

A SHORT HISTORY LEADING UP TO AND THE FOUNDING OF

WALES UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Written by Hannah Robinson (nee Mallender)
Daughter of George Mallender (one of the founders)*



P R E F A C E

This little history of Before, When and After our Wales Methodist Chapel was built, was written by my mother Hannah Robinson (nee Mallender).

My two grandfathers, George Mallender and Edward Cookson Robinson, were two of the founders; my two grandmothers were founder members.

I should like to dedicate this booklet of my mother's account of those early days of Methodism in Wales village to the memory of my grandparents, Robinson and Mallender, also to my parents, George Edward and Hannah Robinson, my sister Hannah and brothers John, Alfred and Ernest, all of whom had great Love and Faith in Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Also, I sincerely thank my friends Margaret and Kevan Kidger for helping me to compile this booklet.

Rose R. Betteridge

January, 1998

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For nearly thirty years before we had a chapel, a Methodist Service was held on Sunday afternoons in the home of Mr. & Mrs. G. Kitchen, farmer of Wales. This little Society was joined to the Chesterfield Circuit and served by local preachers from that Circuit. They remained with Chesterfield until the break away from the Wesleys; then Wales withdrew from Chesterfield and joined the Sheffield Surrey Street Circuit,

While in the Chesterfield Circuit one or two faint-hearted members of Wales wanted to close the services altogether as so little progress was made. Mr. Kitchen replied "While the preachers will come to preach to us, my door shall never be closed against them."

And they carried on. The dissatisfied members caused division and made the work harder but the faithful few persevered.

This was the condition of the society when Mr. Edward Robinson came to live at Wales in 1849. Mr. Robinson joined the Methodist Society and became a very helpful member. He also attended the services at the Parish Church morning and evening, as most of the Methodists did.

Mr. Robinson was a flute player, and when the Curate for Wales knew this, he invited Mr. Robinson to take his flute to Church to help lead the Praise. It was lead by one violin and a bass, so the flute was a welcome addition, and Mr. Robinson played in the Church for several years. Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Robinson soon became close friends, having much in common in their spiritual life and aspirations. A week-night class meeting was arranged and the Society appointed Mr. Robinson as their leader, a position he held to his death at 83. Mr. Robinson also attended a midweek class meeting over at Harthill very regularly. Whenever he spoke of this meeting he used to say "I went to get my spiritual strength renewed and never came away disappointed."

The little society at Wales prayed believingly that God would prosper their efforts and that men and women would be converted. After years of patient faith their prayers were answered.



Step Cottage, home of Mr. & Mrs. Robinson taken in 1896

During the 1860's a revival broke out and the Spirit worked on the hearts of men and women, and especially those connected with the praying people. Young men and women attended the afternoon services, conversions took place, and the converts swelled the numbers attending class meetings. For a considerable time there was a gradual ingathering. Additional prayer meetings were arranged and these were held sometimes in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Robinson (who had been married at Surrey Street Chapel in 1858) and sometimes at my Grandfather's, John Mallender. My Grandmother, a devoted Saint, had prayed for years for the conversion of her family, and during this revival had the joy of seeing most of her children converted and working for a chapel.

The Society decided now to enlarge the services and have a Sunday evening service. My father offered his house at Waleswood and the afternoon continued at Mr. Kitchen's. The membership was now fairly even between Wales and Waleswood,



Toll Bar, Old Waleswood, home of Mr. & Mrs. G. Mallender

with Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson at Wales Bar. As the Society was now served by Surrey Street and the preachers had to return to Sheffield by a train from Beighton station at about 8.30 pm, it was an advantage to hold the evening service at Waleswood. On dark nights my father used to take his lantern and accompany the preacher down the lane and see him safe on the main road for the station. Many a preacher said he would never have found his way down that lane without the light.

The first preacher to serve Wales and Waleswood after the new arrangement was Mr. William England, a young man of 20, on trial, who delighted his congregation by preaching two evangelical sermons. The following Sunday the preacher was Mr. E.J. Hattersley. Both men had a warm place in the hearts of Wales society and they gave a life time of service to the Surrey Street Circuit.

Two class meetings were arranged, Mr. Kitchen appointed leader for Wales on Tuesday evenings and Mr. Robinson to conduct a class meeting at Waleswood on Thursday. There was a good Christian woman named Mrs. Parnell who lived in the house later occupied by the Froggatt family. She offered her house for the class meeting, and her offer was accepted.



Mrs. Parnell's cottage (showing the Froggatt family in this photograph)

The congregations increased and during the first winter they began to feel the need of a chapel in which to worship God. The minister at Surrey Street was the Rev. Sunman and he undertook to write to the Duke of Leeds about a piece of land on which to build a chapel. The Duke's lawyer replied "The Duke would grant a piece of land, but they could only have it for the life time of the present Duke." These terms were unacceptable and the Society decided to wait a further period.

