

PLODDER LANE METHODIST CHURCH

FARNWORTH

1888—1994



*The History of Plodder Lane Methodist Church compiled from previously recorded memories of Mr J W Jackson, Mr F Hall, and Mr E Crompton as set out in the Jubilee booklets produced in 1938 and 1948 also later memories of the previous and current members of the Church *** Compiled by Mr Walter Ricketts with some literary assistance by Mr Kenneth G Hall ****



Church, Sunday School & Scout Hut
Photograph by Mr K G Hall



Front Cover Photograph by Mr K G Hall

Pulpit and some Memorial items
Photograph by Mrs A G Green

List of Ministers who have had Plodder Lane under their pastoral care

| | |
|------|--|
| 1888 | Rev. J Jeffrey, Rev. J Stringer. |
| 1890 | Rev. J Jeffrey, Rev. S Starkie. |
| 1891 | Rev. R N Barritt, Rev. S Starkie. |
| 1893 | Rev. R N Barritt, Rev. J Jackson. |
| 1894 | Rev. H Soper, Rev. J Jackson. |
| 1895 | Rev. H Soper, Rev. W H Booth. |
| 1896 | Rev. H Soper, Rev. W Hothersall. |
| 1897 | Rev. C O Eldridge, Rev. W Hothersall. |
| 1898 | Rev. C O Eldridge, Rev. C Forrington. |
| 1900 | Rev. C W L Christien, Rev. C Forrington. |
| 1901 | Rev. C W L Christien, Rev. J G Hodson. |
| 1903 | Rev. E R Eslick, Rev. J G Hodson. |
| 1904 | Rev. E R Eslick, Rev. J U Helliwell. |
| 1906 | Rev. A P Watson, Rev. J U Helliwell. |
| 1907 | Rev. A P Watson, Rev. S Harper. |
| 1909 | Rev. W R Carlyon, Rev. S Harper. |
| 1910 | Rev. W R Carlyon, Rev. Smith T Parr. |
| 1912 | Rev. B Brown, Rev. Smith T Parr. |
| 1913 | Rev. B Brown, Rev. J W Hall. |
| 1915 | Rev. W E Rees, Rev. J W Hall. |
| 1916 | Rev. W Ainsworth, Rev. P A Devis. |
| 1919 | Rev. D Ashby, Rev. J Bonsall. |
| 1922 | Rev. E C Palmer. |
| 1926 | Rev. J L Smith. |
| 1929 | Rev. W J Lester. |
| 1932 | Rev. F A Ashton. |
| 1936 | Dr. A Grime. |
| 1940 | Rev. A P Richardson. |
| 1944 | Rev. J A Bennett. |
| 1948 | Rev. T Harrison-Burnett. |
| 1951 | Rev. J Burton, Rev. K S Grewer. |
| 1958 | Rev. E L Thacker. |
| 1959 | Rev. W H Burns. |
| 1961 | Rev. G L Clarke. |
| 1966 | Rev. J Briggs. |
| 1967 | Rev. J Johnson. |
| 1968 | Rev. J E Davis. |
| 1969 | Rev. E Atkinson. |
| 1971 | Rev. K S Armistead. |
| 1975 | Rev. J Moorhouse. |
| 1979 | Rev. D Frudd. |
| 1983 | Rev. P Davis. |
| 1987 | Rev. W Wallbank, Rev. N Paterson. |
| 1990 | Rev. K Halden. |
| 1992 | Rev. M Chapman. |
| 1993 | Rev. T Humphreys. |



319, Plodder Lane

The opening of Plodder Lane Wesleyan Chapel was in 1888. A written record by Mr F Hall in 1948 attributes the building of this Chapel to the conversion of Mr Samuel Jackson. Although Mr Jackson himself did not attend any place of worship, his wife attended Moses Gate and persisted in going herself. One Sunday night when Mrs Jackson was preparing herself to go to the service she noticed her husband getting himself ready to go out and when she asked him where he was going, he told her to her glad astonishment that he was going with her to Chapel. On the second or third time he became converted.

In those days the nearest cause to Plodder Lane where they lived was New Bury or Moses Gate. Mr Jackson felt that something should be done about the spiritual needs of people in the district and so on his initiative cottage meetings were held at the home of Mr Nicholls who lived at 283 Plodder Lane. From this address the first Anniversary of the Plodder Lane Wesleyan mission was held on the 23 August 1885. A leaflet issued at that time recorded that the Rev. Joseph Mee would take the service at 2-30 pm and Mr T Butterworth the service at 6-00pm. The leaflet advised that 'the service would be held in a tent which will be erected near the railway station'. This was a field owned by Mr Lord on the north side of Plodder Lane. The leaflet also stated that collections would be made at the close of each service in aid of funds for the erection of a School Chapel in the neighbourhood. A hand written report made by Mr Albert Edward Holland, who was later the first Sunday School Secretary, recorded that the tent could seat some 250 people. The services were held in fine weather and well attended. A collection amounting to £20-4-6d was made. A further meeting on the same site was held on the 27 August 1885 to protest against the granting of licences for Beerhouses in the neighbourhood. About 80 people attended and voted against the granting of the licence. The services continued in Mr Nicholl's house for about a year and the first Sunday School Anniversary took place from there. A Dr Brash father of the Rev. W Bardsley Brash was the preacher. Mr Eckersley a worker and

musician of Hollands School trained the singers. On the Anniversary Day the services were held in a large tent in the fields at the top of Bradford Road and the singing was led by the Philharmonic Orchestra. The collections amounted to £36 or £37.

It was not long before it was felt that these premises were too small and a shop at 319 Plodder Lane was rented and altered for use as a Mission, Sunday School and Day School. The ground floor was made into one large room and the pulpit placed under the stairs in the middle so that the preacher could see into the front and back of the room. A Miss Edwards was the first day school mistress.

