

RINGMORE CHURCH INSTITUTE

The establishment of the Ringmore Church Institute was Preb F C Hingeston Randolph's last contribution to the welfare of the people of Ringmore for whom he worked tirelessly all the 50 years he was Rector.

The restoration of the Church, the setting up of the school, the re-establishment of the Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy in the Parish, the opening of "The Home" for old people who found themselves destitute due to widowhood or other causes, the creation of the Erme & Avon School Board and the Erme & Avon Friendly Society (November 1869) were all due to his vision and perseverance. He had established a "Reading Room" with its Librarian in a small barn lent for the purpose by the Misses Dolling Smith (now Little Barn). Evidently a Librarian was one of the 'office holders' as we find Mr Fred Ryder elected as Librarian in 1912.

Ringmore Manor was about to cease as a single unit under an absentee Lord of the Manor. The family of Baron de Ramsey of Huntingdon who had done so much to restore the fortunes of the village sold the Manor to a Modbury syndicate of Coyte, Coyte and Pode on the 23rd March 1907. Preb Hingeston Randolph had been seriously ill, but recovered sufficiently to launch his last project for the people of Ringmore.

CONVEYANCE

The syndicate made available to him for the sum of £20, "two pieces of land in the Village of Ringmore" and the Conveyance was completed on 18 May 1908. It is worth noting that the land on the East of these "pieces" was occupied by George W Triggs and was the cottage where Alice Mason was born and that on the west was occupied by James Davis and was where Margaret Lock was born.

INDENTURE

The actual indenture was drawn up on 5 July 1907 between Coyte, Coyte and Pode and The Rev. F C Hingeston Randolph. So the delay before the Conveyance may have been marked by the Rector's illness. Once conveyed matters moved unusually rapidly for Devon!

TRUSTEES

With the Prebendary as Chairman (as President) trustees were appointed:-

Charles H Hingeston (of Plymouth)
William Savery - Churchwarden
(Doctor of Medicine, Bellview, Ringmore)
David Triggs (Carpenter, Sea View, Ringmore).

TRUST DEED

Exeter
Record Office

The Trust Deed enumerated 9 uses of "The Church Room",

1. As Reading Room for use of members of the Church of England in the Parish. (for others see Appendix 1.)

**FOUNDATION
STONE**
20 May 1908

THE FOUNDATION STONE of the Ringmore Institute was laid by Mrs Mildmay accompanied by her husband Mr F G Mildmay on 20 May 1908. The ceremony was preceded by a procession round the village led by the Ringmore Brass Band. (Photo)

**OPENING OF
INSTITUTE**
Aug 15 1908

Lady Mildmay returned on August 15th to declare the institute open (Photo).

A Management committee was formed. The Rector was PRESIDENT and seemed to take the Chair at meetings, although a Chairman of the Committee was appointed, Mr Savery Churchwarden, and other officers were:-

Secretary	Who read the minutes but not named.
Treasurer	E TRIGGS followed by Mr A Freeman.
Curator	J TRIGGS followed by Mr W Veale.
Groundsman	

A PIANO had been obtained with the help of Mr Savery and a note of thanks was passed.

New rules were passed

A monthly Social was agreed - Charge:

Ringmarians	2d
Outsiders	6d

JAN 1ST 1909

Parishioners to be charged 2/6d for use of room for an occasion such as a wedding.

Outsiders for use for entertainment 7/6d.

A barrel of oil was purchased.

Ground above North End to be drained.

A salary of 2/6d per quarter to be paid to the Curator.

AUG 15TH 1910

Socials, Evening Classes, Dancing Classes, Lectures were arranged.

Non-payment of subscriptions causing problems.

27TH AUG 1910

Preb F C Hingeston Randolph died.

It is very strange that there was no mention in the minutes of the committee of the Laying of the Foundation Stone nor of the Opening, nor of the death of the Prebendary. The only record of the first two are the photos found in the family album and the Prebendary's death was recorded in the press. The only written notices we have of the Laying of the Foundation Stone is a paragraph in the press entitled "30 Years Ago"!! (very inaccurate).

JAN 9TH 1911 There was a full representatives gathering of Parishioners at the Church Institute in order to present the Misses (Barbara and Grace) Hingeston Randolph with an address prior to their leaving the Parish. Miss Giles (Ringmore School Mistress) and Miss Ash had organised the collection for a presentation.

