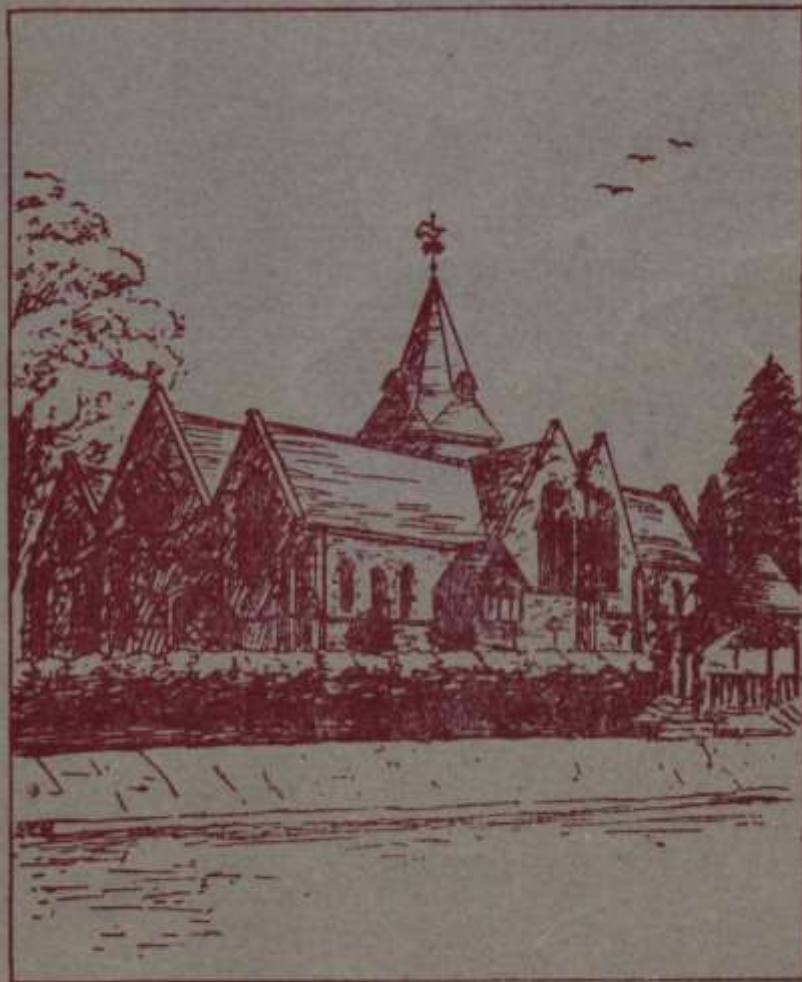


This Holy Place :

The History of a Beautiful and well-beloved
Church on its Centenary 1854-1954.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, NORTHWOOD
1854—1954

*Lest we forget who built our House of Prayer
Amid the pastures of this lovely place,
Where it was good to breathe the wholesome air,
Where hills and woodlands added charm and grace,
Lest we forget the days of long ago,
The Squire of generous mind and fertile lands,
The cottager, the farmer, high and low,
Who gave with pious hearts and willing hands
And dreamed—and laboured till the dream came true—
A village church where they might come and pray
And hear the Word that fired their faith anew,
Lest we forget, we pause awhile this day
To do them honour and to praise and bless
Their God and ours, with hearts of thankfulness.*

*Serene it stood in harvest time or sowing,
Where larks rose singing high above its head,
Serene it stood when roses all were blowing,
When meadows all in gold were garmented,
Or when the winter winds were whistling loud,
When stars in millions pricked the frosty skies ;
Serene remained beneath the thunder cloud,
Or when the birds sang for a new sun-rise.
Unmindful of whatever comes and goes,
Unmoved, its bell tells out the fleeting hours,
Through Whitsun-tide's long day, through Christmas snows,
Abiding token, God is with us still,
In war, in peace, in prosperous times and ill.*

*Time touched its walls with age and made it dear,
And divers servants laboured for its good,
To enrich its worth and beauty year by year,
Craftsmen of skill in stone and glass and wood ;
Praise for the Ministers who ministered,
The music-makers skilled to play and sing,
For all who helped the teaching of the Word,
The cheerful doers of the lowly thing.
God give us grace to witness in our living
The faith and zeal and skill of hand and brain,
The love that drove our fathers to such giving
Of all they had without a thought of gain ;
God give us grace that we may pass this on,
A still more lovely Church when we are gone.*

W. A. G. KEMP.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF LONDON

My dear People of Holy Trinity,

I should like to send you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for your Centenary Festival. You are all very proud of your Church and the work it has done during the last hundred years, and I am sure that you will feel great gratitude to Almighty God for the many blessings He has given you.

I hope that you will spare a thought in memory of the great Bishop under whose auspices your Church was built. Bishop Blomfield was one of the greatest men who have served the See of London. He was a principal author of that great reformation in the Church's administration to which I ventured to call attention in my little book "The Second Reform". More than anyone else he was responsible for the establishment of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and for the setting up of the central fund from which the Church has derived so much benefit ever since, and by which the clergy have been so greatly helped in our own day. He held the See of London for 28 years and in that time was responsible for the erection of no less than 200 churches. Holy Trinity must have been one of the last of these new foundations, and I think he must still look upon it as one of the happiest pieces of work that he was permitted to inaugurate.

To me it is always a very pleasant surprise to see how Holy Trinity has still maintained its strong sense of community. London may have flowed over Northwood, but the presence of the Church and its strong family life have prevented the suburb from being completely submerged. It always seems to me that the Church retains the quiet, serene and homely atmosphere of the English countryside.

That this is still possible is, I am sure, very largely due to the devotion of your present Incumbent and his wife. Their home has been a very happy adjunct to the Church, and their combined influence still carries on the splendid work that was begun a hundred years ago.

I hope that you will all be specially happy together in the united observance of your Centenary.

Fulham Palace,
S.W.6.

Yours very sincerely,
† W.M. LONDON.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WILLESDEN

24th May, 1954.

My dear Parishioners of Holy Trinity, Northwood,

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending you a message of greeting and good wishes as you celebrate the Centenary of your parish.

The hundred years during which Holy Trinity has served the people of Northwood has seen greater changes than in any other comparable period of human history. Alone among the many changes in man's outlook and habits the Church continues to proclaim the one unchanging truth of God and the rock upon which man may firmly build.

I feel this is of particular significance regarding Holy Trinity for it has always preserved an atmosphere of serenity and pastoral devotion which speak of the peace which the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings to the souls of men. May your parish long continue to serve our Lord as faithfully in the future as it has done in the past.

