



Broad Town Church Renovation and Re-dedication 1937

RENOVATED CHURCH Re-dedication Service at Broad Town BISHOPS PRAISE

“A beautiful sanctuary of the wayside” was a description given to Broad Town Church by the Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. Neville Lovett), at a service of re-dedication and consecration on Monday night.

Under the supervision of the Vicar, the Rev. M.W. Clarke, the church has been renovated from floor to roof, and towards the cost of £900 a sum of about £520 has already been provided by parishioners and by grants.

“We have stripped the church to the four bare walls,” said the Vicar of Broad Town, “and we now have an entirely new roof, new floor, new electric lighting and heating apparatus, and new furniture.

“Previously the church had been barely safe, and the cost of restoration has been more than the original church”. Broad Town Church had been closed for four months during restoration.

Memorial Dedicated

The Bishop of Salisbury dedicated the pulpit, lectern, clergy stall and Communion kneelers as memorials to the late Rev. L.G. Cawker (whom the Rev. M.W. Clarke succeeded), and he dedicated the altar in memory of the late Mr. J. W. Clarke (son of the Vicar), who died while a student for Holy Orders.

Much of the furniture of the church has been given by parishioners in memory of lost relatives and friends. For the restoration of the roof 12,500 tiles were used.

The Bishop said the restoration emphasised the ancient beauty of the church, all the more welcome since many churches did not seem to gain in beauty by new gifts. In some churches the new “patches” did not blend with the old, but at Broad Town there was a combination of the ancient and modern.

“I am very glad that the Church is to be open every day” the Bishop continued “I wish that throughout the parishes of Wiltshire and Dorset there was a growing habit of visiting the churches daily, if only for a few minutes for getting renewed strength.

“There is so much hurrying and scurrying nowadays that it is good to get apart and to commune with God.”

Time for Meditation

He added that if some of those who drove by cars, harum-scarum, were to stop and spend a few minutes in church, perhaps there would be a great decrease in the list of accidents on the road, for they would have time to meditate and realise afresh the need of caring for others.

The Bishop described the restored church as one of the most beautiful in the diocese,

The clergy present included the Archdeacon of Wilts, Ven. W. Coultere, Canon Barton (Bishop's Chaplain), Canon A. E. G. Peters (Rural Dean and Vicar of Bremhill), Dr. C. L. Bradley (Winterbourne Bassett), Revs W. H. Hewlett Cooper (Tockenham), E. R. Z. Walker (Lyneham), H.V. White (Broad Hinton), V. Mason-Pooley (Avebury), N. S.

Willis (Purton), T. Teague (Heddington), C. R. E. Wheeler (Ham and Buttermere), H. H. Barber (Wootton Bassett) and J. M. Lupton (Marlborough).

Miss Fisher (Vicar's Warden) attended, and Mr. Grewcock deputised as parish warden for Mr. J. Wise, who is in hospital.

After the service there was an assembly at the Recreation Hut, where a social was held to meet the Bishop. The Archdeacon of Wiltshire will visit Broad Town Church on Sunday evening for a Thanksgiving service.

Source: North Wilts Herald 24 September 1937