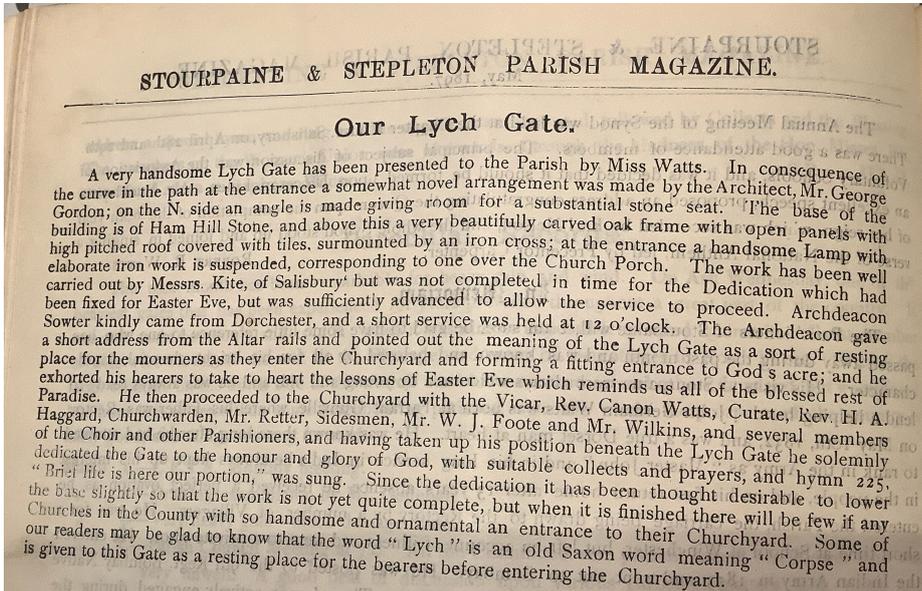


Stourpaine and Stepleton Parish Magazine

Lych Gate - dedicated Easter 1897

Our Lych Gate



A very handsome Lych Gate has been presented to the Parish by Miss Watts. In consequence of the curve in the path at the entrance a somewhat novel arrangement was made by the Architect, Mr George Gordon; on the N. side an angle is made giving room for a substantial stone seat. The base of the building is of Ham Hill Stone, and above this a very beautifully carved oak frame with open panels with high pitched roof covered with tiles, surmounted by an iron cross; at the entrance a handsome Lamp with elaborate iron work is suspended, corresponding to one over the Church Porch. The work has been well carried out by Messrs. Kite, of Salisbury but was not completed in time for the Dedication which had been fixed for Easter Eve, but was sufficiently advanced to allow the service to proceed. Archdeacon Sowter kindly came from Dorchester, and a short service was held at 12 o'clock. The Archdeacon gave a short address from the Altar rails and pointed out the meaning of the Lych Gate as a sort of resting place for the mourners as they enter the Churchyard and forming a fitting entrance to God's acre; and he exhorted his hearers to take to heart the lessons of Easter Eve which reminds us all of the blessed rest of Paradise. He then proceeded to the Churchyard with the Vicar, Rev. Canon Watts, Curate, Rev. H. A. Haggard, Churchwarden, Mr. Retter, Sidesmen, Mr. W. J. Foote and Mr. Wilkins, and several members of the Choir and other Parishioners, and having taken up his position beneath the Lych Gate he solemnly dedicated the Gate to the honour and glory of God, with suitable collects and prayers, and hymn 225, "Brief life is here our portion," was sung. Since the dedication it has been thought desirable to lower the base slightly so that the work is not yet quite complete, but when it is finished there will be few if any Churches in the County with so handsome and ornamental an entrance to their Churchyard. Some of our readers may be glad to know that the word "Lych" is an old Saxon word meaning "Corpse" and is given to this Gate as a resting place for the bearers before entering the Churchyard.

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Brief Life Is Here Our Portion

Words: Excerpted from *Hora Novissima*, Bernard of Cluny, 1145

Translated by [John Mason Neale](#), *Mediæval Hymns and Sequences*, 1851

Music: St. Alphege: [MIDI](#) / [Noteworthy Composer](#) / [XML](#)

Werde munter: [MIDI](#) / [Noteworthy Composer](#) / [XML](#)

Oslo: [MIDI](#) / [Noteworthy Composer](#) / [XML](#)

Devonshire: [MIDI](#) / [Noteworthy Composer](#) / [XML](#)

Thule

Meter: 76 76

1. Brief life is here our portion;
Brief sorrow, short lived care;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is there.
2. There grief is turned to pleasure;
Such pleasure as below
No human voice can utter,
No human heart can know.
3. The morning shall awaken,
The shadows flee away, ¹
And each truehearted servant
Shall shine as doth the day.
4. There God, ² our King and Portion,
In fullness of his grace,
Shall we behold for ever,
And worship face to face.
5. O one, O only mansion,
O Paradise of joy,
Where tears are ever banished,
And smiles have no alloy;
6. The Lamb is all thy splendor,
The Crucified thy praise;
His laud and benediction
Thy ransomed people raise.
7. O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country,
That eager hearts expect!
8. Jesus, in mercy bring us,
To that dear land of rest;
Who art, with God the Father,
And Spirit, ever blest.

