

### DEATH OF CANON SHEARME

We much regret to announce the death of Rev. **John SHEARME**, M.A., Honorary Canon of Winchester and for 16 years a Vicar of All Saints', Ryde, which occurred at "Upwood," St. John's, on Wednesday morning in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year. The deceased gentleman had a seizure recently and went to the Rays Nursing Home, where his health greatly improved and he was able to return home. He, however, had a relapse due to his advanced age and died as stated, much to the regret of a host of sympathisers and friends both in Ryde and St. John's district with whom he was held in the greatest esteem. His excellent work and genial personality will always revere his memory, both with the clergy who served under him at All Saints' as well as the congregation and church workers. His help and guidance were always available, and in the homes of the poor he was regarded as a real friend by his sympathy and generous actions.

Amongst the honoured roll of vicars of Ryde Parish Church the name of the Rev. John SHEARME will always be most prominent. He was subsequently Vicar of Oakwood, and on his retirement settled in St. John's parish where he rendered invaluable help to the late Rev. Cyril L. BLAKE, his former curate, who held him in loving affection. He continued to take great interest in all diocesan and local church matters as well as various societies, such as the East Wight Preventative and Rescue Association etc. Deep sympathy is felt with Mrs. SHEARME in her great bereavement, also with his son (who is abroad), and wife who is resident here. The funeral takes place on Saturday, the service being at All Saints' at 11 a.m.

*(excerpt from Town Talk, same paper same page)*

The death of the reverend Canon **SHEARME** in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year will be deeply lamented in church circles especially amongst those of All Saints' (where he was formerly Vicar and St John's) He was the author of a most interesting book and a good many will recall his ventriloquial powers and what a genial host he was before his retirement.

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### FUNERAL OF CANON SHEARME SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS'

An exceedingly impressive service at All Saints' at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning preceded the interment at the Cemetery of the mortal remains of Canon **SHEARME**, M.A., for thirteen years the esteemed and genial Vicar of the parish, whose memory will be long cherished in this district. Owing to the shortness of the notice and the somewhat early hour, very few relatives and friends from a distance, except the chief mourners could attend the obsequies. Nevertheless there was a representative congregation present, including the Mayor, aldermen and councillors and magistrates, the Church Council, and others from Holy Trinity, St. John's and Swanmore, the nave of the fine edifice being completely filled. The fog lifted by 11 o'clock, and the sun streamed through the beautiful stained glass windows upon the mournful scene. The cortege, with flower bedecked coffin, was met at the western entrance by clergy, churchwardens (Mr. M.L. HARMAN and Mr. A.F. WRIGHT), and surpliced choir and preceded to the chancel, the organist (Mr. E.G. WELSH) playing the Choral Prelude by Sir Walter PARRY, "Abide with me," and "Come and mourn," prior to the service which was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Hugh DE FLEMING) assisted by the Rev. D.E. HUNTER, read the lesson. Canon JUDKIN (Vicar of Whippingham) also took part. The opening hymn was "Let saints sing on earth in concert sing," and the concluding one "Jesu lover of my soul," at the conclusion Mr. WELSH played BACH'S impressive Choral, "In deepest need."

The chief mourners were Mrs. SHEARME (widow), Miss Lucy BROADWOOD (sister-in-law), Captain Evelyn BROADWOOD, M.C. (nephew), Mrs. Gerard BRAY and Mrs. Wilfred HODSOLL (nieces), Miss Gertrude COOKE (representing Mrs. Edward SHEARME, daughter-in-law), and Captain WILLIAMS FREEMAN (a connection). Amongst those in the congregation were the Mayor (Councillor Rowland RUSSELL), the ex-Mayor (Alderman A. ANDREWS), Alderman W.H.P. THIRKELL, Alderman G.A. BLACKALL, Councillors A.A. HOLLAND, W.R. TAYLOR, C.J. DE LAUNAY, H.E. INKER and A.J. WILLIAMS, Mr. Percy THELLUSSON, J.P., Mr. E.T. MINTER, J.P., and MR. W.G. DAISH, J.P., Admiral Sir Arthur and the Hon. Mabel GOUGH CALTHORPE, Sir Hugh DALY, General FETHERSTONHAUGH, C.B., Lieut-Colonel W. PAGET TOMLINSON, R.F.A., Major Arthur DENNIS, Captain FORSTER, R.F.A., Mr. George FARDELL, Mr. J.Y. PATERSON, Mr. Walter HILLS, Mr. and Mr. E. CARTER (Upton), Dr. J.D. DAVIES, Mr. C.J. VINCENT, Mr. R.B. WATTS, Admiral FANSHAWE, Revs. A.C. DURHAM (Vicar of Swanmore) and K.M. PITT, Mr. T.J. FAWDRY, Major J. ELLERY, Mr. Wallis RIDDETT, Mr. J.E. BREBNER, Mr. H.G. JOLLIFFE, Mr. J.B. COOMBES, Mr. H. ADAMS, Mr. F. BURTON, Mr. W. DORE, Mrs. MACKENZIE, Miss HENRY, and many other church workers of both sexes.

