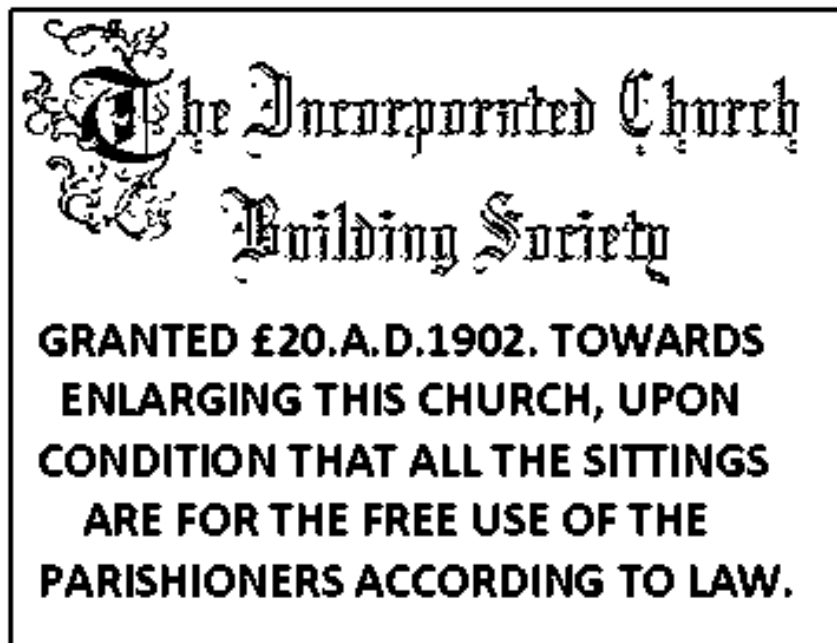


**The Restoration
of
Hartshorne Church
1902-1903**



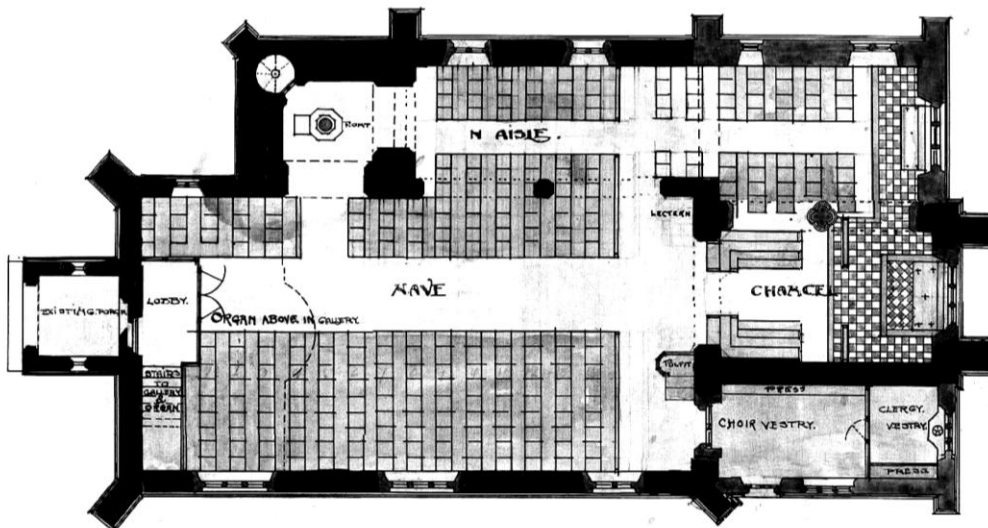
**as recorded in
Hartshorne Parish Magazines**

Compiled by Jane Horan

INTRODUCTION

The wooden plaque that is fixed to the under stairs cupboard door at the back of church was a starting point for the research into the restoration of Hartshorne Church. The plans for the restoration can be found at www.churchplanonline.org and give details of the architect and his finished design for the church.

*Proposed alterations, Hartshorne Church.
Scale. 5" = 1 Foot.*



Plan.

G.F. Bodley, R.A. archt.

Then I discovered, in the old Parish Chest, the Parish magazines from 1898 to 1908 which had been bound into hardback copies of 'The Dawn of Day' (a SPCK publication). Excerpts from these had been included in our church magazines previously but I had no idea that they recorded the work of the 1902 Restoration of Hartshorne Church from start to finish.

The Rector's letters and other articles were fascinating to read. Rev Robert Reade, was rector of Hartshorne from 1897-1905. He had significant health problems which made his efforts "to make beautiful our village House of God" even more remarkable. He inspired everyone to make real sacrifices so that the restoration could be completed to God's glory.

Jane Horan, August 2014

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Sept 1901

Church Restoration

The Rector has been requested to insert in the Parish *Magazine* the following letter which he wrote to the meeting which was held on the 31st July, on above subject:

MY DEAR FRIENDS

I am sorry I cannot be with you to-night at the meeting to discuss the offer of £1000 which was made to me in London for the Restoration of our Church.

But as my doctor has strictly forbidden me to attend any meetings, and as any imprudence on my part is certain to bring on fresh haemorrhage, I must be content to write to you instead of speaking.

To tell you the truth I have had serious doubts whether it would not be best for me to say nothing to you about this offer of the £1000.

It is of course a very fine offer — a wonderful offer one might say, such as we are not likely to meet with again.

But it is an offer which we cannot accept, unless we are willing to make considerable sacrifices ourselves, both of our money and of our time. For it is an offer which has two conditions.

The first is that we shall entrust the Restoration of our Church either to Mr. Bodley (who restored my Church in London so well), or else to some other first-rate Architect.

That condition needn't trouble us at all: for I know by experience that there is no man in England who can restore our Church better than Mr. Bodley.

