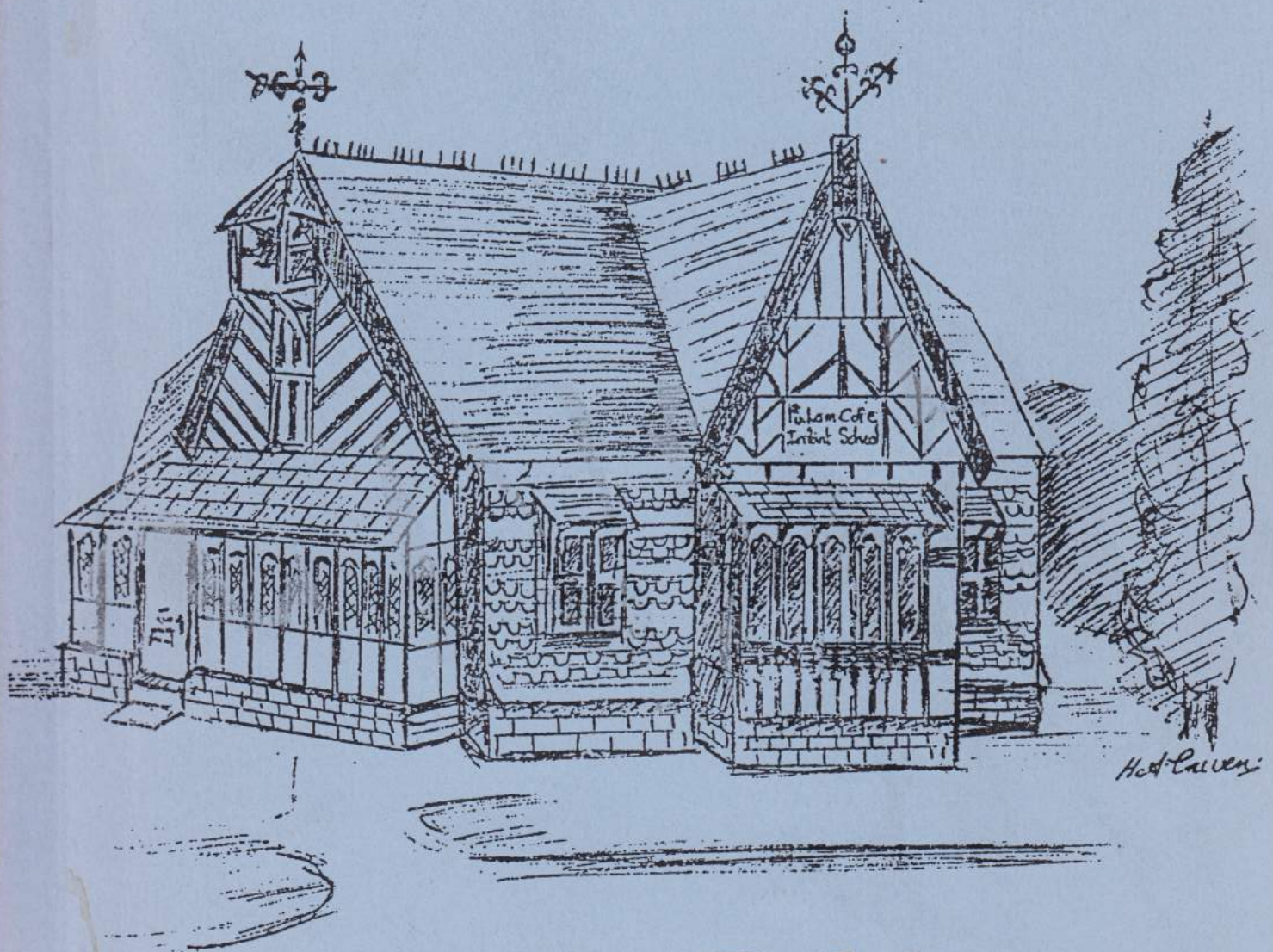


# THE HISTORY OF PIXHAM SCHOOL.



1880-1980



In writing this brief history of Pixham School I have taken advantage of my predecessors' carefully compiled chronicles and documents.

Patricia Stanway.  
May 1980

### HEAD TEACHERS OF PIXHAM SCHOOL

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1880 - 1891 | Miss J. Mary F. Karn                       |
| 1891 - 1900 | Miss Annie Boulton                         |
| 1900 - 1903 | Miss Amelia Iles                           |
| 1903 - 1908 | Miss Elsie A. Hunt                         |
| 1908 - 1913 | Miss Louisa M. Walters                     |
| 1913 - 1920 | Miss Allice E. Hayter                      |
| 1920 - 1924 | Miss Dorothy M. Alderson                   |
| 1924 - 1940 | Miss Clara Barrett                         |
| 1940 - 1953 | Miss Gillian M. Hobbins                    |
| 1953 - 1962 | Miss A.D. Roberts                          |
| 1962 - 1970 | Miss Dulcie M. Pickford                    |
| 1970 - 1972 | Mrs. Diana Hawkes<br>(Acting Head Teacher) |
| 1972 - 1980 | Mr. E.E. Prichard                          |
| 1980 -      | Mrs. G. Martin                             |

### SENIOR ASSISTANTS

- |             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1972 - 1973 | Miss J. Barter          |
|             | Mr. Cullen              |
|             | Mrs. Whittaker          |
| 1973 - 1975 | Mrs. Stephanie Mitchell |
| 1975 -      | Mrs. Patricia Stanway   |

St. Martin's School, Pixham, as it was then called, was built as a memorial to Mrs. Mayo, wife of the Reverend Charles Mayo, by his daughter Miss Mary Mayo. The site was given by Mrs. Hope. The workmen who built the school had a cricket match in the afternoon against the fathers of the families in the area and then every one sat down to a "substantial meal." In the evening there was an opening service attended by over one hundred men.

