

By Henry Bury

THE INTELLIGENCER

St. Thomas Anglican Church was the setting today for a funeral for "the very model of a good Christian layman."

Bill Grimson, the church treasurer and retired superintendent of business for the Hastings County Board of Education died of cancer Tuesday at Belleville hospital.

He was 62 years old.

"It's a huge loss to St. Thomas," said Rev. Peter Joyce, who has been church rector since 1999.

"Bill exemplified dedication to the church community and to the community at large through the church. He was a man who lived his faith in every way, the way he greeted you with a smile, the way he went out of his way to help other. He was a man of great integrity, the model of a perfect layman," said Joyce.

Mr. Grimson was heavily involved in the life of St. Thomas, initially as a warden and then treasurer. He was also active at the diocesan level and even wrote a book for the diocese, The Church Warden's Guide.

His wife, Linda, is part-time church secretary at St. Thomas.

Mr. Grimson also served as treasurer of Living Hope Community Meals since its inception eight years

ago.

In an interview last year, Mr. Grimson said the "bottom line" has always been important to him, considering that his 34-year career revolved around financial matters.

The Quinte Secondary School graduate earned his Chartered Accountant's designation in 1970

his early retirement in December of 1995.

Dave Rutherford, superintendent of business for the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, worked for Mr. Grimson for 13 years and succeeded him in the post.

"He was a great mentor to me, not only in our common field of accounting but also the greater field of school board business," Rutherford said. "He was a consummate professional who had a great rapport with all types of people in the school system."

"He had a great sense of humour and treated everyone with respect...he will be missed by all walks of life."

Mr. Grimson was diagnosed and treated for Non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 1997 and later talked to cancer patients about his experience with chemotherapy. Ironically, it was cancer that returned and claimed his life.

Mr. Grimson is survived by his wife, Linda, and two children, Robert and Debora (Solariski), a brother, Chuck, and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation is at the Burke Funeral Home on Church Street today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Funeral service will be held today at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas.

and joined the former Hastings public school board as manager of accounting. He subsequently became the assistant superintendent of business and, in September of 1988, took over as superintendent of business.

Mr. Grimson served as the board's chief financial officer until