

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES 5 December 1866  
FUNERAL OF ARCHDEACON WIX

Owing to the early hour at which we go to Press, we were unable to give more than a brief notice last week of the funeral. We now do so at length. In accordance with the expressed written desire of the deceased, the arrangements for the funeral were choral and strictly Catholic. Dr BROOKE, the sacristan and organist of St Michael's Church, Swanmore, was requested by the family to superintend the arrangements. He accordingly employed Messrs MARVIN and Sons, the eminent undertakers, of Union-street, to carry out his instructions. No expense was spared, and Messrs MARVIN certainly deserve great credit for the excellent manner in which they executed their commission. When it is mentioned that no black was used in the church or at the funeral, except by mourners and bearers, that the splendid bier and hangings in the church were all made by Messrs MARVIN, we do not think we need say more. The coffin was made in London by Mr VIGERS, of the Guild of St Alban, from the model of that Guild, and was very handsome. It was of solid 1½ -inch English oak, wax-polished, with coped lid, and having a gilded cross extending the full length, while on the cross was a shield, having on it the priestly emblems, a paten and chalice. The inscription was as follows:

“ Edward Wix, M.A., Trin. Coll., Oxon., Priest,  
Sometime Archdeacon of Newfoundland,  
Born Feb.2, 1802, fell asleep Nov. 24, 1866.”

“The Lord grant unto him that he may find the Mercy of  
the Lord in that day.”

The clergy acting as pall-bearers were attired in cassock, surplice, violet stole, violet sash, and biretta. The organist in violet cassock, cotta, violet sash, with scarlet tippet and zucchetto; while the lay clerks, choir boys, and acolytes wore cassocks, cottas or surplices, and college caps or birettas.

The first portion of the funeral was on Wednesday evening, at half past 9, in St Michael's Church, every inch of the sacred edifice being occupied by a congregation, a large number of whom wore mourning. The following priests were pall bearers: Rev J P GAZE, rector of Brooke, I W; Rev R HAWTHORNE, curate of Whitwell; Rev R WILLIAMS, curate of St James's, Exeter; Rev A POOLE, incumbent of Purbrook. The body was met at the west door by the Rev W A SMITH, curate of St Michael's, attended by a thurifer with thusible and acolyte with incense boat. The opening sentences, “I am the resurrection,” were then sung by a full choir, with organ. After the coffin had been deposited in the chancel, with the head towards the east, “The Dead March in Saul” was performed on the organ with fine effect. The Psalms were then sung, facing east; then another suitable voluntary on the organ. The Rev A POOLE then read the lesson from the lectern, at the conclusion of which the hymn “Cease, ye tearful Mourners” was sung, and the officiant incensed the coffin. This portion of the ceremony was most impressive. A Christian burial is a rare sight, but this must have convinced the spectators that the Church of England does provide Christian ritual and burial for her faithful deceased, if only their relations and friends are not blinded by Puritanism and fanaticism. The mourners and congregation then retired for the night, watched by the son of the deceased, the Rev HOOKER WIX, and several of the lay clerks of the church.

At half past 10 on Thursday morning there was a high choral celebration of Holy Communion; the Rev W A SMITH, celebrant, with Rev A POOLE, deacon, and Rev R WILKINS, sub-deacon. They were all attired in the legal Eucharistic vestments.

The music used was mostly from the "Missa de Angelis". At the Offertory incense was used, and at the conclusion of the service, during the singing of the "Dies Irae" the coffin was incensed by the celebrant, the sub-deacon standing at the foot of the coffin, with the processional cross, veiled, attended by two acolytes holding lighted tapers. At half-past 3 the procession started for the Cemetery, in the following order:

Undertaker, Mr E MARVIN, jun.  
Churchwardens, Messrs MATTHEWS and WALE.  
Vergers.  
Bearers.  
Organist, Dr BROOKE. Thucifer and Acolytes.  
Choir Boys of St Michael, two & two, in Cossacks and surplices.  
Lay Clerks " " " " " " " " " "  
Lay Clerks of Holy Trinity, Portsea, " " "  
The Processional Cross, carried by the Crucifer in purple  
cassock, cotta and zucchetto.  
Pall Bearers Pall Bearers  
Rev F S STOCKDALE Rev R WILKINS  
Incumbent of Haven Street Curate of St James', Exeter  
Rev A POOLE Rev R HAWTHORNE  
Incumbent of Purbrook Curate of Whitwell  
Rev R N SHUTTE Rev N WOODARD  
Curate of Holy Trinity Provost of St Nicholas'  
Portsea College, Shoreham.  
Chief Mourners in Brougham,  
Mrs WIX and the Rev HOOKER WIX.  
Mourning Coach,  
Mrs H WIX. Mrs W WIX. Mr H WIX.  
Mourning Coach,  
Mr POYNDEN. Mr FOSTER.  
Mourning Coach,  
Dr BARROW. Mrs PATMAN.  
Mourners on foot.  
Servants.

Arrived at the Cemetery, the Burial Office was chorally rendered, and at the conclusion, hymns "Safe at Home," "Jesus Lives", and "O Paradise," were sung with great feeling. Wreaths and bunches of flowers and everlastings were then thrown into the grave until the coffin was nearly hidden from view. Thousands of persons were in the Cemetery and on the line of procession, and the people were very orderly. We regret, however, to find so much damage was done in the Cemetery. – *From a Correspondent.*