The Pixham of a hundred years ago was very different from the Pixham of today and here is a quote from Miss Mayo's book on Pixham.

"When my mother came to Riverdale in 1862, Mr. Dewdney was living in the Mill House and Mr. Cox at Hazelbourne. There were two cottages now thrown into one belonging to the Mill. Farther on was the old cottage in which the Bowrings lived for so many years. On the other side of the lane were two cottages facing the road, three at right angles and three belonging to Dr. Gordon's farm buildings. And this was Pixham. Pixham Grove was formed in 1868. Some years after Mrs. Gordon built the two cottages where Mrs. Cox and Mr. Earl now live. Purbrook had not long been standing. Pixham Firs was not built till 1868. In 1862 Miss Noble, who lived at Boxlands, was asked by the Vicar, the Reverend W. Joyce, to visit the district consisting of Bradley Lane, the ten cottages I have mentioned in Pixham Lane, and the two at the corner of the Reigate Road. To these were afterwards added the three behind the Punchbowl."

Also it might interest the reader to know that:-

"There was a path leading from Pixham Lane to the Castle Mill across a very pretty meadow. It belonged to Shrub Hill, and when the whole estate was sold in 1881 Mr. Butcher bought this portion and laid it out in plots for forty or fifty cottages, now Leslie Road and Riverside."

Miss Mayo goes on to say:- "We were so sorry for the little children who had to go all the way to school in Dorking that we made several attempts to start a Dame School. We knew of excellent ones in other villages but for some reason or other the plan could not be carried out here. Then we began to talk of an Infant School. The Reverend Philip Hoste was very keen on this and some money was collected".

In 1878, a fund was started and donations came in steadily, and on July 19th 1880, St. Martin's Infant School, Pixham was opened with 27 children. Miss Karn was in charge of the school. By August 9th there were 38 children at school. In 1881 the school received its first inspection by the Diocesan Inspector who reported:-

There were of course no lights either on the roads or in the school. The other reason for absence of the children was sickness and very often the school was closed, sometime for several weeks, during an epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever. The number on the roll



"I am very much pleased with this little school. The order, reverent manner and answering in Religious Knowledge are all very satisfactory."

Miss Mayo was very good to the school. Here is an extract from an account by one of the pupils who attended the school from 1899 - 1906.

"Pixham School was then financed by Miss Mayo of Riverdale, London Road, Dorking, who was really a fairy godmother to Pixham. The children were taught to greatly respect her and woe betide any boy or girl who met this lady out at Pixham and did not touch his cap or curtsy to her. She really was one of the Victorian type, with long sweeping dresses. She was, however, very good to the Pixham people. All the boys at the school were given every alternate year a blue cape or a red tam o'shanter, and the girls either a red cape or a red flannel petticoat.

At the end of the year the best boy of the school received a special prize, a cricket ball and stumps, and the best girl a dolly and cradle. These were much saught after."

On August 10th Miss Mayo gave the first of her annual school treats at her home in Riverdale. The house still stands on the dual carriageway just past the end of Pixham Lane.

"There was another great occasion at the school and that was the summer treat, which was held in the grounds of Riverdale, London Road, Miss Mayo's residence. The children and parents had tea underneath a very large beech tree on the lawn, there were swings and races for the children, and at the end of the treat the children gathered on the lawn near the house and sang "Goodnight to you all and sweet be your dreams;" then Miss Mayo appeared at an upstairs window and dropped sugared almonds on the lawn for the children to scramble for."

Miss Mayo had undertaken to defray the working expenses of the school for two years, but in fact continued to do so for more than ten. She took a very great interest in the school, visiting two or three times a week when she checked the attendance registers, inspected work and sometimes took a lesson. Each year she gave a school treat at Riverdale, and each year on St. Martin's Day she gave the children cloaks, capes, scarves and gloves. She also ran a Shoe Club and collected pennies for the Post Office Savings Bank.

The attendance of the children was affected mainly by two things. Bad weather always caused a drop in attendance owing to the fact that the roads were unmade and therefore very muddy. Also there were of course no lights either on the roads or in the school. The other reason for absence of the children was sickness and very often the school was closed, sometime for several weeks, during an epidemic of diptheria and scarlet fever. The number on the roll



steadily increased to 57 by April 1883, over 70 by April 1884 and on May 10th 1885 there were 92 children present in the school.

In 1905 it was decided that girls over seven years of age would remain at the school and take more advanced work. At this time the age range was 3 - 8 years. Also in 1905 a new classroom was added and the staff increased to a Head Mistress, Assistant Mistress, Pupil Teacher and two Monitresses.

In 1908 a Punishment Book made its appearance and entries range from three smacks on the arm for a five year old "for wilful damage to another child's work" to one rap with the cane for a six year old for "truant and screaming and kicking when brought" and two raps with the cane for "disobedience after caution" for a six year old.

