

Emma Louisa Heal

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NEWPORT

Death of Nonagenarian Organist.-----Mrs. Emma Louisa Heal, of Menheniot, 38 Barton Road, one of the town's oldest inhabitants, died at St. Mary's Hospital on Thursday week, aged 95. She had been in poor health since last July, and was admitted to hospital a month ago. Mrs. Heal was born at Porchfield, where her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were the village smiths. Her husband, the late Mr. Frederick Daniel Heal, took over the business shortly after their marriage. She was well known as organist of Shalfleet Wesleyan Church, having received the appointment on her 15th birthday. She had been heard practising by the late Mr. Henry Buckler, the Sunday-school superintendent, while making his bread round in the village. He was so impressed with her playing that he recommended her as church organist. After her marriage 10 years later she acted as assistant organist of the Congregational and Methodist churches at Porchfield. She continued playing her own American organ at home regularly until a few months ago. One of the family's most treasured possessions is a recording of Mrs. Heal playing the tune Crimond, presented to her by the late Mr. Leslie Dore (former organist of St. Paul's Church) on her 90th birthday. Mrs. Heal and her husband lived at Locks Green for 36 years. After Mr. Heal's retirement in 1936 they resided at Freshwater for four years before finally moving to Newport. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 1952, and Mr. Heal died later in the year. Mrs. Heal was an active worker for Methodist causes and will be remembered for her kindly nature. During the 1914-18 war she served thousands of suppers and cups of tea to soldiers using the Newtown ranges near her home, which, at her invitation, they regularly used as a canteen.

The funeral service at Pyle Street Methodist Church on Monday was conducted by the Rev. D. J. Creamer, assisted by the Rev. R. Parsons (of the Andover Methodist circuit and formerly of the west Wight circuit). Mr. Parsons knew Mrs. Heal for many years, and made the journey to the Island specially for the service to pay tribute to her work in the church. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Heal (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. F. Chessell (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. E. F. Heal (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. D. Chessell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Graham, Miss D. Chessell, and Mr. D. Heal (grandchildren), Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Holbrooke, Miss W. Mussell, Mrs. O. Moorman, Mrs. H. A. Constable, Mrs. G. Hayward, Mrs. G. A. Matthews (also representing her husband), Mr. F. Munt, and Mr. F. Riddett. Also present were representatives of the many local churches with which Mrs. Heal had been associated, who also sent floral tributes. Interment was at Newport Cemetery.

Mr. A. E. Wyatt made the arrangements.

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