About this time a minute recorded at the Quarterly Meeting in Farnworth in 1885 was as follows:

"Moved by Brother O'Kell that the Plodder Lane Mission Services be put on the Circuit Plan; and the Rev. M Westcombe moved that a committee should be appointed to watch same, consisting of Brothers Brown, Nuttall, Sumner, Crompton and O'Kell."

In 1938 in a booklet prepared at that time a Mrs Clara Rudd recorded her reminiscences of this period.

"I have a very vivid recollection of being sent, as a small girl of nine or ten, to Plodder Lane to the Mission School, which was being opened for morning school at 9.30 am. Unfortunately I was rather late so I stayed outside until Mr Joe Ashton came out and took me in. I have been attending Plodder Lane School and Chapel ever since. I was a collector for the Building Fund and along with the other collectors I received a purse on which were the letters P.L.W.S. in gilt. I have distinct memories of being a little singer in the tent used on 'Sermons Day' and having tea in the tent after the afternoon service. I also remember my father, Mr S Birtles helping to dig the foundations of the new building. The Rev. Joseph Stringer often helped too, working as hard as anyone. We had a great day on the Opening Day. I thank God to have been spared to see the Jubilee."

Her husband Mr Alfred Rudd also recalled in 1938:

"My earliest recollection of Plodder Lane Wesleyan School dates from about 1885, when my brother, sister and myself were invited to become scholars by Mr Samuel Jackson. I joined his class and remained under him until he was called to Higher Service. The Plodder Lane Cause began about the time of Thomas Waugh's mission which did a great deal of good in Farnworth. The Sunday School and services were held in 319 Plodder Lane whilst in summer a tent erected at the top of Bradford Road was sometimes used. As I look back, I can see a long line of men and women who did noble

service for Plodder Lane. Among them are Mr and Mrs Samuel Jackson, Mr Richard Wild, Mr Joseph Ashton, Mr J Thomas, Mr S Birtles, Mr J Briddon, Mr William France, Mr Richard Morris and Mr James Thompson. Mr Thomas Crompton was my first Class-Leader, and he believed in straight talking, 'calling a spade a spade' as we say. Words fail me and space forbids me to say much that I could."

One memory recorded by Mr F Hall of the time the Mission was at Plodder Lane was the novelty of the large marquee and string orchestra, on the youngsters at that time. In their minds it induced a gala day atmosphere resulting in high-jinks and a restless and excited frame of mind which was not conducive to prayer and devotions.

Still the numbers grew at Plodder Lane Mission and the workers were encouraged to inaugurate a Building Fund. Two successful bazaars were held, one at the Mission at 319 Plodder Lane and one in the Wesley School. These considerably increased the funds.

An extract from the minutes of the circuit quarterly meeting in Farnworth dated 27 September 1886:

"After a long discussion on Plodder Lane Mission, it was thought advisable to appoint a committee of the following gentlemen Brothers Brown, Foster, Nuttall, Sumner to obtain estimates, the cost not to exceed £400."

On 18 May 1888 the first meeting of the Building Committee met in the vestry of Wesley Chapel. At this meeting an architect was appointed by the building committee to prepare plans for the sum of £10-00-0. In July 1888 estimates varying between £413-10-0 and £327-10-0 (floorboards extra in both cases) were considered and it was agreed that S J Hodgkiss of Farnworth be given the contract. A further £16 was agreed for the construction of closets and ashpit. A further £21-10-0 was authorised for the heating apparatus supplied and installed by Mr Jacob Brooks of Farnworth. Every effort was made to keep expense to the minimum and for the new Chapel to be opened free of debt. The Plodder Lane men themselves dug out the cellar and foundations, the Rev. Stringer giving a help with this. The stones were laid on July 21 1888, when the gifts of the stone-layers and the collection amounted to £107-5-0. Many of the children at that time proudly presented purses filled with shillings and pence.

The foundation stones bear the names:

Mr T Crompton
Mr Wm Haslam
Rev. J Stringer
Mr S Halliwell

On completion the Chapel was insured for £500 and a Chapel-keeper was appointed with a

remuneration of two shillings and six pence per week. It was also agreed that sittings in the Chapel be let for one shilling each. The Trustees Account Books in the early years showed income from pew rents as £2 a year.

The building was completed and opened with Special Services on Sunday 7 October 1888. The celebrations continued during the week and were followed by more special services on the following Sunday.

It is probable that the new Chapel at Plodder Lane would join Moses Gate, Little Lever, Ringley, Kearsley, Middle Hulton, New Bury, Victoria Hall, Cawdor Street and Wesley which formed the Bolton (Farnworth) Circuit.

These were very difficult times for the worshippers at Plodder Lane. It was recorded by Mrs H Crompton in 1938:

"Plodder Lane Wesleyan Chapel was built at a time of large families and small wages. It was astonishing to see the sacrifices that were made by the people attending at the time; sacrifices which I feel sure were a real pleasure to them because they felt they were doing something worth while."

At a meeting in February 1890 it was voted that a figure of £6 per annum be paid to the Trustees to pay for lighting, heating and cleaning. In September 1890 a bill was handed to the Trustees Meeting for £11-10-0 for an 'Air American Organ' for use in the Church. In 1904 the chapel-keeper was voted a 100% rise to five shillings per week.

