

Dedication of Window and Gateway.

TO MEMORY OF LATE MRS. E. M. HIGGINS.

IMPRESSIVE SERVICE IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A beautiful stained glass window, the gift of the family, and a handsome stone and iron gateway erected by the congregation were dedicated to the glory of God, and in memory of the late Mrs. Elizabeth McWhae Higgins at an impressive service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, on Sunday afternoon.

The dedication was arranged to coincide as near as possible with the first anniversary of the death of Mrs. Higgins.

There was a large gathering around the gateway outside the Church when the service of dedication commenced at 2 o'clock, with the reading of the Invocation by the Rev. H. A. Shaw. The congregation sang the 100th Psalm, "All People That on Earth Do Dwell."

During the Narrative the Rev. Shaw paid a glowing tribute to the great service rendered the Church and the community by the late Mrs. Higgins. He explained that the dedication service was arranged to coincide with the first anniversary of the death of Mrs. Higgins, which occurred on the 20th August last year. He said he was very sorry that he did not know more of her before her death. He now knew a great deal more of her than he did when he presided at the funeral service. He referred to the wonderful work she did for the church and for the whole town and district. Her passing was a very big loss to the church and he felt her passing was a very big loss to Mrs. Shaw and himself as well as to her family. The church people felt, said Mr. Shaw, that it was only right and fitting if some form of memorial could be erected in memory of Mrs. Higgins and a number of different schemes were discussed. Finally it was decided to erect a gateway into the church. He was sure, said Mr. Shaw, that the late Mrs. Higgins would have been delighted with their choice. It was a beautiful type of memorial. When members of the congregation and strangers passed through the gateway into the House of God they would remember the late Mrs. Higgins. Many times Mrs. Higgins had passed through the side gate into the church and he felt she was there in spirit that day. They had had a struggle getting the gateway finished in time and ready for that day. There had been the difficulty of labour and materials to contend with. It was his privilege, said Mr. Shaw, to call upon the gathering to enter the gateway. The work on

Shaw, to call upon the gathering to enter the gateway. The work on the gateway was not quite finished yet. It was proposed to have a tablet there explaining the Higgins Memorial Gateway.

Mr. Shaw then called upon Mrs. F. N. Laurie, the oldest member of the congregation, who had come here over 50 years ago, to open the gate.

Following a short prayer, Mrs. Laurie opened the gate and entered the church. The procession into the church then began, headed by members of the Higgins family. There followed the Choir, Members of Session, the Elders and their wives, the Committee of Management and their wives and members of the congregation and friends. The church was packed.

The church service for the dedication of the memorial window began with the singing of paraphrase 66, "How Bright these Glorious Spirit Shine."

The presentation and acceptance of the window then began. The unveiling of the Higgins Memorial Window was done by the daughter of the late Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Elsie Thomas. As the representative of the family, Mr. Herbert Higgins, asked Mr. Shaw, as the Minister of the Church, to receive the window from members of the Higgins family in memory of their mother, in her honour and to the glory of God.

As the drapings fell aside a stained glass window of great beauty was revealed. The window has been placed high in front of the church facing the congregation and the light from the western sun diffused the many rich colours in the glass, giving it a glorious aspect to those who gazed upon it in admiration and reverence. A light has been placed over it outside the church to show up the beautiful colouring at night. The window depicts in deep purple, red, blue and green stainings, the Divine Sower, Christ, sowing the seeds of the Kingdom.

The acceptance was undertaken by the Rev. Shaw. He said: I accept this gift as a sacred trust in honour of the faithful and Christian discipleship of her in honour of

whose memory it is erected. He added: I now accept this memorial dedicated to the glory of God in memory of His servant, Elizabeth McWhae Higgins, who passed to the glory of God on 20th August, 1946.

Mr. Shaw then accepted the gift of the memorial window on behalf of the congregation.

Mr. Shaw concluded this part of the service with a prayer of dedication.

Following the prayer Mrs. Shaw sang the hallowed hymn, "Abide With Me."

The scripture reading by Mr. Shaw was taken from the parable of the sower (Mark 4:3-8). The choir sang the anthem, "What Are These Arrayed in White Robes?"

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The theme of a significant address given by Mr. Shaw was "Light is Sowed for the Righteous." In it he enlarged on the story depicted by the window, of Christ sowing the seeds of His Kingdom. He made reference to the many "good seeds" sowed by the late Mrs. Higgins during her lifetime.

The congregation joined in the Lord's Prayer. Before the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Shaw the appropriate hymn, "For all the Saints who from their Labours Rest" was sung.

Mrs. G. McGregor presided at the organ.