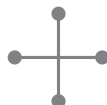


THOMAS PARKER GEORGE



THOMAS GEORGE was born 1871 in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Nothing is known about his education until he attended the missionary training colleges of St Paul's, Burgh and St Augustine's Canterbury. While he was in Canterbury he met future wife Maude Jessie Sanderson, and they were married in September 1896 while he was a deacon - the marriage certificate gives his rank or profession as "gentleman".

He was ordained priest in 1898, and he and his wife had travelled to Jamaica where he was a curate in various parishes on the island between 1896 and 1907. While they were in Jamaica a son was born in 1899 and a daughter in 1901. The family returned to England in 1907 and lived at 25 Polstead Road in Oxford while Thomas read Theology at St John's College and had a role as reader, then precentor in the chapel. While at the college he was also curate at two College livings - at St Giles' from 1907-09, at Kirtlington from 1909-11, and then again at St Giles' from 1911-13. The St Giles' Marriage Registers record him officiating at marriage services in the church.

The March 1914 issue of the *Parish Magazine* records Thomas as preaching on 25 February at the Ash Wednesday service, and also reports on his appointment as Organizing Secretary of the CEMS (Church of England Men's Society) in the Midlands Counties. He was no longer curate at St Giles'.

In 18 September 1914 Thomas was appointed Chaplain to the Forces 4th Class and must have been sent out to France soon afterwards. The *Parish Magazine* reports that he preached again at St Giles' on 13 December at the end of the year, at a Church Parade Service for the 7th Ox and Bucks Light Infantry, when he is described as being "home for a few days from the front".

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In November 1915 The *London Gazette* records that he relinquished his commission in the Army Chaplains Department. His name is next found on ships' Passenger Lists – in April 1917 on the Cunard Line *Orduna* sailing from Liverpool to New York, and again in June 1917 on the African Steam Ship Company *Egori* from Liverpool to West Africa. In both cases he is described as commercial or trader's agent.

The circumstances and link, behind the 1915 *London Gazette* report and the 1917 Passenger Lists, are clarified by the notice of his death in the *Parish Magazine* in April 1918 – ‘....he never recovered from the effects of his experiences as Chaplain, and his death was not altogether unexpected.’

He had died on 12 March 1918 in Quittah, Gold Coast Colony in West Africa aged 48. His burial place is unknown : the exact cause of his death is also unknown. Probate for Thomas' will was granted to his widow, still living at 25 Polstead Road, on 2 June 1918: she continued living in Oxford until her death in June 1941 aged 73.