The following year a new minister came to Surrey Street, the Rev. Vickridge. When he saw how the Wales cause was struggling on, he decided to write to the Duke about land on which to build a chapel. He received the reply that "the Duke would allot them a piece of land in Wales on a 99-year lease at a rental of 5/- per year." These terms were thankfully received, and no time lost in making preliminary arrangements. During the first week in March, 1868 the Duke's agent marked out the land and handed it over to the appointed trust. No time was lost in getting the work put in hand and they were soon busy digging out the foundations.

A meeting of all members was called to be held in Mr. Kitchen's house to decide how to raise the money to help pay for the chapel. Many of the members got their living at the colliery and were on half time, but they were not daunted and exercised Faith. They decided to give on Promise to give by a certain time to the best of their ability. Mr. Kitchen headed the list by promising £10 (a very big sum in those days). Several promised £5, others £4, £3, £2 and £1, every member making a promise and all very thankful for the result. I remember my father telling me when he got home that night that mother asked him "What kind of meeting have you had?" and he replied "A grand meeting" and named the total promised (I forget it) "and I've promised £5 of it." Mother said "I don't know where it will come from for we haven't £5 in the world to call our own", to which father replied "I know we haven't, but I've faith to believe it will come." It did come later but had to be worked very hard for in the harvest field, for work at the colliery did not improve.

Father took the harvesting on for a farmer, and mother took her three children to the harvest field and she made bands and took up while father did the mowing, for all corn in that day had to be cut with a scythe and sickle, and they earned the £5 for the chapel.

While work was going on, on the foundations, my father was impressed by the thoughts that a Sunday School would be needed when the chapel was built and they ought to work one up. The thought would not be dismissed but pressed home, so he told mother about it and wondered if they could gather a few scholars in their house on Sunday mornings. Mother replied "If you would like to do that, I will help by getting the house ready and I can strike the tunes and lead the singing. The following Sunday night after service he placed the matter before the Society and told them what he and his wife were prepared to do.

The late Mrs. Wragg told me she was present in that service (a girl of 9) and every member gave their blessing to it, and it was decided there and then that the first Sunday School service should be held the following Sunday at 11.00 am. No record was kept of the date when the Sunday School started but it was during April. That Sunday morning my father set out with my two older sisters aged 7 and 5 years, on the mission of gathering scholars. They called at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Wilson at Wales Bar and asked if their two children Joseph and Emily could go with them to help sing. The little band went down to Pigeon Bridge as it was called then, Waleswood Colliery. They sang a hymn and soon a number of folk had come out of their houses to listen. Then father told them of the chapel that was to be built for the worship of God; also that they were starting a Sunday School service on Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock. He gave an invitation for parents, who allowed their children to play all the Sabbath, to let them spend an hour at Waleswood Sunday School. A mother called her two children to have their coats on and go with Mr. Mallender; others did likewise. He went down with four scholars but came back with nine. When they reached Wales Bar three girls from Wales joined them - Mary Stenton, Sarah Ann Robinson and Mary Ann Oxley (later Mrs. Wragg). On arrival at the cottage three children had gathered so that 15 children attended the first Sunday School service.

The numbers grew and in two months Mrs. Parnell's house was used too. Mr. Robinson offered his help and he and father decided to divide the school into two classes - the seniors to meet in Mrs. Parnell's with Mr. Robinson as teacher, and the juniors to remain at the cottage with father. They were now very comfortably placed.

One church member said "Our Sunday School is such a success, we ought to have special services for the children during the summer and hold the services in the open air." This took on and the plan was consulted. The preacher for Wales and Waleswood on the last Sunday in June (Wales Feast Sunday) was Rev. E. Vickridge and it was decided that that should be the day of special services - a kind of Sunday School Anniversary. Mr. Vickridge was loved by all and a favourite with the children. Mr. Robinson practised the children in children's hymns from the hymn book in use at that time. Two children learned recitations - William Skinner Price learned a poem on 'Helping one another' and Mary Mallender a poem on 'The Bible'. These are given below:

Helping one another

A man very lame was a little to blame
To stray far from his humble abode.
Hot, thirsty and heartily tired
He laid himself down in the road.

Whilst thus he reclined a man who was blind
Came by, and entreated his aid.
"Deprived of my sight unassisted tonight
I shall not reach home I'm afraid."

"Intelligence give of the place where you live"
Said the cripple "perhaps I may know it.
In my road it may be, and if you'll carry me
It will give me much pleasure to show it".

"Great strength you have got which alas I have not,
In my legs so fatigued every nerve is.
For the use of your back for the eyes which you lack,
My pair shall be at your service."

Said the other poor man "What an excellent plan,
Pray get on my shoulder, good brother."
You see all mankind, if they are but inclined,
May constantly help one another.

The Bible

A little girl with a happy look,
Sat closely reading a ponderous book.
All bound with velvet and edged with gold,
Its weight was more than she could hold.
Yet dearly she loved to ponder it o'er,
And every day she prized it more,
For it said - as she looked at her smiling mother -
Little children should love each other.

She thought it was beautiful in the book
And the lesson home to her heart she took.
She walked on her way, with a trusting grace
And with a dove-like look in her meek young face,
Which said, as plain as words could say,
The Holy Bible I must obey.

