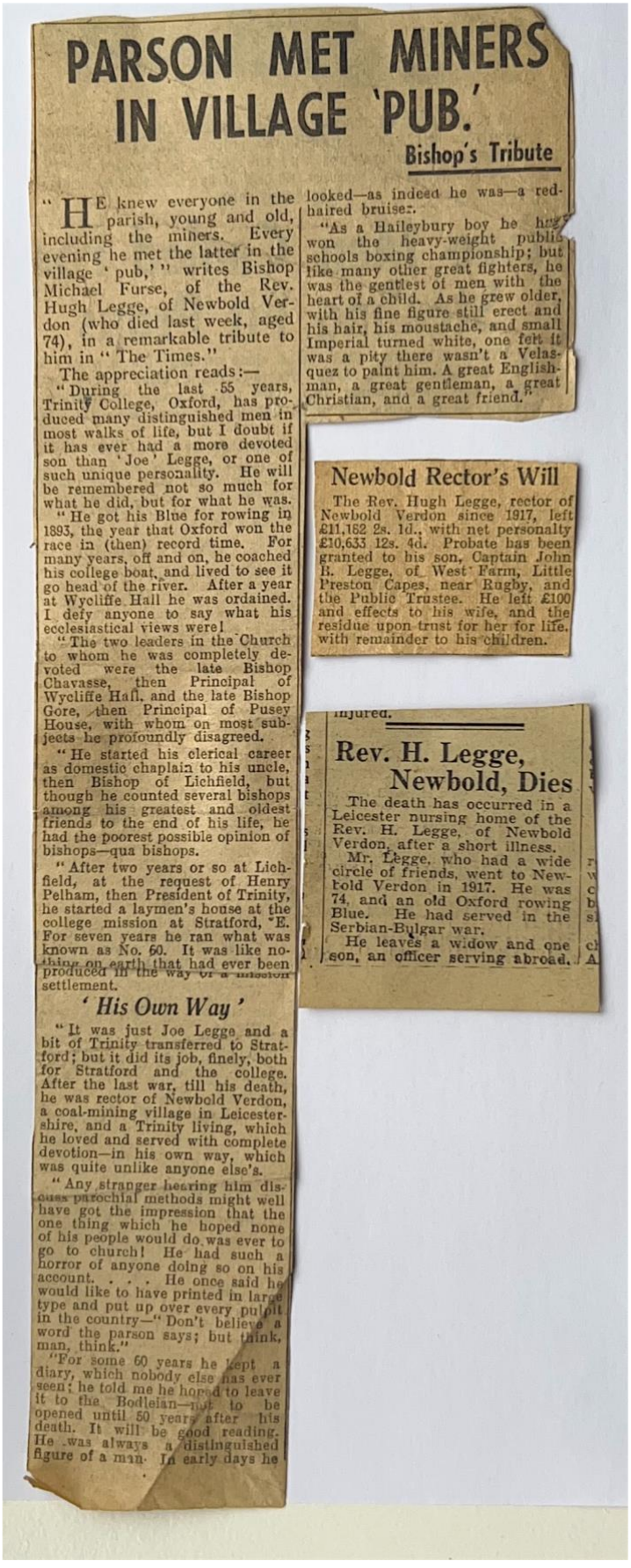
RK366 Aldyth Emmerson's Loose Press Cuttings Physical Archive
October 1944

Three pieces noting and paying tribute to the Rev. Hugh Legge, rector of Newbold Verdon 1917-1944



PARSON MET MINERS IN VILLAGE 'PUB.'

Bishop's Tribute

"HE knew everyone in the parish, young and old, including the miners. Every evening he met the latter in the village 'pub,'" writes Bishop Michael Furse, of the Rev. Hugh Legge, of Newbold Verdon (who died last week, aged 74), in a remarkable tribute to him in "The Times."

The appreciation reads:—

"During the last 55 years, Trinity College, Oxford, has produced many distinguished men in most walks of life, but I doubt if it has ever had a more devoted son than 'Joe' Legge, or one of such unique personality. He will be remembered not so much for what he did, but for what he was.

"He got his Blue for rowing in 1893, the year that Oxford won the race in (then) record time. For many years, off and on, he coached his college boat, and lived to see it go head of the river. After a year at Wycliffe Hall he was ordained. I defy anyone to say what his ecclesiastical views were!

"The two leaders in the Church to whom he was completely devoted were the late Bishop Chavasse, then Principal of Wycliffe Hall, and the late Bishop Gore, then Principal of Pusey House, with whom on most subjects he profoundly disagreed.

"He started his clerical career as domestic chaplain to his uncle, then Bishop of Lichfield, but though he counted several bishops among his greatest and oldest friends to the end of his life, he had the poorest possible opinion of bishops—qua bishops.

"After two years or so at Lichfield, at the request of Henry Pelham, then President of Trinity, he started a laymen's house at the college mission at Stratford, E. For seven years he ran what was known as No. 60. It was like nothing on earth that had ever been produced in the way of a mission settlement.

'His Own Way'

"It was just Joe Legge and a bit of Trinity transferred to Stratford; but it did its job, finely, both for Stratford and the college. After the last war, till his death, he was rector of Newbold Verdon, a coal-mining village in Leicestershire, and a Trinity living, which he loved and served with complete devotion—in his own way, which was quite unlike anyone else's.

"Any stranger hearing him discuss parochial methods might well have got the impression that the one thing which he hoped none of his people would do was ever to go to church! He had such a horror of anyone doing so on his account. . . . He once said he would like to have printed in large type and put up over every pulpit in the country—'Don't believe a word the parson says; but think, man, think.'

"For some 60 years he kept a diary, which nobody else has ever seen; he told me he hoped to leave it to the Bodleian—not to be opened until 50 years after his death. It will be good reading. He was always a distinguished figure of a man. In early days he looked—as indeed he was—a red-haired bruiser.

"As a Haileybury boy he had won the heavy-weight public schools boxing championship; but like many other great fighters, he was the gentlest of men with the heart of a child. As he grew older, with his fine figure still erect and his hair, his moustache, and small Imperial turned white, one felt it was a pity there wasn't a Velasquez to paint him. A great Englishman, a great gentleman, a great Christian, and a great friend."

Newbold Rector's Will

The Rev. Hugh Legge, rector of Newbold Verdon since 1917, left £11,162 2s. 1d., with net personalty £10,633 12s. 4d. Probate has been granted to his son, Captain John B. Legge, of West Farm, Little Preston Capes, near Rugby, and the Public Trustee. He left £100 and effects to his wife, and the residue upon trust for her for life, with remainder to his children.

injured.

Rev. H. Legge, Newbold, Dies

The death has occurred in a Leicester nursing home of the Rev. H. Legge, of Newbold Verdon, after a short illness.

Mr. Legge, who had a wide circle of friends, went to Newbold Verdon in 1917. He was 74, and an old Oxford rowing Blue. He had served in the Serbian-Bulgar war.

He leaves a widow and one son, an officer serving abroad.