The second condition is that we must raise a thousand pounds to meet the thousand my friend offers, *while I am Rector of Hartshorne*.

That is very serious. For since the offer was made to me, I have had a very dangerous illness which very nearly removed me not only from Hartshorne, but also from this world. Also there is no use blinking the fact that, for some time to come, I shall be liable to have a further attack, which may at any moment, sever my connection with this parish.

Hence if we are to make sure of this generous offer, we must lose no time in raising the money; for not only is my own life very uncertain, but also my friend's health is far from stable.

That is the reason why I thought very seriously that perhaps I had better not mention this offer at all: or, at any rate, wait until I saw if it pleased God to restore my health.

But then, on the other hand, every day's delay was lessening the chance of your securing the £1000. And I thought you would feel it rather hard, if the money was lost to our Church, because, by not mentioning it, I did not give you the chance of taking it up.

So I consulted Mr. Orme about it: and he was quite clear that it was only fair to you to tell you of the offer, and to call a meeting to give you the opportunity of accepting it.

Hence you have been invited to this meeting tonight. And the first and most important thing of all is to see how much money can be promised at this meeting.

If we can get it good sum promised at this meeting tonight, I believe we shall soon secure the £1000; if not, I believe we shall fail.

And here you will expect me to give you a lead! Well, I think I may truly say that never in my life have I been less desirous of having a pull at my purse strings! Not only my long and costly illness, but many other things besides, have been giving such big pulls at them of late!

But this is a special occasion which comes to us but once or twice in a life-time.

So, hard up as I am at present, I will give a lead by promising £50, if you too will come forward to the best of your ability.

It is a striking fact that last Sunday morning, just before I gave notice of this meeting, the Lesson for the day was about the meeting King David held, to invite his people to contribute to the building of the Temple. They responded very generously and it made them very happy, as generosity always does. For, as our Saviour said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This is what the Bible tells us about that meeting, "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered *willingly*, because with perfect heart

they offered willingly to the Lord; and David the King also rejoiced with great joy.

Willingly do I offer my £50 to the Lord, at a time when it is not easy for me to offer. I pray that everyone who offers here to-night will also offer willingly, and remember that it is unto the Lord that they are offering.

Yours affectionately,

ROBERT READE.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously at the meeting:—

1.—That the offer of the £1000 should by no means be let slip: and that all possible steps should be taken to secure it as soon as possible.

2.—That all who are present here tonight do pledge themselves to do their best to give and raise the money required to secure the £1000.

Besides the Rector's £50 the following sums were promised at the Meeting:—Miss Lloyd, £20; Mr. Orme and sisters, £20; Mr. Fish, £10; Mr. Gough, £10; Rev. Talbot, £5; Mr. Lowe, £5; Mr. Mansfield, £5. Since the meeting, Collecting Cards have been sent out, and sundry promises of contributions have been made, among which may be mentioned the Rev. T. Mynors, £50; H. Wragg, Esq., £10. Full lists will be published when the Cards are sent in on October 1st.

Meanwhile let us not forget to ask God's blessing on our efforts to restore His House; and to pray that these efforts may go hand in hand with earnest efforts to reform our own lives.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Oct 1901

Restoration Fund

We shall not know how this Fund is progressing until the Cards are handed in on October 2nd. But if the promises and payments of the people in Hartshorne are sufficient to give us hope of securing the generous offer of the £1000, an appeal will then be made to our well-off neighbours. One of them, Lord Burton, has already been kind enough to send us £20.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Dec 1901

Hartshorne Church Restoration Fund

About £400 has now been promised or paid towards the above. This, with the £280 in the Bank, makes nearly £700 in hand. The donor of the promised £1000 was very disinclined to let this £280 count towards the £1000 we have to raise, because he knew that it would take much more than £2000 to make Hartshorne Church anything like what a Church ought to be. But he did not actually refuse to let it count, so long as we promised to try and raise as much more as ever we can. Never, in all our experience, have we seen a Church which required so entire a restoration as ours. With the single exception of Dethick's monument there appears to be nothing within its walls which is beautiful or venerable or valuable. All has been swept away. Yet the Church list made in the reign of Henry VIII shows that it then possessed much that was beautiful and valuable.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Jan 1902

THE Tea, Conversazione, Sale of work and Jumble Sale, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, was held on Wednesday, November 27th. Favoured with fair weather and a full moon, the attendance was good and the proceeds of the Sale satisfactory. Our thanks are especially due to Mr. and Mrs. Villiers who gave the tea and refreshments, also to the Members of the Working Party, and to those who kindly sent us "jumble." We needed, and found many willing helpers; we heartily thank them. In round figures the Sale of Work realised £14, the Jumble Sale £5; the Tea, etc, £7. After expenses were paid there was a balance of £25 18d 1d which was lodged at once in the bank to the credit of the Fund.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Feb 1902

ON Thursday evening, January 2nd, a Musical and Dramatic Performance was given at the Schools, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. In the "Mouse-trap," the characters were Mrs Prettipet (Miss Smale), Mortimer Briefbag (Mr. A. R. Reade) and Bridget (Mr. B. Reade). In a "A quiet little

