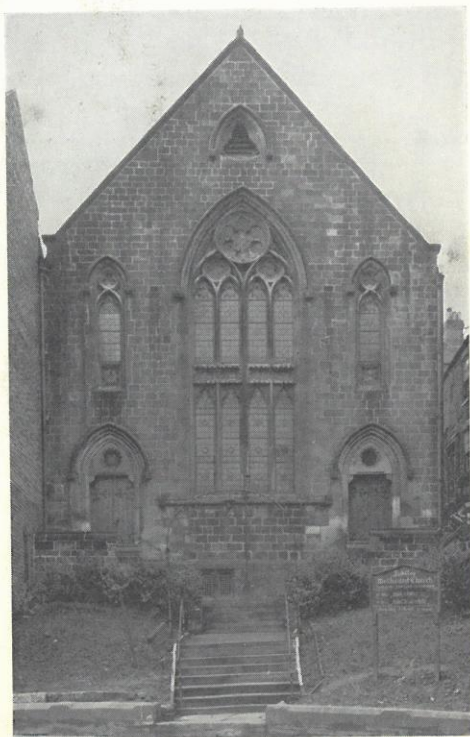


JUBILEE  
METHODIST CHURCH  
DURHAM



1861 - 1961

CENTENARY HANDBOOK

*“Hail the Glorious Jubilee”*

(DURHAM CIRCUIT PLAN 1840)

## FOREWORD

by

REV. HAROLD STANAWAY, B.A.

I count it a great privilege to be the Minister of the Jubilee Methodist Church, Durham, at the time of the Centenary Celebrations, and to be able to write this foreword.

The following pages contain a stirring story. Yet it can of necessity give only a small impression of all that God has wrought through His people here and their predecessors in Back Silver Street. Considerations of space compel the exclusion of very much more than has been included ; and what can be observed is as nothing in such cases to the unseen influences which have been exerted and the unknown results produced directly and indirectly. Could the whole be told as it is seen in heaven, it would be very evident, I am sure, that the effect of Jubilee's work and witness has been and is still being felt to the uttermost parts of the earth.

It is a hundred years since the present Church was opened, a hundred and thirty-six since the work was begun. That seems a long time to us. To God, with whom "a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past," it is only a beginning. The work here has had an honourable place in His world-wide redemptive purposes. But always, for those who have committed themselves to Him in trust and obedience, there is something better ahead. So will it be with Jubilee. As we yield ourselves to Him, even the glories and achievements of the past will be surpassed by those of the future.

The history of Jubilee is the record of a series of ventures in faith. Thomas Oliver and his friends came to Durham at the call of God. The founding of a Durham Circuit in 1840 was an act of faith. In faith our forefathers moved from Back Silver Street and built the Church whose Centenary we now celebrate. Each time the Circuit was split and a new Circuit was formed, it was done by men and women who believed that that was God's will. And God abundantly blessed the faith of His people and prospered the work. Now we believe God is calling us to a further advance. This year the Society of Jubilee is to unite with that of Bethel, our sister Church on the North Road. As soon as possible the United Society will build a new Church and ancillary premises, suitable for modern needs, on a site which we hope to obtain from the City Council. We feel certain that this is God's way forward for us, and we look confidently for His blessing upon it. Thus the work begun over a hundred years ago will go on, we trust, with ever increasing power and in ever widening circles of influence, until at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

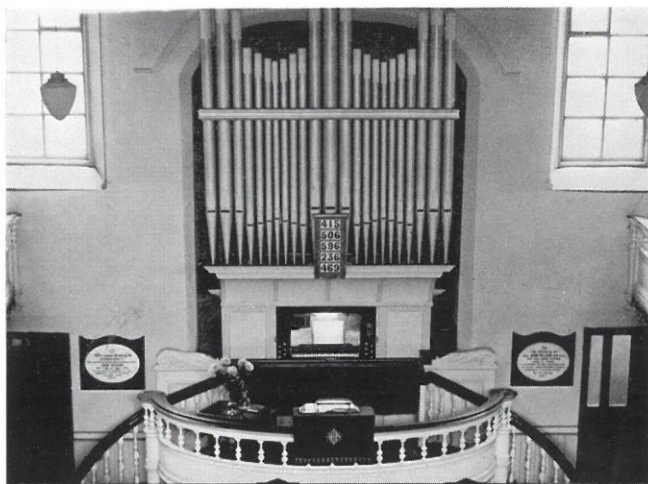
HAROLD STANAWAY, Minister.

## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

PROGRAMME : MAY 19TH—JUNE 18TH

Friday, 19th May.	SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION — at 8 p.m.
Saturday, 20th May.	AT HOME. 3 p.m. Welcome by REV. HAROLD STANAWAY. Host and Hostess :—MR. and MRS. GEORGE H. SAYER, who will receive Thanksgiving Gifts. 4 p.m. Tea.
Whit Sunday, 21st May.	REV. T. W. BEVAN, Longsight, Manchester.
Wednesday, 24th May.	THE STORY OF 100 FAITHFUL YEARS— 7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 28th May.	REV. DR. NORMAN H. SNAITH, M.A., Leeds.
Wednesday, 31st May.	YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENING.
Saturday, 3rd June.	SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING, 3 p.m. Conducted by REV. H. STANAWAY, B.A.
Sunday, 4th June.	JUBILEE LOCAL PREACHERS.
Sunday, 11th June.	SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.
Sunday, 18th June.	REV. WILFRED C. BILLINGTON, York.

*All members, past and present, and all our friends are cordially welcomed  
to the above celebrations.*



### OFFICIALS OF JUBILEE

*Minister* : REV. HAROLD STANAWAY, B.A.

*Society Stewards* : Messrs. G. H. Sayer, S. Parker, W. Benfold,  
W. Harrison.

*Poor Stewards* : Miss E. Trotter, Mr. and Mrs. R. Best, Mr. S. Parker.

*Trustees* : Miss J. Trotter, Messrs. R. Best, W. E. Bradley, H. E.  
Kendra, J. L. Myers, S. Parker (Sec.), S. Portrey (Treas.), G. H.  
Sayer, C. Turnbull, T. W. Turnbull.

*Class Leaders* : Mr. D. Gilliland, Mr. and Mrs. T. Greener, Mr.  
S. Harrison, Mr. W. Harrison, Mrs. J. and Miss J. Luke, Mrs.  
M. Lumsdale, Mr. S. Parker, Mr. S. Portrey, Miss E. Trotter, Mr.  
C. Turnbull, Mrs. A. Bowe.



## THE STORY OF JUBILEE

On 19th May 1861 the Jubilee Church was opened for worship, and the Society of Primitive Methodists left their inadequate little Chapel in Back Silver Street where they had witnessed for nearly thirty-six years.

Two centenaries have already been observed at Jubilee, the second only six months ago, when we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone by Sir William Atherton, M.P., on 22nd October 1860. The first was celebrated in 1924 when special services were held to commemorate the founding of the Society in 1824.

It is right that some tribute should be paid to the work of Thomas Oliver and his helpers who first came to Durham from Sunderland in the summer of 1824. Their camp meetings were an exciting form of evangelism which aroused both support and opposition. Several of the 'ranter' (as our forefathers were known) appeared before the Durham City magistrates, and Henry Hesman spent one night in Durham gaol. Nevertheless, a great work was done; men and women were converted, and a Society was formed. "Praise the Lord for what he has done in Durham," wrote Nathaniel West in December 1824.

The Society grew steadily in numbers, owing much to women like Susan Dixon (a mother in Israel), and to men like John Coward, who later became a magistrate. In 1838 Durham became a branch of Sunderland circuit, which still gave financial support. The superintendent minister was George Tindale and the assistant minister was Mary Porteous, a woman evangelist wonderfully used of God in this County.

In 1840 Durham became the head of an independent circuit, and its first minister was its founder, Thomas Oliver. The Durham circuit plan for 1840 is a wonderful document, and bears silent testimony to many heroes in the faith. The circuit then covered an area of nearly one hundred square miles, and many preachers travelled on foot through the night to keep their appointments. Durham became the mother of many circuits, and by the year 1900, five other circuits occupied this area—Thornley, Wingate, Coxhoe, Spennymoor and Brandon.

The work of God was gravely hampered by the inadequate premises in Back Silver Street. In 1859, the leaders, with great vision and courage, decided to buy a site in North Road, and, despite the poverty of most of the members, the Jubilee Church was built. A debt was incurred of over one thousand pounds (a formidable amount in those days), but they never doubted that this was God's will for them. Their faith was abundantly justified.

