

# Horsemarket Methodist (formerly Primitive Methodist) Church Northampton



Centenary Celebrations 1834—1934

# Programme of Services-continued

SUNDAY, November 4th

Special Preacher at 10.45 and 6.15: Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, C.H., M.A., D.D. (First President of the Methodist Conference) Soloist : Mrs. HORACE TYRRELL (Towcester)

#### MONDAY, November 5th

# Great Public Meeting at 7.45

Preceded by an ORGAN RECITAL at 7.15 by Mr. HAROLD NASH (Northampton)

Speaker: Dr. SCOTT LIDGETT Chairman: Mr. T. SINGLEHURST, J.P. Special Anthems by an Augmented Choir, including members of Grove Road, Park Avenue, Harlestone Road, Harpole and Kislingbury Choirs. Organist: Miss OLGA MARSHMAN Choirmaster: Mr. A. G. BILLINGHAM

#### WEDNESDAY, November 7th

Special Meeting at 2.45, arranged by the "Women's Own" Speaker: Rev. C. LEONARD TUDOR Soloist: Mrs. C. L. TUDOR President: Mrs. J. HARDING

## THURSDAY, November 8th

Sermon at 3.45, by Rev. Wm. Younger

Public Tea at 5. Kindly given by Mrs. C. LEWIS TICKETS ONE SHILLING

7.30—Great Public Meeting Address by Rev. Wm. YOUNGER Chairman : Mr. GEO. WEBB Soloist : Mr. B. S. BARRITT (Walgrave)

#### SUNDAY, November 11th

Special Preacher at 10.45 and 6.15:

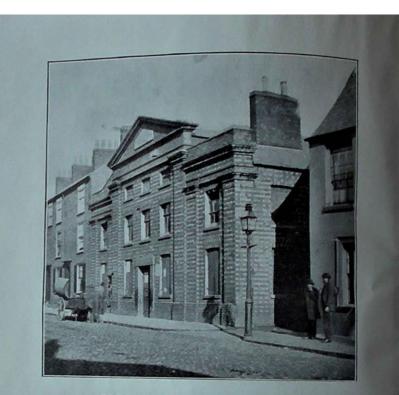
Rev. Ernest J. T. Bagnall (London) (Secretary of the London Free Church Federation) Soloist : Miss MARY NAYLOR (Leicester)

MONDAY, November 12th

Sunday School Tea and Scholars' Festival TEA kindly given by Mr. T. SINGLEHURST, J.P.

£350 urgently needed. Contributions gratefully received.

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HORSEMARKET CHURCH First Building erected 1840

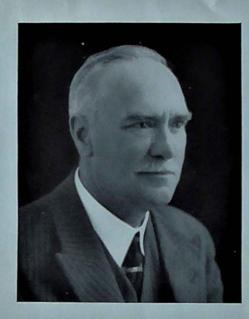
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, November 3rd-12th, 1934

PROGRAMME of Services and Special Gatherings SATURDAY, November 3rd A Great Re-union of Members, Adherents, Ceachers and Scholars. *Host and Hostesses*: Mr. & Mrs. T. J. MOORE and Mrs. C. LEWIS Chairman : Mr. E. JESSON Vice-Chairman : Mr. W. SWANNELL Addresses by Representatives—Old and popular hyms Reception 6.30 to 7. Refreshments at 8. Collection Page Two

# MINISTERS who have served on the Circuit from 1842 to 1934

1842. John Petty.	
1844. S. Nicklin.	
1845. J. Thomason.	
1846. T. Kendall.	
1847. Ed. Jeffery.	
1848. John Holroyd.	
1849. John Burroughs.	
1851. Jas. Barnes.	
1851. John Hall.	
1854. James Langham.	
1855. Richard Thompson.	
1857. Reuben Barron.	
1858. James B. Horberry.	
1860. William Marwood.	
1862. P. Coates.	
1864. W. Durance.	
1864. R. M. Horrocks.	
1865. Henry Roe.	
1867. George Doe.	
1867. Stephen Pearce.	
1869. Geo. Windram.	
1871. John T. Brown.	
1871. J. Turley.	
1872. S. J. Wallis.	
873. Jesse Ashworth.	
874. W. Sidebottom.	
875. George Bennett.	
877. S. Mincher.	

