain without any lemon binding. We are hoping to have a new badge for the pocket. A number of parents came to see the sample dress made up for us. They were given tea and biscuits in the Library and Mrs Samuels dealt with them. They were not at all helpful.

*present day Nursery

1959

- 22nd January Thursday - There will be two new children in E.G. next week - one boy and one girl. But as two of the children expected at the beginning of the Term have not turned up the number on the roll remains the same, i.e. 82.
- 23rd January Friday - Frank Gribbis died in the evening.
- 24th January Saturday - Sunday School Party at St. Margaret's for the 114 children. Sister Dorothy went to it. Sister Jean went to visit Mrs. Crookenden in an eye-hospital in London where she has been for a short time after having an operation to one of her eyes.
- 25th January Monday - Fire practice for the School.
- 29th January Thursday - Rehearsal for Candle Mass with the children after dinner. Sister Ingrid went to a place in Chalkwell to look at a second hand Hot Point Eggwas washing Machine which she bought. Very misty indeed all day.
- 30th January Friday - County Grading Test - only two children sat for it; Ferny Leech and Lenley Atherfold - Jane Pearce was absent. The Test was held here - Sister Jean supervised - in the Sitting Room. A second rehearsal for Candle mass with the School in the afternoon. The Hot Point arrived at 5 p.m.
- 1st February Monday - School Sung Candle Mass at 9.10 a.m. Calstrant; Fr. Hill. Very nice indeed. Sisters Jean and Margaret Mary communicated. The rest of us made our communications at the 7.15. Cook absent with a bad cold, also the two following days.
- 14th February Saturday - Half Term.
- 15th February Sunday - Half Term. During the previous week negotiations had taken place with the London firm Daniel Neal about Summer Uniform. Mrs. Mackley, Mrs. Samuel and Sister Jean formed a committee. Two representatives from the firm called with samples of materials for dresses and blazers as well as with panamas and shoes. Mrs. Samuel came to tea to continue discussions about Uniform.
- 16th -17th February - HALF TERM, Uniform Notices circulated to all parents.
- 18th February Wednesday - School returned.
- 20th February Friday - Mrs. White and Mr. Taylor from Daniel Neal's came to measure the children for dresses and ~~skirt~~ blazers. The dress is in a small blue and white unusual check and the coat is plain but attractive.

Diamond Jubilee

As a school we joined the rest of the country and celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with kite flying on Southend seafront, Nursery and Reception class parties, colourful displays and pupils entering local art competitions.



een's



mond
lee



1960's

Problems and Progress in the 1960's

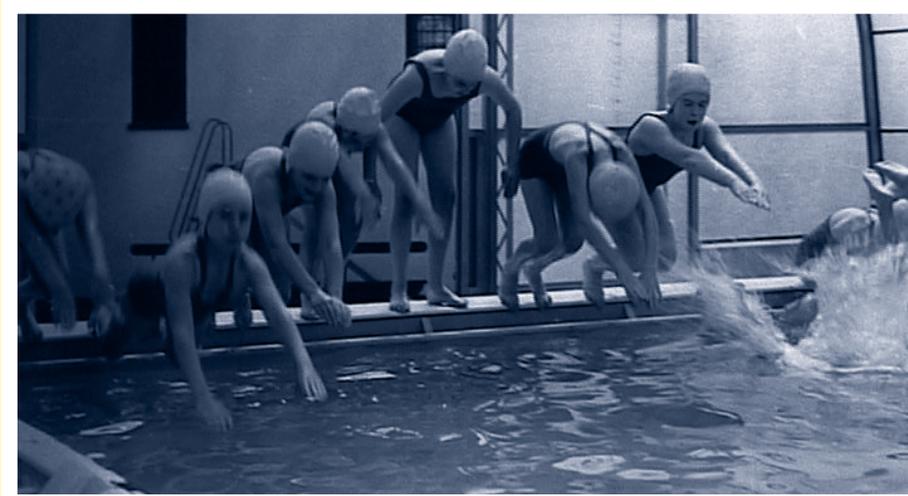
During the late 1950's the number of children had declined to only 73 children which then led to rumours that St. Michael's was going to close. In March 1961 the following notice was sent home to the remaining 60 families still sending their children to St. Michael's.

