



Parish Church News

St Mary the Virgin, Calstone Wellington

The Revd George Randolph Hadow's pencil notes on the Restoration of Calstone Church (written on the back of a letter dated 17th March 1884)

The Fabric

Calstone Church is a small but remarkably fine specimen of 15th Century work, complete in itself, never having been under the hand of restorers since it was built 400 years ago. Naturally it is now in a very unsound and unsatisfactory condition both as regards the fabric & the internal arrangements. This Spring one of the most eminent Architects, Mr E Christian carefully examined & surveyed & reported on the whole Church. His proposals with Plans Estimates and Reports have been examined and approved by the Vestry – They include, thorough repair of the walls, levelling the ground to the floor of Church, rebuilding the upper step of Tower, new roof to the Chancel, & repair to the Nave Roof – new flooring, seating – removal of gallery by which means the building will be put into a complete state of soundness, ... internally more fitting the House of GOD – no architectural features of the Church will be altered – and ^{additional} accommodation for more than 20 persons will be provided – As the Parish is a very small agricultural one, with no rich inhabitant in it, we appeal to all friends of the Church to contribute towards this work which is rendered absolutely necessary from the condition described above – The smallest donation will be thankfully received by the Rector & Churchwardens. The Chief Landowner of the Parish has promised to subscribe but is unable to give much owing to the depreciation of the value of landed property.

The following has been promised.

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The Sum allowed to Dilap ⁿ on Chancel	50
Anonymous (Chancel)	200
Rev. George R Hadow	150
H Hadow Esq (Chancel)	25
H Brown Esq	25
A Friend	20
Mr J. Spackman	20
Mrs Baily	20
Mr Burnett	20
Rev E.T. Vaughan	10 – 10
Mrs Hadow	10
Ven. Arch. Buchanan	3 – 3
C.E. Vaughan	3 – 3
Miss E.L. Vaughan	1

To the Parishioners and Worshippers at Calstone Church

When I first came here as Rector of the Parish I found the fabric of the Church in a very unsound and unsatisfactory state and the internal arrangements far from befitting the Worship of Almighty God – With the approval and sanction of Patrons and Laity I postponed spending on the Chancel the sum allotted by the Diocesan Surveyor for the dilapidations in hopes that before long the whole Church might be restored, and that sum might be added to the General fund. I find after 3½ years that the Complete Restoration should no longer be delayed.

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