



## *Archdeacon Drury Memorial Service 1864*

A memorial service was held on the 24th ult at the parish church of Bremhill, Wilts, to “inaugurate” a window erected in memory of Henry Drury, late rector of the parish, and for a short time Archdeacon of Wilts.

At 10.30 a procession was formed in the schoolroom and went to the church, the Bishop of Salisbury, attended by his Chaplains, the Hon and Ven Archdeacon Harris (rector of the parish), and the Rev J Daubeny bringing up the rear. It was a plain service, prayers being said by the Archdeacon, and the lessons read by the Rev C J Wynne, formerly curate of the parish, and the Rev J Lawrell, a personal friend of the late Archdeacon Drury.

The sermon was preached by the Bishop, from Hebrews xiii.7. It was a most fatherly and touching discourse; it was a friend decanting on the life of holiness and earnestness of a deceased friend; it was the chief pastor of a diocese pointing out to the assembled clergy the example of one, whom god had called to his rest, as a model parish priest; of one who, moved by the holy ghost, had sought to serve his God in the faithful discharge of his duty to his parish. The late Archdeacon had, in addition to many other good works in his parish, restored his church, but the west window in the tower had been left undone, and it was known to many of his friends that his great wish was to have that part of the church completed. This has now been done, the architect who was called in by the committee being Mr Butterfield, who has done his work admirable, and the artists in glass were Messrs Hardman of Birmingham.

The window is a rather large four light window; in each light is a subject, representing respectively (1) Christ cleansing the leper; (2) Christ feeding the multitude; (3) Christ giving sight to the blind; (4) Christ raising the dead – subjects which the bishop introduced into his sermon with much force and feeling, as illustrative of the ministerial life of him whom they were that day commemorating; who sought by the ministry of the word and sacraments to relieve those who were suffering from the leprosy of sin, to feed those who were hungry with the word of God, which he spake unto them, by the same Word to give sight to those who were spiritually blind, and to quicken those into life who were both morally and spiritually dead.

The following inscription is incised in the stonework beneath the window:-

To the glory of God.

In memory of Henry Drury, Archdeacon of Wilts, and during his 18 years Vicar of this parish, the stonework and glass of this window were erected by his Parishioners and Friends, 1864.

After the sermon the bishop proceeded to celebrate Holy Communion. Comparatively few of the congregation left the church at the end of the prayer for the Church Militant. The great majority stayed to participate in Holy Communion, and when the worshippers left the church the sun had burst forth in its brightness, and its rays were shining on the graves around. Loving hands had decked with flowers, pure and bright, on spot where a flat cross marks the peaceful resting place of Archdeacon Drury and his little child, and many lingered awhile to muse on hours gone by – hours, alas, too bright to last.

At the vicarage, to which all were bidden, the most graceful hospitality was dispensed, till and engagement to confirm at a neighbouring church rendered it necessary for the Bishop and the Archdeacon to leave. The satisfactory manner in which the work of this memorial has been carried out is mainly to be attributed to H J Hodgson, Esq, one of the earliest and most intimate friends of the late Archdeacon, and one of his most active fellow labourers in the well known work, the “Arundines Cami”.

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