Yours very sincerely,

GERALD WILLESDEN.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF HAMPSTEAD

[My dear Prebendary Walker],

I have great pleasure in sending my very best wishes for your centenary celebrations at Holy Trinity. I have known the church for nearly half its life time and was at one time a regular worshipper in it when my family lived nearby. I therefore have a more personal interest in your affairs by reason of this close association, and am happy to think that I am to have a small share in their celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH J. MATTHEWS,

Archdeacon of Hampstead.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS

Among my very happiest memories of my years in the London Diocese are my visits to Holy Trinity, Northwood. I loved opportunities of joining in worship in that well cared for church and seeing in term time so many young people, and in holidays parents and their children, coming together and giving the Service a special family feeling.

The kindnesses I have received from Prebendary and Mrs. Walker when they have entertained me at the Vicarage I shall never forget: how much we owe to them for their friendship and their overflowing hospitality.

In the next hundred years may others who worship at Holy Trinity learn there that the Church is the Family of God, and be strengthened by their worship to serve Him in their daily lives.

MICHAEL ST. ALBANS.

Abbey Gate House,
St. Albans.

FOREWORD, BY THE VICAR

It is a happy experience, fortunate and honourable to be Vicar of a church in the year of its Centenary. It is also pleasant and useful to have been Vicar of this church for thirty-two years, nearly a third of the years of the life of the church, because in this period it has been possible to make a picture and form an opinion of the history and *ethos*, the characteristic spirit of the church, its historical expression and practice, the quality and meaning of the church and the spirit of Christian faith and loyalty, of generous support and benevolence, of willing and fine service on the part of all those who loved and worshipped in this church.

The following pages will form for you such a picture of a beautiful church, redolent and inspiring with the felt presence of the Holy Spirit, of a history of interest and proud achievement during the great hundred years, of people who have truly loved the church and proved their love by a great and generous interest and service, and of the growth of a country hamlet, gradually and inevitably, to a fine and prosperous town of beauty and reputation.

I would give a few words showing something of the pleasant and simple happenings, when the Parish was a small village, the church a small church, and the population of a small number. The Vicarage will be keeping its Centenary

in 1956. I am told that there were two cottages originally where the Vicarage stands. One of these was adorned by a lovely wistaria. The builder of the Vicarage was evidently a lover of flower beauty, and determined to keep unhurt the wistaria, so *mirabile dictu* he built the Vicarage up to the wistaria. Wonderful I would say and unique! Another vignette of the past is that in the early days the village life was really rustic and simple. The children all went a-Maying, and school holidays were determined by the Hay Harvest. And what would you think of this? There are entries in the school logbook of boys when naughty, being sent to the vicar for chastisement! Did the Vicarage store a bundle of canes?

In the very early days it was the custom for the vicar to go to Moor Park to lunch with Lord Ebury, and there the vicar's Sunday sermon was discussed—*horresco referens*, I shudder at the word, an anxious engagement! I can see the day when at the west end of the churchyard was a hutment, once the school, afterwards a place for The Hon. Victoria Grosvenor to stable her ponies when she drove from Moor Park to train the choir and play the organ at the services. So then the history of our church has marched down the years peacefully and happily, and the vicars, as I speak for myself so I know too I can include my predecessors, have found here the happiness of true friendship, loyal support, encouragement and sympathy, and a church of life, beauty and inspiration to give them a ministry of happiness, and a home of true friendship. May God grant to this beautiful church of the Holy Trinity continued success, happiness and devotion.

I am greatly thankful and honoured by the kindness of Susan, Lady Tweedsmuir, who has written for this book an account of the church and Moor Park. Also I owe very much to Mr. W. A. G. Kemp who has given so much time and exertion to collecting the past history of this church; he has given me the greatest help and I am very grateful. Mrs. Garrett also has been kind enough to help with news of our church and I give her my best thanks. And I do give my heartfelt thanks to Miss Brown for her great help and knowledge of the past years of the church, and to Mrs. Williamson also, who has put at our disposal her help and experience of Holy Trinity Church. To all others who have helped I give my gratitude. But to Mr. A. Harvey Johnson a very special thanks for his most generous kindness in printing this book free of all charge, and allowing the proceeds of its sale to be a gift to the Centenary Fund.

CECIL G. C. WALKER,

Prebendary of Nesden in St. Pauls' Cathedral,

Vicar of Northwood.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH 1854—1954

I have been asked to write a history of our family connection with Holy Trinity, Northwood, and it gives me great pleasure to do so.

A centenary is always an event in the history of any building, and the hundred years in which Holy Trinity has stood in its charming churchyard have been some of the most momentous and eventful which the world has ever known.

I like to think back to the day on which in 1852 my small grandmother, her lovely face framed in a poke bonnet, laid the foundation stone of the church. She was a niece of the famous Duke of Wellington and though I only remember her as an old woman, her fine spiritual quality remains in my memory and is a living force in my life even now.

The church seems to have taken two years to be completed. It stood surrounded by fields and lanes, and I can just remember that in my childhood my great delight in walking to church, on warm spring days, was to mark down clumps of cowslips and primroses to gather on the way home.

My grandfather began life as Lord Robert Grosvenor. He was raised to the Peerage as Baron Ebury and lived at Moor Park about a mile away from Northwood. It was a historic and beautiful house with a large undulating park dotted about with splendid trees. It began as a marsh and moorland. Later it belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, whose house has disappeared.

Another house was built around 1600 which must have been lovely but is now unrecognisable, as in 1720 Mr. Benjamin Hopkins Styles, who made a fortune out of the South Sea Bubble, encased it in Portland stone and gave it a classic symmetry and a beauty of a different kind. The Duchess of Monmouth lived there after her husband's execution. She decapitated some of the trees, not from a grim and misplaced sense of humour, but in order to make them less valuable to the government of the day. Dorothy Osborne and Sir William Temple were there later on, and many other famous people enjoyed the exquisite gardens and the Pleasure Ground with its temple and tiny lake.

The family to which my grandfather belonged had a varied historical background. The Grosvenors trace their descent from Hugh Lufus de Grosveneur who came over with William the Conqueror. He is said to have been head huntsman to the Duke of Normandy. A Grosvenor went with Richard Coeur de Lion to the Crusades, and one fought at the Battle of Crecy. The rest of the tale of the Grosvenors is too long to relate here, but it is worth studying by those interested in family histories.

Many of our family lie in the churchyard at Northwood. My parents lie there, and my mother, Caroline, wife of Norman Grosvenor, designed and

executed a tablet on my father's grave which has both dignity and beauty. Sir Robert and Lady Morier, to whom my family were linked by a close friendship, also lie in Northwood churchyard. Sir Robert was an ambassador of the old school. He lived in the days when our representatives were forced to make decisions, and to make them swiftly, as they were unable to get instructions from the home government without endless delay. On Sir Robert's grave lies a cross which was given by the Czar of Russia to his widow. I can just remember Lady Morier and her herd of Jersey cows and her lovely house on Batchworth Heath. Sir Robert had a great name as an Ambassador and did much to maintain British prestige on the continent of Europe.

