

Consecration of the New Church for Winterborne Earls & Dauntsey 1868



On Wednesday last, the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, officiating for the Bishop of Salisbury, who is indisposed, consecrated the new church of St Michael and All Angels, erected for the parishes of Winterborne Dauntsey and Winterborne Earls.

There are four villages bearing the name of Winterborne in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. The most northerly is distant about four miles and a half from this city, and is called Winterborne Gunner, the adjunct being derived from Gunnora, the wife of Henry de la Mere, to whom it belonged in the reign of Henry 111. It also acquired the distinction of Cherburg, from a family which subsequently possessed the manor.

At a short distance south of this parish, and on the same bourne, is situated Winterborne Dauntsey, which was the principal seat for many centuries of the ancient family of Dauntsey, who were succeeded by the Danvers', who bore the titles of Baron of Dauntsey and Earl of Danby. The church in this village was consecrated by Robert Petyt, a suffragan bishop, with the consent of Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, in the year 1326. It is a donative, not in charge, and was formerly in the gift of the Prebendary of Chute and Chisenbury, in the Cathedral of Sarum. It was dedicated to St Edmund, and was a small plain building, formed of flint. There were four piscinae in it, and some fragments of stained glass. This church, which has long gone to decay, was last year pulled down, and during the work of destruction some very interesting mural paintings of high antiquity were found, a description of which was given in this paper at the time.

Proceeding along the bourne, we come to the parish of Winterborne Earls, the seat at an early time of the family of Nicholas, also of West Horsely in Surrey. This place is mentioned in the Domesday Book as held by Edward of Salisbury, Sheriff of Wiltshire, and descended for many generations through the Earls, his heirs. The present lord of the manor is Mr George Fort, of Alderbury House, and Mr J H Cambell Wyndham is lord of Hurdcott. A considerable estate in the parish belonged to the see of Salisbury.

The church, which was a mean-looking structure, with a wooden turret, was dedicated to St Michael; the rebuilding is recorded under the institution of 1553, being then "nuper de nova erecta," at the time it exchanged a rector for a vicar.

Shortly after 1541, this church was given to the cathedral church of Salisbury, and devoted to the foundation of a new prebend called the Prebend of Winterborne Earls.

In this church was buried John Nicholas and Susanna, his wife, the parents of Sir Edward Nicholas, of West Horsely, who was Secretary of State to King Charles the First, and died in 1689, aged 77. In Mr Bray's "History of Surrey" we find the following account of this eminent personage:-

"He was secretary to the Duke of Buckingham and afterwards to King Charles 1. He followed the fortunes of King Charles 11 in exile, and after the Restoration was reappointed Secretary, but, growing old, resigned in 1662, at which time the king offered him a peerage, but he refused it. Lord Clarendon notices him as a very honest and industrious man, always versed in business. After the death of the Duke of Buckingham he was made Secretary of State upon His Majesty's own observation of his virtues and fidelity, and without any other recommendation, and he was, in truth, throughout life, a person of very good reputation and of singular integrity."

The church was taken down last year, when some mural paintings similar to those found at Winterborne Dauntsey were discovered. Mr G Burt and Mr Read, of Hurdcott, the churchwardens, have also been very zealous in urging forward the good work. The edifice is built on land given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and it is intended to erect a parsonage house and school adjoining the churchyard. The whole of the land given by the Commissioners comprises about four acres.

The new church, which is situated in Winterborne Earls, consists of a nave and south aisle, with a tower on the south side, and a chancel. The entrance is under the tower, which is an imposing object, with battlements and finials, in the Perpendicular style. Beneath the battlements are eight gargoyles, and on the west side is a turret containing a staircase leading to the upper part of the tower. The nave and aisle are in Perpendicular style, and the chancel is of Early English architecture.

The chief points of interest in the building are the old materials. There are several stones marked rudely with a cross, and there is a sculptured stone in the porch. The walls are built entirely of flint stones taken from the two old churches and the old mortar was sifted and was used for sand. The dressings are of Bath stone.

