

An extract from the Lancaster Gazette, Saturday 15th June 1889

The scattered little hamlet of Tatham Fells was quite *en fete* on Thursday last [13th June], when the new church, to be known as 'The Church of the Good Shepherd', was consecrated and formally opened for Divine service by the Right Rev. Dr. Moorhouse, Lord Bishop of Manchester. The old church had, by dint of judicious repairs from time to time, been made to serve the needs of the parish for nearly three hundred years, but for some years past it had been in a very dilapidated state, and the Vicar (the Rev. Jas. Marshall) with his churchwardens (Messrs. J. Cumberland and W. Wolfenden) had been gradually acquiring means for a thorough restoration.

In 1888 they found themselves in a position to commence active operations, and the old fabric was accordingly demolished. The preparation for the plans for the new edifice was entrusted to Messrs. Paley and Austin, of Lancaster, whose designs of a plain substantial church in the perpendicular style of architecture were accepted.

The interior of the new church presented a very pretty appearance, the principal spaces available for decoration having been tastefully adorned by Mrs Marshall who had laid the foundation stone the year before. The following gifts had been made to the church:-

Major Foster, large American organ
Mrs Foster, font, ewer and antependium
Rev. A.W. Foster, red frontal
Mrs Clegg (Littleborough), silver paten, altar linen, super frontal
Mrs Ockleston (Liverpool), two pair linen cloths
Mrs Scargill, lamps
Mrs and Miss Wilson (Elk.), oak chair
C.E. Mumford Esq., white frontal, altar cross and lights, altar desk
Mrs Marshall alms dish, vases, choir surplices and caps
Master Denny Marshall, altar kneeling mat, alms bag
Rev. E.K. Green (Claughton) Bible

There was a very large attendance at the ceremony of consecration, only about one-half of the people being able to get admission to the church. The Rectors and Vicars of the following churches accompanied the Bishop of Manchester and the Registrar of the Diocese in the service: Whittington, Tatham Fells, Tatham, Wray, Morecambe, Lowfields, Hornby, Carnforth and Bentham.

The first portion of the ceremonial was the consecration by the Bishop, according to the form prescribed, of the portion of ground, some 1,060 square yards in extent, which has been added to the churchyard. This ceremony accomplished his lordship proceeded to the church, being met at the entrance by the clergy and choir. A procession was formed and advanced up the church, headed by a little boy carrying a crosier, the choir chanting the 24th Psalm. The introductory prayers having been said by the Bishop, morning prayers were intoned by the Rev. Jas. Marshall, and the lesson, St. John xvii, was read by the Rev. A.W. Foster. Mr Charlewood, the Registrar of the Diocese, then read the deed of consecration, which was signed by the Bishop, and ordered to be preserved with the petition in the Registry of the Diocese. Subsequently his lordship ascended the pulpit and preached a discourse founded upon a portion of 4th verse of the 1st chapter of Acts, 'Waiting for the promise of the Father.'

After the service a tea-meeting was held in the school-room, which adjoins the church, when there was a large attendance.