

## **William George Ayres**

**Isle of Wight County Press 18 June 1892**

### **Newport**

**DEATH OF A NEWPORT CHURCH CHORISTER.**----The choir of St. Thomas's Church has lost a very promising junior member by the death of William George Ayres, the eldest child of Detective Inspector William Ayres, of the Isle of Wight County Constabulary. The deceased, who was only 13 years old, had been a choir boy since he was nine years of age, first at St. Stephen's, Bournemouth, next at St. John's, Ryde, afterwards at Christ Church, Sandown, and then at St. Thomas's, Newport, where his bright young life has closed, pneumonia being the cause of death. The deceased, who was a boy of frank and open bearing and gentle disposition, was liked by all his colleagues in the choir, and he was also a favourite with his companions at the Newport Grammar School. At the prize distribution at that school on Thursday the Vicar spoke of the shadow which had fallen upon it by the death of William George Ayres — "one whom he believed to have been," said the Vicar, "a thoroughly good and conscientious boy, and while they mourned his death and deeply sympathised with his friends, they could not but feel, in the words of Holy Scripture, that it was well with the child." The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, the first part of the service being performed at St. Thomas's Church. The body was there met by the Vicar, the Rev. R. R. Farrant, and the Rev. M. Robbins, and also by the surpliced choir, who headed the sad procession up the nave, the Vicar saying the opening sentences of the Burial Office. In addition to the parents and other personal relatives there was a considerable number of mourners, amongst them being Mr. Alderman Golden, representing St. Thomas's Sunday-school, the headmaster and boys of Newport Grammar School, and a number of members of the Buds of Promise Juvenile Foresters, to which society the deceased had belonged. Members of the County Constabulary acted as bearers, and the ex-Deputy Chief Constable (Mr. James Duke) was amongst the congregation. Psalm xc., "Lord, thou hast been our refuge," was chanted by the choir, after which the hymn, "O let him whose sorrow," was sung, and the lesson was read by the Rev. R. R. Farrant. Then was sung the hymn "Brief life is here our portion," and the beautiful strains of "O rest in the Lord," played by Mr. Scadding, at the organ, marked the close of the first part of the service. The interment took place at St. Paul's, Barton, in the presence of a numerous concourse of mourners, the service being impressively performed by the Vicar of Newport. The choir attended and sang "Abide with me" over the young chorister's grave. The coffin was covered with wreaths and crosses of beautiful flowers, amongst them being (in addition to the tributes of love and affection from members of the family) memorial offerings from the senior members of St. Thomas's choir, the junior members of the choir, the masters and scholars of the Newport Grammar School, the members of St. Thomas's Band of Hope, the Deputy Chief Constable and Mrs. Gibson, various members of the County Constabulary, the ex-Deputy Chief Constable and Mrs. Duke and family, and a number of other friends in the

Island and at Bournemouth, Fareham, and other places. Mr. and Mrs. Ayres and family desire, through our columns, to return their deepest thanks to the many friends who have shown them so much sympathy in their bereavement.

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