

Prince unveils two special plaques

□ NEIL WATSON
Assistant News Editor

SUTHERLAND had a Royal visitor yesterday when the Prince of Wales was in the county's two main towns to unveil major projects.

And despite a dull start to the day the sun broke through to ensure that a stained-glass window sparkled brightly in the chancel at Dornoch Cathedral after a plaque below it was unveiled by the Prince.

Prince Charles attended a service to mark the end of the cathedral's 750th anniversary and at which the window, dedicated to the memory of cathedral founder Bishop Gilbert of Moravia, was dedicated.

He later unveiled a plaque at the new Cambusavie unit for the care of the elderly at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie.

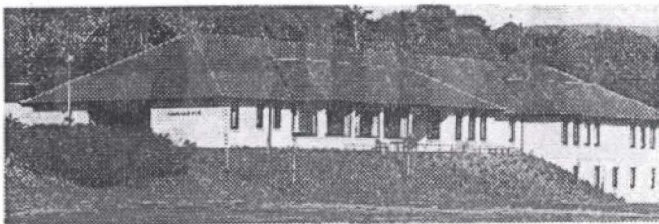
Cathedral minister, the Rev. James Simpson, said last night: "It was a very happy day and a great climax to our two years of anniversary celebrations.

"The Prince spent a great deal of time chatting to many of the people involved in the celebrations which was greatly appreciated."

Prince Charles read the Lesson and Mr Simpson took as his text "Why this waste?"

Mr Simpson said people still asked this question when they heard of a beautiful church being built or a new stained-glass window being installed.

But the minister added: "Beautiful buildings are as important as useful buildings. Great churches where thoughts can be ennobled and spirits lifted, where people are re-



■ The new Cambusavie Unit which was opened by Prince Charles.

mind of the eternal dimension to life.

"These are as necessary as soup kitchens and night shelters. Poverty is a great curse but so too is aimlessness and hopelessness."

Mr Simpson told a packed congregation: "People need bread but people also need purpose and meaning, comfort and challenge, faith, hope and love. Without the faith, hope and values the Church keeps alive, without the caring love which true religion can inspire, life would be impoverished."

Referring to his text, Mr Simpson said: "The stress in our day on quantity rather than quality, on mass production rather than craftsmanship, on functional buildings rather than lovely buildings, on profits rather than people, is one of the less attractive trends in modern society."

Convener of the anniversary committee, Lord Strathnaver, handed over three cheques as part of the appeal.

The Rev. James Wilkie received £15,000 for the work of a hospital in Malawi. Another cheque for £15,000 was accepted by the Rev. Andrew Maclean, convener of the Church of Scotland's social responsibility committee, for Oversteps Home for the elderly, Dornoch.

A cheque for £1700 was handed over to Mr Andrew Betts-Brown, chairman of Sutherland branch of the Scottish Society for the Mentally Handicapped.

The kilted Prince Charles met the creator of the window, Mr Crear McCartney, and received a leather-bound copy of "The Master Mind" — a book written by Mr Simpson.

It was handed over by his grand-daughter, Sally Macaskill (3).

It was then on to Golspie where Prince Charles was shown round the 30-bed unit by Sutherland hospitals nurse manager Miss Margaret MacRae.

He inspected the surgical unit in the nearby main hospital, where, escorted by consultant surgeon Mr Mervyn Rosenberg, he met long-serving staff.

He signed the hospital visitors' book, which dates back to 1901. Other Royal signatures in the book include those of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Golspie Girl Guides had earlier raised the Prince's Scottish standard. The honour fell to Guider Mrs Myra Mackay and Guides Caroline Bonner, Fionaidh Carol and Nicola Mackay.



■ Prince Charles is introduced by Col. Allan Gilmore to Mr Hugh McMillan, Chief Constable of Highland Constabulary, Mrs McMillan and Mrs Gilmore at the entrance to Dornoch Cathedral.



■ During his visit to the kitchens of the Lawson Memorial Hospital Prince Charles met staff (left to right) Mrs Gena MacDonald, Mrs Cathy Murray and Mrs Molly Baikie, support services manager for Calthness and Sutherland hospitals.



■ Prince Charles chats with Mr Joseph MacDonald, Golspie, during his visit to the Lawson Memorial Hospital. Also in the picture are Mrs Jessie Ross, nursing auxilliary, Sister Janett Thomson and resident Mr Kenny Macrae Taylor, Dornoch.