1875-1975

st. Michael's CENTENARY
ST. MICHAEL'S CENTENARY

To some it may come as a surprise that St. Michael's School celebrates the Centenary of its foundation in 1975. Indeed, the modern premises at Stevenage would suggest to the casual observer that it is but a few years old.

Back in 1875 the Fathers of the Society of St. Edmund established a small school at Mont St. Michel off the French coast of Normandy. Hence the dedication of the School to St. Michael. With the passing of the anti-religious laws in France at the turn of the century, the Fathers of St. Edmund sought refuge in England and in 1903 transferred the School to Hitchin. By 1914 the School had over fifty pupils and had its first English headmaster.

The Assumptionist Fathers took over control of the School and Parish in 1925 and it was about this time that the word 'College' first figured in the title of the School. By 1958 the School was a flourishing independent grammar school and was accorded permanent recognised status by Her Majesty's Inspectorate. By the late 1960's there was a need for more school places for Catholic boys and girls in North Hertfordshire and thus finally St. Michael's was transferred to Stevenage where a larger school was possible.

In 1969 the Assumptionist Fathers handed over the control of the School to the Archdiocese of Westminster.

The School is fortunate to maintain its links with the past. Both the Congregations of the Priests of the Assumption and the Society of the Fathers of St. Edmund are represented on the Board of Governors, and the School is situated in the Parish of Pin Green, Stevenage where the Parish Priest, Fr. Charles Farrell, is a member of the Society of St. Edmund.

This brief sketch of the development of St. Michael's includes nothing of its philosophy over the years, but one hopes that the practice of Christian virtue is as clear to the present pupils and teachers as it was to those priests and pupils who formed the original school in 1875.
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The following events have been planned to mark the Centenary Year. It is hoped that as many people as possible will join the present pupils and teachers in the celebrations. Details of particular events will be available nearer their date.

February
Wed. 26th to Fri. 28th
School Mission.

March
Fri. 8th
Centenary Dance.
Thu. 13th to Sat. 15th
Wizard of Oz.
Thu. 20th
Commemorative Tree Planting
by Dame Evelyne Dennington,
Chairman of Stevenage
Development Corporation.
Mon. 24th
Easter Musical Production.

May
Thu. 8th
Feast of the Apparition of
St. Michael, the Archangel
Pupils' Mass of Thanksgiving.

July
Sun. 13th
Centenary Summer Fair.

September
Mon. 29th
Feast of St. Michael, the
Archangel.
Centenary Mass of Thanksgiving
for those having an association
with the School over the years
and for invited guests.

October
Sat. 18th
Speech Day.

November
Sat. 15th
Centenary Dinner Dance for
those having an association
with the School over the years
and for invited guests.

December
Thu. 18th
Centenary Carol Service.
CENTENARY APPEAL

During a centenary year it is natural to think about the early years of the school and its evolution over one hundred years, but it is important also to consider the present and the future.

The amenities of the school are for the most part very good but present and future generations of Michaelean will benefit enormously from increased indoor sports facilities.

An appeal is made to all those who have a concern for St. Michael's and who may wish to express their concern by making a donation towards Indoor Sports Facilities in response to the Centenary Appeal.

Donations should be made to the Centenary Appeal Fund, St. Michael's School, Sandown Road, Stevenage, Herts.