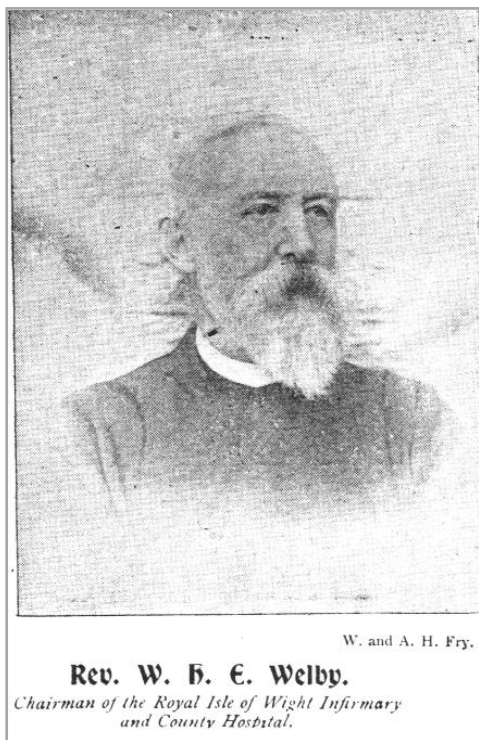


# BEYOND THE GRAVES

Volume 12, Number 4, October 2017

## WEARING THE DOG COLLAR

### Parsons, Priests and Pastors



#### REV. WALTER HUGH EARLE WELBY

When he died, in 1912, the Rev. W.H.E. Welby's obituary told of his long and illustrious lineage, back to the time of William the Conqueror. He had lived for many years in Ryde and was of a very reserved and retiring disposition, yet he readily took part in any movement which had for its object the relief of suffering in any form. He made large gifts to the IW County Hospital in Ryde, improving the building and supervising the management. He and his wife also gave generously to the various funds for All Saints Parish Church, albeit anonymously.

In his will there was a bequest to the Hospital, as well as the proceeds from the sale of any of his books not selected by his wife and daughter.

Just after her husband's death, Rev. Welby's widow Florence, purchased West Hill Towers, close to All Saints, and had it put into thorough repair. It was presented to the Church to be

used for Parish purposes, in memory of her husband. Florence survived her husband by only 18 months. She would be remembered for her charity and kindness.

**Isle of Wight Observer 12 October 1912 – Welby Church Institute – The alterations to convert West Hill Towers, are proceeding rapidly. In the Parish magazine, the Vicar says; “We much hope to have the work completed by our Dedication week.”**

**Isle of Wight Observer 23 December 1916 - Welby Thrift Club – The increasing popularity of this Club was demonstrated this week when over £700 was shared out among the members. The secretarial was ably carried out by Mr Tom Gilmore.**



[Photograph of the Welby Institute, West St. by Tracy Welstead]



**REV. EDWARD CANNON** - Perhaps not so quiet and reserved, was the infamous Rev. Cannon who was buried in St. Thomas' Churchyard, Ryde. Once a priest of the Royal Chapel, he was expelled because of his eccentric behaviour: excessive drinking and satirical and disparaging writings about his fellow priests. He retired to Ryde in disgrace!



Now ready, price 2s. 6d.,  
**THE ROMANIZING TENDENCY OF ULTRA-RITUALISM.** A Reply, by the Rev. V. H. GIRDLESTONE, M.A. (Vicar of Newchurch-with-Ryde), to the Addresses of the Rev. Hooker Wix, M.A. (Incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels, Swanmore, Ryde) and the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, M.A. (Incumbent of St. Alban's, Holborn, London).  
 May be had of Rivingtons, London, Oxford and Cambridge; and Gabell, Ryde.

Just published, price 6d.,  
**RITUALISM; or, RITUALISTIC WORSHIP:** R ordained by God Himself, practised by the Early Christian Church, strictly legal in the Church of England, conducive to the Glory of God, and the edifying of the Congregation. Being an Address to his Congregation, by the Reverend HOOKER WIX, M.A., Perpetual Curate of S. Michael and All Angels, Swanmore. Second Edition. With an Appendix, in answer to the Reply of the Reverend W. H. Girdlestone, M.A.  
 London: Joseph Masters, Aldersgate-street, New Bond-street. Ryde: C. G. Pittman, Union-street.

## DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS

The opinions of the **REV. V.H. GIRDLESTONE** [Newchurch with Ryde] and the **REV. HOOKER WIX** [St Michael & All Angels, Swanmore] clearly differed.



There almost seems to be a sense of rivalry between the two. They even used different Ryde booksellers to stock their learned tomes – Gabell's and C.G. Pitman.

