



A Brief History of Holy Cross Hospital 1917 - 2017



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Much of the initial research on which this account is based was undertaken by Mr Joe McDonald whose contribution is most gratefully acknowledged.

How it all began

In 1782 in Liège Belgium, Louis and Marguerite Haze were blessed with the arrival of their sixth child Jeanne.

Before long, revolutions and war shattered the family's peace and prosperity. Jeanne and her sister grew up in adversity.

As young adults, Jeanne and her sister devoted themselves to 'good works' and took over the running of a small fee-paying school. From the income, they set up a school for poor children. The work prospered and other young women came to join the sisters.



In 1833, the Haze sisters received permission to form a religious congregation, devoted to the care and education of poor children. The Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross was officially established with an

initial group of six Sisters and Jeanne as the Superior of the new order, known as Mother Marie Thérèse.

How Holy Cross came to be in Haslemere

By the 1860s the Congregation had established many houses in Belgium, Germany and India and communities were started in Chelsea, Bury and Ramsgate.

By the start of the First World War, following advice from the Government, the Ramsgate community set about finding a safer location. In December 1916, they bought Shottermill Hall and 33 acres of land for £7,500.

By Order of the Administrator of the Estate of Miss E. J. FORSTER, Account.

HASLEMERE

Ten minutes' walk from the Station on the London and South Western Railway.
GOLF AT HINDHEAD. FULL SOUTHERN EXPOSURE.

THE VERY CHOICE AND COMPACT
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

known as

Shottermill Hall,

Haslemere, SURREY.

Occupying a Glorious Position about 600-ft. above Sea Level.
Commanding Views of Vast Extent and Great Beauty.

comprising

A MODERN FAMILY HOUSE

Approached by Long Carriage Drive and affording Views East and Draining Rooms, with Space in the Road for several additional Rooms. Bath, Privies and Secondary Staircase.

Magnificent Lounge Hall (40-ft. by 20-ft.)
with Gallery on all sides. Four Reception Rooms and Domestic Offices.

Two Sets of Stabling and Garage. Entrance Lodge and Laundry Cottage.
Pleasure Grounds and Parkland of over 33 Acres.

Perpet Gas Installed. Con. Electric Light, Gas, Water and Main Drainage in the Road.

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

ALSO

THREE SMALLER FREEHOLD RESIDENCES

"Quedley,"
A Picturesque House in Luscious Gardens of 18 Acres. Let on Lease at £105 per annum.

"Stile House" and "Eccleslea,"
Two Superior Villa Residences. Recently let at £85 per annum each. And

AND

OVER TWO ACRES OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND.

HAMPTON & SONS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
REGINALD C. S. EVENNETT

Will Sell the above by Auction, at the Mart, Tottenhouse Yard, E.C.,
ON TUESDAY, 23rd MAY, 1916,
At TWO o'clock (unless previously disposed of), in Five Lots.

Solicitor, T. H. HISCOTT, Esq., 11, Smeeth Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.
Financial Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained at the Mart, Tottenhouse Yard, E.C.; of the Land Agent, Mr. REGINALD C. S. EVENNETT, Haslemere, Hindhead and Farnham, Surrey; of Messrs. G. N. READ, SONS & Co., Chartered Accountants, 44, Gresham Street, E.C.; and of the Auctioneers, HAMPTON & SONS,
3, COCKSPUR STREET, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.
N.B.—Announcements of this and other Auctions appear Weekly in the "Times" and "Standard" Newspapers.

Left: Painting of Mere Marie Thérèse Haze
Above: Sale particulars for Shottermill Hall

The sanatorium established

In June 1917, a small group of Sisters, led by Sister Francis Clare, moved into Shottermill Hall, preparing it to be their home in the immediate future.

The demand for hospital care for patients with tuberculosis (TB) was great and so new buildings were quickly constructed. By the end of 1917, a new sanatorium had been built.

The wards were open at the front and back to provide the TB patients with bracing fresh air. We would consider the conditions to be spartan.

Women and girls from the local boroughs and London County Council were cared for by Sisters and people employed from the local community.



