

## CHAPTER 26

### Tercentenary thoughts

In this tercentenary year of 1994, it is fascinating to ask why some Nonconformist churches in the area survive and others do not, for this history looks at one of each.

At first sight, it might look as if it was just a question of economics. Some have managed to find the financial resources each year to meet outgoings, whilst others have not.

A deeper explanation is in terms of human viability, for a church requires a basic pool of expertise to carry on its life. Some form of continuing ministry is vital, together with secretarial, musical and accounting skills, and care for property.

Moreover, it is a basic feature of United Reformed Churches that wherever possible the congregation should be drawn from within the local community.

From these two strands, it is clear that unless there are sufficient members drawn from the locality with the diversity of skills outlined above, in time the church tends to die.

The tercentenary celebrations in Great Chishill are based on faith that from a basic community of currently 440 adults, a viable congregation will continue to be forthcoming well into the future.