



Harvest Rejoicings

On Wednesday afternoon, Oct 2, a special service was held in the parish church at Fittleton, to return thanks to God for the good harvest.

There was a large congregation, the prayers were read by the Rector (the Rev. Thomas Pearse), and an appropriate sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Caswall, Vicar of Figheldean, who took for his text Psalm cvii 8, and set forth the duty of gratitude to God for His mercies to us, especially after this year's good harvest. The sum of £2 10s 7d was collected at the church for the Salisbury Infirmary.

Soon after six o'clock all the labourers and their families who had been employed in the harvest field by Mr. George Kilmister and Mr. George Melsome, together with the Rev. Thomas Pearse's servants, to the number of 100, sat down to a substantial hot supper provided for them by their masters in Mr. Kilmister's cart house, which was decorated for the occasion. Mr. James Pearse's labourers had all had a good supper given them at Choulston on a previous evening.

There were present:- Charles Raikes, esq., of Netheravon House; Charles Raikes, esq. junior; the Rev. Thomas Pearse; Rev. W. H. Heaven; Mr. George Kilmister; Mr. George Melsome; Mr. William Kilmister, jun. &c.

Ample justice was done to the supper, and the evening was enlivened by toasts and songs. At ten o'clock the company went home, after singing God Save the Queen, well pleased with their harvest entertainment.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 5 October 1861