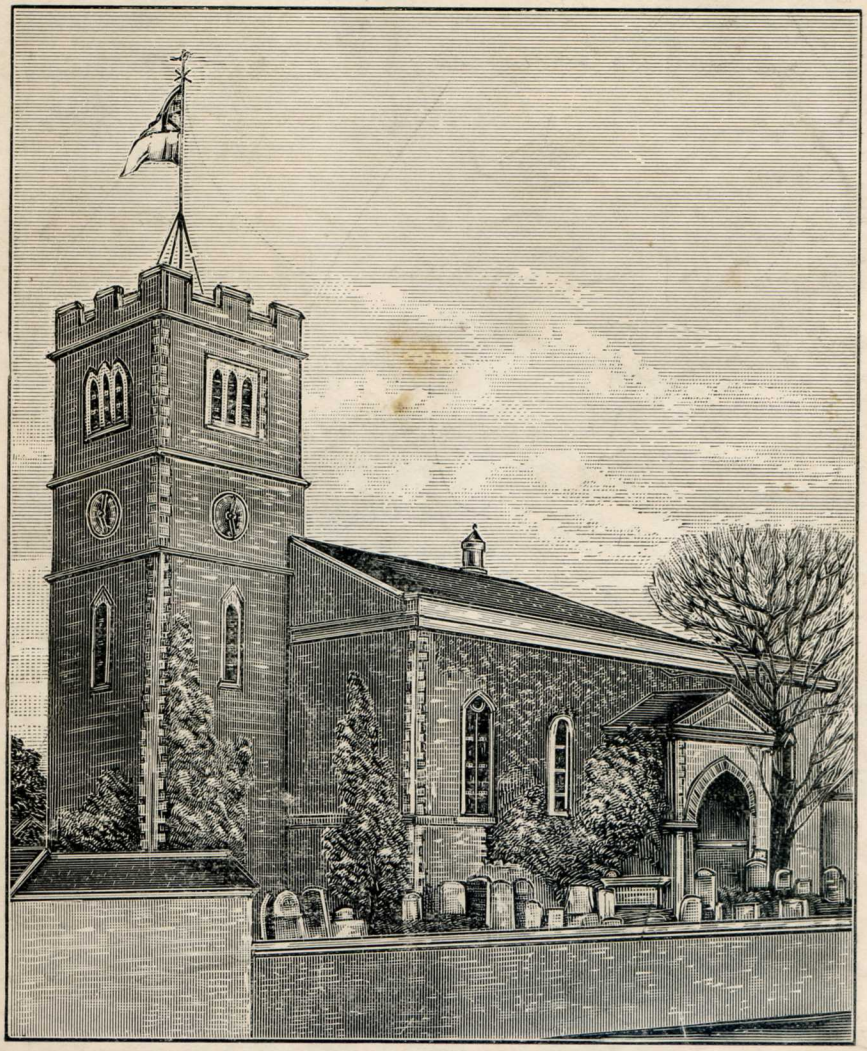
Parish Church of S. Nicholas, Strood.

TOWER PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE, DECEMBER, 1898;
RESTORED, AND NEW BELLS, CLOCK, AND SCREEN ERECTED, NOVEMBER, 1899.



Dedicated to the Service of Almighty God, by

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1899.

W. J. TAIT, M.A., Vicar.

ROBERT MISKIN,
CHARLES A. WOOLLETT, } Churchwardens.

†

OFFICE FOR DEDICATION.

At 7 o'clock, the Choir, with the Clergy, and the Bishop, preceded by his Chaplain bearing the Pastoral Staff, will enter the Church (from Vestry).

Processional Hymn.

242 (A. & M.)

WE love the place, O GOD,
Wherein Thine honour dwells;
The joy of Thine abode
All earthly joy excels.

It is the house of prayer,
Wherein Thy servants meet;
And Thou, O LORD, art there,
Thy chosen flock to greet.

We love the sacred Font;
For there the HOLY DOVE
To pour is ever wont
His blessing from above.

We love Thine Altar, LORD;
Oh, what on earth so dear?
For there, in faith adored,
We find Thy Presence near.

We love the Word of life,
The Word that tells of peace,
Of comfort in the strife,
And joys that never cease.

We love to sing below
For mercies freely given;
But, oh, we long to know
The triumph-song of heaven.