This was to be a great day and was well advertised by talking about it wherever the members went.

That June Sunday morning was glorious and the air full of bird song. During the morning, farmer Hibbotson brought his large wagon (cleaned specially for the purpose) into the croft at Waleswood where the services were to be held, and placed it conveniently to act as a pulpit for preacher and platform for as many children as possible. A small table was placed with Bible and hymn book and a chair for the Minister. As soon as dinner was over in the hamlet every householder carried their chairs, stools, forms, couches, in fact anything that could be used for seating was arranged to accommodate the congregations.

Every seat was occupied for the afternoon service and a very enjoyable time, but the climax came with the evening service. When the Minister went to take his place, the croft was full of people. Visitors came from Beighton, Killamarsh, Harthill, Kiveton Park, Anston, Todwick, Aston, Swallownest, as well as nearer places. It was estimated there were about 300 people attended that service. Seating was altogether inadequate, many spreading hankies on the grass and making themselves comfortable.

At 6 o'clock the Minister announced the opening hymn - "All hail the power of Jesus name" - as Mr. Robinson played the tune over on his flute. The congregation rose and the Minister lead the singing. Never had anything like that been heard in Waleswood.

One who took part in that service told me many years ago that they who were present will never forget the experience they had. For as they sang that glorious hymn with both heart and voice and crowned him Lord of all, the windows of Heaven were

opened and such a blessing poured out on us. Heaven came down our souls to greet, and glory crowned the mercy seat. Never had they heard their Minister pray and preach with such power as on this occasion. Every member went home with praises in their hearts for all God had done for them, and much encouraged to carry on the good work.

The love for the Sunday School which was kindled then in the heart of George Mallender never died out. The Sunday School Anniversary was always the day of days to him, and when life was fast ebbing away, his last sacrifice was made by sending his usual contribution to the Sunday School Anniversary.

Before his death, he also made tribute to his beloved wife and Mrs. Parnell for their untiring efforts of preparing their houses and cleaning up the dirt that the little feet had carried in. He said 'I never heard one murmuring word from their lips, but they did it as their contribution to the Service of the Master.'

During that year Miss Kitchen worked among their family relations and friends, and at Christmas handed over £20 for building funds which she had collected in subscriptions. Incidentally, Mr. John Wearing, our first Church Secretary, married Miss Kitchen, daughter of the Treasurer. Many members of Surrey Street sent on contributions to our building fund, for they said "Wales deserved helping, they were making such great sacrifices to help themselves".

On Monday, July 13th the foundation stone laying was to take place. (*Sheet advertising this event on the following page.*) Many from Surrey Street wished to come to Wales on that day, but there was not a train to bring them. They asked the Railway Officials to run a special train from Sheffield to Beighton leaving Sheffield at 1.30 pm. The railway said "Yes, on condition you guarantee 120 tickets." The guarantee was given. 130 tickets were booked on that train and the party walked to Wales. A local preacher remarked how much pleasanter it was to walk in the summer sunshine than up to the knees in snow as he had done during the previous winter.

The service was conducted by Rev. E. Vickridge and the foundation stone laid by Mr. C. Wardlow. Someone placed behind the stone a bottle containing a few small coins, and this was built into the fabric. Well over 200 people attended the service and at the close the Minister invited the congregation to walk up the village to the farm opposite the Parish Church where tea would be served in a barn.

There were three or four sittings down, but everyone served, and the general comment was "a very good tea". An evening meeting was held on the building site, presided over by Mr. Samuel Wardlow, who gave £5. The collections and tea that day realized £22.

**UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH,
WALES.**

THE
FOUNDATION STONE OF A NEW CHAPEL

In connection with the Surrey Street Circuit, will be Laid at
the above place, on

MONDAY, July 13, 1868, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon,

BY

C. WARDLOW, Esq., OF SHEFFIELD.

The Revs. G. R. RAWSON and E. VICKRIDGE will deliver
Addresses on the occasion.

A Collection in aid of the Building Fund will be made at the close.

At the conclusion of the ceremony there will be

A PUBLIC TEA MEETING,

In a large Barn (kindly lent). Tickets, One Shilling each.

A PUBLIC MEETING

Will be held in the Evening, which will be Addressed by several
Ministers and Friends.

A SPECIAL TRAIN has been engaged by the Committee, which
will leave the VICTORIA STATION at 1.35, and return at 10 p.m.
Tickets, 9d. each, may be had of Mr. J. MORTON, Printer, Union
Street; Mr. J. F. STRAD, Norfolk Street; and Mr. G. DAVENPORT,
Charles Street.

**WANTED, YOUNG MEN,
TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE
FREE METHODIST AND
GENERAL BENEFIT SOCIETY,
GUARANTEED.**

For Prospectus and further information apply to
THE AGENT, CHARLES CHANDLER,
HOPE TERRACE, SYDNEY ROAD, CROOKES MOOR SIDE.



The barn in Church Street, Wales, where the Public Tea Meeting was held.