In 1904 under the chairman of Rev. Elisha Robert Eslick, the Superintendent Minister, a new Trust was formed comprising of:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| William Sumner | Wholesale Grocer |
| Robert Sawton | Cemetery Superintendent |
| George O'Kell | Grocer |
| Simeon Halliwell | Wheelwright & Smith |
| James Robert Alldred | Printer |
| Edward Armstrong | Fireman |
| Joseph Berry | Fireman |
| John Cowcill | Haulier |
| William France | Plasterer |
| Fred Hall | Grocer |
| John Harrison | Cotton Operative |
| Walter Hurst | Collier |
| John Wright Jackson | Fireman |
| Thomas Troughton Jackson | Mechanic |
| Walter Lord | Commercial Teacher |
| Frederick Jackson Mitton | Traveller |
| Alfred Rudd | Cotton Operative |
| James Thompson | Farmer |

In 1906 it was recorded that Mr J W Jackson was appointed organist and choir master with Miss E A

France as assistant. In 1910 an organ was obtained from Mr J W Jackson who had originally acquired this for his home. This was moved into the Church at a cost of £5-5-0 and installed and decorated by W Higginson for a further cost of £30. This instrument continued to be used until the building closed.

In 1911 a new Cast Iron Sectional Heating boiler was bought for £6. In 1915 Miss Ada Jackson was appointed organist.

The years between 1900 and the beginning of the first world war were years of steady progress at Plodder Lane. The death of Mr Samuel Jackson in 1901 was a loss which was deeply felt in a society which owed much in origin and growth to his faith and zeal. For many years a photograph was hung in the Church vestry which had been presented to Mr Samuel Jackson in 1897 by members of his Sunday School class and a copy of this was shown in the booklet produced in 1938. However the society was strong in spirit and there was no lack of leaders in the Chapel and Sunday School. Mr James Thompson who succeeded Mr Jackson as Sunday School superintendent was also a class leader and an ardent worker in all departments. Mr Fred Hall and Mr William France were the first local preachers produced by Plodder Lane and were joined by Mr Fred Mitton who was the last local preacher from Plodder Lane for more than 30 years. Mr Fred Hall succeeded Mr Thompson as superintendent, he formed his own society class, was president of the Wesley Guild and a member of the choir. Mr John Wright Jackson, the son of Mr Samuel Jackson, was also superintendent and active in many other departments.

The Band of Hope meetings which did so much to advance the cause of temperance found devoted leaders in Miss Annie France (Mrs G Davis), Mr Joseph Berry, Mr Fred Mitton and others. The Wesley Guild flourished and gave opportunity of expression to the various talents of the Sunday School scholars. Miss Annie France, Miss Bessie Jackson (Mrs H Crompton), Mr Fred Hall and Mr Fred Mitton are only some of the names of its devoted leaders.

The world war of 1914 brought disaster to the flourishing cause at Plodder Lane. One by one its leaders and scholars went overseas; Ernest and John Hall, William France and William Berry lost their lives and many returned disillusioned and embittered with old habits broken and little desire for the old ways. Others left the district to settle elsewhere and so the Chapel at Plodder Lane found itself a small struggling cause. It would be impossible to pay too high a tribute to the few who continued the duties during those difficult times. Mr John Wright Jackson and Mr Joseph Berry were the superintendents, teachers and society stewards, and with Mr Alfred Rudd who was also society steward and treasurer of the school and with such help as others were able to give, they kept the cause alive.

A football club flourished for a time in the early 1920's and even reached the heights of the league championship. A photograph of this team hung in the chapel vestry for many years. A tennis club begun about 1922 had a longer run of success. A document in the archives at Bolton library displays an Agreement between Lord Bradford's agent and Plodder Lane Wesleyan School dated 29 February 1922 for the tenancy of a piece of land in back Plodder Lane (to be used as a tennis court). These activities helped to keep the interest of the young people at a time when church life generally was at a low ebb.

In 1924 due to the deaths of some of the Trustees additional Trustees were appointed. These were recorded as:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| John Thomas Ashworth | Grocer |
| Samuel Birtles | Cotton Spinner |
| Wm. Henry Birtles | Cotton Spinner |
| Henry Crompton | Farmer |
| Nathaniel Hall | Co-op. Employee |
| John Lyon Monks | Cotton Spinner |
| Joseph Rudd | Tailor |

These appointments were made in Plodder Lane Church for the first time. All previous meetings had been held in the vestry at Market Street Wesleyan Church, Farnworth.

Many complaints are recorded about the lighting in the Church building and in 1925 electricity was coupled to the Church and electric lighting was installed by the corporation who owned the generation and supply of electricity at that time.

In 1926 Miss Harriet Stones was appointed deputy organist. In 1927 the nucleus of young people responded to a special appeal and reorganised the Sunday School. The primary received special care, but the whole school saw the results of the extra help in teaching, the attendance prize scheme, and the increase in social activities for the children. To Miss Alice Crompton, Miss Marion Jackson, Miss Edna Rudd, Miss Harriet Stones, Miss Rosamund Bramhall, Miss Annie Berry and Mr Harry MacRae must go much of the credit for this development which turned the tide of affairs of Plodder Lane. About this time Mr Mark Penny joined Plodder Lane. He was a teacher of handicraft at one of the local schools and he brought to the Church a wide experience of Christian teaching. He gave his time and energy to many tasks in the chapel and Sunday School as Society Steward, Superintendent and a leader of the Ladies Class for many years.

Plodder Lane about this time started to experience a shortage of accommodation which had been realised for some time. Originally ground had been left for a chapel building in front of the existing building, which in turn was intended for use as school rooms, but the widening of the road and certain other restrictions prevented such a plan being carried out. The increasing population in the

Plodder Lane area and the improvement in the Sunday School attendance called for a reconsideration of the problem of accommodation. In 1929 under the leadership of the Superintendent Minister Rev. W J Lester an 'Extension and Improvement Committee' was formed to consider schemes of development and to raise the necessary funds.

The Circuit Quarterly meeting also gave its attention to Plodder Lane's position and appointed its own committee to consider especially the question of the site. They soon reported that, in view of Farnworth's probable expansion the site could hardly have been better chosen. In order that land might be available for future development, the Extension Committee then approached Lord Bradford, who kindly gave a piece of land equivalent in area to the existing piece and adjoining it on the north side. To make sure of a sufficient frontage a further area about 6 yards wide on the east side was purchased for £30. In 1932 the chapel was licensed for the solemnisation of Marriages.