In 1922 Open Days were first mentioned, when parents could inspect the children's work. There was usually an exhibition of singing and dancing on these occasions.

The number of children on the books dropped very much and in January 1916 was only 38, which involved a reduction of staff. This dropped still further until in September 1923 there were only 17 on the roll. At this time Miss Mayo, who was still taking an active interest in the school, presented a badge which was to be worn for one week by every child unless forfeited by roughness or unkindness.

In 1930 the school celebrated its Jubilee and was decorated with flowers and the school colours. In the afternoon the children were given a short account of the origin of the school. Games and dances followed and each child was presented with a bun kindly sent by Miss Mayo.

Miss Mayo dies on 28th July 1933.

During the 1930's the Educational Year was changed to the period between the first day of the Autumn Term to the last day of the Summer Term of the succeeding year. In 1939 there is the first mention of Fire Drill, although Miss Mayo had from time to time inspected the fire guards in the school. That year the school opened on October 2nd instead of September 4th owing to the outbreak of war. Since Air Raid shelters had not at that time been provided a limit was set of 20 children to each teacher. There were 52 children on the books so each day 12 children remained at home in turn.

In 1941 electric lights were installed.

Holiday School was started in order that those children who wished could be occupied during the holidays and receive school milk. Teachers took it in turns to be on duty to begin with.



Holiday school was then stopped but children could have milk and the parents took it in turns to give this out, and this continued until July 1945 when insufficient numbers caused the end of the scheme.

Canteen dinners started in 1944. By 1946 there were 76 children on the books. The Dorking Council granted the use of Pixham Sports Field for organised games.

The Harvest Festival Service is first mentioned in 1947. It was held in Pixham Church and the gifts were afterwards taken to Brockham Children's Home.

It was not until 1954 that the need of a fire extinguisher in the school was discussed. Also in this year the old fires were removed and wall gas fires installed.

The 1960's gave the school a new kitchen, a Head Teacher's room, a new staff toilet (until this time the staff had to use the children's toilet) and a new extension to the small classroom.

Also about this time discussions started with regard to a further extension to the school and a Building Extension Fund was started. Jumble Sales, May Festivals and coffee mornings were organised for this purpose. In June 1967 a re-union was held for all staff and pupils who had attended the school between 1880 and 1950.

In 1970, after many discussions, it was learnt that the Dorking Council had again refused permission for some of the land previously belonging to Chalcroft Nurseries to be used for the extension of additional school accommodation. This meant that the accommodation available was not sufficient to allow Pixham to become a First School taking children until the age of eight years. So in June it was decided that the school should become wholly controlled by the Surrey County Council instead of being partially financed by the church, as had been the case, and should become annexed to St. Martin's Church of England First and Middle School, Dorking.

In the summer of 1976 the outside of the building was completely redecorated. In the summer holidays of 1977 the school was completely rewired and at Christmas the following year, a complete range of new gas fires were installed.

In the Spring of 1979 it was decided that Pixham School should become a First School Department, keeping the children until they are eight years old.

So in the Centenary year, Pixham School saw the completion of its first year as a First School Department of St. Martin's Church of England First and Middle School, Dorking.

Patricia Stanway, May 1980.

EXTRACTS FROM PIXHAM SCHOOL LOG BOOK 1880-1980

Every school keeps a log book. In this book "the Principal Teacher must make, at least once a week, an entry which will specify ordinary progress, visits of Managers and other fact concerning the School or its Teachers, such as dates of withdrawals, commencements of duty, illness etc. which may require to be referred to at a future time, or may otherwise deserve to be recorded."

Here are extracts taken from the Log Book over the past 100 years.

July 19th 1880

J. Mary Florence Karn opened school and admitted 27 children. The school was visited in the morning by Miss Mayo and in the afternoon by the Rev. L.R. Flood.

July 21st

Miss Mayo came again - the children are getting more orderly.

August 9th

Admitted 6 children - there are now 38 on the books. Miss Grove, Miss Hillersdon, Miss Mayo and Sister Bessie visited the school.

August 10th

One child admitted. A half holiday was given in the afternoon for the School Treat which was held at Riverdale.

September 17th

My monitress was obliged to stay at home this afternoon through her sister falling with measles.

September 24th

The attendance has been bad this week as so many children have measles. The highest number present has been 28.

September 28th

The attendance was a great deal worse yesterday - today there are only 13 children present. The school was therefore closed till October 11th.



October 11th, 1880

Re-opened school but had only 14 children. Whooping cough is very much about.

October 13th

Reverend Flood visited this afternoon and he noticed a great improvement in the order of the school.

October 20th

A very snowy day. Only 13 children at school.

October 28th

A very wet day. Only 12 children here in the morning and 13 in the afternoon. The Ven. Archdeacon Atkinson visited the school for the first time this afternoon. He wished to know if sickness were the only cause of the small attendance.

December 10th

Miss Mayo has taken a class at scripture lesson every day this week. Assisted this afternoon at knitting.

February 24th, 1881

Another fall of snow prevented the children coming to school - only 11 were present. Albert Tullet who had only been absent from school this week died this morning.

March 14th

Annie Tullett who has been absent from school since her brother's death has failed with diptheria.

March 25th

I was obliged to send Walter Baths home this afternoon because his sister was suffering from a sore throat. Every precaution is being taken to prevent the spread of diptheria, and no child is admitted from a family where any of the children have had sore throats.