dinner' were Mr Pinney (Mr B Reade), Mrs Pinney (Miss Smale), Mr. Simpson (Mr, A. R. Reade), Mrs Simpson (Miss Williams) Sarah (Mr John Reade), the Cook (Miss Alleyne), a Cabman (Mr. Bellis). A fair number of people were present, and many more would have come if the character of the entertainment had been better understood. Those who came enjoyed a very hearty laugh. In the "Mouse-trap" Mrs. Prettipet and Mr Briefbag caused much amusement by climbing on chairs to escape a mouse while in a "*A quiet little dinner'* roars of laughter greeted Sarah, the housemaid (Mr. John Reade), every time she appeared on the stage. The "Dummies" were four persons dressed in strange garments and wearing the head of a lion, a fish, a cat and a hare. The audience was so delighted with these peculiar creatures that their performance was repeated. Miss Alleyne and Mr Bellis increased the enjoyment of the entertainment by their playing and singing, which were much appreciated. And the Rector ended a pleasant evening with an appropriate speech. The suitable appearance of the stage was largely due to Mr. Fletcher, who kindly put it up, and to Mr Bernard Reade who took great interest in its construction. The decorations were done by the Rev J H. Talbot, Mrs. Bellis, Miss Smale, Mr. Arthur Reade, and Mr. Bernard Reade. It may interest those who were present at the performance, to know that the lion among the Dummies was Miss Dorothea Reade, as on the evening it was quite impossible to tell who wore the animal's dress.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Feb 1902

The incorporated Society for promoting Church Building has offered a grant of £20 to our Church Restoration Fund, on condition that we have all our seats free. If we accept this offer, it will bring the total paid or promised to upwards of £900. Let us try and see if we cannot make up the still needed £100 this month, and thus secure the promised £1,000.

We are glad to be able to state that the whole £1000 for the Church Restoration has now been paid. Directly all the promises have been paid up the second £1000 can be claimed.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine March 1902

Easter Day was a bright and happy Festival. We were glad to see more Communicants than ever at the early service, come to greet and worship their risen Saviour early.

The Church was really beautifully decorated with flowers picked and sent both from near and far; and we must not omit to thank those who picked or sent them, as well as those whose skilful hands made use of them to the best advantage in decorating the Church.

All the Services were bright and cheering. At the Children's Service their self-denial box was opened and produced 10/7 for the Church Restoration.

The Collections during the day were for "Easter Offerings," and will be spent on the needs of the Church. They amounted to £3 0s 3d. The Self-denial money found in the Church box amounted to £3 3s. 8d. and has been added to the Church Restoration Fund.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine April 1902

Easter Vestry

THE annual Easter Vestry was held on Thursday, April 3, and was unusually well attended. Mr. Orme was nominated Rector's Warden, and Mr. Smithard was unanimously elected People's Warden. The following Sidesmen were elected for the year, viz.; Mr. John Carver; Mr. James Dakin; Mr. George Fletcher; Mr. Benjamin Gough; Mr. James Whetton.

The Collections for the year showed an increase of £3 12s. 10d.; and although the balance to credit could not be exactly stated until certain Bills had been sent in, it was known that there would be at least that sum in hand, which would be placed, as usual, to the Church Restoration Fund. An audited Balance Sheet will, as usual, be placed next month in the Church Porch.

The Rector was able to announce that the whole of the £1,000 had been paid or promised, which was required to obtain his anonymous friend's £1,000; and directly all the promises had been paid, he would be able to claim the money forthwith. It is satisfactory to be able to announce that, a

week later, he was able to do this; and £2,000 is now safely lodged to the credit of the Hartshorne Church Restoration Fund in the London City & Midland Bank at Ashby.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine May 1902

And once more this month of June will, we trust, be a "record" month to our Church as well as to our Parish; for, before it is over, we hope and pray that the Restoration of our Church will have commenced. That Restoration is a far more difficult and costly matter than anyone is likely to imagine who has not had experience of such things.

I have had such previous experience; and I honestly confess that I should have been only too glad to have let this matter alone, and not touch it, knowing how very difficult and costly it must be to carry it out in a proper manner.

However it is clear it is our duty to face it; we cannot go back so we must go forward.

Let us then go forward with a hearty good will. It is God's work and he cares that we should do it, and do it as well as ever we can. Now that I am in for it, nothing, please God, shall stop me from taking it up wholeheartedly; and I hope and pray that you will do the same. Let us determine to withhold no pains, nor time, nor money, that we can possibly spare, to make the Lord's House as fitting as we can for the worship of His Divine Majesty.

Yours affectionately in Christ,
ROBERT READE.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine July 1902

Church Restoration

Now that the absorbing matter of the Coronation Festivities is over, it is hoped that the Church Restoration will be begun in earnest. Up till that time it did not seem possible to begin work which must inevitably put our Church out of order.

The Bishop of Derby has been so kind as to offer us Wednesday, July 30, for a visit, in case we wish to lay a foundation stone, and ask God's blessing on the work of Restoration. We quite hope that it will be possible for us to take advantage of this kind offer.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine August 1902

Monthly Letter from the Rector

MY DEAR FRIENDS

IT was of course a disappointment to us all that the formal legal proceedings in connection with our Church Restoration were not completed in time to enable the Bishop of Derby to come and lay our Foundation Stone on the 30th July, as he had so kindly offered

But that date, the only one he could fix before the holidays, gave us very little time to make our preparations; and I think that, as so often happens in life, our disappointment and delay 'will prove a blessing in disguise.

The Bishop has now kindly promised to come to us in September; but he has not yet been able to fix the exact date.

But in any case we shall now be able to have everything in readiness for his visit.

I am glad to find that the Church Restoration Committee, who examined the plans at our Meeting on the 11th, were as pleased with them as I myself am. They certainly are most skilful, and will doubtless make a wonderful improvement in the Church.

I cannot be at thankful that we should have secured the services of so eminent an Architect as Mr. Bodley; nor can I be too thankful to him personally, for the great care and pains he has given, amidst all the great works he has in hand, to our little Village Church of Hartshorne.

We are also most fortunate in our Contractor. It is a curious and happy chance that the Contractor whom Mr. Bodley begged us to employ is a native of this County and lives within a drive of Hartshorne.

