

Hinckley Rd Church, Leicester

Transcription of Article in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by R. Hind

Hinckley Road, Leicester II. Circuit, presents a striking example of a successful suburban church. The nucleus of the Society removed from the old Nicholas Street Chapel, standing in the centre of the town, which had been purchased by the Corporation for street-improvement purposes. Hinckley Road itself is a middle-class suburb, and the site, a corner one, on which the chapel stands, is easily accessible from all directions to the people of that part of Leicester. Taking it all in all, the building is one of the finest suites of premises of which the Connexion can boast, the school halls and class-rooms being exceedingly convenient. The property cost £10,200, and the debt at present is £3,240. When the services were started in the new building a little over two years ago, the congregation and Sunday School to a large extent were to make. The result is surprising and, as an argument in favour of new suburban causes, exceedingly weighty. The membership is over 300, and the increase for the year 44. The regular congregation at the present time on Sunday evenings in the church is from 700 to 800. It is a most interesting congregation, the larger part being young men and young women. The ordinary Sunday offerings vary from £5 - £7. But the 700 or 800 do not really represent the total congregation. A little while ago, the church had become uncomfortably crowded on Sunday evenings, and, to relieve the pressure, a special service from six to seven was started for boys and girls. From 250 to 300 are present every Sunday evening at this service, which is held in one of the school halls. Every department of church work is carried on with vigour, but the success of the Sunday School is phenomenal. It is in three departments: Infant, junior and senior. In all, there are 1,244 scholars, with a splendid staff of teachers. The increase of scholars for the past 12 months is 206. The circuit has several country societies, and many of them are strong and flourishing. In all respects it is an example of what Primitive Methodism is able to do amidst modern conditions when the workers are at once capable and devoted. The station gives loyal and liberal support to all Connexional funds, and, as might be expected, seeing that Mr. Lawrence, the African Missionary Treasurer, is the Circuit-Steward and a local preacher on the plan, and Mr. E. Jennings the life and soul of the Sunday School at Hinckley Road, it annually raises a very large amount for the African missions. The Hinckley Road Society alone last year raised for the African fund over £36, and the whole circuit has sometimes sent over £100 to the Fund.

References

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