Ruardean Organist for 36 Years

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. Ernest Watkins (74), which took place at his home, The Manse, Ruardean, on Thursday of last week.

Mr Watkins retired twelve years ago after being employed as a collier for 48 years at Trafalgar and Waterloo Collieries. For 36 years he was organist and choirmaster at the Congregational Chapel, Ruardean, and two years ago he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding.

The funeral took place at Ruardean Parish Church on Monday. The Rector (the Rev. R. C. Stebbing) officiating.

Principal mourners at the house were: wife and Minnie (daughter-in-law). At the funeral: Gilbert, William, Maurice, Clifford and Dennis (sons), Daisy and Audrey (daughters), Tom (brother-in-law), Linda (daughter-in-law), Tony (grandson). Mr. H Roberts (uncle), Messrs. W Jones, C Watkins, G Roberts and Mrs. F White (cousins), Mrs. Cyril Watkins (niece), Mr. C Watkins, Mr. B Stephens (nephews). The bearers were: Messrs. G Jones, A Phillpots, R Bloomfield, A Howells.

Indisposition prevented Edna, the youngest daughter, from being present, also Bessie, only sister.

Wreaths were sent by: Wife; Will, Cliff and Den; Gilbert. Minnie and David; Daisy and Joan; Audrey, Alf and Barbara; Maurice, Linda and grandchildren; Edna, Jeff and Maureen; Sister Bess, Tom and family; Ada, Bert, Emily, Roy;; Nephews and Nieces (Church Villas); Nephews and Nieces (The Square); Brain's family (Drybrook); Kenny, Fred and family; Eva, Kathleen Mt. and Mrs. Brooks; Linda and family (Cinderford); Mr. T. Dean; MR. and Mrs. Hill; and Mrs. F. Linley; Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibbs; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Knight; Mrs. Peates; Bell Hotel; Mr. and Mrs A. Howells and David; Mrs Gardiner and family; Mr. and Mrs. Bloomfield and family; Mr. and Mrs. W. Beard; Staff at The Square; Brotherhood and Sisterhood; Ruardean A.F.C.; Ruardean Silver Band.

