

CHRIST CHURCH, ATTUNGA.

Dedication by the Bishop of Armidale.

Impressive Ceremony.

The new Anglican Church at Attunga was formally dedicated yesterday morning by the Right Rev. Dr. Cooper, Lord Bishop of Armidale.

The edifice, the erection of which has been contemplated for several years past by the parishioners of Attunga, occupies a conspicuous position on a knoll just above the centre of the township. Built of brick, on simple but dignified lines, its architectural style arrests attention. The lines of the building are broken by the introduction of two porches and a small belfry tower, the whole effect being extremely artistic, simple and harmonious. Inside the church is well proportioned, with an open timbered roof, and a pointed brick arch dividing the small chancel from the church. The details such as doors, hinges, handles, are well finished, and the furniture which is of fumed oak, is singularly complete, being at once artistic and simple in design. The belfry combines belfry and baptistry, with an open arch into the church. The bell was purchased with funds collected by the children of Attunga, and the miniature fumed oak font and cover were given as a memorial to the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rodgers by their grandchild ren, the Holy Table being another memorial given by the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rodgers. The pulpit was the gift of the late Mr. T. G. Wiseman in memory of his wife, Mary Wiseman. A Litany desk was donated to the memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Benson by their children, and the oak lectern was the gift of St. John's Church, Tamworth

Mr. Sinden presented the acetylene light plant, and Mr. Roden and others assisted to fence the church grounds. Mr. Fred Haswell, of Tamworth, donated the gates.

The church is the outcome of great enthusiasm and some years' continuous work and thought by the members of the Church of England in Attunga, and inside and out it is one of which not only the people of Attunga, but the whole parish of Tamworth may well be proud. The architect of the church was Mr. Rosenthal, of Sydney. Mr. C. F. Johnson, of Tamworth, was the contractor.

There was a very large attendance at the opening ceremony. The church is built to seat 150 persons, but it was estimated that at least 250 were present, numbers not being able to get inside the building. The Bishop of Armidale was met at the main door by the vicar of Tamworth, the Rev. A. W. Johnstone, the church wardens, Messrs. Roden, F. Sinden and G. H. Wiseman, and the members of the Parochial Council, the first named reading the formal petition to the Bishop for the solemn dedication of the church. The Bishop, having granted the request, the church wardens and council preceded the Bishop up the church, reciting the 24th Psalm. After the appointed prayers had been said,

up the church, reciting the 24th Psalm. After the appointed prayers had been said, the vicar read the certificate recording the deposit of the deeds in the Diocesan Registry in Armidale, and the Bishop of Armidale then solemnly dedicated the church in the words, "I declare this church to be known as Christ Church, Attunga, to be now dedicated and set apart to God for ever, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The choir then sang an anthem, and the service for Holy Communion followed.

In the course of his sermon on St. John X., ver. 22, 23, recording Our Blessed Lord's visit to the Temple for the Feast of the Dedication, the Bishop of Armidale gave an interesting account of the dedication and re-building of the temple after its defilement by Antiochus Epiphanes, and how that dedication afterwards had been annually commemorated for 169 years. He congratulated the people of Attunga on the completion of their beautiful little church, and made a feeling allusion to the recent passing of the late Mr. T. G. Wiseman. He exhorted the congregation not to rest satisfied with what they had done, but to continue working with the same earnestness, that the blessings they hoped for and had that day prayed for would be theirs.

The offertory made during the service amounted to £25.

After the conclusion of the service, Dr. Cooper, who was motored out from Tamworth by Mr. R. A. Stanfield, and the other

visitors were entertained at lunch by Mrs. M. Higgins and the Misses Wiseman and Mr. F. R. Sinden at their respective homes.

Previous to the dedication ceremony, a vestry meeting was held, at which Messrs. F. R. Sinden and G. H. Wiseman were elected peoples' church wardens, and Mr. Roden vicar's church warden.