

John Haddon Askwith

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Death of the Rev. J. H. Askwith, of Newport.

The parishioners of St. John's, Newport, and many others in the Island capital who have made his acquaintance during his comparatively short residence there, heard with deep regret of the death at Alverstoke, Hants, on Sunday night, of the Rev. John Haddon Askwith, who for about three years had been the very helpful assistant of the Vicar of St. John's (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon). While on holiday in Northern Ireland last summer Mr. Askwith had a serious illness which necessitated several major operations and three months passed before he had sufficiently recovered to return to Newport. Since then, although obviously suffering from the effects of that illness, he had pluckily continued his most acceptable ministrations at St. John's Church, and he took part in the services there on Sunday week. It was evident then that he was in very poor health, and the following Wednesday he went to visit his married daughter at Alverstoke thinking the change might do him good, intending to return for Easter, but his indisposition took a serious turn and he passed away as stated. Prayers for his recovery were offered at the evening service in St. John's Church. The Rev. J. H. Askwith, who was 75, was an M.A. of Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was ordained at Worcester Cathedral in 1882 and after spending five years as a curate in Birmingham became vicar of Christ Church, Derby. He held this living until 1912, when he was appointed vicar of Christ Church, Ramsgate. He continued his work at this seaside resort until he came to Newport to enjoy a well-earned semi-retirement. During the war his efforts for the relief and comfort of those who suffered from the frequent air raids at Ramsgate won wide appreciation, and on his retirement there were notable demonstrations of the affection of his parishioners. At St. John's, Newport, his kindness, sincerity, and thoughtful sermons quickly won the esteem of all and his quiet yet effective work there will be much missed. Sincere sympathy is felt with his widow and son, with whom he resided at Ardess, Fairlee-road, and with the other members of the family. The Vicar of St. John's referred to his passing at a meeting in the Legh Richmond-hall on Monday afternoon, saying that all connected with the work of the parish were in great sorrow at the loss of a very dear friend. He (the vicar) should sorely miss a loyal and diligent colleague, who, by reason of his age and wide experience, was more of a father to him than an assistant. All who had become acquainted with him during his association with the parish loved him as a sincere Christian gentleman. The meeting passed a vote of sympathy with Mrs. Askwith and the family.

The funeral took place on Thursday. There was a large gathering of mourners at the service in St. John's Church and the committal followed at St. Paul's Cemetery. The Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dr. S. W. Sutton and Canon G. Askwith (the deceased's brother).

The chief mourners were Mrs. J. H. Askwith (widow), Mr. H. L. H. Askwith (son), and Capt. and Mrs. R. Deane (son-in-law and daughter). Among those also attending were the Rev. J. F. Seymour Glynn (vicar of Newport) and the Rev. T. V. Ruddock (curate), the Rev. Miles Atkinson (vicar of St. Paul's, Barton) and Miss Atkinson, the Rev. G. Mostyn Prichard (rector of Whippingham), Messrs. J. Roach, W. Guy, and R. Tyler (churchwardens), Mr. R. Jackson (churchwarden at St. John's, Sandown, where Mr. Askwith frequently officiated), Mr. Herbert Lower (hon. secretary St. John's Men's Bible Class), Mr. F. Chiverton (representing the Newport Parish Church Lads' Bible Class), Mr. and Mrs. P. Hollis, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Alderslade, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cave, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cutmore, Mr. and Mrs. G. Herrington, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. A. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. G. Linington, Mr. and Mrs. A. Alabone, Mesdames James Eldridge, W. Guy, Raymond, Peach, J. Rudd, Gladwin, Stag, Warne, Wells, Jeffery, Westmore, Higginbotham, W. Scott, R. Scott, W. H. Salter, Henley, Midlane, Bull, Read, Rae, Callaway, Leal, Cotton, Burgess, Rackett, Whitfield, Wadham, Linington, Simmonds, Watson, Pointer, Weeks, Wiltshire, Barber, and Porter, the Misses K. And G. Etheridge, George, Roach, Stratton, Danes, Horan, Hawkins, Callaway, Stone, Lower, Warne, Martin, Cooper, Alderslade, Way, Newbery, Alexander, Pring, Welby-Pryer, Saunders, and Cheverton, and Messrs. H. W. and F. G. Horan, S. Cox, R. J. Eldridge, E. W. Tyler, J. B. Alderslade, H. Cawley Way, A. J. Taylor, R. Fifield, J. W. Hobbs, F. Chiverton, T.C., F. W. Wells, G. Weeks, H. B. Lower, A. Beacon, F. Marks, C. Chiverton, W. G. Sibbick, and R. J. Philpot (representing Mrs. J. Burrow).

The choir led the singing of the hymn "Till He come," and the chanting of the 23rd Psalm and the Nunc Dimittis. By the request of the family there was no mournful music and Miss D. Welby-Pryer, L.R.A.M., played "Blest are the departed" (Spohr), "Chant solennel" (Vodorinski), "We bow our heads" (Bach), and "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn).

Mr. James Eldridge, Mrs. R. J. Eldridge, and Miss A. Etheridge were unavoidably prevented from attending.

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