

26th September 1906

Chapel at Denwick

Herewith a letter from the Rev. R.R. Mangin addressed to your Grace in connection with an application from J. Thomas Jordan of Denwick (who is employed on Your Grace's estate as a Hedger, and whose wife died a short time back) to insert a memorial window in the Chapel at Denwick in memory of his wife.

As there appears to be considerable doubt as to the legal position of the Chapel and how it is held, it was thought better that as much information as possible in connection with it should be got out. A statement is therefore attached hereto.

At present there are three memorial windows one erected by Mr. Robt. Thompson in memory of his wife, the second erected in memory of Isabella Davison of Golden Moor by her husband and family, and the third in memory of William Cunningham and of his son Rev. James Dickson Cunningham, B.A. erected by his widow and family.

Apparently there is no record in this office of permission having being given for their insertion. If permission is given for the insertion of windows it would appear to raise moral obligation that the Chapel should always be available for Church of England services. Two questions therefore arise whether Your Grace will grant this permission for the insertion of a window by J. Thomas Jordan, and secondly whether you wish the Chapel to remain on its present footing.

Denwick Church

The following is an Extract from the Alnwick Mercury dated 25th November 1876 giving a detailed account of the opening Ceremony in connection with the above viz:-

"Opening of Denwick Church."

"On Tuesday last, the Hamlet Church which has been in the course of erection during the past year at the pretty little Village of Denwick was opened for public worship. At the morning service the little building was completely filled, there being a number present from Alnwick as well as from the immediate locality. The service, (which was the usual morning service) was conducted by the Rev. E.B. Trotter Vicar of St. Michael's, in which Parish the new Chapel is situated, and his Curate Rev. Mr. Barnes; together with the Rev. J.J.M. Perry, L.J. Stephens and E.C. Streatfeild; and the Ven. Archdeacon Hamilton preached the sermon. Denwick is included in the Parish of Alnwick, but owing to the distance of the hamlet from

the town many of the residents have been unable to attend the services of the Church; and some time ago a movement was commenced with a view to erecting a small Church at the place. The Rev. E.B. Trotter, Vicar of Alnwick, and others, exhorted themselves in the matter, and in the early part of this year sufficient funds were subscribed to justify a commencement being made with the work, and on February 10th, the foundation stone was laid by Mrs Lisle of Alnwick. The Church has been erected by Messrs T. Robertson and Sons, Alnwick, from designs prepared by Mr. George Reavell, Architect, Alnwick Castle. It is a small edifice of a simple Gothic form, harmonising in its unpretending appearance with the Cottages in the hamlet. The interior length of the building is 42 feet, and the width 24 feet. On each side are four lancet windows, and at the east end is a three light lancet window. The entrance, which is at the west end of the Church, is a plain Gothic porch, with a lancet window over it, and above this is a bell turret. A wooden screen is placed inside the porch, to prevent the congregation being incommoded by draughts. Instead of having benches fixed in the Church, chairs are provided, which will accommodate about 80 persons. The site is the gift of the Duke of Northumberland, who also gave the freestone from Denwick Quarry to erect the Church.”

In the safe in St. Michael’s Church Vestry there is an amended Document dated 28th November 1876 whereby the Rev. E.B. Trotter was licenced by the Bishop of Durham to hold Religious Services and Communion Services in the New Church, the services previously probably having being held in the School Room.

From the Newspaper report it will be observed there is no reference to any Consecration Services either at the Foundation Stone laying nor yet at the opening ceremony.

The Building was erected by Messrs Robertson and Sons at a Cost of £537-4-0, under the superintendence of His Grace’s Clerk of Works, as the following extract from their Books with show:-

<u>1876</u>		<u>1876</u>	
From May 26 th to Decr 26 th – To Goods.	525-15-9 10-8-9	June 23. By Cheque. Nov 22. do	200.. 175..
<u>1877</u>		<u>1877</u>	
February. do	2-10-0	Mch. 13 th . do Table returned	162-4. 1-4-6
	£538-14-6		£538-14-6

Taking the total at £537-4-0 (which appeared also to have included furniture) and deducting therefrom the amount contributed by the late Duke namely,

1876.

June 23rd. T. Robertson and Sons £200-0-0.

1877.

January 18th. Rev. E.B. Trotter

£119-10-6
£319-10-6

there is a difference of £217-13-6, this sum presumably having been obtained from private subscribers through the influence of the Rev. E.B. Trotter the then Vicar. The latter sum of £199-10-6 paid by His Grace to the Rev. E.B. Trotter is described in the Estate Ledger as "being the Balance of His "Grace's Contribution towards Building Denwick Church."

Previous to 1894 the Church was held without any payment or Document setting forth the Duke's Ownership of the site. On the 3rd December 1894 however an Agreement (No. A. 6760) was entered into between the Rev. W.H. Connor, the Vicar of Alnwick and the Duke of Northumberland, for a piece of land for a Chapel Site and Right of Way, the Rent being 1/- per annum payable yearly on the 1st of March in each year and commencing from the 1st March 1894. One of the conditions of the agreement being that the Building "was to be used as a place for Religious Worship and Instruction according to the Doctrines of the Established Church of England."