

## **Percy William Frank Erith**

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### **DEATH OF THE REV. P. W. F. ERITH**

The Rev. Percy William Frank Erith (71), who retired in January because of ill health as priest-in-charge of the joint parishes of Calbourne and Newtown, died at his retirement home, St. Peter's Cottage, Steyne Road, Seaview, on Thursday.

Mr. Erith was ordained deacon in March, 1963, with a view to becoming priest-in-charge of Calbourne and Newtown, a living vacant since the death of Canon C. G. Seymour. He served the joint parishes for nearly ten years and when ill health forced his retirement the congregation of both churches gathered at Calbourne Rectory to present him with a silver salver and a cheque. His wife<sup>1</sup> received a cut glass flower vase as a token of appreciation and affection.

Mr. Erith spent 40 years as a schoolmaster before his ordination. For some years before the second world war he was on the staff of the Newport County Secondary Grammar School. For a time he was headmaster of Newport C.E. Boys' School. In January, 1947, he succeeded the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley as headmaster of the then Newport Grammar School. When he retired in 1963 he became the school's first warden.

Mr. Erith joined the Isle of Wight Rifles in 1938, having been a member of the University Officers' Training Corps for four years. He served with the Rifles until 1953, including six years' war service at Orkney and in the Middle East, rising to the rank of major. A keen sportsman, he was a former secretary of the I.W. Hockey Club. He played cricket for Shanklin and captained his college at soccer when he was a student.

A service will be held at Calbourne Parish Church on Wednesday at 1.45 p.m.

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### **THE LATE REV. P. W. F. ERITH**

A large number of clergy from both the east and west deaneries attended the funeral service at All Saints' Church, Calbourne, on Wednesday, of the Rev. Percy William Frank Erith, aged 71, former priest-in-charge at Calbourne whose death was reported last week.

The Rt. Rev. J. H. L. Phillips, Bishop of Portsmouth, offered prayers and gave the Blessing. The service was conducted by the Ven. R. V. Scruby, archdeacon of the Island, and the Rev. E. F. K. Dana, rural dean, read the lesson. Mr. L. Pitman was organist and accompanied some of Mr. Erith's favourite hymns.

The family mourners were Mrs. Erith (widow), Miss J. Erith (daughter), Mrs. J. Read (sister-in-law) and Mr. S. Dawson (cousin). Among the large congregation were many lay readers and representatives

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<sup>1</sup> Second wife, Diana Evelyn Erith, nee BOILEAU, died 1996. First wife, Cicely Temple Erith, nee READ, had died 1936.

of a number of organisations, including the Parochial Church Councils of Newtown and Calbourne, the Royal British Legion and Newtown and Calbourne Mothers' Union.

There were family flowers only by request and donations were in aid of the Calbourne Church fabric fund.

*Transcription by Pamela Cowan for Friends of the Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries ©2023*  
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