OCT 1ST 1912 A meeting of the committee. Minutes read by Secretary.
Accounts read and passed.
Curator Ernest Miller
Librarian Fred Ryder
Treasurer E Farley
Secretary

It was decided that the room should be opened in the evenings from 7p.m. to 10p.m.

These minutes were signed by H C H Randolph.

We have no further minutes until 5 October 1920.

During the Interregnum August 1910 to May 1911, the Rev. R A Bryant was in charge until December 1910 when he was appointed to Clyst St Lawrence, Exeter. Then the Churchwarden Mr Savery obtained the services of Rev. J Drew S.H.C. from Canterbury. The Rev. Herbert C Hingeston Randolph was inducted Tuesday May 16, 1911 at 7p.m.

OCT 5 1920 The Rev. Herbert C H Randolph, now Rector in his father's place, is President of the Church Institute Committee. He stated that the object of the meeting was to re-open the "Reading Room" after closure during the War.

Rules were read and 7 people agreed to comply with them. 6d per week subscription. 6d entrance fee increase to 1/-. Mr F Ryder proposed as Librarian. Mr J Triggs - Treasurer.

The "Reading Room" appears to have been an inner "Club" under the Management Committee of the Church Institute. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, so these must have been recorded somewhere. One Social a month was considered sufficient.

Billiard Table Mention was made of a billiard table.

1922 Annual Meeting held in the School.

RECREATION
GROUND

Proposed to sell the Recreation Ground and use the money for cloak room.

NOV 1922

Management Committee meet the Committee of the Womens Institute at their request. There appears two factions within the WI. Mrs Peddell "explained" Mrs Rogers "objected" to conditions laid down by the Management Committee of the Church Institute. Finance seemed to be at the bottom of the problem.

1923/1924

Sale of Recreation Ground Charity Commissioners approved the offer of £75 by Mr Lewis.

1924

EXTENSION of building - Suggested Club Room for men as a memorial for men of the Parish who had served in the War. Square room with billiard table. £150 minimum required. Mortgage turned down.

1925

October 21st. Tenders opened.

TENDERS

Mr Prowse at £147 was accepted. work to be completed in 2 months.

TRUSTEES

Mr David Triggs died. Mr George Freeman appointed Trustee in his place.

JAN 4 1926

AGM held in the New Room.

NEW ROOM

Mr Prowse congratulated.
WI thanked for material for new shed.
Mr E Sandover thanked for carting materials.
Proposed that Lady Mildmay be asked to open it in April (best month!).

14 OCT 1926

The Church Institute Men's Club.

MEN'S CLUB

Management Committee formed.
First Chairman Mr Peddle
Treasurer Mr Hunter.
Rules: Roster of Members responsible for order during Club hours: Mr R Farley - Curator.

1926

Club's first winter season open.

OCT 21ST 1926

Men's Club opened by Lady Mildmay. It was open in the winter only.

Activities of Church Institute with the W.I.
Dances 1/- refreshment to be paid for.
Whist Drives 1/- refreshments to be paid for.
Folk Dancing
Dancing Lessons
Cinema Show
New Year Social 1/- (long night) i.e past midnight.

Cmdr. Rogers offered to pay for the talented Mr Shepherd to give recitation of Dicken's "Christmas Carol" and other recitations.

1928 RULES

WI found the rules of the Management committee and Trustees too restricting. The W I wanted lower charges and later opening hours. The Management committee required higher charges to cover costs and disapproved of later hours because of noise.

JULY 1929
WI Tenancy

Notice received from W I Committee to terminate Tenancy.

OCT 1929

Minute recorded and letter sent to WI regretting their action.

Suggested "Study Circles" to take the place of the "education" and "self-improving" ventures organised by the W.I.

OCT 1930

Men's Club not paying its way.
Those present said they would carry on and take responsibility.

1930

AGM of Church Institute

Made reference to great loss at death of Mr R Farley. Important to keep Men's Club going.

VESTRY MEETING

The meeting then became a Vestry Meeting to consider raising funds for the Church roof.

1931

Club Room still kept going by younger members.

1931

AGM 15 present.

FEB 1ST

Mrs F Ryder re-elected Curator.
Groundsman's duties reorganised and paid on hourly basis.
Harvest Dance funds.

