

RESTORATION.

Speed-up. The news will have reached everyone by now that our plans for restoring Brompton Regis Church must be speeded up. It has become quite clear during the course of the work which has already been done that, as far as the exterior work on the Church is concerned, everything hangs so much together that it is impossible to do one thing without the other. For example, the remainder of the roofs cannot be done until the lead valley between them has been renewed, and since a great deal of the neighbouring roofs will have to be removed in order that this may be done, it is quite clear that both must be completed together. Similarly, it is not much use doing the roofs if ridges and copings are left to allow the water to come in. All this was considered at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and also at a subsequent meeting of the Parochial Church Council. Both meetings unanimously agreed that all the exterior work or at least the major part of it must be completed before next winter. The Architect has been asked to plan accordingly. A very special effort to raise funds during the year will be required since, of course, this part of the restoration scheme will obviously be the most costly part of it. Every possible means is being and will be explored for getting financial assistance from certain outside sources. There is every hope that such help will be forthcoming, but we must not depend too much on that. The main effort, financial and otherwise, must come from within the Parish and that is how we should surely wish it to be.

The Bells. When the plaster was being removed from the interior of the tower it was found that the floor beneath the bells was completely rotten and in a very dangerous condition. It had to be removed and a new floor has been put in. This led to a thorough inspection of the bell-frame and its supporting timbers by a bell expert. He reported that all timbers were in a bad state of decay and recommended that the bells and the whole frame should be removed and the bells stored until such time as we can afford a new frame and ringing gear. The Parochial Church Council accepted this recommendation and we have applied for a Faculty authorising the removal of the bells and, because we have faith in our fellow-parishioners, we have asked that the Faculty should provide for the reinstatement of the bells in a new frame later on. It is certainly sad to think that our bells will have to be silent for a time. How long that time is will depend upon ourselves and how enthusiastic we are in our efforts. The reinstatement of the bells will cost about £900. Of course it has been a long time since the bells were rung. It has only been possible to chime them. If we are to ring them again—and who can doubt but that we shall?—we shall want a team of ringers. We should like the names of those who can ring or who are prepared to learn—now. Who will be the first to volunteer?

Church restoration Article from the KINGSBROMPTON CHRONICLE

Easter 1955

Rev N. W. Scott

Call to Arms.

A special appeal covering all this speeded up restoration work is being issued and we hope that every parishioner and friend of Brompton Regis will do everything possible to meet the appeal for money and prayers with vigour, zeal and downright generosity. Some people may be tempted to feel that it is quite fantastic even to think of raising so much money in so short a time and downright foolishness at that. So it is indeed, but then nothing really worth doing has ever been done without it—foolishness that is! Anyhow if last Easter someone had said, "Before the end of the year you will have £700 in the Restoration Fund and have done quite a bit of work already", there might have been a good many who would have said, "Get away with you!"

While therefore there is no need to repeat the substance of the appeal here again, we might perhaps, once more, ask everyone to do their **full share** in helping to achieve **a minimum target of £1,000 during 1955**. It all depends upon everyone doing his or her full share.

Work done.

Since work began we have re-slatted the whole of the South slope of the Nave roof and the West slope of the transept roof. A soakaway for the rain-water from the roof has been built together with drains and gulleys. Practically all the plaster inside the Church has been removed except that in the Chancel and Sanctuary. It has perhaps made the Church look rather rough, but it is infinitely better than the appearance of all that mouldering plaster. Whilst removing the plaster the entrance to the stairs which used to lead to the Rood Screen loft has been uncovered. Since this is an interesting reminder of a past and lost glory of the Church it will be left uncovered.

By the way, there is a very strong tradition that our Rood Screen was removed under very questionable circumstances during the last century. There is also quite good reason to suppose that it may be still in someone's private house no very great distance away. We wonder whether this is really the case?

A small niche, whose purpose has not yet been discovered, has been found behind the organ.