1878. W. Alton. 1878. H. Carden. 1882. J. P. Langham. 1882. G. R. D. Austin. 1883. C. Priestley. 1883. J. C. Wenn. 1884. Theoph Wallis. 1886. W. M. Barratt. 1889. W. Taylor. 1891. S. A. Barron. 1894. S. R. Woodall. 1897. Jabez Bell. 1899. G. A. Lucas. 1901. A. E. Goodall. 1901. F. Winterburn. 1903. C. Moore. 1905. W. S. Spencer. 1906. A. E. Willcox. 1907. John Brewis. 1910. G. W. Hancock. 1914. A. Beavan. 1916. Jas. Annison. 1920. W. T. Healey. 1922. J. M. Gunson. 1926. E. Smith. 1932. E. D. Pigott. 1933. A. W. Bagnall.



Rev. ARTHUR W. BAGNALL Circuit Minister



Mr. A. WALKER Circuit Steward (See page 18)



Assistant Circuit Steward (See page 19)

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Mr. ENOCH JESSON Society Steward (See page 18)

Mr. W. A. OLDHAM Church Secretary (See page 19)



Mr. T. J. MOORE Former Circuit Steward (See page 17)

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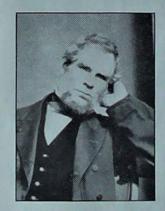


#### AN EARLY GROUP of MINISTERS and OFFICIALS

#### The names are as follows :-

Front Row : Joseph Whiting, Charles Howard, William Gent, Rev. J. S. Wallis, Rev. J. T. Brown, Peter Hodge, Mrs. William Sharman, Thomas Faulkner. Middle Row: Thomas Singlehurst, Robert Rush, Thomas Cox, James Wrigley, George Rainbow, Henry Adams, Austin Coles.

Back Row : Ezra Marlin, Edwin Foster, James Sharp, (afterwards Rev.) George Trusler, Joseph Garlick, Abraham Gent, Thomas Whitford, Thomas Wright.



MR. WILLIAM BARKER, of Sywell, a local preacher whose name appears on the plan of 1858. His father, Richard Barker, also a local preacher, was one of the four original trustees and his name appears on the plan of 1846 on page 20. A story, illustrating the severity of those early days, is told to the effect that having made himself responsible for a certain sum to the builders of the first chapel, and being unable at the moment to find the money, he carted bricks to the building, and so paid in labour what he could not pay in cash. Richard

Barker was the great-grandfather of the Walker family on the maternal side, so there are members of the fifth generation of Primitive Methodists worshipping at Horsemarket at this Centenary.

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#### HORSEMARKET CENTENARY



ORSEMARKET"—as the mother church of Primitive Methodism in Northampton is familiarly called, because it stands on the road on which horses were paraded for sale in the days of Horse Fairs—has reached its 100th year !

The place and the Church are well known in Northampton, and we give God thanks for having raised up this Church to witness to the grace of Jesus Christ in this place and to take her stand for personal and social righteousness.

What memories are revived in the minds of the older members by the coming of this Centenary ! This Church has a record of which any people may be proud. What splendid triumphs have been recorded ! What times of struggle and reaction, but withal of great achievement ! And what quaint and sometimes picturesque personalities have made their mark in the name of Jesus Christ upon their generation—and the mark is not erased to this day ! The glowing fervour and spiritual rapture which shone in their faces still glow in the memories of those who remain, and who as children received from them the inspiration which has expressed itself in service since. Hundreds of families have cause to thank God for Horsemarket Primitive Methodist Church.

A hundred years ago, James Hurd, a Primitive Methodist preacher, walked through Horsemarket with little attractiveness in his personal appearance, for he was poor and shabby, and with none of the training received by preachers in these days. But he was convinced that the people needed the gospel as "Primitives" understood it, and he sang and spoke to such groups of people as he could gather in the open air.

From that has sprung Primitive Methodism in Northampton ! He found the soil very hard and met with much opposition—not persecution—but the opposition which sprang out of a selfsatisfied religion on the part of the church-going community, and a hard-faced indifference on the part of the people generally.

