

LAVENHAM CEMETERY CHAPEL ~ EARLY HISTORY

Extracts from *Lavenham Church Monthly*

June 1895

At the Meeting of the Parish Council, on May 22, it was resolved to summon a Parish Meeting to obtain consent to the building of a Chapel in the Cemetery.

July 1895

At the Parish Meeting, held on June 19, Mr Biddell in the chair, a resolution was proposed to the effect that a Chapel should be built on the Cemetery Ground, and that the consent of the Meeting should be given to raise the necessary amount for building it, which should not exceed in all £200.

After considerable discussion, an amendment was proposed that the question be deferred for a twelvemonth, on the grounds that the Parish was about to lay out a large sum on erecting the Board Schools. After some discussion, the amendment was put to the meeting, and was lost, 17 voting for it, and 34 against it.

The original resolution was then put and carried, 34 voting for it, and 21 against it

It was then proposed that the following Gentlemen be elected to assist the Parish Council with their advice in getting out plans and deciding on the cost of the Chapel: – Canon Scott, Mr J. W. Baker, Mr T. Parker, and Mr F. Turner

This was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Biddell for his conduct in the chair. In his reply he remarked that the Chapel would, of course, be available for the use of Churchmen, if they wished it, as well as others.

August 1895

The Members of the Parish Council and of the Committee appointed to assist them in arranging for the building of the Chapel in the Cemetery met on the ground on the Evening of July 11. After some discussion it was almost or quite unanimously resolved that the site for the Chapel should be at the further end of the central pathway, with the entrance-porch facing down it. At the subsequent Meeting of the Council, the Chairman was requested to make certain preliminary enquiries from Mr Corder, respecting the Chapel itself. The next Meeting was fixed for July 31st.

September 1895

At the meeting of the Parish Council, on August 14, two plans for the Chapel were submitted, and, after discussion, a Committee was nominated to confirm with the architect respecting them. The Table of Fees sanctioned by the secretary of state as payable to the Burial Board was produced, and the Minister's Fee of 2s. 6d for each interment was approved. A precept was made on the Overseer for £22, for payment of interest and portion of principal on account of Cemetery loan.

December 1895

At the Parish Meeting, on November 13, a letter was read from the Local Government Board saying that an Inspector would be sent down to make enquiries with respect to the proposed loan of £200 for building the Cemetery Chapel.

February 1896

On January 21 Mr Tulloch held a public enquiry on behalf of the Local Government Board with reference to the proposed loan of £200 for building a Chapel in the Cemetery. If his report be favourable, the Board will probably sanction the loan.

March 1896

We believe that up to the present date the consent of the Local Government Board for borrowing money to build the Cemetery Chapel, has not been received.

April 1896

At the last Meeting of the old Council, on March 25, the announcement was made that The Local government Board had given their consent to the erection of the proposed Chapel in the Cemetery

May 1896

Mr Corder (the architect) and Mr Death (the contractor for the Cemetery Chapel), were present, and it was agreed that the work should be completed by September 30.

June 1896

The building of the Cemetery Chapel has commenced

September 1896

The Cemetery Chapel is nearly, if not quite, completed, and will shortly be open. Though it will be at the service of all the parishioners unlike, I trust that the funerals of all Church-people will still be brought into the church, like those of all who have gone before them. I almost take for granted that it will be so, for all Lavenham Church people love their church, and would feel that something was wrong if it were not within its walls that they heard, in their hour of sorrow and bereavement, the words of comfort and of hope which our Burial Service, conveys. It seems hardly worthwhile to add that, as every funeral must pass the church, the extra distance would not be more than a very few yards.

Graham Pattrick
10th May 2018