With land now available, various plans for extension were considered and great efforts were made to raise funds. In 1932 an architect was asked to provide plans for a flat roof annex on the east side to provide more accommodation needed by the Sunday School. It was thought this would cost £500 to £600.

For several years Mr George Laraway worked extremely hard as a secretary of the extension committee and bazaars and other efforts were organised with considerable success. Unfortunately funds increased only slowly and there seemed little hope of immediate large scale extension.

In 1934 the death occurred of Miss Deborah Ada Jackson after 19 years as organist and choirmaster.

In 1938 Jubilee Celebrations and services were held. A booklet was produced which gave the history and report of the various activities of the

church. Much of that book has been used in the compilation of this current work. Also in the booklet members were asked to contribute their 'Gems of Thought' and against their entry their name and address was shown. The Jubilee Celebrations lasted from October 1st to 9th and are listed below.

Saturday October 1st -

Birthday Party and Free-will Offering.

Host and Hostess Rev. and Mrs E C PALMER.

Reception 4-0pm to 4-30pm. Tea served at 5-0pm.

Admission including tea: Adults 1/3d. Children 9d

Sunday October 2nd -

Morning and Evening Services conducted by Rev. E C PALMER.

Afternoon Address by Counc. S SCOWCROFT.

Special Singing by Children and Choir.

Wednesday October 5th -

Grand Concert

given by the children.

Chairman: Mr Counc. R TYLDSLEY.

Commencing 7-30pm Admission: Adults, 6d

Children, 3d Including refreshments.

Saturday October 8th -

Grand Concert.

LADIES CLASS EFFORT.

Commencing 7-30 pm Admission: Adults 6d

Children 3d. Refreshments per tariff

Sunday October 9th -

Morning and Evening Services conducted by Rev. EVAN SUTTON.

Soloist in the evening: Miss HELEN EGLON.

Afternoon address by Mr S BERRY B.Sc.

Special singing by the Children and Choir.

All proceeds are in aid of the Extension Fund.



Garden Party in the fields behind the church, 1938



Jubilee Garden Party, 1938

Officers of the Church in 1938 as listed in the booklet:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Society Stewards | Mr Alfred Rudd Mr Samuel Birtles Mr W H MacRae |
| Poor Stewards | Mr H Crompton Mr E Crompton (Jnr) |
| Chapel Stewards | Mr E Armstrong Mr H Crompton Mr H Crompton |
| Trustees Treasurer | Mr J Rudd |
| Trustees Secretary | Mr E Armstrong |
| Trustees | Mr A Rudd Mr H Crompton Mr J Berry Mr J W Jackson Mr T T Jackson Mr N Hall Mr S Birtles Mr W H Birtles Mr J L Monks Mr J R Aldred Mr J Rudd Mr J T Ashworth |

Officers of the Sunday School

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| General Superintendent | Mr G Hayes |
| Superintendents | Mr W H MacRae Mr J Berry |
| Auxiliary Superintendent | Mr A Holden |
| Honorary Superintendent | Mr J W Jackson |
| Treasurer | Mr E Armstrong |
| Secretary | Mr H D MacRae |
| Assistant Secretary | Mr C Beamish |
| Missionary Secretary | Mr E Crompton (Snr) |
| Missionary Treasurer | Mr E Tattersall |

Secretary for
Young Methodism
Temperance Secretary

Master K Hampson
Mrs E Tattersall

Teachers

Ladies Class
Mens Class
Boys Classes

Mrs Anwyl
Mr J Berry
Mr W H MacRae
Mr E Crompton (Jnr)
Mr E Tattersall
Mrs W H MacRae
Mrs E Tattersall
Miss J Tattersall
Miss B Hampson

Girls Classes
Primary

Pianist

Master W Ricketts

In 1939 the Bolton Park Street Circuit was approached by the committee with a view to buying a wooden building which had been used as a mission at Hunger Hill and had recently closed. The Bolton Circuit generously gave the building together with certain furnishings. Tenders for the removal from the existing site and re-erection at Plodder Lane on foundations dug by men of the church were sought and the work was given to S J Hodgkiss for a figure of £275-15-0. This was the firm who built the chapel building in 1888. Additional costs were incurred in decorating the building and the installation of more modern toilets which had become necessary in any case. At the time the committee considered that if the building served for only ten years its expense would have been justified. In fact the building was in use until about 1990.

The Sunday School was now showing consistent improvement. Mr M Penny, Mr J Berry and Mr W H MacRae were faithful superintendents and later Mr

George Hayes who had previously had many years experience at Tonge Moor carried on the work and initiated new developments. Mrs T C Anwyl also from Tonge Moor brought exceptional gifts to her work with the Ladies Bright Hour and the Ladies class in the Sunday School.

In 1935 the Youth Fellowship was formed by Mr Edward Crompton (Jnr.) He had been inspired by a meeting addressed by the Rev. Henry Carter at the King's Hall Bolton. Mr Crompton's suggestion that a Young People's Fellowship be formed received immediate support and the idea put forward by Mr Harry MacRae for a meeting for devotion and discussion after the Sunday evening service was adopted. This decision soon showed its value in increased attendance of the young people at the services. Mr Mark Penny was the first chairman and the Fellowship owed much to his wise leadership at the beginning. Mr. Charles Beamish was treasurer and Mr Edward Crompton was secretary during the early years. About 1939 an article written in the Methodist Recorder was headed 'Youth Movement in Farnworth.'

