

Rev. Gordon R. Allen, age 87, died December 7, 2016 at his South Berwick, Maine home, where he had lived since 1995.

Gordon was the 17<sup>th</sup> Rector of St. John's Church Episcopal Church of Portsmouth, serving from 1975 until 2000. Gordon was born in Liverpool, England, proudly served in the British Army (1948-1949) and graduated with three degrees from St. John's College of Durham University, Durham, England (B.A. in Theology, M.A. in History and a licentiate in Theology).

Before becoming a beloved and respected member of the Portsmouth community, Gordon ministered to many, including at Tesso College, Soroti, Uganda, where Gordon served as a missionary teacher and Chaplain from 1958 to 1963, and where Gordon learned several African dialects and became fluent in Swahili. Gordon emigrated to the U.S. in 1968, served as a Chaplain and teacher at Virginia Episcopal School, Lynchburg, VA until 1971 and as Rector of St. John the Baptist Church of Sanbornton, NH from 1971 to 1975.

Although Gordon "retired" from St. John's Episcopal Church in 2000, he continued to serve and care for our Seacoast community: he was a member and helped lead the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army since 1978; as a Director of the Mark Wentworth Home in Portsmouth (1983-2008); as volunteer hospital Chaplain; and by visiting the sick and distressed.

Reverend Allen was a proud member of the Portsmouth Rotary club for 39 years, where he was highly respected and where, at the Thursday luncheon meetings, he gave sometimes whimsical, sometimes deeply thoughtful, and always inspiring invocations. A quintessential gentleman and scholar, Reverend Allen often spoke to foreign Rotary guests in Gaelic, Arabic or Hebrew. Honored twice over as a Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary's highest honor, Reverend Allen was known for his distinct golden Welsh voice, his quick wit, warm smile and friendly tip of his hat.

Gordon is survived by his niece, Julie C. Gaukroger, nephew, Richard S. Mellor, and great nieces, Emma Rowbotham and Sophie Victoria Rowbotham (all of Great Britain) and faithful dog Molly. Gordon was predeceased by his sisters Elaine E. Mellor, Mildred E. Allen and niece Jane V. Rowbotham.

Donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Funeral services for Reverend Allen will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel Street, Portsmouth on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 11:00am, followed by a Celebration of Life reception at adjacent Thaxter Hall. All of Gordon's many friends and neighbors are invited to attend.