

JOHN GEORGE GREGORY 1827 - 1918

Isle of Wight Hymnwriter

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John Georg Gregory was born in Lambeth London on 16th January 1827 and educated at the Manor House Academy, Croydon and the up to Queens College, Cambridge matriculating Michaelmas 1849. He became a Caius College, Cambridge pensioner April 1851, and a degree in 1853. Ordained at Worcester 1853 and had three curacies before becoming incumbent Nechells, Birmingham and Rector of Bonchurch, IW 1862 - 1869.

His main work was the compilation in 1868 of the Bonchurch Hymn Book for use in Public Worship, Devotional Meetings and Schools and published in London and by Knight & Son, High Street, Ventnor.

It has a table of hymns suitable for Christian Seasons, 250 hymns in the main work and also 50 hymns for children arranged alphabetically. The author contributed twenty-one hymns to this work.



No 16 Bind us to Thee, Lord, we pray,
Closer, firmer, day by day;
Purer, truer, let us be,
As we serve and worship Thee.

Teach us better to discern
Good from evil, and to learn
Daily to pursue Thy ways,
Living only to Thy praise.

Fill our hearts with faith and love;
Fix them on the things above;

That we may with growing power,
Serve Thee till life's latest hour.

For yon world shall soon unseal
Its vast glories and reveal
To our wondering eyes the sight
Keep in store for saints in light

And till then we must pursue,
With the glorious prize in view,
Through the hardships of the way,
To the Everlasting Day.

1861

The third edition was published for use of his congregation at Park Chapel, Chelsea where Mr Gregory was Incumbent

1878

For 19 years Emmanuel Church, Hove - Re-arranged his hymn-book

1897

Vicar of Christ Church, Leamington

1907

Retires to Hove in Sussex and dies there 14 September 1918

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