MEN'S CLUB
CLOSED

MEN'S CLUB formally closed.
Arrangements made for use of the billiard table.

Last Entry in Minute Book

After this date there were references to the Church Institute in the Ringmore Column of the Deanery Magazine. These columns were extracted and kept in a book of cuttings. It would seem that there was a certain affinity between the Hingston Randolph Regime and the Church Institute. Also the WI probably took over much of the entertainment in the village.

APPENDIX I

TRUST DEED gave uses of (the Church Room)

1. As Reading Room for use of members of the Church of England in the Parish.
2. For entertainment in connection with the Church of England.
3. Celebration of Divine Services if duly licensed.
4. As school for education of poor persons' children or adults : for residence of any teacher or teachers employed in such work.
5. As Class or Lecture Room.
6. As a place of meeting for promotion of spiritual, moral or social welfare.
7. For meetings of committees.
8. For recreation ground where not built on.
9. For any purposes in connection with Church of England agreed by the Committee of Management and appointed by the Trustees.

APPENDIX II

Copy of Rules. March 7 1929.

Extracts from the History of the Ringmore Church Institute

The Conveyance was dated 18th May 1908

Initial Trustees: Rev Hingeston Randolph (President), Chairman
Charles H Hingston, of Plymouth (*Correct spelling - no relation*)
William Savery, Churchwarden
(Doctor of Medicine, Bellview, Ringmore)
David Triggs (Carpenter, Sea View, Ringmore, *Margaret Lock's Great Uncle*)

Trust Deed: This is held at the Exeter Record Office. It enumerated 9 uses of 'The Church Room' which are listed separately.

Foundation Stone: This was laid by Mrs Mildmay, accompanied by her husband Mr F G Mildmay, on 20th May 1908. The ceremony was preceded by a procession through the village, led by the Ringmore brass band. (see photo)

Opening: The Institute was opened by Lady Mildmay (her husband had succeeded to the Title of Lord Mildmay after the laying of the Foundation Stone) on 15th August. (see photo)

Management Committee	Chairman	-	Preb F C Hingeston Randolph (President),
	Secretary	-	un-named
	Treasurer	-	E Triggs (<i>Ernest, Margaret Lock's 2nd cousin</i>) followed by Mr A Freeman
	Curator	-	J Triggs (<i>James, Margaret Lock's Grandfather</i>) followed by Mr W Veale (<i>lived at Challaborough</i>)

Mr Savery was instrumental in obtaining a piano.

A monthly Social was agreed. Charges: Ringmorians 2d
Outsiders 6d

1st Jan 1909	Charges:	Use of room eg. Wedding or Entertainment -
	Ringmorians	2/6d Outsiders 7/6d

The Curator to be paid 2/6d quarterly.

27th Aug 1910 Preb F C Hingeston Randolph died.

There is no mention in the committee minutes of the Laying of the Foundation Stone, the opening of the Institute or of the death of FCH-R. The only records of the first two are the photographs and a Press item.

Uses of the Church Room

- 1 As Reading Room for use of members of the Church of England in the Parish
- 2 For entertainment in connection with the Church of England
- 3 Celebration of Divine Service if duly licensed
- 4 As school for education of poor persons' children or adults: for residence of any teacher or teachers employed in such work
- 5 As a Class or Lecture Room
- 6 As a place of meeting for promotion of spiritual, moral or social welfare
- 7 For meetings of committees
- 8 For recreation ground where not built on
- 9 For any purposes in connection with Church of England agreed by the Committee of Management and appointed by the Trustees

The interregnum was filled first by Rev R A Bryant (Aug - Dec 1910) and then by Rev J Drew (Dec 1910 - May 1911)

16th May 1911 Rev Herbert C Hingeston-Randolph, son of FCH-R was inducted.

9th Jan 1911 Parishioners met at the Institute to present an Address to the Misses Barbara and Grace Hingeston-Randolph to mark their leaving the parish - organised by Miss Giles (School Mistress) and Mrs Ash (*of The Homestead, now Walnut Tree Cottage*).

12th Oct 1912 Committee meeting
Curator: Ernest Miller - *related to Margaret Lock's mother lived at 1 Ivy Cottages.*
Librarian: Fred Ryder - *lived at Quarry Villa, now Wychwood*
Treasurer: E Farley - *Ernest, Alice Mason's father*

There were no minutes recorded until 5th October 1920.

