

Death of Archdeacon West—"the builder"

The Venerable Archdeacon Stanley Johnson West died at Rawson Hospital, Wagga, yesterday afternoon.

He was 70 years of age and had been seriously ill for many months.

The late Archdeacon West had retired in May last year after half a century of ministry in the Anglican Church.

The funeral will take place tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

The cortege will leave St. John's Church after a service expected to be one of the largest ever seen in Wagga.

The service will be taken by Archdeacon Davies, and Bishop of Goulburn, will preach.

Rev. Henry Staples, of Junee, will assist.

He had worked in the

Church of England ministry for nearly 50 years, and retired after completing 25 years in the church at Wagga.

Community value

But all his efforts were not for his church only; he was a good worker for the community and many public men of Wagga yesterday spoke of the late Archdeacon's public service, much of which is not generally known.

He could rightly be called "West the Builder."

Extensive building projects in Wagga, estimated to have cost £130,000, and extending over the last 20 odd years, stand as a lasting tribute to his memory.

Notable among these are St. Mary's Church at Oura; the rectory in Peter Street; the new chapel at St. John's Hall; additions to the hall itself; and the new arrangement and furnishing of the sanctuary of St. John's Church and approaches to the church.

He made St. John's Hall available as a rest room to the troops, and at Kapooka military camp spent £15,000 on the building of a church hut, complete with chapel, auditorium and recreation room.

Historic link

Archdeacon West was a direct descendant of Major John West, the first surgeon

to arrive in Australia.

Major West was the surgeon on the convict ship "Francis Eliza," which arrived in Australia in 1815.

Archdeacon West had direct links with Australia's history and was a member of the Australasian Pioneers' Club.

His great-great uncle, Rev. Richard Johnston, was the first Anglican priest to arrive in Australia.

Reverend Johnston arrived by the "Sirius" in 1788 and built the first church in Australia.

A monument now stands on the site near Circular Quay, Sydney.

Archdeacon West was keenly interested in Par West, Legacy and hospital work and was a life member of the Wagga Base Hospital.

He was also a keen bowler with the Wagga City Club until ill health overtook him.

He was made a Deacon in 1910, he was made Priest in 1911, being ordained by the Archbishop of Sydney for work in the Diocese of Goulburn.

He gained his Th.L. degree in 1912.

He was the Curate of Yass in 1910-11; of Cooma in 1911-12; Rector of Berridale in 1912-20; Rector of Queanbeyan 1920-28; Rural Dean of Goulburn from 1926-28.

He was appointed Rector of Wagga in 1928 and appointed Archdeacon of Wagga in 1931.

Archdeacon West's death could truthfully be called a "war casualty."

When Kapooka camp was opened, the first hut to be established there was by the Church of England.

This hut, which cost £2000, was later destroyed by fire but the Church erected a second hut at a cost of £3000.

Archdeacon West became an active member of the Wagga Mayor's Patriotic and War Fund.

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Archdeacon West was a Diocesan Councillor of the Church of England and was one of the trustees of the Church orphanage at Goulburn.

Mrs. West was particularly interested in this orphanage and made herself responsible for raising the Wagga parish's contribution to its upkeep.

He is survived by his wife, his niece Patricia (Mrs. E. Harria of Wagga), 3 sisters Misses Ida and Kathleen of Mosman, and (Mrs. Lofberg of Rockdale), 2 brothers (Ernest of Mosman, and Hilson of St. Ives).

Even though a sick man he did not spare himself for one moment during the war years.

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The late Archdeacon West