

MARRIAGE: June Quarter 1890. Holsworthy. 5b. 995.
Joseph William MITCHELL & Emily Agnes LOCK.

1901 CENSUS: RG13/2340. folio 152. page 15.
Abode: 12 Up Boro Walls, Bath, Somerset.

Joseph W. MITCHELL. Head. M. 37. Confectioner. Birmingham.
Emily A. MITCHELL. Wife. M. 36. Confectioner. Chumleigh, Devon.
Reginald L. MITCHELL. Son. 8. Bath.
Leonard W. MITCHELL. Son. 6. Bath.
Doris K. MITCHELL. Dau. 1. Bath.
Kate M. SMITH. Assis. S. 22. Assistant Confectioner. Chipperham, Wilts.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Dec 17th 1960, page 8.

OLDEST LAY READER IN THE DIOCESE –

Mr. **Joseph William MITCHELL**, the oldest lay reader in the Diocese of Portsmouth, died on Friday week at the age of 92 at his home, 10 Wood-street, Ryde. He was the oldest member of the Ryde W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club, and the members cancelled a visit by the club choir to Longford Hospital to sing “The Lord’s my shepherd” at the funeral at St. James’s Church on Tuesday.

For many years Mr. MITCHELL owned a hotel at Bath and during that time he attended St. James’s Church there, and was a chorister, sidesman and superintendent of the Sunday-School. During the 1914-18 war he was stationed on the East Coast with the Somerset Light Infantry Volunteers. On retiring in 1920 he moved to Cowes with his wife and daughter, Miss D. K. MITCHELL, and for 14 years devoted his energies to many good causes there. He was licensed as a lay reader at St. Mary’s Church, and took charge of St. Mary’s Mission Hall as well as having his two cottages, adjoining the hall, converted into a small chapel dedicated to St. Andrew. Here the sacrament and service of the church could be received by any unable to go as far as the Parish Church. Both Mr. MITCHELL and his wife, who died 18 years ago, took an interest in the deaf, and arranged special services, usually followed by tea and entertainment.

In 1934 Mr. MITCHELL and his family moved to Ryde, and at St. James’s Church he continued to work as a lay reader, an appointment he had held for 25 years at the time of his death. He rarely missed a service, and his active interest in the church never diminished. Only the day before he died he was on the platform at the St. James’s Christmas sale. Besides being a keen gardener, he had a thriving hobby making concrete bird houses, well over 100 of which had been sent to many parts of England. The proceeds of all sales were given to the church and charities.

The Rev. E. E. M. GREEN (incumbent) conducted the funeral service at St. James’s Church. The Archdeacon (the Ven. A. CORY), representing the Bishop of

Portsmouth (the Rt. Rev. J. H. L. PHILLIPS), read the lesson, and the Rev. S. CRUMPSTY, R.D. (vicar of St. Mary's Church, Cowes) and the Re. H. E. GIBSON (vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Ryde) took part in the service. The Rev. R. H. BASSETT (vicar of All Saints Parish Church, Ryde), the Rev. D. CURTIS (warden of the Diocesan readers) and the Rev. E. F. KING (I.W. Readers Board) were present. The congregation included many lay readers, representatives of all organisations within St. James's Church, the Darby and Joan Club, Ryde Congregational Church, the 2nd Cowes (St. Mary's) Sea Scouts, the North-East Wight District Wolf Cubs, and the Arthur DUNFORD Orchestral Society.

Miss E. COLE (organist) accompanied the singing of the hymns "How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds" and "Jesus lives." In an address, the Rev. E. E. M. GREEN paid tribute to Mr. MITCHELL as a man of God, and a tremendous believer in public worship, whose life was one of loving service. The Bishop had written saying it was with a sense of thanksgiving that he thought of Mr. MITCHELL's long record of service to the Church, and they thanked God for his life.

The mourners were Col. R. L. MITCHELL, of British Columbia, Canada (son), Mr. and Mrs. L. W. MITCHELL (son and daughter-in-law), Miss D. K. MITCHELL (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. F. COLE (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. A. E. MITCHELL (brother), and Mrs. GODWIN. Interment was a Ryde Cemetery.

NB: It has been noted that although the newspaper report above states that Mr. MITCHELL was 92 years of age, the death register gives 97.