



The Church of St James, Ansty

**1834** Parishes of Ansty and Swallowcliffe

An appeal to the Christian public has been just put forth by the Revs. Francis Lear and Wm. Dansey, Rural Deans of Chalke, in behalf of the above neglected parishes, which, although containing a population together of 650 souls, have, for a long time past, been most unhappily situated in regard to spiritual matters.

Owing to circumstances of there being no parsonage or other residence for the minister in either parish, or within some miles of them, and the extremely small stipends allotted to the Clergymen - that of Ansty amounting only to 22/. 5s. 4d., and that of Swallowcliffe, to 40/. - the dilapidated church of the former place has for two years past been closed, and the Protestant inhabitants thus wholly deprived of the comforts and advantages of public worship, being dependent on casual aid for the very baptism of their infants, and the burial of their dead! - while in the latter place, although the services of the Sabbath have generally been performed, yet they have taken place, for the most part, at inconvenient hours, and have been sometimes, though not of late, altogether omitted: with regard to the important point of weekly duties and ministerial superintendence, the parish has long been destitute.

Under these urgent circumstances, it has been determined to appeal to the public, to raise a sum of money, by subscription, for the erection of a parsonage at Swallowcliffe, in order that the inhabitants may enjoy the consolations and blessings of a regular and devout performance of the solemn and affecting services of our Church, and the advantages of a resident minister - advantages of which not a single parish in this country ought to be deprived.

It appears that a Clergyman is about to undertake the care of the two parishes, at a great personal sacrifice, and under the difficulties and disadvantages of a distant and inconvenient residence - and in order to enable him to live among and minister to the spiritual necessities of his flock, a subscription has been opened at the Bank on the Canal, and at Messrs. Williams and Co's, 20, Birchin-lane, London, where contributions for the good work will be gladly received.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 10 November 1834

**1841** Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Association

The church of Ansty, in the Archdeaconry of Sarum, had fallen into a lamentable state of decay. Towards repairing the church, and building a transept, combined with extensive repairs, the committee had made a grant of 60/.  
Salisbury & Winchester Monday 06 December 1841

The Incorporated Society for Building Churches and Chapels have voted a grant towards building a north transept to and re-pewing the parish church of Ansty, in the county of Wilts  
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 27 December 1841

**1842** Re-opening of the Church

The donative church at Ansty, near Wardour Castle, in this county, was, on Wednesday, re-opened for Divine service after undergoing many improvements and reparations. The Ven. Francis Lear, Archdeacon of Sarum, preached an excellent and appropriate sermon. At the close, a collection was made to aid in defraying the expenses incurred, which are said to be very considerable.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 29 October 1842

Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Association

In addition to the grants already announced, your Committee have to report that they have increased the grant originally made towards re-building Ansty Church, from £60 to £100; and in so doing have followed an example of the Parent Society who, doubtless, were actuated by a wish to give all encouragement and assistance towards the attainment of an object which seemed to be surrounded by almost insurmountable difficulties.

The peculiar circumstances attending this case arose, not only out of the poverty of the inhabitants, but also from the fact of the entire parish being the property of a family not in communion with the Church; the proprietor exercising the functions of ordinary, rector, and patron of the benefice, appointing the chaplain, who is removable at his pleasure, without any licence or control of the Bishop. The Stipend of the Curate is by prescription only £22 5s 4d.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, the Church has been completely restored, with the addition of a transept and has been re-opened for Divine service, which will in future, it is believed, be regularly performed on every Lord's Day at least, instead of once a month as before.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 24 November 1842

**1843** Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education

At the quarterly meeting of this Board, held on Tuesday last, in the close, a grant of £20 was voted in aid of building a school-room for the parishes of Swallowcliffe and Ansty, Wilts; and schools at the following places were admitted into union with the Board: West Knoyle, Swallowcliffe and Ansty, and Bradford Abbas.

Thursday 13 July 1843 Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette

**1877** Pastor and Church Repairs Appeal

An appeal is being made on behalf of the church and parish of Ansty, near Tisbury, Wilts, which is without an incumbent and without the means of supporting one. The Bishop of Salisbury thus writes of the case:

*"Ansty is a donative in the possession of Lord Arundell of Wardour, a Roman Catholic nobleman, who possesses both the small and great tithes, and all the property of the parish. The population is 299.*

*For many years the Lords Arundell have paid to the officiating clergyman a stipend of £22 10s a year, which we have always supposed to be lieu of the small tithe. But the present holder of the donative declines to continue the payment. The parish is now in a most unfortunate position. It has no incumbent, no stipend, no residence, a church in extreme decay, requiring an outlay of from £300 to £400 to make it safe to hold service in.*

*The Protestant population are under no pastoral care, except that a neighbouring incumbent and his curates are, at my request, taking some charge of them. The parish is literally disestablished in the worst sense, and the Roman influences of Wardour Castle may well be supposed to endanger its becoming a Roman parish in the midst of an English diocese.*

*But I am told that still half the population in Ansty welcome the service of an Anglican clergyman, and will, I trust, do what they can to help in obtaining them. My first object is to put the church into solid repair. I then desire to raise, if possible, some mans for the support of a clergyman".*

The Bishop asks subscriptions from the diocese, and has opened an account at Messrs Pinckney's Bank, Salisbury, to receive them.

Hampshire Advertiser Wednesday 19 December 1877

**1880** Church of England Poor Benefice Fund

On the 16<sup>th</sup> inst a meeting of the subscribers and donors of the Poor Benefice Fund took place in the Board room, the chair being occupied by the Archdeacon of Sarum. Five grants were made to meet local benefactions, which, joined together, would be doubled by queen Anne's Bounty or the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The first application was on behalf of Ansty, a parish quite disendowed. The local benefaction was £100, and the meeting made a grant of £100, and further undertook to double any sum not exceeding £150 which might be locally collected for the parish before the end of October. (part article only)

Western Gazette Friday 24 September 1880

**1898** Rector Nominated

Owing to the fact that Lord Arundell of Wardour, the patron of the benefice of Ansty – which is a donative – is a Roman Catholic, the right of donation to it, on vacancy, lapsed to the University of Oxford under the Roman Catholic Presentation Acts. Due notice having been given, the Rev Quartus Bacon, M.A., St John's College, Oxford, who since 1893 has been curate of Atworth, was nominated by the Bishop of Salisbury, and a Fellow and graduate of St John's College has been formally elected to the living.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 07 July 1898