



## Re-opening of Netherhampton Church

On Tuesday morning a ceremony of an interesting nature took place in the quiet and pleasantly situated village of Netherhampton, viz, the re-opening of the parish church or it may be perhaps more correctly described as "the opening of the new Netherhampton church", for with the exception of the lower part of the tower, and one or two windows, nothing of the original structure remains.

The work of the rebuilding was commenced in the summer of last year, Mr. Butterfield of London being the architect, and Messrs. Hale and Sons of Salisbury, the builders, Mr. W. Cowley acting as clerk of the works.

The total cost, include fittings, has been about £1,900, towards which the Earl of Pembroke has most liberally contributed upwards of £1,500; the Diocesan Church Building Society has granted £100; and the rest has been made up by friends, among whom the churchwardens of the parish are deserving of particular mention.

The style of the new church is Decorated English, of a simple type; and is constructed to seat a congregation of about 110 persons, exclusive of those in the Chancel. Perhaps the chief characteristics of the church, are its not inconsiderable height, its barrel roofs, its particularly graceful and well- finished windows, and the impressive elevation of its east end, but there are, throughout it, but few exceptions to artistic taste; and altogether it is admirably adapted to both its purpose and circumstances of the village in which it stands.

The altar, altar rails, choir stalls, pulpit (which stands on a base of Portland Stone), and lectern are of English oak and walnut wood. The open seats in the body of the church are of stained and varnished deal. The font is of red Mansfield stone. The chancel is paved with Maw and Godwin's encaustic stones and is terminated by a simple stone reredos, with a carved stone cross in its centre. The passages of the church are similarly paved. The tower has been raised some ten feet and surmounted by a well-proportioned steeple, sheathed in oak shingle, with which the roof is also covered. In the commodious little belfry which it shelters, a third bell from Messrs. Warner's foundry has been added to the two old ones, or which latter one has been recast. The outer walls of the building are of brick faced with flint and Tisbury stone, bath stone being used for the quoins and the dressings. The entrance porch, in place of a stone gable, has a front of open oak woodwork.

The building is to be heated on Porritt's system, which by an ingenious arrangement causes a current of air to be gradually heated and passed round the church.

It should be added that the Earl of Pembroke has generously given a piece of ground for the extension of the churchyard, and has enclosed the whole within a substantial oak fence.

The special gifts included in the foregoing statement of costs are:

Altar Table, the Rector; Reredos, Mrs. Olivier; Pulpit, Miss Rawlence; Font, Mrs. Douty; Lectern, Rev. H. Olivier; Altar cloth, Mrs. and Miss Kent; Set of markers, Miss Nightingale; a pair of brass candlesticks, brass altar desk, silver paten and altar linen, The guild of St. Mary's; and a surplice, Mrs. Cope.

The cost of the bells are still unprovided for, but upwards of a 125 contributors have subscribed about £38 towards them, chiefly raised through collecting cards. Let us hope that the example set, thus far, may be more widely followed.

By 11 o'clock, the time fixed for the opening service, the sacred edifice had become well filled, members of most of the principal families in the immediate district being present. The decorations of the chancel, pulpit, font and window sills were remarkably chaste and pretty, and reflected the highest credit upon those whose handiwork it was.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese arrived shortly before 11 o'clock and was met at the parish schoolroom by 8 or 10 of his clergy in their surplices, these included Venerable Archdeacon Buchanan, Rev. Prebendary Olivier, Rev. Prebendary Payne B.D., Rev. W. P. Piggott, Rev. C. Hinxman, Rev. G. A. Vander-Meulen, Rev. E. Inman, Rev. J. J. Daniel, Rev. W. Savage and Rev. H. Olivier. The Bishop having robed, a procession was formed from the schoolroom to the church. It was led by the Rev. Prebendary Olivier who was followed by a portion of the Wilton choir in surplices. Then came the clergy, followed by the Bishop, whose pastoral staff was borne before him by Venerable Archdeacon Buchanan.

On arriving at the entrance porch (which, by the way, is placed for the sake of convenience on the northside of the building), the procession was met by the churchwardens (Mr. J. Woodcock and Mr. Douty) The hymn "The Church's one foundation" was sung as a processional. The prayers were read by the Prebendary Olivier and the Rev. J. J. Daniel, the first lesson being taken by Rev. Prebendary Payne and the second one by the Venerable Archdeacon Buchanan. Mr. Douty, junior, presided at the harmonium. The Bishop preached the sermon from Mark 9 v 23 and 24.

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