All the windows in the chancel are the old stone work, as well as those in the nave, except the ones in the south aisle. The west window formerly occupied the same position in the church of Winterborne Earls, and the window near the pulpit was the west window in the church of Winterborne Dauntsey. Both are good of their kind. Many of the tiles used in the pavement are of the same design as those found in the old churches.

The nave is of very good proportions, and the roof, which is well designed, is in the Perpendicular style, of open wood work, the principals resting on stone corbels, carved with naturalesque foliage. The nave is separated from the south aisle by an arcade of three arches.

The font, which is new, is of Bath stone, with the inscription "Suffice little children to come unto me." It stands at the west end of the church and is supported by small marble shafts placed round the central column, which is of freestone. The nave is paved with Tisbury stone, and the seats are of stained deal. The pulpit, which is approached from the vestry, stands at the north east side of the nave. The reading desk and lectern are of wood. The chancel arch is bold and of wide span and the roof of the chancel is very plain, and resembles that which existed formerly in the church of Winterborne Dauntsey. The communion table, which was given by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, is of oak, and is approached by five steps from the nave. The chancel is fitted with encaustic tiles from old patterns, and is fitted up with seats for the singers.

There are three lancet windows at the east end of the church, which are filled with stained glass, placed there by Mr Richard Blake, in memory of his grandfather and grandmother, who formerly lived at Ford. The right and left windows are filled with grisaille glass, and have two medallions with the letters Alpha and Omega, and the monograms X.P.C. and I.H.S. In the centre light are three medallions, the lower one representing the Nativity, the middle one the Crucifixion, and the upper one the Ascension.

On a large brass plate on the north wall of the chancel is the following inscription:

To the glory of God and in memory of those of his ancestors,
whose names are mentioned below,
the painted glass in the eastern windows of this church
has been dedicated
by their grandson, Richard Blake of Winterbourne Dauntsey, 1868.
Benjamin Blake, died 27th January, 1838, aged 81.
Lydia, his wife, died 18th April, 1824, aged 77.
They were both buried in the old churchyard of Winterbourne Earls."

On the south side of the chancel, towards the east, is a stained glass window of admirable design, representing "Christ knocking at the door," beneath which are the following words:

In memory of Samuel Cusse, died 22nd November, 1855,
and Mary, his wife, who died 25th July, 1831,
many years residents in this parish.
Also of their sons, Henry, died 13th February, 18?8,
and Frederick, died 28th January 1851.
They were all buried at Winterborne Gunner,
and this window was erected by the surviving children of the above
Samuel and Mary Cusse. A.D.1868

The next window in the chancel represents Christ opening the eyes of the blind, and was erected by Mr John Blake, of Taunton, in memory of his father and mother, Thomas and Jane Blake, formerly of Ford. The next window proceeding westward contains a representation of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream, and was erected by Mr Samuel Cusse, of Idmiston, in memory of his father Thomas Cusse. At the eastern end of the chancel, on the north side, is a stained glass window, the subject of which is the Gentle Shepherd. This window was placed in the church by Mr William Cusse, in memory of his father Edward Cusse, and mother, late of Winterborne Gunner.

The next window is the gift of Mr Wilson, of Salisbury, in memory of the late Rev Peter Harrison. It contains a representation of Christ blessing little children, beneath which is the following inscription in brass:

In memory of the Rev Peter Harrison,
for 54 years perpetual curate of this parish.
He died on 14th Feb, 1801, aged 89 years

We are informed that Mr Wyatt, the architect, kindly gave up the window of the Gentle Shepherd to Mr S Cusse, and has promised to place an elegant stained glass window in another part of the church. All the windows, except one, are by Lavers, Barraud, and Westlake, and they are very beautifully executed. The window given by Mr S Cusse is the work of Mr Alexander Gibbs, of Bedford-square and beneath the window is a sedilla.

We ought to mention that the wood out of which the communion table is made was taken from beams formerly belonging to the old churches. The altar-cloth is the gift of the Rev R S Hutchings, of Alderbury. The Rev Subdean Eyre, who was formerly connected with the parish of Winterborne Dauntsey, gave for the Communion service a silver chalice, a silver paten, a silver alms dish, and has caused an old flagon to be restored and enlarged.

