

Obituary - Mary Jane Burt 1939

Devoted Sacristan at the Church of the Sacred Heart



Her many friends heard with regret of the death of Miss Mary Jane Burt, which occurred somewhat suddenly on Thursday at her home in High-street, Tisbury, at the age of 70. She was the fourth daughter of the late Mr John Henry Burt, of Bridzor Farm, Wardour.

Miss Burt returned to Tisbury about 15 years ago upon relinquishing her post as Matron at Hereford Mental Hospital. She devoted her whole life to the welfare of others. She rendered whole-hearted service to the Catholic Church and was an enthusiastic member of the Women's Catholic League, in addition to being president of the Tisbury Sodality of the Children of Mary.

Miss Burt was also actively associated with the women's section of the British Legion and the successful Thrift Club attached to it was promoted and mainly carried on by her.

For many years the devoted Sacristan at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Tisbury, Miss Burt was buried with the full solemnity of the funeral rites of the Catholic Church.

The body was received at the church door on Sunday evening by the Rev Father Hookway, parish priest, and remained overnight on a catafalque, surrounded by six large funeral candles.

On Monday morning there was a Solemn Requiem Mass, the celebrant being Father Hookway, assisted by Dom Paul Brookfield, OSB (Bonham) as Deacon, and the Rev D O'Connell (Warminster) as Sub Deacon. The Gregorian Plain Chant was sung by a choir of priests, the cantors being the Rev Fr D Hyland (Wardour) and the Rev J V B Buckley (Langport). The following clergy formed part of the choir: Rev Fr Laurence Lamb, ODC (Wincanton), Dom Odo Blundell OSB (Fonthill Abbey), Rev Fr Leonard Morgan ODC (Wincanton), Revs Edward Hickey (Amesbury) Hugh Flynne (Wardour) and Michael Garrigan (Bristol).

Immediately after the Mass the solemn Absolutions were given at the catafalque, the *Libera me Domine*, being sung by the choir. All the clergy attended the interment which took place immediately after the Mass in Wardour Cemetery. As the body was being lowered, the priests sang the *Benedictus*. Then followed the committal prayers sung by Fr Hookway, during which the grave was incensed and sprinkled with holy water.

There was a large congregation in the church and at the graveside. The chief mourners were Mr and Mrs H G Burt and Messrs Mark, Philip and Tony Burt, Captain G Q Bull and Mrs Bull, Mr and Mrs G Bull, Mr and Mrs J Bull, Mr and Mrs Pickford, Mr and Mrs Pike, Messrs B and C and Miss Madge Foyle, Mrs Martin, Mr, Mrs and Miss Harrison, Mr and Mrs J Alford, Mr and Mrs F Burt and Miss Burt, Mrs F Burt jun., Mrs J Bull and Mrs Peter Bull, Mr and Mrs Pickford and Mrs V Pickford. Mrs B Foyle was prevented by illness from attending.

The bearers were six nephews, Messrs J Burt, J Bull, C Foyle, L Burt, M Burt and F Harrison. Mr G Bull, Mr F Burt and Master Pickford acted as acolytes.

Amongst the floral tributes was a wreath of poppies from the women's section of the British Legion.

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