Northampton was a stronghold of Dissent of a respectable and self-sufficing kind and did not take kindly to our methods of evangelism. The people were unimpressionable, and successive preachers following Mr. Hurd had the same experience, and it was some years before a strong society was formed.

One of the foremost preachers in the denomination of that day—Rev. John Petty—spent two years in Northampton (1842-44) and he describes those years as being the most distressful of his life. Men's hearts seemed cased in mail. "Never" says he, "did I labour in soil so unfruitful or see such little good resulting from my labours." And in 1852 the Rev. J. Barnes says, "Northampton has been and still is a barren soil for Christianity in the form of Methodism." But a succession of faithful and hard working ministers and the co-operation of an earnest band of officials, gradually improved matters, and now the Primitive Methodist Church (recently become part of the larger Methodist Church) holds a position in striking contrast with that of early days.

The first church was built in 1840, and the second, (the present structure) in 1872. In 1876 Kettering Road Church was built and became the head of the Second Circuit with which the following churches are associated :—Towcester Road, Park Avenue, Milton and Astcote. Harlestone Road stands at the head of another Circuit with Heyford attached.

Horsemarket Circuit has two country churches—Paulerspury and Abthorpe. The three circuits combined have a membership of 958 and the ministers at present are the Rev. Arthur W. Bagnall, Rev. C. Leonard Tudor, Rev. W. S. Leach, Rev. B. J. Coggle, Rev. W. A. Bryant and Rev. W. Skelson, Supernumerary. On another page will be found the list of ministers who from the beginning have served Horsemarket, before and since the division of the Circuits. Several names in this list are of men who achieved connexional distinction. Much could be written respecting their preaching ability and pastoral work, suffice it to say that the fruit of their labours is spread far and wide in other churches as well as our own, and in other towns and countries.

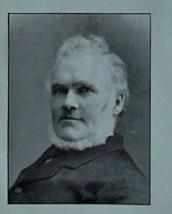
It is fitting, however, that some tribute should be paid to those officials who gave the greater part of their life to the cause and were the means in God's hands of establishing and promoting its well being.

Among the oldest and most interesting is WILLIAM GENT, familiarly called "Huffy Gent." He was a great man in prayer, and as a speaker in the open air. His conversion was a most wonderful experience and the story of it was related with telling effect. His force of character, his powerful voice and ready utterance, drew great crowds to hear him. He could always command an audience and with a searching appeal he brought many into the Kingdom. He died in 1882.

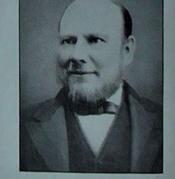
THOMAS SINGLEHURST was a Primitive Methodist all his life and threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Church. A local preacher with a big heart and a powerful voice, he was welcome wherever he went and his enthusiasm was contagious. He dearly loved his Society Class, and was one of the most successful leaders the Church ever had. His spirit abides in his son, Mr. T. Singlehurst, J.P., whose Christian character and munificence have won for him a high place in the esteem of his fellow townsmen of Northampton.

THOMAS WHITFORD. Among the stalwarts of the Church Thomas Whitford stands conspicuous. Horsemarket owes as much to his zeal, ability and consecration, as to any individual in its long history. It is possible, in fact, that without his staunch loyalty, his statesmanship and godly character, manifest particularly during a crisis, the church would not now have been in existence. His grace and skill contributed largely to the salvation of the Society. He was a good preacher, and was much in request for special services. He contributed generously to Church and Circuit funds and left a legacy of £300 at his death. Circuit Steward, Class Leader and Sunday School Superintendent, he filled every office with great acceptance. A Town Councillor, he might have been Mayor, but preferred to give the whole of his time to the Church. His name must for ever remain honoured and revered among the builders of Horsemarket. And in all his works he was heartily supported by his wife. An invalid for many years, yet her interest was very keen, and her patience and good works were a splendid witness to the grace and love of God. Together they laboured and praved and gave, and of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

JOSEPH WHITING. He was a self-educated man and was one of the foremost among local preachers. He was often called "The Bishop." He was wise in counsel and fathered his flock with much care and affection. No Camp Meeting was complete without him and he was a strong advocate of temperance. In town and county, in pulpit and platform work, he was popular with all classes.



