

## **NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, 12 JULY 1923**

### **PILTON CHURCH, BARNSTAPLE.**

#### **SALE OF WORK OPENED BY MATILDA LADY WILLIAMS.**

With the object of defraying the cost of repairs to the roof of the Church, and if possible to provide funds for installing electric light in the body of the edifice, a sale of work was held on the Vicarage Lawn, Pilton, on Thursday afternoon, the opening ceremony being performed Matilda Lady Williams in brilliant weather, and before a goodly gathering of parishioners and other friends.

Before calling in Lady Williams, the Vicar (Rev. W. H. M. Bagley) said he did not suppose many knew it, but about six months ago one of the bosses in the Church fell down during the night, and this opened their eyes to the fact that there was something wrong on the roof. They at once had the roof thoroughly examined, and, the result of tests, several other bosses came down. The Church Council immediately set to work to make the roof safe, although that date they had no money in their pockets. The work was an absolute necessity, however, and it cost £141 2s. 9d., in addition the architect's fees, giving total or about £150. He trusted that the entire amount would be raised the result of that effort. They wanted also to extend the electric lighting to the body of the Church—work which would cost another £50 or £60. If parishioners and other friends would only open their hearts, they might, smilingly added the Vicar, get £200 the result of that effort. Amid applause, Mr. Bagley extended cordial welcome to Lady Williams.

Lady Williams, cordially received, assured her hearers it was a great pleasure to re-visit the parish after so many years' absence, and to help in small way accepting Mr. Bagley's invitation to declare- the Sale of Work open. Because of its ancient history, Pilton Church was of interest to all. It dated back, as they all knew, to about the year 900, when it was a Priory Church. When she lived in their midst, she loved to look at this beautiful Church, because it contained so many fine pieces of work, monuments and so on, and to hear their fine old peal of bells ring out, which, indeed, they seemed to be able to hear from anywhere in that district. (Applause.) With Church of such antiquity and interest in their midst it behoved them to do everything possible to preserve it, and most essential thing was attention to the roof, in order to keep it water-tight. A view of the stalls before her was sufficient to show how hard those interested had worked, and she trusted that as the result of the Sale of Work more than the amount required would be forthcoming. (Applause.) She had great pleasure declaring the Sale of Work open.

Miss Annie Trechmann, the little daughter of Major and Mrs. Trechmann [*of Westaway House*], having first presented Lady Williams with a lovely bouquet, Mr. C. Pearce, J.P. [*of Pilton House*], voiced general thanks to Lady Williams for so kindly re-visiting her old parish and performing that opening ceremony. All regretted when Lady Williams left Pilton; they were glad, however, that her sister was now living in her old home at Upcott, and taking very active interest in parish and Church work. (Applause.) [*Upcott House has been the home of the Williams family since it was built in 1752*]

Thanks to Lady Williams was conveyed by a hearty round of applause, and her ladyship duly acknowledged the compliment.

Visitors found much to interest them during the afternoon and evening—what with the variety of choice goods provided on well-stocked stalls disposed at the sides of the Lawn, and other forms entertainment and attraction, of which the beautiful grounds and environment of Pilton Vicarage formed not the least. The stallholders were: Work stall — Mrs. Bagley, Mrs. C. Pearce, Mrs. Driver Williams. Girls' Friendly Society stall—Miss Gilbert, Miss Lily Abbott, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Paull. Parcels—Miss Thomas, Miss Olive Warr. Mothers' Union (miscellaneous)— Mrs. Conyers, Mrs. Gammon, Mrs. Southcombe, Mrs Dymond. Fruit and produce—Mrs. Templar, Miss Pitfield. White elephant—Mrs. and Miss Gould. Cakes—Mrs. Pike, Mrs. Meaden, Mrs. Ayres. Competitions stall—Mrs. Roth, Miss Pearce. Teas - Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Stevens, assisted by Mrs. Smith, Misses Bowden, Bennett, D. Parsons, O. and D. Gilbert, L., R., and F. Abbott, L. Sutton, F. Ingerson, and O. Warr. Rev. J. L. Jones (Curate) generally superintended the competitions, which included clock golf and skittles, of which Messrs. Stacey and F. Ingerson were respectively in charge. Gramophone selections were kindly given by Mr. N. Bale.

A treasure hunt was superintended by Mr. W. E. Dart, assisted several helpers.

The winners of the competitions were: Skittling for pig, Major G. Mundy, 21 pins; clock golf—1, Mr. W. T. Sanders; 2, Miss Clarke; treasure hunt, Mr. R. L. Peake; and watch competition, Miss Winnie Nash, the watch stopping at 5.20.

The gross takings in connection with the sale of work amounted to £145, and as expenses will not be very heavy, a substantial sum will thus be handed over.