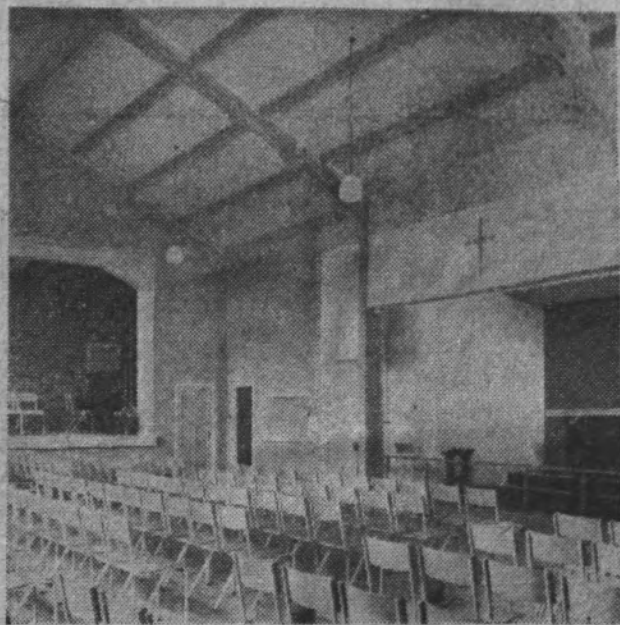


BISHOP OPENS ERMINE

ESTATE CHURCH



Interior of the new church and hall on the Ermine Estate.

DEDICATION of the Sanctuary and blessing of the dual-purpose church and hall of St. John Baptist on Lincoln's Ermine-estate was performed by the Bishop of Lincoln (the Rt. Rev. M. H. Harland).

The ceremony, in a modern brick building within sight of the Cathedral, last night attracted people from surrounding parishes, as well as clergy from all over the city.

It revived the official dedication of the parish 400 years after the church was demolished.

In 1549 the original church of St. John Baptist, Newport, was pulled down, and the parish is still held in plurality with St. Nicholas.

It was on St. John's Day, June 24 last year, that the Bishop laid the foundation stone of the church and so "gave birth" to a new building to replace the old one, demolished so many years before.

Golden Cross

The new building, on the front of which glows a golden cross, will serve about 10,000 people on the estate, although it is hoped a bigger church will be built later.

Special feature of the church and hall is the Sanctuary which is recessed from the main hall and can be hidden, when not in use by a roller blind.

Unlike most similar buildings the stage is at one end the Sanctuary off a side wall.

The Bishop had something to say about this in his address.

"I am delighted," he said, "on seeing it for the first time to find some departure from the style of other dual purpose buildings.

"In most of them the Altar has been at the end and mixed up with the stage. This is very much better.

"On week-days when the hall is needed as a church the side where I am standing can be used as a chapel—for daily services or private prayer.

"On Sundays the whole building will be open as a church, and I think there is a special significance in the fact that for spiritual occasions you will look in one direction and for social functions another."

Dr. Harland urged the people to take a pride in their new church.

"It is something," he said,

"which will at certain times in your lives be a real strength and stay.

"But always remember that the number of people the clergy can touch and influence in any parish is very very few.

"Some of you on this estate" he continued, "are married and for the first time have a home of your own.

"That is something to be proud of, and you have your children to bring up.

"Don't they ask some extraordinary questions, especially with regard to religion?" Dr. Harland asked.

"The best way of training them and answering their questions is to come and learn yourself.

"Make this your spiritual home," he concluded.

Bell Turret

Because of the need for economy, a bell turret planned for the hall has had to be omitted and the interior decoration of the walls postponed.

Cost of the building and the new curate's house is about £14,000 of which £5,250 has been granted by the Church Commissioners.

Lincoln Church Extension Society will also give considerable help to the parish during the early years and until such time as the people of St. John's are able to make a larger contribution to the repayment of the necessary loans.

The parish of St. Nicholas and St. John's will altogether number 17,500. This is expected to be increased to 20,000 in the next 18 months or so.

The combined parish will then be ministered by the Vicar and his three assistants—the same "establishment" as before the war when the parish numbered half its present population.

First Sunday service in the new church will be at 9.15 p.m. tomorrow morning when the Bishop of Lincoln will celebrate Holy Communion.

At 2.30 p.m. there will be a Sunday School class and at 6.30 p.m. Evensong, when Mr. Armstrong will preach.