

**SUDDEN DEATH OF
THE RECTOR OF BINSTEAD.**

THE REV. C. SUMNER STOOKS.

With deep regret we record the death of the **Rev. C. SUMNER STOOKS**, Rector of Binstead, which occurred suddenly on Sunday afternoon at the County Hospital. He was taken ill about three weeks previously and removed to the hospital, where he underwent two operations. He appeared to be making satisfactory progress and had been able to receive visitors on Saturday, including the Bishop of Portsmouth (Dr. F. PARTRIDGE). His passing followed a sudden relapse and the sad news was received with widespread feelings of regret in his parish and throughout the district. He was one of the best known of Island priests by reason of his position as Bishop's chaplain. Even-song at Binstead Church on Sunday was taken by the Rural Dean of East Wight (the Rev. A. C. DURHAM), who made feeling reference to the sad occurrence.

Cecil Sumner STOOKS was born on February 12th 1879, at Crondal, near Farnham, a parish of which he was later to become vicar. He was the third son of the late Rev. C. D. STOOKS. His great grandfather was Dr. Charles R. SUMNER, Bishop of Winchester, and his great uncle was Dr. George Henry SUMNER, Bishop of Guildford, whose wife, Mary SUMNER, was the founder of the Mothers' Union. He was educated at Cheltenham and Keble College, Oxford. Here he became prominent as a hockey player and represented the University, gaining his half blue. His theological training was at Cuddeston and he was ordained deacon in 1905, and raised to the priesthood the following year by the Bishop of London. His first curacy was at St. Mark's, Noel Park, Middlesex, and in 1908 he moved to Holy Trinity, Paddington, where he remained till the outbreak of the Great War. He was then appointed Vicar of East Ruston, and from 1919 to 1924 was Vicar of Crondal. After three years as Rector of Frittenden he was appointed Rector of Binstead. Mr. STOOKS carried out his duties as a parish priest quietly and punctiliously, and gave an encouraging lead in village affairs. He was devoted to his calling and was exemplary in his ministrations and visitations. During the latter part of his ministry he did much to beautify the interior of the parish church, and at his suggestion the restored oak panelling which came from Winchester College was placed in the chancel and sanctuary with singularly artistic effect. Since then the south wall of the nave has been similarly treated in memory of a parishioner, and the oak church gate made from the college panelling was erected during his ministry. One of his last acts was to improve the cemetery chapel, where he had placed an oak altar and suitable adornments. It had been arranged for the Bishop of Portsmouth to dedicate these on Tuesday evening, but the service was postponed, and it was a sad coincidence that the rector himself should be the first to be laid to rest in the adjoining ground the day after. In November, 1931, Mr. STOOKS took his M.A degree, and the same month was appointed by Dr. Neville LOVETT, the then Bishop of Portsmouth, as his chaplain in the Island, a position he continued to hold under Dr. PARTRIDGE. During his ministry the old Rectory, which by its size could not but be an encumbrance to a modern rector, was sold and the new Rectory was built on the adjoining glebe land and dedicated by Dr. LOVETT. A moderate Churchman, he was broadminded and tolerant and possessed an astute business mind. Mr. STOOKS took a keen interest in amateur acting, and he produced and took part in several entertainments in aid of village charitable funds. Many will remember his convincing impersonation of Charles DICKEN's Scrooge at a Christmas concert a few years ago. He was fond of children and, as chairman of the managers of the Church School, was very attentive to his duties. His chief recreation was in his garden, where he spent many happy hours with his family. By his death the parishioners are bereft of a faithful priest and sympathetic friend, and the deepest sympathy is felt with his family in their irreparable and untimely loss. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Marion Gladys JONES, of Keldon Hall, Essex, who died in 1924, and by whom there were six children, one of whom, Charles, died a few years ago and is buried at Binstead. His second wife was formerly Miss Edith Mary HOMEWOOD, of Frittenden, by whom he is survived with two young children.

At evensong at Binstead Church on Sunday the Rev. A. C. DURHAM, who officiated, said that on the way to church he had received the sad news of the passing of the Rector. He was a good man and a faithful priest, and to know him was to esteem him. Their prayers and thoughts went out to the bereaved family in their suffering. That occasion was the feast of the Visitation, and the parish in their time of anxiety

might draw a lesson from the Blessed Virgin's patience and endurance and in the faithful manner she performed her work in spite of the adversities that came to her. The hymns "Abide with me" and "Holy Father cheer our way" were sung.

