

Obituary - Gerald Arthur Arundell 1861-1939

15th Lord Arundell of Wardour



Head of one of the oldest and most distinguished Catholic families in England, Lord Arundell of Wardour, died at his home, Wardour Castle, Tisbury, on Thursday, at the age of 77. His loss will be keenly felt in South Wiltshire for, though he took little part in public life, his unassuming manner and quiet friendliness won him the love of all who were intimately acquainted with him.

Lord Arundell was born in December 1861, the third son of Mr Theodore Arundell, his mother being a daughter of Mr John Hussey, of Nash Court, Dorset. After completing his education at Prior Park, Lord Arundell went, in 1898, to live at Wardour with his cousin, the twelfth Lord Arundell, and from then the Castle became his home for the remainder of his life.

In 1906 the twelfth baron died, leaving the life tenancy of Wardour estate to his widow, with remainder to Mr Arundell and his heirs male. On the death of his elder brother, the fourteenth Lord Arundell in 1921, he succeeded to the peerage.

A devoted lover of the countryside and its customs, Lord Arundell took a keen, if not active interest, in the life of the district. Any Catholic function or enterprise had his ready support and he always played a full part in any Catholic matter that came before the House of Lords. He was a very fine shot and delighted to take part in sport of that kind. During the war he served in the Army Pay Department at Salisbury and he was a Justice of the Peace for the Mere and Tisbury Petty Sessional Division.

In 1906, Lord Arundell married Ivy, only daughter of the late Captain William Segrave, 71st Highlanders. He is survived by his widow, one son, the Hon John Francis Arundell, who succeeds to the title at the age of 31, and two daughters, the Hon Mrs Ninian Hanbury-Tracy and the Hon Mrs Thomas Fagan.

The new Lord Arundell was educated at Stonyhurst and New College Oxford. He holds a commission in the 4th Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment T.A. and like his late father, is a Justice of the Peace for the Mere and Tisbury Division.

The funeral took place in the private chapel of All Saints Wardour on Monday, interment in the family vault, behind the high altar, being preceded by Pontifical Requiem Mass. The coffin was received into the chapel from the house, on Sunday evening, by Father D Hyland, chaplain at Wardour, and Father Cyril Hookway, Tisbury, and a short service was then held. The coffin rested on a catafalque, in front of the sanctuary, throughout the night, Lord Arundell's baronial coronet with a cross of white lilies, from Lady Arundell, upon it.

The Requiem Mass, on Monday, was celebrated by the Bishop of Clifton, Msgnr William Lee, the Deacon being Father D Hyland and the Sub-Deacon, Father H Flynn. Canon Iles, rector of St George's, Taunton, and Father M J Hyland, Salisbury, were assistants at the Bishop's throne and the M.C.s were Father J Rea (the Bishop's secretary) and Father C Hookway.

Also in the sanctuary were the auxiliary Bishop of Portsmouth (Msgnr King, of Winchester), an auxiliary Bishop of the Arch Diocese of Westminster (Msgnr Matthews, a personal friend of the late Lord Arundell), Msgnr Long (pro Cathedral, Bristol), Fathers Morrissey, Flannery, Kelly (all of Salisbury), Father Blundell (Fonthill Abbey), Father E Hickey (Amesbury), Father Buckley (Langport), Father Donze (Shaftesbury), Father Lamb (Wincanton), Father Gurd (Trafalgar House), and Father O'Brien (Blandford). Boys of Lord Arundell's old school, Prior Park College, Bath, under Brother Doyle, constituted the choir and the children of Wardour elementary school, in charge of Miss Quartley, most of the tenantry on the big estate and Sisters of the Order of St Vincent de Paua also attended. Following the interment, the Bishop of Clifton conducted Absolution.

In the course of an address Msgnr Matthews said he wished to pay a tribute to the late Lord Arundell, who had that simplicity of character, that directness of thought, that unswerving loyalty, which had marked so many of the chiefs of his house. He possessed a twin loyalty, loyalty to the throne and loyalty to the altar, and his whole life was bound up with profound and devoted service, both to this country and to his ancient faith.

He lived at Wardour for over 40 years although he had only recently come into possession, and his whole life was closely bound up with that of Wardour, both secular and spiritual, which his ancestors for centuries had preserved for the Catholic faith in the West of England. He lived constantly in the sight of God, unbending and unalterable in the faith. He had a profound and simple confidence, such as they of his communion would desire, and a profound dependence on the will of god.

To the people of Wardour, the Bishop extended his sympathy in the loss of one who, throughout his lifetime, had been constantly with them. What would Lord Arundell have asked from the people of Wardour? In the first place he would desire their prayers for his soul, those prayers which they gave to those whom they had loved and who had gone before; above all he would ask for their fidelity in the faith and determination to maintain the Catholic faith which had been for centuries the distinguishing mark over the house of Arundell and which had made Wardour what it was, and had provided the mainspring of its life, the devotion to the Catholic faith. The late Lord Arundell was profoundly fortunate in his immediate family.