The work of Church and Sunday School carried on through autumn and winter and the chapel went up. During December the roof on the chapel was completed to the joy of all concerned. The chapel was finished and opened for worship on Palm Sunday 1869.



New Chapel, Wales

That morning the Sunday School scholars met at Wales Bar and walked in procession, and the founder lead between 40 and 50 children into the chapel, a great joy to the Minister. It was very fitting that the Rev. E. Vickridge should preach the opening services on that glad day. The Bible and hymn book for pulpit use was presented to the Church by Mrs. Kitchen.

Mr. George Holland of Swallownest joined our Church at its opening. He was a musician and played a flute, violin or harmonium. He used to bring his flute along and help lead the singing. He was very helpful in getting up the first Sunday School Anniversary in that chapel. The singing on that occasion was led by *three flutes, two violins and a bass*. Mr. Holland suggested to the members that a harmonium was now needed and with their consent and co-operation he would undertake to get the money to buy one. He would give a weekly contribution himself and would be pleased to collect contributions from any disposed to give. In less than a year the harmonium was installed. A very good little instrument and Mr. Holland walked from Swallownest to Wales twice every Sunday to play it. He promised to continue to do this until someone else joined the Church who was capable of taking his place. Mr. Holland kept that promise and the man who did take his place after several years was Mr. Jabez Emmerson.



Digging the foundations of the Sunday School.



Laying the memorial stones in the Sunday School wall

12th September, 1898

In connection with the Methodist Free Church at Wales, memorial stones of a new Sunday School and Class rooms were laid on Tuesday. A large number of friends were present from Sheffield, Eckington, Beighton, Killamarsh and the immediate locality. Amongst those present were the Revs. R. Chew of Sheffield, H.T. Chapman of Leeds, L.H. Deering, Vicar of Wales, J.F. Barnard and C. Evans; Messrs. C. Wardlow, W. England, E.J. Hattersley, A. Hart, F. Shaw, J. Field and C. Smith.

The Sunday School children sang special hymns from a platform. The Rev. C. Evans engaged in prayer. After the singing of the hymn 'God bless our Sunday School' the Rev. Deering, Vicar, read a portion of scripture. Mr. C. Wardlow was asked to lay the first stone, and in doing so he expressed his hearty wishes for the success of the building, and hoped it would prove of great value to the young people in the locality.

Mr. Aaron Hart laid the next stone on behalf of the Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Kiveton Park. The next stone was laid by Mr. G. Emmerson, Superintendent of the Sunday School, on behalf of the teachers. Then followed the laying of 22 small stones and eight bricks by the children of the school, these standing in a row, and touching the stones repeated the formula. The Revs. H.T. Chapman and R. Chew briefly addressed the assembly. The meeting closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. J.F. Barnard.

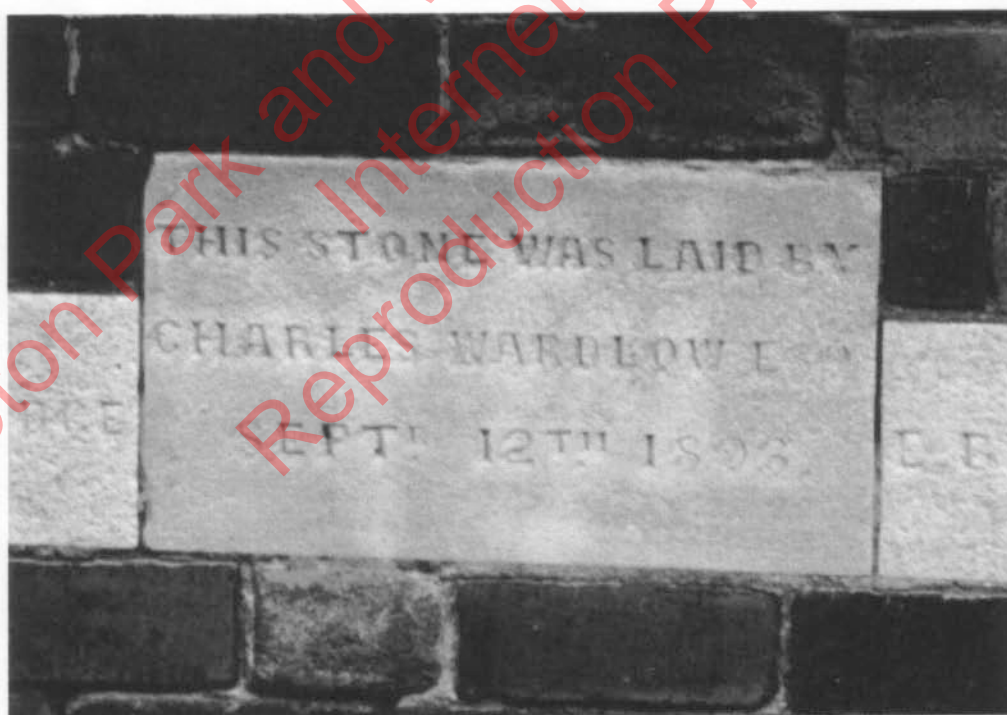
The following sums were subscribed by the stone layers:- Mr. C. Wardlow £50, Mr. A. Hart £5, the teachers per Mr. G. Emmerson £16, the children's stones £23.2s.0d. A public tea followed, to which 300 persons sat down.