[Adverts - IW Observer 20 April 1867]



## EXCITEMENT AT ST JAMES' CHURCH, LIND STREET

The Church opened in 1827, the first incumbent was the **REV. AUGUSTUS HEWIT**. Preaching one Sunday evening in January 1828 he heard a considerable noise from the Gallery. One witness, Henry Dyer, saw Thomas Harvey *'heave oats at other persons during the Service. I bid him leave off, he would not. I saw him with another handful which he was in the act of throwing, I checked his hand. There was a considerable noise in consequence'*.

Another witness, George Hopgood, drove Harvey down the stairs *'He then made a great noise dancing in the lobby'*. Despite having said he was sorry Harvey was committed to Winchester gaol.

In the 1830's under the **REV. RICARD WALDO SIBTHORP**, whose preaching was described as *'not quite orthodox'* the Church attracted fashionable congregations of over 1,000 – maybe they hoped for more excitement than just the sermon.

**REVEREND THE PRINCIPAL** - Many of the local clergy were also teachers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Advert from the IW Observer 13 Dec 1879

The **REV. GOULDEN** had lived in Ryde for many years before his death in 1898 and had kept a school in Argyll St.

In 1881, the census recorded 9 scholars, between the ages of 8 and 17, together with a Governess and 2 servants.

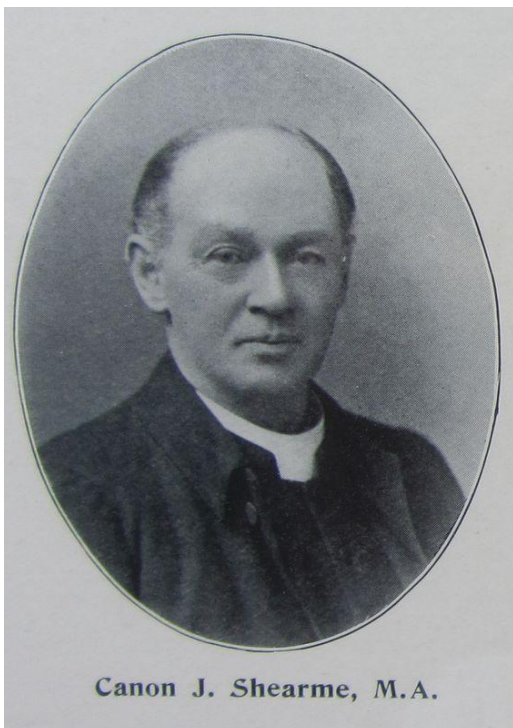
**HAMILTON HOUSE, RYDE,**  
 17 and 18, Argyll-street.  
**THOROUGH CLASSICAL OR MODERN EDUCATION,**  
 Preparatory for the Public Schools, Public Examinations, or Professional Life, given by Efficient and Experienced Masters.  
 For particulars, apply to the Reverend the Principal.



- Private Theatricals at Hamilton House, Ryde – The young gentlemen belonging to the Rev. C.J. Goulden's school gave an entertainment to a number of ladies and gentlemen at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst.

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Canon J. Shearme, M.A.

## A VICAR FOR THE ROYALS

The **REV. JOHN SHEARME** - was the third Vicar of Ryde, from 1892 to 1905. Away from the Church he was Chairman of the School Board and active in other town affairs. He was genial with a great capacity for making friends.

**Isle of Wight Times 18 February 1892 - The Vicar of Ryde at Osborne - The new Vicar of Ryde (Rev. John Shearme, M.A.) had the honour of officiating at Osborne, on Sunday, at Divine Service, the Queen, and members of the Royal Family at Osborne being present. The Vicar inscribed his autograph in the Queen's birthday book.**

On another occasion he recalled how he had to preach the 6.30 evening service wearing black silk stockings and knee breeches under his cassock, got through

his sermon by 7.40, donned his evening coat and jumped into a fly, which took less than an hour to reach Osborne.



Osborne House postcard from Wikipedia

[Thanks to Geoff Allan for permission to use the picture of Rev. Shearme from a book called "Hampshire at the Opening of the 20th Century."]

**THE OFFERTORY** – A piece in the IW Observer, published 18 September 1880 sympathised with the **Vicar of St. Michaels**. At the Harvest Festival the collector handed the offertory plate to a fashionably dressed lady, who whispered "Can you give me change for a shilling? I want you to give me ninepence out of the shilling."



**OLD RYDEITE'S MEMORIES** - Mr Mundell said that before the Parish Church was built there was an iron building used for services in the central part of the town the first clergyman being **PASTOR GIRDLESTONE**.