The minister, whose vision had inspired the Society in 1859 was William Lister, a saintly man, who became President of the Conference

in 1868, and who was one of the founding fathers of Primitive Methodism. Another was Joseph Spoor, who may be justly described as an apostle to Durham County. He became minister at Jubilee in 1861 after the Church was opened, and laboured here for five years, an unusually long ministry at that time. These are some of the great men who began a glorious ministerial tradition at Jubilee, a tradition of great evangelical preaching and of dedicated service. Though many have passed on, they are all remembered with gratitude and affection.

At the same time, there has developed a great lay tradition of devoted service by both men and women. This service was given in the Church, it was inspired by the Church, and spread to all parts of our community. Only a brief tribute can be paid here to the distinguished men who served their fellows in Church, City, Council and national government. John Coward and James Bell both became Vice-Presidents of Conference; John Johnson and Joseph Batey were members of Parliament; Ald. James Gilliland was Chairman of Durham County Education Committee and a magistrate. George Best was a beloved Justice of the Peace; Mr. W. E. Bradley was Mayor of Durham. The most distinguished was undoubtedly John Wilson, M.P., C.C., D.C.L., a man honoured by his Church, by his county, by the University of Durham and by his country. Yet, it must never be forgotten that this man always said that he would never have been 'an M.P.' if he had not first become 'a P.M.'. This was the spirit that informed the life of them all. It is hoped that much more will be given of the lives and work of these ministers and laymen on May 24th, when something of the story of one hundred faithful years will be told. Here we can only salute their memory.

It is fitting that a tribute should be paid here to the many hundreds of ordinary faithful men and women who witnessed at Jubilee and served God in the many offices of the Church. It is not possible to name all who have heard the call to preach. Mention must be made of the Wheeler family; four were local preachers, Harry, John, William and Robert, the last three entering the ministry. In addition, Revs. F. Froud, J. J. Hutchinson, and J. Lancaster, all Jubilee members, became ministers of the Gospel. Today, eight members are local preachers or preachers in training:—H. Peacock, Miss O. Jemmeson, R. Fisher, T. Greener, S. Portrey, C. Turnbull, Mrs. T. Greener and Miss M. Best, who represents the fourth generation of family service to the Church. Mr. T. W. Turnbull has now retired after long service beginning in 1902.

From its foundation, Jubilee has endeavoured to train young people in the love and service of God. The founding fathers actually planned to begin a Day School, but this was made unnecessary by the Education Act of 1870. Nevertheless, for one hundred years, the Sunday School has been the training ground for thousands of boys and girls, many of whom acknowledge their debt to their teachers at Jubilee. When Sir James Joicey, M.P. opened the new Sunday School in 1896,

he, too, paid his tribute to the work done in producing fine citizens. Among many loyal teachers it would be fitting to mention Mrs. E. Lumsdale whose connection with the School as scholar, teacher and superintendent has continued over seventy years, and the Trotter family, of whom eight sisters have given over two hundred years of devoted service.

The last word in this brief recollection of a great heritage belongs to the Jubilee congregation and its service of praise. Many old friends who have recalled some of the former days are agreed that one abiding memory is that of the inspired congregational singing. At first, the only instrument was a harmonium, but in 1896 the present organ was installed by a Jubilee member, Mr. H. J. Nelson—a name familiar to lovers of Church music all over the country. The choirs of past years, led by many well known choir masters, have played a worthy part in this tradition of noble and fervent praise.

And now, what of the future ? We believe that the best is yet to be. If we will but rededicate ourselves to God, that we may be found worthy of so great a heritage, then Jubilee will not die, but live again in the future Church which is yet to be built. Already, much progress has been made in uniting week-day fellowships with those of our brethren at Bethel. Some mention of this is made in the short account of present activities in the following pages. It is very fitting that the centenary celebrations will be crowned with the union of the two churches, so richly blessed in the past, and, we trust, so richly to be blessed in the future. We would close with the prayer of a former member who has written of her great love for Jubilee : ‘ May the new Church which is coming be as well beloved and as lovingly served in the years that are to be ! ’

## MINISTERIAL GREETINGS

Ministerial Greetings come from three minsters who by reason of age cannot be with us to share in our celebrations.