At the evening meeting the Revs. R. Chew, H.T. Chapman, J.F. Barnard and C. Evans took part. Mr. E.J. Hattersley presided. Mr. G. Emmerson said the funds in hand, and promised before the day, amounted to £420. The result of the day's proceedings amounted to the noble sum of £165.13s.3d, a total sum of £585.13s.3d.

The school rooms have been designed by Mr. W.H. Dinsley, Architect, Chorley. Mr. F. Boaler, contractor of Swallownest, is the builder. There is one large room and three class rooms of various sizes, with the kitchen. The contract for the building being £706. The total cost will be upwards of £800.



'Memorial' Stones



The following is an extract from the Surrey Street Circuit Reporter of March, 1868.

Wales and Waleswood

Seldom do we have a more striking illustration of an untiring perseverance than occurs at this village. For more than thirty years the Surrey Street preachers have proclaimed the truth in the house of Mr. George Kitchen; and times have been when the timid faint-hearted ones would have given it up, the prospects have been so dark that it has been with difficulty the two or three could be gathered; but withal our friend said "While the preachers will come, I shall never close my door against them." More than twelve months ago a strenuous effort was made to obtain land for a new Chapel: a petition was got up, signed, and sent by the Rev. W.R. Sunman to the Duke of Leeds. This effort was nobly seconded by a clergyman in a neighbouring village, and appeared successful, as a gift of land was promised by his grace. The lawyers, however, discovered that the land could only be given for the lifetime of the present owner, and suggested a lease of twenty-one years. In the correspondence a hitch occurred, and the whole matter was dropped.

In the autumn of last year the affair was placed in the hands of the Rev. E. Vickridge, and the issue is that the draft of a lease of 300 square yards of land has been obtained for 99 years, at five shillings per year. It was soon seen that considerable alterations were necessary in the covenants of the lease; and in our dilemma we applied to Mr. Robert Fanshaw, at the office of an eminent solicitor at Eckington, who most generously engaged to do the needful free of cost to us, save any money it might require him to pay out. Most gratefully we left the matter with him; and on Wednesday, February 19th, in the midst of wind and rain, we met the lessees, eleven in number (ten being present), at the house of Mr. Kitchen, Wales. After Mr. Fanshaw had read the lease, it was signed by all present, and we then repaired to the residence of a Mr. Fairburn, some three miles off, to obtain his signature, which completed the business. The lessees are greatly indebted to Mr. Alderson, of Eckington, and Mr. Fanshaw, for their professional services.

The agent of the Duke of Leeds will stake out the ground and give us particulars the first week in March; so the way is now open. The few members we have there have done and are doing nobly: they have guaranteed to give or get £100; and to meet their necessity the Rev. E. Vickridge has promised to procure subscriptions in the Circuit. We wish to build this Chapel on sound financial principles, so that the liabilities may not become an incubus on a few struggling but honest Christian men; and if all will help, we may get a Connexional Chapel there, an ornament to the village and a credit to the Denomination, as well as a help to the Circuit; for a bright future is before our Church there. Let us then apply the resolutions adopted at a Negro meeting: "First - We will all do something. Second - We will all give according to our ability. Third - We will all give cheerfully." These honestly carried out, success will crown our effort. In the name of God will we set up our banners.

This letter appeared in the April, 1868 edition of the Surrey Street Circuit Reporter.

WALES NEW CHAPEL
To the Editor of the "Reporter"

Sir, In common with many others I was glad to notice in your last number the favourable prospects of our projected new Chapel at Wales. Allow me to throw out a suggestion - one which I feel sure, if acted upon, would prove a great financial success. Let us organize a joint bazaar for Carbrook and Wales, the proceeds to be equally divided; and supposing we obtained thereby no more than one hundred pounds, of which we have every reasonable prospect, such a sum would be found very seasonable. A bazaar on a large scale is shortly to be held at Hanover Chapel, for which the friends there are hard at work, being conjointly for the new Chapels at Pyebank and Firmount. An example like this might be followed by us to advantage, so that I sincerely trust some practical steps will be taken to that end.

T.C.W.
Sheffield, 21st March, 1868.

The Surrey Street Circuit Reporter of October, 1868.

AN APPEAL

The subscribers and those who intend to subscribe towards the erection of our beautiful Chapel at Wales, are informed that the contractor has been paid the first instalment of money due. The second will fall due in a month. Will our Sheffield and Circuit friends say what they intend to give? Surely all can give something. Will our readers relieve the anxiety of our Circuit Minister by a prompt promise of help in time of need?

The Surrey Street Circuit Reporter of December, 1868.

