

## St. Saviour's Grammar School

Ardingly, Sussex

St. Saviour's was one of eleven schools founded by Nathaniel Woodard, a Church of England priest. In 1870, to honor Woodard for his contribution to English schooling, the government appointed him Canon of Manchester Cathedral. Woodard's schools were owned and supervised by the non-profit Society of Saint Nicholas, later renamed the Woodard Corporation (which now operates 33 schools including one in Sri Lanka and another in Kenya). St. Saviour's opened in 1868 in temporary premises located in Shoreham, on the English Channel near Brighton. In 1870, the school relocated to newly built facilities in Ardingly, Sussex and by 1873 had 400 pupils. The Saint Nicholas schools had a strong Anglican, religious ethos. St. Saviour's motto was, and still is, "Blessed are the Pure in Heart." During St. Saviour's first 12 years of operation, 3,500 boys attended class there.

## Ardingly College



From a 1909 postcard.

Woodard had founded St. Saviour's as a school for children of shopkeepers, artizans, and small farmers. Annual fees, including room and board, were only £14 - £17, little more than the annual cost of food for an adult male. The school opened with 5 day pupils and 274 boarders. Of the boarders, 5 attended free of charge. The school is now known as Ardingly College and is an expensive (£31,000 - £42,000 per year), co-educational boarding school. Note that in 2022, average *per capita* annual food expenditure in the UK was £1,820.

Sources: Website of the Woodard Schools, [www.woodardschools.co.uk](http://www.woodardschools.co.uk); *Dictionary of National Biography* (1885), s.v. "Woodard, Nathaniel;" *West Sussex Journal*, November 11, 1873; website of Ardingly College, [www.ardingly.com](http://www.ardingly.com); *Report of Royal Commission on Education in England & Wales, 1867-68*, [3966-XX], at 42-43; *Hereford Journal*, November 30, 1878; UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Family Food Survey, FY 2022 data.