

HOP

Papers of Canon Hugh Evan Hopkins (1907-1994)

3 boxes, 1938 - c.1983-4

**Presented by Harold Evan Hopkins, Canon Hopkins' son, August 2006
(Acc. 20/21)**

**Catalogued by Sue Sutton, Archivist, October 2006. Revised and
reformatted by Philip Saunders, CCCW Archivist, September 2018**

Hugh Alexander Evan Hopkins (usually known as Hugh Evan) was born 10 October 1907, son of Evan James Hopkins, vicar of St Saviour's Bath. He was educated at Haileybury School and Emmanuel College Cambridge (History tripos, BA 1930) prior to ordination training at Ridley Hall. He heard early the call to overseas mission, being one of the [Cambridge Missionary Fellowship of 1930](#). In 1931 he was ordained deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral and almost immediately sailed for India, where he was priested. His fiancée, Margaret Adamson preceded him on an earlier ship and in 1933 they were married at Dohnavur, Tamil Nadu, where they became members of the [Dohnavur Fellowship](#) founded by CMS missionary Amy Carmichael. The life of an overseas missionaries appeared to lay before them, but when on furlough in England in 1937 Hugh received the news that on health grounds he could not be sent back to India. He served instead as travelling secretary for the evangelical student movement, the Inter-Varsity Fellowship (IVF, now [UCCF](#)) undertaking mission tours among English university students. During the War he turned to parochial service as vicar of Holy Trinity Redhill (Surrey, 1940-44), where the family had been living since 1937 and St Nicholas Durham (1944-47).

After the War, in August 1947, a second opportunity arose to serve overseas in the kinder climate of Kenya, where he was appointed Provost of Nairobi Cathedral, continuing (and adding to that role as Archdeacon of Nairobi) until 1955. In that year he was awarded an OBE and appointed Rector of St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, then in 1959 Rector of Cheltenham (becoming a canon of Gloucester Cathedral the following year), which position he held until retirement to Cambridge in 1973, returning to the congregation Holy Trinity church where he had worshipped as an undergraduate.

Throughout his working life Canon Hopkins was an active preacher in numerous pulpits and forceful proponent of the value of Christian mission. His meticulously written sermons and addresses, kept in standard binders over more than 40 years, reflect this belief and interest. In Kenya his sermons in Nairobi Cathedral were frequently broadcast on Kenya Radio.

He was also author of several books. His religious books, included:

Henceforth (IVF 1942; Japanese edition 1956; Chinese edition 1959)

The Inadequacy of Non-Christian Religion (1944)

Mystery of Suffering (1959)

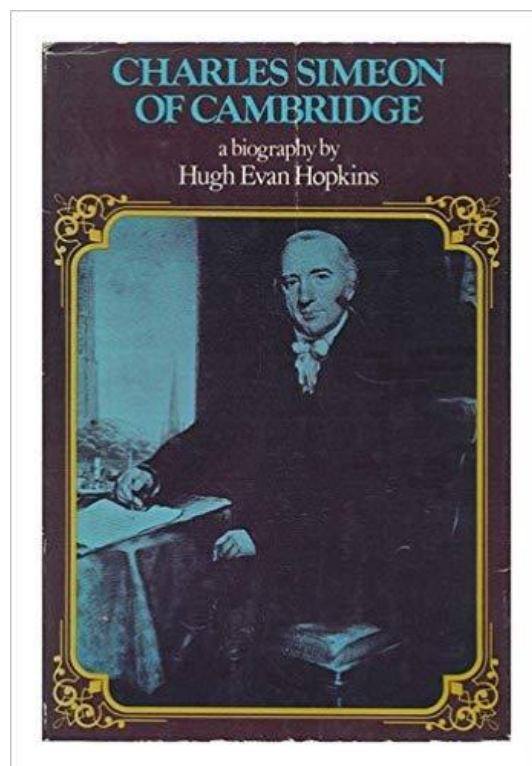
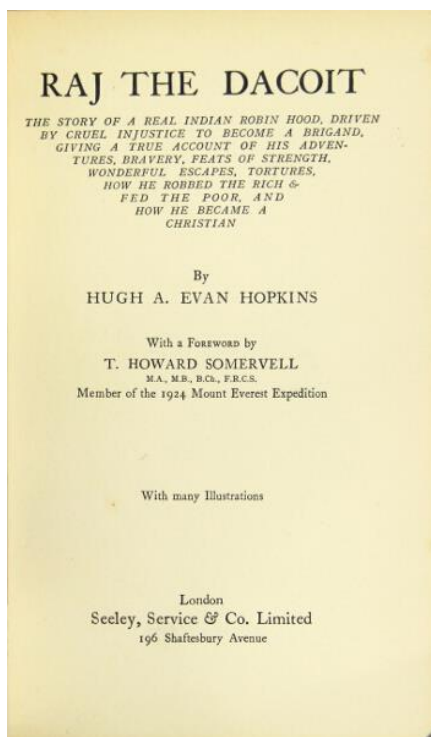
Morning and Evening Prayer (1963)