WALES

We are constantly asked how this project is getting on. The building is now covered in, and the contractor has received his second instalment of cash. Its appearance has met with the approval of all, the esteemed clergyman of Wales being among its most ardent admirers. We said that it would be an ornament and a credit. It bids fair to be that, and we trust more than that - the birth-place for souls. The Wales people are doing their best in giving and collecting. One of the men promised and paid £1 10s; and he has just paid over to our treasurer £3 10s more, to make his gift £5. Miss Kitchen has collected £8 from her friends at a distance, and has given £2 to make up

the amount £10. We are proud to record such efforts, but are sorry to add that only thirty names stand upon our list from the whole circuit, and the amount realized falls far below the sum we started to collect. We have paid in £50 of circuit subscriptions, and we want just £50 more. Who will help a people who are thus nobly helping themselves?

* * * * *



Mr. & Mrs. Edward Robinson



Mr. & Mrs. George Mallender
after their marriage in 1860

The following pages contain more photographs and information

Minutes of Meeting held
 March 23rd 1896.

That a Tea be held on
 Good Friday -

That we have a sixpenny
 Tea.

That we provide for 300 Persons.

30lb of Seed & Currant. Mr^s Duncanson 12 loaves
 Seed - Miss Wharfe & Miss Mallett do
 15 loaves of Currant.

Miss Shawcroft 1 Stone Teacake & 1 Stone
 Brown Bread - Miss Ashley 4 Stone tea
 Cakes, 100 Buns of Summerham, 100 M^s
 G & Robinson. Mr^s Mansham 100 bun
 Bread - Mr^s Shawcroft 2 Stone -
 Miss Mallett 2 Stone, Mr^s Mansham
 2 Stone - Butter - G Emmison. 15lb.

Sugar & Tea - Mr^s Jany Emmison
 With Driscoll. Mr^s Stenton 15 guests
 Butters & p. Mr^s Shawcroft & Mr^s
 Duncanson - Miss Wharfe & Miss Mallett
 - do - Messrs H & A Duncanson
 - Tea at 4 o'clock
 Mr^s Butteridge Superintendent & got
 waiters
 Ticket seller Messrs Parris &
 W Wilson. Callers Mr^s Stenton & Miss
 Mallett
 Mr^s Mansham. Parris. Gyles pastor.
 Mr^s Woodcock & G & Robinson
 for Chairman & Gyles
 collector & doctored

Copy of Minutes from meeting held on March 23rd, 1896.

A Brief History of the
 Origin of the Wesleyan
 1892

For some years before our Chapel was
 built a few earnest Christian people
 who had joined together and named
 a church, (which ultimately became
 attached to the Surrey St Church)
 held their services on the corner of
 Menard. The afternoon service was
 held in the house of Mr. G. G. G. G.
 The house was occupied by Mr. G. G. G.
 evening service in the house of
 Mr. George Mallett. Waleswood & Co. was
 the weekly night society. Circumstances
 were conducted in the house of Mr. Parris
 Waleswood and their beloved leader
 was Mr. Edward Robinson. Wales.
 It was when the old church, by
 their perseverance had secured from
 the Duke of Leeds land upon which to
 build a chapel, and the work had been

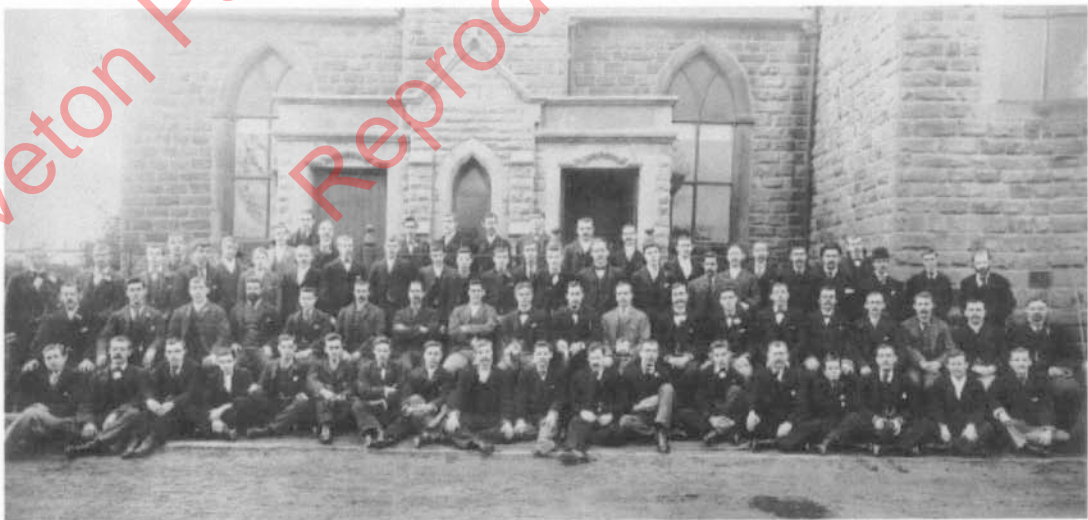
A copy of the original notes from which this history was compiled.



