

**Miles Atkinson**

**Isle of Wight County Press 30 January 1937**

**DEATH OF THE REV. MILES ATKINSON.**

**VICAR OF ST. PAUL'S, BARTON.**

We record with regret the death of the Rev. Miles Atkinson, M.A., vicar of St. Paul's, Barton, which occurred early yesterday (Friday) morning after a long illness, at the Vicarage, Staplers-road, Newport. The deceased, who had held the living of St. Paul's, Barton, for 22 years, had been in failing health for more than a year. He was compelled in the autumn to take to his bed owing to an attack of jaundice. This, alas ! developed so seriously as to leave no hope of his ultimate recovery. Although very ill he penned the following brief New Year's message to his parishioners for the Parish Magazine for January : "A Happy New Year to you all. It is very encouraging to hear the anticipations of a bright and prosperous New Year. We trust they will be more than realised. May the new year bring great blessings to us all. How very many, many friends I have to thank for greetings, cards, and valuable help in the parish." In spite of all that medical skill and devoted nursing could do, a week ago the vicar gradually began to experience periods of unconsciousness, since when he had been slowly sinking. The end came peacefully at 3.15 a.m. yesterday. While the vicar was laid aside the church services have been ably conducted by the Rev. W. Jeffery, of St. Lawrence, and services and duty on weekdays have been undertaken by the Rev. G. C. Seymour (rector of Wootton).

The late vicar, who had passed the allotted span of three-score years and ten, was educated at St. Peter's College, Cambridge, and took his B.A. in 1887 and his M.A. in 1896. He was ordained deacon in 1888 and priest in the following year. Of his nearly half a century's ministry 46 years were spent in the Isle of Wight. He was curate at St. Mary's, Huntingdon, from 1888 to 1891, after which he came to the Island as curate at St. John's, Ryde, under the late Rev. H. Ewbank. There he laboured with much acceptance until 1898 when he became curate of St. Thomas's, Newport. Here he ministered for nearly 10 years under Canon H. Edmund Sharpe. With marked ability and devotion he served the church in the borough. Here he was the correspondent of the church school managers, and also served as a member of the old School Board and Education Committee. In 1898 the Bishop of Winchester appointed him to the charge of the newly created ecclesiastical district of Wootton Bridge. On his departure from Newport many parting gifts testified to the appreciation felt for his work and worth. The public gift was presented by the Mayor (Mr. A. Gill-Martin) at the annual church bazaar. During his six years at Wootton Mr. Atkinson gathered around him a goodly congregation and made many friends. Preferment to the vicariate of St. Paul's, Barton, came in 1915, when he succeeded the late Rev. Charles Collis. Here Mr. Atkinson undertook the presidency of the Brotherhood and its Horticultural Society and other organisations, and for many years was the very capable clerical hon. secretary of the West Wight Ruri-decanal Conference. Naturally somewhat reserved, he unobtrusively performed the work of a parish priest with devotion while health permitted, and he was a very capable and earnest preacher. During his vicariate a new and more central Vicarage was obtained, instead of the old one at the top of Staplers, and a number of excellent improvements have been effected in

the church. Heartfelt sympathy will be felt with Miss Atkinson, who had been her bachelor brother's devoted helper throughout his long ministry in the Island.

**Isle of Wight County Press 6 February 1937**

**THE LATE REV. MILES ATKINSON.**

**FUNERAL AND PUBLIC TRIBUTES.**

Many expressions of regret and public tributes to his memory have followed the announcement of the death at the St. Paul's Vicarage, Newport, on Friday week, at the age of 71, of the Rev. Miles Atkinson, M.A., Vicar of St. Paul's, Barton, since 1915.

At St. Paul's Church on Sunday the churchwardens' wands were tied with crepe and appropriate hymns were sung. At the morning service Mr. L. E. Dore (organist) played "O rest in the Lord" as a voluntary, and at the conclusion of the service the congregation stood while he played the Dead March in "Saul." Preaching on the parable of the talents, the Rev. W. Jeffery, who has been acting as *locum tenens* during the Vicar's illness, said that a grief had come upon the parish in the loss of one who for many years had been their faithful pastor. They would not mourn him, for he had gone to receive his reward. It had been his privilege to see their Vicar at times during his illness, and each time he had asked after his charge. A smile of satisfaction had always come over his face when he heard that there was a fair congregation and a goodly number at the Lord's Table. They thanked God for a life spent in His service.

At St. John's Church, Ryde, where the late Vicar acted as curate for some eight years on first coming to the Island in 1891, the Rev. E. R. Everett (curate) said that although it was some 40 years since Miles Atkinson left that church to take up a position of greater importance, he was still spoken of by all who knew him with love and affection. In visiting homes in the parish he had heard his praises again and again. That he should be so well remembered after so long a time, was, in itself, a tribute to the work he did in Ryde. He was a great gentleman, a great priest, and a great friend. To him (the speaker) personally, despite the great disparity in years, Mr. Atkinson had been a true friend, putting all his accumulated knowledge and wisdom at his disposal; a true Father in God.