My father's brother, Thomas Grosvenor, died in St. Petersburg when he was at our Embassy there. Several years later (in the early '80s of the last century) my grandfather sent an emissary to bring his body back from Russia to the little Northwood churchyard. It is regrettable that no account of this curious episode survives in either letters or diaries.

My two aunts, Victoria and Albertine Grosvenor, were keenly interested in the new church. One of them brought flints in her donkey cart to help with the building, and her sister Victoria played the organ in the church and trained the choir.

It was in itself an act of faith to begin building a church in 1852. A great landmark in the nation's history had gone as the Duke of Wellington died that year. Napoleon Third had become Prince President of the French Republic, and the militia was being re-organised, as one history book says, "out of fears for Napoleon Third". When the church was consecrated in 1854 war clouds were gathering over Europe and England was on the brink of the Crimean War.

The day on which Holy Trinity was consecrated was bitterly cold, a blizzard had raged over the countryside and the roads would have been impassable had not 110 old men and women been employed to sweep and keep them clear. They were "regaled with a substantial dinner in the conservatory of Moor Park".

The church, built in the style of architecture then called "The Early English decorated style", proved, as the years went by, insufficient for the needs of the Parish, and in 1895 a north aisle was added to the church. Northwood continued its rapid growth and Holy Trinity Church was again enlarged in January 1927, the foundation stone for the new aisle being laid by Francis, fourth Lord Ebury.

Francis Ebury spoke of his grandfather's wise and generous action in giving the land and endowing the church. He paid his grandfather a tribute by saying that he set a fine example to others, and that he was a champion of Liberal and reforming causes. He had, amongst other things, supported Lord Shaftesbury's demand for the reduction of the factory hours, in consequence of which his town house windows were stoned and broken.

Francis Ebury also said that his grandfather had been a member of the Household of the Prince Consort and a diplomat in Russia. (It is curious that three

diplomats who spent part of their lives in Russia should lie in this quiet English cemetery.)

Francis Ebury, a man of great charm and outstanding courage and ability, died in middle age. When the 1914 war came he was working in Canada. He joined the Canadian Forces and showed great qualities of leadership in the hard fighting of that war. In some little homes in Western Canada his picture still hangs on the wall, and when I was there many people wrote and spoke to me about him.

The public services of my grandfather have long been forgotten, but the church at Northwood, which is open for prayer and praise, stands as a memorial to a man who took his religious duties with a grave and high seriousness—and who gave his time and part of his land to his fellow Christians in the district in which he lived.

SUSAN TWEEDSMUIR

THE PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY, NORTHWOOD (1854—1954)

Our church looks back only for a hundred years, which does not seem long compared with the antiquity of some of our English churches. Yet when we think of the great changes, the important events, the enormous differences between 1854 and 1954 in our way of living, the big advances in education and scientific knowledge we cannot but be impressed by the importance of these hundred years. The period covers nearly fifty years of Queen Victoria's long reign. During these hundred years our church has celebrated two Jubilees and four Coronations. Our church has seen all these lamentable events—the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the South African War, to say nothing of the two Great Wars of our own day.

It is interesting to remember that in 1854 there were giants in every walk of life. Among statesmen there were Gladstone and Disraeli, Lord Palmerston and Cobden, and Lord Salisbury was a young man of 24. Macaulay was writing his History of England. Tennyson had just succeeded Wordsworth as Poet Laureate; Dickens and Thackeray were at the height of their fame, and in the realm of scientific knowledge and discovery we should remember Charles Darwin, Michael Faraday, Lord Lister and Lord Kelvin, who were all in their prime. Indeed, our church has lived through great changes nationally and locally. In 1854 and for the next fifty years Northwood was but a hamlet composed of a few scattered cottages, some farms and big houses like The Grange, Northwood House (later Northwood Hall), and Eastbury.

The farms like Park Farm, Kewferry, Gate Hill, Kiln Farm and many others are still recognisable. Although Batchworth Heath and Moor Park are officially in Hertfordshire, how much of Northwood's history is linked up with the Grosvenors and the lovely old mansion and the historic park! Batchworth Heath *was* Northwood in early Victorian days. Beautiful in the early days of the present century, a paradise of birds and flowers, Northwood must have been a place of serene beauty with its woods and hills, commons and meadows.

The roads we now know did not exist; only the main Pinner-Rickmansworth Road, a track across what was called Ruislip Common, Green Lane, Half Mile Lane, Potter Street and Batchworth Lane. They were tracks connecting the farms, or roads conducting the hay-waggons and timber to the London markets, for the chief industries were hay and timber.

Country House cricket was played in Moor Park every summer, fostered by the Grosvenors, many of whom were good cricketers.

Harvest Homes, flower and vegetable and fruit shows, Summer and Christmas treats for the children and aged, all these were centred in Moor Park and were held with unfailing regularity thanks to the benevolence of Lord Ebury.

Extract from the *Guardian* for Wednesday, 20th October, 1852:—

“Yesterday se’ennight the first stone of a new church at Northwood, in the parish of Ruislip, Middlesex, was laid by Lady Robert Grosvenor in the presence of a large assembly of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood, and of the inhabitants of the district. The site for the church and parsonage, with a munificent contribution towards the building fund, has been given by the Rt. Hon. Lord R. Grosvenor, M.P., Moor Park, who will also endow the church when finished.”

Behind this report lay the cherished desire of Lord Robert Grosvenor to build a church designed to accommodate a small population scattered about the boundaries of Ruislip, Rickmansworth and Watford, many of whom were living three miles from the site.

In less than two years the church among the meadows—it was built on Barn Mead—was ready for consecration.

Here is an account of this ceremony taken from the *Illustrated London News* for Saturday, 14th January, 1854:—

“On Thursday the 5th of January a new church was consecrated at Northwood in the parish of Ruislip, a hamlet distant three miles from the parish church, and on the borders of Rickmansworth and Watford; and the district assigned to the new consolidated chapelry is composed of portions of the three parishes.

“The edifice has been built by subscription. Lord Robert Grosvenor, in whom the patronage is invested, has given the ground and endowed it. It is situate a little more than a mile distant from Moor Park. Although the district is in the two dioceses of London and Rochester, the ceremony of consecration was performed by the Bishop of London on account of the church being in Middlesex. The bishop was entertained by Lord Grosvenor at Moor Park on the previous day, but was obliged to return home after the service. A large party partook of a *déjeûner* given by his lordship at Moor Park in the course of the afternoon. Tea and cakes were served to the school children in the school house near the church; and on the following day 110 old men and women and others who had been recently employed in the very arduous duty of keeping the roads clear of snow, were regaled with a substantial dinner in the conservatory at Moor Park. An evening service was performed in the church on the day of consecration, at half past six o’clock, by the Rev. H. Loring, Rector of Cobham; and on the following day being Epiphany, lectures were delivered after both morning and evening service by the Rev. Joseph Baylie, D.D., Principal of the College at Birkenhead. The church which is intended to accommodate 300 persons in nave and chancel, is in the Early Decorated style and has a tower, a shingle spire and five stained-glass windows. The architect is Mr Teulon.”

