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ST. NICHOLAS' NEW CHURCH.

BEVERLEY CONSECRATION BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

The new church of St. Nicholas, Beverley, built as a memorial to deceased members of Lord Wolverton's family was consecrated by His Grace the Archbishop of York, and duly opened for divine service on Tuesday last, under circumstances most auspicious, and with weather the most delightful. Before describing the ceremony, it may not be out of place to state briefly here certain facts connected with the history of the church and its erection in Beverley.

Most of our readers will be aware that the late Lord Wolverton, father of the Hon and Rev. E.C. Glyn, late vicar of St. Mary's, and of the Hon. Mrs Pelham wife of the present vicar of that parish left by will the sum of £6,000 to be appropriated to the erection of a church as a memorial to four of his sons.

The selection of the site being left to the present Lord Wolverton and the other two brothers who were his executors. The keen interest which Mr. Glyn took in his work led to his influence being exerted in securing a site for the new church - the Parish of St. Nicholas of which he was the rector as well as the vicar of St. Mary's. The former parish at one time possessed a church, which no doubt was in keeping with the two noble buildings which grace and beautify our town, but very little is known about it, save from the records. It is said there are illustrations of it but they are very rare indeed, and so much printed that only a few people have had the privilege of seeing them. The old church which stood in what is best locally known as the Oister Yard, Holme Church Lane, was historians tell us, demolished during the ravages of the Civil Wars, and for over two centuries the inhabitants of that parish have resorted to the Minister or St. Mary's Church for the enjoyment of their spiritual avangages. In his efforts Mr Glyn was successful, and his trustees determined that Beverley should furnish the site for the building which was to be so interesting a memorial of their family.

A local committee was appointed to assist the vicar in carrying out the work, and this consisted of Colonel Hobson, Mr. Norfolk, Mr. Crust (who acted as honorary Secretary, Mr. Croythorpe, the late Mr. Parkinson, Mr. W.E. Dixon and Mr. P. Hall, the two last named being churchwardens at the time for St. Nicholas' Parish. In fixing the exact place upon which to erect the building it was thought best to abandon the site of the old church and obtain if possible the present one as being higher and in many respects more eligible. This land, which is on the opposite side of the road to that upon which is the old church stood, belonged to St. Mary's Church, and by the resolution at a parish meeting an exchange of land was at once agreed upon. Mr. Crowther of Manchester, was selected by the trustees, as the architect of the church, and the contract for its erection was left to Mr. A. Richardson, builders of Beverley.

The design showed a magnificent little church, but it is only fair to say that it was, in point of detail and elaboration, apart from its plan, of a much more costly character than was contemplated by the donor, as shown by the amount left for the disposal of the trustees. The sum left by the will was £5,000, and £1,000, towards an endowment of the church, and the Dowager Lady Wolverton added £2,000 for a tower and spire. The lowest sum tendered was £13,500, and one was over £17,000, showing how the plans exceeded the intention of

the trustees. After some little arrangement just before Mr. Glyn left Beverley, Mr. Richardson took the contract for about £7,500, or £8,000, leaving out the proposed spire.

Mr. Richardson made a commencement of the church May, 1876, and on the 29th of June, 1877, the Dowager Lady Wolverton laid the foundation stone, on which occasion the Archbishop of York delivered a suitable address, and asked a blessing upon the labours so well begun. For some time the work progressed very slowly and it became evident at length, from the costliness of the operations, that the plans could not be carried out in their integrity at the estimates made by the builder. The contract was therefore dissolved, and steps taken to procure such modifications of the plans as would bring them to meet the exigencies of the case. Considerable difficulty was experienced when the endeavour was made. Fresh quantities were taken out at a considerable cost by the architect, and new tenders were asked for, the original sum having been raised by £1,500, by the expenses incurred under the first contract.

The new tenders under the architect's bill of quantities all exceeding £6,500, it was deemed the wisest course to depart from the original plans. The services of Mr. Crowther were dispensed with, the Vicar having asked Mr. Broderick to draw up some simple plan which might be met by the reduced sum at the disposal of the committee. He also gave leave of the trustees under the will to give up the building of so large a church, and also the division of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and substitute a chapel of ease for a parish church.

And so it came to pass that the plans of Mr. Broderick were unanimously accepted by the Building Committee. The result was the production of a design, chaste and best for a structure that would meet all the requirements of the parish, and be an ornament to the town, which already possessed ecclesiastical edifices such as few could boast of. The tender of Messrs. Simpson and Malbone of Hull, was accepted for carrying out the work, according to the new design, and Mr. Ellwell of Beverley, who had already made for himself a name as the builder of the magnificent organ screen at the Minister, received the sub-contract for the woodwork and carving.

