

INSTITUTION OF RECTOR

Big Congregation At Buckerell

BISHOP AND COUNTRY OPPORTUNITY

Curate at Sidmouth Parish church for the past three years, after serving in the same capacity at Dawlish Parish Church, Rev. J. Kenneth Maurice was yesterday instituted to the living of Buckerell, near Honiton, by the Bishop of Exeter, before a crowded congregation. The service was choral, with Mr. Stanley Fairchild (Sidford) at the organ.

Mr. Maurice is taking the place of Rev. E. Ravenscroft, who has retired after ministering at Buckerell for the past 27 years.

After the presentation and institution, the Archdeacon of Exeter (Rev. A. H. Thompson), as is the custom, took the newly-instituted incumbent to the main door of the church, and, laying his hand on the handle of the door, duly handed over real possession of the church.

ENCOURAGING WELCOME

The bishop, in his address, said how encouraging it was to the new rector to see so many of them present that afternoon to welcome him and wish him god-speed in the ministry which he was about to commence. He felt sure that there was one person thinking of the church at that time – a person who had ministered there for 27 years so faithfully, and he was quite confident that Mr. Ravenscroft's prayers were with them.

Anyone who attended a service of institution and induction, or who was familiar

with the procedure, would realize what powers were put into the hands of the incumbent as a result. After reminding them that they would be praying silently for their new minister during the service, the Bishop wondered what would be the result if their prayers were answered in the parish.

There would be three answers, he said, to that question – not his own answers, but answers from the Holy Scriptures themselves. If their prayers were answered there would be a new spirit of fellowship, a new courage, and new witness.

When Christ finished His work He left behind no building and no books, but a body of men and women bound together in the cause of fellowship, and whatever the Church had been able to do that had been the secret of it.

ROOTS IN THE SOIL

One of the first duties of a parish priest was to hold together his people, for never was anything as disastrous as a parish that was divided among itself or where strife existed. In this respect there was great opportunity in the country, because "here he comes not as a town clergy to a congregation, but as a minister to a community that has its roots in the soil."

They must show courage in times of temptation and times of difficulty, and he (the Bishop) always liked to look upon the Church as a centre of encouragement.

Clergy present were the Archdeacon of Exeter, Canon E. F. Hall (representing the Dean and Chapter of Exeter), Revs. J. L. Nightingale (Sidmouth), B. S. Crockett (Ottery St. Mary), A. W. Crockett (Sidmouth), C. D. Walters (Alfington), G. H. Greenslade (Newton Poppleford), F. Perry (Westhill, Rural Dean of Ottery St. Mary), C. K. Woollcombe, W. A. D. Edwards (Countess Wear), and Canon H. H. Lee (Kilminster).

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