



Restoration of Chute Church

In our last we gave a brief notice of the ceremony of the reopening by the Bishop of Salisbury of this church, which had been closed during the progress of certain restorations, and we now add a few particulars as to the character of the newly restored building. A few years ago the chancel was rebuilt by Mr. T. E. Fowle, who is the lessee to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Recently, through the exertions of Lady Charles Wellesley, the Rev. S. Cosway and other friends, the nave also has been restored, and the complete renovation of the edifice has been thus effected. The church stands in a very pleasant and rural corner in the north-east part of Wilts, on rising ground, commanding a view of a large and lovely wooded district, and is in the Early English style of architecture, with slight indications of the Decorated period. The windows are characteristic of the style and the quoins and facings of the buttresses and angles are alternatively red brick and Bath stone. The tower, which has been entirely rebuilt, is octagonal in shape and the proportions are good. The interior is of an imposing character. The timber roof, which is stained and varnished, is wide spanned and elaborately wrought, and the chancel arch is bold and imposing. The whole of the interior arrangements have been remodelled, and the old unsightly pews have been replaced by benches of a convenient form, while a new warming apparatus has been introduced. The transept forms a very good feature on the south side of the church, and a somewhat elaborate window is seen at the gable end. The old Norman font has been restored at the expense of Lady Charles Wellesley, who also gave the new pulpit, which is of Caen stone, and very beautiful. A stone screen has been placed between the chancel and the nave. The architect was Mr. Pearson, of London, and the contractors Messrs. J. and M. Hillary, of Andover, who deserve credit for the admirable way in which they have executed their task. On the occasion of the re-opening, additional effect was given to the interior by decorations; there was a large floral cross over the Communion table, a similar one in the font; the lectern, pulpit and chancel were tastefully embellished with flowers, moss, &c. The Bishop of Salisbury is the patron of the living.

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