The Rev John Eddison became a leading and highly significant figure in the world of independent prep schools. He was born in September 1916, the son of a country doctor in East Sussex, and educated at Wellington College. He and his siblings were brought up in genteel Frintley in a house which boasted a lake, tennis courts and a hockey pitch.

With a home life which provided a hodgepodge climate of Christian piety, Eddison soon slipped naturally into Christian faith. In the 1930s, he came under the influence of Eric Nash, always known as Nash, whose sole vocation was to visit public schools and win young people to Christian discipleship. Nash, an unperturbed and usually only an eccentric dervish, had an extraordinary influence on public schoolboys, leading them beyond the formality of chapel services into a living faith. Nash started camps for schoolboys which Eddison attended as a boy and later as a co-leader.

Going up to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1935 to read history, and from there going to Rugby Hall for ordination training, he had a short time in parochial ministry as a curate, at St John’s, Tunbridge Wells. But his life work was already becomming as part-time work with the Scripture Union became full-time in 1943.

What Nash had done for public schools, Eddison was determined to do in prep schools. Over the summer months, from the Forties onwards, up to 350 boys would come to the summer camps at Fortes School in Swamdon, Dorset where the ingredients were a spirit of adventure and fun and Christian input. He became the friend and mentor to hundreds of teachers and headmasters (many of whom, in those days, were also the owners of their schools) and, as the headmasters gradually turned their private schools into charitable trusts, John became a governor and often chair of governors. His gift was that of melding Christian truth attractive to young people — his sermons in prep-school chapels or in churches had twists and turns of phrase, often backed up by visual aids, which were always amusing.

Official retirement came in 1980, but his work pace slackened little and this year co-occurred with his becoming chairman of the governors of Stowe, the public school near Buckingham.

Becoming an increasingly familiar figure and preacher in prep schools, Eddison was always invited to be the chaplain at the annual conference of IAPS (the Independent Association of Prep Schools) and was elected to an honorary life fellowship of that organisation.

He was also a prolific author and produced more than 25 Christian books and pamphlets. In his 90th year, he still managed to preach 150 times. He was amazingly widely read and the hundreds who visited him in old age found his interest and concern unblated by age. Asked what he would take to a desert island he said the Oxford Book of English Verse and a copy of Times obituaries.

He never married.

The Rev John Eddison, clergyman, was born in September 1916. He died on May 19, 2012, aged 95.