Wales Methodist Church
Sunday School Staff - 1890's

Standing: Messrs F. Emmerson, H. Dawson, R. Frost, G. E. Robinson, J. Lee,
W. H. Underwood, W. Mangham, E. Dunn, W. Creasy.

Seated: Miss. M. A. Edwards, Messrs W. Heath, H. Shawcroft, J. Butler,
J. Betteridge (Superintendent), A. Wood, G. Hawkins, Miss. M. E. Platts.



Men's Bible Class early 1900's

United Methodist Church, Wales.

CORONATION YEAR, 1911.

Thanksgiving Services.

The above Church having cleared off its liabilities, propose holding Special Services in Celebration of the same.

The Rev. H. F. Chapman, President, will preach on Sunday, April 2nd, and will speak at a Public Meeting, on Monday evening April 2nd, assisted by the Ministers of the Circuit, and also by old friends and associates of the Church during its existence.

Mr. Marmaduke Hardlow, will preside on the occasion.

The acts of praise and grateful thanksgiving dominant, God having wonderfully blessed the efforts and work of the Church from its beginning. "The fathers have gone to their rest, but the sons carry on the work so sacrificingly began."

Another chapter in the history of this place of Worship, will begin with these Services, and to the great joy of the people,

His Grace the Duke of Leeds has decided to generously convey the site and give additional land required, as a Free "Coronation Year" Gift. This liberal act, has called forth a determination on the part of the church members, that a further effort, and sacrifice, shall be their response to the Duke's gift. It is therefore proposed, to reconstruct, enlarge and beautify the Church Building; this will involve an expenditure of from £800 to £1,000.

The offerings and gifts of these Services will go to the Funds raised for these improvements.

The people comprising the Church and Congregation, are all of them noted for their liberality with very limited means, and while they will not shrink from the burden imposed on themselves, they will esteem assistance, given them, with very great appreciation.

Signed on behalf of Trustees,

G. EMMERSON,

Hon. Secretary.

March, 1911.



Memorial stone near main Church entrance.



Wm Mangham

Mary Ann Wragg
(nee Oxley)

Geo. Ed. Robinson

Mary E. Hodgson
(nee Mallender)

The four surviving scholars who were at the opening of the Chapel in 1869,
on the 70th Chapel Anniversay in 1939.

WALES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY, 1918.

To our Friends and Supporters.

The Anniversary of this year, which will be held, D.V., on the 24th March, will mark the 50th year of the opening of the first building, costing £600. The opening out of the collieries in the parish brought a new population; and in 1876 the Church was enlarged at an expenditure of a further £600. In 1895 the Church was altered and renovated, and a new Sunday School with class-rooms built, at a cost of £1,515. 1908 saw the erection of another class-room, costing £130. 1911 and 1912 were the culminating years of our Church's history. His Grace the Duke of Leeds generously made over to us the freehold of the land, and on that we embarked on an expenditure of £1,000, making a total of £3,845 spent on building alone. The organ and other musical instruments, with renovations, have probably cost a further £500, and from a financial standpoint, the whole result is great. A generous people—responsibility recognised and shouldered—with a desire to extend the Kingdom of God has been rewarded.

We are entitled, with justifiable pride and pleasure, to look back on a past full of interest, and charged with rich results. The jubilee year finds us with some liability that if possible should be reduced. Out of last year's income we have paid £75 of debt, this leaves us with £400 on the Church. The difficulties when the war is over may be greater than at the present. After much deliberation the Leaders have resolved to raise £100 as a thanksgiving offering for the gracious leading and blessing of God vouchsafed through a period of fifty years.

You will be invited to co-operate in this proposal. The leaders have every confidence that the effort will be approved, supported, and crowned with success.

Signed : E. SOAR, *Treasurer.*

G. EMMERSON, *Secretary.*

W. CREASEY, *Steward.*

February, 1918.

The following notes were believed to have been compiled
for the 100th Anniversary of the Church in 1969

Stone laying 13th July 1868, recorded in Surrey Street Monthly. Opening on 14th March 1869 at 11.00 am. Dedicatory Prayer Meeting and Bible Reading by Rev. Vickridge. Services in the afternoon and evening conducted by Rev. Vickridge, singers from Rotherham serving well. Monday 15th March public tea and Meeting in the Chapel, various local Preachers and Ministers speaking. Music by the Harthill Choir. Two omnibuses from Surrey Street brought generous friends. Interesting to note all Pew sittings were let to various families at 5/- per quarter payable in advance. Subscriptions and promised gifts of money received from members and friends up to the opening amounted to £292.12.0d. Collections at Chapel Opening £11.14.0d Sunday. Monday - Tea £13.6.6d, Collection £7.6.0d. Lecture - Rev. Stainton £2.2.8d.

Mr. G. Holland walked every Sunday to help with the singing and was responsible for purchasing a Harmonium for £14.14.0d. He came from Swallownest and was our organist until Mr. Jabez Emmerson came to reside in the district. Wales were very fortunate to have men of talent and ability who gave loyal and unstinted service to the cause.