LORD JESUS, give us grace
On earth to love Thee more,
In heaven to see Thy Face,
And with Thy Saints adore. Amen.

Then shall the Bishop say this Prayer, all kneeling:

Let us pray.

WE are not, worthy, O Lord, to enter into Thy presence, for Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil. But Thou, Lord, art merciful, and full of compassion. Forgive us all the sins and offences of our past lives, whereby we have grieved and wearied Thee, and receive us again to Thy favour. Grant that Thine eyes may be upon us continually as we enter into this Thine House, and that all our thoughts and words may be hallowed by Thy presence. Let Thy holy Angels be with us and about us, and Thy Holy Spirit within us, that in all our works and ways we may glorify Thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PSALMS xxiv. and cxviii. (19—29.)

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.
2 For he hath founded it upon the seas: and prepared it upon the floods.
3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord: or who shall rise up in his holy place?
4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.
5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord: and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
6 This is the generation of them that seek him: even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.
7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.
8 Who is the King of glory: it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.
9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.
10 Who is the King of glory: even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

OPEN me the gates of righteousness: that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter into it.
21 I will thank thee, for thou hast heard me: and art become my salvation.
22 The same stone which the builders refused: is become the head-stone in the corner.
23 This is the Lord's doing: and it is marvellous in our eyes.
24 This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Help me now, O Lord: O Lord, send us now prosperity.
26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have wished you good luck, ye that are of the house of the Lord.
27 God is the Lord who hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, yea, even unto the horns of the altar.
28 Thou art my God, and I will thank thee: thou art my God, and I will praise thee.
29 O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Bishop, standing at the Holy Table, and turning to the people, shall say:

DEARLY beloved in the Lord, we are gathered together to-day to render humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God for His goodness in prospering the work of the Restoration of this Church, and to implore the continuance of His favour and blessing upon it. Wherefore I bid you secretly in your prayers to ask God's blessing upon this Church, for which prayer there shall be silence kept for a space.

Then shall secret prayer be made, all kneeling.

After this shall be sung, all still kneeling, the following:

HYMN 157 (A. & M.)

COME, HOLY GHOST, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing SPIRIT art,
Who dost Thy seven-fold gifts impart:

Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of Thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art Guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the FATHER, SON,
And THEE, of Both, to be but ONE;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Praise to Thy eternal merit,
FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

Then shall the Bishop, preceded by the Vicar, Clergy, Choir, and the Churchwardens of the Parish Church, proceed to the Tower, singing two verses of

HYMN 396 (A. & M.)

BLESSÈD city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who of living stones art builded
In the height of heaven above,
And, with Angel-hosts encircled,
As a bride doth earthward move;

From celestial realms descending,
Bridal glory round thee shed,
Meet for Him Whose love espoused thee,
To thy LORD shalt thou be led;
All thy streets, and all thy bulwarks
Of pure gold are fashionèd.

The Bishop will ENTER the Tower with the Vicar, the Clergy, and the Churchwardens; and the Choir will group round the Font.

The Bishop will then Dedicate the Tower, Bells, and Clock.

Let us pray.

O MOST BLESSED SAVIOUR, Who, in the days of Thy earthly ministry, by Thy gracious presence at the Feast of Dedication, didst approve and honour such service as this which we are now offering unto Thee, be present with us by Thy Holy Spirit; and, because holiness becometh Thine House for ever, sanctify us, we pray

Thee, that we may be living temples, holy and acceptable unto Thee; and so dwell in our hearts by faith, and possess our souls by Thy grace, that nothing which defileth may enter into us; but that, being cleansed from all carnal and corrupt affections, we may ever be devoutly given to serve Thee in all good works, Who art our Saviour, Lord, and God, blessed for evermore. *Amen.*

