

# Primitive Methodist Church, Motherwell

*R DEVON* Resolution of the Leaders' Meeting, May 30th,  
and of the Quarterly Meeting, June 8th, 1918,  
adopted unanimously by a standing vote.

That we record with devout gratitude our sense of privilege in having enjoyed for fourteen years the labours of the Rev. Joseph Ritson, who now closes his active Ministry of forty-four years. Thirty-two years ago Mr. Ritson came to us, and at once made a name for himself in the locality, and gave the Motherwell Church a standing and opportunity it has never lost. Seventeen years ago he returned for a five years' ministry prior to succeeding to the Connexional Editorship; and once again the Church was quickened, while the basis was laid for a forward movement in the raising of £800 towards a new Church.

Four years ago, at the close of his Presidential year, Mr. Ritson entered upon a Third Term at the urgent solicitation of the Circuit, at a juncture when the wisest statesmanship, the rarest ability, and the utmost force of personal character were required. It is but the bare truth to say that Mr. Ritson has succeeded in welding the Motherwell Church together as perhaps no other could have done; and we gratefully recognise the invaluable service he has thus rendered to the Kingdom of God in our midst.

When it is remembered that during the last four years the membership has steadily increased, while for the Trust Estate the sum of £1458 has been raised, £1163 for the Quarterly Meeting, £220 for the Missionary Funds, £96 for the Sunday School, besides considerable amounts for other objects, making constant records in every case, it will be seen that Mr. Ritson leaves us in a floodtide of prosperity, numerical, financial, and spiritual. His name will long be a fragrant memory.

A powerful preacher of Evangelical truth, a leader of every great movement for social reform, a wise administrator, a faithful Pastor, a genial friend—all this has Mr. Ritson been through all the years since he first came to Motherwell.

In this tribute Mrs. Ritson must be included, since not only by her clever, womanly domesticity, but by her kindly and discreet interest in Church affairs, particularly in connection with the Sisterhood and the Work Party, she has contributed not a little towards the success of her husband's ministry.

In taking official farewell of our friends, we thank them for all they have been to us; we pray that opportunities of usefulness may still be vouchsafed to them; and that sheltered by the mercy of God they may enjoy abundance of peace, until the day dawns and the shadows flee away.

Representing

(Signed)	James H. Pugh, Circuit Steward,	-	The Quarterly Meeting.
	Jeremiah B. Black,	- - -	The Leaders' Meeting.
	Benjamin B. Buckley,	- - -	Milton Street Trust.
	Joseph Swift,	- - -	Hamilton Road Trust.
	William Deakin,	- - -	The Sunday School.