

A New Church for Winterbourne 1867

Winterbourne New Church Wilts

To Builders and Contractors

The Committee for building a New Church at Winterbourne Earls, within four miles of Salisbury are prepared to receive Tenders for the execution of the work

The Plans and Specification may be seen upon application to the Rev J H Cartwright, at Winterbourne Earls, on and after Monday next, the 18th inst.

Tenders may be delivered at the Office of the Architect, T H Wyatt, Esq, 77 Great Russell-street, London, W.C., up to 10 o'clock on Monday, the 4th March next, endorsed "Tender for Winterbourne New Church"

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender unless such be considered satisfactory by the Architect

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 16 February 1867

A New Church for Winterbourne

Those who have known the wretched condition into which the two churches of Winterbourne Dauntsey and Winterbourne Earls have of late years fallen will readily admit that a new church, which shall afford accommodation for the congregations of both, will be a great improvement to the district. This substitution is now being carried into effect through the liberal aid of friends deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of the people of the district; and on Thursday afternoon last, the Bishop of Salisbury laid the foundation stone of the proposed new building.

The site selected for it is a piece of ground which has been given for the building by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, being a portion of what was formerly known as the allotment gardens. It will be very convenient, and is very well adapted for the purpose, sufficient land being attached for a churchyard as well as for the erection of a parsonage-house and a school, which, it is hoped may hereafter be built there.

The new church, which is being dedicated to St Michael, will be practically a combination of the two old ones, the building materials in both being as far as possible used in the rebuilding. The architect is Mr T H Wyatt, of London, and the builder, Mr Till, of Romsey, Mr Harding, of Salisbury, acting as clerk of the works.

Essentially it will be in the Perpendicular style, with an Early English chancel, the old windows being used again, as will also be the old roof from Winterbourne Dauntsey. There will be a tower at the south-west angle of the building, with an entrance underneath. It is intended to afford accommodation for 303 worshippers, of whom 193 will have sittings in the nave, 33 in the chancel, 30 in the south aisle, and this, with accommodation for 47 children, will give a total of 303 sittings. The contract, we understand, is a little below 2000/., the builder having permission, as we have suggested, to use the old materials.

The building has already been proceeded with, though the formal laying of the foundations tone has been deferred until Thursday. The weather being very fine, a considerable number of the parishioners assembled on the ground to witness the ceremony, and the event was regarded with some interest throughout the whole of the district.

The Bishop arrived on the ground shortly after one o'clock, and was met at the gate by the following clergymen in their surplices:- the Rev Precentor Lear, the Rev Prebendary Payne, the Rev Subdean Eyre, the Rev J H Cartwright (Perpetual Curate of both Winterbourne Earls and Winterbourne Dauntsey), the Rev E Luard, the Rev G N Freeling, the Rev W Dowding, Idmiston, the Rev T Taylor, of Boscombe, the Rev J F Messenger, of Farley. The churchwardens, Mr Burt and Mr Barnes, were also present.

The usual service having been performed by the Bishop, his lordship proceeded to lay the stone. There was no silver trowel provided for the work, but the Bishop handled a small pointing trowel belonging to one of the workmen with all the readiness of a practised hand. Having declared that "in the faith of Jesus Christ they had placed the foundation stone of the building in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost", his Lordship said, before he pronounced the final benediction and closed the service, he would, as was his custom, say a few words on the occasion which had called them together.

He could assure them that this was a very happy and joyful day to him, for he had been looking forward to it with great anxiety for many and many a year. That was not a day, certainly, on which he would say one single word in disparagement of others, but he was quite sure they must all of them feel that the state of the parish, whoever was the cause of it, was not in the condition in which it ought to be a few years ago. In fact, he might say that only a few months ago there was in that parish one church which had been a beautiful church in former days, but which had fallen into a ruinous state, whilst the other church, though it had been to some extent restored, was still not in that condition in which he was sure churchmen liked to see those houses placed in which they met to worship God.

Then there was no house in which the clergyman had a right to live, and the school, he was sorry to say, did not represent, he was sure, the good wishes and charity of the richer people of that parish for the education of their poor brethren. Now, however, he thought they might say there was a prospect of things being changed. Owing, he might say, to the very great liberality and very great consideration of one who was no longer with them, but who took a very deep interest in that parish, the late Mr Fort, and, he might add, also of other members of that gentleman's family, he was enabled to make a proposal to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the result of which they saw in the commencement of their work there that day.

He could not have done that, however, had he not been also well supported by another proprietor in that parish, Mr Wyndham, who had also met them most liberally, and other parishioners, when asked, at once expressed their readiness to give up any feelings they might have on their own part; which was very natural and very good; but they were content to give up old associations and join in trying to obtain one church, which they thought on the whole would be better for them. He was speaking in the presence of the churchwardens, Mr Burt and Mr Blake, who accompanied him to the church, and no one had a greater right to confirm what he was saying, for he was really alluding to them.

Such then was the history of the work which they had now formally begun by laying the foundation stone that day. He hoped that in due time they would see a beautiful parish church for the two parishes; he hoped also to see a fit parsonage house for the incumbent, and he did not despair, if God spared his life a few years, when he came to visit the parish, to find the children of the poorer neighbours in a better school than they had now. They need not be surprised that he, who by God's Providence, had been clothed with great responsibility, should feel a deep interest in all the parishes in his diocese, especially those in his neighbourhood and those of which he was himself patron, and that he rejoiced to see the commencement of what he really believed would be a good thing for the parish.

His Lordship then pronounced the Benediction, and the company were about to disperse, when he observed that he had been anxious to bring with him one of the silver trowels which on somewhat similar occasions had been presented to him, but he had neglected to do so, and therefore he would claim of the builder to give him his plain one. Mr Till readily assented, and presented his Lordship with the little pointing trowel used in the laying of the stone; and the Rev Mr Cartwright also presented the Bishop with a little mallet, which had been made for the occasion, both of which his Lordship evidently regarded as interesting mementoes of the ceremony in which he had that day taken such an active part. His Lordship said he might say in the presence of the company that so far they were very well satisfied with the way in which the builder had done his work, and they were very glad he had got the contract.

The company then dispersed, the Bishop and clergy and a few friends being afterwards entertained by Mr Burt, the lord of the manor. In the evening, Mr Blake, of the Elms, gave the workmen employed at the building a good substantial supper; and so the interesting proceedings of the day were brought to a close.

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(part article only)