

DEATH OF THE REV. F. J. HANBURY.
A FORMER VICAR OF SWANMORE

We regret to announce the death of the **Rev. William Frederick HANBURY, M.A.**, which occurred on Tuesday at Princes Mead, Nettlestone, in his 91st year. From 1890 to 1923 he was vicar at St. Michael and All Angels', Swanmore. In spite of his advancing years he retained his faculties to a large degree and was mentally alert. Two years ago his health began to fail, although he continued to take occasional drives. At Eastertide he took to his bed, since when he had gradually declined. He was a faithful and devoted parish priest and during his long ministry in Ryde won the affectionate regard and confidence of the town generally by his sincerity and broadminded outlook. He was a reserved man, with little active interest in affairs beyond those of his calling, but his quiet inobtrusive work made a deep impression on the local church life, and when he retired from the vicariate in his 75th year it was with expressions of genuine regret from all phases of the church that he did so.

Born at St. Pancras, London, on November 10th, 1847, he was the second son of Thomas James HANBURY and came of a family with a long Island Association. He was a collateral on his paternal side of Elizabeth SEWELL, the authoress and educationist, who lived at Bonchurch. His grandmother was Mrs Frances SEWELL, third daughter of Rev. W. SEWELL, rector of Headley, who in 1811 married Samuel HANBURY, a member of the London Stock Exchange. His father became a Roman Catholic late in life. He was of Dutch extraction on his mother's side, she being a member of the DE WITT family who had settled in Sudbury, Suffolk. His youngest brother, Mr. James Augustus Sewell HANBURY, who is in Australia, and his sister, Miss Ada Isabella HAN BURY, of St. Briadels, Gloucestershire, survive him and he was predeceased a few months ago by his cousin, Frederick James HANBURY, a noted churchman and a principal of the firm ALLEN and HANBURY.

He was educated at St. John's, Cambridge, and took his B.A. degree in 1872 and his M.A. in 1878. He was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Chester in 1873, and in the following year he was raised to the priesthood. His first appointment was as chaplain of H.M. schooner frigate Conway, and he was for a time at St. Mary Magdalene, Paddington. During 1875-7 he served at Bicknor and from 1878 to 1882 at Halliford and Sheperton. He was then appointed rector of St. Cyprian, Kimberley, Cape Colony. At that time the railway had not been built and he had to trek, and with his wife, was not received very hospitably by the Boers. In 1884 he was again home in England, his duties abroad having been curtailed by ill-health and the loss of the sight of an eye. For the next two years he was associated with St. James's Hatcham, which at that time was attracting a great deal of attention by its ritualistic services, Father TOOTH was a vicar and subsequently went to prison for his faith, and during his absence Mr. HANBURY was more or less in charge of the parish. For many years he was a friend of Father TOOTH, who had officiated at his marriage in 1875 to Miss Marian LAYMAN. He was appointed to the living of Chieveley, Berks, in 1886 and subsequently vicar of Swanmore in February 1890, where he succeeded the Rev. W.M. SPENCER. The parish was a growing one and many improvements had been made by previous incumbents, notably by the Rev. HOOKER WIX, to the already handsome church. It was, however, left to Mr. HANBURY to convert the south transept into a Lady Chapel, which involved the removal of the organ. Under his guidance the spiritual welfare of the parish proceeded smoothly. The chapel was

dedicated on October 3rd, 1900; it has since been beautified from time to time. He was an active member of the English Church Union, of the committee of the society priest associate of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. Early in 1923 Mr. HANBURY announced that he had placed his resignation in the hands of the Bishop, and on November 11th he preached his farewell sermon. Under his guidance St. Michael's came to be recognised as the leading Anglo-Catholic church in the Island and the results of his labours were shown in the devotional atmosphere of the services and in the rendering of the music for which it had gained a high reputation. His parting gift from the congregation was a cheque for £164.

For the following six months he did duty at Tiverton, Gloucestershire, and then with Mrs. HANBURY went to St. Barnabas's Clergy Hostel, Newlands, Malvern, where his wife passed away in November, 1924. The loss of his lifelong partner was followed by the death of Miss Mary LEADER, who had been his housekeeper and a friend for over 30 years, whereupon Mr. HANBURY returned to the Island to Nettlestone, where he spent the eventide of his life with two of his old parishioners, Miss TOLMAN and Miss STEPHENS, who have nursed him with devoted care. The last few years had been clouded with sorrow, yet his spirit remained indomitable and although well over 80 he often assisted at St. Peter's Church, Seaview, and at St. John's, Oakfield. He lived his life to the full in the service of others, and his passing leaves fragrant memories.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday). The plain oak coffin containing the remains was surmounted by a wooden cross and a plate in scribed: "William Frederick James HANBURY, priest, entered into rest July 19th, 1938." The body was taken to St. Michael's Church, where vespers of the dead were sung on Thursday. The Rev. A.C. DURHAM, R.D. (vicar), officiated. The body was clothed in cassock, alb, amice, and stole, and a crucifix was placed in the deceased's hands. On the coffin, which was covered with a pall, rested his biretta and stole.

Yesterday (Friday) morning the Rev. A.C. DURHAM was celebrant at a Requiem Mass, which was followed by Absolution of the Dead. The funeral at mid-day was attended by many of the old parishioners. The Vicar officiated, assisted by the Bishop of Portsmouth (Dr. PARTRIDGE), and the robed clergy present were the Revs. C. HEALD (assistant priest), H.M. HUMPHERY (Bembridge), and Even C. MORGAN (Seaview). The hymns sung were "Christ of the Holy Angels" and "When the day's shadows lengthen," which are included in a hymnal compiled by the deceased priest. Psalms 90 and 121 were chanted, and the lesson was read by the Bishop. At the conclusion the De Profundis was recited, and Mr. C. B. HAIR (organist) played "O rest in the Lord." In front of the coffin as it was borne from the church a magnificent cross of scarlet and white carnations "A token of love to our dear vicar, Father HANBURY, from old friends at St. Michael's Church" was carried.

The mourners were Miss Emily LAYMAN (niece), Mr. Alan ELLIS and Col. H.S. ELLIS (nephews), Miss TOLMAN, Miss STEPHENS, Nurse BALLARD, Nurse THEOBALD, and Mr. Harold GAYTON.

Among those present were Mr. G. RICHARDS and Mr. T.A. CLEAVER (churchwardens), Miss HITCHCOCK and Miss JACK (the Church Union), Miss NUTT, Mrs. J.G. FARDELL, Dr. R.N. ASTON, Miss DUTTON, Mrs. DIMMER, Mrs. HOLLAND, Miss WARDELL, Miss WILSON, Mrs A.C. DURHAM, Miss MOORMAN, Mrs READ, Mrs WARNE, Miss BALLARD, Miss HUMPHERY, Mrs. ORCHARD, Mrs. SMITHERS, Mr. H. BALLARD, Mr. W.J. WHITE, Mrs. A. LOCKE, Mrs. G. RICHARDS, Mr. and Mrs. E.N. LOVE, Mr. A.J. BALARD, Miss STENNING, Mr. and Mrs. L.C. YOUNG, Mr. W. BURTON, Miss CASS, Mrs. G.H.

LOCKE, Miss SEARLE, Mrs. REED, jun., Mrs. HINKLAND, Mrs. JENNINGS, the Misses WEBB, Miss PENDERGAST, Miss THIRKELL, Dr. L. FIRMAN-EDWARDS, Mr. Francis BURTON, and Miss K. BURTON. The interment was at Ryde Cemetery, and beautiful flowers were placed on the grave.

Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL efficiently carried out the arrangements.

Researched & typed by
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