The Rector's body, enclosed in an unpolished oak coffin with plate inscribed "Cecil Sumner STOOKS, died July 2nd, 1939, aged 60," was brought to the Parish Church on Monday evening and placed in the chancel covered with a black pall, on which rested a spray of Madonna lilies. A short service was conducted by the Rev. A. C. DURHAM. The members of the family present were Mrs. C. Sumner STOOKS (widow), Miss Nancy and Miss Joyce STOOKS (daughters), and Miss Pheobe STOOKS (sister). Fr. DURHAM was the celebrant at a Requiem on Wednesday.

The Bishop's Tribute.

Speaking at a confirmation at Havenstreet Church on Tuesday, the Bishop of Portsmouth said their thoughts turned towards the neighbouring parish of Binstead where Mr. STOOKS, who would have been there that evening acting as his chaplain had been called by God to his rest. He had sat with him on Saturday afternoon and he never expected that he was going to be taken so ill and die on Sunday. He had spoken to him about the things which they both cared about – the things of God – and it would always be a pleasure to him to remember that his last conversation with him was of that nature. As they thought of the grief in that home and parish and of the people who were mourning that kind and good man let them pray that they might be aided by the power of the Holy Spirit and their minds calmed by the Scripture that "Underneath are the Everlasting Arms," and that our Lord had said "Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

The Funeral

Amid many evidences of public respect and sympathy the funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. Numerous choice floral tributes were placed along the grass verge leading to the church, which was filled to capacity. As the congregation assembled Mr. O. J. FEBEN (organist) played "Blest are the departed" (SPOHR). The service was conducted by the Bishop of Portsmouth, assisted by the Archdeacon of the Island (the Ven. Hampton WEEKES) and the Rural Dean (the Rev. A. C. DURHAM). The Bishop was attended by the Rev. C. HEALD. The robed clergy occupying the stalls were the Revs. Canon R. S. MOXON (Vicar of Ryde), L. N. St. ALPHONSE (Holy Trinity, Ryde), A. E. SIDEBOTHAM (St. Helens), H. W. WICKING (Havenstreet), and G. D'ARCY BLACKMAN (Seaview). The service commenced with the singing of the hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er," the Rural Dean recited the opening versicles, and the choir changed Psalm XC (Domine, refugium). The Archdeacon read the lesson from Rev. XXI, after which "On the resurrection morning" was sung.

The Bishop said it would be the last thing their Rector would have wished that his praises should be sung. They met in great joy and in the hope of the eternal resurrection, which would presently bring them once again together to live and work in the presence of Almighty God. Because they were Christian men and women they looked forward with hope to that joyful resurrection. God had seen fit to take to Himself a man who had served Him faithfully in this world for 60 years, and had given him another task. It used to be said that they whom the gods loved died young; in the full strength of his manhood and full attainment of his spiritual powers he had been taken by God to perform another task. His family had long ecclesiastical associations in the Church of England; many had been bishops and priests, and he put a high standard on his calling both in carrying on his work there and in other places. He was known among his people as faithful, true, loyal, simple, and kind. Mr. STOOKS had served three years as his chaplain and he found him personally, as did his people, abounding in those qualities. It was from such men that the strength of the Church of England came.

The hymn "O love that wilt not let me go" was sung, and as the coffin was borne from the church, preceded by the Bishop, robed clergy, and church-wardens (Messrs. C. W. DRAWBRIDGE and D. G. MOOTHAM), the Nuno Dimittis was changed. The mourners were Mrs. C. Sumner STOOKS (widow), the Misses Nancy, Joan, Joyce, and Barbara STOOKS (daughters), Mr. Michael STOOKS (brother), Miss Phoebe STOOKS and Mrs. H. SIDEBOTHAM (sisters), and Miss Clare JONES (sister-in-law). Mr. Cecil J. STOOKS (son), who is in Africa, and Miss Mary STOOKS (daughter), who is Belgium, were unable to attend. The coffin, on which rested a wreath of white flowers from his wife and a cross of white and mauve carnations from his children, was conveyed on a bier to the cemetery; the mourners and choir men and boys who assisted to carry the large number of flowers, and the congregation followed on foot. The grave, which was next to that of his son, was lined with moss and evergreen, and the Bishop conducted the committal.

