

Alice Mary Heal

Isle of Wight County Press

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CHURCH WORKER AND FORMER BUSINESS WOMAN

DEATH OF MRS. H. J. HEAL, OF NEPORT

The death occurred on Saturday at St. Mary's Hospital, following an operation, of Mrs. Alice Mary Heal, aged 82, wife of Mr. H. J. Heal, of 55 Carisbrooke Road, Newport. Born at Porchfield, Mrs. Heal was the last surviving member of the family of the late Mr. Henry E. Mew, of Porchfield House, and was brought up in the traditions of the local Congregational Church, where she taught in the Sunday-school and later became organist. For some time after her marriage in 1900 she and her husband lived in the Porchfield district, but about 1912 they moved to Newport and established a tobacconist's business in Lower St. James's Street. In the early 1920's they removed to premises in Upper High Street, and carried on business there until their retirement in 1943, since when they have resided in Carisbrooke Road.

Mrs. Heal was well known in the town, not only to the business community, but also as a keen worker for the Pyle Street Methodist (formerly Wesleyan) Church for 50 years, over which long period she took a leading part in many church activities. She was especially interested in the National Children's Home and Orphanage, whose cause she actively promoted in many ways, notably as president for some time of the local Young Leaguers Union. She also took a keen interest in church women's organisations and in missions, and year after year was in charge of the refreshments at the autumn sales of work. Mrs. Heal retained a keen interest in the church, although in late years her health had not permitted her to take such an active role, and latterly she had been confined to her bed. Mrs. Heal was an associate member of the local Red Cross organisation, and found relaxation in card games, particularly whist, at which she was a capable player at local drives for charitable objects.

MINISTER'S TRIBUTE

The funeral took place on Wednesday, a service at the Pyle Street Methodist Church, Newport, being conducted by the minister (the Rev. C. Cardy), assisted by the superintendent of the West Wight Methodist Circuit (Dr. W. H. Mildon). Mrs. Heal's favourite hymns, "The Lord's my Shepherd" (Crimond) and "Glory to Thee, my God, this night," were sung, and Mr. H. F. Payn, at the organ, played music, including the arias "O rest in the Lord," as the cortege left.

In a tribute, Dr. Mildon said that Mrs. Heal spent her life in the service of God. She was born into a Christian home at Porchfield, and after serving the Congregational Church there in her early years, she had joined her husband's church on her marriage in 1900, and, until her health broke down, she had worked untiringly for many causes connected with it. They would remember with special gratitude her interest in the National Children's Home and Orphanage, and her assistance as a key worker at the annual autumn sale.

The mourners were: Mr. H. J. Heal (husband), Mrs. R. H. Allen (daughter), Mr. G. H. Heal (son), Mr. R. H. Allen (son-in-law), Mr. D. H. Allen (grandson), Messrs. E. Holbrook and E. F. Heal and Mr. and Mrs. W. Heal, Mrs. W. Mew, and Mrs. E. Marsh (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. F. Mew, Mr. and Mrs. F. Fallick, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Morris, Mesdames G. Chiverton, Hookey, Attrill, P. Smith, Snow, , and L. V. Rolf, Miss E. Morris, and Messrs. H. and C. Brown, A. Saunders, C. H. Heal, and E. and F. Mew (nephews and nieces), and Mr. and Mrs. D. Peak (cousins), Mrs. I. Downer (grand-daughter), Mrs. G. H. Heal (daughter-in-law), and Mrs. D. H. Allen were prevented from attending.

The large congregation included representatives of the various branches of church activity, the Quay Street Methodist, and many other Island churches, and the Newport Old-time Dancing Club. Interment took place at Newport Cemetery, the many floral tributes including those from officers and members of the Pyle Street Methodist Church and the Young Leaguers Union. Messrs. H. and F. Damp Ltd., made the arrangements.

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