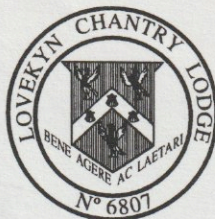


PROVINCE OF SURREY

Date of Warrant  
1st December, 1948



Consecrated  
18th February, 1949

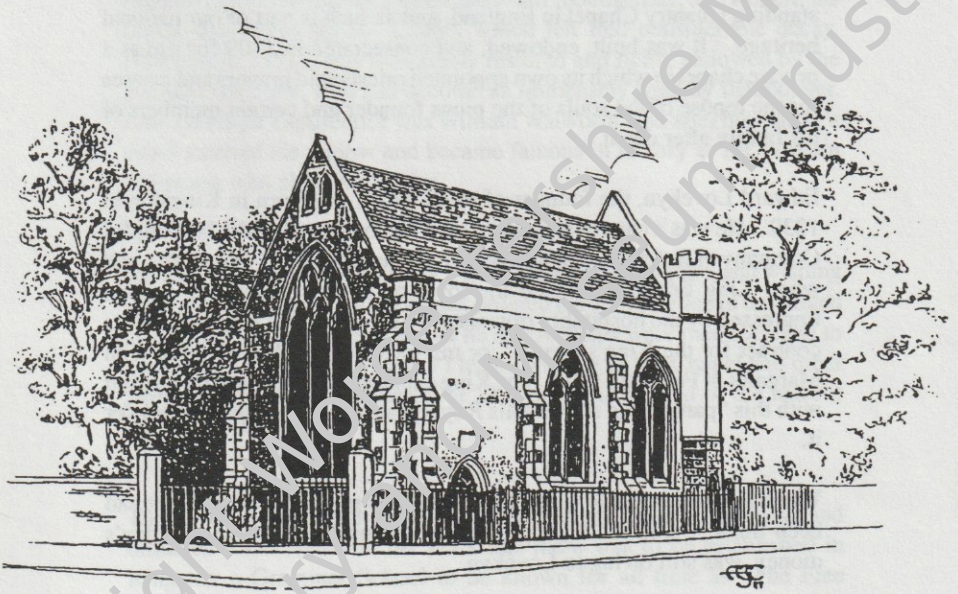
**LOVEKYN CHANTRY**

**LODGE No. 6807**

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THE LOVKYIN CHAPEL

THE LOVKYIN CHAPEL



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## LOVEKYN CHANTRY LODGE No. 6087

### THE LOVEKYN CHANTRY CHAPEL

This Chapel in which the Lodge now meets is the only remaining free-standing Chantry Chapel in England, and as such is part of our national heritage. It was built, endowed, and consecrated in 1309 for use as a private chapel in which its own appointed priests said prayers and masses for the repose of the souls of the pious founder and certain members of his family after death.

Edward Lovekyn, the founder of this Chapel was born in Kingston in 1239. He was a caterer and contractor, and belonged to the Worshipful Company of Butchers. He was Bailiff of Kingston in 1277 and 1284, and when King Edward I visited the town on two occasions, he was so impressed by the hospitality organised by Lovekyn, that he gave him the contract for the King's "partie" or marriage feast at his wedding with Margaret of France in 1299. The King expressed himself greatly pleased with this "partie" and showed his Royal gratitude by omitting to pay for it.

When Edward I died in 1307, although some payments on account had been made, 1,000 marks representing a considerable sum in today's money, was still owing to Lovekyn.

Edward Lovekyn had long cherished the idea of founding a Chantry Chapel, but such foundations were forbidden by the Statute of Mortmain. Only the King himself could give the necessary authority. When the new King Edward II came to the throne, Lovekyn saw his opportunity and approached him, doubtless with his Royal father's unpaid bill in his hand. As a result the necessary licence was forthcoming and the first Chaplain was installed in March 1310.

Edward Lovekyn died only three and a half months later, and Robert, his eldest son, neglected the Chapel which fell into considerable decay. However in 1352 it was thoroughly restored and richly endowed by the younger son John, who had become an immensely wealthy fishmonger. John Lovekyn's apprentice was William Walworth who after his master's death married his widow and became famous in history as Sir William Walworth who slew Watt Tyler.

Moving forward to 1540, Henry VIII was then on the throne, and wishing to acquire the Chapel endowments ordered the then Warden to be hanged as a felon, and the Chapel and all its endowments were then forfeited to the Crown. In 1547 Edward VI leased the site of the Chapel and other buildings to Richard Taverner for 21 years. At the end of the lease it reverted to the Crown.

Then on the 1st March 1561 Queen Elizabeth I willed, granted, and ordained for herself and her heirs that there was to be established in Kingston a Grammar School to be known for all time as "The Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth". To carry out her intention the School was given a long list of properties and land previously belonging to the Chapel, which was then immediately adapted for school purposes, and continued to be used as Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School from its foundation on 1st March 1561 until the opening of the London Road end of the present school in January 1878.

LOVEKYN CHANTRY LODGE NO. 882

THE LOVEKYN CHANTRY CHAPEL

In 1880 the Chapel with the former Master's residence attached to it again fell into decay and was in danger of destruction. However, with the help of subscriptions and the co-operation of Kingston Corporation, it was restored and re-opened as a Chapel and lecture room for the School on 4th August 1886. The Chapel served as the School's gymnasium for some years, until the present gym was built in 1936.

At the end of 1992 the Lovekyn Chapel Restoration Fund appeal was inaugurated to raise £150,000 in order to carry out urgent internal and external restoration work. This work on the Chapel itself has now almost been completed at a cost of £100,000, and further monies are now required to renovate the adjacent buildings.

The first meeting of Lovekyn Chantry Lodge to be held in the Chapel was on 22nd September 1995, 46 years after the Lodge was first consecrated.

**JACK CHEVALIER**  
September 1995