In the article information was set out as follows:

"A recently formed Christian Fellowship in the Plodder Lane Church, Farnworth (known until recently as the Youth Fellowship) is embarking on summer activities. Having started with a membership of about twelve there is now a membership of over forty. It is primarily a young people's organisation and ever since its inception has never missed meeting immediately after the Sunday evening service. The gathering takes the form of a business meeting, followed by general discussion of some social or spiritual problem. A good family and team spirit exists and much practical work is undertaken. Last Saturday a concert realised £5 for the China and Spain Relief Fund. Last December a Christmas Box Fund was formed for distributing parcels of groceries to poor people of the district and although this happened only a month before Christmas no fewer than a hundred and seventeen parcels were distributed. Preparations are already being made for next Christmas and it is hoped that many more parcels will then be delivered. Several members of the Fellowship are now busily engaged in digging and clearing a site for the erection of a temporary wooden structure to be used for Sunday School purposes. It is proposed later to build a much larger church than the present one. The Fellowship by a



The opening of the new Sunday school building.



"Youth Fellowship" Annual Birthday Party 1940.



"Youth Fellowship" Annual Birthday Party circa 1946.



"Youth Fellowship" Annual Birthday Party circa 1951.

series of efforts throughout the winter has raised considerable sum for this purpose. The Fellowship has led to an added interest in all branches of Church work, and every member is in some way identified with the work of Plodder Lane Church as a whole. The Sunday School superintendent Mr W H MacRae is president of the Fellowship formed at the instigation of the present secretary Mr Edward Crompton. The treasurer is Mr Charlie Beamish. Membership is not, however, confined to the one Church and each Sunday evening a number of young men and women come from the New Bury and Queen Street Church in the same circuit and even as far away as the Bolton Victoria Hall. The first holiday the Fellowship had, took place recently when fourteen visited the Beechwood Court Christian Endeavour Holiday Home and at Easter sixteen visited the Lake District for a week. At the last Birthday party the mother of one of the members, Mrs Hampson, gave a birthday cake.

The fellowship visits other churches on Sunday evenings in an endeavour to introduce similar meetings in churches where there is no such organisation. In the winter house parties have been organised in aid of the forthcoming extension scheme and with the advent of summer-time regular rambles are being arranged."

The Methodist Recorder also printed a photograph of the members at the birthday party and the cake.

The ladies Wednesday afternoon class known as the 'Bright Hour' flourished since its start in about 1920. Mrs A Rudd, Mrs J Berry, Mrs G Hampson, Mrs D Wolfendale, Mrs N Hall, Mrs S Birtles, Mrs H Crompton, Mrs T C Anwyl and many

others were active officers at various times. The meeting was usually held at 3.00 pm with a different speaker each week, except on the first Wednesday of every month, when the Minister was the speaker. At the close of the meeting tea and cakes were served. This was something looked forward to by the young children who had been brought along often protesting, by their mothers.

About 1947 the 5th Farnworth Plodder Lane Methodist Scout Troop and Cub Pack was reformed under the able leadership of the Scout Master, Mr Alec Whitehead. Numbers attending fluctuated but in 1948 there were 11 Scouts and 25 Cubs. Their usual Troop camps were at Rhos-Madoc, near Ruabon in North Wales.

Also about this time a Music and Movement Class was held for girls of 5 years of age and over. About 30 girls were on the register.

In a booklet issued in 1948, credit was given to a small active group of Trustees who had maintained the premises, even when financial resources were inadequate. Mr E Armstrong for his work on the buildings, heating and gardens. Mr J Rudd as secretary of the Trust for many years. Mr H Crompton for twenty six years as Trustees secretary and many other positions. Others such as Mr A Rudd, Mr N Hall and Mr S Birtles shared the responsibility of maintaining the buildings so that worship and teaching could continue.

By the time the second world war began in 1939, Plodder Lane was flourishing with something like its early enthusiasm. The improvement in the Sunday School continued, the Ladies Bright Hour was very strong, the Youth Fellowship showed something of the spiritual vigour of the old class meetings and provided youthful workers in Chapel and Sunday School. The scouts and cubs, begun by Mr Penny and the assistance of Mr Whitehead, and later Miss Amy Tattersall and Mr Stanley

Arrowsmith, also the guides and brownies under the leadership of Mrs G Hayes assisted by Miss Betty Hampson, kept young people in the school and attracted many new scholars. All these influences were playing their part and when a Sunday School early in 1940 was attended by 229 scholars, it revealed something of the extent of Plodder Lane's recovery.

However the second world war brought many problems. Most of the young people were away in the various Forces. Shift work meant difficulties for those at home. Air raid precautions, including the making and fitting of black curtains for black-out purposes and fire watching duties, caused problems and because of this it was inevitable that attendance and work at the church suffered. Although strong differences of opinion on the question of a Christian's duty in wartime were held, and Plodder Lane had a high percentage who held conscientious objections to combatant military service and what it might entail, the Youth Fellowship, whose members were most closely involved, remained united in respect for each others views and all continued to give all the support they could to the Church. Some of those with conscientious objections were involved in non combatant duties in the army involving bomb disposal and other work. Some of those not in uniform were sent to serve in civilian fire fighting in towns and cities which were being bombed and others sent on farms and other duties. Despite many members of the Youth Fellowship being away from home for these reasons, the Youth Group were still active, and in 1940 instead of the usual distribution of Christmas parcels to the poor in the neighbourhood, the whole of the spare resources were sent for the bombed Churches and Missions in London. At the seventh birthday party for the Youth Fellowship held on 6 December 1942 five members of the Forces were on leave and able to attend. The following are those who went from Plodder Lane Methodist Church into uniform and served either in the United Kingdom or overseas:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Victor Anwyl | Navy |
| Bernard Caloe | Army |
| Gladys Caloe | Womens Land Army |
| Alan Crompton | Army |
| John Davis | RAF |
| Joan Evans | Womens Land Army |
| Leslie Hall | Army |
| Albert Hargreaves | Navy |
| Bill Jones | Navy |
| Edith Jones | Womens Land Army |
| Sam Jones | Army |
| Bill Kindred | RAF |
| Frank Knowles | Army |
| Bert MacRae | Army |
| Arthur Partington | Army |
| Alec Pendlebury | Army |
| Cyril Richardson | Army |
| Bill Ratcliffe | Army |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Jim Ratcliffe | Army |
| Walter Ricketts | RAF |
| Sam Steel | Army |
| Harry Wood | Army |

All the above, who served in many theatres of war, returned home, which was remarkable!