This account refers briefly to the weather at the time. A blizzard had raged for the two days and nights immediately preceding the morning of the ceremony. The roads were quite impassable. Lord Robert Grosvenor had said in his diary, “but for an army of men sweeping, the church could not have been approached”.

Many of those who were to take part and still more of those who would have attended, were prevented from reaching the church, and the Bishop of London who had, happily, reached Moor Park the night before, had to improvise the service, as the words and form of service were in other hands. Fortunately half way through the service, the other Divines who had been dug out of a snowdrift, reached the church and the situation was restored. This interesting material was furnished by Francis, Lord Ebury when he laid the foundation stone of the south aisle in 1928.

For many years after 1854 the church stood in the midst of green fields and was only reached by country lanes.

Two years later the vicarage was built on the site of two old cottages that had been occupied by employees of Moor Park.

The village school was built in 1861. It consisted of one large room and one class-room (the one nearest the road) for the infants. Old residents remember a school kept by a mistress in a small building at the west end of the churchyard. In later years it served as a toolshed.

Before the church was founded, a room in the *Grange* was used for divine service.

Mr. William Gristwood used to ring the bell calling the people to worship.

Northwood now had its own church and for the next 31 years under its first vicar, the parish kept the noiseless tenor of its way. The forefathers of the hamlet, living in scattered cottages and farmhouses on Batchworth Heath, in Half Mile Lane, Aston's Lane, Northwood Bottom and the Shrubs now had a church and school of their own.

Lord Robert Grosvenor was a regular attendant, and like the good squire, Sir Roger de Coverley, saw to it that his servants and retainers came to church also. As the church clock struck eleven he would rise in his seat, turn about and scrutinise the pews where his men-servants and maid-servants had reserved seats, and make sure there were no absentees. Any wandering sheep would have to render an account to his lordship at the earliest opportunity!

The early pages of the Vestry Minutes rarely record an attendance of more than two, the vicar and another, at the annual meetings.

Mr. Nathaniel Soames made the first gifts. In October 1859 he gave two cups, two plates and one paten for use in the church services. He stipulated that they should be preserved in their simple plain state and should have no emblems or devices placed on them. They are still preserved as he wished.

Another curious entry is that of 1863. It was agreed that someone should be appointed to keep order during divine service amongst the boys at the west end of the church, and that he should be paid £1 a year. This practice was still in force in

1889 and £1 6s. 8d. was shared between Mr. Lacey and Mr. Kirby. There is a note to the effect that 13s. 4d. was actually Lacey's share, but the vestry generously voted him £1, so he must have kept order well!

Not until 1896 were any sidesmen appointed. The first two to act as such were Messrs. J. Green and A. Walker. At present there are 31 sidesmen.

Old residents remember a wonderfully successful mission conducted by Rev. d'Arcy in the time of Rev. Selwyn Blackett (1885-1888). The church was filled, for Miss Victoria Grosvenor brought the people from the scattered parish in her pony chaise.

Another memorable mission by Rev. Talbot Rice, was held in 1898 in the time of Rev. E. B. Backhouse.

In the early days the church was lighted with candles. In some of the pew book-rests the holes can still be seen where the candlesticks stood.

The Ebury family occupied the two front pews on the north side of the nave. The Norton family sat on the south side. These pews had special artistically ornamented candlesticks.

The vicar's stall combined with the lectern used to be in the nave until the space was required for a growing congregation, when the stall was placed in the chancel. The pulpit at that time was on the north side.

After the opening of Northwood Station in 1887 and the first sale of land for building purposes, the Vestry had to consider ways and means of enlarging the church. People were choosing Northwood as a charming place to live in, and the population began to grow steadily.

By 1890 the matter was becoming urgent. In that year Mr. Nichols proposed, and Mr. Green seconded a proposition that special collections should be taken on the third Sunday in each month from Lady Day to Michaelmas, and twice during the winter. The summer collections were designed to catch visitors!

In 1893 a public mæting was called, and in May of that year a Committee was formed to consider the question of the best and most economical way of adding to the church. This Committee consisted of the vicar (Rev. J. R. Garrett), Messrs. Mundell, Matheson, Norton, Hodding, Cossons, Verey, J. Watts, F. M. Elgood, J. Green and J. H. Bright.

This Committee did its work well. They reported back to the Vestry that they advised the building of a north aisle to seat 117 people at a cost of £1,065. They reported further that already the sum of £893 was assured. On 12th October, 1895, the new north aisle was consecrated.

A memory of those days is of the Hon. Miss Albertine and the Hon. Miss

Victoria Grosvenor helping to carry flints in their donkey chaise for the building of this north aisle.

While the building was in progress services were held in the school, and a recollection given us by an old member of the congregation is of a washbowl being used for the baptism of Mr. Abbott's eldest son. The bowl, however, was hidden with flowers!

For the next 32 years the spiritual needs of the Half Mile Lane end of the village had to have serious consideration.

Now shops commenced to open in Half Mile Lane with the development of the land for building purposes. Therefore this part of Northwood required its own place of worship, and a small Mission Hall, afterwards added to and known as the *Iron Church* and still later as Emmanuel Church Hall, was erected, and finally Emmanuel Church was founded.

By 1897 it was hoped that the Mission Room would be provided with every requisite for divine worship.

On the 20th December, 1900, the enlarged Mission Room (or Iron Church) seating 250 and costing £200 was opened, and the Rev. F. B. Gwinn was in residence as the vicar. Already a meeting had been called to consider the plan for building the new church to be named Emmanuel. It was however as late as 22nd July, 1903, that H.R.H. Prince Henry of Battenburg laid the foundation stone.

These facts are a part of the history of Holy Trinity, for Emmanuel Church and parish were a natural development of Holy Trinity. Indeed, by appeals for subscriptions, sales of work and various ways, the Rev. E. B. Backhouse and a gallant band of workers co-operated with zealous hearts and hands at the Half Mile Lane end of the parish in raising the necessary funds. For instance there was a big sale of work in the schools on the 15th and 16th November, 1899, which raised £400. After paying off the debt on the school enlargement fund this provided £50 towards the new church.

In March, 1901, there was an urgent appeal for funds so that the building might begin as soon as possible.

Meanwhile the Managers of the School were alive to the needs of the five year olds in the Half Mile Lane end. It was too far for them to walk to Holy Trinity School, so the Mission Room was used as an Infants' School for 50 children under Miss N. Ford the first Headmistress. She took up her duties on 12th June, 1899. Behind these simple facts were years of thought and hard work, as anyone knows who has had to raise money for such purposes. It was only by faith and prayer that this work was done.

