

# "Our Village" Series

Continuing

## CAINSCROSS

\* Building of Church School \* Vicar's Advice to Hitler \* Brewing Activities

IN 1897 there were extensive alterations to the Church, including the provision of a new north chancel, which added greatly to the beauty of the church. The cost was somewhere in the region of £6,000.

With the Church came the building of a Church school, now known as St. Matthew's School. It has a fine record and many older readers will recall the headship of Mr. A. J. Dee, happily still with us in retirement.

Mr. Dee believed in hard work and concentration and he achieved results. Music was a speciality and was amazing the degree of excellence in singing he obtained.

Mr. Dee kept the school gardens adjoining to a pitch of perfection with the help of his older boys, and great event each Christmas was the "Cosham tea," paid for from funds invested after the death of a parish benefactor of that name.

The present headmaster is Mr. G. K. Cudby, formerly of Caversham, Reading.

After the Second World War steps were taken by the church-going community in the parish to provide a building where secular activities could take place. Eventually it became possible to build a new Church Hall on a piece of

ground near Ebley Court and just off the main road.

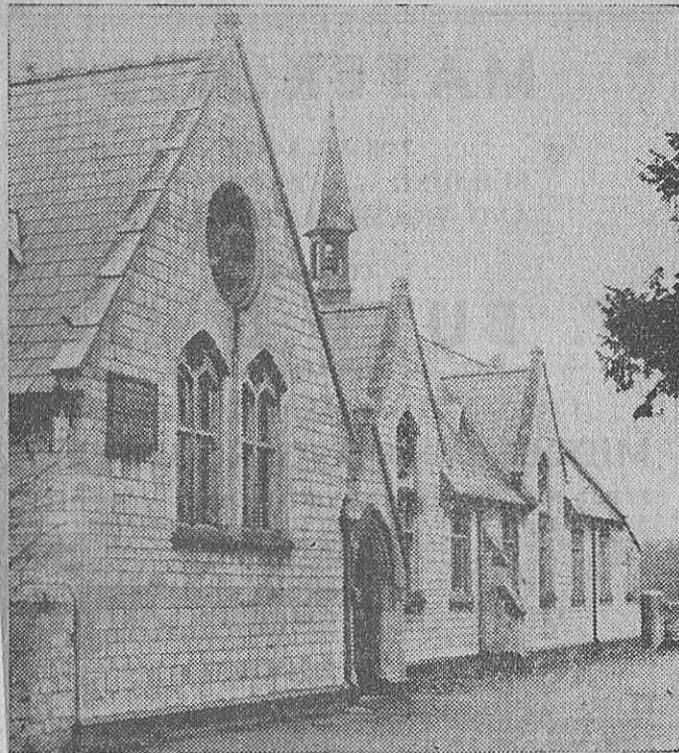
It was the present incumbent, the Rev. H. G. Wicks, who, coming to Cainscross in the summer of 1945, gave leadership and impetus to the church hall scheme, and in 1946 he instituted a series of money-raising events with a new building in mind.

The church's summer fete, always an attraction in the locality, helped towards the project as did other social activities. Last year the scheme was brought to fruition when the Hall, a prefabricated structure, was officially opened by the Bishop of Gloucester, Dr. W. M. Askwith.

A large amount of the money to finance the building is to come from the Bishop's fund for new churches and church halls, the remainder the parishioners have to find. Already they have raised over £1,000. Much of the inside decoration was carried out by church-people themselves.

When 1937 came and the first hundred years of St. Matthew's Church completed, the event was observed with due solemnity, a special Centenary Committee being formed for the purpose.

Vicar at the time was the Rev.



CAINSCROSS SCHOOL

C. H. Scott, a man who had cultivated a habit of plain-speaking which made an impact well beyond the confines of the parish.

Mr. Scott did not mince his words when the Nazi crisis was coming to a head in the late thirties. He once suggested marriage as a cure for Hitler's warlike tendencies followed by a year's work as an ordinary gardener!

It was around about this time

that the Facist movement found a local centre at Cainscross House and, on one occasion, a letter to the "Stroud News" from a Cainscross supporter of the movement deploring the practice of adopting Jewish refugees in local homes, brought spirited replies from many residents. Eventually the editor was forced to call an end to the flood of correspondence which ensued.

### CIDER-MAKING AND BREWING

Cider-making and brewing has a long association with Cainscross and Ebley, and in spite of the growth of



THE MARBLE CROSS bearing a general's sword and belt in bronze is an object of considerable interest to be found in the churchyard at St. Matthew's, Cainscross. It marks the grave of General Sir Edward Stanton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., who was born in 1827 and died in 1907. The inscription on the marble cross relates that he fought in South Africa in 1853, and soon afterwards in the Crimea, being at the battles of Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol. The wreath design has in its centre the word "Peace." General Stanton was the father of Mrs. Blanche Lee Godfrey, of Rodborough Manor, who died in January of this year. Her mother, Lady Stanton, died in 1913 at the age of 77.

Cider-making and brewing has a long association with Cainscross and Ebley, and in spite of the growth of brewing combines, it is pleasant to record that two businesses are still in existence, one at Ebley and the other at Hamwell Leaze, Cashes Green.

The first is Messrs. W. S. Robbins & Son, cider merchants of Foxmoor Lane, Ebley. This is essentially a family concern, having been founded by Mr. Henry Robbins, passed to his son, the late Mr. William Robbins and then to his son, Mr. Cyril Robbins.

At one time there was a cider-making factory at Ebley known as Harper's. It occupied the site now used by the Stroud Laundry and, for a time, was operated by Carr and Quick, of Exeter.

Those with a liking for good cider will regret the passing of the time when the drink was sold without duty or excise!

The other surviving brewing concern is Messrs. Cordwell & Sons, Brewers, of Hamwell Leaze, which has been in existence for a very long period of years, the present member of the family still in the business being Mr. Claude Cordwell.

Carpenter's Brewery at Cainscross, near Cuckold's Brook, is a name which has survived for long after the cessation of brewing there. When the business was finally given up the roomy premises and adjoining land was bought and turned into dwelling houses by Mr. George Harper of Paganhill, still alive in his nineties. Part of the actual brewing building was converted into a public hall, now known as the Coronation Hall, which has been a real boon to the neighbourhood. It is unfortunate that a fire there a short time ago has made it necessary to close the hall for the time being.

Behind "Carpenter's Brewery" is "Carpenter's Pond," now badly silted up. First-class skating has been enjoyed there in spells of severe weather.

To be continued