March 31st

The Rev. G. and Mrs. Hughes visited the school for the first time; told me the decision of the Committee and gave me permission to close at once if a case of diptheria occurred among the children or in one of the houses near.



May 2nd, 1881

Four children stayed away to go out with May-poles. Miss Mayo paid a visit this afternoon.

May 4th

The whole school will sing and drill this afternoon instead of reading as stated by the timetable.

November 3rd

The Rev. L.N. Flood visited this morning and stated that he was coming to take a class at H. Scripture lesson every Thursday morning.

December 11th

The children between five and six will now use blocks in arithmetic lessons. Out Treasurer has supplied us with pen cases and sponges for slates.

February 13th 1882

Miss Mayo came and took the children's pence for the P.O. Savings Bank.

May 1st

Miss Mayo came at 12 o'clock and gave out the Shoe Club tickets.

September 27th

Several children stayed away this afternoon to go to the circus and therefore the attendance was not so good as it had been on Tuesday morning when only two children were absent.

October 2nd

Two children were admitted from the new houses in Leslie Road.

October 16th

The lessons for this week are as follows:-

Standard II to read first five lessons in R. books. Write dictation selected from these lessons. Learn tables to 8 time 12 and work multiplication sums by one figure.

Standard I to read first five lessons. Write words of one syllable (about 6). Learn tables to 4 times 12 and work easy addition sums.



Children between 6 and 7 to read first five lessons. Write easy words and name. Learn tables to twice 12 and work addition sums of one line.

Between 5 and 6 to read first five lessons. Write capital and small A and first letter of name and learn addition of one.

November 27th, 1882

The Register was called this morning in the presence of our Treasurer and found to be correct.

January 26th, 1883

At the usual weekly examination this morning there was a slight improvement in the writing.

May 17th

The Rev. L.R. Flood came to the Scripture lessons this morning. Miss Mayo with Miss Houblon and the Sister Bessie visited the school this afternoon while the children were at Kindergarten employments. The average has been as good this week as in the two previous ones owing to the fees being lowered to a penny throughout the school. This was thought advisable as holidays were given on Monday and Tuesday.

July 6th

Russell Stirling and Ernest Hedgecock were punished with three stripes for insubordination.

November 5th

The Rev. G. Hughes and the Rev. L.R. Flood came this afternoon to announce that the Report had come and that the grant was £36. 2s. 11d.

December 11th

Samuel Stilwell was taken away from school on account of some mistake about his school pence. It has not been paid regularly and the mother said it had been sent.

January 25th, 1884

This afternoon Miss Mayo came again and brought Colonel and Mrs. Eddington who much admired the school - heard the children sing and before leaving gave 6d. to each child.



February 18th 1884

Alfred Carpenter was admitted this morning. He is seven years old but on being examined he was found to know very little. He cannot write his letters or figures and does not know all his letters. He has been living 3 miles from a school.

June 30th

A holiday will be given on this day as the Band of Hope go for their excursion.

November 11th

A half holiday will be given this afternoon as it is St. Martins Day and the children will go after 12 o'clock to receive cloaks, buns etc. from Miss Mayo as usual.

January 16th 1885

The attendance has been very poor this week on account of the cold weather and muddy state of the roads.

July 7th

Elle P. Hunt the candidate for Pupil Teachership has left the school. She was found to be unsuitable as a teacher.

May 10th 1886

This afternoon there were 92 children in the school; this is the highest number every present.

October 15th

Seventeen children who are over seven years of age will leave today to go to the Dorking Schools.

June 21st, 1887

A holiday to be given today as it is the day on which H.M. Queen Victoria's Jubilee is to be kept. The children are to have a treat in the afternoon.

November 4th

Summary of H.M. Inspector's Report on the School:-

"Needlework in the Second Class is rather weak (as worked at Examination) and singing should improve in June. But in almost all other respects the attainments are very satisfactory, and the



Discipline and Tone are good. This is a thoroughly good school conscientiously taught and excellently managed. I have pleasure in recommending the Excellent Merit Grant as an incentive to further improvement."

August 18th, 1890

Re-opened school with 64 children. The Report on the Religious Instruction received from the Rev. E. Copson Peake is as follows:-

"Old Testament V.G. New Testament G. Catechism G. Repetition V.G. Hymns G. Class I has been taught with much success and passed a very satisfactory examination. The Babies are suitably taught."

August 4th, 1891

Re-opened school today after being closed 9 weeks.

February 15th, 1892

Miss Mayo has lent a piano to this school on condition that it is never used except for the instruction of the children while in school.

December 1st

Miss Mayo has given to the school three dual desks.

March 17th, 1893

Susan Ellis (monitress) has left school as her help is required at home.

September 11th

Jane Horton (a monitress) has taken her sister's place as a teacher.

December 4th

A boy has been expelled from this school for theft.

January 23rd, 1894

The children will leave school this afternoon at 4 p.m. to enable them to go to the Sunday School Treat.

January 15th, 1898

Admitted Annie Judd this morning. Though she is 7 years old she has never been to school having had a cataract removed from each eye.

June 1st, 1894

Many parents have kept the children home from fear of infection. The Vicar called this morning and closed the school for one month, by order of the Local Board on account of the continuance of diphtheria among the children.

August 3rd

Miss Mayo paid a visit to school this afternoon to say that a Notice Board would be placed on the outside of the school to warn trespassers. The board was placed there in the evening.

