



Lincoln Bell Dedicated

A 500-YEARS-OLD bell rang out over Lincoln's new estate following its dedication by the Rev. John Hodgkinson, priest-in-charge of St. John's, Ermine Estate, Lincoln.

The dedication ceremony, which took place yesterday after Communion, was witnessed by a group of 100 or so people.

Originally made for the then flourishing little church of St. Peter's, Saltfleetby, the bell is nearly three feet

across and weighs seven cwt. An inscription on the bell shows it is dedicated in the name of St. Mary. For most of the present century, it hung silently in the old tower at St. Peter's.

After its dedication the bell was tolled by the verger, Mr. R. J. Trett.

It was bought and given to St. John's by Mrs. A. H. Adams, in memory of her husband, Mr. Arthur Howard Adams, former history master at Lincoln School.

During the service, Mr.

Hodgkinson said: "This bell has had a history where it has called all the villagers to church over the years. Now it has come to a modern estate, of which we are the villagers."

Later, he chatted with members of the congregation, telling them: "Now you have the best bell in Lincoln."

Picture shows the Rev. J. Hodgkinson reading the dedication of the new bell and turret.

Sunday, 3rd. February 1957.

RESIDENTS of Lincoln's newest housing estate — the Ermine — will soon be called to church by the exquisite tone of a fine medieval bell.

The bell, which has lain silent amid the ruins of the unused old church of St. Peter at Saltfleetby for nearly 80 years has been bought for the new dual purpose church building of St. John's and is at present undergoing renovation at Loughborough. As St. John's is not a suitable building to house a bell of this kind, an adjoining bell "cote" will have to be constructed.

When the old church at Saltfleetby fell out of use in 1877, because it would cost too much to restore, the tower contained two large bells and a small one. Later, the small bell was transferred to the new St. Peter's church in the village, but it was broken. One of the large bells was also broken when someone tried to ring it with a blacksmith's hammer — so the two bells were melted down and made into one. It is now in the new village church.

All this time, the other bell was left in the old tower. It was "discovered" by the curate of St. John's the Rev. John Hodgkinson and bought for the new Lincoln church for £75. £10 of the purchase being returned as a donation for the new church. The bell has been paid for and the outstanding problem is to raise the money for the erection of a suitable bell "cote" so that, when restored, this bell from Saltfleetby can ring out the call to worship for residents of the Ermine Estate.