BLESSED be Thy Name, O Lord God, for that it pleaseth Thee to have Thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon earth; Accept, we beseech Thee, our offerings this day; and grant that in this place, set apart of old, and now enlarged to Thy glory and service, Thy holy Name may be worshipped in truth and purity to all generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLESSED be Thy Name, O Lord, that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the hearts of Thy servants to complete and adorn this House for Thy honour and worship, and for the ministry of Thy holy Word and Sacraments. Bless, O Lord, them, their families, and substance, and accept the work of their hands; remember them concerning this; wipe not out this kindness that they have shewed for the House of their God, and for the offices thereof; and grant that all who now or hereafter shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work, may shew forth their thankfulness to Thee for the same, by making a right use of it, to the glory of Thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, Who in the Ancient Land didst give commandment that there should be made trumpets of silver, and that the Levites should sound upon them at the time of sacrifice, to the end that the people, being admonished by the joyful sound of them, should make themselves ready for Thy worship and come together for the celebration of the sacrifices, and being encouraged to battle by the blast thereof, might overthrow the strong walls of their adversaries; grant, we beseech Thee, that these bells now provided for the use of Thy holy Church may be hallowed by Thy Holy Spirit, and may sound in the ears of Thy people to the increase in them of faith and devotion, to the overthrowing of the powers of darkness, and to the praise of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, unto Whom every knee shall bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

BY Virtue of our Sacred Office in the Church of God we do now dedicate and set apart from all profane and common uses, this tower, bells and clock therein, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then the Choir shall proceed back to their seats in the same order, boys leading, singing the remainder of Hymn 396, commencing at verse 3; during the singing of which the Bishop will be conducted to the Pulpit, and the Clergy will return to their places.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining,
They are open evermore;
And by virtue of His merits
Thither faithful souls do soar,
Who for CHRIST's dear Name in this world
Pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture
Polished well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted
By the heavenly Architect,
Who therewith hath willed for ever
That His Palace should be decked.

Laud and honour to the FATHER,
Laud and honour to the SON,
Laud and honour to the SPIRIT,
Ever THREE, and ever ONE,
Consubstantial, Co-eternal,
While unending ages run.
Amen.

SERMON

BY THE

RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

During the singing of the following Hymn, a Collection will be made toward the Restoration of the Parish Church.

HYMN 397 (A. & M.)

LIFT the strain of high thanksgiving!
Tread with songs the hallowed way!
Praise our fathers' God for mercies
New to us their sons to-day:
Here they built for Him a dwelling,
Served Him here in ages past,
Fixed it for His sure possession,
Holy ground, while time shall last.

When the years had wrought their changes,
He, our own unchanging GOD,
Thought on this His habitation,
Looked on His decayed abode;
Heard our prayers, and helped our counsels,
Blessed the silver and the gold,
Till once more His house is standing
Firm and stately as of old.

Entering then Thy gates with praises,
LORD, be ours Thine Israel's prayer;
"Rise into Thy place of resting,
Shew Thy promised presence there!"
Let the gracious Word be spoken
Here, as once on Sion's height,
"This shall be My rest for ever,
This My dwelling of delight."

Fill this latter house with glory,
Greater than the former knew;
Clothe with righteousness its Priesthood,
Guide its Choir to reverence true;
Let Thy Holy One's anointing
Here its sevenfold blessings shed;
Spread for us the heavenly Banquet,
Satisfy Thy poor with Bread.

Praise to Thee, Almighty FATHER,
Praise to Thee, Eternal SON,
Praise to Thee, all-quickening SPIRIT,
Ever-blessèd THREE in ONE;
Threefold Power and Grace and Wisdom,
Moulding out of sinful clay
Living stones for that true Temple
Which shall never know decay. Amen.

HYMN 395 (A. & M.) [if necessary].

O WORD of GOD above,
Who fillest all in all,
Hallow this house with Thy sure love,
And bless our Festival.

Here from the Font is poured
Grace on each sinful child;
The blest Anointing of the LORD
Brightens the once defiled.

Here CHRIST to faithful hearts
His Body gives for food;
The LAMB of GOD Himself imparts
The Chalice of His Blood.

Here guilty souls that pine
May health and pardon win;
The Judge acquits, and grace Divine
Restores the dead in sin.

Yea, GOD enthroned on high
Here also dwells to bless;
Here trains adoring souls that sigh
His mansions to possess.

Against this holy home
Rude tempests harmless beat,
And Satan's angels fiercely come
But to endure defeat.

All might, all praise be Thine,
FATHER, Co-equal SON,
And SPIRIT, Bond of love Divine,
While endless ages run. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION.

JAMES TAYLOR, PRINTER, 113, HIGH STREET, STROOD.