The Mourners

The family mourners were Lady Arundell (widow), Lord Arundell (son), the Hon Mrs Fagan (daughter), General Eric Segrave (brother in law), Mrs Roderick Segrave (sister in law) and Mr and Mrs Charles Segrave (cousins).

and Mrs. O'Kelly. Others who attended were:—The Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Lord Nelson, Mr. Henry Nelson, Miss K. Despencer-Robertson (representing Major J. Despencer-Robertson, M.P. for Salisbury), Mr. J. R. and Lady Margaret Drummond-Frank Sykes), Lady Talbot Power, Lady Crofton (also representing Major Sir Henry Crofton), Lady Malcolm Douglas Hamilton (also representing Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton), Lady Jean Mackintosh, Sir Geoffrey Fison, Sir Francis Lacey, Sir Henry Hoare, Sir Thomas and Lady Serrave, Mr. John G. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Renric de Pen-theny O'Kelly, Miss Gwladys Dennistoun (Continued in next column)

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(also representing the Hon. M. Algernon Hanbury-Tracy), Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Gornall, Mr. André Simon, the Hon. Gertrude Best, Major and Hon. Mrs. Atkinson, Brigadier-General and Mrs. E. Harding-Newman, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Charles Lamb, Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Chichester (representing the Prior Park Association, Bath), Squadron-Leader P. L. Donkin, Miss Esme Fryer (also representing Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Beneti-Stanford and Miss Crisp), Captain S. Hill, Captain T. A. Vanzeller, Captain Orr, Captain G. A. Bull, Supt. T. Barrett (representing Lieut.-Colonel Hoel Llewellyn, chief constable of Wilts, and Wilts Constabulary), Canon A. H. Barnes (vicar of Tisbury), Rev. T. B. and Mrs. Green (Tollard Royal), Rev. E. J. Mitchell (rector of Donhead St. Andrew).

Miss Arundell, Mrs. Talbot, Mrs. Arthur Talbot, Mrs. Shaw-Stewart, Mr. A. Powlett and Mr. C. Floyd (agents to the estate), Mr. F. G. Fisher (sub-agent), Mr. N. P. Squarey, Miss Freame, Miss Christmas, Mrs. and Miss Engleheart, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Trotter, Mr. D. Combes (also representing Mr. M. S. Waters), Mr. E. Young, Mr. G. Leopold Lush (clerk to the Tisbury magistrates), Miss Lush, Mrs. Fairweather Fairley (also representing Mr. Fairweather Fairley), Mrs. Blackburn, Dr. Gordon Lane, Miss Dunstan, Mr. T. Doggerell, Mr. Gerald Wills (representing Tisbury branch of the Salisbury Division Constitutional Association), Mr. A. G. King, Mrs. Walpole, Miss F. Walpole, Mrs. Savill, Mr. Cecil Turner, Mr. G. Pickford, Mr. T. B. Whitehead, Mr. J. S. Foley, Mrs. Fryar and Miss F. Fryar, Mr. Joseph Lever, Mr. A. B. Lenley, Mr. T. W. Wright, Miss B. Dunn, Mrs. C. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. F. Burt, senior, Messrs. T. Rossiter, E. Coward, T. Flower, A. E. Flower, W. Dewey, G. Pickford, H. Gurd, E. S. Brain, S. E. Brain and C. W. Rees, Miss Austridge, Miss Trim, Miss Cadley, Mrs. H. Gurd, Mrs. Charag, Mrs. J. Burt, Mrs. L. A. Lever and Miss Lever, Mrs. Francis Fisher, Mr. H. E. Wood, Mr. H. Harrington, Mrs. Tolfrey, Mr. E. Tolfrey, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Gray, Mr. John Collett, Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. J. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. S. Parsons, Mr. F. Alford, Mr. W. Dewey, Mr. W. Dewey, junior, Miss Mullins, Mrs. J. Mullins, Mrs. Davey, Miss A. Harrison, Miss P. Mullins, Mr. J. G. Jeffery, Mr. F. Gurd, Mr. J. Gurd, Mrs. C. E. Smith, Miss D. Whatley, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Jollif, Mrs. Salter (representing Mrs. W. Woodrow), the Misses Barnes, Mr. E. M. Parsons, Miss Parsons, Miss N. Parsons, Mrs. and Miss Hansford, Mr. W. Woods, Mrs. Fryer, Miss F. Fryer, Mrs. Francis Fisher, Mrs. Ruddick, Miss Woods, Mrs. Thomas Gray, Mrs. Beacher, Mrs. A. Randall, Mr. Thomas Mullins, Mrs. A. Parsons, Mrs. Mary Woods, Mr. Bernard Foyle, Mr. C. Foyle, Mrs. C. Gray, Mrs. S. Gurd, and Miss A. Harrison.

Floral Tributes

There were a large number of floral tributes, including those from the Tisbury branch of the Salisbury Division Constitutional Association, the Boys of Prior Park College Bath, the staff of Wardour Castle and the outdoor staff at Wardour. At Mass, on Sunday, Father D Hyland referred to the great loss they had sustained. He said Lord Arundell had been a great friend to many of them and a thorough Christian gentleman. His attendance at church was indefatigable and he never missed the smallest ceremony. He was a daily communicant and they would always pray for him the daily Mass.

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