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HOLY CROSS AND THE COMBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION.

It is probable that many readers of this magazine may be unaware of the historic partnership which has existed between Church and School. Outward and visible signs of this happy relationship are to be found in many parts of the Church, particularly the beautiful war memorial window to the left of the two memorial tablets, and the recent completion of two important additions may make this an appropriate time to say a little about its background.

The School was founded and endowed by the Stradling family who lived at St. Donats Castle, in the years 1608/9. Part of the original School buildings, together with the town South Gate, are shown in an old print which was housed in the school and which is reproduced in a book entitled "A Certaine School". This book is a complete history of the School by Iolo Davies M.A. (a former tutor and Headmaster at the School) and was printed and published locally by Messrs D. Brown and Sons in 1967. Many items in this letter have been extracted from the book (which is still obtainable).

The Old Boys' Association was formed in 1903 and an inaugural Dinner was held at The Park Hotel, Cardiff. Sixty five boys attended together with the headmaster (the Revd. W.F. Evans M.A.) and some assistant masters. The Venerable Archdeacon F.N. Edwards was elected the first President.

Since that time the Association has remained active and during the last few decades owes much to the hard work of the last Headmaster, Mr Idwal Rees M.A., and the late Mr D. Glyn Williams, who was our Secretary over a long period. Mr Williams achieved the post of County Librarian while Mr Rees, among many other attributes was a Cambridge Blue and had the distinction of playing rugby for Wales on 14 occasions immediately before the last War. He captained the National side as well as the famous Barbarians XV.

It was in the 1970s that the Association decided to make further contributions to the Church fabric - contributions which are not only practical and functional but which will add beauty to the Church for all time. The infillment of the arches separating the Vestry from the Chancel was dedicated in 1975 as a memorial to the late Mr Richard Williams M.C., Headmaster from 1919 until 1938. A plaque, suitably worded, records the occasion.

The second project was an ambitious one - the removal of the beautiful stained glass panels from the School classrooms and their re-installation in Holy Cross. The panels were already deteriorating after the School closure and the threat of vandalism was ever present. It was felt that they must be saved and preserved for posterity. Several parties were involved in this undertaking - the Educational and Architectural departments of the South Glamorgan County Council, the Technical and Commercial departments of Clark Eaton (the famed stained glass experts), the Vicar, the Revd. Canon Mogford M.A., R.D., and, of course, the Old Boys Association. From the first interview with the then Chairman of the County Council, 3½ years elapsed before the work was finally completed. During these long and often frustrating negotiations we had the willing co-operation of our Vicar but when we gaze upon the new beauty which adorns the Church and the Vestry, the work involved was surely well worthwhile.

Over a long period, the Association had built up a Trust Fund and it was from this fund that over £1,500 was withdrawn to help to finance the total overall cost relating to the arches, the glass panels

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and the plaques. The County Council Educational department was most helpful and sympathetic and we are greatly indebted to the Director, Mr F.J.Adams M.A., for his keen personal interest but also for the department's generous contribution to the cost of (a) removing the windows from the School; (b) transporting them to Bristol where they were expertly re-furbished; and (c) their subsequent return and installation in Holy Cross.

The commemorative plaque underneath the window in the South Wall is of bronze, mounted on teak. Each engraved letter was filled with powdered glass and then enamelled - a virtually everlasting record of the occasion. The protective wire mesh guards were placed in position in April of this year. Much history is portrayed in the panels some of which date back to 1899 and perhaps a few words regarding the crests might be of interest. The panels in the South Wall relate to

1. Jesus College, Oxford.

In 1684 Sir Leoline Jenkins died and left his fortune between (a) "A Certaine Schoole in the Towne of Cowbridge" and (b) Jesus College, Oxford. He had previously purchased the School from the Stradling family and persuaded the College to accept control of it. The subsequent history of the School is intertwined with Jesus Collage who supported it financially and in many other ways.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING (1529 - 1609), was a noted scholar who laid the foundation of the School in 1608. In 1609, Sir John Stradling (his heir) completed and endowed the School.

SIR LEOLINE JENKINS (1623 - 1685) ensured the future of the School through his Will.

EVAN SEYS (1604 - 1681) left the School in 1621 for Christ Church, Oxford. Recorder of Gloucester, a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, M.P. for Glamorgan and later for Gloucester. He was Scholae Dux in 1618.

GENERAL TREVOR BRUCE TYLER C.S.I. was a very distinguished Old Boy who died in 1851.

REVD. WILLIAM FRANKLEN EVANS M.A., was Headmaster from 1899 until 1918. He had a passionate love for the School and worked very hard to maintain its traditions during a very difficult period. Details of his career are to be found below his crest.

ARCHDEACON F.W. EDMONDES 1840 - 1918.

This family lived at the Old Hall before it was taken over by the School in 1932. Took an enthusiastic interest over the well-being of the School over a long period.

DAVID PERCIVAL JONES M.A., who died in 1912 was a pupil and assistant master at the School from 1894 to 1912.

SIR THOMAS MANSEL FRANKLEN was a great benefactor of the School who died in 1928.

MISS EMILY C TALBOT of Margam Abbey and

GEORGE T. CLACK of TALYGARN were also substantial benefactors of the School. Both died in the 1890s.

RICHARD LEWIS was a pupil who became Bishop of Llandaff.

A Service of Dedication for the new windows will be held at Holy Cross on a Sunday morning during the Summer vacation.

Ralph Bird.