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All Saints, Bassett

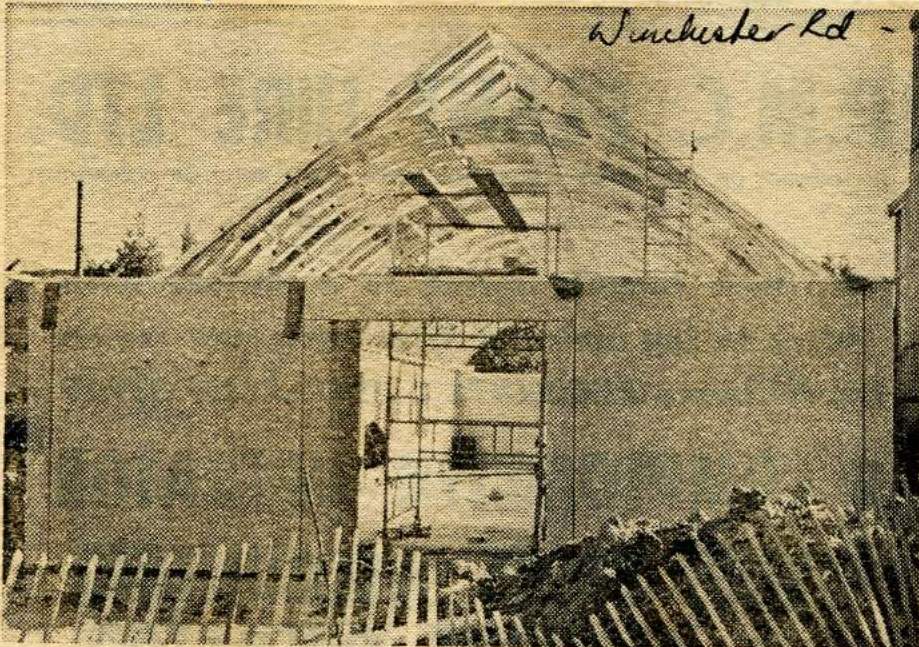
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18/10/69

Winchester Rd



The new All Saints' Hall Church.—"Echo" photo.

Soton's tin tabernacle replaced

"Echo" Staff Reporter

THE "tin tabernacle" at the corner of Pointout-road and Winchester-road, Southampton, is nearing the end of its working days.

"Tin Tabernacle," is how assistant curate the Rev. Frank Vear affectionately describes the old prefabricated church of All Saints, which in 1888 was the first mission church to be built in Bassett.

New All Saints'

From his study window at All Saints' Lodge, Mr. Vear can see the new All Saints' taking shape. The new Hall Church is at the other end of Pointout-road and is being built on land where a First World War Army remount hut once stood.

"About 12 years ago the old hut was burnt down on a Sunday morning. A few years ago, the parishioners of North Stoneham with Bassett decided to rebuild All Saints' Church and buy this piece of ground," Mr. Vear told me.

He hopes the hall church will be ready soon after Christmas. It has cost about £8,500 and Mr. Vear proudly declared that they were only £300 off the target figure.

The new building will have a screened-off sanctuary and will be able to seat a congregation of 150. It will also cater for organisations which included a Sunday school, cubs, brownies, young wives and over sixties club.

Southampton University are making a three-by-two-ft. Cross, that will adorn the East End over the Altar.

Elder "Sister"

Not a lot of people know the history behind All Saints' Church. It was built before its big sister, St. Michael's and All Angels.

Up to 1887 the only provision for the Bassett area had been the holding of services in a Mr. Harris's coach houses in Redhill, just off Winchester-road. In the same year, the Rev. William John Rudge came to live in Ardnave, and devoted himself to Bassett.

It was largely under his influence that in 1888 the Mission Church was built in Winchester-road, and the chapel added later.

For some time the Mission Services were adequate for

the needs of the Bassett area, but there was an ever-increasing desire to have a church, and the rector took steps in 1896 to put the matter on a proper footing.

Times change

It was in the All Saints Mission Room, with the Bishop of Southampton presiding, that on February 1, 1897, the building of St. Michaels and All Angels Church was finally agreed.

The year the building was started, the Rector, the Rev. E. Kenworthy Browne, is on record as saying: "Population of the parish 1569. Church needed for district of Bassett with population of 800, all two miles from the parish church, three-quarters of whom are poor, chiefly mechanics and labourers".

Days have changed in Bassett. . . .