

James Ingall Wedgwood

(1883-1951)

Founder of the LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH and a prominent member of the Theosophical Society – Adyar.



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He was born in London, England, into well-known pottery manufacturing family. After leaving school, the young Wedgwood entered University College, Nottingham, to prepare for life as an analytical chemist, but on completing this course he transferred his energies to the learning of the church organ at York Minster. Four years later he decided to prepare for Holy Orders in this Anglo-Catholic diocese of the Anglican Church. Instead he found himself suddenly converted to Theosophy. Having once before been reluctantly impressed on hearing an address by Annie BESANT, he went to hear her when she visited York. Notwithstanding his resolve to resist, he was entirely won over, resulting in his instant dismissal from York Minster.

Wedgwood relinquished all claims on the family business in return for a small but adequate income. Then, within a very short time after joining the Theosophical Society, he was able to help with lectures, and to serve as General Secretary for the Society in England and Wales (1911-13). Subsequently he became the organizer in England for the new Co-Masonic movement. In 1913 he heard of the existence of the Old Catholic Church in