And now I want to ask you for help in two ways. 1.—Daily prayer for God's blessing on the Restoration work and those engaged in it. 2.—Some more self-denial money. Every penny saved by our personal self-denial and given for Christ's sake to this Restoration Work, is literally worth its weight in gold. Some may doubt this or laugh at it, but I know by a long experience that it is literally true.

We still need at least £500 more than the £2053 which is safely lodged in the Bank.

We shall raise it all, I do not doubt, if we are willing, for Christ's sake, to save some pence by honest self-denial, and offer it to the Saviour for the Restoration of His Church. Try the plan and see for yourselves. The fact is He values very highly any act of self-denial done for His sake. And He is so generous that He rewards us an hundredfold for such acts. Best of all, such acts bring their own reward by delivering us from the spirit-of selfishness and stinginess and making us generous hearted.

I repeat, try the plan and see for yourselves.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

ROBERT READE.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Sept 1902

Monthly Letter from the Rector

MY DEAR FRIENDS

I have delayed for a few days the writing of this letter, because I wanted to be able to report to you that the tiresome legal business was over, which kept us inactive all last month, and that now we were free to go straight ahead with the work of our Church Restoration.

The loss of this month has been so serious, that we have had to consider the question very carefully, whether we hadn't better put off the work till next Spring, so as to secure fine weather and long days for it.

There is much to be said for this plan, and also against it. But, on the whole, we think it best to go straight ahead now the course is clear. The work will at once be begun in good earnest; and the Bishop of Derby has settled to come and lay the foundation stone, on Wednesday, the 24th, at 3 p.m.

It is by no means pleasant to think of having to forego the use of our Church during the coming Winter; but no doubt we shall get along all right in the big schoolroom; and we must look forward to a very happy Easter spent (we trust) in our restored Church.

Meanwhile I have had the gratification of learning from one or two experts in Church Restoration, who have visited the Church and

examined our plans, that they consider these plans extremely satisfactory, and have no doubt they will make a great improvement in our Church.

The chief items in our Estimate are as follows:—

Total cost of building new Aisle to Church, restoring and renovating Chancel, and building new Vestries, £1,525; opening out walled-up Arches into tower, and fitting same for Baptistery, £100; cleaning, whitewashing, distempering and painting, making new lobby to entrance, cleaning organ and fitting same in gallery, and altering clock, £100; heating Church throughout, £125; concreting and laying floor of Church with wood-blocks, £240.

The Architect has so strongly advised us to undertake these two last items, that it seemed best to follow his advice, though we should have been glad to save the money for other things. For the sums above-mentioned swallow up all the money we have at present raised, viz., £2,083, and still leave much to be done. They allow nothing for decoration, which is Mr. Bodley's greatest gift. We require new pulpit and reading desks and lectern, and oak seating throughout the Church. Then there are the Architect's fees to pay and the inevitable unforeseen expenses, which always turn up when an old Church is restored.

I daren't speak at present of a stained-glass window in the Chancel, and of the usual sanctuary decorations, such as most Churches possess, and take as a matter of course.

We must get these how and when we can. May be kind friends will present us with some of them, or give them in memory of their relations and friends. Somehow it seems unfitting that there should be in the Church no memorial to the late Rector, who resided here over 60 years; nor anything to record the very solemn fact that his successor died before ever he took up his residence here. Gifts which benefit the Church, while leaving a record of such events, would be very welcome.

But we can't get everything at once. So long as we do what we can, and see that what we do is all good solid work, the best we can

offer to God, He will bless us; and our children and future generations will be the better, not the worse, for our work.

All I would ask is that we should all persevere in praying and working and collecting for our Church, so that it may be restored as well as we can possibly restore it.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

ROBERT READE.

*Hartshorne Rectory,
September 1st.*

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The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Derby has fixed Wednesday, September 24th for coming to ask God's blessing on our Church Restoration work and to lay the Foundation-stone of the new part of the Church. The Service will be held at 3 o'clock.

There will be Tea in the Rectory Grounds after service, for which Tickets (at 6d. a head) may be obtained at the chief shops in Hartshorne, and of Mr. Smith, Music Depot, Woodville.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Oct 1902

Foundation-stone Laying at Hartshorne Church

Wednesday, September 24th, will, we think, be long remembered in Hartshorne as the day when the Bishop of Derby came and laid the Foundation-stone of the new part of our Parish Church.

Earnest prayer had been offered by many for fine weather, both for the work of Harvesting and also for this eventful day in the annals of our Parish Church's history.

But the heavy rain of Tuesday was enough to damp our faith.

Nevertheless our prayers were answered. We think it is no exaggeration to say that never yet this Summer had we enjoyed such perfect weather as was granted to us that Wednesday from sunrise to sunset.

And it seemed to make everybody happy and bright.

We had not only prayed for fine weather, but also for God's blessing on our festal day and assuredly we received it. Everything seemed to go right that day. Nobody sulked, nobody grumbled. Those who had to work,

worked with a right good will. The decorations were most attractive and tasteful, and must have been the result of much skilful labour, most willingly given.

At half-past two, the Bell Ringers, who also gave their services, announced the arrival of the Bishop with a cheerful peal; and a little later the School-children formed into a procession and marched from the School with their Banner to meet the procession of Clergy and Churchwardens which issued from the Old Boys School. When the Church gates were reached, the Cornet players sounded the tune to "We love the place O Lord," and the long procession filed into the Church, singing this hymn.

The opening sentences and the special lesson were read by the Rev. J. H. Talbot. The Bishop gave an admirable address on the text "The work is great, for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God."

The text, he said, answered the question:— "What were the reason and motive they had met there that day?" They were then entering upon a great work; but it would, he felt sure, be done, and done well, and done in the true spirit, if they kept before them David's motive for the work.

