

DEATH OF AN EX-TRADESMAN:

We regret to announce the death of Mr. **George GODFREY**, who was formerly one of the best-known tradesmen in Ryde, having been in business for many years as a draper in the premises now occupied by Messrs. HALSTED & Son in High-Street. He retired from business 21 years ago and has lived in retirement at "Arlington," Pellhurst-Road, where he passed away on Wednesday night at the age of 81. He had been in declining health for some time. The deceased gentleman was a former member of the Town Council and was well-known as a prominent Wesleyan and local preacher in the circuit. He was also a director of the Vectis Building Society.

The funeral is fixed for Monday.

FUNERAL OF MR. G. GODFREY

The funeral of the late Mr. **George GODFREY** took place at the Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, preceded by the service at the Wesleyan Church, where a considerable number of friends and relatives assembled, including local preachers who acted as bearers, Alderman G.A. BLACKALL, J.P., Mr. A. HOLNESS, J.P., Mr. E.T. MINTER, J.P., Councillor Arthur ANDREWS, J.P., (Chairman of the Vectis Building Society), Mr. J.B. COOMBES (Secretary), Councillor Major FLUX, J.P., Mr. J. HANSFORD, etc., The service was conducted by the resident minister and superintendent of the circuit, the Rev. Arthur TRIGGS, who was assisted by the Rev. H.J. FRANKLIN, who read the lesson. Two hymns were sung "Give me the wings of faith to Rise," and "For all the Saints from whom their labours rest."

ADDRESS BY H. H. POLLARD

An address was given by Alderman H. H. POLLARD, J.P., C.C. who said it was the first time in his life that he had been asked to speak in circumstances like the present. The late Mr. GODFREY came to the Island in 1858 or 1859 and went first to Newport to a house that was famed for its hospitality to Methodist preachers and was used as a hostel by them for many years. It would be in the memory from some of the members of the present congregation at Ryde that he came to assist the Rev. M. WITHERS in connection with the circuit and after a short time commenced business in Cross-Street, and had for some time had a certain interest in Cowes. After some years the late Mr. GODFREY took those ample premises now so well occupied by his successor in High-Street. He led a consistent godly life and as a citizen he served his generation by the will of God as a Town Councillor for some nine years although not consecutively, and was interested almost to the end of his days in that which was most needed, building, for he was connected with the Vectis Building Society almost to the end. From his first entrance into the town he was active in his support of the Y.M.C.A. and the work at Hazelwood, being on the committee, and rendering great assistance. As he had no family he lived for the Church, giving his work and filled almost every office open to laymen in the Wesleyan Church. He was a great financier and interested himself in raising funds for the promotion of the work in that neighbourhood, and was most successful in that capacity. As a local preacher for more than sixty years he was evangelistic, enthusiastic, and popular and it might be he said of him as of the Master that "the common people heard him gladly." As a class leader he was most effective, and was the succour of many, "when life's fitful fever is over he lives well."

As the procession left the church the organist (Mr. SIVELL) played the "Dead March."

There were a number of beautiful floral tokens, including wreaths from the Vectis Building Society ("In memory of their late colleague"), from the nephews and nieces at Maulden, Beds., Mr. and Mrs. T.H. HALSTED and family, Ernest and Irene Godfrey, Arthur and Nell, Mr. and Mrs. H.J. RUSSELL, Mr. and Mrs. E. JAMES and family, and other personal friends and late colleagues.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. E. JAMES, Binstead.

Researched & typed by
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