



The Story of Mary Gibbon

In the year 1678 Mary Gibbon, in her will, decreed that a school should be built for the children of Hartlip and the surrounding parishes.

We believe that Hartlip School is now one of the oldest, existing, voluntary aided schools in the country.

Mary Gibbon was married three times. Her second husband was Gabriel Salisbury, vicar of Hartlip. It was probable that the inspiration to endow a school was due, in part, to this marriage.

The original school existed until 1854, and stood on orchard land which is now the garden of the old vicarage. The present school was built on the Playstool site in 1855 and enlarged in 1906.

Extensions and modernisations have continued and Hartlip School, in its present form, is an attractive building with a pleasant blend of old and new.

We continue to benefit from the Mary Gibbon Trust in very real terms by way of additional resources and facilities which the endowment is able to provide.

We are able to build on the foundation laid down by such a far-sighted lady so many years ago. Through her generosity and with careful management by the Trustees our school continues to develop and thrive, meeting the challenges this century with confidence.

In their final term the Y6 pupils research, prepare and present a special service celebrating her life and contribution to their education. On leaving the school they are presented with a commemorative Bible by the Trustees. It is hoped that a Founders Day will be launched for the first time next year in recognition of Mary.

Links with the Community

The school has strong links with the Church and local community. School is proud of its active and talented choir who attend numerous events outside of school hours representing school. The entire school community are invited to attend Church Worship on Fridays at 9am. At this Service, the older children participate in bellringing and carry out specific roles and functions: candle and cross bearers.

Fund Raising

The school supports charities both locally and worldwide. School like to participate in well known nationally led days such as Children in Need, Comic Relief and Sports Relief to name a few. School acknowledges and supports a charity at other special times during the year such as Blythwood shoe boxes appeal and support to The Royal British Legion.

