Coda

"I meet the Lord of the Manor in a friendly way...



"A few Sundays after I was standing under the portico of the church looking on the Thames, when a cab drove up with the lord of the manor.

He asked, 'Is the vicar here?'

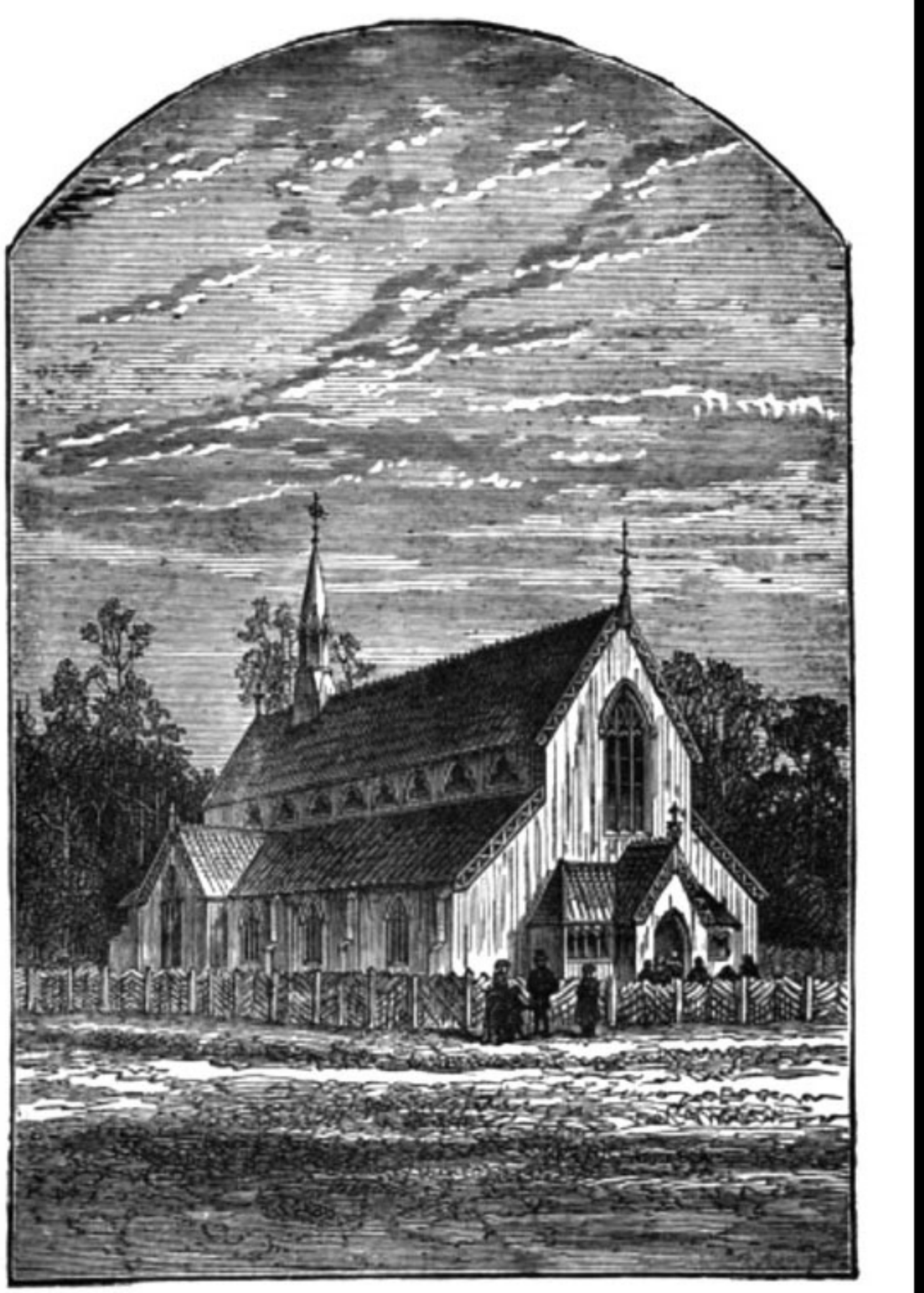
I replied, 'No, my lord, he is preaching this morning at the little iron church on the common.'

He inquired the way, and how far it was.

I shall be pleased to accompany your lordship.




Sight of Eternal Life Church



"We talked about his appointment of the vicar, which had so far given great satisfaction.

I took the opportunity of saying, 'During the unpleasantness about the common I was not actuated by any ill-feeling towards your lordship, and if I said anything which in calmer moments I should not have said, I hope your lordship will accept my humble apology.

'I believe your agent often misrepresented me to your lordship.'

He replied, "I can quite understand your action in the matter. It is now all over. I am satisfied, and I hope the parishes concerned are satisfied. The best thing for all of us is to forget the past.

"So ended an agitation which originated in weakness
but ended in victory.

"If, when the two gravel diggers came to complain about
their potatoes, I could have foreseen what was
before me, I should never have written a letter
to the newspapers."

"At all times open, unenclosed and unbuilt upon"

Today, Wandsworth Common is a much-loved green oasis in south-west London, but in the 19th century it was nearly lost forever. In the face of rapacious developers and encroaching railways, campaigners took the fight to save the Common all the way to the Houses of Parliament, culminating in the Wandsworth Common Act of 1871.

To mark the 150th anniversary of this landmark moment in the battle for London's green spaces, the Wandsworth Common Story features a rich mosaic of 150 tales about the notable and intriguing people who have lived there, the buildings that have adorned it and the changes it has undergone over the centuries.

Tread the Anglo-Saxon ghost road past the lost railway stations and its surviving smock mill to the grandiose gothic building that looms over the Common. Read about the ground where WG Grace played cricket, the MI5 interrogation centre and the lake where Queen Victoria's unofficial ratcatcher caught fish with his hands.

Find out about the opera-loving sisters who went undercover in Nazi Germany, how a local family inspired Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Peter Rabbit, and when Thomas Cromwell was lord of the manor. Discover, too, the man who became the lightning rod for the Wandsworth Common protest movement and who was crucial in saving it: John Buckmaster.

These richly illustrated pages offer tales of beauty and ruin, extreme wealth and abject poverty, greed and suffering, criminality and philanthropy, mansions and prefabs, science and superstition.

Welcome to The Wandsworth Common Story!

The Wandsworth Common Story A 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION





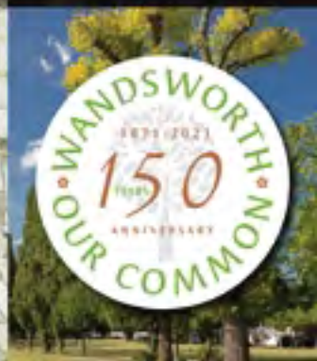

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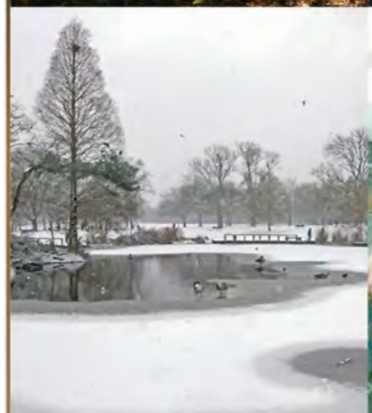



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WANDSWORTH
OUR COMMON
1871-2021
150
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY