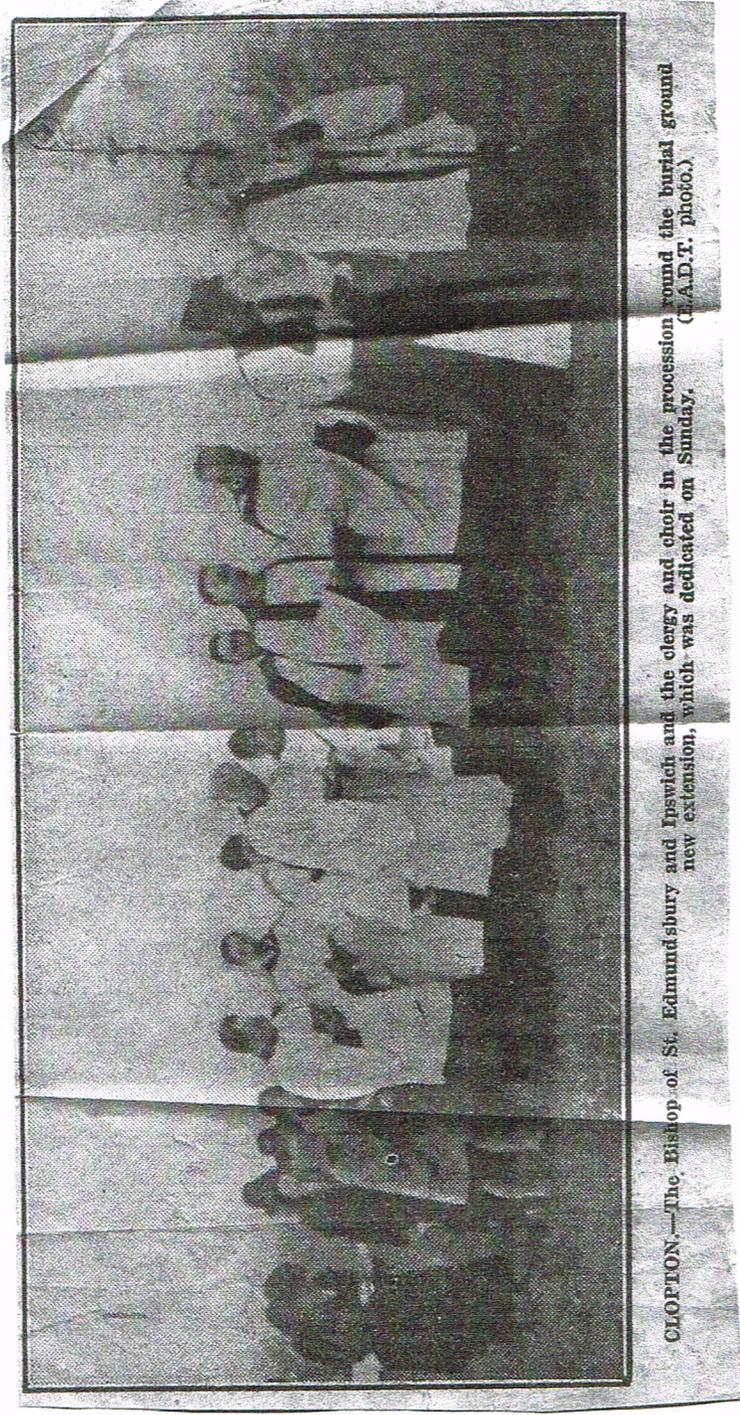


RE OPENING OF CLOPTON CHURCH.

After a temporary closing, consequent upon re-ben-
 ching, Clopton Church was re-opened on
 Monday afternoon, when special services were held
 afternoon and evening, the preacher in the afternoon
 being the Bishop of Norwich. Since the living
 came into the hands of the Rector (Rev. S. Hooke)
 the history of this little church, built in the 13th
 century, has been one of renovation and improve-
 ments. He had hardly been in the parish a few
 months when he determined upon the restoration of
 the edifice, which at that time was in a dilapidated
 condition. Accordingly the walls of rubble flint
 work and Ancaster stone were re-plastered with
 stucco, the timbers of the roof cleaned, restored,
 and re-covered with new boarding and felt, the
 windows in the north and west side were re-placed
 with new ones and filled with cathedral glass,
 the old "horse-box" pews were removed,
 the font was restored, and the floor of
 the centre aisle was re-laid with encaustic tiles.
 The most pleasing feature, however, of the restora-
 tion was the construction of an entirely new chancel
 in place of the one restored 100 years ago, when
 there was no chancel arch, whilst there is now a very
 handsome one. A new pulpit has also been added
 of beautiful carved oak on a stone pedestal, sub-
 scribed for and presented by the rector's temperance
 friends, as a mark of their appreciation of the tem-
 perance work which he so zealously carries out.
 Mrs. England, the daughter of the Rev. G. Taylor,
 for many years rector of the parish, placed a
 memorial window in the east end of the chancel,
 greatly enhancing the beauty of the building.
 The figures, representing the sacrifice of
 Isaac, are bold and effective in their
 colour and drapery. The cost of the restoration
 was over £1,200, which was raised through the
 exertions of the rector. Chairs were placed in the
 church, but as they proved uncomfortable it was
 decided to replace them by benches, and this has
 now been accomplished. The benches are of oak,
 with cut and carved ends, the seats and backs being
 of picked yellow deal in narrow panels. The work
 has been carried out in a thorough manner by Mr.
 H. Baring Smith, of Ipswich. The sacred edifice
 was filled on Monday afternoon, the congregation
 including Rev. A. Maude, Rev. Hy. and Mrs.
 Gretton, Rev. C. Wood, Rev. F. Brown, Mr. H.
 Biddell, Mr. H. F. Harwood, Mr. S. Barry,
 Mrs. England, Miss England, &c. The rector
 took the shortened form of evening prayer; the
 first lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Hedley, and
 the second lesson by the Bishop of Norwich. The
 other surpliced clergy were the Rev. E. L. Savory
 (rector of Palgrave, and chaplain to the Lord Mayor
 Elect of London), the Rev. Sidney Pelham, and the
 Rev. W. Hawkesford (Charsfield). The Bishop
 founding his discourse on the words, "Occupy till I
 come" (Luke xix, 13), drew an analogy between
 the parable from which the words are taken and the
 position of members of the Christian Church. They
 had, he pointed out in simple language, received a
 trust, which they would have to account for. They
 were stewards only of what had been given them,
 and it behoved them to use these
 gifts not only for the good of themselves, but
 of others. The unfaithful steward in the parable
 excused himself and satisfied his own conscience and
 his soul, but they would do well to remember that
 an excuse satisfying a man's conscience would not
 avail him when the time came for the reckoning.
 Let the past be recalled, and as they looked back
 say, "What have I done?" and "What am I
 doing?" Since he was there last two great steps
 had been taken in the improvement of that church.
 That pulpit, which he believed was a gift to the
 church, and those seats, which seemed to be very
 comfortable and well arranged, had been erected,
 and they had come together for the purpose and
 object of assisting in defraying the cost. Then
 they were reminded of what they had
 been considering. He asked them to apply
 personally, to apply to themselves, that
 what they had got was not their own, it was
 entrusted to them by another—the Lord—and con-
 sequently, as faithful stewards, they should not
 question themselves as to what they would like to
 give for what they would choose to give, but what
 their Master would like them to give out of that He
 had entrusted to them—"What would He like me
 to give to this good purpose of perfecting the
 restoration of the house of prayer?"—The collection
 amounted to £8 9s. 2d. The whole service
 throughout was bright and hearty, the village choir
 singing most creditably, with Mr. Mendham as
 organist.

20 days



CLOPTON.—The Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and the clergy and choir in the procession round the burial ground
 new extension, which was dedicated on Sunday. (E.A.D.F. photo.)