

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

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DEDICATION FESTIVAL

November 1st being All Saints' Day, the anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church was observed with special services, which continued over Sunday. The church was prettily decorated for the occasion, and the services were hearty and well attended. On All Saints' Day at evensong, the preacher was the Rev. J. W. Gedge M.A., Diocesan Inspector of schools for the Diocese of Winchester, and Secretary to the St John's Foundation School. The same gentleman preached on Sunday morning, [the 2nd November] when the offertory was devoted to St John's Foundation School, for the sons of poor clergymen. On Sunday evening the sermon was by the Rev. G. Bruce Rhind, who kindly preached in the place of the Vicar of Margate, the latter gentleman being indisposed. The offertory at evensong was for the Chancel wall decoration fund. There was a crowded congregation, but the offertory was not quite so large as it was in the morning.



There is a paragraph preceding the one above entitled "The Parish Church". It describes how the east wall of the Sanctuary had by now had the four Archangels and the diaper pattern background painted on it, but the north and south walls of the Chancel and Sanctuary still appear to be unadorned, as they are not mentioned in the article. The walls eventually had the two great figures from the Old and the New Testament, Moses and St Paul, painted on the same diaper pattern, one figure on the north wall and one on the south.

All these wall paintings have now been hidden under white paint, done in 1968. By then the colours had darkened and become very dreary. It was not felt that the paintings were of such merit that they were worth restoration. Sadly, no definitive photos were taken of them before they were obliterated. There may be something recorded in Alfred Walker's collection of slides, but these have yet to be checked.

[The information for the original article was sent in by Mr Bristow, The Square, Birchington, the regular weekly correspondent for Keble's Gazette]