At the funeral service on Thursday there was a crowded congregation, bearing further testimony to the esteem and affection in which the late Vicar was held. The service at St. Paul's Church was conducted by the Rev. R. McKew, D.D. (formerly Archdeacon of the Island), assisted by the Rev. R. Pratt (Rural Dean of West Wight and Rector of Freshwater). The robed clergy present were the new Archdeacon of the Island, the Ven. C. W. Hampton Weekes (Vicar of Brading), who represented the Bishop of Portsmouth by special request, and the Revs. A. A. P. Winser (Rector of Brook), H. Guy (Rector of Shorwell), A. W. Harvey Grindon (Rector of Brighstone), J. W. F. Wayet (Rector of Gatcombe), H. Ewbank (Vicar of Carisbrooke), G. C. Seymour (Rector of Wootton), W. Jeffery and C. M. Bayliss (Chaplain Forest House). Mr. F. Rowley (Diocesan lay reader and lay secretary of the West Wight Ruri-decanal Conference), wearing his surplice was also with the clergy. Mr. S. F. Moody (vicar's warden) preceded the coffin carrying his wand of office tied with

crepe. The choir led the singing of the hymns "Rock of ages" and "Abide with me," and the chanting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The Nunc Dimittis was sung to Lloyd's chant as the coffin was borne from the church. While the congregation was assembling Mr. L. E. Dore, at the organ, played "Blest are the departed" (Spohr), "But the Lord is mindful" (Mendelssohn), "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), and "Solemn melody" (Walford Davies), concluding with Chopin's "Marche Funebre." The interment was in the Churchyard near the south-west corner of the building, and the grave was lined with evergreens. The committal sentences were pronounced by the Archdeacon. The mourners were Miss C. Atkinson (sister), Mrs. H. J. Way, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Way, and the Misses L. and K. Moody. Those also present included Mrs. F. Templeman Mew, Mr. H. Cawley-Way, Miss E. Way, Mrs. Herman Way, Miss Joan Way, Mr. R. P. Mew, the Deputy Mayor of Newport (also representing the Mayor, Capt. F. J. T. Mew), the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon (Vicar of St. John's, Newport), Mr. R. J. Eldridge, Dr. C. K. Sylvester, the Rev. E. R. Everett (curate of St. John's, Ryde), Mrs. G. C. Seymour, Mr. J. Salter (formerly secretary to the Church Council), Mr. F. E. Welsh, ex-Supt. W. Ayres (Cowes), Capt. J. S. Brown, Mr. C. A. Good, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Arthur, Miss Ellis (I.W. Moral Welfare Society), Mr. F. J. Tharme, the Rev. W. J. Crewe (Vicar of St. Mary's, Cowes), Mr. H. Lower (representing the St. John's Men's Bible Class), Mr. L. Jordan, J.P., Mr. F. Chiverton (St. Thomas's Church Bible Class), Mr. E. S. Miller, Miss Q. Witham, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Launder, Mr. W. H. Please (Wootton), Mr. B. J. Whitbread and Mrs. H. E. Johncox (Wootton), Miss F. Chiverton, Mrs. and Miss Jeffery, Mrs. Hichens, Miss Ewbank (Ryde), Mr. A. B. Shaw, M.B.E. (representing the Rev. W. E. Longney, Rector of Northwood), Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cursons, Mr. H. Mayes, Mr. J. D. Truscott, Mr. R. R. Dore, Mr. W. H. Baker, Mr. J. R. Thomas, and Mr. W. P. W. Wickenden. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in the report the following members of the Church Council were present : Miss Bell, Mrs. W. Ouseley, Miss A. Osborne, and Mr. C. Dodsworth, with Mr. A. A. Whitfield (hon. secretary). The sidesmen present included Messrs. G. Fleming (acting people's warden), G. and E. Hazard, G. Harris, R. T. Lawn, and C. O. Sprake. Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Croucher and Miss B. Fleet (superintendents) and teachers represented the Sunday-school, Miss Barker (superintendent) was present with other representatives of Broadlands House, of which the late Vicar acted as chaplain. Mr. W. Ouseley, M.B.E. (leader) and a large contingent of members of St. Paul's Brotherhood were among the congregation, with Mr. C. Salero (hon. secretary of the Brotherhood Athletic Club). Included amongst the large number of parishioners and others present, too numerous to mention individually, were representatives of the Mothers' Union. Among those unavoidably prevented from attending by indisposition and other causes were Major H. J. Way, V.D. (formerly Vicar's warden for some 40 years), the Rev. Canon H. Edmund Sharpe (Vicar of Newport during the curacy there of the late Rev. M. Atkinson), the Rev. C. W. H. Connolly (Rector of Calbourne), Mrs. K. Westmore, Mr. and Mrs. H. Allen, and Mr. W. H. Dann.

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