

ACOL HALL

Notes copied from Alfred Walker's notes in the Church Archives

The first documentary evidence of the Acol Hall is in the "Birchington with Acol Parish Magazine" for 1908.

FEBRUARY 1908: THE PARISH ROOM, ACOL

"We are now able to state that the proposed Parish Room will shortly be erected. The ground, 64 ft frontage by 50 ft depth has been loaned to us free of rent for three years, with the option of purchase for £20 within that period, or for a rental of £3 annually after that period, if it is not purchased. The agreement to this effect has been signed and stamped" Then follows information about the cost and subscriptions promised so far.

APRIL 1908: ACOL PARISH ROOM

"The new room has been substantially built by Messrs G. H. Pettman & Co. and we hope it will be opened on Tuesday April 7th."

MAY 1908: ACOL PARISH ROOM

"On Tuesday April 7th the new and bright little Parish Room was opened." Then follows an account of the opening ceremony.

JUNE 1908: ACOL PARISH ROOM

"The Vicar has received from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners a donation of £10, which, together with other donations and proceeds of concerts, will be sufficient to pay the expense of the building etc. Mr Pettman's bill of £67 has now been paid and we now want an extra £20 to purchase the site on which the building is placed." The Vicar then thanked all donors etc.

AUGUST 1908: ACOL PARISH ROOM – erected in 1908

There appears an account of Receipts and Expenditure and a list of Subscribers with the amounts give.

Major Powell-Cotton	£10	Quex Park
Mr R. Grant	£10	Churchwarden
Mr C. E. Matthews	£10	Churchwarden
Mrs Oscar Worthington	£5	Local Doctor's wife: Birchington Hall
Mr H. Macnamara	£3	Lived at 'The Hut' Spencer Rd
Mrs Serres	£2	Vicar's wife

- plus a few others Total Donations = £43

1911 The LAND was PURCHASED:

The Conveyance, dated **29th August 1911**, is in our Archives.

Extracts: Between Charles Griggs of Twenties Farm Margate and the Rev. Henry Arthur Serres, Vicar of Birchington, and Benjamin Robinson Rayden and Col. Thomas Edward Spencer, Churchwardens, agreed for the sale to the Trustees for £20. Plot frontage to the road of 64 feet adjacent to Orchard Cottage of 57 feet – estimated at 15 perches.

Conveyed on Trust – to be used for the holding of services, meetings, classes and lectures in connection with the Church of England and for such other purposes as the Vicar for the time being shall think proper.

The Trustees shall have the entire and absolute control of the land and buildings, and shall have the power at their discretion to delegate such management regulations, repair and care to such persons or bodies as they shall think fit.

It shall be lawful for the Trustees from time to time to mortgage or sell the premises.

For many years, the P.C.C. granted permission for the Acol Committee to run the Hall, arrange the lettings, fix the rents, raise money for maintenance and repairs etc. It appeared to work very satisfactorily and no cost fell on the P.C.C.

In **1937**, there was a move to exchange the land for a larger piece, where a new and larger hall could be built, but this fell through.

[See the Minute Book of the Acol Hall Committee.]

In **1939**, it was decided not to transfer the land, but to enlarge the present Hall on the old site. Plans were drawn up for the enlargement of the Hall and approved by the Eastry R. D. Council and the Vicar (the Rev. Canon Granville Sharp).

It was proposed to lengthen the Hall by 12 feet, and adding Kitchen facilities. These plans were approved by the P.C.C. Up to a few years ago, the Acol Social Committee and the P.C.C. had charge of the Hall.

In **1969**, the Incumbents and Churchwardens Trust Measure 1964 was put into operation. The Acol Village Hall was vested in the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance as **Custodian Trustees**. According to A. T. Walker's notes, the Deeds were sent to Canterbury, after due notice.

NOTE: Quit Rent was paid by the Church for the Hall and Land in 1935. The Hall accounts were submitted to the Charity Commissioners up until 1955, on behalf of the P.C.C. – we have copies of these.

The Hall Management Committee, of which the Vicar and Churchwardens are members, run the Hall for the Village and pay for all the repairs, alterations etc., but it is clearly understood that the Hall and land is Church property.

[There is no date on this copy of the notes, but it was obviously after 1969.]