

FIFTY YEARS' MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Parishioners Congratulations

On Trinity Sunday the Rector of East Knoyle, the Rev William Neville, completed 50 years' ministry in the church and the occasion was marked by an early peal of bells rung in his honour, and by the receipt by him of a letter of congratulation, forward on behalf of the parishioners by Colonel the Hon. George Herbert, secretary of the Church Council.

Knogle House, Salisbury, May 30th, 1926

Dear Mr Neville,

I am writing on behalf of your parishioners to offer you our very best wishes on the completion of the 50th year of your ministry, and to ask you to accept a peal of bells, which will be rung this morning, as a token of our esteem and congratulations.

Yours sincerely
George Herbert

The Rector replied to Colonel Herbert by letter:

"Thank you so much. To have been a priest in the Church of God for 50 years gives cause for much serious thought, but such kindness as yours, expressing as you do, the feelings of my people, is an enormous comfort and I am more than grateful for it.

May I become more and more worthy of it.

I did enjoy the peals".

Previous to his evensong sermon on Trinity Sunday, the Rector referred further to the compliment paid to him. He expressed his deep thanks to all those who had been associated with the letter he received that morning and particularly to the ringers for ringing the peal. It was a great thing to have reached the age when he could say he had been 50 years in the ministry. He had always done his best for the church and his parishioners and he should continue to do so.

The Rev William Neville, who graduated at Oxford, gained his BA degree in 1873 and MA degree in 1875. He was ordained deacon in 1875, priest 1876. From 1875 to 1881 he was curate of Wantage, vicar of Watlington 1881 to 1882, vicar of Butleigh with Baltonsborough 1882 to 1892, vicar of Monmouth 1892 to 1897. From Monmouth he went as vicar of St Mary's Reading in 1897. He became rector of East Knoyle about 13 years ago. Not the least fruitful phase of his long and honourable ministry has been his work in this Wiltshire parish.

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