

EAST DEVON RECTORS

Institutions at Buckerell And Cotleigh

The Bishop of Exeter yesterday instituted new Rectors of Buckerell and Cotleigh, East Devon.

There was a crowded congregation at Buckerell, where the service was choral, with Mr. Stanley Fairchild at the organ.

Rev. J. Kenneth Maurice, formerly curate at Sidmouth, is taking the place of Rev. E. Ravenscroft, who has retired after ministering in the parish for 27 years.

The induction ceremony was performed by the Archdeacon of Exeter (Ven. A. H. Thompson).

The clergy present were: Canon E. F. Hall (representating the Dean and Chapter of Exeter), Revs. J. L. Nightingale (Sidmouth), B. S. Crockett (Ottery St. Mary), A. W. Crockett (Sidmouth), C. D. Walters (Alfington), G. H. Greenslade (Newton Poppleford), F. Perry (Westhill, Rural Dean of Ottery St. Mary), C. K. Woollcombe, W. A. D. Edwards (Countess Wear), and Canon H. H. Lee (Kilmington).

TRIBUTE TO A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

In the course of his address the Bishop said how encouraging it was to the new rector to see so many of them present that afternoon to welcome him and wish him God-speed in the ministry which he was about to commence. He felt sure that there was one person thinking of the service that was taking place in the church at that time – a person who had ministered there for 27 years so faithfully, and he was quite confident that Mr. Ravenscroft's prayers were with them.

After reminding them that they would be praying silently for their new minister during the service, the Bishop wondered what would be the result if their prayers were answered in the parish. There would be three answers, he said, to that question – not his own answers, but answers from the Holy Scriptures themselves. If their prayers were answered there would be a new spirit of fellowship, a new courage, and new witness.

One of the first duties of a parish priest was to hold together his people, for never was anything as disastrous as a parish that was divided among itself or where strife existed. In this respect there was great opportunity in the country, because "here he comes not as a town clergy to a congregation, but as a minister to a community that has its roots in the soil." They must show courage in times of temptation and times of difficulty, and he (the Bishop) always liked to look upon the Church as a centre of encouragement.

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