Holy Trinity has always been conscious of the needs of the church at large. It has always been a missionary parish. The summer fêtes and sales of work in

the vicarage meadow and garden, and the annual missionary gatherings are remembered with pleasure.

There was Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June, 1897. By February of that year £209 out of the necessary £350 for a new organ had been raised to celebrate that Jubilee. It was ready by Saturday, 19th June, when the Archdeacon of Middlesex dedicated it, and a recital was given by Edwin Barnes, organist of Holy Trinity, Bayswater, by which time £300 had been raised.

On National Thanksgiving Day, Sunday, 20th June, the organ was used to accompany the service for the first time. The permanent memorial took the form of the purchase for £40, of the perpetual right of nominating two suitable in-patients every year from Northwood to the West Hertfordshire Convalescent Home at St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The school had to be enlarged by the addition of another classroom and £850 had to be raised for this purpose, for the purchase of land for school gardens as well as for the equipment of the Mission Room for an Infants' School.

On 15th July, 1899, the Bishop of London opened this new classroom.

In June, 1901, in memory of Queen Victoria a large Prayer Book was presented to the church and in commemoration of the accession of Edward VII the Lych Gate was erected. An old resident informed us that the last to be carried to rest through the old gate was Sir Robert Morier. The churchyard has always been noted for its charm. Every summer and well on to Christmas, the fragrance and beauty of its roses have attracted hosts of admirers. These roses were first given by Lady Morier in memory of her husband. The first Lord Ebury and his successors lie in this churchyard. A beautiful memorial to the Hon. Norman Grosvenor is a fine bronze panel showing an angel with drawn sword standing at a door. It was designed by his widow.

There was a demand for a Council School in Northwood following the Education Act of 1902, and in August, 1910, the opening of the Pinner Road Council School had the effect of reducing the number of children on the roll of Holy Trinity School from 250 to 70. Mr. Taylor became the Headmaster of Holy Trinity in succession to Mr. Fendick who was transferred with the rest of the staff to the new school. In February, 1911, it is interesting to observe from a note in the Parish Magazine, the population of the parish was 1,590 (in 1852 it was 300). This included 136 in Hertfordshire with 150 attached to Mount Vernon Hospital. In the parish were 310 houses, 18 of which were empty. By 1912 the population of Emmanuel and Holy Trinity Parishes was 5,000.

Passing over the greatest national crisis that had come to our country, the Great War of 1914-1918 which claimed the services of all men and women in one way or another, we come to the time of big developments in the church's story which culminated in the second enlargement, when the south aisle and baptistry were consecrated in 1928 and the church was lengthened to the extent of 12 feet.

We may say that in 1914 one epoch ended and in 1919 another opened. The memorial windows are representative of the many men who made the supreme sacrifice. In 1920 their Memorial was unveiled by Francis, Lord Ebury.

In 1918 the choir were robed for the first time. For 64 years ladies had been the main support of the choir but the old order changed yielding place to new. For many years Miss Victoria Grosvenor trained the choir and played the organ. An enjoyable social event was an annual concert given in the school in aid of church funds. On 19th October, 1887, one of these raised £4 4s. towards the heating of the church with hot water. Miss Gash, Mr. G. Beeson, Mr. Wallace, Miss Gray, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Liddiard, Miss F. A. Davey, Mr. Robbins and Mr. Hearn were the chief performers.

It was at a Vestry Meeting of May, 1889, that Mr. J. Green proposed and Mr. S. Matheson seconded a motion that the choir should have an annual outing. This was agreed to and subscriptions were given by these gentlemen.

Consequently in August, 1890, they went to Clacton-on-Sea. The Metropolitan trains from Northwood were not early enough, so Lord Ebury lent them vehicles to take them to Pinner where they caught a train in time to catch the 8.5 from Liverpool Street. They seem to have had a good time, lunching at the Imperial Hotel, and they arrived home at 11.6 p.m. after yachting and visiting the Switch Back Railway and enjoying a capital tea. Miss Albertine Grosvenor accompanied the party.

In 1922 Free Will Offering was inaugurated and in 1923 St. Paul's, Haggerston, where our Vicar, Rev. Cecil G. C. Walker, was formerly curate, was adopted by Holy Trinity. In 1924 the Diocesan quota contributed by the parish was £92. It is now over £200. In October, 1926, the finances had reached such a satisfactory state that the enlargement work of the church was commenced and the Foundation Stone of the new south aisle and baptistry was laid by Francis, Lord Ebury, on 30th January, 1927.

In the course of his speech he gave some very interesting facts which we have used in this account. He said his earliest, and some of his happiest, as well as some of his saddest recollections, were all centred around that church and its little graveyard. "In distant lands and through difficult times its influence had been strong and good."

Before the actual stone laying ceremony a service was held in the church. The Bishop of Willesden had promised to attend but indisposition and the inclement weather prevented him. The service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. Cecil G. C. Walker.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Henry Mitchell, J.P., Chairman of the Council, Councillors, the British Legion and Scouts and Guides.

The cost of the extension was £8,000, half of which had been raised.

By 1923 it had been obvious that the vestry was too small and needed other improvements. Funds were appealed for and by Easter, 1933, the work was all completed. On 11th February, 1934, it was dedicated by the Bishop of London.

As we approach the end of this little history we must allude to a few more items of importance.

The very beautiful East window contains some fine stained glass. It was given by Mrs. Rich as a thankoffering after recovering from a serious illness. It was dedicated by the Bishop of London on 8th March, 1936. The window in the Lady Chapel is in memory of Francis, Lord Ebury, who died in 1932. It was the gift of his daughter Viscountess Harcourt.

The Jubilee organ of 1897 was improved in 1910 in memory of King Edward VII and again in 1922.

The present organ is the very latest type, having an all-electric action with a great diversity of effects. The console is now on the south side of the chancel, but, after cleaning and re-assembling, the pipes are still on the north side. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Willesden on 22nd February, 1953, when Dr. George Thalben Ball gave a recital.

A notable advance was the abolition of pew rents in 1948 which were introduced in 1905. It was a great honour to our church and parish, as well as to our Vicar, the Rev. Cecil G. C. Walker when in 1944, he was appointed Rural Dean of Harrow, and in 1950 he was made Prebendary of Nesden in St. Paul's Cathedral.

A custom reminding us that our church is still the "Church in the Meadows" was revived by our Vicar in 1945. On Rogation Sunday afternoon clergy, choir and members of the congregation proceed to the Vicarage garden and meadow, and to the cricket field, halting at intervals to ask the blessing of God on all fields and gardens.

