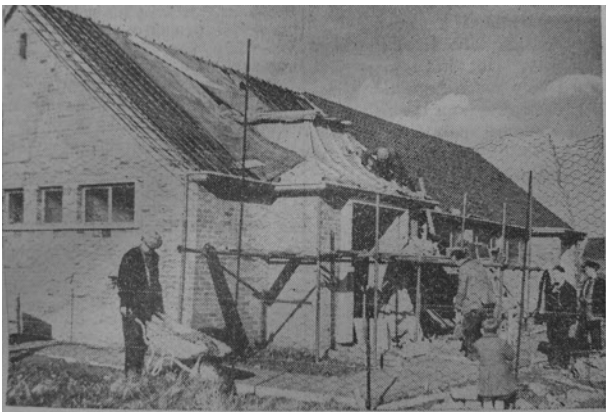


Race To Complete New Hall-Church

C.T. February 26, 1954



All this week workmen have toiled feverishly on the new church and hall at Scott's Green, Somerford Estate, in an effort to complete it before the official opening by the Bishop of Winchester tomorrow afternoon.

Last night, as lighting was installed for the first time, they worked far into the night, and it may be necessary to work an all-night shift after today's work.

The main contractors, John Bertram Ltd., London, started work on St. Mary's Church, as it is to be called, in July. Difficulty in getting enough skilled labour, and illness among sub-contractors held up the work, but this week in a magnificent spurt the men have accomplished near miracles.

This was the progress timetable:

MONDAY—Less than half roof on; ceiling not started; interior full of scaffolding; paths unmade; plumbing not connected.

TUESDAY — Three - quarters of roof on; ceiling and interior decorations well under way; paths concreted.

WEDNESDAY—Roof and ceiling nearly finished; plumbing finished.

THURSDAY—Roof and ceiling completed ; all inside scaffolding removed; flush doors to cloakrooms and toilets installed ; fluorescent strip lighting being installed.

Today the tiling of the floor in various shades of brown is scheduled; gravel paths will be laid down from the roadways; the contractors' temporary fencing will be removed and the site cleared up.

A small army of helpers from the Priory Church will help clean up the hall and decorate it suitably for tomorrow's opening.

New Church Will Fill Big Need At Somerford

By DAVE BOND

THE opening of St. Mary's Church and hall at Somerford on Saturday will mean the fulfilment of three years' hard work by the Vicar and parishioners of the Priory Church, and the people of Somerford.

It will fill a big need at Somerford for besides being used for religious services it will be available for various social functions as the sanctuary and altar can be screened off.

When the project was first thought of a little over three years ago, the difficulties were formidable. An estimated £6,000 was needed, and there were hold-ups in getting a building licence.

The money was raised, partly through donations and collections, and partly through the unflagging efforts of Canon R. P. Price and his many helpers, in organising bazaars, concerts, jumble sales and other events.

The individual totals were:—

	£
Private donations ..	486
Somerford collections . .	148
House collection boxes . .	153
Special events	940
Church collections ..	350

Box in Priory 384
Bishop's "call" 700

It is understood the Church Commissioners are making a grant of £3,000, making the total £6,161.

The cost of the building itself will be about £3,700; the land cost £350, furnishings and fittings will bring the figure up to somewhere near the estimate.

MANY GIFTS.



Mr. R. J. Bishop receiving a prayer book of the Children's Church in the Priory on Sunday, from Maureen Bishop (no relation), of 7, Spring Gardens. In the background is the Rev. J. E. Cocks. C.T. Photos

Among the many gifts made towards furnishing the church are: Altar frontal and table, Priory Mothers' Union; credence table, All Saints', Mudeford; altar book, Priory Youth Fellowship; service book, Priory Children's Church; altar cross and candlesticks made by Mr. Obee in memory of his wife.

Individual gifts, mostly anonymous, include: Communion rails, prayer desk, priest's chair, Bible lectern, piano, vestry cupboards, hymn board, sanctuary carpet, Communion vessels, altar bookstand.

THE DEDICATION

At the dedication service, starting at 3 p.m., the Bishop of Winchester (the Rt. Rev. A. T. P. Williams), attended by his chaplain, will be received at the principal entrance by the incumbent (Canon R. P. Price) and other clergy in their surplices.

The churchwarden, Mr. R. J. Bishop, will pray the Bishop to dedicate the church. The Bishop will then knock three times on the closed door with his Pastoral Staff.

On entering, he will pass towards the Holy Table, to the singing of a Psalm.

On Sunday there will be several christenings.