Mr. THOS. WHITFORD



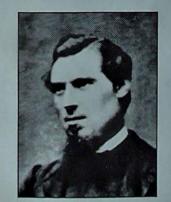
1834-1934

Mr. JOS. WHITING

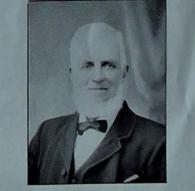
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ROBERT RUSH. A local preacher of 40 years standing, and for some time S.S. Superintendent. He manifested great fervour both in prayer and preaching, commencing with subdued tones and rising to a fine intensity of spirit and power. He was a commanding figure with a shining face and always most helpful to preachers who liked responses to their remarks, by his appropriate and sincere exclamations.

JOSHUA WALKER was a member and Church worker for over 40 years. At New Duston he threw open his little home for Sunday worship and there a Society was formed. He had a gracious personality and his family have honoured his memory by following in his footsteps in the service of the Church. His son, Mr. Arthur Walker, is the present circuit steward and local preacher, and a daughter is the wife of Mr. Thos. Moore, also a local preacher and ex-Circuit Steward. Other sons are the Rev. W. T. Walker, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, U.S.A., Commandant John Walker, of the Salvation Army, Bedford, Brigadier Joseph Walker, Salvation Army, West Indies, and Mr. Harry Walker of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Several grandsons have become preachers of the Gospel, namely the Rev. Wesley Walker, of Barton on Humber, Mr. Luther Walker, Pastor of Middleton Cheney Baptist Church, Mr. Edgar Moore of Kettering, Mr. Horace Berwick, of Royston, and Mr. Roy Walker of Northampton. This is a splendid record and one of which any Church may be proud.



Mr. ROBT. RUSH



Mr. JOSHUA WALKER

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MR. CHARLES LEWIS, J.P. We can scarcely do better than quote from an appreciation written by the Rev. W. A. Hammond in the Aldersgate Magazine of March 1923. "Charles Lewis was one of those quiet, unostentatious but able men who render service to the Church far beyond the general estimation of their work. He was a sincere, earnest, lowly disciple of Jesus, who found great joy in quiet unseen service for his Lord and Master. In early days he came under the influence of Primitive Methodism and in his teens yielded himself to his Lord and

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# HORSEMARKET CENTENARY

joined Horsemarket Church. He became a stalwart worker and ardent supporter and filled every office-including that of a preacher of the Gospel. He took great interest in village. Methodism. As his business prospered he generously spent himself in deeds of quiet benevolence and kindly sympathy. At the Conference in Northampton in 1918 he was unanimously elected to the position of Vice-President and right nobly did he fulfil the duties of the office. Especially was he happy in visiting the smaller churches-they had a warm place in his heart. The Missionary cause was dear to him. He had travelled in Africa. and he knew how to appraise Missionary work. He was made a J.P. for the Borough, but while civic positions were not much in his line, he served the town faithfully and won the confidence of all who knew him. The Church and the world are richer for his life and poorer by his death. He entered into rest on Oct. 13th, 1022."

MR. ABRAHAM JESSON was a brother greatly beloved for his cheerful spirit and kindly disposition. A Class Leader and a man of deep devotion, he exercised much influence over the young people. By his character and service he enriched the whole life of the Church. For some years he acted as caretaker. He was most assiduous and painstaking in all his duties and won the esteem of everybody.

MR. H. SHAW was an assistant Class Leader and Trustee for some years and was one of those who could always be relied upon to be in his place. No place was more dear to him than the sanctuary. He has left a fragrant memory with many friends, for he possessed a happy and cheerful disposition, and was intensely loyal in his companionships as in his duties.



Mr. ABRAHAM JESSON

Mr. H. SHAW

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MR. THOS. W. BRITTEN had a talent for organisation and the gift of a natural eloquence. He was a prominent temperance advocate and was closely associated with the Blue Ribbon Movement, and on his forehead was a scar, the mark of a wound received in a temperance campaign. He led many souls to Christ. He had a warm heart and was in great demand for public work. He would walk twenty or thirty miles and preach three times on a Sunday and was never tired of the good work in which he engaged. One of the most successful teachers of the Young Men's Bible Class, he won the esteem of all its members, and from it have come some of the best workers in the Church in recent years.

