

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligence

27 September 1890

CHURCH PROGRESS IN ILKLEY

OPENING OF PARISH ROOMS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

In connection with St. Margaret's parish, Ilkley, the want of a suitable premises in which to carry on Sunday school work and administer parochial affairs has been very keenly felt for some years past, and overcome that drawback a movement was started a short time ago to provide a building which should possess all necessary accommodation. Accordingly a site was purchased near to Bolton bridge road, at the rear of the Grove, and on this a capital suite of rooms has been erected to meet the requirements of the Sunday school, parish meetings, etc. The new building is in the gothic style of architecture and has a very fine appearance. It consists of Main Hall, gallery, and ante rooms. The vestibule is 14 feet by 30 feet, and from it a staircase leads to the gallery. On each side there are ante rooms, measuring 16 feet by 16 feet and each is fitted up with an improved lavatory. The main hall is 54 feet by 40 feet, capable of accommodating nearly 600 people. The platform, or stage, is 24 feet wide by 14 feet deep cover and communicates with two other ante rooms- 1 measuring 22 feet by 16 feet and the other 19 feet by 16 feet. The gallery is capable of accommodating 200 people. Branching off this are two rooms which can be used either as classrooms or ante rooms, both measuring the same as the other anterooms 16 feet by 16 feet. The building is lighted by Suggs patent sun burner and ventilator, and fresh air is supplied by Tobin tubes. The total frontage is 67 feet. The architects were Messrs. J. & E. Critchley, Bradford and Ilkley. The liabilities already incurred amount to £2,947, and the estimated cost of finishing is £115, which will bring the total to £3,062. Towards this there has already been raised £1,571, leaving £1,491 pounds still to be raised, but to this must be added the unavoidable cost of erecting a fence etc... to enclose the site.

On Thursday night, when the formal opening the building took place, the interior presented an attractive appearance, thanks to the floral decorations of the platform and other parts by Messrs. Hainsworth and Co. of the Brook Street Nurseries. The proceedings opened at 7:00 with a *conversazione*, which was largely attended. At eight o'clock Mr Frederick W. Fison took the chair and supporting him on the platform were the Rev. Irton Smith (vicar), Rev. Dr. Black (Burley) the Rev. A. A. Slack, the Rev. T. Todd, Mr. M. D'Arcy Wyville, Mr Buck, Mr F Muff, Mr F. P. Hemsley, Mr Knight, Mr. Joseph Pollard, Mr. C. M. Wilson, Mr. Haynes, etc... whilst the audience included all the principal gentry of the township.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated the audience upon the great work accomplished since the establishment of St. Margaret's Church, and expressed his own pleasure at being present to open that building. As one of the patrons, he remarked that it was exceedingly difficult for them to offer to clergyman a living which practically had really by way of endowment the munificent sum of £33 and some odd shillings a year. That was not the time or the place to talk about the advantages of voluntary and of endowed livings, but he thought all of them who had studied the question would agree that it was very desirable that there should be some considerable amount of endowment connected with each living. They perhaps had not the money to fund an endowment fund at the present time, but they could do this- they could set to work so soon (or sooner if they liked) as the debt upon that building was cleared away to build or buy a Vicarage, which was the next best thing to an endowment. (Cheers.) They must bear in mind that land and houses in Ilkley would not get cheaper as years rolled on, and there was nothing like seizing the present time and getting either

land for a Vicarage or buying a house which they might find convenient. He merely through this before them as members of the congregation of Saint Margaret's because the patrons had experienced considerable- though he hoped it might be a very long before they were called upon to exercise their functions again- difficulty with having so very little to offer in way of what a clergyman had a reasonable right to expect would be offered in a responsible cure like that. He would not detain them any longer; They had a long programme to go through, and they had some interesting presentations to make. He would, therefore merely formally declare that the building was now open and they would proceed with the programme. (Cheers.)

On the motion of the VICAR, seconded by Mr. Haines a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Fison, who briefly responded.

A programme of vocal and instrumental music followed, and during the interval Mr. Edward W. Crawley who hon. choirmaster of St. Margaret's for 17 years, was presented by the congregation with an address, beautifully illuminated, together with a silver tea and coffee service and tray and four silver candle sticks. The past and present members of the choir also presented Mr. Crawley with an illuminated address and a silver cup. These presentations formed the principal features of the gathering.

Mr. Crawley expressed his thanks for these evidences of appreciation in suitable terms, though he was visibly affected throughout