



The Organ at Malmesbury Abbey today

Church Services to Celebrate New Organ at The Abbey Church

The opening of the organ recently erected in this ancient and venerable building, which took place on Thursday last, brought together a large number of visitors and from an early hour in the morning, the entrance to the Abbey Churchyard was crowded by persons anxious to hear the selection of sacred music taken from the Messiah; and shortly after the doors were opened almost every seat in the body of the Church was occupied. At $\frac{1}{4}$ before 12 o'clock service began, the prayers being read by the Vicar, the Rev. Chas. Pitt, and at the proper place appointed in our church service for the Anthem, the overture to the Messiah was played in excellent style, and the airs and chorusses, selected for the first part of the morning service followed: at the conclusion of this part, the prayers were finished, and the second part of the selection commenced, and continued upwards of an hour. Many of the airs were beautifully and animatedly sung; of the chorusses it is impossible to speak too highly, either as regards the decision or excellence with which they were executed.

At 6 o'clock in the evening, the Abbey was lighted, and in a short time filled by a respectable audience. Service was again said by the Vicar, and the selection of airs and chorusses, which were from the compositions of Handel, Haydn, Beethoven, &c., were sung in a style quite equal, if not superior, to those in the morning performance.

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