

Dorothy Muriel Welby-Pryer

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS

21 February 1959

BELOVED CHURCH WORKER AND ORGANIST

DEATH AT NEWPORT OF MISS D.M. WELBY-PRYER, L.R.A.M.

St. John's Church, Newport, has lost an ardent worker and a devout supporter by the death on Sunday of Miss Dorothy Muriel Welby-Pryer, of Welbourne House, St. John's Road. Miss Welby-Pryer, a daughter of the late Rev. W. Welby-Pryer, B.D., was a native of Christchurch, and came to the Island as a child. She was one of the leading members of the former Newport Philharmonic Society, the Evening Institute Orchestra, and the Bach Choir, ably serving each as accompanist. She also served on the Musical Festival committee. Miss Welby-Pryer was the organist at St. John's Church for 39 years and a Sunday-school teacher at the church girls' school for 40 years, becoming superintendent in 1953. She was a member of the Parochial Church Council and a committee member of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Miss Welby-Pryer was also a member of the Hampshire Association of Organists.

The funeral took place on Thursday. A service of remembrance and thanksgiving for her Christian life and witness, at St. John's Church, was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. S. F. Cooper). There was a large attendance. In a tribute, Mr. Cooper referred to Miss Welby-Pryer's cheerful disposition despite her bodily disability, and to the wonderful work she had done for the church, not only as organist, but as a member of the Parochial Church Council. Hundreds of children had passed through her hands during the time that she was a Sunday-school teacher. Her music was her offering to God. The service included Psalm 121, a lesson from John 14, and the Nunc Dimittis. The congregation, accompanied by the church choir, joined in the singing of the hymns "For ever with the Lord" and "The Lord's my Shepherd". The organist was Miss K. Lower, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., L.T.C.L. The principal mourners were Miss Iris Welby-Pryer (sister), Mrs. L. W. Welby-Pryer (step-mother), the Misses A. G. Gaster, G. Etheridge and G. Wells and Mr. H. A. Lower.

Representatives at the service included those from the St. John's Sunday-school, the British and Foreign Bible Society, old pupils of the old Welbourne School, St. John's Mothers' Meeting, Hampshire Association of Organists (I.W. branch), members of the former Newport Philharmonic Society and the Evening Institute Orchestra, St. John's Parochial Church Council, St. Thomas's Parish Church choir, and the organist of St. Michael's Church, Ryde.

The floral tributes included wreaths from the Vicar and church Council, the Sunday-schools, the I.W. Association of Organists, the Newport Evening Institute Orchestra, the choir, the junior church, friends and neighbours of St. John's Road, and the C.I.M. prayer group. Interment took place in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

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