

**DEATH AND FUNERAL OF THE REV. A. F. DE GEX. J.P., OF RYDE.**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of the Rev. **Alexander Frederick de GEX**, assistant priest at St. Michael's, Swanmore, which took place at his residence, 16 Monkton-street, Ryde, on Monday. Father de GEX had been seriously ill since a few weeks before Christmas, and although he fought with great stoicism against severe bronchial trouble his efforts were unavailing. It was owing to continued ill-health that Father de GEX, before his illness took such a serious turn, reluctantly sent in his resignation as assistant priest at St. Michael's, where he laboured with great loyalty and devotion for nearly three years. In all he had spent 49 years in the ministry, and was 71 years of age. Educated at Wells Collage, he was ordained in 1882, and was curate of St. John's Bridgwater, until 1886, and held a similar position at Lower Brixham in 1885-6. From this time until 1901 he was rector of Angersleigh, Somerset, rural dean of South Molton from 1910-16, and rector of Meshaw, Devon, from 1891 until 1924. In that year he became a fellow and subwarden of St. Michael's College, Tenbury, which was founded by Sir Frederick Gore OUSELEY, the famous composer, and being a man with a keen appreciation of music he was also deeply interested in Dr. Nicholson's Westminster Abbey school choir. Before going to St. Michael's Father de GREX was for four years, from 1924, curate of Holy Trinity Church. He was also greatly interested in the work of the National Society, for which organisation he did a good deal of deputation work, preaching in different parts of the country. In 1904 he was made a Justice of the Peace for the county of Devon. During the seven years Father de GREX has spent in Ryde he has won and held the esteem of everyone. A man of fine character, kindly and courteous, with a pleasantly broad outlook on life, he will be much missed, particularly in the parish of St. Michael's. He leaves a widow, a girl aged 13, and a boy aged 9, his elder boy having died about two years ago.

On Thursday evening the remains were placed in the chancel of St. Michael's Church and vespers of the dead were sung. Yesterday (Friday) morning there was a said Requiem at 7 a.m., the Rev. Father H. S. PITT, of Kelham Theological College, who is doing duty temporarily at the church, being the celebrant. At 11 a.m. a Solemn Requiem was sung, the Vicar (the Rev. A. C. DURHAM) being the celebrant, and the interment took place in the afternoon. The service was fully choral and included Psalm 90 and the hymns "They come, God's messengers of love" and "Abide with me," which were sung at deceased's own request. The Vicar (the Rev. A. C. DURHAM) officiated, and after the coffin had been taken from the church, Mr. C. B. HAIR, who was at the organ, played "O rest in the Lord." The mourners were Mrs. de GEX (widow), Miss Marguerite and Master de GEX (his children), Mrs. MCARTHUR (sister), Mr. R. de GEX (brother), Mr. and Mrs. T. H. GILL (brother-in-law and sister), and Mr. H. WADE (a very old friend). Amongst the large congregation present were Messrs. H. E. INKER, T.C., and G. RICHARDS (churchwardens), the Rev. N. H. STUBBS (vicar of Holy Trinity), and Mrs. STUBBS, the Rev. C. S. STOOKS (rector of Binstead), Canon H. R.

JOHNSON, the Rev. W. SEED (superintendent Wesleyan minister), Major de CETTO (seaview), Dr. A. B. and Miss WADE, Ald. and Miss THIRKELL, Messrs. F. P. MELLISH, L. WOODLAND, S. DARK, S. TRINDER, F. BURTON, H. J. HAIR, H. SAVILLE, G. H. FRENCH, F. R. RICHARDS (hon. secretary of the Haylands Boys Club, in which deceased took a great interest), the Misses FISHER, COLLIER, SNOW, LEIGHTON, MONTGOMERIE, WEBB, and BURT, Mrs. DURHAM, Miss DENNIS, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. RUMSEY, Miss TILLY, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. BALLARD, Miss CAREY, Miss PRENDERGAST, Mrs. GREEN, Miss CHRISTMAS, Mrs. and Miss STAYNER, Mrs. W. DEWDNEY, Mrs. LONG, Miss HOLMES (superintendent of the District Nursing Home), and the Misses BURTON. Canon G. A. JOHNSTONE (vicar of Ryde) was unavoidably prevented from attending. The interment was at the Cemetery and the large collection of lovely spring flowers included wreaths from the vicar, churchwardens, sidesmen, and congregation of St. Michael's Church, the Warden and Fellows of St. Michael's College, Tenbury, and the Haylands Boys Club. Messrs. WHEELER Bros. were the undertakers.

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