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HS J	CHURCHES ALL HALLOWS (All Saints) C.E.	S.D.E.	12. 9. 50.

First Midanbury church will carry on old name

POST-WAR housing development gave Midanbury, Southampton suburb high above the town to the east, a large population increase.

To the district's amenities—half-a-dozen shops and a public house—will soon be added its first church.

A site has been prepared at the bottom of Witts Hill, and the first building licence has been obtained.

The church will serve between 5,000 and 6,000 people. This figure will be increased by Council housing projects in the district.

OLD NAME

It will perpetuate the name of one of Southampton's most ancient churches, destroyed in the blitz, All Hallows. The ruins of this church, built in the 12th century, and later known as All Saints, stand on the corner of East-street and High-street.

The Rev. R. O. Stephenson (vicar of Eterne Park) told the "Echo" that the Midanbury building has been designed as a hall-church.

Partitions will enable the hall, large enough for 200 people, to be used for social and other events on week-days, leaving a small chapel for 12 worshippers.

It will be a "chapel of ease" to the parish Church of the Ascension, visible for miles from its commanding position.

BUILDING LIMITED

"It is much hoped," the vicar said, "that a further licence will be granted to enable the building to be completed.

"Without kitchens, Sunday school rooms and the like, our activities will be gravely limited, especially for social purposes."

In an article on the old All

Hallows, or All Saints, Miss Elsie Sandell, Southampton historian, writes: "All Saints, with its stately front, was a landmark giving dignity to the High-street.

"High up in the new suburb of Midanbury a hall-church is being built . . . linking the first All Hallows with its successor and with present-day needs and aspirations. Thus the tradition of all that is highest and best in the Christian life of England and of our own town will be carried on with ever-increasing power and inspiration in All Halows, Midanbury."

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mr. Stephenson said that, although the Diocese is giving a substantial sum, a good deal of money must be raised locally for furnishing, the laying out of the surround, and completion.

He hoped that much would be raised among Midanbury residents, and also invited subscriptions from those glad to see the old name preserved.

No war damage compensation from the old church goes towards the new All Hallows. That is going to the building of St. Peter's, Maybush.

Mr. F. Wilkins, of "Westbourne," Mousehole-lane, Bitterne, is receiving subscriptions towards the Midanbury building fund.