Contributions to *The Living Church in the Parish* (1952) and *The Anglican Pulpit Today* (1953)

See also below, HOP 4.

His writings also reflect a continuing interest in history and biography in particular. His earliest publication, in 1938 was *Raj the Dacoit* [bandit]. 'a story of 'the real Indian Robin Hood' (see illustration). In retirement in Cambridge he turned to the first full modern account of the man who had inspired so many missionaries in *Charles Simeon of Cambridge* (1973; CCCW Library: 920SIM), dedicating this to seventeen of his colleagues in his lifetime's ministry, and subsequently to Joseph Wolff, an inspiring missionary to the Levant and India, published as *Sublime Vagabond. The Life of Joseph Wolff Missionary Extraordinary* (1984; CCCW Library: 920WOL; See also HOP5A), which was dedicated to the Cambridge Missionary Fellowship (1930).

Hugh Evan Hopkins died 16 November 1994, his wife having predeceased him a year earlier.



CATALOGUE

The papers are arranged as follows:

- HOP 1** Sermons: chronological series
- HOP 2** Sermons: subject series & miscellaneous
- HOP 3** IVF journal
- HOP 4** Unpublished religious works
- HOP 5** Historical works
- HOP 6** Published collections

HOP 1

Sermon notes in *Walker's* small format (6 x 8 ins) loose-leaf ring binders with black *Rexine* covers, labelled and dated by Revd.Hopkins. At the front of each is a numbered list of contents (entitled 'Index') by title of sermon with Biblical text reference and dates given (Surprisingly the dates of first use rather than number are used for reference). The dates include those of repetitions, occasionally several and decades later, e.g. 'Nairobi Cathedral 15.1.50 (Broadcast), St John's Cheltenham 25.10.59, St Matthew's Cheltenham 18.11.60, Cottenham [Cams.] 6.7.75', and some pages have been rewritten or extra pages inserted when subsequently given. At back indexes of texts and of jokes [sic]. This listing becomes less elaborate with passage of time, the separate rear indexes being dropped from volume III, the Biblical texts from the Contents list from the fourth volume onward.

6 items, 1947-1976

HOP 1/1/1

'Volume I' Commences with (?) first sermon at Nairobi Cathedral, with notes of those sermons broadcast. 57 sermons first given, 28 September 1947 – 5 February 1950

HOP 1/1/ 2

'Volume II'. Mainly at Nairobi Cathedral. Index at back also to 'Stories'. 55 sermons first given 19 February 1950 – 22 March 1953

HOP 1/1/ 3

'Volume III' 49 sermons (though list at front continues with those in following volume), of which first 33 mainly in Kenya and including farewell sermon of 13 March 1955. Following return to U.K. they are strikingly more spread apart, with only 16 sermons after March 1955 to the last in this volume. This can in part be accounted for by re-use of earlier material, but there seem remarkably few for St Mary-le-Bow (but including 'A Cake Not Turned (Heb.7.8)' for Baker's Company Sermon there November 1957; and see also below HOP 2/1-3). But there are more for particular events elsewhere, e.g. for IVF Annual Meeting 1955, Irish Clergy Conference January 1957 and 'T.V. Broadcast 17.7.62' which the position at St Mary-le-Bow perhaps gave a role for. First given 11 April 1953 – 5 April 1959

