

CONSECRATION OF GRAVEYARD EXTENSION AT ST. MARTIN'S HOLT

On October 9th 2018 Robert was joined by Bishop Robert Paterson for the formal Consecration of the piece of land at the rear of the church so that it can be used for the purposes of burial.

Representatives of the Parish Councils of all three of our villages were present as were members of each congregation.

The land was donated to the church for this purpose by Mrs Felicia Cockerell – late of Holt Castle in 1947.



The service inside the church was followed by the Congregation processing outside and into the new part of the churchyard where Church Warden, Tim Richards invited the Bishop Paterson to consecrate the burial ground.

The Bishop then read the 'Deed of Consecration' which had previously been signed by the Bishop of Worcester – the Rt Revd Dr John Inge.

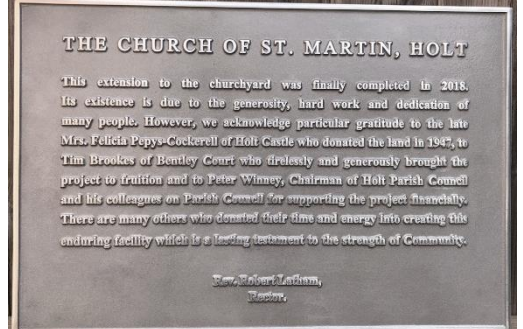
"By virtue of our authority in the Church of God we do now consecrate and set apart this ground from all profane and common uses to be a resting place for the bodies of the departed; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

Amen

Bishop Paterson and Robert then led those assembled around the are of the ground, stopping at intervals and marking the sign of the Cross with his crozier and saying *"Bless O Lord this ground which we consecrate + in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*.



Following this, the Bishop joined Robert at the Bench which has been erected on the site alongside a Memorial Plaque and dedicated both.



The conclusion of this project has been made possible through the generosity of Holt Parish Council who have provided considerable funds and the hard work of Tim Brookes and his Team who have provided manpower, planted trees and spring bulbs and generally prepared the ground.

We know little about the donor of the land – Felicia Cockerell who was born in October 1890. We know from the Electoral Register that she was living at the Castle in 1939, that she was a 'lady of independent means' and the W.V.S. (Women's Voluntary Service) Representative for Holt Heath. With her, lived Lucy Emily Ellis (also of independent means) and they had four domestic servants and also employed a Chauffeur/Groom. In the absence of further information, it *could* be assumed that the piece of land which Mrs Cockerell gave to the church was once part of Holt Castle Farm. *Further research is on-going.*