*Isle of Wight Times 22 July 1920*

## THE METHODISTS



*Isle of Wight Observer 2 January 1864* – The **Minister of the Primitive Methodists** organised the customary Christmas entertainment of this sect which took place, as usual, at the Victoria-rooms on Saturday. The tea, which took place at 5 o'clock, was attended by about 150 persons, and ample justice was done to the plentiful and substantial fare provided. A large and handsome Christmas tree stood on the platform, the branches thereof profusely decorated with penny oranges, baby linen, dolls' hats, books and markers etc. which found numerous purchasers during the evening.

*Isle of Wight County Press 4 March 1950* – Methodist Minister to Broadcast – A recorded talk by the **REV. T. J. FOINETTE** minister of the Methodist Church, is to be broadcast on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4.30 p.m. in the West Regional weekly feature "Christian Magazine." He will speak on "Mainly for fathers" for 10 minutes and will make the recording at Plymouth on Saturday.



## THE BAPTISTS

The **REV. NEWELL** [right] was the first Baptist Minister in Ryde. He was appointed on 22 October 1849, when the "*Pastorate*" agreed to board and lodge him, and give him a gratuity of 30/- monthly. All 24 members signed the letter of invitation, wishing him "*a long life of devoted and useful effort*". He died in 1917, aged 90.



The **REV. SAMUEL COX** [left] of Southsea became Baptist Minister in 1855, although remaining only three years, he attracted many new members, including Mr and Mrs Daish. The Rev. Cox himself became one of the country's leading scholars.

*The two images and information from a "History of George Street Baptist Church, Ryde, 1848-1948". [Roy Brinton Collection]*


### **REV. EDWARD BRUCE PEARSON [1854-1920]**

For twenty years from 1888 to 1907, Ryde Baptist Church in George Street came under the ministry of the Rev Edward Bruce Pearson. Under his guidance it thrived and the congregation grew. A marked feature of his ministry was the frequent Days or Weeks of Prayer. A Young Christians' Band was formed as well as a Benevolent Society and there were all kinds of development in the organisation and activities of the Church. Rev Pearson was a greatly loved man of noble spirit and was described as '*a great peace-maker*'. He resigned from the ministry in September 1907 and he died in 1920.



Pictured right - Rev Pearson with his wife, Susan [nee Corpe, 1850 - 1941], and their 3rd child Edith. [Photograph kindly submitted by Bruce & Jackie Fancourt.]

**REV. MATTHEW LISTER GAUNT**- came to the Baptist Church in March 1919 and his photograph was



**BAPTIST CHURCH, RYDE.**

***Special Lenten Subjects.***

SUNDAY EVENINGS 6-30.

PREACHER :

**REV. M. LISTER GAUNT.**

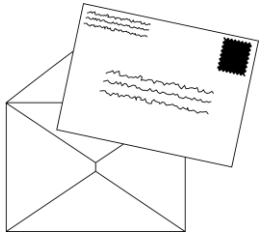
March 1st.	THE SORROW OF JESUS.
" 8th.	THE SYMPATHY OF JESUS.
" 15th.	THE SUFFERING OF JESUS.
" 22nd.	THE SILENCE OF JESUS.
" 29th.	(PASTEUR BLOCHER OF PARIS).
April 5th	THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS.
" 12th.	(Easter) Morning : THE SECRET OF JESUS.
	" Evening : THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS.

*If you do not worship elsewhere we offer you a welcome.*

used in this IW Times Advert [pictured left - undated]. His Ministry lasted until 1930, During which time the membership increased. In 1925 he faced the problem of the tower. The original one was considered unsafe and was replaced with a shorter one.



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



**REV. HARRY GIBSON**, the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, had a similar problem as the Rev. Gaunt. He had to write at least 1,000 letters to every other Holy Trinity Church in the British Isles listed in Crockford's, the clerical Who's Who, asking for donations to stop the deterioration of the church spire, a familiar landmark on the skyline and a seamark for coastal vessels. *Isle of Wight Times 8 Feb 1962*

An earlier Vicar at Holy Trinity, **REV. A.J. WADE** promoted Clubs for the benefit of the poor of the Parish, including a Maternity Society to help expectant mothers with food and clothing, a Coal Club and a Sick Benefit Society. *Isle of Wight Times 8 Feb 1962*



### REV. JOHN. E. EDDIS, Vicar of Holy Trinity during WW1

Rev. Eddis had two sons serving in The Royal Navy during WW1 and he and his wife worked tirelessly for the war effort, organising events and fundraising. Incidentally, the **REV. HUGH LE FLEMING**, Vicar of All Saints at the time, also had a son serving and he and his wife worked tirelessly for the war effort, organising events and fundraising! Newspaper reports of the day make it sound competitive with the Sunday School or Church Group of one knitting or collecting food items and then the other trying to outdo them.

