

Churches associated with the development of Methodism in Hedon

Magdalen Gate Chapel 1801

Building indicated green on the plan below.

Built by the Baptists in 1801, Methodists began to use it in the early 1800's. In 1812 they took it over permanently for their services. In 1818 they moved to larger premises in George Street. In 1820 the Primitive Methodists took over the Magdalen Gate premises. By 1873 it had become too cramped for them and they built a chapel on Baxtergate. They needed to use it again after their new premises were bombed in 1917. The chapel, at one time a Chapel for the Independents, is now the British Legion Hall.



Baxtergate Primitive Methodist Chapel 1873

Red coloured building on the plan below.

The chapel had two entrance doors with three windows spaced out evenly over the doors. These windows were of frosted glass with a coloured glass surround. There were three windows on each side of the building. The pulpit was at the front of the chapel between the two entrance doors, semicircular in shape and reached by a flight of steps at each side. The choir seats and organ were between the two entrance doors, behind the pulpit. The floor rose in steps to the rear of the building and there were eight rows of pews. Pew rents were charged, so that a whole family would sit in "their" pew. At the rear of the chapel there was a door leading to the schoolroom which was divided into three separate rooms.



Primitive Methodist Chapel, Baxtergate c. 1910

George Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel founded 1876

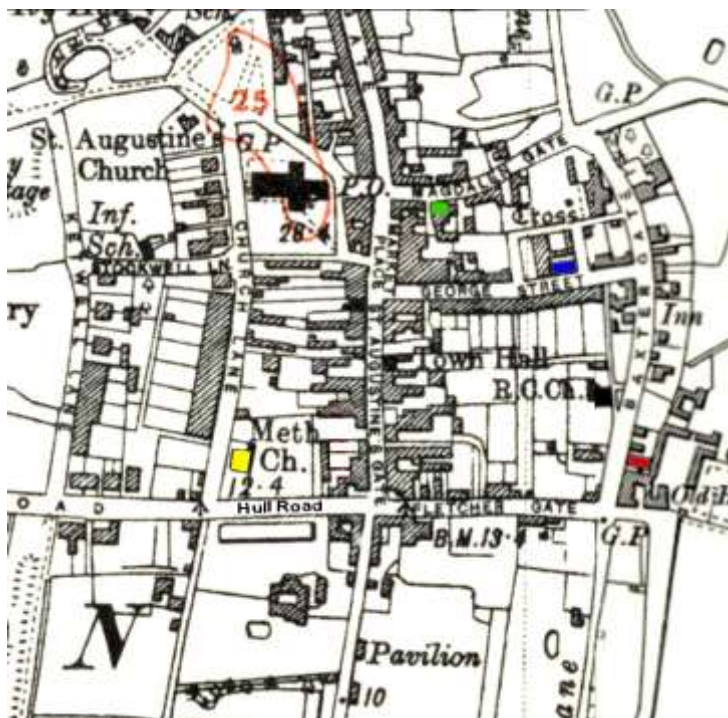
Building coloured blue in the plan below.



The Wesleyan Methodists built their first church in George Street in 1818, where the Social Services building now stands, but very little is known about this first building on the George Street site. A house was built near the Chapel for the minister and became known as Wesley House.

Possibly spurred on by the building of the new Primitive Methodist Chapel in Baxtergate, the Wesleyans decided to enlarge their own building which opened in 1876. Two cottages next to the Chapel were bought and demolished. The old Chapel was demolished and the new building was to be 60 ft. long by 28ft. wide, and it was said (over optimistically) could accommodate 200 people. It was built of brick and stone, with six windows in the wall facing onto George St, and two windows in each end wall. After unification in 1932 it continued as a separate church until 1948 after which it was used as a function room and Sunday School for the Hull Road Church. It was demolished in 1969 and a Social Services building occupies the site.

Wesleyan Church, George Street, Hedon.
Picture courtesy of East Riding Archives



Map an amalgam of OS 6" for east Hedon (1908 revision) and west Hedon (1926 revision.)

Baptist Chapel in green
Wesleyan Methodist in dark blue
1873 Primitive Methodist in red
1923 Primitive Methodist in yellow.

Hull Road Primitive Methodist Church 1923

Building coloured yellow in the plan above.

The plot it stands on is actually on Hull Road, but as entrances are all off Church Lane it is now referred to as the Methodist Church, Church Lane. It was built to house the congregation from the bombed premises in Baxtergate. The oldest part of the premises was built as a schoolroom to be attached to a larger church. The church was not built until 1978 and that was found to be too small and was demolished and replaced by the current church in 1992. Following unification in 1932 the two Methodist churches in Hedon became part of the same circuit in 1939.



To the left of the picture is the 1923 schoolroom used as church. On the right of the picture is the church building added in 1978.

church enlarged 1992



Bibliography

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Journal of Rev. J.Benson
Journal of Peter Jackson
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Minutes of the Methodist Conference
Minutes of the Withernsea Circuit Quarterly Meetings
Minutes of the Patrington Circuit Quarterly Meetings
Minutes of the Hull 3rd. Circuit Primitive Methodist Quarterly Meetings

Trust Deeds of Baxtergate and Hull Road Methodist Churches
Minutes of the Baxtergate and Hull Road Trustees Meetings 1898-1931
Minutes of Hull Road Leaders' Meeting 1951-1960
Minutes of the Choir Annual Meeting 1937-1969
Pulpit Notice Books 1968-1976
Treasurers Account Book 1925-1942

Personal Reminiscences of church members: names removed.

The basis of the above history is the History of the Methodist Church in Hedon by Mr. C.B. Richardson History B.A.Hons DipEd, b.1929 d.2023. Head of History at South Holderness School from 1960 until he retired in 1988. Steward at Hedon Methodist Church until he resigned to become a Local Preacher.

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