Work continued in the church during the war years. In 1940 the external appearance of the boundary wall on Plodder Lane was changed when in accordance with government war time regulations, the wrought iron railings on the top of the wall were removed for salvage and recovery. The building had to be blacked out with curtains as an air raid precaution. Attention had to be paid to the fire-watch regulations in case of incendiary bombs. The trustees were approached by the Home Guard to release the school room for use by them but they refused as this would have stopped use of the building by the Sunday School. A further application was also refused. The Ladies Bright Hour formed a knitting circle to produce garments and comforts for the Forces. Many socks, scarves and gloves were knitted. On the 18 October 1940 a photograph appeared in the Farnworth Journal of some members of the knitting circle with their joint secretaries Mrs M Ricketts and Mrs A Whitehead. It reported that up to that time they had made 258 articles as well as collecting over £43 for wool and contents of the parcels.

During the war in 1942 the Leaders of the Church were listed as:

Mr E Crompton Jnr. *Secretary*
 Mr E Crompton Snr.
 Mr S Birtles.
 Mr G Ricketts.
 Mr E Armstrong.
 Mrs Anwyl.
 Mr M Penny.
 Mr G Hayes.
 Miss A Crompton.
 Mr G Hancock.
 Mr A Holden.
 Mr R Owens.
 Mrs N Hall.
 Mr E Tattersall.

In 1943 the Church was decorated at a cost of £113-13-6. A text in the form of a scroll was painted on the wall over the pulpit reading '**Jesus in the Midst**'.

In 1944 prayer meetings were held three times a week after the invasion of Europe. On 22 October 1944 a Gift Sunday was held to receive gifts for the wounded soldiers at Townley's Hospital.

In 1944 it was requested by the circuit that the annual contribution be increased by £8 per annum. The Church agreed to this but wrote to point out that Plodder Lane had voluntarily increased it's contribution from £30 to £50 and that the new increase would mean an increase of almost 100% within a few years.

In 1946 Mrs Anwyl left the district and her loss was deeply felt. On 13 October 1946 a Welcome Home service was held for the returned Forces members.

In 1946 an official organ blower was appointed for the first time. This was not a sought after position and meant hard work pumping a handle up and down to supply wind to the bellows of the organ and also keeping an eye on a weight at the end of a cord, to indicate the amount of air in the bellows.

In 1946 the Chapel and Sunday School insurance was increased to £3000.

In 1947 it was reported by Mr Frank Whitehead that the scout troop numbered 16 scouts and 17 cubs but were short of assistance in leadership.

In 1948 fears were expressed about the land at the rear of the Church being farmed although it belonged to the Church. It was agreed that this should be fenced to preserve the rights. Also in 1948 Mr J Rudd gave up his position as Trustees secretary after a long number of years serving in that position. Mr B W Berry was appointed the new secretary.

After the war many changes were inevitable. Those who left for service went away as boys and came back as young men. Some were married soon to start young families and move to other districts. For others the habit of regular attendance had weakened and they did not restart. However a younger group of men and women were entering Plodder Lane and in a booklet produced in 1948, Mr E Crompton declared that the Church had not suffered the damage that many feared that it might. In the booklet issued on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee he gave tribute to the many names who had given steadfast service and witness, these included Lawton, Cowcill, France, Berry, Eckersley, Radcliffe, Hall, Crompton, Birtles, Rudd, Tattersall, Oddie, MacRae, Jackson, Hargreaves, Tart, Hartley, Ricketts, Caloe, Hayes, Anwyl, Arrowsmith, Marsh, Owens, Robson, Whitehead, Hurst, Hampson, Beamish.

In 1948 the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were held and they were listed as opposite:

As, on the occasion of the 1938 celebrations, 'Gems of Thought' were once again given. Also listed was a full set of Trust, Chapel and Sunday School Officials who served soon after the war.

TRUST AND CHAPEL OFFICIALS 1948

Trustees:

Mr E Armstrong, Mr S Arrowsmith, Mr B W Berry, Mr J Berry, Mr S Birtles, Mr E Crompton(Sen), Mr E Crompton M.Sc., Mr H Crompton(Jnr), Mr F Hall, Mr K G Hall, Mr G Hayes, Mr H D MacRae, Mr J L Monks, Mr R Owens, Mr E Tattersall, Mr J L Hall, Mr H Crompton(Snr) and Mr W H MacRae.

Oct. 10 - Sunday

10.45 Special Sunday Morning Service, conducted by Miss A Crompton and staff.
2.30 Afternoon Service conducted by Miss L Todd BA (Young Methodism Secretary H Q)
6.00 Evening Service Mr E Crompton M.Sc. Special singing by the children at all services.

Oct. 12 - Tuesday

Grand concert 'Children's Matinee' (A concert given by the children for the children)
Chairman: Mr R Owens.
Commence 7.00 pm. Admission: Children 9d.

Oct. 13 - Wednesday

Grand concert given by the members of the music and movement class. Chairman: Mr G Hayes. Commence 7.30 pm.
Admission: Adults 1/3d Children 9d.
Refreshments per tariff.

