

STEPHEN BURROW

Stephen Burrow was born in March 1860 in the village of Martley, Worcestershire the son of John Burrow proprietor of a small machine shop.

In September 1888 he married he married Elizabeth Anne Fieldhouse; they had no children

The few following newspaper extracts give a part illustration of his ability and character

Following his arrival in Maidenhead

“THE REV STEPHEN BURROW commenced his ministry as superintendent of the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Wesleyan Circuit on Sunday last, when he conducted anniversary services at the Maidenhead Wesleyan Church, and preached two able and helpful sermons. In the morning an appropriate discourse was based upon the text - “So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof, for the people had a mind to work’ (Neh iv. 6). The evening sermon was on St Paul’s words ‘I am not ashamed of the Gospel’.

Before the last hymn Mr Burrow expressed the hope that his association with the Maidenhead Wesleyan Church and the Circuit generally would be happy and successful, and that he might be permitted not only to share in the joys of the members of the Church and congregation, but also to sympathise with them in times of trouble and sorrow, and to offer all the help and comfort he could”

(8 September 1906)

Following his arrival in Bath

WESLEYAN PREACHER’S PROTEST IN BATH

“The Rev Stephen Burrow preached at New King Street Church yesterday morning from the closing words of the parable of the Good Samaritan, ‘Which of these was neighbour unto him that fell among the robbers?’ He that showed mercy on him’, and made impressive reference to the cruelties now being practiced in the Congo. He said that one man above all others who was responsible for the indescribable brutalities now prevailing was the King of the Belgians, who, when he claimed possession of that great territory professed to be anxious to administer it in the interest of the natives, but had neglected to secure for them even the barest elements of good government and had sacrificed every principle of justice and humanity to the accumulation of vast riches for his own personal benefit. He had allowed his agents to inflict upon the natives who gathered his wealth such unspeakable cruelties as rivalled the horrors of the worst days of the African slave trade. It was the duty of all Christians to support all public demonstrations, without distinction of party, for the purpose of calling attention to the bitter cry of the outraged, maimed and cruelly treated Congo natives”.

(16 December 1909)

Following the death of King Edward the Seventh, Stephen preached the following sermon at the New King Street Wesleyan Church, on the 8th May 1910.

“Our thoughts turn this morning to the royal family of the land, and our hearts go out towards them in sincere and heartfelt sympathy. The Angel of Death has entered the Palace, and with appalling suddenness has stricken down the head of this great nation. The King is dead, and throughout the Empire, throughout the civilised world, there is a deep and unaffected sorrow.

A little more than nine years ago, when she, who reigned over the land for more than sixty years, and who was a great Gift of God to this country, passed away, he, whom we had known for so long as Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, ascended the throne, and we became the subjects of Edward the Seventh. His people heard with intense satisfaction his resolve to follow in his mother’s footsteps and of that word he was not unmindful.

Who can forget the King’s keen disappointment at the outset of his reign. For his Coronation unexampled preparations were made, and all went merry as a marriage bell, when, like a bolt from the blue, it was announced that he whose presence was indispensable, was in the grip of disease. Instead of the Coronation Chair there was the bed of suffering; instead of the Abbey, the sick room. Who can tell what tender, gracious thoughts came to him in the quiet of those days, what sacred vows were registered! I believe that out of that sickness and disappointment, good came to him and his people. ‘Will my people ever forgive me?’ he cried on regaining consciousness after the operation. There was nothing to forgive.

Without attempting to deal fully with the character and reign of the late King, I may venture to say these few words. For his great position he had undoubted gifts, consummate tact and a wide knowledge of affairs, broad sympathies, and a nature open and generous. He had a deep sympathy with the sons and daughters of pain, and took a genuine interest in all schemes for their relief. His Hospital Fund gave evidence of his strong desire to help that noble and deserving cause. He was always ready to exert his great influence on behalf of the stricken and afflicted, and many of these will gratefully cherish his memory. His broad-mindedness was often demonstrated. It was a source of rejoicing to multitudes that he invited General Booth to meet him. That act silenced some critics, and encouraged a brave old man, who had toiled for the uplifting of his fellows.

One of the finest features of King Edward’s reign has been his successful effort to promote peace and goodwill among men and nations. A nation, between whom and ourselves relations were sometimes seriously strained, he restored to a degree of friendliness unknown for many years. The sacred cause of international peace had in him an earnest and devoted advocate, and with rare wisdom and discretion he served its interests.

Distinctive titles have been given to some of the Rulers of this land, but I am sure that there is no better, happier title than that earned by our late King, who will be known in years to come as “Edward the Peacemaker”. May all princes and rulers catch this spirit, and may peace-lovers be multiplied throughout the world..

The King is dead, and his death is a great national loss. We mourn the loss of a great Constitutional Monarch, and one of the most popular and best loved of English Kings. We, and other Christians, often prayed for him during his reign. It was not granted to him “long to reign”, but we may humbly hope that after this life he has attained “everlasting joy and felicity”

We pray today for the Widowed Queen - “a Queen by worldly pride unstained, unspoiled by all the pomp of power”. When she touched these shores, nearly fifty years ago, she won all English hearts and she has never lost them. She has been in the school of sorrow. The loss of her eldest son was to her a crushing blow, and now that a heavier blow has fallen, she may be assured that the sympathy of the nation will not fail her. And she will be remembered where it is good to be remembered at the Throne of Grace.

While we pray for all the members of the Royal family, perhaps the one who most needs our prayers is he who is called to ascend the Throne and fill the vacant place. It is no easy task to which he puts his hands. Wisdom and judgement, tact and insight, the highest qualities of mind and heart he will undoubtedly need. He has the good wishes of his subjects, let him have our prayers also, that in his exalted position he may truly serve God, and promote the highest interests of the Great Empire over which he rules”

Stephen Burrow died in Tamworth in June 1930 aged 70