"At a recent meeting of the Chapter of the Holy Paraclete, which is the governing body of St. Michael's School, it was reluctantly decided to close the school at the end of the current school year that is in July 1961.

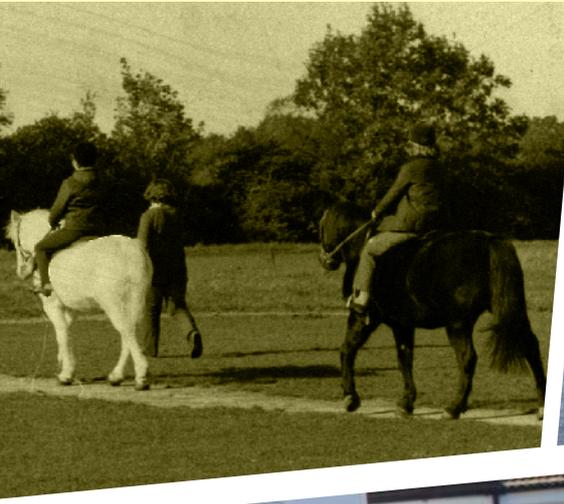
The decision has only been reached after careful consideration, given over a long period of time, to the future prospects of the school and the contribution it is likely to make

in the field of education in the circumstances of the present day. It seems clear to the Chapter, that with the rapid development of the State Primary School System, there is increasingly little demand for an Independent Junior Day school such as St. Michael's and the Order feels bound to use its manpower in other educational fields where the need for its work is pressing."

By May of the same year due to the support of family and past pupils, the PTA, Mr Nunn and



the Reverend Nash, the Chapter decided to revoke its former decision to close the school. "It was made clear that St. Michael's is valued and needed and that it has a vital part to play, as a Church school in both the Borough and the Deanery.... We are sure that with their loyalty



and support the school will go forward with vigorous new life and will make its contribution to the Christian education of the children of Leigh and surrounding district."

In 1965 Sister Mary Francis became Head and H.M.I suggested that the Senior department should be discontinued for girls over 13.

A new swimming pool was built in what is now the Chapel playground. Pupils helped by carrying turf to the orchard to provide a play lawn for the Nursery children. By 1968 enough funds had been raised to provide an enclosure and heater for the swimming pool.



Forms 3 and 4



Children in Forms 3 and 4 must win the prize for the best travellers, as not only have they travelled to many places in Essex and Kent during the year, they have also travelled back in time to encounter Roman warriors and Ancient Egyptians.

Visits to Southend High Street, Asheldham, the Museum of Kent Life and Writtle College have all helped to support the children's learning in Geography, History, Science, Art, English and mathematics as well as providing important lessons in communication, cooperation and independence.

Forms 3 and 4 are important years in the Prep department as the children are required to master key skills in reading, writing and mathematics as well as other learning across the curriculum in readiness for the demands of Forms 5 and 6. This is not to say, however, that the children do not have time for fun and creativity.

The science room has provided many opportunities during the year for the children to investigate and find out about the world around them. Form 4's visit to Writtle College built on this and allowed the children to find out

more about food chains and the role farming plays in food production and countryside conservation. Form 3 have also been finding out about habitats and ecology during their Outdoor Education days at Asheldham and have discovered creatures where they did not expect to find them.

The children's developing musical and dramatic skills were evident as they performed brilliantly during the Anniversary pageant. The sun was shining very brightly on the afternoon of





the pageant, but even if it had not have been, Form 3 would have lit up the playground on their own. Wearing their psychedelic costumes of the 1970's they had the time of their lives as they performed a selection of ABBA favourites. Form 4 meanwhile raided wardrobes at home for shoulder pads and leg warmers to transport us back to the 1980's

for an authentic rendition of 'Thriller' and a unique episode of 'Blankety Blank' featuring a cast of favourite 1980's characters.

