

JAMES ARTHUR ALDINGTON

James Arthur Aldington was born in Kings Norton (Birmingham) 1854 and entered the ministry 1874

He married Julia Ann Baker in Eastry, Kent, in September 1880 and they were later to have two daughters: Mabel Julia in 1885 and Clara Maud in 1890.

Arthur and Julia Aldington came to Maidenhead in September 1900, along with their two daughters, to live for three years at 7 Marlow Road.

Arthur's stay in Maidenhead, along with that of his wife Julia, was greatly appreciated as is witnessed by words spoken at various gatherings prior to their departure three years later:

PRESENTATION TO THE REV J. A. ALDINGTON

A number of friends connected with the Maidenhead Wesleyan Church resolved to give some tangible mark of their appreciation of the services of their pastor (Rev J A Aldington) who leaves at the end of his three years' term of service. The matter had been in the hands of Mr Ford, the Society Steward, who collected a sufficient sum to purchase a handsome roller-top writing desk with silver inscription plate. The subscribers having assembled in the class room, Mr J W Walker occupied the chair and made the presentation to Mr Aldington, saying how highly the friends appreciated the labours of their minister, and particularly emphasising the extreme valuable services of Mrs Aldington.

A few words were then spoken by representatives of different departments of church work: Mr Upson, as circuit steward representing the circuit; Mr Ford the church members; Mr Truscott the Sunday School; Mr Spencer the choir; Mr Tomkins the sidesmen; Mrs Truscott the Ladies Sewing Meeting; Mr Lawrence the Mutual Improvement Society; and Mr Thorn the class leaders.

The Rev J A Aldington feelingly responded and the meeting was led in prayer by Mrs Theo Hewitt.

REV J. A. ALDINGTON'S FAREWELL SERVICES

The Rev J.A. Aldington concluded his three years' ministry in the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Wesleyan Circuit on Sunday when he preached to large congregations at Maidenhead. After the evening sermon he addressed a few words to the congregation expressive of his thanks for the kindness shown him during his three years' ministry. He said he had been extremely happy in his work and could not recall an unkind word from any officer or member during his term of service at Maidenhead. He regretted the time had come when, by the Conference rules, he was obliged to remove from Maidenhead, but he hoped his successor would be as happy in his work as he had been.

The Mothers' Meeting in connection with the church have presented Mr Aldington with a large and very handsome album, bound in morocco, containing photographic views of the Maidenhead and Windsor and other chapels in the circuit and of scenes in Maidenhead and district. The album was suitably inscribed, and it was handed to Mr Aldington by Mrs Upson, President of the Mothers' meeting, who spoke of the mothers' appreciation of his

visits to their meetings. Mr Aldington, who was taken quite by surprise, acknowledged the gift in a few appropriate sentences.

Mr Aldington's successor is the Rev Wm T Gill of Bodmin, Cornwall, who has been 26 years in the ministry and has travelled in some of the most important circuits of Methodism.

THE CIRCUIT MEETING

Mr Upson, as Senior Circuit Steward, proposed a very hearty thanks to the Rev. J.A. Aldington for his work in the circuit during his term of three years. He spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr Aldington's special interest in the young people of the Maidenhead church, of the earnest and conscientious performance of all the duties devolving upon him as a minister and as a pastor, and expressed the general feeling of regret at his departure.

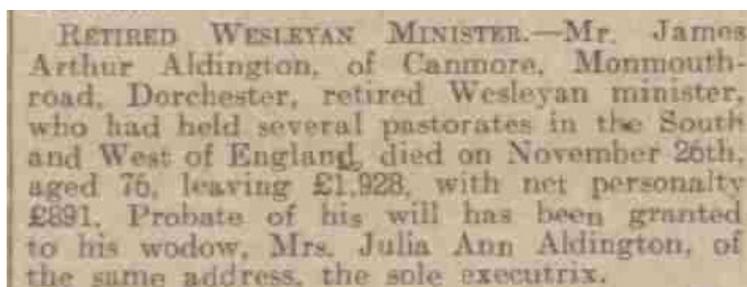
Mrs Upson acknowledged the admirable assistance rendered her husband, especially in connection with the Maidenhead church, by Mrs Aldington, humorously remarking that she was "as good as a third man in the circuit"

While at Bideford his daughter, Mabel Julia, was married to Alfred H Edwards son of the Borough Treasurer.

At the Bideford Wesleyan Church on Sunday evening there was a very large congregation, when the Rev J.A. Aldington, Superintendent minister, who is proceeding to Teignmouth, preached his farewell sermon. The solo "Crossing the Bar" was beautifully sung by Mrs Grove, jnr.

At the conclusion of the service Mr Aldington thanked members and officers of the Church for their loyal co-operation during his ministry. He was deeply touched and greatly encouraged by their sympathy manifested toward him and for their prayers during Mrs Aldington's illness. He was not given to flattery, but he desired to take that opportunity of expressing his appreciation and admiration of their organisation and business-like method applied to the conduct of the several branches of the Church's work. (August 1912)

James Arthur Aldington died in Dorchester on November 26th 1930 aged 76 predeceasing his wife Julia who died, also in Dorchester, in June 1937



RETIRED WESLEYAN MINISTER.—Mr. James Arthur Aldington, of Canmore, Monmouth-road, Dorchester, retired Wesleyan minister, who had held several pastorates in the South and West of England, died on November 26th, aged 76, leaving £1,928, with net personalty £891. Probate of his will has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Julia Ann Aldington, of the same address, the sole executrix.