In spite of the notice "No flowers by request," several people were kind enough to send lovely wreaths, amongst them, Captain and Mrs. DU BOULAY, Miss Gertrude COOKE, Admiral the Hon. Sir Arthur and the Hon. Mabel CALTHORPE, Mr. and Mrs. Percy THELLUSSON, Mr. and Mrs. W. TEBBS, Mr. and Mrs. WARD, Mrs. WYNNE, Sir Hedworth WILLIAMSON, Bart., Mr. and Mrs. J.Y. PATERSON, Mrs. SHEARME (widow), Mrs. John SHEARME, and the grandchildren. Mrs. SHEARME's request for no flowers was only intended to spare people the expense of sending them. She was grateful to the senders.

The funeral arrangements were carried out under the personal supervision of Alderman J.B. PURNELL (Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL), the coffin being of English oak with raised lid and oak Latin cross, brass ring handles and fleur-de-lis plates.

The breastplate bore a simple inscription of the name and age of the deceased.

### **HIS WORK IN RYDE**

From the "Souvenir" published at the Jubilee of All Saints' in January 1922, we extract the following particulars concerning the late Canon SHEARME.

On the Canon POOLE, (after a busy vicariate of 23 years) The Bishop of Winchester appointed the Rev. John SHEARME, Rector of Holmbury St Mary, to be third Vicar of Ryde, and the history of the next 13 years from 1892 to 1905 was closely bound up with his personality and leadership. He will always be remembered as a genial vicar, his capacity for making friends, his striking social gifts, and his keen interest in the affairs of the town strengthening the bond which already bound together the Church and the Borough. As a mark of its confidence in him the Borough elected him as Chairman of the School Board, but of course the church's work came first. The erection of the oak choir screen in the church was the care of Canon SHEARME, and in 1896 the vicar was able to realise a pet scheme of his in the erection of the Mission Hall in Prince-street. Its purpose was to provide a local centre of the church life in a part of the parish at some distance from the church, and the experiment has been abundantly justified. The cost of the building was £550.

A characteristic feature of Canon SHEARME's ministry was his devotion to the Church Day schools. Originally founded by the devotion of the church people in Ryde, they were for many years the only elementary schools in the town and on the formation of the parish of Ryde and they came under the care of the Vicar.

In 1870 came the great Education Act bringing with it compulsory free education, and the Board Schools. Canon SHEARME became chairman of the School Board. This Act, involving a higher standard of education and more efficient buildings, necessarily involved keen competition between Board Schools supported out of the rates and the Church Schools dependent upon

voluntary offerings. Both Canon POOLE and Canon SHEARME shouldered the burden manfully, and raised many hundreds of pounds for the privilege of training the young in the full Christian faith.

Another parish institution owed much to the watchful care of Canon SHEARME. IN 1903 The Church Almshouses in Newport-street came partly under the supervision of the County Council and such a change was not at first welcome by those who had had unfettered control of the Almshouses since their foundation, but thanks to the wisdom of the Vicar the transition was affected without undue friction. In 1886 Canon and Mrs. SHEARME appealed to the parishioners to help them in the enlargement of the Vicarage, and as the result of their appeal two large rooms were added to the building in the following year. During Canon SHEARME's vicariate several events of national importance occurred, first the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897, next the South African War, then the death of the great Queen followed by the accession and coronation of King Edward in 1902. All these events were marked by special events in the church. In 1905 Canon SHEARME, feeling the responsibility of so large a parish as Ryde too heavy after a vicariate of 13 years, accepted the living of Oakwood, Dorking and the Bishop appointed the Rev. A.G. ROBINSON, Vicar of Bushbridge, to be the fourth vicar who was succeeded by the Rev. Hugh DE FLEMING in 1908. On several occasions Canon SHEARME had the honour of dining at the Royal table, and more than once received a command to dine after preaching at Osborne on a Sunday morning. The first time this happened he spoke of the impossibility of attending, as no-one could take his place at All Saints' Church in the evening. It was equally impossible to ignore the command "so at 6.30 evening service I wore my black silk stockings and knee breeches under my cassock and surplice," he relates "I got through my sermon by 7.40, fled out of the church during the offertory hymn, leaving my curate to dismiss the astounded congregation, rushed into the Vicarage, donned my evening coat, and jumped into the fly." The horse covered the distance from Ryde (nearly eight miles, with a hilly road) in less than an hour! The Prince of Wales, Princess Louise, Duke of York Duchess of Connaught, and the Marquess of Lorne were present at the dinner. When appointed the Vicar of Ryde in 1892, one of his first acts was to pull a rope in a muffled peal of bells at All Saints' for the passing of H.R.H. Duke of Clarence, one of the regular ringers having failed through illness. Canon SHEARME was born at Cothill, Stratton, North Cornwall, in 1842, the youngest child in an old yeoman family, who had settled on their own land as far back as 1559.

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