5th Oct 1920 Rev Herbert C Hingeston-Randolph, President and Chairman, stated that the object was to re-open the 'Reading Room' after closure during the War. The Reading Room appears to have been an inner 'Club' under the control of the Management Committee of the Church Institute. The Rules were read and 7 people agreed to comply with them.

Weekly subscription 6d. Entrance fee increased to 1/-

Librarian: Mr F Ryder

Treasurer: Mr J Triggs

The Secretary read the minutes so they must have been recorded somewhere. One Social a month was considered sufficient.

1922

The land extended to the rear of the Institute and was known as the Recreation Ground. It was proposed to sell this and use the money for a Cloak Room.

- Nov 1922 Management Committee met the Women's Institute Committee Mrs Peddell (*of Little Barn - lived at Ringmore Vean when Mrs Creber*) explained that Mrs Rogers (*of Ringmore Vean*) objected to the conditions, mainly finance, laid down by the Management Committee.
This might have been the genesis of the dispute which led to the WI decamping and setting up at the WI Hall, some years later.
- 1923/1924 Charity Commissioners approved offer of £75 for the Recreation Ground from Mr Rogers (*of Three Ways?*).
- 1924 It was suggested that the Institute be extended to provide a Club Room for men as a memorial to those who died in the Great War. It would have a Billiard Table. It would cost £150.
- 1925 A tender for £147 was accepted from Mr Prowse (*who lodged at the Journey's End*). Work to be completed in 2 months.
- Trustees Mr David Triggs died and was succeeded as a Trustee by Mr George Freeman (*of Challaborough Cottage*).

4th Jan 1926 AGM held in new Room. Mr Prowse was thanked; WI thanked for providing material for new shed; Mr E Sandover (*of Renton Farm*) thanked for carting materials. Lady Mildmay to be asked to 'open' Room.

14th Oct 1926 Church Institute Men's Club formed.
Management Committee:
Chairman - Mr Peddle (*of Little Barn*)
Treasurer - Mr Hunter (*of Rock Cottage, later Quarry Park*)
Curator - Mr R Farley (*Richard, Alice Mason's Grandfather*)

21st Oct 1926 Men's Club opened by Lady Mildmay. Club was open only in the Winter.
Activities of Church Institute with the WI:
Dances and Whist Drives 1/- Refreshments to be paid for
New Year Social 1/- (long night i.e. past midnight)
Folk Dancing Dancing Lessons Cinema Show
Cdr Rogers (*of Ringmore Veau*) offered to pay for the 'talented'
Mr Shepherd to give a recitation of Dicken's 'Christmas Carol'
and other recitations.

- 1928 Rules The WI found the rules of the Management committee and Trustees too restricting. The WI wanted lower charges and later opening hours. The Management Committee required higher charges to cover costs and disapproved of later hours because of noise.
- July 1929 Notice received from WI Committee to terminate tenancy.
- October 1929 Letter sent to WI regretting their action.
Management Committee suggested 'Study Circles' to replace the 'education' and 'self improving' ventures organised by WI.
- October 1930 Men's Club not paying way but those present vowed to continue and take responsibility.
- 1930 AGM Reference made to great loss at death of Mr R Farley. Meeting metamorphosed into a Vestry Meeting to consider raising funds for the Church roof.
- 1931 AGM Club Room kept going by younger members. 15 at AGM.

1st Feb 1931 Mr F Ryder was re-elected Curator of the Institute
The Men's Club was formally closed

This was the last entry in the Minute Book. Thereafter there were references to the Church Institute in the Ringmore column of the Deanery Magazine. These were kept in a book of cuttings.

It would seem that a certain affinity existed between the Hingeston-Randolph regime and the Church Institute. As this association waned, so the fortunes of the Institute declined, aided in large part by the fact that the now 'independent' WI was responsible for most of the entertainment in the village

Prebendary Hingeston Randolph

Rector of Ringmore 1860 - 1910

The establishment of the Ringmore Church Institute was Prebendary F C Hingeston Randolph's last contribution to the welfare of the people of Ringmore for whom he worked tirelessly all the 50 years he was Rector.

