

Death of the Rev. E. BURNIP. Deep regret will be felt at Elmfield at the somewhat unexpected death of the Rev. Ernest BURNIP, pastor of the Congregational Church there, which took place on Tuesday. Deceased, who was 65, was possessed of a fine physique, but had not enjoyed the best of health recently, and had gone to Shanklin to recuperate. On Monday he returned seriously indisposed, gradually became worse, and succumbed on the following afternoon. Mr. BURNIP, who was a native of the North of England, was trained for the Congregational ministry at Cheshunt College, on leaving which he became a missionary in China under the London Missionary Society. He served in the mission field from 1899 until 1917, when he returned to this country and occupied pastorates at Sandon, Herts, and Horncastle, Lincolnshire, where he lost his wife. He entered on his ministry at the Elmfield Church in March, and quickly won the esteem of everyone by his geniality and good nature. His congregation admired and loved him for the enthusiasm with which he threw himself into the work. He never spared himself and it was a sheer delight to him to labour unremittingly in any effort to make the church a power for good in the neighbourhood. He was a man with a broad outlook and a very competent preacher.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the service being held at the Elmfield Church. The Rev. J.E. THOMAS (Congregational minister, of Ryde) officiated, assisted by the Revs, J.H. COX (Shanklin) and E. NICHOLAS (Sandown). Miss D. YOUNG was at the harmonium and the hymns sung were "Oh God our help in ages past" and "Captain and Saviour of the hosts." The Rev. J.E. THOMAS said their brother had been a good minister in the mission field, and the homeland. He was almost the most eager minister he had ever met; certainly never seen nothing quite like him at his age. Behind his boyish, hearty, and infectious laugh there was a pure conscience and a sincere life. He should never have believed anyone could have taught him so much about Christian warfare in six months. In his short Island ministry he showed quite clearly the quality of his spirit. Mr. THOMAS read a letter from the Rev. N. PITTON (home secretary of the London Missionary Society) asking him to represent the Home and China Missions. The writer added that Mr. BURNIP succeeded him in the mission work at Shanghai and he characterised him as a man of the great rectitude and devotion.

Among those present were the Revs. J. GILLSON GILL (vicar of St. John's), F.W. PIPER (Congregational minister at Brading), H.G. DRAKE (Baptist), R. COWIE (Primitive Methodist), and A. TRIGGS (Wesleyan), Ald. G.A. BLACKALL, J.P., and Messrs. W.R. TAYLOR, J.P., R.G. SHAW, D,J, JONES, and W.R. PINCHARD (secretary), representing the Ryde Congregational Church, Ald. F.E. WHITCHER, J.P. (Newport, Dr. ROBERSON DAY, Messrs. W. WHEELER, W.F. YOUNG, S.A. CLOUGH, A. GRIST, J.T. HOSKING, F. PLATER, J.BOYD, and RAWCLIFFE (Shanklin), Mr. and Mrs. HOSKING, Mrs. MOORMAN, Mrs. NASH, Mrs. ARNOLD, the Misses SAWLEY, SMITH and LEAL, Mrs. BOYCE, Mrs. and Miss WHEELER, Mrs. JONES.

The interment was at St. John's Cemetery. There were a number of floral tributes. The Rev. G.A. HILLYAR-RUSS (Wesleyan) was unavoidably prevented from attending. On Sunday evening the Rev. J.E. THOMAS will conduct a memorial service at the church.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
Marilyn Newsham

NB: *We were contacted by John Davis on 15th May 2015 who gave us the information below:-*

Ernest was born 01 April 1867. In Newcastle on Tyne.
The Louisa Strachan mentioned on the probate was his sister.