

## COLYFORD CHURCH OPENING – JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 1889

After the lapse of some three centuries the sound of the Church Bells which ceased when the little chantry of St Edmunds at the lower end of the village disappeared – was again heard on Thursday afternoon, when it sent forth its chimes for the opening Service of the handsome new Church, which had been erected by private munificence at the higher end of the ancient borough, to which it forms a very conspicuous ornament with its light and elegant Bell Turret rising from the red tiled and handsome porch, and what will be ere long a pretty well laid out Church-yard with Site for Parsonage in the rear.

At present this new Church is called a “Chapel of Ease” in the Parish of Colyton, and being thus under the charge of the Vicar of Colyton.

It seemed that after days of Fog and dreary Mist, the fine bright weather of Thursday was most auspicious, and hopeful for the important occasion, which naturally drew large numbers of people from Colyton, Axmouth, Seaton and longer distances, as well as the rejoicing denizens of Colyford.

On entering through the South Porch, the first object apparent is the elegant Baptistry of Carved Oak, with handsome solid font of Norman design. The well-proportioned Nave is floored with wooden blocks, and seated with comfortable open Benches of stained wood. The upper walls are of yellow brick, the lower, or dado, of Red Brick. It is separated by an Arcade on the South, the Vestry on the North side communicating with the Chancel.

Looking Eastward a conspicuous object is the handsome Rood Screen dividing the Nave from the Chancel, which contains stalls of Oak for the Clergy and a small Choir, and the Altar is of the same, beautifully carved and was covered with a handsome red Frontal. The Reredos space was hung with a very fine Dossal. On either side the lancet windows represent “The Archangels St Michael and St Gabriel” and the Rose Window above represents “Our Lord in Glory”. The Pulpit is of Carved Oak, and the Eagle Lectern is of the same material, and the ancient feature once prevalent in Churches, a hagioscope, is revived in the South Aisle of the Church.

The Opening Service was full choral Evensong. The Prayers to the third collect intoned by the Rev M Gueritz, Vicar of Colyton. The Special Psalms were the XXVI and LXIII, and were taken by Gregorian Tones by the Choir, a contingent from Colyton Church, and accompanied on a very fine toned harmonium played for the occasion by Mr A Edwards (Organist of Colyton Church). In future it will be played by Mr S Seaward. The first special lesson – Genesis XXVIII from 10<sup>th</sup> verse and read by the Rev R A Mortimer, Curate of Colyton, and the second was Rev VII from 9<sup>th</sup> verse. The Canticles were Wesley’s fine setting. The remainder of the service was said by the Rev T E Sandye, the Assistant Curate of the Chapel. The Hymns were taken up by the large Congregation with heartiness, and were before the service “All people that on Earth do dwell”, after the third Collect “We love the place O Lord”, before the Sermon “Almighty God whose only Son” and after the Sermon “The Church’s one foundation”.

The Sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Exeter, from the Text “O think upon thy Servant as concerning thy word wherein thou has caused me to put my trust (Psalm CXIX – 49<sup>th</sup> verse). The sermon was delivered with affectionate earnestness, and warmth of feeling, characteristic of the good Bishop who we regret to see bears the trace of the hard work and severe strain which Episcopacy in the present day entails. He alluded in eloquent terms to the good work of the Founders of the Church and the future blessing in store through its instrumentality. A Simple Brass placed in the North Wall near the Pulpit, modestly records the names of the Founders in the following terms “To the Glory of God, and in remembrance of Admiral John Impey R.N. This Chapel is erected by his daughter and Grandson Marion and Elijah Impey Scarborough Dec. 1888. At the conclusion of the service, the Vicar gave Notice of Morning service and Holy Communion on the next Sunday.

A considerable number of visitors were entertained to Tea at Coly House by Mr and Mrs E Scarborough. Many others were received at Elmwood by Mr and Mrs H Bannister Barr (Mr Barr holding office of Mayor). It is a day long to be remembered, everything was carried out with great success and the New Church (the Architect of which is Mr R Fulford and the builders Messrs Luscombe) will no doubt beyond its present benefit be the means of bringing increased members to this pretty hamlet: as the planting of a Church invariably does everywhere.

PULMANS WEEKLY NEWS, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1889.