**The pennant from the E13 Submarine** - this has been temporarily placed in the Holy Trinity Church for safe keeping. It was flying on the E13 when she stranded on the Danish coast some time back. Lieut. Paul Eddis, who was second in command of the submarine, is at present interned in Denmark, and has recently been visited by his father, the Rev. J. E. Eddis. *Isle of Wight Observer 21 October 1916*

**Trinity Club Smoker** – On Wednesday evening some 250 of the Worcesters responded to an invitation from the Committee of the above-named Club to attend a smoking concert, excellently arranged by Messrs. H. Crump and T. Mellanby. The Vicar (the Rev J. E. Eddis) presided, and during the evening cigarettes were distributed among the guests. *Isle of Wight Observer 16 December 1916*



Rev. Eddis' son Christopher, who was a Lieut- Commander in the Royal Navy, sadly died on 19 October 1918. Paul survived the war and also became a Lieu-Commander but tragically died 10 January 1924 when the submarine he was commanding was sunk by accident during manoeuvres. Major Lawrence Le Fleming was killed on 21 March 1918.

## BINSTEAD PARISH CHURCH - REV. CLIFFORD TARGETT

### Life's A Gambol For Rector's 'Black Sheep'

When his "sheep" occasionally stray from their "fold" it is the duty of the clergyman to round them up and put them on the right path once more. The Rector of Binstead, the Rev. Clifford Targett, has had to face this problem more than once, the most recent occasion being on Monday. Two withies which he keeps in his back garden, are proving the black sheep of the family. On Sunday, after Evensong, they absconded yet again.

The following morning Mrs. D. Beck, of "Salbert," Binstead Hill, telephoned local policeman, P.C. Jack Oakley, to report two sheep contentedly munching away at the bottom of her garden. P.C. Oakley, got in touch with the Rectory. "They are at the top of Binstead Hill this time," he informed Mr. Targett (a little sheepishly).



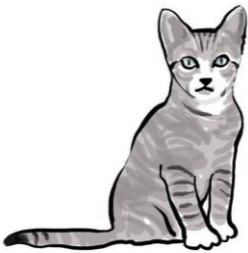
Staff in hand, the Rector stalked off to escort two gambolling young sheep through the field at the rear of the houses adjoining the main road. Sweating profusely, he arrived back at the Rectory gate, not being ordinary sheep, the two absentees barged their way through a fence, ignoring the gaping gate. "That does it!" said Mr. Targett. "I bought the animals to keep the grass cropped at the back of my house, but they are more trouble than they are worth. I have decided to get them slaughtered on Wednesday to save my neighbours any more embarrassment. It is much easier handling the two-legged variety." The Rector has not given up hope however. "I will get a ewe and some lambs, but this time they will be properly garden trained," he declared.

*Isle of Wight Times 3 August 1967*



**Parish Mag Terrible** – The Rector of Binstead Parish Church, the Rev. Clifford Targett, thinks the average parish magazine is “terrible.” To this end he has set about giving a “new look” to his monthly parish publication. The circulation averaged 260 copies monthly. Mr Targett hopes to boost its successor to 400, giving it a readership of 1,500.  
*Isle of Wight Times 3 February 1966*

**Pointed remark** – The Rector of Binstead, the Rev. Clifford Targett, appealed to lady parishioners during a recent service at the Parish Church to refrain from wearing stiletto heels in church as they were damaging the floor. The new wood parquet surface was recently installed at a cost of more than £500.  
*Isle of Wight Times 21 April 1966*



No doubt Rev. Targett was not amused when a cat disrupted the Christmas organ music but perhaps was cheered by the ensuing worldwide publicity that Binstead Parish enjoyed..

**International Cat** – The cat that put the organ at Binstead Parish Church slightly out of tune recently, by walking across the pipes has received international recognition. Paragraphs (reported in the “I.W. Times” on Dec 23) have since appeared in many local and national newspapers. The cat’s reputation has stretched even further, recently appearing in a newspaper at Edmonton, Canada.  
*Isle of Wight Times 3 February 1966*



Holy Cross Parish Church, Binstead  
*Photo Tracy Welstead*



## A FINAL NOTE

Hopefully none of the Ryde clergy were ever as negligent to their children as the **Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould** of Devon (1834-1924), a gentleman of some fame who wrote, amongst many other works, "Onward Christian Soldiers."

It is said that on returning home one day a party organised by his wife was just ending and the children were in the process of leaving. They all appeared to have gone and Rev. S.B.G noticed a little girl sitting on her own in a corner of the room. Assuming she was still waiting for a parent to collect her, he asked kindly "And whose little girl are you?" At which point the child burst into tears and sobbed "I'm yours, Daddy!"

Rev. and Mrs. S.B.G did have 15 children, all but one survived to adulthood.