The restoration of the Church, the setting up of the school, the re-establishment of the Book of Common Prayer Liturgy in the Parish, the opening of The Home 'for old people who found themselves destitute due to widowhood or other causes', the creation of the Erme & Avon School Board and the Erme & Avon Friendly Society (NOVEMBER 1869) were all due to his vision and perseverance. He had established a 'Reading Room' (now Little Barn) with its Librarian in a small barn lent for the purpose by the Misses Dolling Smith. Evidently, a Librarian was one of the 'office holders' as we find Mr Fred Ryder elected as Librarian in 1912.

Ringmore Manor was about to cease as a single unit under an absentee Lord of the Manor. The family of Baron de Ramsey of Huntingdon who had done so much to restore the fortunes of the village sold the Manor to a Modbury syndicate of Coyte, Coyte and Pode on 23rd March 1907. Preb. Hingeston Randolph had been seriously ill but recovered sufficiently to launch his last project for the people of Ringmore.

This is a typed copy of a photocopy of a hand written document. The photocopy was borrowed from the Ringmore Historical Society. Where words are crossed out in the original square brackets [] are used in this typed copy. Where sections of the text were ticked in the original they are marked at the end of the section with an asterisk in this typed version.

Church Institute Entertainments

Regulations drawn up by the Management Committee at a Meeting held on the 7th March 1929.

These Regulations apply to all Entertainments held in the Church Institute.

1 Single Entertainments. - comprising the following [(a)]

- (a) A Dance or Social , A Whist Drive , A Concert or any other Platform performance.
- (b) The minimum charge for admission to any of these is one shilling . No reduction is allowed to late comers. - See note (b & c) beneath.
- (c) The Time allowed is from 7 p.m. until midnight. *

2 Double Entertainments - Under this head are included. -

- (a) The Annual Harvest Tea & Dance, and any similar Parochial Function consisting of two parts and held in the Evening.
- (b) The minimum charge for admission is 1/6d, or 9d for each part separately. *

Note (a) A Dance following a Sale of Work, Exhibition, [or] horticultural show, or other afternoon function is classed among Single Entertainments/ *

3 It is the Church Institute rule that all entertainments should close at midnight, but exception is made in the following cases The New Year Social, the Choir Social & the W.I. Christmas Party. *

Smoking is not allowed at platform performances, _ nor at other Entertainments until Refreshments [have been served] are [ended [over. *

Refreshments may not be carried in to the Club-room, which shall be used as a Cloak-room only. *

Note (b). At Platform Entertainments 6d only need be charged for a certain number of seats at the far end of the room, eg. not more than three rows.

(c) Children under 14 years of age may be admitted to all Entertainments at half price. *

All persons responsible for Entertainments held in the Church Institute are required to conform to these Regulations.

Addendum.- Double Entertainments other than those specified in the above Regulations { no further text on photocopy} Alan McCarthy 29th July 2009

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March 7th 1927

Regulations drawn up by the Management Committee, respecting all Entertainments held in the Church Institute.

1. Single Entertainments.

(a) Single Entertainments include the following:-

A Dance or Social

A Whist Drive

A Concert or any other Platform performance.

(b) The minimum charge for admission to any Single Entertainment is One shilling.

(c) The hours allotted are from 8 o'clock to midnight no reduction is allowed to late comers.

2 Double Entertainments.

(a) Under this head are included -

The Harvest Tea & Dance - (a Parochial event of long standing)

[A sale of Work or Exhibition followed by a Dance]

Any other Parochial function of a similar description held in the evening.

(b) The minimum charge for admission is one shilling & sixpence [where] ninepence [is charged] for the [first] each event ; but [when threepence only is the charge - one and threepence]

(c) No reduction to the charge for the Dance may be made in favour of late comers. Dancing must cease at midnight.

N.B Children under 14 years of age may be admitted to all Entertainments at half price. - At Platform Entertainments a charge of sixpence for a certain number of seats at the far end of the room, eg. not more than 3 rows will deemed sufficient..-
Exception is made to the rule that all Entertainments should close at midnight In the case of the New Year Social, the Choir Social, and the W.I. Christmas Party. - Double Entertainments other than those specified above. An not approved by the Management Committee, but owing to representations made to them by the W.I. Committee, [they] Permission is given to the W.I. to hold a Whist Drive and Dance during the summer at which the charge for the dance, beginning approximately at 10 p.m., shall be sixpence only.----- All persons responsible for Entertainments in the Church Institute are requested to conform to these regulations.