REV. J. W. CLIFFORD (Luton), now in his 83rd year, recalls his ministry at Jubilee (1907-1914)—

“ What a glorious seven years in Durham ! Of course in fifty-three years changes are bound to come, but I hope the future new church will see great prosperity. To all friends my sister and I send our kindest regards ”.

REV. JAS. PALMER (Durham), now in 84th year, was minister from 1934-1938 and adds his blessing to our centenary effort—

“ This Church has achieved a splendid record. I pray that happy memories may be recalled during the centenary celebrations, and that God’s richest blessing will make all the services a great success.”



REV. J. J. HUTCHINSON (Rotherham), now in 75th year, entered the ministry from Jubilee in 1910, writes of his great love for Jubilee—

“My wife and I could no more forget Jubilee than a faithful Jew could forget Jerusalem. I should like to send a word of good cheer to the faithful people who still work for Jubilee. They can be quite sure that one hundred years of witness can never be measured by our standards. There must be hundreds of people scattered all over the country who recall with gratitude the spiritual blessings they received at Jubilee. May God bless you in your centenary celebrations.”

To these ministers and to all who have served Christ in the Church we send our affectionate greetings.

## THE LIFE AND WORK OF JUBILEE

The following brief reports reflect something of the witness of Jubilee today in the Circuit and District.

### TRUSTEES

Secretary	...	...	...	...	Mr. S. Parker.
Treasurer	...	...	...	...	Mr. S. Portrey.

A perusal of the minute books covering the last hundred years reveals a picture of faithful trustees who have sought continually to establish, maintain and improve a church wherein the humblest worshipper might feel that “this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven !”

The fact that the trustees of “Jubilee” have always been seeking to promote the coming of Christ’s kingdom is confirmed now by their decision to join with their colleagues at “Bethel” to build a new church worthy of the name “Methodist”.

### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY

The C.E. Society took the place of a weekly women’s class meeting more than sixty years ago and has continued up to the present day, forming an important spiritual part of Jubilee Church. A Junior and a Senior Society have met each week and have proved fruitful training grounds for Methodist preachers and Sunday School Teachers. Young people have been encouraged by leading, singing, praying, the giving of short papers and discussions to become useful, active workers in the church. The Senior C.E. Society at present, though small in numbers, still carries out its motto, “For Christ and the Church,” while the growing Junior Society holds great promise for the future Church.

## YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

The Youth Fellowship began about six years ago with only five or six young people, but it has maintained regular Sunday evening meetings and has increased in numbers and influence.

The aim has always been to lead teenagers to a personal knowledge of Jesus and the expression of that experience in everyday life.

The Youth Club was formed even more recently than the Youth Fellowship and meets on a Thursday evening. It caters for the physical and mental as well as the spiritual needs of young people and takes a prominent part in local youth activities.

Both these organisations are now linked with "Bethel" young people in readiness for the work of the future united church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School has, throughout the years, always been an integral part of the Church. It has been served by a faithful, devoted and capable band of workers who have always had the interests of the Young People at heart.

It has a Primary Department, a combined Junior, Intermediate and Senior Departments and then the scholars graduate into the newly formed Circuit Bible Class.

Special emphasis has always been laid on Biblical training—through ordinary lessons each Sunday and training for the Methodist Scripture Examinations and several times the Sunday School has been successful in the examinations in winning District Trophies.

It is our hope that the training they have received in the Sunday School will be of service to them in future years in helping them to be good citizens, not only of our own city, but of the Kingdom of God.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We give thanks to God for women of vision, who, fifty years ago, brought together women Church members and non-members to form a meeting which was named "The Women's Own". The meetings were, as they are now, rich and helpful fellowships, which gave strength to the women to meet the difficulties of their day-to-day life. For fifty years they have been led by many faithful officials and especially the wives of our ministers. The Women's Own members have given an invaluable contribution, not only to the spiritual life of the Church, but also to its many social activities. We to-day are endeavouring to maintain this high tradition and to carry it on into the new Church of North Road.

The Brochure Committee wishes to thank the Proprietors of the 'Durham County Advertiser' for permission to consult their files in preparing this history.

