

150 Year Anniversary St. Simon and St.Jude, Milton

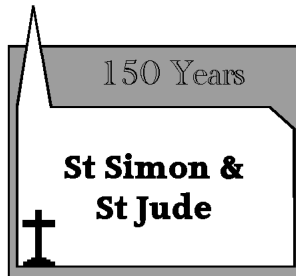
As you may have heard, Milton-under-Wychwood Church has an important anniversary this year. On 28th October 2004 it will be 150 years old.

Our History

In 1853 James Haughton Langston, of the Sarsden Estate, gave the land, 1 acre and 5 perches, (part of land purchased by the Family from William and Martin Brooks). Squire Langston also paid for the building. Simon Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, Joseph Phillimore and the Rev'd. Edward Dickson Carter of Shipton Church signed the petition dated 25th October 1854 and the Bishop consecrated the Church on 28th October 1854.

Designed by G.E.Street

The Church is an edifice of stone in geometrical style and was one of the earliest works of the architect G.E.Street of Walton Street, Oxford. Inside there is a chancel with organ chamber and vestry. The font, pulpit and choir stalls are all designed by Street. The little octagonal turret with small spire houses 4 bells. The church could accommodate 400 people and was built by A. Groves & Sons. The school building next door, now converted into several houses, was built shortly afterwards in the same style and also designed by G. E. Street. More recently the Tin Hut, which stood in the Vicarage grounds was removed and a modern Church Room built in its place.



Milton-under-Wychwood

God or Mammon?

It is interesting to imagine what the village would have been like in those days. Was the building and dedication of the church in response to the spiritual demand of the community or a form of Victorian patriarchy by a local

squire? It would no doubt be considered quite politically (and spiritually) incorrect nowadays for a wealthy person to endow a church; a university building or sport stadium perhaps, but not a place of worship.

The Faith of Generations

The church holds a special place in the hearts of its regular worshippers. As well as being welcomed and feeling very much part of the church family, we are very fond of the church building and its setting, as are many other people in the village and beyond. Our church represents the faith of many generations of people who have worshipped there, been baptised, married and buried, and who have cared for each other and the building.

But What Next?

Sadly, the number of regular worshippers is falling, and the majority of those who do attend services and contribute to the support of the church are over 60 years of age. There are very few young people or children who use the church on a regular basis.