

Joseph Woodhouse

Isle of Wight County Press - 24 December 1932

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CHURCH ARMY CAPTAIN AT NEWPORT.

The sudden death of Church Army Captain Joseph Woodhouse, aged 57, of Matlock, Parkhurst-road, Newport, which occurred yesterday (Friday) morning, removes a very popular and highly respected member of the Church Army, who for many years had acted as assistant-chaplain at H.M. Prison, Parkhurst, and won the confidence and esteem, not only of the staff, but of all the inmates with whom he was brought into contact. He had held the position for some 20 years, with the exception of two years during the war, when he was a lay reader with the British Expeditionary Force in Russia. Yesterday morning he left home apparently in his usual health. He cycled to the prison, and on being admitted by the gatekeeper at 8.10, was handed his letters. He went to his office, and on Prison Officer Reynolds entering 10 minutes later he found the deceased sitting in his chair but unable to reply to his inquiry. The officer summoned a hospital attendant and Dr. Cormack, the latter pronouncing life to be extinct. Captain Woodhouse leaves a wife and two grown-up daughters, with whom sincere sympathy is felt.

Isle of Wight County Press - 31 December 1932

THE LATE CAPT. J. WOODHOUSE.

PRISONERS' TRIBUTE AT FUNERAL.

The funeral of Capt. Joseph Woodhouse, of the Church Army, chaplain's assistant at Parkhurst for 18 years, whose sudden death in his office at the prison occurred on Friday week, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Tuesday. By his earnest yet cheerful ministrations the late Capt. Woodhouse had won the real esteem of the prisoners, and they made a request to the Governor that they might be allowed to send a wreath. The request was granted and a lovely floral tribute of white chrysanthemums and pink carnations among the many around the grave bore the following touching inscription written by one of the prisoners: "With respect and affection from the inmates of H.M. Prison, Parkhurst - For all of us he did his best. We hope in heaven he'll find sweet rest." Another wreath from the chief and staff of the Church Army, mentioned the deceased's loving and loyal service and the fact that he was on duty to the end, and added the appropriate quotation from St. Matthew 25, "I was in prison and ye visited me." The Rev. T. L. Kember, senior chaplain at the prisons, officiated and four officers in uniform (Messrs. Bartlett, McGrotty, Brown, and Dubber) acted as bearers. The chief mourners were the bereaved widow, Miss K. Woodhouse and Mrs. T. Norris (daughters), Mr. T. Norris (son-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taylor, Mr. R. Plumbley, Capt. Olive (representing the Headquarters of the Church Army), and Capt. Langridge, C.A. (Ventnor). Those also attending included Capt. G. F. Clayton (governor of Parkhurst Prison) and Mrs. Clayton, Mr. S. T. E. P. Ennion (deputy governor) and Mrs. Ennion, the Rev. J. W. Battiscombe (chaplain), the Rev. Father J. Doran (Roman Catholic chaplain), Mrs. Kember, Mesdames Farmer and Packer, Mr. A. Odell (steward at the prison), Principal-Officers Davies, Lynch, and Trigg, Chief Hospital Officer Shaw, ex-Chief Officer T. Stone, O.B.E., ex-Prison Officers Hayler and Turnham, Officers J. Twomey, H. Williams,

W. Farmer, and E. Packer (clerical staff), the Misses Rugg and E. Dore (representing Messrs. W. J. Rugg and Co., Ltd., by whom Miss Woodhouse is employed), and Messrs. J. R. Wise, F. P. Abraham, J. H. and H. P. James, F. Sibbick, and H. L. Turnham.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements - Mrs. Woodhouse and daughters wish to thank all kind friends for sympathy shown in her recent bereavement. Please accept this as the only intimation, as letters are too numerous to answer.

The late Capt. Woodhouse joined the Church Army at the age of 19. For 14 months he was lieutenant to the founder (Prebendary Carlile), and then did mission work in the hop fields of Kent, and with the Scottish fishing fleet, before joining the Prison mission service in 1914. He had been at Parkhurst ever since, with the exception of two years as a lay reader with the Forces in North Russia during the war.

Capt. Woodhouse's death was reported to the Coroner, but he was satisfied that it was due to heart disease, and an inquest was dispensed with.

*Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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