

Rev. Canon Cecil Williams, Chaplain, 1940 – 1949

Quoting from Dyne Steel's 1986 booklet "The History of the English Church in Geneva":

In the 1930s, with the depreciation of the pound sterling to fifty percent of its previous value, many British residents were obliged to leave Geneva and the number of visitors dwindled considerably. The war years merely accentuated the downward trend and the question of closing the Church altogether was seriously mooted. But Holy Trinity weathered the storm thanks to the providential arrival of Canon Williams, a remarkable and devoted Chaplain who despite his age and precarious state of health, agreed to shoulder the heavy burden of carrying on the services. The congregation was reduced to a mere handful, but everyone worked hard to raise money. The fact that in 1945 Holy Trinity was able to contribute the sum of 1,000 Francs towards the reconstruction of churches in Europe destroyed during the hostilities is proof of their success. Unquote



With grateful thanks to John and Jenny Buffle, we have this photograph of Canon Cecil Williams and possibly his wife to the left of him, taken at the entrance to HTC in 1942 at John Buffle's baptism.

Baby John is in his mother's arms; she is standing, with his father, to the right of Canon Williams. The little boy in front is John's older brother Robin, quote: *esteemed choirmaster, churchwarden, etc. over many years - a true HTC personality!* Unquote.

See him as an adult, as Choir Master in 1971 with Canon Duplock (1964-71) and the choir of Holy Trinity Church, Geneva,

Thanks to the amazing World Wide Web, (WWW) invented at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva by Tim Berners Lee, in 1989, reproduced below is the text from the Scottish Edition of the BBC's

Radio Times of **23 May 1947**, giving the programmes for Whitsun week May 25-31. The text mentions another Geneva based organization, the World Council of Churches (WCC) inaugurated in 1948.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc/history>

For further information on the WWW see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_World_Wide_Web

http://www.solearabiantree.net/namingofparts/pdf/radio%20times/pytheas23may1947.pdf

Quoting from the BBC Radio Times mentioned above, taken from the above web page:

On the evening of Whit-Sunday a special service will be broadcast from the eleventh-century Cathedral of St. Peter, in Geneva. For hundreds of years the Swiss city has been an international centre and recently the main office of the new World Council of Churches (in process of formation), which already brings together for consultation and common action over a hundred Protestant, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox Churches, was established there. Members of the staff of this and other international Christian organisations, the Chaplains of the English and Scottish congregations, and representatives of the Reformed Church of Geneva will unite in the service on Sunday, which will be introduced by the Rev. Francis House. Mr. House is at present organising the World Conference of Christian Youth to be held at Oslo in July

7.45 Whit-Sunday EVENING SERVICE from the Cathedrale de Saint Pierre, Geneva

- Introduction by the Rev. Francis House
- Invocation (Pastor Wyler, Secretary of the Consistoire of the Church in Geneva)
- All people that on earth do dwell (A. and M. 166; C.H. 229) .
- Act of Penitence (Dr. Michelfelder, Lutheran, U.S.A.)
- Reading from Acts 2 (M. M. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Travancore)
- The Apostles' Creed
- Sermon by Dr. W. A. Visser 't'Hooft (General Secretary, World Council of Churches)
- Come, Holy Ghost (A and M 157; C.H.182)
- Intercessions: (Dr. Freudenberg, Lutheran, Germany, and the Rev.Eric Duncan, Church of Scotland, Geneva)

The Lord's Prayer

Collect and Blessing (the Rev. Cecil Williams, Church of England, Geneva)

2 RADIO TIMES May 23, 1947

Whit-Sunday

SCOTTISH HOME SERVICE MAY 25
391.1 m. (767 kc/s)

7.55 a.m. General Weather Forecast and forecast for farmers and shipping

8.0 Time, Greenwich: NEWS

8.10 Scottish Programme Parade

8.15 MUSIC FOR STRINGS
11-Gramophone records of music by Bach and Dvorak

9.0 ARTHUR BIRKBY and his Octet

12.15 p.m. 'MRS. CAUDLE'S CURTAIN LECTURES'
by Douglas Jerrold, adapted as a serial in six instalments. Read by Mabel Constanduros. Mr. Caudle has again stayed out late. Mrs. Caudle, at first injured and violent, melts.

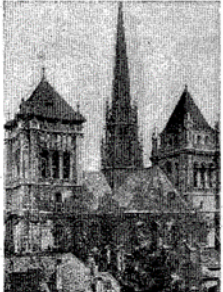
12.25 'MELODY MIXTURE'
Light music arranged and played by Jack Byfield and his Players, with James Bell at the organ

12.50 THE WEEK'S FILMS
by Catherine de la Roche

8.25 WEEK'S GOOD CAUSE
Appeal on behalf of the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, by Ian Finlay
Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and should be addressed to Ian Finlay, Esq., 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, 1

8.30 Fay Compton in

EVENING SERVICE FROM GENEVA
La Cathedrale de Saint Pierre



Quoting from Dyne Steel's booklet:

In 1950 Canon Williams, whose state of health had greatly deteriorated resigned on orders from the Bishop. He had been loved and appreciated by all and sundry and everyone remembered how, during the dark days of the war, he had by his example inspired, encouraged and consoled the little band of expatriates isolated from their own country and from the rest of the world.