
HINCKLEY ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH
LEICESTER



JUBILEE
YEAR



1899-1949

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YOUNG BRITAIN
A Methodist Youth Newspaper

HINCKLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH LEICESTER



1899 - 1949

Our Church is just fifty years old. What a story these fifty years could tell of God working in and through this Church for the accomplishment of His purposes, and the salvation of His people! What these fifty years could reveal of devotion and sacrifice on the part of God's people in our Church!

It was during the year 1818 that the first Primitive Methodist service was held in Leicester. This service, which was held at The Old Cross, Belgrave Gate, was arranged by Mr. George Handford, a Sileby local preacher, who afterwards became the first President of Conference. The preacher at this service was Mr. John Benton.

Our early ancestors in Leicester worshipped first in George Street Chapel, and later in what was called The Friars Chapel, a chapel which was purchased from the Independent Methodists. Later, in 1841, York Street Chapel was built, and in 1873 this society united with Alexander Street Society to build St. Nicholas Street Chapel. For twenty-five years this chapel was the spiritual home of our Methodist forefathers in this part of Leicester.

Then, in 1898, the site on which our present church stands was purchased, and our church was built. What foresight actuated our fathers in the purchasing of this site, for it is indeed a strategic point. The Rev. Arthur T. Guttery preached the first sermon in our church. One well fitted to remember, says, "it was a powerful discourse on the text, 'A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing'."

Truly, ours is a beautiful church. Its semi-circular pews, its two transepts, stained glass windows, good acoustic properties, a good organ, all combine to make it a very fine church.



REV. J. H. SAXTON

The adjoining school properties are also very good buildings. What a beautiful room the church parlour is! While the two spacious Sunday School halls afford ample accommodation for our Sunday School work, and many other events of a social character.

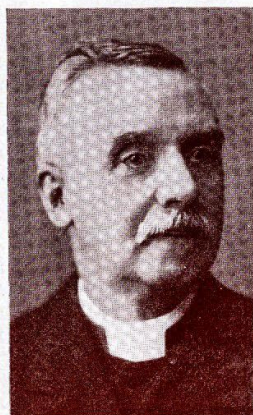
Our church during her fifty years has twice entertained the Primitive Methodist Conference. In the year 1907, the centenary year of Primitive Methodism, the conference was held at Hinckley Road, when the President was the Rev. Henry Yooll. Again, in 1927, the conference was held at our church, and the President was the Rev. G. Armitage.

Another notable event in our history was Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan's Bible School, which lasted a fortnight. Large congregations came together every evening to hear Campbell Morgan's exposition of the scriptures. Others will recall the great mission conducted by the Rev. John McNeill, the famous Scottish preacher.

Our church is the head of a strong circuit, and on such occasions as the Annual Circuit Rally, eyes from all parts of the circuit turn instinctively to Hinckley Road.

We have had a long succession of outstanding ministers. The church was built during the ministry of the Rev. A. Jackson Smith. He was followed by the Rev. J. H. Saxton, the Chrysostom of our ex-P.M. church; John Watts, a gracious man, George Welbourne, the saintly Frank Holmes, John J. Reeves, are just a few of our ministers.

What a noble band of laymen has been connected with our church. Thomas Lawrence, Elijah Jennings, James Hartshorn, Samuel Pickett, Albert Lovell, H. J. Hill,



REV. JOHN WATTS

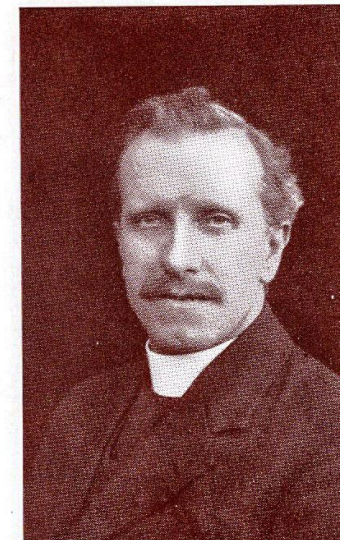
George Jennings, Thomas Moore, Geo. H. Clarke, F. Thomas, S. C. Nutman, A. Ward, E. Harris, David Harris, John Osborne, J. T. Copeman, Walter Cooke are just a few names that come to mind in this connection, and they are typical of many more. And the women have been as good as the men to say the least. Sarah Curtis, Sarah Ann Jennings, Annie Lawrence, Sarah Ingham, Sabina Pickett, Emma Hill, Elizabeth Ruth Sharman, Mr. and Mrs. S. Parkinson, were great workers for our Zion. And if so much can be said of the good people who have passed on, we are thankful also, for so many good men and women who serve our church today. Our people still love their church.