For why had they undertaken this work? What was this house of God for? "A palace — but not for man." Of course it was for built to use; but it was God's House, not man's, and built for God's glory and not for man's. And he trusted with all his heart and believed that they were now undertaking its restoration, not for their own glory but for God's. And in that case they would go on contributing to its restoration, even though already they had given largely, until they had the Joy of seeing it completed.

He trusted also that it would be filled with earnest worshippers; for it was a simple fact that everyone who absented himself from public worship was doing harm not only to himself but also to the souls of those around him.

Hartshorne Church was one of the few in Derbyshire which still needed Restoration; and now they had taken it in hand, they must try and make it as beautiful as possible for the glory of God and for their use.

The Rector then spoke, and pointed out how much they had to be thankful for in the eventful year which had passed since his most dangerous illness. In spite of this they had been able to raise the money and begin the work, and had secured a first-rate Architect and Builder.

It was clear that God was with them in the work. It seemed to him that God was saying to them what He said to those Jews who shrunk from the task of restoring the ruined temple: - "Be strong and work, for I am with you, saith the Lord of Hosts. The silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former, and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Let them take to themselves all this Word of God. The command to work; the promise of God's presence with them in the work; the assurance that the money they still need shall be forthcoming; and, best of all, the promise that in that restored house of God true spiritual work shall be done ("in this place will I give peace"). For, unless the spiritual work of restoring men's souls, which form the true living stones of the true House of God, goes hand in hand with the outward restoration of the Church's fabric, then this latter is worse than useless.

Nothing but the confident hope that the two restorations, inward and outward, would go on together, would have induced him to face the work. But he could not shut his eyes to the fact, that in spite of all his own weakness and sinfulness, and in spite of all the wickedness and sin in the parish —and God knows there was plenty of it — yet for all that, the living and Almighty Spirit of God was dealing personally and powerfully with the souls of the people in Hartshorne. Therefore they could thank God and take courage.

During the singing of the hymn "The Church's one foundation," the collection was made: then the great congregation proceeded to the place where the foundation stone hung ready, and the Bishop laid it with the usual words.

The final prayers were read by the Rural Dean (the Rev. F. W. Meynell); the Bishop

gave the blessing, and the long procession returned singing "O Lord of Hosts, Whose glory fills." An adjournment was then made to a tent in the Rectory grounds where several hundreds of people partook of tea, which had been tastefully prepared at various tables by many kind and unselfish workers.

Then, in the evening sunset of this golden day, many strolled homewards through the Rectory grounds, and out through the wicket gate into the Church-yard, to catch a last glimpse of the new foundations of the house of God, which had been the scene that afternoon of a most impressive Ceremony and Service.

THE total amount of the offertory at above service, including some contributions sent in afterwards, came to £23 0s 9d.

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DURING the Restoration of the Church the Sunday and Week-day Services are being held at the large School Room of the Mixed School; with the exception of the early Communion Services, which are held at the Old Boys' School.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Nov 1902

THE new walls of our Church are visibly rising. It is fortunate that the weather admits of time work making steady progress. We must not forget the money still to be raised. We hope to have a "Restoration" Bazaar in the Spring; many parishioners have already begun to work for it. The Church is for the whole village and when it is re-opened the happy people will be those who have done something (much or little) to make beautiful our village House of God.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Dec 1902

Church Restoration

It is cheering to see the progress in the work after the unfortunate delay which was caused by the falling in of the quarry out of which our stone was being extracted.

It is also most satisfactory to see the thorough good workmanship, which is being put into every portion of the work.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Jan 1903

The Bishop of Southwell has most kindly arranged to come to us and re-open our restored Church the first week in May. He also hopes to spend the Sunday with us and hold a Confirmation in the Church then. A card has been printed containing two prayers, which we earnestly invite all who can to make use of. One prayer pleads that God may so prosper our Restoration work, that all may be ready and the money raised in time for the Bishop's visit.

The other prayer pleads that many may be drawn by the grace of God to make good use of this opportunity now offered them, and diligently prepare to receive -(in their Confirmation) the Gift of God's Holy Spirit, which He is pleased to impart thro' the Laying-on-of-hands.

These cards may be had at the Rector and Churchwardens, who invite all who can to help in this work of intercession.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Feb 1903

Monthly Letter of Rector

MY DEAR FRIENDS

It is very satisfactory to see the good progress which the restoration of our Church is making; and the admirable taste and workmanship with which it is being done. It seems wretched to have to leave so much unfinished for want of another £1,000. But it was all important to do thoroughly the heavy solid work first; the rest can be done by degrees as we can raise the money for it. We have at any rate carried out the work in the spirit of our forefathers, who covered this country with our noble churches and cathedrals. Whatever they did, they did as well as possible, remembering that it was done for God; they were content to leave others to do what they could not carry out in a first-rate manner. Nobody can say that what we are doing is not being done as well as possible by us; indeed, the one only complaint I have ever heard about it, is that it is being done "too well"! If our forefathers had thought like that, they would never have given us our glorious churches and Cathedrals. They thought nothing could be

done "too well" for God. And that is what our Saviour thought, when "for us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven," and spent all His strength and sacrificed His Life for wicked, thankless people, who never rested till they got rid of Him by nailing Him to the Cross. And that is what He thinks still, when He patiently puts up with the shameful sins of us Christians, and still stands knocking at the door of hearts, waiting on and on, in hopes that we will turn before God's sure day of vengeance has arrived.

WE are printing hereunder the two prayers which we are inviting our people to use. They have also been printed on cards, which may be had at the Rectory or of the Churchwardens.

Prayer for our Church Restoration

(Please try and pray this prayer daily).

