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Lawrence Tuttiett

Litvack, L. (2004). Lawrence Tuttiett. In *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/27901>

Published in:
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Tuttiett, Lawrence

(1825–1897)

E. I. Carlyle, revised by Leon Litvack

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/27901>

Published in print: 23 September 2004

Published online: 23 September 2004

Tuttiett, Lawrence (1825–1897), hymn writer, was born at Cloyton, Devon, the son of John Tuttiett, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, and Ann Rayner. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and at King's College, London. He originally intended to devote himself to the study of medicine, but, changing his purpose, he was ordained deacon in 1848 and priest in 1849. At the beginning of his ministry he was under the influence of Charles Kingsley and F. D. Maurice, but in later life he adopted the high-church principles of E. B. Pusey. In 1848 he became curate at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, where the Tractarian William James Early Bennett was then vicar, and between 1849 and 1853 was successively curate of St Thomas and Holy Trinity churches, Ryde. He married Helen Carnegie Hunter (1823–1884); they had a son and two daughters. In 1853 Tuttiett was appointed vicar of Lea Marston in Warwickshire, and in 1870 exchanged incumbencies with the rector of St Andrews in Scotland. In 1877 he was nominated canon of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. He spent his last years in retirement at Pitlochry, but died on 21 May 1897 from cardiac disease at 3 Abbotsford Crescent, St Andrews, while on a visit to the town. He was buried in St Andrews.

Tuttiett is best known as a hymn writer. Much of his verse, composed on returning from visitations of the sick or burial of the dead, was conceived to express the consolatory thoughts suggested to him by what he had seen or heard. His adherence to these guidelines resulted in hymns which were characterized by a simplicity of style and a deep earnestness, including 'Oh quickly come, dread judge of all' and 'Give light, O Lord, that we may learn'. He published a number of influential collections, including *Hymns for Churchmen* (1854) and *Through the Clouds: Thoughts in Plain Verse* (1866). He also wrote hymns for children, issued as *Hymns for the Children of the Church* (1862), and published many devotional treatises, including *Germes of Thought on the Sunday Services* (1864), *Amen: its True Meaning and Proper Use* (1868), and *Meditations on the Book of Common Prayer* (1872).

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[Helen Carnegie Hunter]

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