Some of our sons have gone into the ministry. The Rev. Dr. H. G. Meecham, who is now the principal of Hartley-Victoria College, Manchester, is one of our old boys. So is the Rev. Cyril W. Burgin, and the Rev. Reginald R. Clements.

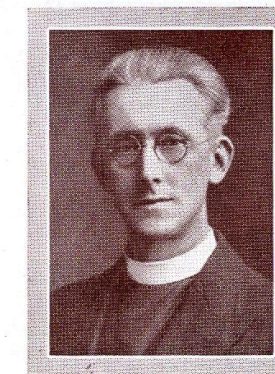
Our church is well maintained today. We have suffered like a many more churches from death and removals, and the spirit of indifference to religious things which prevails today, but we have still a good company of faithful people at Hinckley Road. The Sunday Services are attended by appreciable congregations, and a good number of people meet every week in classes for Christian Fellowship.

Our Sunday Schools are well maintained too. We have a large number of boys and girls who come to us Sunday by Sunday for religious worship and instruction in the Christian Faith. Our teachers are well trained and diligent, thanks to good leadership in all the departments.

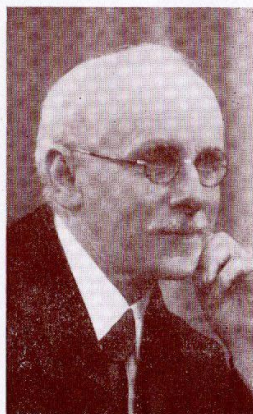
The "Women's Own" which meets on Thursday afternoons is well attended, and



REV. G. WELBOURNE



REV. J. E. WOODFIELD



REV. FRANK HOLMES

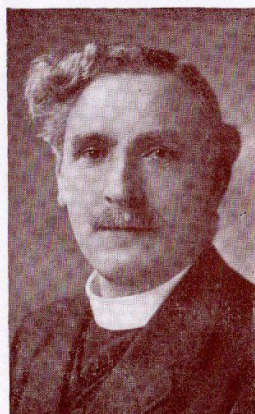
is a means of grace to some who perhaps cannot easily attend Sunday Services at any church.

The Choir, the Guild, the Youth Club, each in its own way, is playing a worthy part in the life and work of our church.

But I should like us to be a more evangelistic church. Oh! that we could reach the people in Livingstone Street, and Norfolk Street, and Latimer Street, and Harrow Road, indeed the whole of the district in which our church stands, with the good news which is in Christ. We must try again to win the outsider to Christ.

Sometimes when I sit quietly in our church, perhaps on a weekday when I have gone into the church for a quiet time, I think I hear voices speaking; the voices of Thomas Lawrence, Elijah Jennings and others. These voices say to me, and to you, "Is it well with the old church? Is she prospering or declining? God forbid she should decline, she meant everything to us." The only answer that becomes us in this our Jubilee Year, is, "It shall be well with our church, it shall be well."

J. F. HUMPHREY, M.A., B.D.



REV. J. J. REEVES



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Joseph Thomas Clements
Albert Lewis Lane
Ernest Pollard
John Robert Stableford

William Curtis Clements

James Richard Hunt

Walter Howitt Gamble

Edgar Anderson

Albert Edward Wells

Ronald Thomas Frank Hurst

Herbert Todd

Eric George Ashby Mason

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Arnold Wright Dunmur

Horace Wheelband

Ralph Clements

Percy Horace Ward

Archibald Chandler

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Church Caretaker: Mr. E. Pollard.

Society Stewards.

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Poor Fund Stewards.

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Choirmaster: Mr. F. E. Bryant.

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S. F. Clements
E. P. Bent
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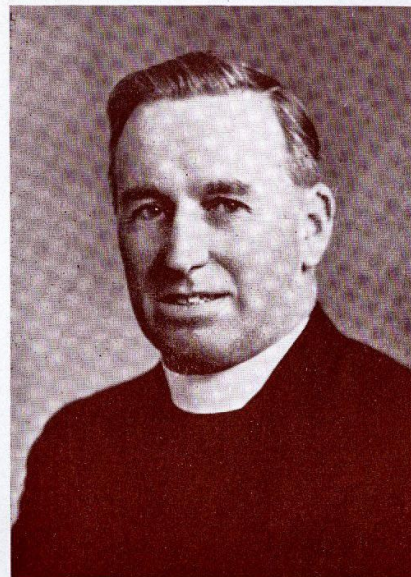
1/6 and 2/6

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Rev. Arthur J. Smith, 1897-1901
(1897-99 at St. Nicholas St.)