We end our story by remembering 1939 when war-clouds over Europe broke, and our desperate fight for existence began which dwarfed all previous wars that our church had seen. Once more everyone, from the gallant Few down to the humblest fire-watcher, had to be ready to give all, and all life was subordinated to the one aim, to endure to the end. This was accomplished only by the help of God. To our church came huge congregations to prayer, and praise. We are apt to look back with a feeling of nostalgia on the good old days before 1914.

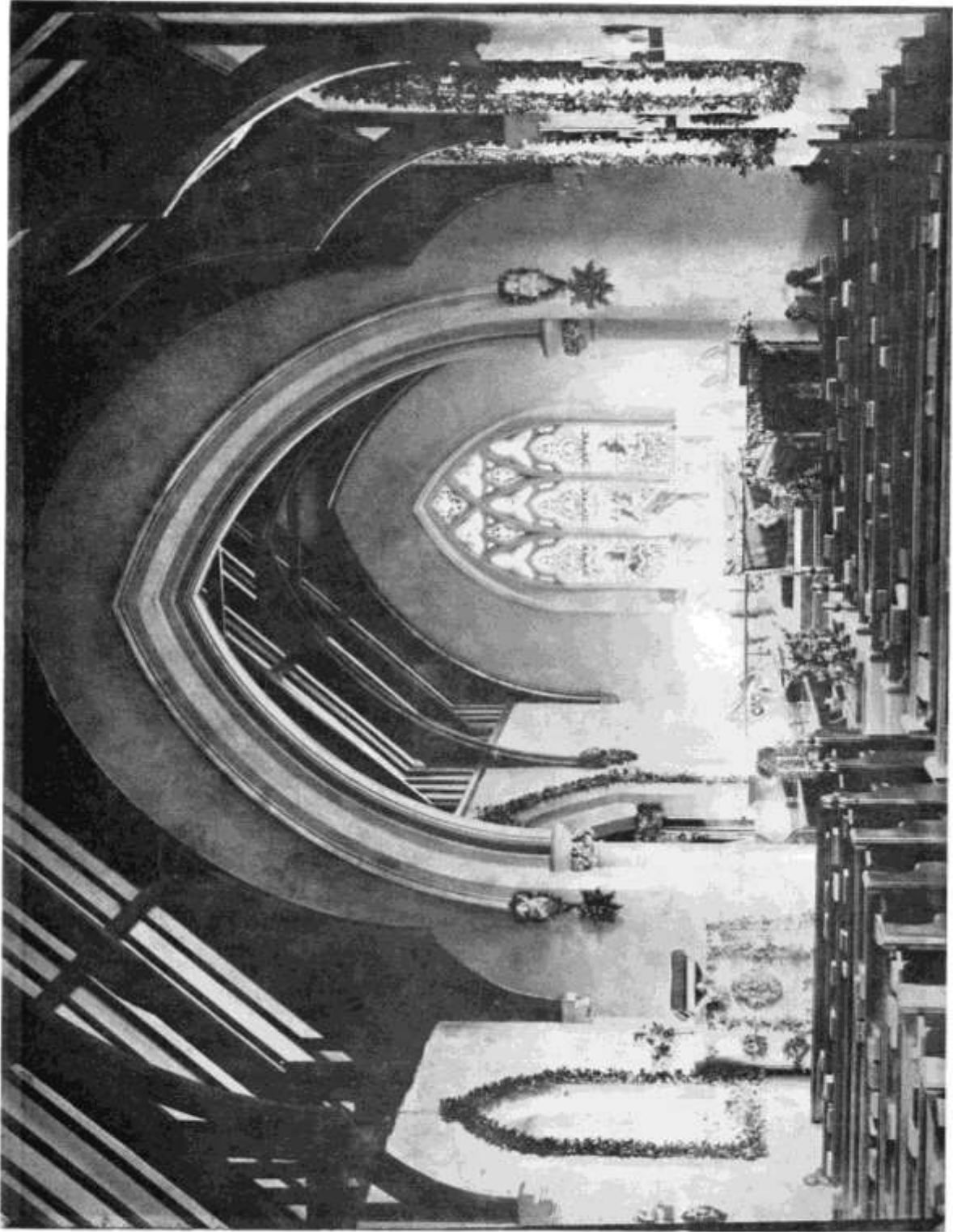
We miss the old familiar faces and the old ways but we have to face this new age of undreamt of scientific invention, as one of our Centenary preachers reminded us, continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayer.

In 1854 a young and famous Queen sat on the throne of England. In 1954 another young Queen beautiful and good with the glorious name of Elizabeth leads us forward into the unknown.

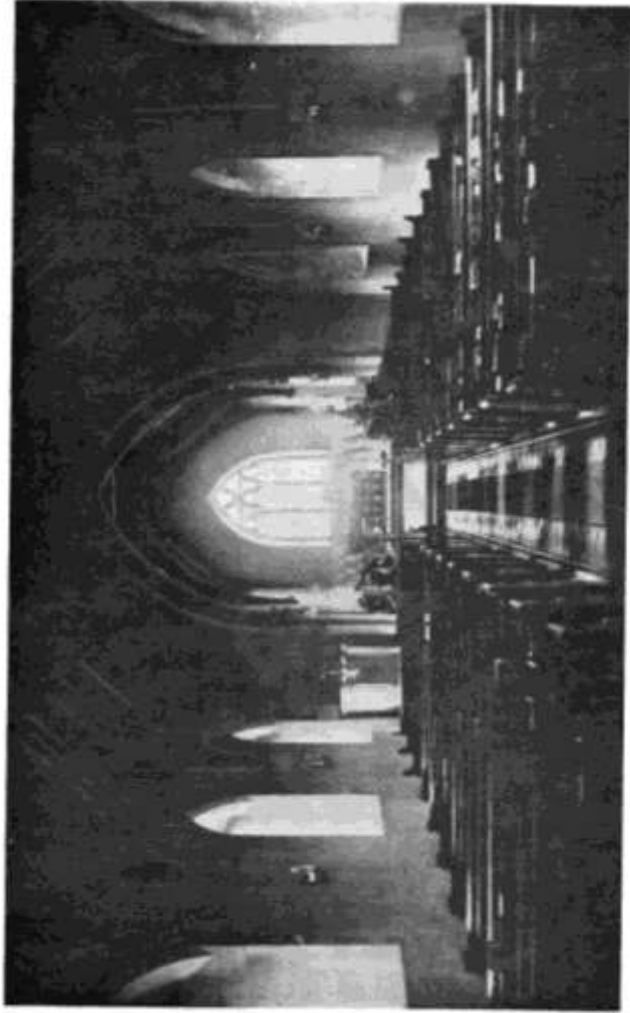
As worshippers in the Church of the Holy Trinity we can face whatever the future holds if we trust in the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.