A great part of the building left by Mr. Richardson had to be taken down to the ground at the east end in consequence of the alteration in the plan, and enormous beams put in to support the tower, but the demolition and reconstruction was pushed forward in such a vigorous manner, that at the end of about fourteen months the building was so far complete as to be ready for consecration. Although much plainer than it would have been, had the first design been carried out, the new church will be a handsome one when the tower is finished, whilst internally it is a little gem.

It consists of a nave and south aisle, chancel, transept and tower, and has seating accommodation for 360 adult persons. The style adopted is Geometrical or Early Decorated. The exterior is built of Bradford stone, with dressings of Whitley stone. Blue Mansfield is used in the smaller shafts. The chancel arch is very lofty and extends to the roof, which is of unstained red wood, open throughout and boarded. The seating of the nave is of pitch pine with panelled and carved heads, while the chancel stalls are of oak, with panels in front of tracery and carving. The chancel is square ended and has a large five light window with moulded mullions & tracery of geometrical pattern, the interior being relieved with shafts, having moulded bases and capitals. The transept is separated from the chancel and nave by arches having circular moulded corbels thrown into relief by ornaments of the nail head character.

The Tower which when completed will be about 25ft higher than it is at present, will have large stone pinnacles at the four angles and smaller ones on each face. Preparation is here made for a peal of bells. The floor is laid with encaustic tiles supplied by Messrs Mars & Co.

The font is the old one from the original church of St. Nicholas, & is of the date of about 1450. This interesting relic, which was purchased at the sale of Mr. Gillyatt Sumner's effects by Mr. R. Stephenson, and presented by that gentleman to the vicar, has been carefully restored & placed against the wall at the west end of the church. The lectern is an elegant brass eagle, the gift of the Dowager Lady Wolverton, as a memorial to her late husband, and is thus inscribed: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of George Glyn 1st Baron Wolverton, born March 1797, and died July 24th 1873. This lectern is dedicated by his widow". The pulpit a handsome one of stone and marble is the gift of the Hon. Mrs. Ashley Glyn, in memory of her husband, The Hon. and Rev. E.C. Glyn vicar of Kensington, on his leaving the vicarage of Beverley, gave £500 towards the Building Fund, and the Hon. Miss St. Lager Glyn gave £50 and intends to send a pitcher for the font. Stools and kneeling mats were sent by the Hon. Sydney Glyn, and also by Sister Alice and Lady Bodley about two years ago for the use of the church. The books, the Bible and prayer book, are the gift of a lady residing in St. Mary's parish.

The altar cloth which has not yet arrived from London, is the gift of Admiral the Hon. H.C. Glyn. The communion service is the present of the Hon. Sidney, C. Glyn.

The collecting bags were sent from Lady Wolverton's grand daughters. The window at the east end is to be stained glass by the Hon. Miss Glyn, & the Hon. Mrs Pelham, in memory of their brother. The records is to be given by Hon. Pascoe Glyn, and the little Communion Office Book is the gift of Ruth, Jossey & Harry Pelham.

THE CONSECRATION AND OPENING

Under no circumstances could the weather have been more favourable than on Tuesday, in the forenoon of which day the ceremony took place. The Bells of St. Mary were rung merrily in honour of the occasion, and from the tower of that church a flag gaily flaunted. The new church was decorated with flags and banners and had a very festive appearance. People began to assemble soon after ten o'clock, and all the seats were free with the exception of a few reserved for the clergy, the officials and members of the Church Building Committee. The edifice was very soon filled and numbers were content to stand. The family of the donor of the church present including the Dowager Lady Wolverton, Admiral the Hon. Henry Carr Glyn, the Hon. Sydney Carr Glyn, M.P. for Shaftesbury, the Hon. Mrs Ashley Glyn, and The Hon. Mrs Pelham. At 11 o'clock the Archbishop of York arrived, accompanied by the Venerable Archbishopson Blunt of Scarborough and the Hon & Rev. E.C. Glyn vicar of Kensington. His Grace was met at the door by the rector, the Hon. & Revd F.G. Pelham, Mr. Norfolk and Colonel Hodgson as representatives of the Church Building Committee: the churchwardens of St. Mary, Messrs T. Crust, J.R. Pease, W.E. Bingham, & J. Walker: the senior churchwarden of St. Nicholas, Mr. F. Hall; the architect Mr. F.S. Broderick, and the following clergy, supplied, namely Rev. C. Nation, Rev. E.J. Barry, Rev. J.P. Howson, Curates of the parish; the Rev. H.E. Nolloth, Vicar of the Minister. The Rev. W.B. Crickmer and the Rev. J.H. Lenthwaite curates of the Minister.

The Archbishop of York then consecrated the church and led the service, with psalms, hymns and prayers.