



Seend - Holy Cross

Reopening of the Seend Parish Church.

On Sunday last the Parish Church was reopened after having been closed for some weeks while the alterations were being carried out.

The South and West galleries have been removed, the Tower Arch opened and new windows inserted in the South and West walls of the South aisle. It was originally proposed to build an organ chamber on the South side of the chancel, but in deference to the wishes of a large section of the inhabitants this was abandoned, and an oak bracket or loft has now been placed over the Tower Arch on which the new organ will be placed. The choir has been accustomed for the last two or three years to sing in the chancel accompanied by the organ at the West end, and though some difficulty was experienced at first, this has by practice been overcome.

A large monument has been removed to the West wall of the nave from the South angle of the chancel arch, and a very interesting wall painting had been discovered, apparently dating from the fifteenth century, and the staircase and footway to the roodloft opened to view.

Occasion was taken of the reopening of the church to hold the harvest festival. The services commenced with the usual celebration of Holy Communion at 8.30 followed at 11 o'clock by Matins, Litany and a second celebration. A children's service at 3 o'clock, and Evensong at 6 o'clock, with sermon by the Vicar, who in referring to the late Mrs Daubeny, through whose thoughtful liberality, he has been enabled

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to carry out these improvements, truly said, "her memory would ever be fresh and sweet in the hearts of all who knew her."

There was an overflowing congregation in the evening, and the offertories throughout the day amounted to £7 9s 6d were given to the Bethesda Hospital, London and the Melksham Cottage Hospital. The fund for the new organ (an order for which has been given to Mr Sweetland of Bath), is progressing very satisfactorily, and when it is placed in the church, which it is hoped will be the case by the end of the year, the long contemplated alterations and improvement may be considered complete and the parishioners of Seend be congratulated on possessing one of the handsomest county churches in the Diocese.

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