

CLOPTON GRAVEYARD EXTENSION.

CONSECRATION CEREMONY BY THE BISHOP.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rector, Canon J. W. B. Page, an extension to the burial ground at Clopton Church has been made without expense to the parish, and, on Sunday afternoon, the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich performed the ceremony of consecration. The ground for the extension was bought by the Rector, and hedges have been provided by Mrs. Coppen, while the men of the parish have been responsible for all the necessary work.

The first part of the service was taken in the church by the Rev. W. M. Snook, the rector of Bredfield, the lesson being read by the Rev. E. Sutton, rector of Grundisburgh. The two churchwardens, Mrs. F. J. Sidebottom and Mr. A. J. Coppen, then headed the procession to the new extension, which is in the North-West corner of the churchyard. Following them came the Rev. E. L. Collins, rector of Otley, carrying the episcopal staff, the Bishop, the clergy, the choir, and the congregation, and the ground was perambulated while the 16th, 25th and 90th Psalms were said.

The Bishop, having pronounced the sentence of consecration, the procession returned to the church, where the document was signed by the Bishop, Canon Page, Mrs. Sidebottom, Mr. Coppen, Col. Wintle, and Mr. F. Balls (sidesman). The remainder of the service was then taken by the Rector, and the Bishop delivered an appropriate address. The service of consecration, he said, was interesting on three grounds. First of all it was picturesque and something out of the ordinary. Secondly it was an interesting combination of legal and religious ceremony. Lastly there was the wonderful associations it must have for all of us. A great many people felt that it was rather a sad association, but it was wrong to regard death as the end of everything. It was only the end of the physical body, and for the spiritual body there was hope and triumph.

No date

CONSECRATION OF MEMORIALS

At St. Mary's Church, Clopton

The Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich (Dr. A. H. Morris) yesterday consecrated a new altar at St. Mary's Church, Clopton, in memory of a young week-end flyer who was killed when his plane crashed near the village last year.

The airman, Flying-Officer William Michael Lacey, was a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Squadron at Biggin Hill. His aircraft crashed about a mile and a half from the tiny parish church.

In his address, the Bishop said that the gift was an indication of the distance the church had progressed as the years went by. Many churches were filled with memorials of a different kind. The present tendency was for memorials to be useful as an addition to worship, as well as a constant reminder, and this was of very real value.

Beside the light oak altar hangs an inscribed plaque to Flying-Officer Lacey whose parents were present at yesterday's service.

The Bishop also dedicated a sanctuary flowerstand in memory of Mrs. Rose Mary Chamberlen, who was for many years a church member and anonymous donor to the church organ fund. A tablet in her honour hanging next to the organ was also blessed by the Bishop.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. D. R. Taylor).

A very nice service.
Sunday June 23rd 1957

JULY 11, 1949

EAST ANGLIAN

MISCELLANY

No. 11,911.—CLOPTON (SUFFOLK) PARISH REGISTERS.

Clopton's parish registers, according to Kelly's Directory, begin in 1735. What happened to the earlier book? The following advertisement throws a little light on the subject:

"CLOPTON REGISTER.
"Whereas a Register Book of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in the parish of Clopton, ending in the year 1735 (when the present Register Book commenced) was lost in the lifetime of the Rev. Mr. Couperthwaite, the late Rector of the said parish, and it is supposed was lent by him to some person in the neighbourhood, who neglected to return the same; and as the loss of the said Book may be attended with great inconvenience, the present Rector and Churchwardens earnestly request whoever is in possession of the said Book, to return the same to them; and any person who can give information concerning the said Book, whereby the same may be recovered, shall receive a reward of One Guinea, to be paid by the Churchwardens.—Clopton, October 18, 1790." (Ipswich Journal, 23 Oct. 1790.)

The Rector who disregarded Polonius' advice ("Neither a borrower nor a lender be") was William Couperthwaite, who married, 1738, Ann Dockin, and was presented, 1743, by Ann Dockin to St. Helen's, Ipswich. He was Rector of Clopton from 1753 to 1788, with a brief interval, and died 11 August, 1788, aged 77. The Rector who launched the abortive recovery effort was John Grove Spurgeon.

—H. R. L.

—Editor.
No. 11,428.—THE SUFFOLK PULPIT,
1857-1861.

(Continued from No. 11,421.)

CLOPTON
Par. Ch., 14th. June 1859.—No. 74—
Gowing.

Church "kept in most admirable repair. The inside . . . is clean to perfection . . . There is an organ, and some pains, in a homely way, seem to be taken with the singing."

Population, 390; congregation (afternoon) 120.

Notice on door informing parishioners that there was to be no more playing by children on graves and no more grazing of cattle in the churchyard.

The Rev. George W. Taylor, B.A., about 35, a complexion of florid bronze and the clear eye of health. Excellent reader. Flowery preacher. "Th's was one of our pleasant visits."

—H.R.L.

(To be continued.)

no date.