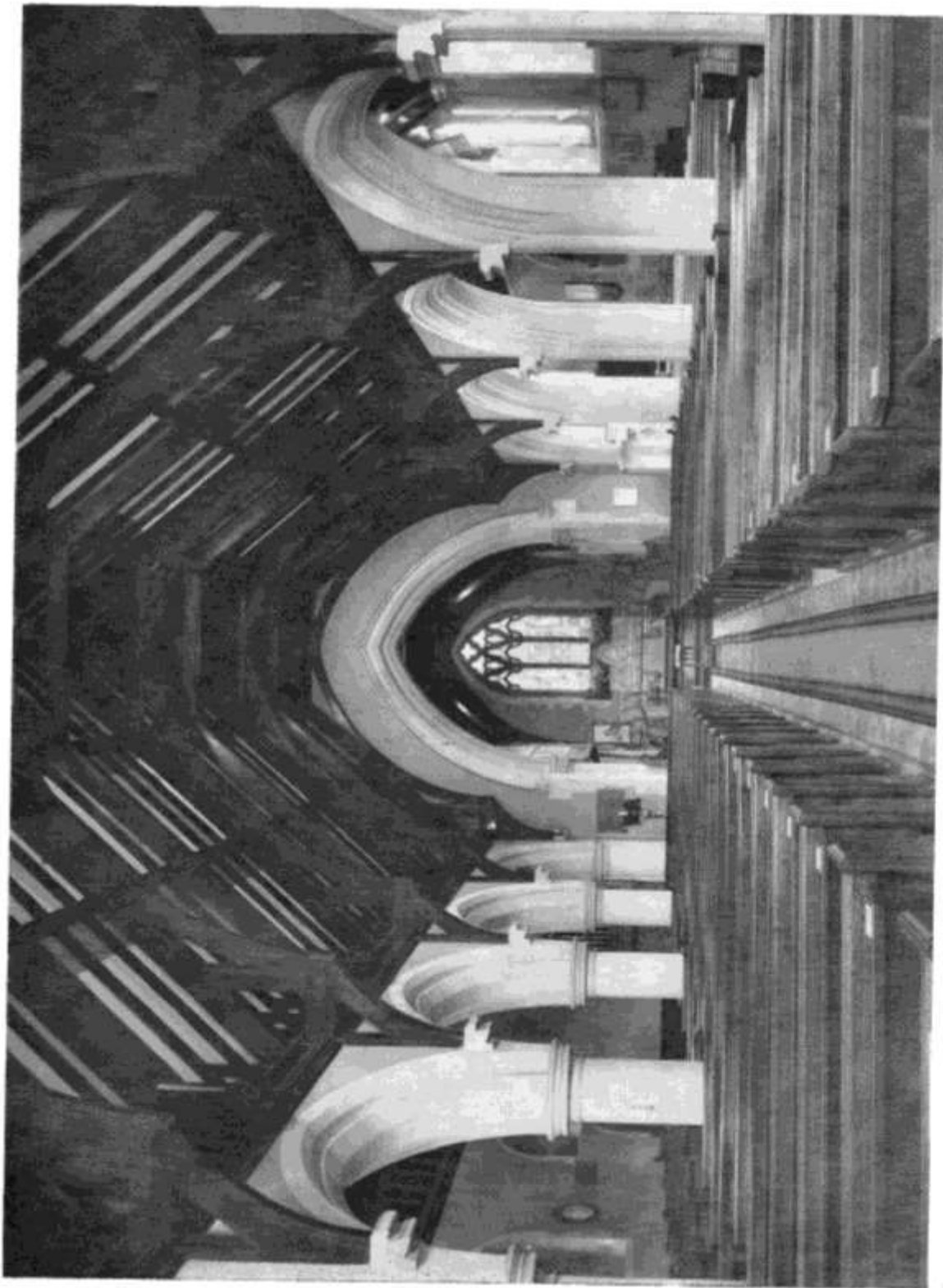
RT. HON. LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, 1st Baron Ebury. Born 24th April, 1801, died 19th November, 1893.
(Photographed by A. W. H. Weston from Oil Painting)



The Chancel as it was for 40 years.

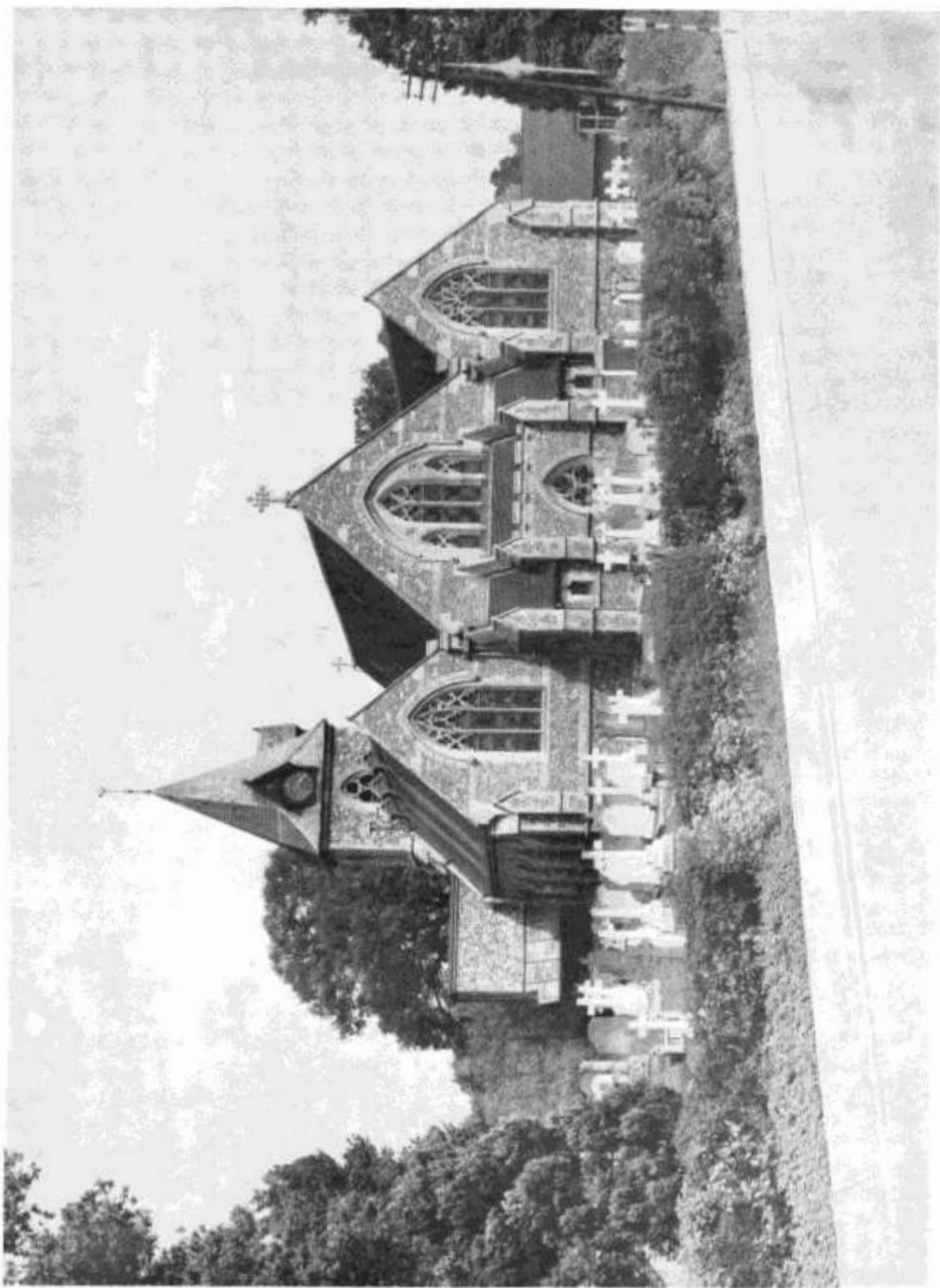


The Nave as it was for 40 years.