HOP 1/1/ 4

The list at front no longer numbered. 63 sermons, first given (mainly at Cheltenham) 5 July 1959 – 5 December 1965

HOP 1/1/5

59 sermons (list at front incomplete), first given mainly at Cheltenham, 2 January 1966 – 30 November 1969

HOP 1/1/6

56 sermons, mainly first given in Cheltenham 11 January till 1973, later ones mainly in Cambridge or surrounding villages. For continuing chronological series see also HOP 2/7.
1970 – 10 March 1976

HOP 2

Sermon notes mainly in *Walker's* wider format (8 x 8 ins; exceptions are HOP 2/7-8 and 10) loose-leaf ring binders with black *Rexine* covers, labelled and dated by Revd. Hopkins. These books plainly reserved for sermons conceived in series but included here are some that are simply miscellaneous in content. As with chronological series in HOP 1 there are many sermons that have been amended or rewritten when repeated 10 items, 1941-1983

HOP 2/1

Doctrinal sermon series (syllabus on card at front) on 'The Holy Communion', 'Worship' and 'The Church of Christ' first given at H[oly] T[rinity Redhill], S[t] N[icholas Durham], Nairobi Cathedral and elsewhere in Kenya, St Mary-le-Bow and Cheltenham, some rewritten 2 August 1942 – 11 July 1948

HOP 2/2

Sermons on 'Life After Death; (Holy Trinity Redhill 1942), 'Psychology of Imperfect Personality' (Nairobi 1953, St Mary-le-Bow 1958); 'Miracle of Britain's Survival' (Redhill 1943), Civic and Battle of Britain (for dedication of war memorial) services (Nairobi 1949-50) 15 March 1942 – 17 September 1950

HOP 2/3

Sermons on books of the Bible – Thessalonians I & II, Timothy I & II, James, I Peter, Philippians, and St Mark's Gospel, first given at St Mary-le-Bow and Cheltenham (including some first given or repeated at I.V.F. Conferences) 3 May 1958 – 29 October 1961

HOP 2/4

Lent series sermons at Cheltenham, sermon series on Dead Sea Scrolls, prophets Amos, Hosea and Micah, on 'Old Testament Characters and History of 'God's People Israel', mainly first given at Cheltenham 1964-73, on the Kingdom of God first given at Nairobi, on Ten Commandments mainly first given at St Mary-le-Bow, on Christ's Word to His Church and Book of Revelation mainly first given at St Mary-le-Bow and Cheltenham, on God's Purpose etc. first given to CICCUC Bible Reading course 1944 and Oxford ICCU 17 October 1942 – 8 April 1973
With one loose item on 'Self-Discipline of Jesus' 1971

HOP 2/5

Sermons mainly on role of the Church in society, including for Bristol [University] Mission 1946, for several 'Clerical Quiet Days', Church of Ireland Conference and for St Augustine's [Theological College] Canterbury 7 February 1946- 10 January 1957

HOP 2/6

Sermons on Human Suffering (Nairobi 1948), Three-hour devotions at Bradford and other Cathedrals and Cheltenham 1956-73 and Bible Studies on 'Servants of the Lord' (Isaiah) for CMS Clergy Conference at Swanwick 1973, first given 26 January 1948 – 8 November 1973

Includes sermons delivered in Nairobi Cathedral, 1948-1953 and a talk given at CMS Clergy Conference, Swanwick 1973

HOP 2/7

A small binder of sermons on the Trinity, on Charles Simeon (Holy Trinity Cambridge 1976 'But If Not' (Little Shelford 1976), The Epiphany (Holy Trinity Cambridge 1978), 'Love that Never Faileth' (St Botolph's 1978), 'You are God's Garden (St Matthew's Cheltenham 1979, Don't be vague' (King's College Cambridge 1979) and on Henry Venn (Yelling 1983 first given. First given 23 May 1948 - 21 August 1983