Above: A patient arriving at the sanatorium is greeted by Sisters. This was how on 21 February 1918, the first 50 patients arrived after a long and tiring day travelling by train from Ramsgate, Kent to Haslemere Station



Left: By modern-day standards the wards were spartan. It was the 1960s before the newly formed Friends of Holy Cross raised money to buy curtain divisions for between the beds.

Right: Some patients recovered and went home having responded well to the nursing provided by the Sisters



The birth of the NHS

In 1948, the NHS was created. Over time, this was to have a big impact on the services offered by Holy Cross Hospital. The NHS took over many hospitals that had been set up by local authorities, charities and religious bodies. Holy Cross Hospital was given permission to remain independent. Instead of funding coming from local authorities, most patients were treated with NHS funding, an arrangement that has continued to this day.

Committed to learning

In 1949 the Hospital was recognised as a training hospital for the British Tubercular Certificate. In 1956 a nurses' training school was established jointly with two other hospitals run by the Sisters, St. Anthony's in Cheam, Surrey and St. Michael's in Hayle, Cornwall.

Moving with the times

In the 1950s, the development of the antibiotic Streptomycin, changed everything. Holy Cross found that services for the treatment and care of TB patients were no longer in demand. Guided by Sister Mary Perpetua, the Sisters had prepared for this and a new chapter was about to open.

From 1957 Holy Cross became a small general hospital offering new specialties. Frail elderly patients were admitted and an operating theatre and x-ray room were added. The number of TB patients steadily dwindled.

Oral and facial surgery was started at the request of surgeons in Guildford and Basingstoke. The work quickly grew to become the mainstay of surgical work at the Hospital before the operating theatre closed in 1985.



Left: Sister Mary Stella (left) and Sister Mary Perpetua receiving the keys to the new nurses' home in 1960. These two Sisters made lasting and major contributions to Holy Cross Hospital.

Sister Mary Stella was ready to put her hand to anything if requested, being at different times, Matron, Nurse Tutor and Theatre Sister.

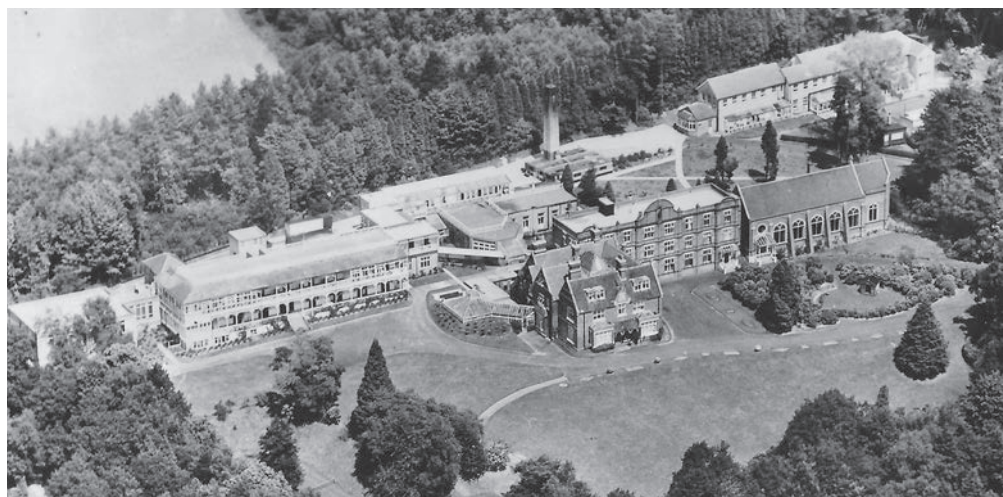
Sister Mary Perpetua was a deeply spiritual person with wonderful vision for healthcare. She helped to reshape Holy Cross after the NHS started and the Hospital grew with the Sisters' own ethos into a small general hospital.

In the 1960s, the Hospital began the care of post-operative neurosurgical patients from Atkinson Morley's Hospital in Wimbledon. This later evolved into care and treatment of neurological patients, now the Hospital's main work with in-patients.

Facilities for physiotherapy and occupational therapy were added. During the 1960s, the Sisters took on the palliative care of cancer patients who had received treatment at St. Luke's Hospital in Guildford.