O ALMIGHTY FATHER, bless, we beseech Thee, our efforts to restore Thy House, in this Parish.

Give to us all generosity of heart, that we may willingly deny ourselves and give to Thee our money, as Thy dear Son gave all He had for us.

Give wisdom and skill to the Architect and workmen, and to those of us who take any part in this Thy work; that all may be completed and money raised in time for the Bishop's visit.

And grant that, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, this outward work of restoring Thy House may so hand in hand with the inward work of restoring the souls of Thy people; that they may become true and living Stones in the spiritual Temple of Thy Holy Church, of which Thy dear Son is the chief Cornerstone:—Through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine March 1903

Rector's Monthly Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS

I am very thankful that the open weather has enabled us to make such good progress with the Church. But a very great deal has still to be done and also to be arranged, before we can be ready for the Bishop's Visit on Saturday, May 9th.

We hope to have a Meeting of all our Church people before Lent to take all the steps needful to get ready.

I must not omit to say a word of most hearty appreciation both of the thoroughness of the work which is being done at the Church and also of good feeling and good conduct of those who are doing it. We have much to be thankful for in both these matters.

God grant that, by the power of His Holy Spirit, the inward work of restoring the souls of His people may make as good progress as this hard work of restoring His House is now making.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
ROBERT READE.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine April 1903

A Social Meeting for members of the congregation was held in the Schools on Shrove Tuesday.

After tea there was an Entertainment consisting of dances and songs and music. Miss Francis and Mr. S. Dakin sang. Percy Wallis gave a violin solo; and Miss Connie Orme played the piano.

During an interval the Rector gave an account of the Restoration of the Church, which is proceeding rapidly and admirably. He spoke with appreciation of the great attention which our eminent Architect, G. F. Bodley, Esq, R. A., bestows on every detail; and of the faithfulness with which our Contractor and his workmen carry out all the work. He expressed regret that they could not at present, without incurring debt, order the designs for oak-seating made by the Architect for the chancel and nave. Meanwhile Miss Lloyd, who is already presenting to us a handsome oak pulpit, has most kindly offered to provide us with chairs until we can raise the money for this seating, which is estimated at £280. This, with other requisites, makes the sum of £500 still needed. Being very desirous to complete the work, the Rector offered to give (out of his capital) half this sum, if Lord Carnarvon would give the other half; but his lordship did not see his way to do so. Since then the Rector has undertaken to rebuild entirely the

East wall and window of the chancel (which were found to be in a very poor state), instead of patching them up.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine May 1903

Rector's Monthly Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

How delightful it is to know that, all being well, we shall be back in our restored church within another month. And although it cannot be furnished half as well as I should like, and, although we must still go without many articles we need, yet we have to be thankful for not a few generous gifts; and above all we may be thankful that the church has been so skilfully restored. I am printing below the arrangements which have been made for the Bishop's visit. And now I want to ask you all to pray very earnestly and often those two prayers; the one for our Confirmation, that those who are preparing for it may be ready and able to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost; the other for our Church Restoration, "that all may be completed and the money raised in time for the Bishop's visit."

This last month of preparation will be an extremely important month for us all. And I confess I feel it no small trial just now, that I have been quite unable, since I had the influenza, to regain my strength, or to shake off the tendency to blood-spitting, which comes on directly I begin to use my voice. This has greatly hampered my efforts to raise the money we still need, and to prepare our candidates for Confirmation,

Still much may be done in this last precious month. And even when nothing else can be done, the mighty power of prayer can be wielded, if only one resorts to it, instead of grumbling or losing heart.

And we know well that our Father, if we trust Him, *can* and *will* make our greatest hindrances and difficulties and trials all work together for good. Of course it is very much easier to say this, than it is to stand firm on it when the trials come. But, thank God, it is *true*. That is the great thing.

Now I want to thank all those who have been helping us by their prayers and gifts and work. I am sure they feel, as I do, that we

cannot be too generous ourselves, when we remember that we owe the Restoration of our church mainly to the generosity of a stranger, who is not at all rich, and who has deprived himself permanently of £40 a year to restore God's House in our Parish.

And I want to invite you all during this month to make as vigorous efforts as possible, by prayers, by giving, and by collecting, to have our church ready for the Bishop's visit, and ourselves ready for the Confirmation.

Yours affectionately in Christ,
ROBERT READE.

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VERY few people, who have not had the task of restoring a Church, have any idea of the number of articles required for furnishing it. This is more especially the case with our Church; as, with exception of two Sanctuary Chairs, all the old furniture was made of the barest commonest deal, quite impossible even to utilize again.

We are most grateful for the following gifts, which have been or are about to be presented to the Church: Pulpit, Altar and Choir Stalls, Miss Lloyd; Lectern, Mrs. Talbot; Altar Candle-sticks, Mrs. A. Reade; Altar Cross, The Rector's family; Altar Vases, Mr. Hare; Green Frontal, Mrs. and Miss Williams; Purple Frontal, Mr. Young; Two Dossals.

A Credence Table has been bought with the Easter Offerings; and a Font Ewer and a brass Alms dish, with the Lent Self-denial money.

Mr. Young has very kindly undertaken to paint the panels of the old Altar, which will now be placed at the end of the enlarged Aisle, in which, for convenience sake, we hope in future to hold our daily Services.

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WE print the following list of articles still needed for the Church, which might be given as thank-offerings or in memory of friends or relations:— Red and White Frontals £4 4s 0d each. 3 Prayer Desks £3 8s.0d. each. Litany Desk £3 3s 0d. Sanctuary Lamps £2 10s 0d each. Lamps for Church £4 each. Harmonium. Bibles, Hymn Books, Prayer Books and Psalters for Choir and Congregation.

