



Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MILFORD.

AT the request of the Committee, General Young, who has been Treasurer to the Parochial Church Council since early in 1927, has furnished particulars, such as he was able to obtain, of various capital expenditure on the Church and furniture dating from 1920. Since his taking over of the finances it has been possible to make definite statements of the sums allocated and subscribed to the various objects enumerated, but previous to 1927 he has found considerable difficulty in tracing the details of several of the items mentioned, though the total figures may be considered as approximately correct.

To begin with 1920, the sum of £500 was expended in new heating apparatus for the Church which included new boiler and hot water piping throughout.

1920 was the first year in which the "Enabling Act" came into force and the first Statutory Parochial Church Council was elected. During this year the East end of the South aisle of the Church was dedicated as a War Memorial Chapel.

"The south chapel was soon after the Great War of 1914-18, set apart as a War Memorial Chapel and its altar, reredos, altar rail and panneling all of local workmanship were the gifts of Parishioners, the parish recording the names of those of this parish who fell or died as the result of the War."

"In connection with this work the pulpit was altered in character (with the concurrence of Mr. E. Agar)

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and lowered slightly since its design and size were not satisfactory." (Milford-on-Sea Record Society's Magazine, May 1936.)

The total amount subscribed for this purpose is not known.

In 1922 the sum of £47 was expended in furnishing an iron ladder to the belfry and oak cornice and boarding in the Tower vestry.

1924. "The panelling to the Sanctuary and the present altar rail were erected out of a bequest by the late Miss Armstrong of the Dial House, and the remodelling of the choir stalls, the improvement of the design of the organ case and many similar matters in the Church were achieved by the gifts of other Parishioners." (Occasional Magazine, May 1936). This work was done at the cost, of £200.

We now come to 1927, when the subject of re-seating was brought up, and after much discussion it was finally decided to renovate and stain the old pews, repair the flooring and provide chairs in the Memorial Chapel and the West end of the Church. The total cost amounting to £295. This was during the incumbency of the late Rev. C. E. Matthews.

Soon after the Rev. H. M. Larner was appointed Vicar in 1928, it was reported that the hanging arrangements of the bells was in a distinctly dangerous condition, and after discussion in the Council, a resolution was passed to stop the ringing of the bells.

This brought matters to a head, and an appeal was issued and collections taken in Church to enable the necessary repairs to be undertaken, and the bells (five) to be recast and three new ones added to make the full peal.

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By these measures the sum of £1100 was contributed and the work completed.

On the resignation of the Rev. H. M. Larnier and the appointment of Rev. R. J. Hitchcock as incumbent in 1930, a movement was started to increase the endowment of the living and during 1930-32 the sum of £960 was raised and £900 sent to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as a "benefaction in suspense," the remainder (£60) being added to the Vicar's stipend for the year. The Diocese contributed £400, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £700, bringing the total up to £2000, on which 4½% interest is paid annually to the benefice.

1932. Children's Corner. "The North transept which was fitted with very poor and unsatisfactory pews was in 1932 transformed into a children's corner by the raising of the floor and the formation of an oak screen and table, the work being done locally as the gift of Mrs. Ravenscroft of Briantcroft, Milford." (*Occasional Magazine*, May 1936.) This together with the furnishing thereof were private gifts.

Early in 1933 it was found that owing to the additional number of bell-ringers, the crowding in the vestry was becoming impossible and an appeal was made to the parish for a new vestry to be built, and the design which was submitted to the Parochial Church Council by Mr. Ravenscroft was adopted, which included a doorway specially erected in memory of the late Bishop McDougall (Vicar from 1885-88.) The sum necessary viz. £760 was raised in the course of a year and the vestry dedicated in June, 1934, by the Bishop of Southampton, Bishop Boutflower.

In 1935, it became necessary to remove some tiling from the roof of the South aisle in order to repair certain gutters, when it was discovered that the Death Watch Beetle was at work on the beams of the roof, and

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on further examination the mischief was found to be general, especially over the organ at the East end of the North aisle. This necessitated the complete removal of the roof in that portion of the Church and extensive repairs in the South aisle and transept, as well as repairs to the beams supporting the main roof of the nave. This of course was an urgent matter and was speedily realized as such and the sum of £964 was raised by the parishioners in the course of a year and the work completed.

Owing to the removal of the roof over the organ it became necessary to take down the instrument. And to quote Miss Chandler's report to the Parochial Church Council :—"The Council's first decision was to incur the least possible expenditure by replacing the old organ in the North chapel. But when the beauty of the chapel was revealed, so strong was the desire in the parish to keep this architectural feature that the first decision had to be reconsidered."

After expert advice had been obtained and after prolonged deliberation and consultation the final course arrived at by the Parochial Church Council was to erect a new organ, by Messrs. Henry Willis which has since been done, the total cost amounting to £840, of which by the end of 1936 the sum of £520 had been paid.

Below the amounts subscribed are shown with the corresponding dates :—

1920.	New Heating Apparatus	...	£500
1922.	Oak Cornice and Boarding in Vestry		
	and Iron Ladder to Belfry	...	£47
1924.	Panelling in Sanctuary Choir Stalls		£200
1927.	Repair and Staining of Pews, New		
	Flooring and Chairs	...	£295
1928.	Recasting Bells, adding 3 Bells and		
	Repairs to Tower	...	£1,100
1930-1932.	Endowment Fund for Benefice		£960
1933.	New Vestry	...	£760

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1935-1936.	Roof Repairs owing to damage by Death Watch Beetle	£964
1936.	New Organ	£520
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		£5,346

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The balance debit on the New Organ was paid off during the year 1937, during which year the Rev. S. G. Hooper became Vicar.

The East window in the War Memorial Chapel, given by the the Rivett Carnac family, was replaced, with their leave, by a new window, generously presented by Mrs. Ravenscroft, a brass tablet being placed beneath, stating the fact that the Rivett Carnac family had put in the original window.

With the removal of the old organ from the East end of the North aisle, the plain glass window let in a flood of light to a part of the Church that had long been without it. Many opinions were expressed on this effect. Some liking it, some feeling that the balance of lighting was spoilt.

An offer of a window, on similar lines to the one in the War Memorial Chapel, was made by a few parishioners and was accepted by the Parochial Church Council and was duly inserted.

The firm of Nicholson supplied both windows.

Some poor stained glass in the North windows was removed and plain glass from the old North East window substituted. The cost of this was defrayed privately: as was also the gift of the glass in the East window of the North Transept.

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1938. Under the Tithe Act of 1936, the Chancel, formerly owned by Lay Rectors was handed over to the Parochial Church Council.

With the ravages of the Death Watch Beetle in other parts of the Church in mind, the Parochial Church Council had the roof carefully examined, and it was found to be badly attacked by the pest.

It was decided to put the chancel roof in thorough repair, and while doing this to overhaul the walls and plaster generally.

The bosses in the Chancel roof were found to have been stained and Mr. Ravenscroft, discovering the original colouring arranged that these should be re-painted.

All this work was completed by Messrs. James Butler & Co. by April 1st at an estimated cost of £250. Of this sum £113 had already been paid by the spring of 1938.

In this year the site of the little Church of S. Mary, Everton, became the property of the Parish: a gift from Mr. C. Wilkinson, the son of a late Vicar.

C. A. FINZEL.