

This is the Forty-Ninth of an occasional series of articles by David Stone about incidents in the history of Swanton Morley and its church

THE CHURCH IN CANADA HAD OTHER LINKS WITH SWANTON MORLEY

Following on from my previous article, Mel Coulson, who is Rector's Warden at St John the Divine in Quick, B.C., kindly sent me a copy of *A Memento of St John the Divine Anglican Church, Quick, B.C. 1914 – 2014*. This is a very smart booklet which they have produced to mark their centenary.

From this I have learnt that one feature of the church was a beautifully carved communion rail which was a gift from Rev. Evans-Lombe's son and daughter. (For the record, I have found that their names were Ralph H. Fenwick Evans-Lombe, and Ellen Sophia Vertue Evans-Lombe). It was shipped out from England in 1912 in anticipation of the church's completion. On a brass plaque it bears the inscription "St. Matthew, XXV, 21, which is a reference to: "Well done thou good and faithful servant". There was also a gift of a silver Communion set from Holy Trinity Church in Torquay where Edward and Mary Evans-Lombe lived after his retirement. Unfortunately, this church no longer exists; it is now a sports centre!

The carved lectern

However, of more interest to us is the fact that in a prominent position in the church is a splendid lectern which bears a remarkable similarity to the old reading desk which can be found on the south side of the chancel in All Saints'. Their booklet says that this was carved from English oak by "Father Lombe's old curate, Rev. E.D. Poole." I have looked him up in our Parish Records and his name first appears as officiating minister for a burial on 2 Jan 1891. The last time that Rev. Edward Lombe appears in the Register was January 1894, after which he retired because of ill health, and Rev. Poole was appointed "Curate in Charge" in November 1895. He held this post until Rev. A.J. Hunter was appointed rector of Swanton Morley in November 1896. Rev. Poole was then appointed Vicar of Preston-Gobalds in the Diocese of Lichfield.

He seems to have been an enthusiastic woodcarver, for the next time that I have been able to find him was in an article in the *Whitstable Times* of July 1926 which reported that a new reredos had been dedicated at Swalecliffe Parish Church and that it had been carved out of English oak by Rev. E.D. Poole. He died in the Whitstable area in November 1945.

It may perhaps interest you to compare the two desks, and they are shown on the next page, although I am afraid that they do not reproduce very well here.

Another Norfolk connection with the church at Quick

The Rev. Leo Hunter was rector of St. John the Divine in Quick from 1977 to 1985, after which he returned to England and took up an appointment in Norfolk. This was said to be a large rural parish with several outlying small churches (it sounds somewhat similar to the Dereham Team Benefice). He was apparently rather early for a service at one of these small churches and was browsing through their register when he came across the signature of Rev. Edward Lombe. He said that this took him back immediately to his time in Canada. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find out which Norfolk parish this was.



The lectern at Quick



The reading desk at Swanton Morley