



## **Well-Known Tisbury Resident**

### **Death of Mr. Walter Burt**

#### **30 Years Parish Clerk and Verger**

By the death of Mr. Walter Burt, at the age of 67 years, Tisbury has lost one of its most respected and loved residents and the Western Gazette, a correspondent who served the paper faithfully and well for more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Burt was found dead in bed by his wife on Thursday morning. He had been attended by a doctor for heart trouble during recent months, but continued his work and told friends that he felt better when he had something to do than when idle. On the previous evening, he wrote his copy for the Western Gazette as usual, and appeared to be quite well, although after supper he complained for a pain in his chest.

#### **Parish Clerk**

A. native of Tisbury, Mr. Burt was a keen Churchman, and for over 30 years carried out the duties of parish clerk and verger, having previously gained experience of that office whilst acting as deputy for his predecessor. He worked enthusiastically for any function organised for the benefit of the church, was a member of the Church Council, and, until recently, one of the team of bell ringers. In his youth he served in the old 1st Wilts Volunteers, rising to the rank of sergeant, and amongst his most treasured possessions he counted a silver cup won by him in a best-man-at-arms competition. He was employed for over thirty years as an auxiliary postman at Tisbury.

Mr. Burt succeeded the late Mr. George Lush as the Western Gazette's local correspondent, and proved himself to be both capable and enthusiastic. He was always cheerful and pleasant, and these traits combined with an unobtrusive manner, made him a welcome guest at whatever functions he attended. His loss is sincerely regretted by all members of the Western Gazette staff who were acquainted with him.

#### **Funeral Service**

There was a large congregation at Tisbury Church on Monday for the funeral service which preceded the interment in the churchyard. The coffin and family mourners were met at the gate by the robed clergy - the Rev. C. A. Hutchinson (vicar of West Monkton), the patron of the Tisbury living and a former vicar, Canon H. A. Barnes (vicar of Tisbury), the Rev. H. S. Fussell (curate of Tisbury) and the Rev. T. Mason (rector of Fonthill Gifford) - and the choir, and as the column moved down the path and into the church, Canon Barnes pronounced the opening sentences.

Prior to the service and after the committal, muffled peals were rung on the church bells. Mr. J. Freestone was at the organ, and as the congregation took their seats he played Handel's "Largo" and Beethoven's "When the west". The hymns were "Thy way, not mine, O Lord" and "Abide with me" (chosen by the widow) and Psalm 23 was also sung. Whilst the closing verses of the Nunc Dimittis were being sung, the coffin was borne from the church and Mr. Freestone then played Hadyn's "Benedictus". The first part of the service was taken by Canon Barnes, the Rev. H. S. Fussell read the Lesson, and the Rev. C. A. Hutchinson pronounced the committal sentences.

The principal mourners were Mrs. W. Burt (widow), Miss Kathleen Burt (daughter), Mr. Harry Burt (brother), Mrs. J. A. Meaden (sister) and Miss Margery Meaden (niece), Mr. William Burt and Mr. Cecil Burt (nephews), Mrs. J. Lacey (sister-in-law), Mr. W. Stevens, Mrs. Stevens (sister-in-law) and Mr. Stuart Stevens (nephew), Mr. E. Ball (brother-in-law), Mrs. Ball (niece), Mr. T. Wright, Miss Alice Wright, Mr. Henry Wright and Mrs. Day.

### **Post Office Representatives**

Tisbury Post-office was represented by Miss Thorne (postmistress), Miss Mills and Messrs. H. A. Jennings, A. E. Houghton, H. Butt, F. Pengelly, J. Millward and A. Parsons; former Post colleagues in Messrs. F. G. Frier and M. M. Ward were also present. Mr. E. G. Pike represented the Western Gazette and the Editor (Mr. John Goodchild).

Among others in the congregation were Mr. E. Young, Mr. G. Leopold Lush (clerk to the Tisbury magistrates), Miss R. Lush, Mrs. J. Fairlie, Captain G. A. Bull, Mr. M. Lush, Mr. P. J. Randall, Mr. Hugh Marshall, Mr. C. Marshall, Mr. A. J. Walsh, Mr. W. Compton, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. D. Stevens, Mrs. F. Mason, Mrs. E. Fray, Miss Cadley, Mrs. W. Turner, Mrs. Blandford, Mrs. Millward, Mrs. Bright, Mr. J. Green, Mr. and Mrs. F. Price, Mrs. Moon, Mrs. J. Ponton, Mrs. D. Ponton, Mrs. E. Woods, Mrs. H. Read, Mrs. Westkett, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. A. Green, Miss E. Coombs, Mr. H. Osmond, Mrs. Gurd, Mrs. Ashman, Miss Gray.

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