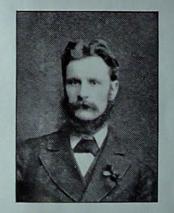
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## HORSEMARKET CENTENARY

MR. WILLIAM BARRATT was the son of a minister and adorned the ranks of the local preachers for many years. He had a distinct message and a winsome personality. Fond of humour and a most brotherly man, he was a good story teller and was everywhere loved in Church and School.

MR. ALFRED OLDHAM found his greatest delight in the Sunday School and under his direction the Anniversary Services were an invariable success. He was ever happy among the young people and they loved him dearly. His work is remembered with much gratitude and is being successfully continued by his son, Mr. W. A. Oldham.

MR. W. STUBBS was a local preacher much called for at Camp Meetings and popular in all the country churches. He was a most effective speaker and a great man in prayer.





Mr. ALFRED OLDHAM

Mr. W. STUBBS



1834-1934

Among those who remain to this day are :---

MRS. CHARLES LEWIS who is the oldest member of Horsemarket Church. It is impossible to speak too highly of her devotion. Her gracious presence in the Church, her saintly character and wide sympathies continue the work of her husband in a manner perfect. Her son, Mr. John Lewis, who is a trustee, and his wife, who is treasurer of the Women's Own, together with their family, maintain the traditions of their parents in Christian character and loyalty to their high ideals.



Mrs. CHARLES LEWIS

MR. THOS. J. MOORE is a local preacher of many years standing and has rendered yeoman service to village causes particularly. Paulerspury and Abthorpe owe much to his care and oversight, his counsel, and his generosity. Structural alterations and improvements have several times been made at his suggestion and the new Church at Abthorpe is there largely because of his enterprise and untiring efforts. He was Circuit Steward for 18 years. He was closely associated with the late Mr. Charles Lewis during his term as Vice-President of Conference. Without stint he has placed himself and his house at the service of the Lord and in all his efforts Mrs. Moore has admirably supported him. One son, Mr Edgar Moore, is a local preacher, and a daughter, Mrs. G. Richardson, is Society Steward at Abthorpe.

MR. MARK SMITH has been a preacher for over half a century. He has walked hundreds of miles on preaching journeys and has given himself gladly to the good work. Ill health prevents his attendance at the sanctuary but his heart is there, and he longs to see a revival on the good old lines of past years. He is 87 years of age and bears his afflictions and infirmities with cheerful courage and good hope.

MR. EDWARD BURMAN was Society Steward for 13 years and has been a good and faithful servant. A handy man with tools he has attended to repairs of the premises gratuitously and has saved the Church much expense. He is a brother whose fellowship is sweet, and he has borne a long and painful affliction with splendid resignation and hope. His son, Mr. William Burman, is a local preacher on the Kettering Road Circuit, to whom all our pulpits are open, and the other members of the family are closely associated with the Christian Church.



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Mr. MARK SMITH

Mr. EDWARD BURMAN

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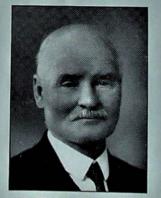
1834-1934

MR. ARTHUR WALKER is the present Circuit Steward. A local preacher, taking his first appointment in 1904, he is ever welcome in the pulpits of town and county. With most commendable discretion and zeal, and with an ever-ready generosity in deeds of kindness, he attends to the needs of the Circuit. An Assistant S.S. Superintendent, he is actively engaged among the young people, and in various ways he lays the Church under a great obligation. His wife, who is a S.S. teacher and Secretary of the Women's Own, supports her husband with continued and exemplary devotion.

MISS N. RABBITT has had a lifelong association with Horsemarket, and has been a splendid worker in the S.S., Catechumen Class, Choir, and various other organisations. A winsome personality, she has exercised an influence which many may envy, and has endeared herself to old and young.

