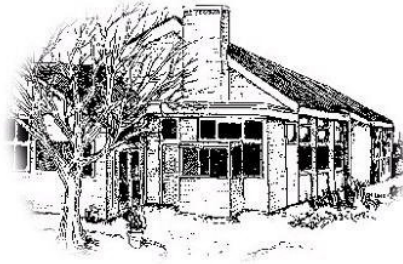


New School at Winterbourne Earls 1872

Laying the Foundation Stone



On Thursday the foundation stone of a new National school was laid at Winterbourne Earls, by the Rev Precentor Lear. The school at present in use has had to meet as best it could the educational requirements of the three parishes of Winterbourne Earls, Winterbourne Dauntsey and Winterbourne Gunner, but the accommodation has not only been too limited, but the building is dilapidated, badly ventilated, and generally ill-adapted for educational purposes. A project was originated some time ago by several ardent friends of education in the neighbourhood for the erection of a new, better adapted, and more commodious school to supersede the old one, and the movement soon assumed a definite and practical form.

A site immediately adjoining the church as given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the cost of erection will be defrayed by a gift from the late Bishop of Salisbury, a voluntary rate on the landed proprietors in the three parishes, grants from the Committee of Council, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education. The building will include a class room 18ft by 15ft in dimension, a school room 42ft by 18ft, a house for the teacher, the usual modern conveniences, and a garden and playgrounds. The school will accommodate 125 children, and will cost about 900/.

The material of which the edifice is to be constructed is concrete, composed of riverbed gravel and Portland cement. The architect is Mr W F Hooper, of Morecombe, Lancashire. Messrs Thornton and Conduit, of Salisbury, are the builders, and the works will be superintended by Mr John Harding, of Salisbury.

At the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, there were present The Rev Precentor Lear, the Rev R S Hutchings, the Rev J S Cartwright, Mr R Blake, Mr G Burt, Mr E Cusse, Mr Thornton (builder), Mr Harding, Mr A T Cartwright, Mrs and the Misses Hamilton, Mrs Hutchings, Mrs Blake and party, the Misses Townsend, Mrs Cartwright, Mrs Burt and the Misses Burt, &c.

The service which usually precedes such ceremonies was conducted by the vicar, the Rev T S Cartwright, at the site of the new school, and a hymn was sung by the school children, after which the Rev Precentor Lear proceeded to lay the foundation stone, in the cavity under which was first placed a casket containing a record on parchment of the history of the project up to the time of the ceremony. The stone having been laid, the Rev Precentor Lear addressed the assemblage.

He knew the deep interest the late Bishop took in the question of education in the parishes. He remembered seeing the Bishop on the day when the adjoining church was consecrated, which took place at the beginning of his illness, and the Bishop said to him, "If you have opportunity, when you are at Winterbourne, there is one very kind hearted old man who lives in that neighbourhood whose kindness has very much helped forward the good work which I hope to see carried out at Winterbourne." That man was Mr Ford, and he was anxious to mention that because the Bishop had told him to do so.

The proceedings then terminated with the benediction.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 25 May 1872
(part article only)