November 16th

Emily Rugman (a monitress) left this week to go to Service.

November 12th, 1895

Staff. Mistress, Pupil Teacher, Two Monitresses.

July 13th, 1896

The Timetable has been altered so that no secular lesson may exceed 30 minutes, as recommended in the Revised Instructions, 1896 No. 5.

July 19th, 1897

A holiday will be given this afternoon to enable the children to attend a school treat at Deepdene, kindly given by the Duchess of Marlborough.

November 16th

The Annual Report received from the Education Department is as follows:-

"A good Infant School. The Drill is a little wanting in usefulness of aim and in precision. The schoolroom must be dark in the later hours of the afternoon in Winter."

December 13th

Ethel Earl (pupil teacher) will not be at school this week as she is attending the scholarship examinations at Salisbury.

January 18th, 1898

Admitted Annie Judd this morning. Though she is 7 years old she has never been to school having had a cataract removed from each eye.



May 25th, 1898

Emily M. Earl (c) Grammar and Geography. She has passed the examination.

April 10th, 1899

Re-opened after the Easter Holidays. Admitted 7 children. The Educational School Year starts from this date.

July 20th

No school today as the children are invited to a Treat at the Deepdene by the Duchess of Marlborough and Lord William Beresford.

November 1st

Miss Mayo came into school this afternoon and brought a Collecting Card for money for the wives and children of our Soldiers in South Africa.

February 14th, 1900

No school for the rest of the week as the weather is so rough.

July 18th

Miss Mayo came into school this afternoon, and brought the banner for the Treat at the Deepdene which is to be held on Friday.

November 22nd, 1901

Aid Grant for this year 1901-1902 amounts to £15.

"This grant is made for the purpose of maintaining better instruction of Pupil Teacher, £5; to complete the purchase of desks and cupboards, £10; and the Board of Education will require.....

It is to be understood that the grant is made in respect of the current financial year .....

December 3rd

A copy of the School Accounts for the year ending September 30th, 1901 has been pinned on to the schoolroom door for public inspection during the last three weeks.

June 2nd, 1902

Owing to the "Peace Proclamation" a half holiday was given this afternoon.

June 25th, 1902

The school will be closed on Thursday and Friday on account of the Coronation.

October 7th

Reading was taken by mistake for writing this morning in Standard I and Class I, therefore writing will take the place of Reading this afternoon.

October 30th, 1903

The school will be closed this afternoon on account of the visit of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany to the town of Dorking.

May 1st, 1905

Five boys have left the school (being over seven years of age at Christmas 1904). Girls over seven years of age are remaining at this school, and will take more advanced work than Standard I during the current year. Two children were admitted one under three but within a few weeks of that age.

June 11th, 1906

Sargeant Mills visited the school to give instructions concerning Physical Drill.

January 16th & 17th, 1907

The elder girls and boys went for a Nature walk (separately).

January 31st

A.J. Maurice Esq., visited the school and examined the teeth of the children with a view to advising parents as to their care.

April 19th

Kathleen Edser, aged eight years is granted by the Managers, permission to continue attending this school for another year, as she had a doctor's certificate to the effect that she is unfit to go a long distance to school.

May 27th

Miss Earl has left to take an appointment at Faversham, Kent, after having served in this school since January 1885.



November 25th, 1907

Notice has been received from the Surrey Education Committee that the temperatures of the schoolroom are to be taken three times daily.

Punishment Book

4.12.08	Horace Mara	7	Disobedience	1 rap with cane
19. 1.09	Albert Bridgeman	7	Rudeness and careless work	2 raps with cane
	Annie Edwards	5	Wilful damage to another child's work	3 smacks on arm
8. 4.13	James Edwards	7	Cutting school door with knife	1 rap with cane
14. 7.13	Sidney Marven	7	Rudeness	2 raps with cane
10.10.13	Frank Hazeltine	6	Setting fire to paper with coloured lights	1 rap with cane
23. 4.14	Alfred Butcher	6	Truant. Screaming and kicking when brought	1 rap with cane
1. 7.14	Harry Fox	6	Rudeness in the street	1 rap with cane
17. 9.14	Charles Gilbert	7	Climbing over wall into the field after being forbidden	1 rap with cane
	Bertie Marven	7		
1. 9.16	Leonard Powell	6	Playing truant	2 raps with cane
	Bertie Stevens	6	Playing truant	2 raps with cane
17.10.17	George Baker	6	Disobedience after caution	2 raps with cane
23. 9.18	Ernest Robins	6	Throwing stones and hurting child	2 raps with cane

December 9th

During the weekend notice has been received that the school must be thoroughly cleansed with disinfectant, as two children have been found with Scarlet Fever (in the peeling stage) attending the school.

July 8th, 1908

School closed in the afternoon on account of the Dorking Athletic Sports.

May 24th, 1909

Empire day was celebrated by the Saluting of the Flag and singing of National Songs in the playground. An Empire Day address was given by the Rev. G.H. Oliver. Several of the children's parents were present. In the afternoon the school was closed.

November 8th

Sergeant Mills visited the school in the morning. He saw the Physical Exercises of the First Class in School, as the playground was in the hands of workmen (tar paving). He expressed himself satisfied but suggested that arëm movements and deep breathing exercises should be the chief part of Physical Instruction.

