

Faringdon Advertiser

Sat, 25th May 1907

Shrivenham

Funeral of Nurse Olliver

Quite a gloom was cast over this village on Wednesday in last week when it was known that Miss Edith Alice Olliver, a nurse at the Royal Berks Hospital, Reading, had succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever in that institution. Deceased, who was 23 years of age, was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Olliver, master and mistress of the Shrivenham School, and for whom great sympathy has been shown in their bereavement. A memorial service, conducted by the Rev M.T. Friend (Chaplain), was held on Thursday morning in the Hospital Chapel, which was full, and, in addition to the matron, sisters, and nurses, both the medical staff and managers were represented. On Thursday afternoon, the body, enclosed in a polished oak coffin, covered with beautiful flowers, was brought by train to Shrivenham Station, where it was met by Mr R. Kent (undertaker). The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon. The Rev E.F. Hill (Vicar), conducted the service, assisted by the Rev B.M. Hawes (Curate of Watchfield). After the lesson, the hymn, 'Abide with me,' was very feelingly sung. Mrs Hill presiding at the organ.

There then follows a very long list of the names of the mourners and the floral messages and tributes.

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Sat 12 Aug 1911

Shrivenham

Wedding. On Tues at the Parish church the marriage took place of Mr Reginald James Hawker, only son of Mr Charles Frederick Hawker, of Fulham Park Gardens, London, and Miss Florence Elizabeth Olliver, Shrivenham, third daughter of Mr & Mrs H.C.E. Olliver, Shrivenham. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a dress of ivory crepe de chene, with a veil and wreath of orange blossoms and heather. She carried a shower bouquet of Madonna lilies and white carnations, and wore a diamond and ruby ring, both gifts of the bridegroom. The bride was attended by four bridesmaids - Misses Evelyn, Dorothy and Madeline Olliver (sisters of the bride) and Miss Winifred Hawker (sister of the bridegroom). They were dressed in pale mauve crepe merle trimmed with pink and mauve passementerie, and picture crinoline hats trimmed with pink and mauve tulle and sweet peas. Each carried a shower bouquet of pink carnations, and a silver chain purse, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr W. Miles (Streatham) cousin of the bridegroom acted as best man. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, Rev. E.F. Hill. The service which was choral included the hymns, 'Lead us, Heavenly Father,' and 'Thine for ever, God of Love,' also Psalm 128, which were well rendered by the choir. Mr A.W.S. Nanes (organist of St James, Paddington) presided at the organ and played the Wedding March while those present were leaving the church. As the bridal party proceeded up the aisle a white satin covered horse-

shoe was handed to the bride by her cousin, Miss Nellie Rogers. Luncheon was afterwards served in the schoolroom (by kind permission of the School Managers), and later in the day the bride and bridegroom left in a motor car for Swindon, en-route for Ilfracombe, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride travelled in a costume of slate coloured satin cloth, with hat to match. The presents were numerous. (*There here follows a huge list of gifts and who gave them*).

Note: Mr & Mrs Olliver lived at the School House, being Headmaster and Headmistress of Shrivvenham School at that period.

Death of Mrs H C Oliver

From the newspaper North Wilts Herald Friday 14th December 1917

34 years school mistress at Shrivvenham

In the early hours of Saturday there passed away, at the age of 59 years, who for 34 years had been the mistress of Shrivvenham Village school, it was at Shrivvenham that Mrs Oliver began her married life and where all her children were born. During these years she has taught to generations of children, and has ever taken the deepest interest in all that tended to promote the welfare of the village. In July last an illness compelled her to give up the work that she had so long carried on, and through which she had endeared herself to many a full-grown man and woman who have long since left the village home. Those whom she has left behind will feel that they have the sympathy, not only of all Shrivvenham people, but of the many whom she has told and known during the Long Years of her faithful service. The deepest sympathy is felt for her only son, who is serving his country abroad.

The vicar the Reverend EF Hill at the close of his sermon on Sunday evening referred to the deceased lady in the following words: it would be difficult to bring to a close what I have said tonight without reference to one who has so recently in the good Providence of our God, been taken from us, and who, for 30 years and upwards has borne so large a part and filled so important a place in our Village community life. You will know well of whom I am thinking and of whom I would try to speak and speak with feelings of deep personal regard and affection and interests, sympathy with those who know more than her loss. If I could be allowed for a moment to lift the veil which hides the privacy of home life it would be to speak of her as the wisest and most loving of mothers and as the truest and most helpful of wives. But it is as the mistress for so many years of our village school that I feel that I may and indeed cannot do other than, speak of her tonight, and in the consciousness of the debt of gratitude that is due to her from us all. If we would try to discover the secret of the strength, the influence, the power and the charm of her life we could find it. I think, in her unswerving devotion to duty in, in her patience and in her kindness and in the quietness, the humility and the simplicity of her god-fearing life. Duty, it always seemed to be the guiding and the controlling principle of all that she did. Duty, it always first in her life, whether it was duty in the home or in the school. In complete unselfishness she would never leave to others what she felt that she ought to herself to do. It was always with the utmost

of difficulty that those who knew her and the best could ever prevail on her to think of herself. Though in these latter years the burden of schoolwork seemed to, I think, to press more heavily upon her, and though anxiety about her, and an apprehensiveness of her failing health and strength was beginning to feel the minds of some of us, yet loyally and bravely she ever clung to the post of duty, until bodily weakness at the last compelled her to lay down the work which for long is she had so faithfully and so conscientiously set herself to do. And no work in life we might think on that could make a greater or more exacting claim on human patients than work such as was hers the work of teaching and controlling the sometimes thoughtless and careless, the ignorant and the stupid, and the ill-tempered, and the often tiresome and wayward and unruly. And yet never in any circumstances, or under any conditions, did her patience, her gentleness and her kindness ever seem to fail her. And how true and faithful servant she was to her God. In her full and occupied a busy life she ever found time for the worship of God in the services of the church that she loved. And sorely in these latter days have we missed her in this house. Hers was a real and deep and unobtrusive piety and when she knew that the work of her life was ended, calmly, trustfully, resignedly she bowed her soul to the will of God, and in humble, loving submission to that will she found. I know, her strength to uncomplaining bear her increasingly bodily weakness and all the discomfort and wearisomeness of her long illness and now she is gone from us respected by all the like and held in the esteem and affection by not a few. Gone from us yes but into the closer nearer presence of the master she served so well. Gone from us yes but to find one more those whom she had loved and lost a while. Not gone from us her memory will be forever cherished gratefully cherished in the recollection of her life's work, long and lovingly cherished by those who she has so patiently taught, affectionately cherished by all who really knew her. And to God's mercy we commend her. In his care and keeping we may leave her in perfect trust and in abundant hope leaving her resting in him from all the work and toils, from all the troubles, from all the sufferings of earthly life. And blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so sayeth the spirit, for they rest from their labours.

In the sunshine of a winter's afternoon on Wednesday, and with every token of universal respect, she was laid to rest in the parish churchyard, by the side of her eldest daughter and a child who died in infancy. The service, which was choral, was taken by the vicar the Reverend EF Hill.

There then follows a long list of those who attended the funeral