For those children of a more sporting nature, the year has seen the

introduction of a new after-school hockey club for Forms 3 and 4 and an eager team of players enjoyed participating in a Southend Schools Hockey tournament. Budding athletes also helped St. Michael's win our division of the Borough Sports Competition in our first forage and came back proudly showing off their winning medals and trophies.

During the year the children in Forms 3 and 4 have led a number of moving assemblies and have been instrumental in championing Operation Christmas Child. As a result over 200 Christmas parcels were sent across the world to children living in poverty.

With their involvement in celebrating the school's 90th Anniversary, flying kites to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and being inspired by the London 2012 Olympics to achieve success in sport, this is surely to be a year that will live on in the memories of the children for a long time.





St. Michael's School 50th Anniversary 1972



Above: Head Teacher Miss Mary Warren cutting the cake.

Top Right: Form 3 Pageant.



The girls of a Brownie Pack drew a deep breath as seven year old Melody Platt cut their 25th Birthday cake.

Then they all blew out the candles on it. But it wasn't just a momentous occasion for the girls of 11th Leigh Brownie Pack, it was an exciting moment too for six former members who watched the cake cutting.

Brown Owl, Mrs Enid Nunn, who has been with the Pack for ten years, said: "Former pack members were invited to give the celebrations meaning." *Taken from the Southend Standard*



Class of '71



Class 1978

50th Anniversary 1972

In July 1972 the whole school celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Nurse Herriot made two cakes one "5" and one "0" iced in the school colours blue and yellow which the staff and prefects enjoyed. In the afternoon there were games for all the year groups and special entertainment was provided by the Brownie Pack. Following this, each child was given a picnic box – prepared by the parents during the morning with bridge rolls, crisps, cake, biscuits and jelly which was taken on to the school lawn for picnic tea.

In September of the same year a Jubilee Service was held at

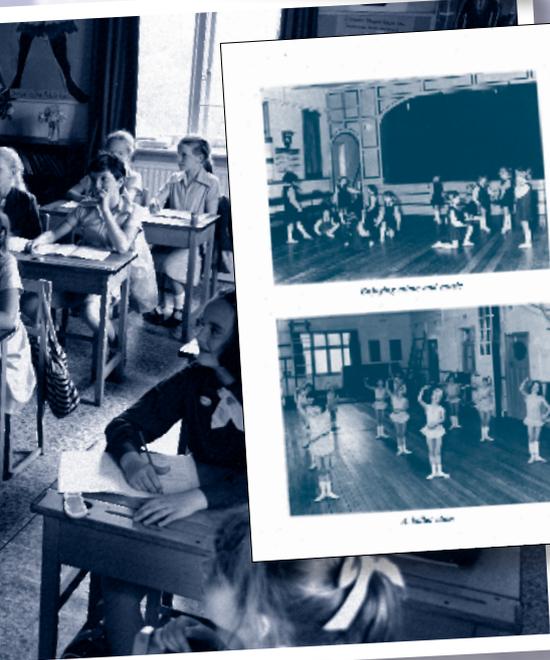


St. Margaret's Church followed by a Punch and Judy show for the younger children. A Netball match between parents and staff was provided as entertainment for the older children; the result was 15-5 to the parents!

A toast to the school was made with lemonade at lunchtime and in the afternoon a pageant was produced and performed by the parents detailing previous events in the school's history. This was then followed by the "cake ceremony", 50 candles were lit on the cake and the whole

school sang "Happy Birthday" followed by the school song.

Shortly after the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the remaining nuns withdrew to Whitby and the school was handed over to the Diocese of Chelmsford. For the first time in its history the school now had a Head, Miss Mary Warren, who was not a member of a Holy Order. Miss Warren led the school until 1977 when she handed on the mantle of Headship to Miss Katherine Sladden, a former missionary.