December 22nd

Miss Mayo visited the school in the morning and gave each child a Xmas card. In the afternoon the children had a "bran pie" the contents of which were given by the Managers.

February 7th, 1911

Dr. Boome visited the school this morning and part of the afternoon for the purpose of medical inspection of children. As all the children had to be in the large room ordinary lessons could not be followed but manual work was taken instead, e.g. modelling, revelling, drawing and knitting.

July 11th 1912

Nurse Holt visited the school this morning to inspect all the children. One child was excluded.

September 9th, 1914

Children stayed in the playground from 11.00 a.m. to twelve watching the 2nd London Brigade of Territorials, 5,000 strong, who passed the school on their march from Bisley into Kent.

June 8th, 1915

The children had a half holiday as the Vicar's daughter was being married.



November 15th, 1915

According to new regulations, afternoon school is to commence at 1.30 p.m. and end at 3.30 p.m. from today.

January 26th, 1922

The school was "open" to parents and friends and managers during the afternoon, the children giving an exhibition of work, singing and dancing.

February 28th

The school closed today on account of the marriage of Princess Mary.

February 22nd, 1924

The school closed this afternoon for a week owing to the influenza epidemic.

April 1st

This is the first day of the new school year. Number on books 18.

April 23rd, 1925

A whole day's holiday was given today for the Children's Day of the Leith Hill Musical Festival.

June 15th

Miss Mayo visited the school this afternoon and presented a badge to the school. The badge is to be work for one week by every child, unless forfeited by roughness or unkindness.

December 22nd, 1926

The Christmas party was given this afternoon. A Christmas Tree and toys were given by J.S. Masterman, Esq., and tea by Miss Mayo. The school closed for two weeks and two days.

December 14th, 1927

I am taking Standard I to St. Martin's C. of E. School to see a little play given by the children. We leave school at 3.15 p.m.

June 13th, 1929

Some of the Standard I children were taken to the daylight rehearsal of the Aldershot Tattoo.

June 24th, 1930

As this year is the Jubilee Anniversary of the School, the school was decorated with flowers and the school colours. In the afternoon the children were given a short account of the origin of the school; games and dances followed and each child was presented with a bun kindly sent by Miss Mayo.

July 4th, 1932

Three new K.G. tables and twelve chairs have been supplied to the school to replace the desks which were condemned by the Doctor.

August 29th

The Educational Year is to be in future the period between the first day of the Autumn Term and the last day of the Summer Term of the succeeding year.

June 23rd, 1933

The school was closed for the whole day for the voting for Sunday Cinemas.

November 29th, 1934

A whole day holiday was given to celebrate the wedding of Prince George and Princess Marina.

May 6th, 1935

School closed for two days for the Royal Jubilee Celebrations. The children were taken in a lorry to the Nower to see the procession. After the procession had passed the children went into the Nower and had tea, an entertainment and free rides in the Fun Fair.

January 28th, 1936

The school was closed because of the day of National Mourning for King George.

May 12th, 1937

The school was closed for three days for Coronation. The children were taken up to the Nower for the celebrations.

March 11th, 1942

A holiday was given for Children's Day - Warships Week. Six children were chosen to represent the school at the Sea-Song Festival at the Embassy Cinema in the morning.



May 9th, 1938

The school closed for the half day as I took two children, a boy and a girl, to the Albert Hall to present purses to Queen Mary. These two children were chosen by ballot to represent the school. A sum of £2 had been collected by all the pupils for the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

October 2nd, 1939

The school should have re-opened on September 4th but owing to the outbreak of war the schools remained closed until arrangements for the safety of the children were made. As the Air Raid Shelters could not be provided for some time owing to shortage of labour it was decided to open the school, and limit the number of children to 20 to each teacher. Four new children were admitted and twenty one evacuated children from London. The school has been painted and decorated.

October 16th

Seven more evacuees have been admitted into the school and there are 52 children on the books. Twelve children have to remain at home each day in turn.

April 29th, 1940

The County Surveyor visited the school and made observations and measurements with regard to the heating of the school as the stove is not giving sufficient heat.

May 29th

The children were taken to the Air Raid Shelter and all went through the emergency exit. Mr. Howard, the Attendance Officer, very kindly helped the children through the exit.

September 4th - December 4th

Air Raid Warnings nearly every day.

August 19th, 1941

During the holidays the managers have had electric lighting installed in the classrooms and cloakrooms.

March 11th, 1942

A holiday was given for Children's Day - Warships Week. Six children were chosen to represent the school at the Sea-Song festival at the Embassy Cinema in the morning.

May 6th, 1942

The mothers were invited to attend the crowning of the May Queen.

July 10th

School broke up today for the summer holidays.

July 13th

School re-opened for holiday school.

August 18th

On discovery that nearly all the milk money was missing investigations were made and I went up to St. Martins and saw Mr. Andrews and the boys concerned.

September 3rd

As today is the National Day of Prayer Mr. Mortimer came to take a short service at 2.30 p.m.

April 21st, 1943

School broke up today for the Easter Holidays. There is no holiday school, the mothers have kindly offered to give out the holiday milk.

May 20th

As this is Wings Week 26 children went to give a display of singing games at the Youth Centre. During the week Pixham School saved £31 for the National Savings campaign.

February 1st, 1944

Canteen dinners started today. Mr. Martin has been appointed a paid washer-up.