Among those present were Messrs. W. A. LOWE, T.C., A. E. FLEMING, W. JOLLIFFE, S. HAIR (trustees Binstead Institute), Capt. W. T. BROOKER (Missions to Seamen), Miss P. GRANT (head teacher) and Miss L. G. HUTCHINGS (the C.E. School), Miss BICK (Mothers' Union), Mrs. H. VENUS and Mrs. SIVELL (Sunday-school), Mrs. YEALLAND (Women Legionists), Mrs. S. HAIR (Conservative Association), Mrs. C. WHEELER (Girl Guides), Mesdames WARREN, LINNINGTON, RUSSELL, and BARTON (Women's Institute), Messrs. L. FIELD, C. WHITE, and P. PRICE (R.A.O.B), Capt. And Mrs. J. H. D. L. CAMPELL, Miss H. GRIMES (also representing Mrs. GRIMES), Mr. and Mrs. Alec MELLOR, the Rev. R. W. CAMPBELL, Mr. C. SAUNDERS (representing Mrs. Rudyard HELPMAN), the Rev. W. B. HOGG (Vicar of Newport), Mr. and Mrs. W. H. DYER, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. ROWE, Mr. and Mrs. W. BOYCE, the Rev. J. Gilson GILL (St. John's, Ryde), Mr. and Mrs. G. H. TWYMAN, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. DYER, Mrs. COLLEDGE, Miss Kathleen COLLEDGE, Mrs. and Miss HOGG, Mrs. L. N. St. ALPHONSE, Mr. H. JAMES, Miss E. JAMES, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Macleod CAREY, the Rev. H. G. KELSEY (St. Paul's, Barton), Messrs. F. SALMON, W. H. FOLLAND, A. J. DENTON, D. G. HAIR, G. CHAPMAN, H. SALMON, G. VIGAR, W. BAKER, A. J. READ, W. G. CORNER, M. L. MACNAMARA, and E. T. RATCLIFFE, Miss JEFFARD (also representing Miss JEFFARD), Mrs. A. and Miss CLEAVER, Mesdames D. G. MOOTHAM, RIDING, G. DYER, TROUGHTON, E. WHEELER, A. RANN, WISEMAN, A. LEIGH, SHIRLEY, A. CLEMENTS, NEWMAN, BUSHELL, WARD FOWLER, WRIGHT, MILES, PEARSON, CLARK, PEEL, TOMASETT, TAYLOR, R. BOYCE, COGGER, C. GORDON REID, JOLLIFFE, M. JOLLIFFE, J. YOUNG, R. M. SIMMONDS, WILSON, BATES, BELL, DAVEY, and CHAPMAN, the Misses DRAWBRIDGE, NEWLAND, LAXTON, CAWS, L.K. and E. A. HUCHINGS, HOGG, SPENCER, D. and A. MARVIN, HIGHWAY, MORRIS, N. TAYLOR, E. WADE, GIBBONS, YOUNG, MATTHEWS, and BARBER. The Mayor of Ryde (Ald. A. F. WRIGHT), Mr. G. FARDELL, and Mr. Crighton MERRILL, T.C., were unavoidably prevented from attending.

The beautiful floral tributes included those from the Parochial Church Council; the teachers and Sunday scholars; the Mothers' Union; the managers and staff of Binstead School; the trustees of Binstead Institute; the British Legion; Binstead Methodist Church; teachers and scholars of the day school; the organist and choir; and his children's fellow scholars at the Convent of the Cross, Ryde. Mrs. E. VENUS efficiently made the arrangements.

Mrs. STOOKS and family wish to thank all who so kindly sent such lovely flowers and messages of sympathy. Owing to the large number received will they please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 22nd July 1939

BINSTEAD RECTORY,
BINSTEAD, NEAR RYDE.

The whole of the excellent

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And Effects, comprising single oak bedsteads with box springs, bedding, blankets, and linen, walnut suite and other bedroom appointments, several nearly new Axminster and pile carpets, all stand, barometer, French mantel clocks, grand pianoforte by BROADWOOD, occasional tables, silver and plate, Dresden and other ornamental china, a large quantity of books, walnut roll-top desk, FERRANTI all-mains wireless set. GLOBE WERNICKE sectional bookcases, oak bookcase, oak extending dining table, set of carved oak dining chairs, mahogany and ormolu display cabinets, Vac-tric electric cleaner, china and glass, etc. OUTSIDE and GARDEN EFFECTS, including Acto motor-mower, iron roller, portable shed, garden tools, etc., which

HARRY STEADMAN, F.A.L.P.A., is instructed by the Executors of the late Rev. C. S. STOOKS to Sell by Auction on the premises on TUESDAY JULY 25th, 1939, at 12 o'clock.

On view Monday July 24, Catalogues from the Auctioneers' Offices, 65a Union Street, Ryde (tel. 2523) and 22 St. John's Road, Sandown (tel.875).
