

NEW ANGLICAN CHURCH AT ATTUNGA.

Laying of Foundation Stone.

On Wednesday afternoon last the foundation stone of the new Anglican Church at Attunga was laid by the Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, the Right Rev. Dr. Cooper. The day was a typical spring day. A large assemblage of people from all parts of the neighbourhood, including representatives of other denominations, besides a large party of visitors from Tamworth, gathered round the site of the new church to take part in the ceremony of the day.

His Lordship Bishop Cooper who with the Rev. A. W. Johnstone, vicar of Tamworth, was motored out to Attunga by Mr. R. A. Stanfield, arrived shortly before 3 o'clock, and was met and welcomed by the members of the Church Council, Messrs. G. E. Wiseman, A. Vernon, who donated the site, Andrew Rodgers, R. Johnston, W. C. Parke, C. Follington, the members of the choir and others.

The clergy having robed the members of the Church Council walking two and two proceeded the Rev. N. M. Lloyd (Nundle), the Rev. A. W. Johnstone, and the Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, to the site of the new building, where the special service arranged for the laying of church foundations was begun. After a reading of special prayers by the Bishop the scroll to be preserved in a bottle and placed in a cavity under the stone was read by Mr. Andrew Rodgers. This document described the arrangements made in connection with the building of the church recorded the names of the church officers, past and present, in connection therewith, including those of the four ladies on the Church Committee, Mesdames M. Higgins, A. Wiseman, Misses E. Wiseman and Roden, and the gifts of land and furniture, made to the new church, special mention being also made of the generous donations given by members of the Roman Catholic communion. The scroll having been deposited under the stone, the architect, Mr. Chas. Rosenthal, and the contractor, Mr. C. F. Johnson lowered the stone into position. The Bishop having tested it with a spirit level handsomely mounted in silver presented with a donation to the fund by Mr. C. F. Johnson, said, "In the faith of Christ, and with prayer for the blessing of God, I lay this foundation stone of a church to be called Christ Church in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

In the course of the service the Bishop delivered an interesting address on the parallel of the spiritual foundation of a church with its material base, and the duties of the members of the church both in laying its spiritual foundations, and building up its walls.

During the singing of the hymn "Saviour, Blessed Saviour," a collection was made by the churchwardens and liberally responded to by members of other denominations present, and was deposited on the stone by the Bishop. His Lordship also received and placed on the stone a number of boxes presented by the children of the parish, who by this means collected a fund for the purpose of providing a bell for the new church. The service ended with the episcopal benediction.

During the service the church choir sang a psalm, and several hymns, Miss E. Wiseman acting as organist.

Afternoon tea was provided at the Attunga Hall by a committee of ladies who hospitably entertained the Right Rev. Dr. Cooper, the Rev. A. W. Johnstone, the Rev. N. M. Lloyd, and the large party of visitors. Before the party broke up the Rev. A. W. Johnstone announced that the offertory made that afternoon amounted to £78/7/11, and the amount presented by the children in their "bell" boxes came to £2/13/5, bringing the "bell fund" up to £14/8/11. In making this announcement Mr. Johnstone expressed the great regret they all felt at the absence through severe indisposition of Mr. Roden, the indefatigable hon. secretary of the building fund, and of Mr. T. G. Wiseman one of the first members of the Church Council. He also took the opportunity of thanking his Lordship Bishop Cooper for coming specially from Armidale to take part in the ceremony that day.