



Church Restoration Fund Bishopstone 1882 - 1885

CHURCH RESTORATION FUND

A BAZAAR

in aid of the above, will be held in a field near the Vicarage, on TUESDAY, July 25th, 1882, under the distinguished patronage of the

Countess Craven
Hos. Mrs. Agar

Lady Doreen Long
Mrs Colonel Miles

A BAND will be in attendance. Lawn Tennis and other amusements provided.

Admission – From 2 to 4. 1s; from 4 to 6, 6d.; from 6 to 9, 3d.

Gates open at 2 o'clock.

Contributions of any kind will be thankfully received by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 15 July 1882

Sale of Fancy Work in Aid of the Church Restoration Fund

For some time extensive repairs to the ancient church of this parish have been going on, and various means have been adopted to raise the necessary funds to defray the cost thereof. A bazaar, to which most liberal contributions were made by the ladies of the parish and neighbourhood, was arranged to be held in the school room last month, but unfortunately the day turned out a very wet one, and the result was not what was wished for, although a sum of £58 was cleared by the sales then effected.

The Rev. A. J. and Mrs. Pile, with their willing co-workers, determined to have a second day, to clear off some of the goods which were left, and this was fixed for Wednesday last.

As on the former occasion, rain descended heavily, and as a consequence the attendance of visitors was small, a garden party at Compton' House no doubt taking many who could otherwise have been present. The goods on the stalls was principally needlework of a plain and ornamental character. Mrs. and Miss. Pile presided over one stall, and Miss Ballard and Miss. Williams over others. At intervals, during the afternoon the Misses Fairholme, Miss Warren, and the Misses Smith gave a selection of vocal and instrumental music in an adjoining room. We have not heard the result of the sale in a financial point of view, but are afraid it will not be such as the fair workers deserved.

The work of restoration is being carried out under the guidance of Mr. Christian, architect for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the builder being Mr. Wheeler, of Wantage. The restoration is to be of a most complete character, in fact, no other course could very well be taken, the building having become seriously decayed. The roof of the nave and side aisles has been successfully raised, so as to clear the fine tower arch, and throw the tower into the church. The Windows have also being raised. The whole building, will be re-seated, a new pulpit, font, reading desk, and lectern provided, and the floor will be relaid on concrete. When finished the whole will be heated with hot air. Outside, the earth which had accumulated to a considerable depth round the walls is to be removed, and an open brick drain built around, so as to carry off the water and so keep the building dry. The chancel was restored some time ago by the Commissioners, and consequently requires but little restoration now. It will, however, be re-seated to harmonise with the other portion of the work. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as large land holders in the parish, have contributed £700 towards the expenses, and the proprietors will bear the cost of what is necessary to be done to the chancel. The entire outlay is likely to be from £1500 to £1600, including architect's fee's. &c., and of this sum about £300 has still to be raised.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 25 September 1882

Completion of Church Restoration

The ancient Parish Church of Bishopstone, near Swindon, has been thoroughly restored in accordance with its original character at a cost of £1,600, by Messrs. Wheeler, of Wantage. Many interesting evidences of the Norman period have been discovered, and while these characteristics have been preserved, the sacred edifice has been made comfortable by modern improvement. The reopening ceremony took place on Thursday, when the Bishop of Gloucester and Wells, and the Bishop of Antigua were present.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 17 May 1883

A BAZAAR

In aid of the Church Restoration Fund, will be held in this parish
On WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, June 10th and 11th, 1885
From 2 p.m. To 9 p.m., under cover,

In the Grounds of Forest House, by kind permission of the occupier, Mr. C. J. Hibbard, with access to the beautiful site of the late interesting old Manor House and its grounds. The Church, which is of very ancient foundation, has been most satisfactorily restored under the direction of the able architect Mr. Evan Christian, at a cost of over sixteen hundred pounds, a portion of which remains unpaid, and has to be paid this year.

Admission to the Bazaar will be through the gate of Forest House, on the main road, through the Parish from Swindon to Wantage. The charge for admission will be:-

ON THE FIRST DAY, from 2 to 4 p.m., One shilling; from 4 to 9 p.m., sixpence each person.

ON THE SECOND DAY, from 2 to 4 p.m., sixpence; from 4 to 9 p.m., three pence; children, not in arms. Half price, except on the second day, from 4 to 9 p.m.

A BAND will be in attendance on the first day.

THE CHURCH BELL RINGERS, with their hand bells, on the second.

Lawn Tennis, Games and Amusements of various kinds.

Accommodation for Horses will be provided on the premises.

Contributions in money for the Church, and in articles of needlework and manufacture, in plants and flowers for the BAZAAR, will be most acceptable.

Signed by order of the Committee
ALLA J. PILE, Vicar
Thomas Hickman } Churchwardens
C. J. Hibbard }

May 21st 1885.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 23 May 1885