HOP 2/8

A small binder of 'A Wedding Talk' (no place 1970), with notes on prayer and faith, with address notes for East Horsley Squash and D[urham?] ICCU 1955, and devotional houseparty for St Thomas' [Hospital?] CU 1957. First given 7 June 1955 – 4 April 1970

HOP 2/9

Bible Study sermons on the Sermon on the Mount (Cheltenham 1962-3)/ The Beatitudes (Nairobi 1950), the Lord's Prayer (Redhill 1942), the Fruit of the Spirit (Cheltenham 1963), and 'The Hymn of Love' (I Cor.xiii) (Redhill 1941). First given 23 February 1941 - 17 September 1967

HOP 2/10

A large format (9 x 10 ins) Walker's binder containing at front:

Full text of service with prayers and addresses for Three Hour Devotion at Gloucester Cathedral [Good Friday] 1962 and Cheltenham Parish Church, Good Friday 1963 (mixed typescript and manuscript), including duplicated order of service

and at back:

Full typescript text of sermon 'The Living Church' evidently intended for publication delivered at the Oxford Conference of Evangelical Churchmen, [probably the Oxford meeting referred to in next section as having taken place the previous month] [December 1946]

Full typescript text of an address entitled 'A Council of Churches for Durham?', given before the Mayor and Corporation [of the City of Durham] 5 January 1947

[Blank sheets from this binder have been discarded]

HOP 3

Journal of Missionary Tours for Inter-Varsity Fellowship, visiting universities and colleges in United Kingdom and Ireland. Several mentions of specifically missionary meetings including lantern meetings on Dohnavur. Universities and colleges visited include those at Aberdeen, Aberystwyth, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Dublin, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, London (Battersea Polytechnic, King's College of Household and Social Science, London School of Economics, Marian Grey College, Royal College of Music, Royal Holloway College and Medical Schools of Guy's, St Bartholomew's and Royal Free Hospitals), Londonderry,

Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, St. Andrews, Sheffield, Swansea and Southampton. Comments candidly on reception at each institution, with contact details on facing pages. Index of places at front.

1938-1939

HOP 4

Two works marked by Hugh Evan Hopkins evidently in later life 'not sent for publication'
2 items, [c.1970s]

HOP 4/1

'At the Lord's Supper. The Message and Meaning of the Communion Service'
Preliminary and final index pages are typescript top copy but remainder is a carbon.
Dedicated to the same persons as *Charles Simeon of Cambridge* with insertion of additional name of Allen Madoka. [c.1970s]
[removed from ring-binder on grounds of preservation and space economy]

HOP 4/2

'Seven Deadly Virtues. A book for churchgoers'. Typescript with manuscript corrections
[c.1970s]

HOP 5

Hugh Evan Hopkins, *Sublime Vagabond. The Life of Joseph Wolff Missionary Extraordinary* (Worthing, 1984)

[Missing 23/5/16, i.e. not within any of the three boxes into which the Hopkins collection was decanted, perhaps hurriedly, prior to move in 2014. A copy of HOP 5 is in the CCCW Library (920.WOL) as referred to in the introduction above, but it is not this copy, and is in fact one with inscriptions presented by Canon Hopkins to the late Professor Sir Norman Anderson, by whose executors it was donated..]

HOP 5A

Hand-drawn sketch map of Greece, Middle East and India marked to show and entitled 'Travels of Joseph Wolff' 1821-45. Presumably by Canon Hopkins and from the wall of his study, as it has pin-holes in the corners, or used for lectures.

84 x 59.5 cms., rolled. c.1980-84

[Referred to in original text of introduction though not described in the catalogue prior to this revision].

HOP 6

Adelphoi, *His Kingdom in Kenya* (London, 1953)

[Missing 23/5/16. Cf. HOP 5. A copy of HOP 6 is in Cambridge University Library within the Royal Commonwealth Society Library collection (RCS.C.46p2.2).]

HOP 7

'Timeline of Canon Hugh Evan Hopkins OBE MA.' A summary life by year. [by his son Harold Hopkins, donor of this collection] 2006