Oct. 16 - Saturday

Birthday party and concert. (Concert given by junior and senior members of the Chapel and Sunday School.) Host and Hostess: Rev. E C Palmer (Leeds). Tea at 4.30 pm Concert 7.15 pm. Admission, Tea and Concert: Adults 2/6d Children 1/6d. Concert only Adults 1/- Children 6d. (Gift envelopes will be received at the birthday party.)

Oct 17 - Sunday

Afternoon and Evening Service conducted by Rev. E C Palmer. Soloists: Afternoon Service Mrs Williams; Evening Service Miss M Profitt. Special singing at each service by the Chapel Choir.

Chapel Officials:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Chapel Stewards: | Mr E Armstrong, Mr A Rudd, Mr G Ricketts. |
| Society Stewards: | Mr R Owens, Mr E Tattersall. |
| Poor Stewards: | Mr W H MacRae, Mr S Arrowsmith, Mr K G Hall. |
| Organist: | Mr G Crompton |

Sunday School Officials:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Superintendent: | Mr G Hayes. |
| Superintendents: | Mr E Crompton, Mr R Owens. |
| Primary Superintendent: | Mrs S Birtles. |
| Morning Superintendent: | Miss A Crompton. |
| Secretaries: | Mr J L Hall, Mr H D MacRae. |
| Registrar: | Mr D Hardman. |
| Treasurer: | Mr E Armstrong. |

Auditors: Mr K G Hall,
Mr S Arrowsmith.

Teachers:
Primary: Miss J Arrowsmith,
Miss D Bibby,
Miss A Entwistle,
Miss B Hampson,
Miss V Holland,
Miss D Tattersall,
Miss J Tattersall.

Girls: Miss K Crompton,
Miss L Entwistle,
Mrs Hayes,
Mrs R Owens,
Mrs E Tattersall,
Miss B Telford.

Boys: Mr E Crompton,
Mr G Crompton,
Mr R Morrison,
Mr G Wray.

Mens Leader: Mr Robson.
Ladies Leader: Mrs N Hall.
Scouts and Cubs: Mr A Whitehead.
Missionary Secretary: Mr K G Hall.

Junior Missionary Secretary: Mr J Brown.
Missionary Treasurer: Mr E Tattersall.
Temperance Secretary: Mr D Birtles.

Youth Magazines Secretary: Mrs N Hall.
National Children's Home Secretary: Mrs N Hall.
Organist and Pianist: Mr W Ricketts.

Ladies Bright Hour officials:

President: Mrs H Hayes.
Vice-President: Mrs Parker.
Secretary: Mrs E Birtles.
Treasurer: Mrs Stafford.
Convenor: Mrs N Hall.
Registrar: Mrs E Woodley.
Sick Box and Visitors: Mrs A Barlow,
Mrs E Tattersall.
Entertainment: Mrs A Owen.
Flower Secretary: Mrs N Hall.

In 1948 it was reported by Mrs N Hall, as flower secretary, that more than 200 bunches of flowers had been distributed to sick members and friends during the previous year. It was also reported by Mr J L Hall that the Sunday School had 200 scholars on the books and that Plodder Lane had won a cup at the circuit Eisteddfod.

This period was a very active one in the life of the Church and Sunday School. In the Whitsuntide Procession, which involved walking down Plodder Lane to Farnworth to join the other churches for a procession of witness through the streets of Farnworth, 170 members took part in 1948. After that the Sunday School had to walk back up

Plodder Lane. The procession was led by the Church banner and this required teams of men to carry it for this distance, sometimes in strong winds. At a later date a coal cart owned by Mr Tattersall was cleaned and used to mount the banner and carry the very young children who found the long walk tiring. After the procession the school held a 'field day'. This was held on many occasions on a field owned by Mr H Crompton and all enjoyed 'bun and coffee'. Races were held and other events took place to make it a very enjoyable occasion. At a later date the venue for the 'buns and coffee' was changed as some found the walk up to Slack Fold, now the site of Hayward School, a little too far after the procession. On some occasions a field was shared with St. George's Anglican Church and this was off Plodder Lane near the junction with Bradford Road. It can be recalled that a Scottish Pipe Band in uniform played in the field.

In 1948, as was the custom on the Anniversary, a procession of witness round the locality was held and 200 walked in that procession. The day was a great success in every way with a large congregation at every service, the evening service being relayed to those sitting on seats in the grounds who had come and found the Church full.

In 1949 the insurance for the Church and Sunday School was increased to £5000. A lot of problems were being experienced with the heating in the Sunday School building. The original electric heating in the building when erected proved costly to run and was giving trouble. In 1949 it was decided to remove the old system and fit hot water radiators to work off the boiler in the church cellar. A firm H Ashworth & Sons were appointed to do this work for £150.

In 1948 Mr & Mrs A Rudd left the district.

In 1952 Mr & Mrs R Owens left for Wales.

In 1953 Mr A Rudd died.

In 1954 Mr S Birtles died.

These were great losses to Plodder Lane. Their work and dedication over a great number of years had contributed greatly to the success of the Church. However a younger group of men and women were entering Plodder Lane and they made a great contribution to the Church and circuit. Some became local preachers including Harry Alker, Gordon Wray, Jim Brown, Derek Heaton and Brian Tomkins. This group joined Mr Tom Marsh, Mr Edward Crompton and Mr Arthur Holden who had been local preachers for many years. Mr F Hall who had been very active in earlier years at Plodder Lane and as a local preacher, married Margaret Lilian Gray in 1916 prior to army service. He, his wife and son, Ken, lived at the other side of Bolton in the twenties and then moved to Southport in 1928 where he also served as a local preacher. In 1946 he returned and they came to live at Great Lever, when he resumed his membership at Plodder Lane and service as a Local Preacher in

the Farnworth Circuit. During a visit to the Farnworth Circuit in January 1949, the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. E Benson Perkins, presented him with a certificate to mark his having served as a local preacher for 44 years. That was just a few weeks before the start of his final illness and death in 1949, at the age of 67.

