

THE BARTONS CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION AND TEMPERANCE HALL

This little account of the origin and history of the above Hall is published in the Coronation Year, 1937, at the opening of the new door. It is for the information of the Parishioners of both Westcott and Steeple Barton and to dispel a number of inaccurate statements that have from time to time been circulated. It is compiled from information supplied by the Trustees and from an interesting account of the Hall written in 1896 by Miss Marshall, to whose inception and efforts the Hall came into being.

SWYNFEN JERVIS, COL.,
Chairman, Committee of Management.

July, 1937.

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HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE HALL.

- The Hall was built in 1888 and 1889 through the personal efforts of Miss Alice Susanna Marshall, then of Westcott Barton Manor (now of Thalassa, Davenant Road, Oxford), who raised and collected the necessary funds to purchase the land and erect the well-built stone building thereon.
- The land, which was purchased by Miss Marshall from William Haynes, a Farmer in Barton, was conveyed to her by Deed dated July 28th, 1888 upon the Trusts therein set out.
- Para. 3 of the Trust Deed states, 'That the building shall be used for no other purpose than that of a Church of England Mission and Temperance Hall for holding therein both SECULAR and RELIGIOUS Meetings of which the said Alice Susannah Marshall, her heirs and assigns may from time to time and at all times hereafter approve and especially for the holding therein of meetings which shall be conducive to the Spiritual and Moral welfare and improvement of the people but it is declared that no sectarian or Political Meetings or consumption of intoxicating liquor shall on any account whatever be allowed to take place therein or on any portion of the piece or parcel of land or ground appertaining thereto.
- On Dec. 31st, 1895 the building and land were conveyed by Miss Marshall to the following Trustees:-
 - Miss A. S. Marshall (now of Thalassa, Oxford),
 - The Rev. Thomas Hearne, M. A., Rural Dean of Woodstock, of the Rectory, Wootton.
 - Alexander William Hall, Esq., J.P., of Barton Abbey.
 - The Rev. George Duncan, of the Vicarage, Steeple Barton.
 - Francis Eden Marshall, Esq., M.A., of Westcott Barton Manor.
- A Declaration dated 31st Dec., 1897, was signed by the above Trustees vesting the control of the building in the Rev. G. Duncan, (personally) so long as he remained Vicar of Steeple Barton, but NOT in the Incumbent of Steeple Barton for the time being.
- On April 9th. 1934, owing to the death of the Rev. T. Hearne and A. W. Hall, Esq., Trustees, the following were appointed in their place:-
 - Miss Ellen G. Aubrey Burton, of Plas Newydd, Rose Hill, Oxford.

- Hugh Clarkson, Esq., of 'Hawthorns', Boars Hill, Oxford.
 - C. F. Bagot Gilman Esq., B. A., of Vanburgh House, Oxford.
- By a written agreement dated June 9th. 1932, for the better and more local control and management of the Hall, the Trustees appointed the following to be Managers to act in accordance with the Trust of the Deed of July 28th, 1888 as set forth in para. 3:
 - The Rev C. H. Stuart Gmelin, The Rectory, Westcott Barton.
 - Mrs. Barbara Amelia Sullivan, of the Old Malt House, Westcott Barton.
 - Col. Swynfen J. Jervis, J. P., of Abbey Willows, Steeple Barton.
 - Mrs. Edith Jervis, of Abbey Willows, Steeple Barton.
 - Mr. Walter Parsons, of North Street, Middle Barton.
 - Mrs. Kate Parsons, of North Street, Middle Barton.
 - At the First Meeting, (June 9th), Col. Jervis was appointed Chairman; the Rev. C. H. S Gmelin, Vice-Chairman; and Mrs. Sullivan, Hon. Sec and Treas. On Oct 15th. 1936, Mrs. Sullivan resigned her appointment and Mrs Annie Louise Ayres, of North Street, Middle Barton was appointed in her place.
 - During the incumbency of the Rev. F. P. Burnett as vicar of Steeple Barton, who left in March, 1885, a branch of the C. E. T. Society was started, of which Miss Marshall was the Hon. Secretary. The proposal, by her, to raise the funds to provide a Hall received much support, and the first donation was made to her on May 9th, 1885. It was considered that such a Hall would be most useful to the parishes generally, but the name of 'Temperance Hall' has always clung to it.
 - The building, begun in 1888, (during the incumbency of the Rev. W. G. Southwell), was finished in Aug., 1889 (during that of the Rev. W. J. H. Newman). The builder was Mr. H. R. Franklin, of Deddington. The original cost is set forth below:

	£	s.	d.
▪ Main Building	425	10	6
▪ Kitchen	55	0	0
▪ Coal House, walls, etc.	97	0	0
▪ Stoves, lamps, tables, etc.	38	12	0
▪ Pathways	3	9	9
• Total	619	12	3
▪ Land	40	0	0
▪ Furniture	80	0	0
• Total	739	12	3

- It was the desire of the promoter to form an Endowment Fund of £300 and by 1896 Miss Marshall had raised £963-15-0, of which £160 was invested for that purpose.
- The building has been used ever since it was opened for a number of purposes:
 - A Penny Bank (Established in 1882 by Miss A. S. Marshall)
 - Mothers' Meetings (Started in 1873 by Mrs. Jenner Marshall)
 - A Reading Room Club (Started in 1891)
 - Lending Library (Started 1891)
 - Sunday School
 - Lectures

- Missionary Working Parties
 - Various Meetings and Entertainments and Religious Services, the first of which was conducted by the Rev. E. Duncan on 5th Dec., 1895.

- The Hall was intended for the benefit of the people of both the parishes, especially as the money was raised by a parishioner of Wescott Barton and the site purchased, though in Steeple Barton, being on the very edge of Westcott Barton Parish. The statement that the Rev. W. G. Southwell, who resigned in 1888, collected the money for the Hall is absolutely erroneous. Equally so that his successors, the Revs. Newman, Duncan and Harrison were responsible in any way for its erection, finance or management. It is a matter of particular note that the management in 1895 was vested in the Rev. G. Duncan personally, and not in the 'The Incumbent of Steeple Barton for the time being'. It is also to be noted that in the Trust Deed that the 'Approval' of what is done as regards the use of the Hall rests with Miss Alice S. Marshall, her heirs and assigns.

- During the past 15 years the following additions and improvements have been made to the Hall:
 - Stage, drop / curtain, side curtains, top flies, side screens, electric foot and spot lights, etc., provided by the Bartons Troop of Boy Scouts.
 - All doors made to open outwards for safety.
 - New stove.
 - Curtains to all windows and doors.
 - Large number of new chairs.
 - Considerable amount of crockery and kitchen utensils.
 - A Clock.
 - Tank for rainwater.
 - Electric light installed.
 - Shelves erected for books of the Village and County Library.
 - A new door made for safety and convenience in the N. W. corner of the Hall with an entrance lobby.
 - Loft above made for the storage of property.
 - Path from gate to door paved with concrete slabs.
 - Cycle shed built of stone erected at the back.

- The Hall truly plays a most important part in the Village Life of both parishes and certainly conduces to 'the Spiritual and Moral welfare of the people' as was intended in the Trust Deed.