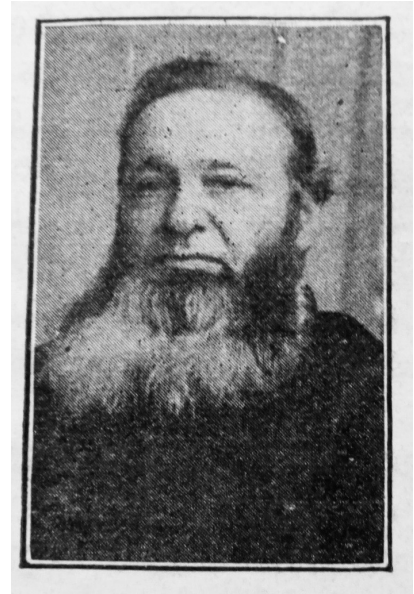


## Daniel Harding

### Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by John Neville

Daniel Harding was born at Melksham, Wilts, in 1825. His parents being Wesleyan Methodists, our brother's first acquaintance with the services of religion were acquired amongst that body of Christians. In his own native town he received the groundwork of a practical education. Being thus furnished with the elementary tools, he set to work, and by painstaking effort sought every opportunity to inform his mind by diligent reading, and to train his mental faculties by strenuous and thoughtful attention.

His early days were spent, not in wealth and luxury, for he was the son of parents who had always been the children of toil, but withal industrious, honest and upright. He therefore had the advantage of watchfulness, prayer, and religious teaching on the part of pious parents. Such bringing up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord by parental training was not in vain, for of four sons, Daniel, Samuel, and Joseph became ministers of the Gospel, while the fourth is a distinguished lay Methodist in Queensland. In his early days the young man Daniel became attached to the Primitive Methodists, among whom he found the joy of religious experience, and an opening for the employment of his spiritual gifts. His conversion took place in his twenty-first year; and two years after his name had appeared on the plan as a local preacher, he was recommended for the Itinerant Ministry.



Recognising the Divine call, he entered the ranks of the Primitive Methodist Ministry at a time when journeys were long, work arduous, and pay scanty. In 1849 we find his name in the Ministerial list, with Luton as his first station. His after stations were Farringdon, Salisbury (twice), Witney, Andover, Sturminster Newton, Stratford-on-Avon, Wallingford (twice), Banbury, Newbury (twice), Basingstoke, Aylesbury, and Brinkworth. In 1891, he sought superannuation, and settled in Newbury. During his time of retirement he did what he could in preaching, visiting, Temperance work, and assisting in the conduct of the Mothers' Meeting, of which, until the last, he was called the chaplain. Then came a sad time in the loss of his devoted wife, the blow being heavy, but borne with Christian fortitude and resignation.

Throughout his long ministerial career he enjoyed the entire confidence of his brethren. One writes: "Brother Harding was an honest, good soul, I always liked him, and got on well with him, and little thought when I last saw him, that he was so near the river." Another says: "I found Brother Harding a loyal, true friend, ever ready to help by counsel and judgment, together with what active service he was able to render." The Rev. W. Rowe writes: "Though not one of the most brilliant of men, Daniel Harding was a laborious, plodding, and successful labourer, and the Church wants more of such."

Mr. Harding took a considerable share in the departmental work of the Connexion, being from time to time on several of its Committees, and on three occasions elected to be their representative in Conference. For the last three years there had been a marked increase in the feebleness and infirmities of age, and at Christmas, 1904, there appeared manifest signs that the end was fast approaching, and on the last day of February, 1905, he peacefully went home, in his eighty-first year.

The funeral took place on Saturday, March 4th, when, before going to the grave side, a solemn service was held in the Primitive Methodist Church conducted by the Rev. J. Neville; the Rev. T. Saunders as the representative of the Connexional Executive, and other ministers of the town being present. The Rev. Samuel Harding of Glasgow, and the Rev. Joseph Harding of Bristol, brothers of the deceased, were among the mourners, as also Miss Harding, daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Hedley Harding, son and daughter-in-law. A memorial service followed on Sunday evening, when Rev. J. Neville preached an impressive sermon to a large congregation, based on Acts xiii. 26, "After he had served his own generation, by the will of God, he fell on sleep." The anthem, "Vital Spark," was sympathetically rendered by the choir.

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## References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1906/827