May 20th

Salute the Soldier Week. This school raised £101. 15s. 0d. for National Savings.

June 22nd

The attendance is much lower today, the effect of the children having spent so long in the shelter yesterday. The work this week has been much disturbed by the raids. The numbers fell towards the



end of the week as parents did not seem to want their children to spend long hours in the shelter. Also the children are tired and oversleep in the morning after disturbed nights.

July 4th, 1944

During one raid a window in the big room was broken and several small panes in the passage. The lock was forced off one door and the plaster in the lavatories fell. No-one was hurt as all the children were in the shelter. The A.R.P. came in the afternoon and did first-aid to the building.

July 21st

About 8.30 a.m. a flying bomb fell near. Much glass was broken and plaster brought down in the big room and lavatories. Locks and tiles broken. The school was opened as a Rest Centre and 120 people were served with a mid-day meal. School was open for three weeks during the holidays for holiday school and milk.

August 14th

The glass partitions have been removed for safety while the weather is fine and one class can be out of doors.

September 15th

The annual Jumble Sale was held today in aid of the Red Cross. £20 was sent to the fund.

May 8th - 9th, 1945

School closed for the Ve and VE+1 holidays.

May 10th

At 10.00 a.m. the children joined in a United Schools Service of Thanksgiving at St. Pauls Field.

September 12th

The children were given a whole holiday in honour of the Dorking Victory Celebrations held today.

November 5th

A Jumble Sale was held today for the School Repair Fund. £50 raised and sent to the Vicar.

December 16th, 1946

The Parents Association held a social in the school.

May 1st, 1947

Miss Barbara Hill appointed. the addition of a scullery.

September 8th

Clear and Son commenced work on the building of the new school lavatories. wash basins.

November 20th 1950

School was closed for the wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth.

October 7th, 1948

Class II visited Dorking North railway station and were shown over with great kindness by the Station Master.

July 4th, 1949

Mrs. Williams, the clerical assistant, left to take up Emergency Teacher Training. Mrs. Yarrow took her place.

A letter was received from the Divisional Officer stating that all children who reached the age of seven years on September 1st should be promoted to Junior Schools in September 1949.

October 10th

Death of Mrs. Regan, school caretaker. Mrs. Bashford is performing temporary caretaking duties.

May 13th, 1951

A Festival of Britain Schools Display was held on Pixham Sports Ground and twenty four children took part in rhythmic movement.

September 13th, 1954 Pixham Church.

Mrs. Merritt and Mrs. Strudwick commenced duties as dinner helpers.

November 1st Parent meeting held to discuss ways of raising money to help building Extension Fund.

Five wall gas fires were fixed during the holiday.

March 17th, 1959 open from 6.30 - 8.30 as a part of the National

We used the new playground at the back of the school.



June 22nd, 1959

A meeting was held to discuss the addition of a scullery.

September 21st

Mr. Alford visited us to measure the large cloakroom for cupboard and wash basins.

February 18th, 1960

Mrs. Martin appointed as assistant teacher.

March 10th

Climbing apparatus fixed in playground.

May 6th

School closed for Princess Margaret's wedding.

March 4th, 1961

Children's painted frieze on exhibition at the Dorking Halls Exhibition for Schools.

September 4th, 1962

New Head Teacher's room in use. Coal fires have been replaced by gas convector heaters.

November 26th

Builders commenced work on Staff Toilet.

December 19th

Nativity Play in Pixham Church.

September 11th, 1963

Parent meeting held to discuss ways of raising money to help with the Building Extension Fund.

November 11th

School was "open" from 6.30 - 8.30 as a part of the National Education Week. Mr. Welch and Mr. Earle came. The majority of parents seemed to appreciate the resulting privacy of this system.

July 17th, 1964

New extension now complete and now able to use it. Very pleased with the result.

December 10th

Special Managers meeting held at Pixham to discuss possible extension.

June 17th, 1967

A Grand Reunion held at school for all staff and pupils who attended the school between 1880 - 1950. A most interesting and happy afternoon spent by all.

June 27th, 1968

Miss Croft H.M.I. called to discuss extra accommodation.

April 15th, 1969

School resumed with 72 on roll. The Pixham Vestry being used for a group of 12 children with Miss Chipping.

November 2nd

The County Architect and Mr. Maskrey came to discuss the siting of the F.I. unit in Chalcraft Nurseries.

May 11th, 1970

A special Managers Meeting together with the St. Martin's Managers was held at St. Martin's School. Miss Stanley, Mr. Watts and Mr. Maskrey were also present. It was agreed to try again for planning permission to build on vacant land opposite the school.

June 16th

Parents Meeting to let parents know the result of the Special Managers Meeting when a resolution was passed agreeing to Pixham becoming a controlled school and eventually being annexed to St. Martin's School.

December 2nd

Open Evening. This term parent were given appointments at ten minute intervals. Every child's parent came and the majority of parents seemed to appreciate the resulting privacy of this system.

November 1970, 1971  
School closes for the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Anne.



January 14th, 1971

Mrs. Smith, the secretary, on a decimilisation course at the Divisional Office.

February 9th

Parent Teachers' Association Meeting at 8p.m. Mr. D. Beazley came to talk about Comprehensive Education. This was a well attended, interesting and lively meeting: good questions and discussions.

April 1st

Parent Teachers' Association Meeting, 8p.m. Mr. Pritchard came to talk to the parents about the merger of the two schools.

