



Consecration of the New Church

The Consecration of the New Church at this isolated village took place on Monday last, by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury. The old parish fabric in the lapse of time had become decayed and unfit for the assemblage of the congregation. Roof, walls, and seats had all grown old together, and were beyond repair. The new church is built on the old site, a quiet and sheltered dell surrounded with hawthorn bushes, - a spot endeared to the villagers as the resting-place of their forefathers. The designs were by R. J. Withers, Esq., architect, of London, who superintended the erection of the church. The cost was £500. The west window with a small portion of stained glass in the upper trefoil, the bowl of the font, and the bell are the relics of the old fabric. The decorations of the interior, which were deservedly admired, the pulpit, reading-desk, and stained glass windows are all donations. The rector and clergy, with some of the gentry of the neighbourhood, assembled to meet the Bishop, who officiated, and accompanied his Lordship to the church, when a full choral service was performed. The sermon was preached by the Bishop from Job xxii, 2, 3. The collection amounted to £35. The church was crowded in the morning, and, as many could not obtain admission, an afternoon service was given expressly for the villagers. In the evening the poor were regaled with a supper of beef and plum pudding. "God Save the Queen" was then sung, and terminated a day which will long be remembered by those present.

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