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THE Lent Self-denial money found in the Church Box amounted to £3 5s. 6d. The Infant School children gave 14s 1d and the Mixed School 16s 11d during Lent.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine June 1903

Rector's Monthly Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

It is with deep thankfulness to God that I write and congratulate you on the Restoration and Re-opening of your Parish Church. After all our difficulties and anxieties and toil, it has indeed been cheering to hear the unanimous expressions of delight and surprise at the transformation effected in our Church. And indeed I must confess that even I, who have watched over and worked at the whole process from beginning to end, even I myself am astonished at the change; a change from such ugliness and squalor to such real and chaste beauty. It is difficult to believe that it can be the same church; only there it stands as before, visible to our bodily eyes. None but a really first-rate Architect could have accomplished this; nor indeed could even he have done it without the aid of a first rate builder.

We owe a deep debt to the genius of Mr G. F. Bodley, R.A., our distinguished and at the same time most painstaking Architect and to his junior Colleague Mr. Cecil Hare; and no less are our thanks due to Messrs. Ford, of Derby, and to all their workmen, for the admirable manner in which they have carried out Mr. Bodley's clever and beautiful designs.

But again how thankful we should be that, in spite of the Collapse of all our arrangements within a week of the Re-opening, everything turned out so well.

How dark things looked on Monday, when the news came that the Bishop of Southwell and Lady Laura Ridding could not come, either on Saturday or on Sunday; and next day my lung began to bleed! I can hardly believe that, in spite of this, everything turned out so prosperously. God's blessing was manifestly poured upon us. And to three people especially our thanks are due.

To the Bishop of Derby, who, though he could not come on Sunday, held our

Confirmation on Thursday instead, and took the Bishop of Southwell's place on Saturday.

To the Rev. F. Anstruther Cardew, who, when he heard of our trouble, at great difficulty and cost to himself, such as few clergymen in his place would have faced, left his work in Suffolk to come to us for Sunday.

To the Lady Kathleen Bligh, who undertook Lady Laura Ridding's work of giving the Address to women on Sunday and of opening the Sale of Work next day.

We thank these three especially for helping us so ably and effectually out of our serious difficulties. We also thank our many kind helpers, for their services in various ways.

And I must not omit a word of special thanks, to our Churchwardens and to my Colleague, the Rev. J. Talbot, to whose deep interest and hearty co-operation the success of the work is in no small measure due.

May Almighty God vouchsafe to crown our labours, by answering that prayer we have so often prayed, and we must go on praying and working for; "That this *outward* work of restoring Thy House may set forward in ever-increasing measure, the *inward* work of restoring the souls of Thy people, that they may become true and living stones in the spiritual Temple of Thy holy Church, of which Thy dear Son is the chief Corner-Stone, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Yours affectionately in Christ

ROBERT READE.

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Saturday, May 30th, our Church was re-opened by the Bishop of Derby. There was a large congregation, a great many of those present having come from a distance. An unusually large number of clergy brought their robes and walked in procession preceded by the choir, the members of which wore cassocks and surplices for the first time. The Church was decorated with palms and looked extremely beautiful. The Bishop consecrated, with most impressive prayers, the Vestry, Pulpit, Altar, Choir-stalls, Lectern and new Aisle. He preached from the text, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

The Rector expressed his thanks to the Architects, the contractor and the workmen who had united in making the work of Restoration a success. Our thanks are also due to the bell-ringers who decorated the gateway, and to the cornet players who accompanied the processional and recessional hymns. The offertory amounted to £20 15s. 2d After the service the congregation had tea in the Rectory grounds, where a tent had been erected on the lawn. There was a small Sale of Work, the proceeds of which amounted to over £11 (gross).

Hartshorne Parish Magazine August 1903

WE are very glad to hear that at last the Contractor who carried out the work at our church so admirably, Mr J. K. Ford, has recovered from his long illness, and hopes to be at work again soon. Of course he has not yet seen the results of his labours, as he was taken ill before the church was finished and opened. It will be as gratifying to him as it is to us, to hear the unanimous expressions of surprise and satisfaction at the great improvement which has been made.

Owing to his illness we have been unable to obtain from him the final accounts, so as to ascertain the exact amount still owing for the Church Restoration, and to publish the Balance Sheet.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Sept 1903

We are glad to say that Mr. J. K. Ford, the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Ford & Co., the Contractors for the restoration of our Church, has at last recovered and returned to work, and has sent in the account for their contract and the extras, which are now being examined by the Architect. We are also expecting a visit from the Architect to make a final examination of the work before certifying to its satisfactory completion. When this is done it will be possible to produce an exact Balance Sheet, which hitherto has not been possible. We still receive gratifying testimonies to the beauty of our Restoration.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Oct 1903

OUR RESTORED CHURCH -- It has been a pleasure to see and hear how much our

Parishioners appreciate our restored Church, and how much more many of them now use it. God grant that this may continue. Going to Church should do for our souls what going for a change does for our bodies. It takes us out of our ordinary life into a different atmosphere, where we lose sight of our own worries, and gain a sight of God and of things eternal. We also realize in public worship our fellowship with other Christians; the sense of loneliness goes from us as we take part in common worship with our fellow-pilgrims on the journey of life, and our fellow-soldiers in the Army of Christ.

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WE are still unable to give the exact total amount of our Church Restoration Expenses, as the Architect has not yet sent in his account, nor can the exact cost of the Ventilation, which we deferred doing, be estimated, until the new design, now being prepared for it by the Architect, has reached us. We hope to carry out this at the same time that the Memorial Window is put in, so that all may be ready for the Bishop's visit on November 2nd.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Nov 1903

Rector's Monthly Letter

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I have delayed publishing this Magazine until after the Bishop's visit, as I thought you would like to read in it the account of the unveiling of our Memorial East Window. But how disappointing the weather proved! Was ever such a downpour! And yet, in spite of it, or perhaps in some measure on account of it, we have (as far as I can judge) paid off our Church's debt.

