



# *All Saints Church*

## *Durrington*

**Durrington Parish Church** – We have again to record the Consecration, by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, of a new church in this neighbourhood. The parish church of Durrington, near Amesbury, being too small for the accomodation of the parishioners, and being also in a very bad state of repair, the Rev. R. Webb, the Incumbent, determined upon procuring plans for its restorartion and enlargement, and having obtained the consent of its parishioners to receive the report and plans of an architect, called in Mr Hugall, of Cheltenham, to advise as to the means necessary to carry his object into execution. Proper plans were accordingly prepared, and after they had been submitted to the parishioners and the Diocesan and Incorporated Church Building Societies were immediately laid before a number of respectable builders, contracts were made and the works commenced without delay.

The Church originally consisted of a nave, south aisle, chancel, and western tower. The nave was separated from the aisle by a Norman arcade of three bays. This portion of the old structure being very perfect has been preserved, and the south aisle increased in width and rebuilt in that style. A north aisle has been added, the eastern end separated by a parclose for a vestry. The chancel has been restored by G. R. Moore, Esq., the early English triplet window in the east wall being inserted by Miss Moore. The arch which now marks the division between the chancel and the nave is carried upon corbels, which are intended to be enriched with early English foliage – at present they are in an unfinished state, and when executed in the same spirited manner as the small bosses already finished, they will form very striking features in the church. In the chancel and aisles corbel-stones are inserted for the purpose of being carved hereafter.

Much apparently remains to be done to render the chancel a fitting portion of the building, temporary rails only were provided; but we understand the whole will soon be completed according to the original designs.

The nave has been fitted with open benches, formed out of the carved framings of the old oak pews; they are placed upon a boarded floor, level with the tiled alley. The two aisles have open benches of new oak of the same size, but without carving. All the benches have square ends, are low, and of sufficient width to admit of the congregation kneeling.

The old pulpit is set upon a pillar, and approached by three steps from the floor of the chancel, on the north side; and the prayer desk and lectern are fixed on the south side of the chancel arch. A font of Norman character has replaced the decayed perpendicular one, and has a representation of the Baptism of our LORD, carved on the east face.

Increased accommodation is obtained for 150 adults and children, and now every one in the parish who can attend the services of the Church will have a place allotted to him.

As to the general effect of the Church, we may observe, that but one opinion prevailed amongst those present at the ceremony as to its correct ecclesiastical arrangement.

The Consecration took place on Sunday last. The day was most favourable: the sun shone, and GOD'S blessing appeared to rest upon the work.

Early in the morning, as also on the previous evening, the bells rang out a joyous peal.

The Bishop arrived at the Parsonage about eleven o'clock, and was met by the Warden of Winchester, the Ven. The Archdeacon of Sarum, the Revs. F. W. Fowle, Rural Dean and Chaplain to his Lordship; W. T. Philipps, H. Philipps, H. Caswell, J. H. Alt, F. J. Blandy, M. W. Mayow, F. Lear, C. H. Ridding, C. Gream, C. Fawcett, J. Fraser, E. Duke, H. Hinxman, H. Milner, E. Peacock, W. B. Bradford, C. King, N. G. Smart, and the Incumbent, who proceeded with his Lordship to the Church.

The service was conducted according to the form prescribed by the Bishop; the prayers were offered by the Incumbent. The Lord Bishop preached a very impressive sermon from Mark ii.14, and expressed his deep sense of the earnestness and pious zeal which had animated Mr Webb in the prosecution of his laborious duties, now happily crowned by the most perfect success; duties, too, which have entailed upon him a personal responsibility at the present moment for the deficiency in the building funds of about £300. After the sermon the Offertory was collected, amounting to £99, and above 100 priests and laity received the Holy Communion.

After the service the Bishop, and the clergy and laity, repaired to the School-room, and to a tent erected for the occasion, where a most sumptuous luncheon was provided by Mr and Mrs Webb. Having offered up thanks after the repast, his Lordship then proceeded to examine the church, accompanied by Mr Webb and Mr Hugall; every feature of the building was carefully examined and commented on by the Bishop, who complimented Mr Hugall on the successful completion of his design.

The evening prayers were offered by Mr Webb. The Warden of Winchester preached an excellent sermon from Luke x. 23. The Bishop pronounced the blessing; and as the congregation left the church, their alms were collected at the doors; 10*l.* were thus added to the morning offertory.

On Sunday, the two services were attended by large congregations; the incumbent took the whole duty in the morning, and preached a most suitable and impressive sermon, which, from its local allusions, produced evident marks of deep feeling and sympathy; the sermon was happily well suited to the occasion, and such an one as we would fain hope may produce a lasting impression on the minds of his people.

In the afternoon, the Rev. J. Fraser preached from Psalm xcvi. 9, to a very crowded congregation. Thus concluded the opening solemnity on the dedication of this House of GOD to His Service, and to the memory of "All Saints."

During the 18 months' occupied in the re-erection of the church, Divine Service has been solemnized in a large barn, lent to Mr Webb for that purpose by Mr Rowden, and the complete and tasteful manner in which this building has been fitted up under Mrs Webb's directions, deserves an expression by the parishioners of their thanks to that most estimable lady. The Bishop was much pleased with this temporary church. We have reason to know that Mr and Mrs Webb have presented a suitable acknowledgment to Mr Rowden for his liberality.

On Monday, the poor parishioners and their children were plentifully regaled in the tent by Mr and Mrs Webb, and many happy faces, both young and old, bespoke the gratitude of those who were recipients of this mark of their kind friends' thought and feeling for them.

All Saints' Day will henceforth be a day of rejoicing and thankfulness to those who are privileged to worship in this Holy Temple.

We cannot close this notice without stating that the works have all been executed in a most admirable manner, by artificers and others in the village and neighbourhood, under the superintendence of a resident Clerk of the Works.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 8 November, 1851)*