

Malton Gazette, 31st May 1902

A New Primitive Methodist Chapel For Gilling

Thursday of last week was anything but a pleasant day for a chapel opening, but those whose sympathies were aroused by the erection of the pretty little building near the station, rallied in good numbers to the varied engagements arranged for the opening day.

The first item that drew our attention was a bazaar, held in Mr. Bean's granary, where we saw plain and fancy needlework, a handsome crazy work cushion, sweets, pictures of our King and Queen, a pricked rug, views of the exterior and interior of the chapel, and other things too numerous to particularise. The sale, which was presided over by Mrs. Gibson, Miss Bradshaw and Miss Nellie Wood, was after a short service briefly opened by the Rev. W. Skelson.

At 2.30 a goodly number assembled outside the chapel and a service was held, taken in part by the Rev. W. Skelson and Mr. Hesselgrave of Hovingham.

Mr. C. Watson said this was a red letter day in his experience, and he could not say how thankful he was to be placed in such a position. He regretted that Mrs. Allenby was unable to be present as it was through her sending her husband to see the man who had come to be signalman at Gilling that the chapel had been built. A friend from Bridlington was absent owing to the death of a child. He trusted the building would be a means of good to many. He had pleasure in calling Mr. Allenby to open the chapel, and Mrs. Long to open the class room. Mr. W. Allenby expressed the pleasure it gave him on behalf of his wife to open the chapel door, not merely because of the architectural beauty of the structure, but because it would be their aim and ambition to save men and women and lead them to the Saviour.

A few minutes after the door was opened, the sittings, about 100, were all filled, and the others took up their position in the vestry. The building is of wood on a brick foundation with slated roof. The outside is painted, and the inside is plastered, with wooden dado or wainscoting. Four useful lamps suspended from the roof supply the light at night, while some artistic windows each side and at the lower end in coloured glass give to the place a very cheerful appearance. The seats are pitch pine with reversible backs, there is a comfortable rostrum, and on either side of the rostrum are doors leading into the vestry and classrooms. The builders were Messrs. B. and W. Walmsley, of Leeds.

By the side of the chapel a shed has been built where cyclists can leave their machines while attending the services.

The preacher was the Rev. W. E. Crombie, of Elmfield College, and he read as a lesson a few verses in Ezekiel 1, and made thereon some comments of a weighty

character. Miss Pickard, of Helmsley, presided at the harmonium, and Miss Marshall, of Leeds, sang a solo in first-class style.

The Preacher took his text Matth. 10, 32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father who is in Heaven." Were they therefore to understand that Jesus Christ herein adopted the human standard of treating others only as they treat us? Was this the only basis of finally fixing the destiny of human souls? They that honour Me I will honour saith the Lord, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed, I love them that love me. All this was unchangeably true. But did God honour men only because they honoured Him, and did He ever despise men because they despised Him? If he forsook them who forsook Him and hated those who hated Him, what did He more than the frailest of His children? God was faithful - causing the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the evil and the good, and herein is love, not that we love God, but that God loved us. The love of God was far deeper than man's deepest hate. The preacher then dwelt beautifully on the value of knowing Christ, how those who knew Him would be ready to confess Him and ready to do anything for the One they loved.

A tea of a sumptuous nature was laid in Mr. Bean's granary, when the tables were presided over by Mrs. Harrison, Miss Buckle, Miss Johnson, Mrs. McPhearson, Mrs. Swaine, Mrs. Lofthouse, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Scaling and Miss Hetty Wood, assisted by Miss Harrison, Miss Stockill, Misses Johnson, Miss Nellie Wood, Misses Lovell, Miss Spence, Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Pickering, Misses Boyes, Misses Tesseyman, and Miss Metcalfe.

A public meeting, which was crowded, was held in the chapel at 6 30. The meeting was opened by the Rev. W. Skelson and Mr. J. Winters. The chairman was Mr. B. Walmsley, of Leeds, the vice- chairman Mr. W. Allenby. After the financial statement had been read by M.r J. Scaling, secretary, the CHAIRMAN said that various remarks had been made about the chapel, one of which was that it would blow over, but he assured them if it did that he would put up another without asking them to pay again. He had worshipped in a similar building in Leeds for over 12 years. They were wanting money that night but when he heard of a religious body not wanting money he would take an excursion to see it. The VICE- CHAIRMAN rejoiced that the scheme had been successfully executed in spite of difficulties.

The REV. T. J. MACARTNEY (Wesleyan) said that was a red - letter day in their history, and that as the chapel was built and the greater part of the money raised, Mr. Watson, who had collected such a noble sum would soon be out of a job, but he should only be too pleased to give him one, as he could do with help in his building scheme. Chapel building required faith in self, faith in one another, faith in God, generosity, self - sacrifice. That building had been erected for a special object, not for the glorification of the building, nor of the workers,

but for the conversion of souls. A great work would be done if only one each year were brought to God.

The Rev. W. E. CROMBIE (Governor of Elmfield College) was next speaker, and by his manly address he raised the meeting to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. Village Methodism had a warm place in his heart, and it was the village chapels that helped to keep the nation pure, free, sweet, happy, prosperous. He pleaded for freedom in opposition to uniformity - for freedom in method of conversion, in experience of type of character, in a word for conservative individuality. God was so great that he was not confined to one cast - iron method of procedure. There were those who said that the church should rule the souls of men, but God only was the lord of the conscience, and every soul had the right of direct access to God. He had no sympathy with dictation in morals and conscience. The great need of the hour was men, not bits of men, not third -rate men- the market was glutted with these - but men who in their independence were six feet in their stockings. Great men alone could solve great problems. If we had better men to the front to-day things would not be in such a muddle. It was the business of the church to make men - to make somebodies out of nobodies. Any church that produced the highest type of men would never lack it's credentials. Sacrifice was needed. The man who thought only of self was the smallest of men.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to all who had helped, proposed by Mr. C. WATSON, seconded by Mr. FENTRESS.

Towards the close of the evening service, Mr. Hesselgrave, of Leeds, a native of Hovingham, offered 5 per cent on the day's takings (a gift of over £2), the total amount raised during the day being about £43. We are informed that the chapel will be free of debt after the opening services, the total cost being about £200. Mr. and Mrs. Watson and the other members wish to thank all friends for their hearty and generous support