In 1879 £230 was borrowed to enable further alterations to be done. An organ fund realised £91.0.9d. Alterations for erecting the Organ in 1885 cost £8.13.7d and the organ was purchased for £116.0.0d. In the 1886 accounts the organ blower was paid 15/- and the tuning £1 per year.

Bazaars were very popular; 1889 Subscriptions and Bazaar proceedings realised £126.6.6d. 1893 Bazaar proceeds £90.17.1d.

In 1894 the Sunday School was built and further alterations in the Chapel, the School expenditure being £832.4.1d and the Chapel £683.11.2d, making a total of £1,515.15.3d. The income from all sources amounted to £996.0.8d so the deficit on all expenditure was £519.14.7d. Continued efforts were made to reduce the debt. A Christmas Bazaar was held on December 26th and 27th 1898. An interesting brochure relating the details is carefully preserved. This Bazaar made £114.

The leaders were mindful of the spiritual life of the Church and held a very successful mission in 1901. Our older members remember this Mission very well.

The village was expanding, congregations growing and the need for further extension was being felt. Efforts were being made to pay off the debts and in 1910 the Duke of Leeds was approached with a view to purchasing more land for extension.

On April 2nd and 3rd 1911, Coronation Year, special Thanksgiving Services were held celebrating the joy and thankfulness for the many blessings God had bestowed on the Church and for the faithful witness of all who had laboured and now at rest. Added to this joy and in celebration of Coronation Year the Duke of Leeds decided to convey the additional land required as a FREE GIFT to the Trustees. This generous

gift enabled the Trustees to make plans for further alterations at an approximate cost of from £800 - £1,000. These alterations and additions were completed and re-opening services were held on Thursday, February 22nd, 1912, and two following Sundays. Our organist, Mr. William Mallender, composed a Commemoration Hymn which was sung at the re-opening services.

United Methodist Church, Wales.

RE-OPENING SERVICES,

Thursday, Feb. 22nd, 1912, and two following Sundays.

COMMEMORATION HYMN.

PSALM 147, v. 1. Praise ye the Lord
v. 2. The Lord doth build up Jerusalem.

TUNE—*Pater Omnium*. 6.8s.

Father of all! whose glories shine
In earth and heaven, whose grace divine
Angelic choirs extol, nor cease
Their chaste majestic symphonies:
Our simple psalm, in humble phrase,
With grateful heart and voice we raise.
This house—Thy dwelling—hath of late
Been made more spacious and ornate;
Labour and thoughtful love combine
To render meet for Thee and Thine.
Our sacrifices deign to bless,
Our efforts crown with true success.
Some who behold Thee as Thou art
Here played the Christian hero's part;
Here many memories—sacred, sweet—
Arise around Thy mercy-seat.
For blessings of the former days
The thankful note uplifts our lays.
On all who bear the yoke to-day
Sustaining grace we humbly pray;
May every act of service tend
Thee to proclaim: the sinner's Friend.
Give us, O Father, from above,
Gracious enrichments of Thy love:
A larger service, yet to be
Less love of self, more love to Thee:
A nobler living for the truth
By man and woman, maid and youth!
Thy benedictions we implore:
Thine be the glory evermore. Amen.

WALES, FEB., 1912.

W.M.

WALES
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*100th Anniversary
of the Sunday School*

on Sunday, June 30th, 1968

CENTENARY SERVICES WILL CONDUCTED BY:
10-45 a.m. - - - Miss V. ROBINSON
(Greatest Grand-Daughter of the Founder)
6-15 p.m. - - - Rev. COLIN HOUGH

SPECIAL CHILDRENS SERVICE AT 2-30 p.m.
Conducted by - - - Miss V. ROBINSON

Special Hymns and Recitations
by the Children

Conductor - - - Miss JUNE CHAPPELL
Organist - - - Mr. N. A. SAYLES
Pianist - - - Mrs. R. BETTERIDGE

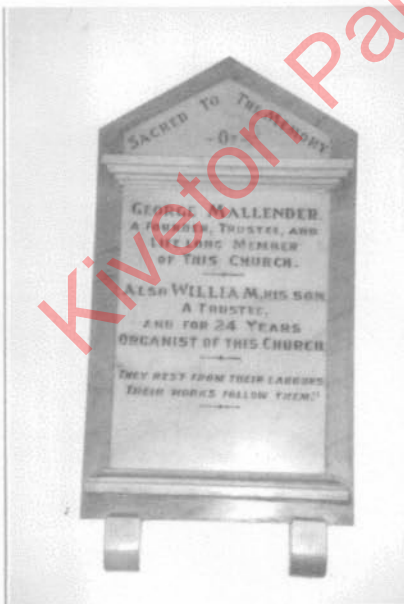
The Centenary Press (Shrewsbury) Ltd., 482 Langport Road, Shrewsbury, G.



100th Anniversary of the Sunday School 1968 (Photograph taken in the same field that the very first Sunday School Anniversary was held)



Windows at the front



Memorial to G. Mallender



One of the rear windows



Memorial to J. Mallender