



Old All Hallows Church, A.D. 1786, Horsington, Essex

Picture on the left shows Horsington's present church which replaced the old thatched church of All Hallows (right). The print of the former church was taken from a painting of 1786.

HORSINGTON CHURCH RESTORED

Six years' effort by villagers—and more money is needed!

SIX years of effort by the parishioners of the little village of Horsington, near Horncastle, have been brought to a successful conclusion by the completion of the partial restoration of their Parish Church of All Saints, which, although only a hundred years old, had deteriorated to such an extent that in some places it was regarded as dangerous.

But, the Rector (Rev. H. R. Whaler) told the "Standard" this week, their efforts are not yet completed, for considerably more work is still needed to put the church into a satisfactory state of repair and the villagers will have to continue their money-raising efforts until the restoration fund has been built up again to a sufficient size to enable further work to be undertaken.

"In fact," he told us, "it looks like being a never-ending job. Unfortunately the church was built of inferior stone and brick and, as money is raised, work will probably always be needed on it."

The church was built in 1860, and it is hoped to combine the centenary celebrations next year with the re-dedication following the restoration work.

The church had previously been repaired as recently as 1934, when the tower was restored and work done to the whole fabric, by the then Rector, Rev. E. J. I. Dredge.

£250 IN GRANTS

When Rev. H. R. Whaler came to the village in February, 1952, however, it was obvious that a great deal more work needed to be done to the church and an appeal fund was started in 1953.

Since then the fund has been gradually built up by gift days and social efforts organised by the parishioners and altogether £519 has been raised.

In addition £250 has been received in grants, and there was sufficient money in hand to enable the restoration work to comment in June.

The crumbling stonework of the Tower has been replaced by artificial stone which has been blended with the general

appearance of the church, the stone windows have been replaced by brick ones with oak louveres, urgent work has been done to the coping stones and the walls and some of the interior plaster has been repaired, at a total cost of over £700.

PATCHED UP

"But," the Rector, told our reporter, "the church has not really been restored but merely patched up and another £800 is still needed to complete the work which the architect considers necessary, the total cost of which was nearly £1,700. The whole of the stone work of the church still needs to be repaired, and in another twenty years more work will have to be done to the tower. The whole stone work of the church is poor and many of the bricks are crumbling."

The work has been carried out by Mr. Fred Robinson, of Spilsby, who has had extensive experience of church restoration work, under the supervision of the architect, Mr. G. R. A. Mack, of Louth.

When the present church was built a hundred years ago, it replaced the old thatched church of All Hallows, which has been described as "more like a barn than anything else," and was, in fact, the old rectorial tithe barn.

The church consists of a nave, south aisle and a tower placed at the south end of the aisle. It is built of red bricks and stone.

The old thatched church replaced a much older one which was situated almost equidistant from Stixwold in the south, Bucknall in the west, and Horsington, and is traditionally believed to have been the common church for the three villages.