

**Sidney Walter Layley**

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**METHODIST PREACHER  
FOR 63 YEARS**

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**The Late Mr. Layley, Of Newport**

His many friends, and the Island Methodist community in particular, learned with great regret of the death of Mr. Sidney Walter Layley, aged 85, of 161 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, in the early hours of Sunday. Mr. Layley had been held in high esteem and affection as a local preacher since 1894, in the early days with the Primitive Methodists and after the Methodist Union in 1934 as a member of the Quay Street, Newport, Church.

He was a trustee of the Gurnard and Carisbrooke churches, and the only surviving trustee of the church at Beenham, Berkshire, where he was born. For a period he was a circuit steward of the former Primitive Methodist Circuit. He was a staunch temperance worker, and keenly interested in the I.W. Band of Hope Union and the I.W. Sunday School Union, being a former president of each. He was a prison officer for about 30 years and received the Imperial Service Medal on his retirement in 1930.

A member of a farming family, Mr. Layley was educated at Douai Abbey College, Woolhampton, and York House, a boarding school, at Reading. He was indentured as a chemist, following the profession at Newbury, Berkshire, and Devizes, Wiltshire. In 1899 he married Miss Winifred Woodward and about that time joined the prison service, commencing at Pentonville, later moving to Portland. He came to the Island in 1906 as clerk and schoolmaster at Parkhurst Prison and remained there 24 years until his retirement. He lived at 23 Fairlee Road for over 30 years.

Mr. Layley was a wonderful man for his years, with an alert and active mind, being fond of gardening and reading, and preaching regularly until he was over 80. Last year he gave the address at Gurnard church and was due to assist in tomorrow's service. Mr. Layley is survived by three daughters. Mrs. Layley died in 1941.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, the service at Quay Street Methodist Church being conducted by the Minister (the Rev. Dr. W. H. Mildon). The hymns "Breathe on me, Breath of God", and "O Thou Who camest from above" were accompanied by Mr. W. G. Bartlett at the organ.

The mourners were Mrs. W. Williams (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. S. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. A. Elliott (sons-in-law and daughters), the Misses E. and R. Denness and F. Slater, and Mrs. A. W. Elliott. Mr. A. Layley (brother) was unable to attend. The Governor and officers of Parkhurst Prison were represented, together with the Methodist Local Preachers, West Wight Methodist Circuit, Quay Street Methodist Church, and the Civil Service Pensions Alliance. Among the floral tributes were those from the West Wight Circuit Local Preachers, members of Quay Street Methodist Church, and friends and neighbours of Carisbrooke Road and Albany Road.

The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

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