

Edward William Challenger

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference

EDWARD WILLIAM CHALLENGER : born at Bucknall in 1871. He was recommended for the Primitive Methodist Ministry by the Shrewsbury Circuit, and after being trained at Hartley College, he spent the whole of his probation at Nottingham. He was then called to the help of James Flanagan who had just opened St. George's Hall as the head of the South East London Mission. It was a moving experience for a young minister, stimulating in him an emphasis which he never forgot, adding the note of fervour to his preaching and the quality of compassion to his pastoral work.

As a pastor he was sympathetic, understanding, and faithful. As a preacher he was full of challenge. He never allowed anything to obscure the claims of the study and the pulpit. In addition to the Circuits already mentioned, he served in Stoke Newington, Whitby, York, Pontefract, Burnley, Jarrow, Wem, Crewe, and again Whitby.

In this last town he settled on retirement, and undertook a very successful term as 'active supernumerary', building up the congregation that survived after the closing of Whitby's historic Wesley Chapel. He ably filled posts in the administrative life of the Districts in which he served. He died on 7 August 1959, in the eighty-first year of his age and the sixty-third of his ministry.

References

Methodist Minutes 1960/179