MR. ENOCH JESSON had been Society Steward for 13 years, Church Secretary and assistant S.S. Superintendent, and has discharged his duties with admirable regularity and brotherliness. His loyalty is unswerving. He is where duty calls. He has a courageous but sympathetic spirit and would rather heal than hurt. His son, Mr. Albert Jesson, is S.S. Treasurer and Organist, Secretary of the Young People's Circle, and of the Church branch of the League of Nations Union.

MR. WILLIAM SWANNELL was Choirmaster for 30 years and has ever been a capable and conscientious servant of the Lord. For many years he was a S.S. Teacher. He revels in music, and has made S.S. Anniversaries splendidly successful by his diligent and skilful training. He is a trustee and has ever been the minister's friend.



Mr. WILLIAM SWANNELL

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#### HORSEMARKET CENTENARY

MR. W. A. OLDHAM is our present Church Secretary and has held the position for 25 years. A local preacher, whose services are requested beyond the bounds of his own Church, he is ever ready to serve. He has been S.S. Superintendent for 28 years and is highly respected amongst similar organisations in the town. A few years ago he was appointed President of Northampton and District S.S. Union and C.E. Union. He is a keen Christian Endeavourer and attends the meetings regularly and has helped to keep the flag flying in difficult times. He is a zealous and hardworking brother whose chief desire is to see the work of the Lord prosper. His daughter, Kathleen, is the efficient S.S. & C.E. organist.

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MR. WALTER SABIN is one of the Circuit Stewards and held the Senior Stewardship for 10 years. During his lifelong connection with Horsemarket he has interested himself with all the movements that have affected her welfare. With courage and skill he champions any cause that commends itself to his judgment, and is deeply interested in the social welfare of the young people. Keen for sport he seeks to ally it with religion, and is equally at home in the devotional meeting and on the field. He is teacher of the Young Men's Class, and President of the Young People's Circle recently formed, and which is of considerable promise.

. . . . . . .

Space forbids more than a brief recognition of the service of others who have contributed to the success of the past-the Moss family who served in a marked degree in Church and School; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tompkins, whose work in Church and School is held in grateful remembrance; Mr. Thomas Tompkins, who collected funds, was generous in hospitality, keen in connexional matters and zealous in good works ; Mrs. Flint, a Mother in Israel; Mrs. Clee, the oldest person living who is at present a member has entered upon her gist year; Mr. Worley, who had great influence over the young men of the last generation ; Mr. T. Ward, a quiet brother, but who was absolutely devoted to his work, and who now lives at Wolverhampton, and who serves yet as a preacher; Mr. F. North, who has served as S.S. Secretary and Assistant Society Steward, and other members of the North family who have deserved the highest praise ; Mr. and Mrs. John Harding, whose work in the School and among the Women of the Church has always been steady and helpful. Others there are still whose names cannot be written here but are in the Lamb's Book of Life, and who for the sake of Christ have lived and loved and laboured for the good of their fellows. The Cross has been their inspiration, the love of God their theme in speech and song. "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One

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#### HORSEMARKET CENTENARY

God and Father of all." With this we go forward with renewed courage and consecration knowing that the Power which for so long has blest us, will still lead on.

Faith of our fathers! we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife, And preach thee too as love knows how, By kindly words and virtuous life; Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death. 1834-1934

PLAN OF THE BRIRILLAS ESSRODISE BREVERSES. APPOINTMENTS. NORTHAMPTON MISSION, 1846. COMMITTEE-1. 0 EFERENCES-S.B. QUARTERLY MEETING at Hoyked. Jan 1, 10 CAMP NEETINGS-AL Million, May 18 -1 11, 18, 23, 32 Da PROTRACTED MEETING was b HEMN-INTITATION TO CHER CREWY COMPANY CONTRACTOR CONT This Centenary booklet celebrating the Centenary of Horsemarket Primitive Methodist chapel in Northampton has been placed in the Northampton County Archives by Rod Walker, who provided scans of the pages for the My Primitive Methodists website.

You can read about the 1840 chapel here:

https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/northamptonshire/n orthampton primitive methodist chapel

You can read about the 1872 chapel here:

https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/northamptonshire/n orthampton-horse-market-primitive-methodist-chapel-ii-and-institutenorthamptonshire

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