New Prospectus from 1978 which includes photographs depicting a "Daily Life at St. Michael's School"

Outdoor Education

As we prepared to look back and celebrate the school's 90th Anniversary we were also looking forward with the introduction of Outdoor Education to the school's curriculum. This new and exciting additional feature was introduced with the aims of improving the children's awareness and understanding of the environment, learning how to survive in challenging outdoor situations and developing a range of personal skills equally pertinent to learning in the outdoors and in any other learning situation.

During the year children in Forms 3 to 6 have enjoyed a day each term at the Asheldham Centre, a 700 year old former church near Southminster, working with outdoor specialists Mr Howard and Mrs Walpole.

Form 3 and 4 visits have focussed on the environment with children looking for evidence of life in the rich variety of habitats that exist in and around the centre. The children's developing map-reading skills, learnt in Geography lessons, have also been put to good use during their days at Asheldham.



In Form 5 the children have been introduced to a range of survival skills and have worked in groups on an on-going survival scenario which has required them to build appropriate shelters, light fires and purify water so that it is safe to drink.

the days have helped the children to realise that they can achieve more than they think is possible whilst also learning the importance of listening, following instructions, working together and persevering in order to overcome a challenge.

Form 6 children put into practice all the skills they had learned during their Outdoor Education Days for their final visit to Asheldham for the Big School Workshop. As part

of their preparation for moving onto their secondary schools, Form 6 worked independently to navigate a route from a map and build a fire to cook a tasty afternoon snack.

As well as learning about the outdoors

Drama

The Year 6 play has, for many years, been an important feature of our pupils' final year at St. Michael's.

It has been enjoyed and appreciated both by the pupils and audiences and hopefully has helped to provide pupils with a lasting and happy memory of their time at school.

In recent years the plays have included A Midsummer Night's Dream, Alice in Wonderland, Robin Hood, Peter Pan and this year, a performance of The Nightingale.

Our LAMDA Examination results "speak for themselves" with pupils gaining mostly Merits and Distinctions. They should be congratulated for the hard work and application which has produced such outstanding results.



1980's



Boys at St Michael's

In 1985, after much discussion, it was agreed by the governors, Miss Sladden, staff and parents to admit boys up to year 6. This required the school to take a close look at providing extra classrooms and toilets to accommodate the boys.

The plan was to ensure that future admissions would try and have a balance of boys and girls in each school year group.

Below: Whole School photo, 1989





“Granny’s Changing World” was the subject of an exhibition to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of St. Michael’s school. The 240 pupils at the school prepared exhibits to show how life has changed since 1922, the year the school opened.
Yellow Advertiser.



Educational Cruise on P&O’s SS Uganda 1981
Pupils and Miss Sladden, top right, visited Lindos, Mykonos, Athens, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.



Isle of Wight

Pupils from St. Michael's have been visiting the Isle of Wight as part of their history curriculum since 1986. This has always proved a popular visit with pupils and staff alike with plenty of tales to be told when they return to school. This year has been no exception when, in May Year 5 set off for their Educational Visit to the Isle of Wight.

A number of children had not been away from home and parents for any length of time before and therefore there was a feeling of excitement and nervousness. However, their first visit, to HMS Victory in Portsmouth set the tone for a great week of exploration, learning and friendship. They learned about the life on board a ship from two very different views, the midshipman and the ship's boy.



BOAT



Once on the ferry the excitement level rose as they sailed off to the Island. The only wet day meant a shortened visit to Ventnor Botanical Gardens and therefore arriving at Parkway Hotel a bit early and meeting the hosts, Debbie and Malcolm. Once settled and changed the staff and children had their meal and went for a bracing walk along the sea wall. The days and visits to the Isle of Wight Zoo, Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle, Alum Bay, the boat trip to see the Needles, fossil hunting and Dinosaur Isle flew past too quickly. There was an extra surprise of going to see the Waltzing Waters, a spectacular show combining lights, music and water!

The highlight for some was the end of week disco where all had a fantastic time.

The last day saw a rather tired group of children (and teachers) visit the D-Day Museum where they saw an embroidery telling the story of the invasion of France in 1944. It was then onto the coach for the drive home with memories of a super week, along with a number of souvenirs for friends and family.