Interior as at present.

(Photo. by A. W. H. Weston)



Exterior as at present.

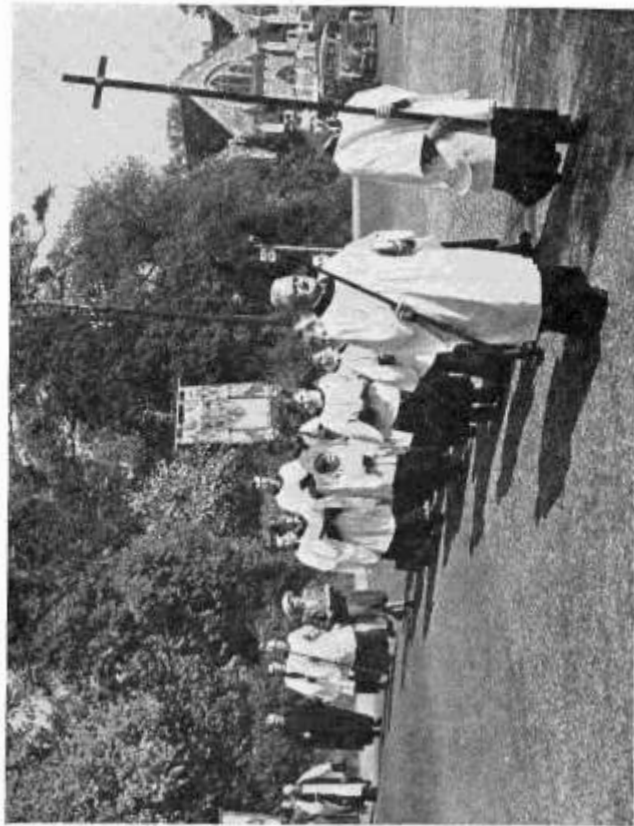
(Photo. by A. W. H. Weston.)



Rogation Sunday Procession.



Rogation Sunday Procession.



Rogation Sunday Procession.

LORD EBURY AND THE CHURCH

INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

By deed dated 19th December, 1853, Lord Robert Grosvenor and his trustee conveyed to the late Church Building Commissioners on behalf of the benefice, about 3 roods 8 perches of land at Northwood, being part of a field called "Barn Mead" as a site for the erection of a church and for a burial ground. The original of this deed was deposited in the London Diocesan Registry.

By an Order in Council dated 8th June, 1854,, and published in the *London Gazette* of 16th June, 1854, a Consolidated Chapelry consisting of parts of the parishes of Ruislip, Rickmansworth and Watford was assigned to the new church, and the patronage of the Consolidated Chapelry was vested in perpetuity in Lord Robert Grosvenor, his heirs and assigns. Lord Robert Grosvenor subsequently became Lord Ebury, and by deed dated 21st October, 1873, he assigned the patronage of the benefice to five trustees. The deed contained a declaration that the patronage should not be sold, and this enabled the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to augment the living on the grounds of local claim on the rectorial tithe rentcharges arising in the ancient parish of Rickmansworth, which were vested in them, and which formerly belonged to the Bishop of London.

The Commissioners hold a deed dated 29th March, 1856, whereby Lord Robert Grosvenor conveyed to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty 2 acres 3 roods and 5 perches of land adjoining the church site as a site for the erection of a parsonage house. The conveyance was made free of charge by Lord Robert in consideration of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty agreeing to appropriate a sum of £200 for the augmentation of the benefice. The land was subsequently annexed to the benefice by Queen Anne's Bounty, and the house was built in 1856-7.

By deed dated 22nd September, 1899, Lord Ebury conveyed to the benefice for a consideration of £50, about 31 perches of land as an addition to the burial ground. The original deed was deposited in the diocesan registry.

VICARS

1854-1885	Henry B. Sands.	1895-1917	Edward Batt Backhouse.
1885-1888	Selwyn Blackett.	1917-1922	Herbert Vernon Farnfield.
1888-1895	James Robinson Garrett.	1922-	Cecil George Cunnor Walker.

* Mr. Garrett and Mr. Backhouse exchanged livings.

CHURCHWARDENS

	VICAR'S.		PEOPLE'S
1854-1859	Nathaniel Soames.	1854-1867	Henry Groom.
1859-1874	Daniel Norton.	1867-1868	G. B. Day.
1874-1877	Thomas Howard.	1868-1874	Thomas Howard.
1877-1878	Thomas King.	1874-1877	Daniel Norton.
1878-1883	Daniel Norton, Jr.	1877-1878	William Gillies.
1883-1894	J. C. Mundell.	1878-1883	Thomas King.
1894-1906	G. H. Neale.	1883-1894	S. Matheson.
1906-1908	W. F. Moore.	1894-1899	Daniel Norton.
1908-1916	W. M. Inchbald.	1899-1911	E. R. Abbott.
1916-1918	H. T. Sang.	1911-1915	A. V. Prior.
1918-1922	W. H. de Winton.	1915-1916	F. A. Manley.
1922-1947	D. C. Bartley.	1916-1917	W. K. Steele.
1947-1952	R. C. Drinkwater.	1917-1918	F. A. Manley.
1952-	G. H. Jones.	1918-1921	J. W. Tilley.
		1921-1929	C. H. Felgate.
		1929-1944	R. E. H. Baker.
		1944-	W. H. Rattenbury.

HEAD TEACHERS OF THE SCHOOLS

1861-1863	Miss M. E. Brooker.	1888-1890	William Henry Scotter.
1869-1875	Miss M. E. Malcolm.	1890-1897	Arthur Bourne Adhimar.
1875-1883	Miss C. Sheldon.	1897-1910	T. F. Fendick.
1883-1886	Miss E. J. Hitchcock.	1910-1946	E. E. G. Taylor.
1886-1888	John Wallace.	1946-	D. J. Beazer.