

## IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL GILLINGHAM CBE (1933–1999)

MARTIN CAROE (1933–1999)

With the deaths in recent weeks of Michael Gillingham and then Martin Caroe, the Church of England has lost two men who gave unstintingly of their time and energy to the preservation of historic churches great and small. They both died very suddenly from heart attacks at the age of only sixty-six, still in their active prime. Both were loyal and vigorous churchmen but they came to this position by different routes.

Michael Gillingham had been brought up as a Plymouth Brother in an unpretentious household in Yeovil but had early developed a passion for ancient church buildings and a talent for dealing in antiques. Martin Caroe was from a more established background. On the Caroe side, he was the grandson of the distinguished Edwardian architect, W.D. Caroe, designer among many other things of the Church Commissioners' building on Millbank, and son of Alban Caroe, cathedral architect and designer of post-War churches; on his mother's side he was the grandson of Sir William Bragg, the Nobel prize-winning scientist.

Both men went up to Cambridge, Martin to Trinity, Michael as a scholar to Corpus, where he came to the notice of Garth Moore. This relationship endured and deepened into friendship though Michael abandoned the law first for a bank and then, more congenially, the fine art firm of Spinks & Co. Michael became a well-known dealer in his own right, especially in Oriental art but he combined this business life with a host of church activities. He was a member of the London DAC from the tender age of thirty-two until his death, just a few days after he had accepted the chairmanship; he was likewise a member for many years of the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches, serving as Chairman for the past ten years. He was also a passionate devotee of the organ and not only played the instrument but entered fully into the complex and often turbulent world of organ building, not least as a member of the Organs Advisory Committee of the Council for the Care of Churches. He played a major part in high-profile restoration schemes of the instruments at Gloucester Cathedral or Framlingham in Suffolk.

Martin's career also took him into the world of church conservation, most notably in the legendary restoration of the Wells west front in the 1970s where Martin, together with Robert Baker, created a virtual mediaeval lodge of stone conservators. He devoted the same enthusiasm to all his projects, whether the interior limewash at Rochester Cathedral or the painted ceiling at Ufford. On the secular side he put to rights the great house of Kingston Lacy for the National Trust and masterminded the introduction of new conservation theories at the Tower of London. In Wales he championed improvements in the administration of faculty jurisdiction and in the performance of the Church in Wales as a body still retaining the ecclesiastical exemption.

Both Michael and Martin were associated with beautiful homes. Michael, together with the late Donald Findlay, rescued one of the finest houses in Spitalfields from dereliction and turned it into an elegant and welcoming home. Martin took on the house and garden which his grandfather had created at Vann, outside Godalming, and with his wife Mary devoted boundless energy and enthusiasm both to the practical work of maintenance but also to the finer points of plant cultivation and garden design.

Lastly, though diverse personalities, both Michael and Martin had warm hearts and were unfailingly generous to family and friends. They will be much missed.

Dr Thomas Cocke, Secretary, Council for the Care of Churches