1990's



In 1995 an appeal for £250,000 was launched to finance the improvements to the school building:

Excerpt taken from the appeal brochure

Many improvements and extensions to the school have been completed over the last seven years. These have included the enlargement of eight classrooms, the building of a classroom over the stage, improvements to the corridors, new toilets, a new kitchen and an extension to replace the old wooden staircase, provide changing rooms and a new classroom. These are, indeed, impressive achievements, thus obviating the necessity for acquiring a new site. We are, therefore on the way to providing very good facilities for the children.

However, in spite of all these achievements we still have two classrooms which are less than standard size for Forms 1; and we also lack for specialist teaching rooms. The next step in the programme is to solve these problems by building on a new classroom and two specialist rooms, for art/technology and for computers/science, by building an additional storey at the front of the school above the original bungalow. This will, at the same time, release space to provide one larger classroom on the ground floor.

We have set ourselves a target of raising £250,000 to finance this project. We realise that our target is ambitious, but we hope you will agree with us that it is vital that St. Michael's should be able to provide the best possible facilities and opportunities as we draw near to the next century.

Article from the first Angel Voices - Michaelmas Term 1998

"The School that Jack Built"

Little Jack Saunders, aged 3, is the fourth generation of the Saunders family to have





connections with St. Michael's school.

Jack's great grandfather, also Jack Saunders, helped to build the school. He worked on the present Form 5 classroom,



Thanks to the generosity of many benefactors the appeal target was reached and, following a period of significant structural work, Mrs Stokes' vision for a school building with the best possible facilities for the new century was realised in time for the Millennium celebrations.



above the Hall. Jack lived in the bungalow, on the site now taken over by the builders' hut and the sheep, before his death in 1989.

Grandfather Dave Saunders is the school's deputy caretaker and father Paul Saunders is our current site manager."

Left: 3-year-old Jack Saunders inspects the building works



Mrs Sheila Stokes
Head 1989 -2001

Sports

Sports at St. Michael's

Sporting activities have been an integral part of the education at St. Michael's School from the very beginning with references to Sports' Days in the first school magazine of 1930. Held at Harvey's Farm, events included relay races, long distance running, obstacle races, high jump and long jump. Volleyball, tennis, netball, swimming and hockey tournaments both inter-house and against other schools were regular features. There was also provision for horse riding lessons and a school swimming pool. At this time there were five Houses- Grenville, Gordon, Kitchener, Ralagh and Wellington. Then, as now, competitions were not a bitter rivalry but a friendly contest of athletic prowess.

Today we still take great pride in our sporting achievements which include many of those from the past along with new sports such as kayaking and windsurfing.

In 2012 our Year 6 Netball team played in the Southend District Netball League for the fifth year running and finished 2nd in the 1st division. The school entered an A and a B team in the Southend District Junior Schools Netball tournament, the A team reached the quarter finals and the B team were runners - up in the Plate Competition. The Year 5 Netball team won their division and reached the finals of the Brentwood Schools sports tournament.



Football

The school football team had a very successful year finishing first in their league. This was the first time that the school has won a league title. The Year 4/5 football team reached the finals at Brentwood School tournament. Year 2 entered a mixed football team into a tournament organised by the Southend School Sports Partnership and got to the 2nd round of the competition.

Hockey

Both the Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 mixed hockey teams had

success at the Southend Borough and Felsted School hockey tournaments.

Rugby

The Year 5/6 Rugby team entered the Viseion Cup tournament, hosted by Allyn Court School and won all their matches to win the cup.

Athletics

This year we were able to compete in the Borough Sports for the first time. The school won the Field events, came 2nd in the Track events and were the overall winners. Pupils from the school





broke Borough Sports records in the Year 3 girls Standing Long Jump, the Year 5 boys Shot and the Year 5 boys 50m.

