

## Extracts fro Samuel Heath's Journal 1823

### RAMSOR CIRCUIT.

RAMSOR and Wooton are two of the first places where the Primitive Methodist Connexion first took root, and where it was greatly fostered and nursed in its infancy; and those places set open a door for a most extensive spread of the work.

Ramsor continued a part of Tunstall circuit till the year 1822; when, at the June Quarter day, it was made into a separate circuit, having two preachers stationed in it.

Our friends, in general, feel an interest in the prosperity of he work in Ramsor circuit; and, in order to afford them satisfaction in this respect, we shall give a few Extracts from Samuel Heath's Journal for 1823.

HAVING left Oaken Gates circuit\* in Shropshire, I arrived on the 30th of January, at Alstonefield, in the Ramsor circuit, and preached to an attentive congregation. I had a good time to my soul, and believe it was a blessing to many precious souls. February 2. I preached at Alstonefield and Mill Dale. This day has been a blessing to many souls. Many have been convinced of their lost state. February 8. Spoke at Oncote, and the Lord was there. February 5. Preached at the Water Houses<sup>+</sup>. There was a shaking amongst the dry bones. We had the shout of a King in the camp. One soul got convinced. February 7. Preached at Swinsco, and had a good time. When I had closed the meeting, some seemed unwilling to go. I asked them how they were getting on for heaven. "One man said he was a sinner. I told him, Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and I knew he could save him. I asked the people to go down on their knees to pray; and while praying, the power of God came down, and two souls professed to find the Lord.

Sunday February 9. I preached at Riddens and Rocester, and had great liberty. February 10. At Stanton; many souls got convinced. February 11. Spoke at Wooton; two souls got convinced. February 12. I spoke at Ramsor, and had great liberty; the Lord owned the word: three souls professed to find the Lord; and I believe many more were convinced. February 13 Spoke at Foxt. The Master of assemblies was with us: three souls professed to find liberty. Glory, glory, to God.

Sunday February 16. I preached at Wooton and Ramsor. One cried out for mercy but did not get liberty. Friday 21. When I was reading my bible at Ipstones, I had a divine impression to go to the Water Houses. Sunday 23. I led class there and we had a glorious time, two found the Lord. I preached at Swinsco, and the power of God came down like a mighty rushing wind. Two found the Lord. I went to Stanton, but was so fatigued I supposed I should not be able to preach. I gave out a hymn, and prayed, and the Lord came to my help, and strengthened both soul and body. I had great liberty in speaking, and three souls professed to find the Lord. Glory, glory, glory be to God.

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\* In the branch I was in, they in general, are getting on well in the way to heaven. There is a great opening, and such a hungering and thirsting after righteousness as I had never before seen. Some have come eleven and twelve miles to hear the word. When I had to leave it was a great trial both to me and the people. I exhorted them to watch and pray, and, with weeping eyes bid them farewell. Oh! that God may keep us all faithful unto death, that we may all meet together at the right hand of God.

+ Here a large brook, after turning several mills, sinks entirely into the ground among the limestone; and after running about three miles under ground again makes it appearance.

Wednesday 26. I spoke at Biggen. It was a glorious time: three souls found the Lord. Thursday 27. At Alstonefield, while praying the power of God came down in a wonderful manner; one cried out for mercy, and found the Lord. I then gave out a hymn, and preached and had good liberty. We then prayed and God came down; ten were crying for mercy, and six professed to find the Lord. O Lord carry on thy work.

Friday 28. I spoke at Froghall, and had a great time; two professed to find the Lord. A man asked me to go with him and stop all night. There was a young woman in the house. I asked her how she was getting on for heaven, and whether she had gotten her sins pardoned. She said her sins were not pardoned, but she believed the Lord would pardon her. I told her, I believed so too. We prayed and the power of God came down, she cried out for mercy and God set her soul at liberty. This has been a blessed week, twenty souls have professed to find the Lord, and many more are convinced of their lost state. O Lord carry on thy work in my soul,

Sunday, March 2. I preached at Threap Wood Head, and had great liberty. When we concluded they seemed unwilling to go. I gave out, "Lift up your hearts Immanuel's friends." I then exhorted them to prayer, and the power of God came down in a wonderful manner; several cried out for mercy, and three found the Lord. Night at Great Gate; several in distress but did not get liberty.

Monday 3. I spoke at Alton. After service one of our friends came to James Taylor's where I was at where was a young woman who was unconverted. We prayed and she also began to pray, and the Lord heard and set her soul at liberty. Next morning sister Taylor told me that a young woman who heard me preach, was in distress and wanted to find the Lord. I went and found her at work. I asked if she wanted to find the Lord. She told me she did. I told her she should find him. We kneeled down, and, while praying, the power of God came down, and God set her soul at liberty. At night spoke at Riddens. One soul got convinced. March 7. I spoke at Great Gate. One found the Lord. The next day a young woman who heard me preach over night, was in great distress. She came to the house I was at. We went down to prayer, and God set her soul at liberty.

Sunday, March 9. I spoke at Cheadle Common, had great liberty in speaking. One woman fell down as dead, and three professed to find the Lord. Afterwards spoke at Tean, several were in distress.

March 10. I spoke at Stanton, had great liberty in speaking. It was a glorious time, the power of God came down like a mighty rushing wind; many cried out for mercy, and six professed to find the Lord. March 11. Having been invited, I went out to breakfast; many came to the house for prayer. We had a precious time, two cried out for mercy, but did not then get liberty. I was informed that two women in the neighbourhood, who had heard me preach, wanted to find the Lord. I went to the house, and found them at work. I asked if they wanted to find the Lord. They told me they did. I said I had not a doubt on my mind but God would save them. We sung a verse and prayed; and the Lord set their souls at liberty.

At night spoke at Wooton. The Lord was with us and it was a glorious time. After sermon I directed for one or two to pray, and then we would conclude; and those who had family calls, or had a long way to go, might go home; and those who wanted to find the Lord must stop and we would pray for them. After conclusion we sung again and prayed, and the power of God came down in such a wonderful manner as I never before saw, and there was such a crying out for mercy, and weeping and shouting Glory to God, as I never before heard. It resembled that in Ezra iii. 11 — 13. And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites, and chief of the fathers. who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy; So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off. We had about thirty souls crying out for mercy; but how many found the Lord I could not tell. But this I know that Satan's kingdom had a mighty shake

Wednesday, March 12. I spoke at Ramsor. There seemed to be a great hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Many were in distress, and two professed to find the Lord.

March 13. I was at Foxt. One of our friends spoke, and I renewed the tickets. We sung a hymn and went to prayer; sinners cried out, "What shall I do to be saved?" Four professed to find the Lord. Glory, glory, to God.

March 14. I spoke at Ipstones; and if I ever felt the mighty presence of God it was at this time. Many were greatly affected, and two professed to find the Lord.

Sunday, March 16. I administered the sacrament at Ipstones. It was a glorious time; one found the Lord. In the evening we had lovefeast. Many living witnesses for Jesus, and many could say that God had power on earth to forgive sins. Two professed to find the Lord.

SAMUEL HEATH.

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#### Reference

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