I think it quite possible that our Bishop's remarkable generosity may have been partly due to his sympathy with us in our disappointment. Anyhow, thank God, as far as I can judge, we shall now be free from debt. For altho' it is not possible to speak with perfect accuracy until all Bills are in, and all promises fulfilled, and all Payments made, and all Accounts audited, I am sure that when all that has been promised is paid in, our Bank lodgments will amount in gross to over

£2667; and I estimate that our total expenses will not exceed £2644.

This of course is exclusive of all the generous gifts which have been made to us, and which exceed in value £250.

I think we ought now to hold a Thanksgiving Service. I am going away for a short rest, to stop in time some symptoms of lung trouble which have just threatened me; but I hope to arrange it on my return. Certainly I do feel most heartily thankful for what God has enabled us to carry out.

But I have already been warned that our Church Restoration is not yet complete! Our Architect, who was down here last week, enquired if we were ready to let him begin some Decoration. I only wish we were, for he is unrivalled at Decoration! The Bell-ringers have invited me to help them start collecting for at least one of the bells still needed! How glad I should be to do so! While a Parishioner to-day assured me that we must not rest until at least the other East Window was filled with Stained Glass, for they all ought to be done!

Well, whatever we need we can get by degrees, if we all keep to God's rule, laid down in the Bible, of setting apart for Him one tenth of our earnings, which He claims as His, not ours. My experience is that those who do this always have money they are ready and willing to give; while those who neglect it, seldom, if ever, can conveniently spare any.

Please note that Advent begins this year earlier than usual, on the 29th. I have engaged some able special preachers for the Thursdays in Advent. I trust their kindness in coming to us will be rewarded by large and appreciative congregations.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

ROBERT READE.

Hartshorne Rectory, Nov. 4th, 1903.

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MONDAY, Nov. 2nd, broke cloudy and depressing; but we hoped that the sun was reserving itself to shine later on, when the Bishop arrived to unveil our Memorial Window to the late Rector, the Rev. H. W. Buckley. We were, however, doomed to disappointment; for about 11.30, steady rain

commenced, and with almost no intermission it came down heavily all day.

The Bishop of Southwell arrived in good time for the Service at 3 o'clock; and in spite of the weather the Church was nearly full; but it was very disappointing to know how very large a number of Parishioners and other friends were prevented from coming by the pouring rain.

The Service consisted of Choral Evensong, with special Psalm and Lessons. Most of the Choir were able to give their services, and the singing was considered very good. After the 3rd Collect the Bishop offered up some appropriate prayers, and proceeded to unveil the Window, which is a very beautiful one. It has been designed by Mr. G. F. Bodley, and executed by Messrs. Burlison & Grylls, and consists of three lights, the Crucifixion in the centre, and the Blessed Virgin and St. John on either side.

After the unveiling the Bishop gave us an interesting and instructive address, taking for his text the motto underneath our Lord's Figure in the Central Light— "So God loved the World"

The Offertory was collected during the singing of the beautiful hymn, "For all thy Saints," and was given towards paying the debt still remaining on the Restoration of the Church, which amounted to just about £100. Great was the delight of the Parishioners to hear a little later in the evening that the whole debt was cleared off, chiefly owing to the generosity of the Bishop who put £100 into the Offertory.

A very hearty peal of Bells by the Ringers announced to the Parish the general rejoicing.

After the Service we all adjourned to the Old Boys' School, and partook of a most refreshing and beautifully-arranged tea prepared and presided over by the Ladies' Committee.

Finally we returned to our homes, dripping but cheerful, and can only hope that nobody will be the worse for the kind efforts they made.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Jan 1904

WE have received some beautiful, gifts for our Church. We have to thank Mr. and Mrs.

Young for their gift of a handsome purple frontal and super-frontal, which was both designed and carried out by their skilful hands. It came in time for Advent. Then, just in time for Christmas Day, came a magnificent white frontal of costly material and excellent workmanship, which is the joint gift of Mrs. Morant, and of the ladies of the St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, Needlework Guild. At the same time, the St. Peter's, Eaton Square, Guild have presented us with 2 sets of Altar Linen. The Sanctuary Lamps, presented by Mr. Mansfield and by General Lord Grenfell, are now on their way from Florence, in Italy. And our old friend and former resident in this Parish, Mrs. Mynors, has presented us with some mats which she worked for us herself. Truly we in Hartshorne are deeply indebted to the generosity of many outside our Parish. God grant that this fact may enlarge our hearts, and make us cheerfully and generously respond to any fitting calls which may come to us, not only in our own parish, but also from outside. Freely we have received: let us freely give.

Hartshorne Parish Magazine Oct 1904

THE Rector's farewell sermon was preached in the morning of September 25th. He took his text from Acts xx., 32, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His Grace which is able to build you up." He commended his people to God as their own Father, their own Saviour, and their own Sanctifier. He pressed on them the necessity of daily reading the Word of God, and trying to follow out its teaching. He then concluded by begging them all to be loyal above all to God, also no their Church, not first going to one place and then to another, but by their loyalty to one showing what a Christian Church, which Christ Himself had planted on the earth, could be in its life and its Service to Him its Founder. He also begged them to be loyal to their Rector who was so soon to take his place among them. In the evening after Mr. Hayward's Sermon the Rector spoke a few earnest words to the large congregation; he asked each to. make a resolution that every morning he would ask God to enable them to aim at doing good and no harm, so as