Following on from this success the Year 3 girls, Year 5 boys, Year 6 girls and Year 6 boys 4 x 100m relay teams and individuals competing in the Year 5 girls 80m, Year 5 boys 80m and the Year 6 girls 80m were invited to compete in the Southend Super Sports competition. All the track athletes who finished 1st or 2nd in their respective groups in the Borough Sports track events competed against one another. The school's Year 3 girls 4 x 100m

relay team came 3rd, the Year 5 boys 4 x 100m relay team came 5th, the Year 6 boys 4 x 100m team came 2nd, the Year 6 girls 4 x 100m relay team came 1st. Individual successes were a 1st in the Year 5 boys 80m and a 2nd in the Year 6 girls 80m.

Nine pupils from both the Prep and Pre – Prep department were awarded places in the Southend Gifted and Talented Sports Academy.

“But when One Great Scorer comes

To write against your name,

He writes not that you won or lost,

But how you played the game”



Year 6



Our Anniversary year was a particularly busy one for Year 6. The Young Voices concert at the O2 in London in March, taking part in the 90th Anniversary pageant in May, preparations for approaching Year 7 at the Big School workshop at Asheldham and a Bikeability course towards the end of the year. Of course, the educational visit that they all look forward to is the weekend in Le Touquet, France. All of these events provide the Year 6 pupils with happy memories that will hopefully stay with them for many years to come!





2000's

March 2004 saw St. Michael's become the first Independent School in the Borough to launch its very own Walking Bus.

Fifty children, joined by about thirty adults, all donned their walking boots (not literally!) and walked to school. There were three routes and the children joined the Bus at various "stops" along the way.

The scheme has continued to be popular with children and parents and 2013 will see us celebrating our 9th Walking Bus birthday!



After two years of working with the Independent and State School Art Partnership our mural, designed and constructed by the artist Lisa Hawker, was unveiled in 2006. Mr David Amess M.P and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Daphne White attended along with other local dignitaries.



2004 saw work begin on a new extension to the school which provided a much needed new Art room and 2 new classrooms. On a beautiful summer's evening in July 2005 staff, governors, friends and parent representatives gathered together to celebrate the official opening of the new building. The ribbon was cut by Head boy, Henry Ng and Head Girl Samantha Fletcher.



Mrs Lynnette Morshead
Head 2002 - 2009



A Very Special St. Michael's Day

As always, St. Michael's Day is a significant day in the school calendar as we remember our patron saint and celebrate the school's birthday. This year it was made extra special as we were joined by the Bishop of Chelmsford and was the culmination of our anniversary celebrations.

The day started with the Bishop blessing and raising our new School Flag. Depicting St. Michael and the dragon in the school colours of blue and gold, the new flag looked spectacular on top of the Chapel flag pole.

Bishop Stephen then joined staff and pupils in the traditional processional circuit of Hadleigh Road and London Road. The Bishop later told the children that the route was especially significant for him as he had been born in Hadleigh Road.



Each pupil created a colourful St Michael's Day flag or pennant decorated with crepe ribbons. The theme of St. Michael and the dragon was depicted throughout the school; Nursery pupils illustrated God's Love with hearts, Reception pupils showed the Michaelmas daisy, Year 1 produced dragon designs and older children all carried pennants depicting St Michael.

At the heart of the celebrations was a wonderful, open-air Mass in the Chapel Playground attended by pupils, staff, governors, parents and

former Head, Mrs Sheila Stokes. At the close of the service, Bishop Stephen, assisted by his wife Rebecca, cut a 90th anniversary cake which was later enjoyed by all the children and staff.

The celebrations continued throughout the day with an outdoor party for the children in the playground and in the evening there was a service in the school Chapel followed by a Thanksgiving dinner for present and past members of the school community.



A tale of three sisters

Mrs Rebecca Cottrell was Deputy Head Girl in 1970. She brought with her a photograph of her

Sister Olive was very keen to hear about the swimming pool and was most upset to find out that it is no longer here. She told me that she used to take charge

when Sister Mary Francis, the Head teacher, collapsed during an early morning. Mrs Stroud, a nurse and wife of Fr Ernest Stroud, had to be fetched from the vicarage to attend to her.

Sister Olive clearly has fond memories of her time at St. Michael's. "It was a lovely school," she said, "but what's this about boys? We never had any boys." Despite my explanation I don't think Sister Olive could quite accept that there are boys at St. Michael's!