Rev. James H. Saxton, 1901-08

Rev. John Watts, 1908-12

Rev. Danzy Sheen, 1912-15

Rev. George Welbourne, 1915-21

Rev. Frank Holmes, 1921-28

Rev. J. J. Reeves, 1928-35

Rev. J. E. Woodfield, 1935-39

Rev. H. W. Smith, 1939-44

Rev. H. F. Johnson, 1944-48

Rev. J. F. Humphrey, M.A.,
B.D., 1948-

JUBILEE SPECIAL SERVICES

October 30th.

Preacher: The Rev. G. WELBOURNE, (Bridlington).

November 6th.

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. E. S. WATERHOUSE, (London).

November 13th.

Preacher: The Rev. H. B. RATTENBURY, B.A., (President of
Conference).

November 20th.

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. H. G. MEECHAM, (Manchester).

November 27th.

Preacher: The Rev. H. F. JOHNSON, (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

December 4th.

Preacher: The Rev. J. F. HUMPHREY, M.A., B.D.

JUBILEE SPECIAL SERVICES



NOVEMBER 6th

Preacher

**The Rev.
Dr. E. S. WATERHOUSE**
(London)

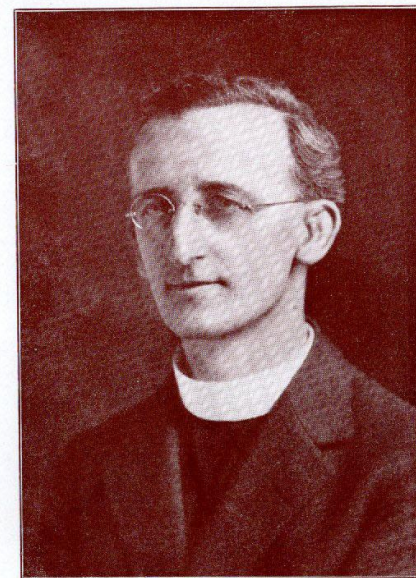
NOVEMBER 13th

Preacher

**The Rev.
H. B. RATTENBURY,**
B.A.
(President of Conference)



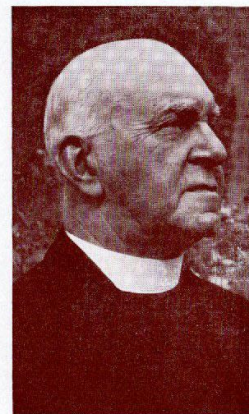
JUBILEE SPECIAL SERVICES



NOVEMBER 20th

Preacher

**The Rev.
Dr. H. G. MEECHAM**
(Manchester)



NOVEMBER 27th

Preacher

**The Rev.
H. F. JOHNSON**
(Sutton-in-Ashfield)

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SATURDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 1949

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Host and Hostess

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on

SATURDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1949

at 6-30 p.m.

The Celebrations of the Youth of the Church

to be held on

SATURDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1949

commencing with

CHILDREN'S OPENING at 3 o'clock

followed by BUFFET TEAS

with a Grand Finale:

"A PAGEANT OF PIONEERS"

To commence at 7 p.m.

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Mr. F. E. Bryant (<i>Gen. Sup.</i>)	Mrs. N. Darby (<i>Beginners</i>)	
Mr. J. T. Clements (<i>Comradeship</i>)	Mrs. R. Nichols (<i>Beginners</i>)	
Miss G. Hill (<i>Junior</i>)		
Mrs. L. Allen	Mr. A. Lane	Mr. Haywood
Mrs. S. Allen	Mrs. Lee	
Miss M. Adnitt	Miss L. Lovell	
Mr. H. Artist	Mrs. E. Mason	
Mrs. R. Ball	Miss M. Moore	<i>Helpers</i>
Mrs. E. Baxter	Miss F. Nichols	Miss J. Edwards
Miss M. Brown	Miss M. Sewell	Mr. Moody
Miss F. Burgin	Miss G. Smith	Miss V. Taylor
Mrs. Campbell	Miss E. Smith	Mr. B. Vines
Mrs. F. Clarke	Miss M. Smith	
Miss M. Clements	Miss E. Tyrrel	
Mr. N. Cocking	Mrs. L. Vann	<i>Honorary</i>
Miss M. Drake	Mr. R. Wardle	Mr. S. Allen
Mrs. J. Gamble	Miss D. Watson	Mrs. M. Brunson
Mr. P. Gamble	Mr. H. Wheelband	Mr. A. Chandler
Miss S. Goddard	Miss D. White	Miss P. Crook
Miss E. Kenney	Mrs. Haywood	Mrs. J. Gavin

