



From the Salisbury Guardian

Ansty Church Appeal

An appeal is being made on behalf of the church and parish of Ansty, near Tisbury, Wilts, which is without an incumbent and without the means of supporting one.

The Bishop of Salisbury thus writes of the case:-

“Ansty is a donative in the possession of Lord Arundell of Wardour, a Roman Catholic nobleman, who possesses both the small and great tithes, and all the property of the parish. The population is 299. For many years the Lords Arundell have paid to the officiating clergyman a stipend of £22 10s. a year, which we have always supposed to be in lieu of the small tithe. But the present holder of the donative declines to continue the payment. The parish is now in a most unfortunate position. It has no incumbent, no stipend, no residence, a church in extreme decay, requiring an outlay of from £300 to £400 to make it safe to hold service in. The Protestant population are under no pastoral care, except that a neighbouring incumbent and his curates are, at my request, taking some charge of them. The parish is literally disestablished in the worst sense, and the Roman influences of Wardour Castle may well be supposed to endanger its becoming a Roman parish in the midst of an English diocese. But I am told that still half the population in Ansty welcome the service of an Anglican clergyman, and will, I trust, do what they can to help in obtaining them. My first object is to put the church into solid repair. I then desire to raise, if possible, some mans for the support of a clergyman”.

The Bishop asks subscriptions from the diocese, and has opened an account at Messrs. Pinckney's Bank, Salisbury, to receive them.

Hampshire Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 December 1877

A Disestablished Parish

The Bishop of Salisbury has just issued a letter to the archdeacons in his diocese requesting them to make known to the clergy and residents in their archdeaconries the position of the donative of Ansty, which is at this moment literally a disestablished parish. His lordship asks for assistance to the fund proposed to be raised in order to provide for the religious wants of the place. He writes:-

“Ansty is a donative in the possession of Lord Arundell of Wardour, a Roman Catholic nobleman, who possesses both great and small tithes, and all the parish. The population is given in the calendar as 299. For many years the Lords Arundell have paid to the officiating clergyman a stipend of £22 10s. a year, which we have always supposed to be in lieu of the small tithe. But the present owner of the donative declines to continue the payment. The parish is now in a most unfortunate position. It has no incumbent, no stipend, no residence, a Church in extreme decay, requiring an outlay of from £300 to £400 to make it safe to hold service in. The Protestant population are under no pastoral care, except that a neighbouring incumbent and his curates are, at my request, taking some charge of them. The parish is literally disestablished in the worst sense, and the Roman influences of Wardour Castle may well be supposed to endanger its becoming a Roman parish in the midst of an English diocese. But I am told that half the population in Ansty welcome the services of an Anglican clergyman, and will, I trust, do what they can to help in obtaining them.”

The Bishop adds that he wishes to repair the Church, and if possible, to raise some means for the support of a clergyman. He hopes that the case of Ansty may contribute to do away with the injurious system of donatives altogether.

Lancaster Gazette, 19 December 1877