Around the walls of the church are placed the monuments of the Dyke family, brother from the church of Winterborne Dauntsey, and those of the families of Nicholas and Elliott, brought from the church of Winterborne Earls. In the tower are five bells. Three of them are old ones, and the other two were cast from two old bells. The cost of the undertaking has been about 2000/.

The edifice was designed by Mr T H Wyatt, the diocesan architect, and the contract was undertaken by Mr Till, of Romsey, who has executed the work in the most substantial and praiseworthy manner. Mr Emery acted as foreman and Mr John Harding, of Salisbury, was clerk of the works.

At half-past ten o'clock, the following clergymen assembled at the parish schools, near the church, and shortly afterwards, the Bishop of Sodor and Man, who officiated for the Bishop of Salisbury, in consequence of that diocesan's illness, arrived. A procession was then formed to the church, at the entrance to which the Bishop and clergy were received by the Rev J H Cartwright (incumbent) and Messrs George Burt and James Read (churchwardens).

The Bishop and clergy proceeded up the aisle saying the 24th psalm, and his lordship took the chair on the north side of the Communion table. Here the deed of conveyance was presented to him in due form, after which he offered up the usual form of prayer. The Bishop afterwards called upon the Rev S M Lakin, in the absence of the Chancellor of the Diocese, to read the sentence of consecration. This having been done, the said sentence was duly signed by the Bishop, who, handing it to the Registrar (Mr Brodrick) ordered it to be enrolled and preserved among the muniments in the registry.

The usual morning service was then proceeded with. The incumbent read the prayers, and the Rev C Fort the first lesson. The second lesson was read by the Rev Subdean Eyre. The prayers and offertory sentences in the Communion service were read by the Bishop, the epistle by the Rev R S Hutchings, and the gospel by the Rev Precentor Lear. The hymns were particularly appropriate, Mr A Aylward, organist of St Edmunds's Church, Salisbury, accompanied the singing on the harmonium.

The Rev R S Hutchings preached the sermon. (*here follows long sermons by various clergy, not transcribed*)

At the close of the sermon a collection was made which amounted to 28/. 15s. Holy Communion was administered to many communicants.

At two o'clock a party of about 200 ladies and gentlemen partook of an excellent luncheon. It was provided by Mr Brown, confectioner, of Salisbury, in a tent erected in a field occupied by Mr Lush, nearly opposite the church. The tables were very tastefully decorated. Mr George Burt (senior churchwarden) presided. The Bishop of Sodor and Man and most of the clergy above named were present. There were also present Mr G M Fort, Mr E Hinxman, Miss Luard, Miss Eyre, Mrs Colt, Misses Townsend, Mrs Burt, Mr G Burt jun., Mr and Mrs R Blake, Mr F A Blake, Mr John Blake, Miss Blake, Misses Scott, Miss Voncummer, Mrs and Miss Brown, Mrs William Brown, Miss Mary Cusse, Mr S Cusse, Mr P Cusse, Mrs Edward and Miss A Cusse, Mr C Cusse, Miss Cusse, Mr and Mrs W Flower, Mr J and Miss Flower, Mrs and Mr John Cartwright, Mr R M and the Misses Wilson, Mr and Miss Good, Misses Coates, Mr John Godwin, Mr Barnes, Mr and Mrs A Barnes, Mr and Mrs Reed and the Misses Reed, Mr Dowding, Misses Dowding, Mrs Barber, Mr and Miss Wintle, Mr Crook, Mr Gay, Mr A Aylward, &c.

After luncheon was over, Mr Burt rose, and, in the name of the parishioners of the united parishes of Winterbourne Earls and Winterbourne Dauntsey, proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop of Sodor and Man for the kind assistance he had given on the occasion. (*here follows long speeches by various clergy etc, not transcribed*)

In the evening the labouring poor of the united parishes of Winterbourne Earls and Winterbourne Dauntsey were feasted at a supper, over which Mr Burt, senior churchwarden, presided and Mr R Blake was in the vice chair. A plentiful supply of refreshments were provided by Mr Brown, of Salisbury.

The morning and afternoon collections amounted to 32/.

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(part article only)