Sister Olive left St. Michael's 40 years ago, but from speaking with her the school still has a special place in her heart.



younger sister Katie at the 50th anniversary cake cutting conducted by nun Sister Olive. Bishop Stephen mentioned that Sister Olive, the last remaining nun to have worked at St. Michael's, is living at the mother house of the Order of the Holy Paraclete in Whitby. Mr Tompkins decided to pay her a visit....

As I entered her room Sister Olive, now aged 86, was sitting in her chair and although frail in body was strong in spirit. "I can't have taught you," she said most definitely, "we didn't have boys at St. Michael's." I explained that I am the Head of St. Michael's and about the visit of Bishop Stephen and Rebecca on St. Michael's Day. She was fascinated to see the picture and to learn of our anniversary celebrations.

Sister Olive told me that she taught mathematics and was Bursar at St. Michael's for about three years before returning to Whitby.



of the swimming pool, removing any debris and regulating the temperature of the water. I think she enjoyed the odd dip in the pool when the girls weren't about!

Sister Olive described how the Sisters lived in the school and used a room by the front door as a private chapel for daily prayers. At other times the nuns would go across to St. Margaret's for early morning Mass. Sister Olive recalled one such occasion



A Year of Celebration!

2012 has been an exciting year for all concerned at St. Michael's School, staff pupils and parents. Not only did we celebrate our 90th Anniversary we also celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the London Olympics.

We also celebrated our own St. Michael's Day in September and the finished with the school Crib services and Christingle in December.





SMSA

Achievements of the SMSA in 2011/2012

Wherever you find children you will find a group of parents willing to help either with educational visits, assisting or helping to raise funds. St. Michael's is no exception with a thriving St. Michael's School Association.

The SMSA has held a number of very well supported events during the last year, beginning with the Christmas Bazaar held on 3rd December 2011 where lots of fun was had by all the children, followed by the school discos later in the month. We are fortunate that a past pupil, Sam Thomas, runs a thriving disco, SDJT Discos.

To get 2012 off to a good start we held a Quiz Night for parents one dark January night. As in previous years, no-one really wanted to come last and win the wooden spoon and there was fierce competition to win the two bottles of champagne!

In March we decided to try something new and held a Boden Clothing party over one evening and a Saturday. This gave parents a chance to browse through a selection of both adult and children's clothing, try pieces on, place orders, and receive a 20% discount all while enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake! It was a fabulous event which was

enjoyed by both those attending and helping out.

Christina Ray-Smith did a fantastic job with the Mothering Sunday Stalls this year, which had an amazing array of gifts for the children to buy. Volunteers helped out during the build up and also at break-time. This



really is one of the highlights of the year for the children, allowing them to show their mothers how much they are appreciated.

On the last day of term before the Easter holiday, we tried another new venture – a Cookie & Cake Fundraiser. Parents were, as always, generous and donated

a fantastic range of cakes and cookies, which a team sold to the children during their mid-morning break. They couldn't believe their luck!

May saw us hosting the 90th Anniversary Ball at Orsett Hall. It was a great evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all parents that came.

And finally! The Summer Fun Day on Saturday 7th July. The weather was kind to us this year, despite the forecast, and loads of fun was had by everyone who helped out and came along.

As you can see, the SMSA organises a wide range of events for both children and parents to enjoy whilst raising money to fund special items for the school. These events wouldn't be possible without the strong, dedicated SMSA Committee and all the generous volunteers who help out.

I am delighted that we have managed to fund the wooden Adventure Trail for the Chapel Playground this year, which was installed during the Summer holiday, together with providing the additional funding to purchase the raised staging, which has already been used at the Pre-Prep Celebration, Showcases and for the Year 6 play.



