

EULOGY

For Rev. Deacon Harry Potts

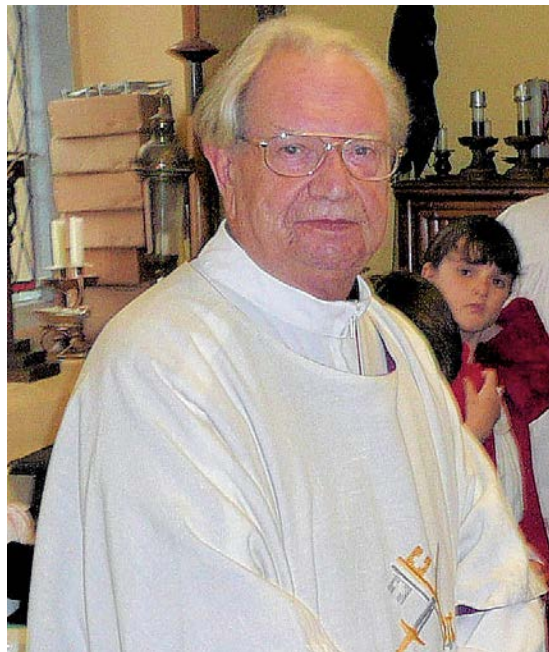
By Mary Potts

Read at his Funeral Mass

on

Friday 1st July 2016

By Penny Medland



The Church of The English Martyrs

Chard

**Photo - Harry in the Sacristy before Mass
1st August 2008**

EULOGY

Harry was born in 1928 at Macclesfield in Cheshire where he went to school and grew up. At 16, he decided on a railway career and started as a clerk at Macclesfield station. Conscripted into the Royal Engineers came at 18 and last two years. His army service was entirely in Egypt and Israel, as there was much unrest there. While in Jerusalem during a heavy attack, he evacuated quite a large crowd of people to safety and, consequently, he was 'mentioned in dispatches' as it was termed. Coming back to his railway employment, he quite soon applied for and was given his first job as Station Master at a small station in Lancashire.

In 1951 he met Mary, a Londoner, who had recently moved with family to Cheshire. Almost exactly a year later they were married with wholehearted approval of parents. Harry's brother was only 12 years at that time. He sadly died three years ago after a long illness and was much mourned and missed by Harry who had always been very close to him.

In the next 12 years after they were married, Harry and Mary had 3 daughters and twin sons. They also did 4 house removals in that time due to promotion. There were eventually two more moves, first to Derby and lastly to Crewe. Harry's last position was Stoke-on-Trent Divisional Operating Superintendent; as this included Crewe, it was not necessary to move house this time.

In 1983, Harry took the option of early retirement, turning down a post at a London terminus. The next option was where to retire to and the West Country was decided on. In 1984 Harry and Mary moved to the Chard area and found themselves looking for the Catholic Church on the first Sunday after arriving there. It was in

the middle 1970s that both Harry and Mary had been received into the Church while living in Crewe.

Harry and Fr O'Brien, as he was then, soon became good friends which lasted to the end, with great mutual respect, loyalty and affection. At the time, Fr O'Brien made it clear he didn't want a deacon. After about three years, Harry had decided he must put it to him that he would like to train for the Diaconate. Fr O'Brien replied "Harry, that's what I've been praying for."

In October 1992, Harry was ordained Deacon at Clifton Cathedral with many parishioners, family and friends present. He always remembered this as a most special and memorable day. He was always touched by the warmth and encouragement he received and felt loved and supported in everything he did.

A hymn he chose at his ordination had a line he made his own:

"I will hold your people in my heart."

That is what he did.

Our son, Adrian, died suddenly at 49 years old six years ago, which was a great shock and sadness.

Harry died peacefully at Yeatman Hospital in Sherborne on the 9th of June. He will be buried at Ashill Church cemetery, next to Adrian.