Above: This photo was taken at St. Anthony's Hospital although the school room at Holy Cross would have looked very similar. There were many resident nurses and students at the time and they made a lively social life for themselves. There are accounts of concerts, plays and other entertainments.



Above: An aerial view of the old hospital taken in the 1950s. By this time, the operating theatre and x-ray rooms had been added at the far left of the building.

Windows had been fitted to enclose the balconies on part of the sanatorium but those in the middle remained open.

The boiler house in the background boasted an automatically-fed, coal-fired boiler. St. Philomena's ward, originally the TB convalescent ward is at top right. This later became St. Joseph's Centre and houses the Sister's convent today.

More changes to meet changing needs

The Hospital continued its medical and surgical work during the 1960s and 1970s. It was known locally in particular for its oral and facial surgical work.

At the end of the 1970s, the new Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford opened. In 1985, Holy Cross Hospital's surgical and terminal care beds ceased to be funded leaving neurology as the main work of the Hospital. In 1988 the Guildford authorities decided to withdraw that funding as well.



Above: The operating theatre was originally built as a treatment room for TB patients as in this picture but was adapted for use in the 1950s for a variety of surgical specialities.



Above: The foundation stone for the Church was laid in 1929 by the Bishop of Southwark and built with a generous donation from a benefactress, Mrs Barry. It forms the centre of the Sisters' life and is much used by local people as well.

Adapting to fulfil a need

In the meanwhile, the Hospital had commenced working with a local doctor providing a detoxification service for patients with alcohol addiction. When a separate building that had housed the sanatorium's convalescent ward became vacant, permission was granted to remodel the building. It opened in 1986 as St. Joseph's Centre, where an intensive treatment programme for people with an addiction to alcohol or other drugs was started.

Funding for the treatment was never viewed favourably by the public authorities despite the Centre being held in high regard. To the Sisters' great sorrow, matters came to a head in 2004 and the Centre was forced to close. However, counselling services, that had been at the heart of the programme in St. Joseph's, continued to be offered and today Crossways Counselling Service and other counsellors provide these services in Shottermill Hall.



Above: Sister Rose Mary (formerly Sister Mary Columba) who worked at Holy Cross from the 1960s. For some years in the 1970s she combined the roles of Matron, Administrator and Sister Superior. She was greatly loved by generations of patients for her gentleness and humour.

She died in the Convent in 2014, age 94 and in her 77th year as a religious.

The beginning of a new era

By 1989, the uncertainty about NHS funding and the condition of the Hospital building, meant the Sisters were confronted with a stark choice: to replace the buildings or to close the Hospital.

It remained clear that the NHS was finding it difficult to provide suitable care and treatment for people with severe and complex neurological conditions. The Sisters were determined to address this issue and called upon tried and tested contractors to design a new Hospital within the grounds. To fund the capital cost, the Trustees of the Congregation gave permission for some of the Hospital grounds to be sold.

After several rebuffs, planning permission was finally granted for a new Hospital, flats and houses to be built within the grounds. Another chapter was about to open.

New Hospital opens for business

Construction of the new Hospital started in October 1991 and in just under a year, it was built.

The design of the new Hospital included features to promote the independence and comfort of the seriously disabled patients who were now being referred in greater numbers than ever before.



Continuing with the theme

Having started as a sanatorium treating pulmonary tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs, it has happened that respiratory management is once again a very important function of Holy Cross Hospital.

In recent years, the Hospital has accommodated up to eight patients at a time who are dependent on 'mechanical ventilation' to sustain breathing. Many are able to engage in a wide range of activities with the support of skilled staff and some recover to the extent of being able to breathe unaided.

Above: Sister Mary Agnes, Matron from 1981 until 2002, had been a student nurse at Holy Cross Hospital and later a staff nurse before going to Brazil as a midwife. She returned to England to take up the role of Theatre Superintendent at St. Anthony's Hospital before coming to Holy Cross. Her determination and drive were deployed to the full during the years when the local NHS was pulling out of contractual arrangements. She set up St. Joseph's Centre in 1986 and successfully fought for the new Hospital. She was tireless in seeking to give patients with severe disability the security and comfort of a home, believing that to be a fundamental human right. Sister has remained at the helm and continues to contribute on a daily basis to the management of the Hospital and Community.