3B 2012



3S 2012



4M 2012



4O 2012



5G 2012



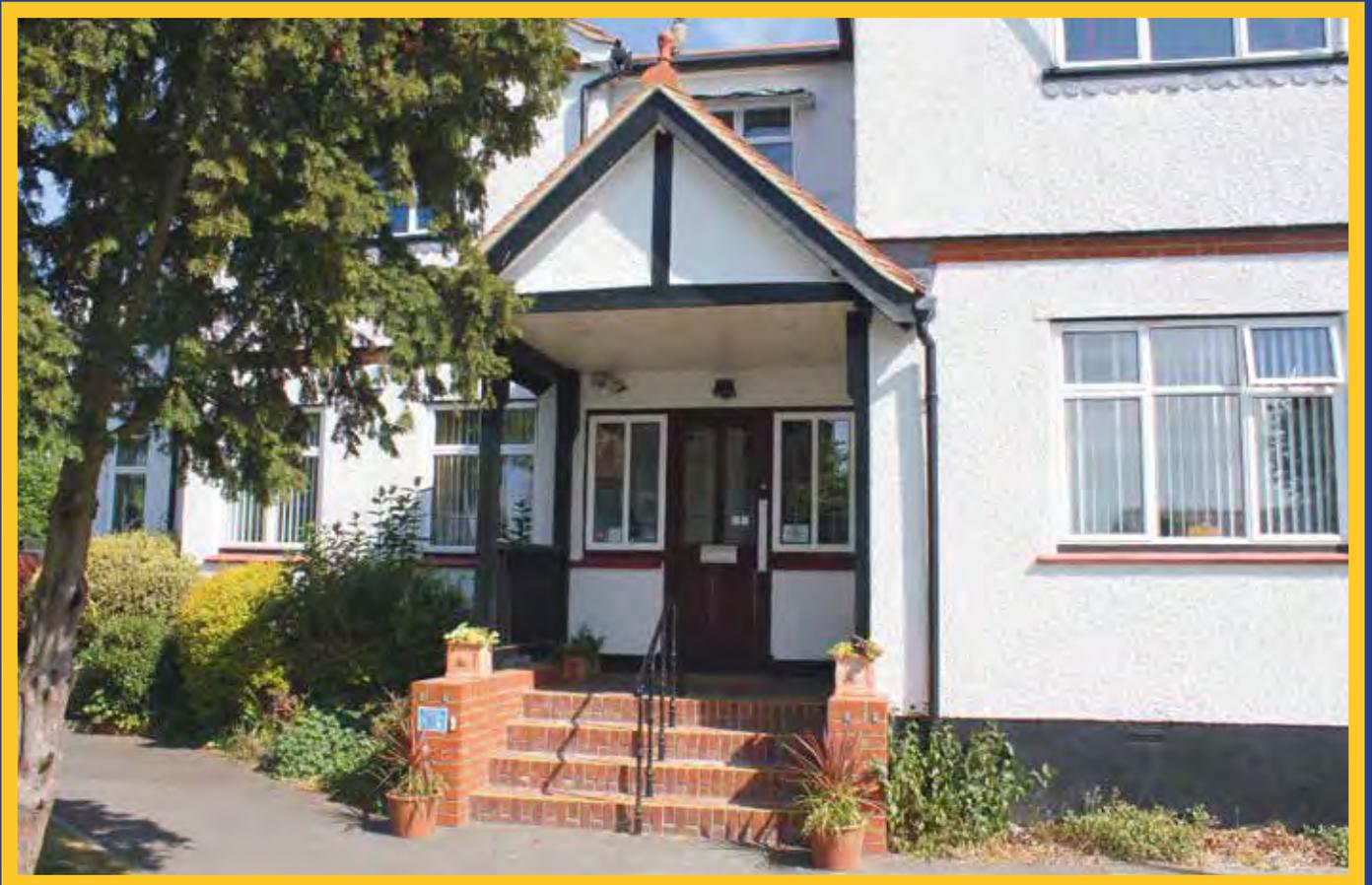
5C 2012



6L 2012



6W 2012



St. Michael's School
198 Hadleigh Road
Leigh on Sea
Essex
SS9 2LP

01702 478719

Email: info@stmichaelschool.com
Website: www.stmichaelschool.com