



## *All Saints Church*

### *Durrington*

The Lord Bishop of Salisbury has fixed Thursday next for the consecration of a piece of land added to Durrington Churchyard, Wilts.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 27 October, 1855)*

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**Consecration of Additional Churchyard** – On Thursday last, (being the appropriate festival of All Saint's Day, and the fourth anniversary of the consecration of the church), a piece of ground, previously occupied by unsightly buildings, which had been purchased by Mrs Webb, the lady of the Incumbent, and by her presented to the parish as a much-needed addition to the churchyard, was consecrated for that purpose by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury. The interest of the occasion drew together a large body both of the clergy and laity; and the fineness of the weather contributed to heighten the gratification of the day. The Bishop, accompanied by his Chaplains, the Rev. F. Lear and the Rev. J. Fraser, arrived at half-past eleven o'clock; and having been received in the churchyard by the clergy in surplices, proceeded with them to the church, where the service of the day was performed by the Rev. R. Webb, the Incumbent, the Bishop reaching the sermon, marked with his usual warmth and earnestness, from Hebrews xii. 1, and afterwards administering the Lord's Supper to a large number of communicants, among whom we were pleased to notice so large a proportion of inhabitants of the parish, both rich and poor. The alms amounted to 21 £ 10 s., and will be divided between the two Church Building Societies (the Incorporated and the Diocesan). The usual ceremonies of consecrating a churchyard having then taken place, the company adjourned to the School-room, tastefully decorated for the occasion, where a most liberal entertainment had been provided by Mr and Mrs Webb, for the large party of their friends and neighbours they had gathered round them. The healths of the Bishop and Mr and Mrs Webb (to whom this parish owes so much in a variety of ways) were proposed and received with the kindest feeling: the Bishop, in proposing Mr Webb's health, speaking of the comfort he felt in coming into a parish, where everything that catches the eye- Church, Churchyard, School – betokens that both pastor and people are working well together, and joining heart and hand in what may best promote the glory of God and the edification of themselves; and Mr Webb, in reply, with a warmth of feeling that attested the sincerity of his words, enlarging on the great strength and encouragement that these occasional visits of a Bishop among his people, particularly in remoter parishes, give to the work of the Minister, and on the lively and lasting impressions for good with which they are associated in the hearts of people. Indeed, what has been done, and is still doing in this large and formerly neglected parish, is full of interest to any one who has the welfare of the church really at heart. It is a wretchedly endowed benefice, and one would have thought that few parishes could be less favourably situated for carrying out large works of piety or usefulness. Yet mainly by the exertions and self-denial of the Incumbent and his lady (who have been resident here for 35 years), supported by the cordial esteem and co-operation of the parishioners, there has been built and consecrated to the service of God a most seemly and substantial Church, now standing in the midst of a spacious and well-kept graveyard; and a School is maintained

which for many years has called forth the highest encomiums from Her Majesty's Inspectors, and which it is not too much to say may be taken as a *model* of a village school. Any one seeing these things may indeed thank God and take courage. What has been done here may be done elsewhere, if only the same enlightened zeal and temperate wisdom be brought to bear upon the work. Let a desponding or an indifferent churchman go to Durrington, and receive there either an encouragement or an example. Among the company present we observed Lady and Miss Antrobus, G. P Moore, Esq. and party, T. E. Fowle, Esq. and Mrs Fowle, E.D. Poore, Esq., A. Southby, Esq. and party, Mrs Pinckney and party, C. Pyle, Esq., Mrs Price, the Revds. Archdeacon Hony, Prebendary Lowther, H. Caswall, E. Druke, J. Pearce, J. Hinxman, J. Alt, R. Pinckney, B. Cotton, T. Taylor, &c.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 3 November, 1855)*

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