The Young People's Guild.

President: Rev. J. F. Humphrey.

Vice-Presidents:

Miss F. Burgin, Mr. J. T. Clements, Mr. G. C. Clarke and Miss M. Trussell.

Recording Secretary: Miss M. Moore.

Class Book Secretary: Mrs. H. Todd.

Secretary: Miss M. Clements.

Treasurer: Miss G. Smith.

Youth Club Leader.

Mr. J. T. Clements.

Young Men's Class.

Leader: Mr. W. C. Clements.

Secretary: Mr. W. H. Burgin.

The Women's Own.

President: Mrs. J. F. Humphrey.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. J. Deacon, Mrs. Howkins, Mrs. Collingwood, Mrs. Neale,
Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Stevenson.

Treasurer: Mrs. Cowell. *Secretary:* Mrs. W. H. Gamble.

Choir Leader: Mrs. Greet. *Pianist:* Mrs. R. Hunt.

Sunday School Officers.

General Superintendent—Mr. F. E. Bryant

Youth Comradeship Leader—Mr. T. Clements

Assistant—Miss F. Burgin

Junior Department Leader—Miss G. Hill

Primary Department Leader—Miss K. Cowell

Assistant—Miss E. Smith

Beginners' Department Leader—Mrs. N. Darby

Assistant—Mrs. R. Nichols

General School Secretary—Mr. R. Wardle

Assistant—Miss M. Drake

Missionary Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. A. Lane

School Benevolent Secretary—Miss G. Smith

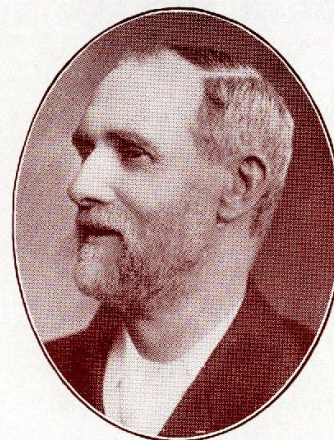
Treasurer—Mr. A. Lane

Bible Reading Fellowship—Miss E. Tyrrell

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Cradle Roll Secretary—Miss Robson

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THE METHODIST CHURCH DOCTRINE

"The Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place in the holy Catholic Church, which is the Body of Christ. It rejoices in the inheritance of the Apostolic faith, and loyally accepts the fundamental principles of the historic creeds and of the Protestant Reformation. It ever remembers that in the Providence of God, Methodism was raised up to spread Scriptural Holiness through the land by the proclamation of the Evangelical Faith, and declares its unfaltering resolve to be true to its Divinely-appointed mission.

The Doctrines of the Evangelical Faith, which Methodism has held from the beginning, and still holds, are based upon the Divine revelation recorded in the Holy Scriptures. The Methodist Church acknowledges this revelation as the supreme rule of faith and practice. These Evangelical Doctrines, to which the preachers of the Methodist Church, Ministerial and Lay, are pledged, are contained in Wesley's Notes on the New Testament and the first four volumes of his Sermons.

The Notes on the New Testament and the forty-four Sermons are not intended to impose a system of formal or speculative theology on Methodist Preachers, but to set up standards of preaching and belief which should secure loyalty to the fundamental truths of the Gospel of Redemption and ensure the continued witness of the Church to the realities of the Christian experience of salvation."—Deed of Union of the Methodist Church, 1932.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

"All persons are welcomed into membership of the Methodist Church who sincerely desire to be saved from their sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and evidence the same in life and conduct and who seek to have fellowship with Christ Himself and His people by taking up the duties and privileges of The Methodist Church.