May 6th

School closed to allow the teachers to attend the Dorking Educational Conference. Managers' Meeting 5p.m. at school. Followed by a joint meeting with St. Martin's Managers to discuss merger and possible events to mark the occasion.

October 13th

Parents' Evening at 8p.m. Mrs. Thorpe, headmistress of St. John's Infants School, Redhill, came to talk to the parents about "Modern Maths." It took the form of a "teach in" and was very successful.

July 14th, 1972

2.30p.m. service in the church led by the children and including a very lively talk by the Vicar to mark ninety three years of education in Pixham School and the change of status. There was a good congregation of parents and friends.

July 21st

The playground has been asphalted.

Pixham Church of England Infant School closes.

September 5th

Pixham opens as an Infants section of St. Martin's Church of England First and Middle School, Dorking.

November 14th, 1973

School closes for the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Anne.

January 26th, 1975

Staff-room built by two of the parents. Day at Pixham.

January 27th

Decorations will be done by other parents. Religious adviser.

November 5th

Annual Sparkler Party. Check the school for fire appliances etc.

January 28th, 1976

Mr. Keeling, the curator of Worthing Museum, gave the children a very interesting talk on the various animals he brought along with him. The school was closed all day as S.U.P.E., among others, were and there were no school lunches.

July 23rd

School closed for the Summer holidays. The outside of the school was painted. Mrs. Merritt retired after twenty two years as a dinner lady. A lot of time each day is spent taking off and

July, 1977

Jubilee Celebrations were held on the field at St. Martin's School, Ranmore Road. There was a grand Fancy Hat Competition for everybody. Many classes performed activities and entertained parents, relatives and friends. There was a Jubilee cake competition earlier in the day and the cakes were later distributed to all the children. The weather was wonderful and everyone had an excellent afternoon. All the children saw her and

January 27th, 1978

A reporter came and a photographer from the Dorking Advertiser came to write an article about the school. The children were photographed while they were working and the reporter spoke to many of them. A full page article, with many photographs, appeared in the paper the following week. Pritchard, Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed

May 25th

Two tyres were fixed to the climbing frame for the children to swing on.

June 16th

The whole school went to Ashcombe School to watch the Duke of Edinburgh present awards. Police Constable Blackman and his police dog Sebba gave us a



June 29th 1979

Mr. Lewis, County Inspector, spent the day at Pixham. and gave us a very interesting talk.

July 7th

We had a visit from Miss Osbourne, the religious adviser.

September 25th

The firemen came to check the school for fire appliances etc. The children all had a good look at the fire engine and were allowed to squirt the hose. The Area Education Officer, paid the school a visit in the morning to decide about making us into a first school.

January 22nd, 1979

The school was closed all day as N.U.P.E., among others, were on strike and there were no school lunches.

February 1st

Mr. Lamb came to take our assembly. The weather is still very cold and snowy. A lot of time each day is spent taking off and putting on boots, hats, gloves etc. Mr. Lamb and John, an Indian and a cowboy, spent the whole morning at Pixham to decide whether Pixham is to be a first school department, i.e. keep the name Pixham or be a two teacher school.

February 2nd

Our lovely new slide has arrived. It is brilliant turquoise. We have to wait for the P.E. equipment men to come and assemble it for us. We have heard, subject to verification by the Managers, that we are to be a first school.

February 12th

School dentist in the afternoon. All the children saw her and only five needed treatment. away with chicken pox.

March 6th

Mr. and Mrs. Bashford retired after thirty years as caretakers of the school. They were presented with a gold bracelet and a tankard during lunch play. Mr. Pritchard, Miss Hill and Mrs. Reed joined in the ceremony. It is very sad to see Mr. and Mrs. Bashford leave after such a fantastically long time. Mrs. Reed.

March 13th 1980

Police Constable Blackman and his police dog Sabre gave us a very interesting demonstration in the field.

March 28th, 1979

Mr. Hayes, who is blind, brought his guide dog, Poppy and gave us a very interesting talk.

March 30th

A most amusing and interesting talk by Mr. Hadway about safety on the railway.

April 4th

Mr. Collett, the Area Education Officer, paid the school a visit in the morning to decide about making us into a first school department.

May 1st

Dev and John, an Indian and a cowboy, spent the whole morning at the school.

May 8th

There was a meeting of the Managers at Ranmore Road to decide whether Pixham is to be a first school department, i.e. keep the children until they are eight or be a two teacher school.

May 10th

We have heard, subject to verification by the Managers, that we are to be a first school.

June 26th

Several more children away with chicken pox.

July 7th

Half the school away with chicken pox.

September 11th

My class went swimming for the first time.

March 21st, 1980

The whole school went on a Centenary outing to London Zoo.



April 22nd

We have had printed, Centenary mugs, badges, pencils, pens and balloons.

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We are going to celebrate our Centenary as follows:-

On Friday, 16th May a gaily decorated float, with children in fancy dress will drive through Dorking. Later on that day we will start an evening of family fun, including races, a fancy dress competition and a school play.

On Saturday, 17th May we are having a coffee morning, with a display of old photographs.

On July 19th 1880, St. Martin's Infants School, Pixham opened admitting twenty seven children. On that day we are celebrating exactly a hundred years of schooling at St. Martin's First School, Pixham, at Pixham Church Summer Fair. The children will be entertaining parents, relatives and local residents.