Here she is pictured soon after arriving at Holy Cross as Matron with George Benzing, then Chairman of the Friends, receiving the keys to a new minibus.

Left: Sisters Mary Agnes, Rose Mary and Mary Perpetua celebrating cutting the first turf in September 1991.





Above top: The new Hospital under construction in 1992.

Above: Volunteers and staff wheeled all 40 patients and their belongings from the old sanatorium buildings into the new Hospital.

Right: In 1992, The Rt. Hon. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for Health and the local MP, now Lady Bottomley, planted a tree under the watchful eye of Sister Mary Agnes to commemorate the completion of the building.



Serving the local community

As well as aiming to provide the best possible treatment for patients with very specialised needs, in 2005 a substantial gift made possible the provision of a hydrotherapy pool for the local community.

This led to the construction of a new out-patient physiotherapy centre and one of the only hydrotherapy pools in the area. The new Centre opened in 2009.

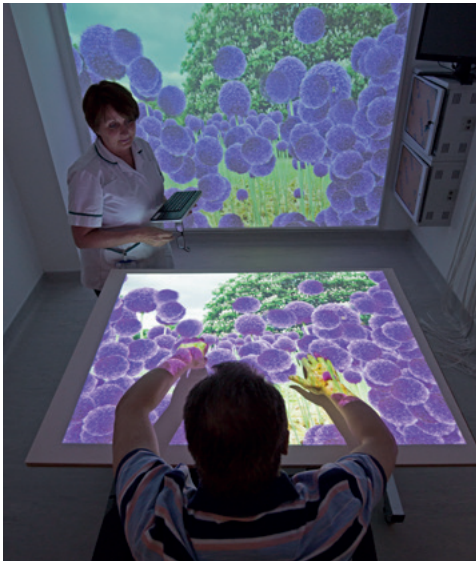
Thank you Haslemere

The wider Haslemere community has contributed greatly to the Hospital's 100-year history.

As well as being a source of some of the most loyal and long-serving members of staff, the community has been one of the Hospital's biggest supporters.

In 1960, The League of Friends of Holy Cross Hospital was founded. To this day, the Friends' fundraising efforts continue to provide steady contributions towards projects around the Hospital.

Glorious summer fetes held in the grounds of the Hospital, Christmas fayres, concerts and sponsored events are just some of the ways the Friends have raised money.



Sharing knowledge

As a registered charity for the promotion of healthcare and education, the Hospital is committed to sharing knowledge about the treatment and care of people with severe and complex disabilities.

In 2016, work began on building a dedicated training space which will be called St. Hugh's. The new education centre will enable the Hospital's staff and those from other organisations providing similar services, to be trained in modern facilities, promoting ongoing improvements in care and treatment for patients and their families.



Above and right: In 2015, the Friends and volunteers were presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service by Caroline Breckell (left), Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey. The award recognises outstanding work carried out in communities for the benefit of others.



Left: The Friends raised money for the creation of St. Anne's sensory room which is where technology and people interact and new channels of communication are discovered.

A Royal visit

The Sisters gave a warm welcome to Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex when she visited in 2014 to open St. Anne's, the Hospital's sensory technology room. The equipment in this room uses the recent developments in digital technology to enable people with the most limited movement and no other means of communicating to engage with their environment and people, often doing so for the first time in many years. In terms of rehabilitation, this is like starting to climb Everest from sea-level.

Holy Cross Hospital continues to 'Challenge the Limits' to the recovery of people whose lives have been turned upside down by illness or injury.

2017 and beyond

Holy Cross Hospital continues to 'Challenge the Limits' to the recovery of people whose lives have been turned upside down by illness or injury. Throughout the 100 years and all the changes that have come about, the Sisters have sustained their prayers for their Hospital and their determination that only the best is good enough for people in need of care.



Right: The Physiotherapy Centre and its hydrotherapy pool have helped many on their road to recovery.





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