It is the privilege and duty of members of The Methodist Church to avail themselves of the two sacraments, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper. As membership of the Methodist Church also involves fellowship it is the duty of all members of The Methodist Church to seek to cultivate this in every possible way. The Weekly Class Meeting has from the beginning proved to be the most effective means of maintaining among Methodists true fellowship in Christian experience. All members of The Methodist Church shall have their names entered on a Class Book, shall be placed under the pastoral care of a Class Leader, and shall receive a quarterly ticket of membership."

Membership of our Church at March Visitation, 1949.

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FIFTY GLORIOUS YEARS 1899 - 1949

In recent years, it has been quite rightly stressed, that one's duty to the future should always take precedence over one's gratitude to the past.

This great occasion however, the Jubilee of the Church at Hinckley Road, is the celebration not of a completion, but of a new beginning, with high hopes that the best is yet to be.

The spirit of the work goes on, that is the great thing, the undying thing.

In this outstanding year, among those I imagine, to whom it will give immense pleasure are the surviving members of the gallant pioneer band, still working for the same great cause.

Some may have handed the task to worthy successors, "Time stoops to no man's lure," but all deserve our congratulations for work well done. We envy some minds so richly stored with fragrant memories.

What a notable year in history to begin the task of building the "Church at the Cross roads." The old Queen was eighty in 1899 when the foundation stone was laid and except for war clouds gathering over South Africa, so peaceful and secure were things at home that few people were able to visualise the new world developing before their eyes.

Yet during 1899, Mr. Marconi was carrying out his first wireless experiments, just off the English coast, and other revolutionary acts, which passed almost unnoticed at the time, were Mr. Lanchester's first long distance motor ride from Birmingham to London in six and a half hours, and when Mr. Percy Pilcher the first British aviator was killed near Lutterworth, there was just this comment, "How crazy of any man hoping to fly like a bird."

Much indeed happened during the year preceding the new century. Did not Dr. Welsbach introduce his new illuminant, the incandescent gas mantle? Then followed the Bioscope, fore-runner of the cinema film, then the Phonograph with Edison bell record shaped like a jam roll, a somewhat raucous ancestor of the gramophone and talkie.

No first quarter of a century brought in so many things. The nineteenth century drove its broughams and horse-drawn tramcars into the twentieth, just as the eighteenth century drove its stage coaches into the nineteenth. But in 1904 horse-drawn trams were replaced with electric cars which ran through to Western Park.

The unique spectacle of horses drawing electric cars along the track-way was seen, but I hasten to add, only when the floods were out, or when a new consignment of electric cars arrived by rail at the railway sidings in Dun's Lane.

From the beginning, Hinckley Road has been happy in its Ministers. One outstanding personality in the first decade of the century was the Rev. J. H. Saxton. When the 88th Annual Primitive Methodist Conference met at Hinckley Road in 1907, Mr. Saxton led the proceedings, and throughout his ministry here his sermons were distinguished by a most singular simplicity, a profound piety, and above all, a deep honesty of conviction which few who heard him could withstand.

And who will forget the Men's Fireside gatherings whose founder was another beloved Superintendent Minister, the Rev. J. J. Reeves. This movement which was founded in Northampton, soon spread throughout the churches of Leicester and County with much success.

Mr. Reeves was also a leading figure when the Methodist Conference met at the De Montfort Hall in 1934.

How interesting also to note the rise in population of Leicester from 219,000 to 276,000 during the half century. Therein lies food for thought. These are some of the fruits of this "live" and happy church fellowship during the fifty years. The Women's Own, The Young Men's Class, Tuesday and Wednesday classes, and last, but not least, the Sunday Schools. We congratulate the children of the Church still at school. To them belongs the future and to them the Church looks for the Church members and leaders of the future.

R.B.D.

P.S.—It is well to remember with gratitude the Church's miraculous escape when, on the night of Coventry's sacrifice, in the light of a full moon a large crater was made when a bomb fell at the junction of the Fosse and Hinckley Road.

HINCKLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

PUBLIC SERVICES

SUNDAY.

Divine Worship at 10-45 a.m. and 6-30 p.m.
Sunday School at 10-15 a.m. and 2-30 p.m.
Men's Meeting at 2-30 p.m.
Sacrament of our Lord's Supper, monthly, morning and evening alternately.

TUESDAY.

Fellowship Classes at 7-30 p.m.
Young People's Guild at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY.

Ladies' Fellowship Class at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY.

Women's Own at 3 p.m.

A hearty welcome is accorded to all who join with us in these services.

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