Over this period Plodder Lane might have been regarded as one of the 'power houses' of the circuit. About this time the practice was started of many of the young men going to Abbot Hall the Methodist Guild Guest House near Grange-on-Sands for the weekend conference. Mr. Marsh used to refer to the young men as 'his boys'.

The Youth Fellowship started by Mr E Crompton in 1935, which met after the evening services, finished meeting in that form in the 1960's. There is a record of a Birthday Party on the 27 November 1965. It had been customary for one of the married couples to act as host and hostess for these parties. Many photographs are still available of the various parties over the years and these were to be put on view some years later in 1988.

In 1951 the Church was registered for marriages. Also about this time the Sunday School was finding itself short of room and brought this problem officially to the attention of the Trustees. It had been reported that in December 1951 attendances in the Sunday School had increased to an average attendance of 60/70 each week. The staff roll stood at 13 and scholars on the roll totalled 109.

The Sunday School Officers at that time were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Superintendent | Mr George Hayes |
| Superintendent | Mr Edward Crompton |
| Morning Superintendent | Miss Alice Crompton |
| Primary Superintendent | Mrs Elsie Birtles. |
| General Secretary | Miss Jean Arrowsmith. |
| Assistant General Secretary | Mr John L. Hall. |

The teachers at that time should be mentioned. They included:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Miss Elsie Birtles | Mr Brian Tomkin |
| Miss Betty Hampson | Mr Brian Arrowsmith |
| Miss Margaret Lindsay | Mr Kenneth Holt |
| Miss Vera Holland | Mr John L Hall |
| Miss Audrey Entwistle | Mr Jim Brown |
| Miss Pat Jolly | Mr Joe Wray |
| Miss Doreen Bibby | Mr Derek Heaton |
| Miss Margaret Barlow | Mr Gordon R Wray |
| Miss Jean Arrowsmith | Mr Kenneth Heaton |
| Miss Ida Crompton | Mr Edward Crompton |
| Miss Amy Tattersall | Mrs Eva Hayes |
| Miss Edith Lowe | Mrs Fanny Hall |
| Miss Sylvia Swindells | |

Estimates were sought for a new hall to seat 300 children and a figure of £8,000 was quoted rising to £11,000 with classrooms. Approaches were made to the Church at this time by the local Educational Authorities who wished to use the Sunday School building for day classes involving up to 50 children from the Highfield School 5 days a week.

Agreement was finally made on the 1st June 1957 and a class of young children then used the premises for several years. Many youngsters from the neighbourhood of the Church started their school life in the Sunday School building. The class was run by Mrs Twist and many remember their time there with happy memories. Following the use of the schoolroom on a regular basis, problems were experienced with the heating. The boiler was a coke fired unit and although the war had been over for several years rationed allocations of coke were still controlled by the Fuel Office. Extra allocations had to be sought from the Fuel Overseer to remedy the situation.

In 1950 the Sunday School table tennis team won trophies and finished runners up in the Sunday School league that year.

In the 1951/52 Farnworth Methodist Circuit Year Book the officers of the Church were listed as:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Society Stewards | Mr E Tattersall |
| | Mr R Owens |
| Poor Stewards | Mr A S Arrowsmith |
| | Mr K G Hall |
| Chapel Stewards | Mr H Crompton Jnr |
| | Mr H D MacRae |
| | Mr A S Arrowsmith |
| Trustees Treasurer | Mr H Crompton |
| Trustees Secretary | Mr B W Berry |
| Organist and Choirmaster | Mr G Crompton |
| Sunday School Secretary | Mr J L Hall |
| Missionary Secretary | Mr K G Hall |
| J.M.A. Secretary | Mr B Tomkin |
| Ch. Citizenship | Mr D Heaton |
| Caretaker | Mr T Caloe |

In 1952 Mr H Crompton gave up his position as Treasurer due to ill health. Mr B W Berry became Treasurer and Mr E Woodley became Secretary. In 1952 the position of organ blower was becoming difficult to fill through lack of enthusiasm among the young men. It was decided to install an electric motor driven blower and the contract was given to Higginson and Son.

In 1953 Mr H D MacRae was appointed Treasurer and served in this position for in excess of 30 years. In the same year the memorial windows presented by Mr H Crompton were installed and mention was made of the cleaning of the building afterwards by a group of women including Mrs Hampson, Mrs Barlow, Mrs Caloe and Miss V Holland.

Mr H Crompton died in 1954 and in a meeting a tribute was expressed for his long work as

Treasurer and for advancing money for long periods when the Church was beset by financial difficulties. Also in 1954 Mr J Berry died. These were very sad losses to the church as they had been very much involved in all facets of the church for over 50 years and were the last surviving links with the first generation of Plodder Lane members. In 1954 Mr K G Hall became Trust Secretary.

Many discussions were held at this time about the possibility of extensions and the ability to pay. On the 24 April 1954 it was decided to hold an 'At Home' for the whole church to discuss the problem. It was unfortunately felt that it would be unwise to proceed at that time due to the cost. On the 31 October 1954 a service was held to dedicate the Windows presented by Mr H Crompton, the Communion Table presented by Mrs Berry, the Communion Chairs presented by Mrs F Hall and Mr K G Hall, Table Runner presented by Mr and Mrs E Tattersall, Altar Cross presented by Mr and Mrs J Tattersall, Pulpit Fall presented by Mrs Whitehead and new curtains for the pulpit and organ presented by the women of the Church.

The uniformed organisations were active at this time and Mr George Hayes approached the Trustees for permission for the Scouts to construct a wooden hut for their activities.

In 1955 a new Trust was formed. This was recorded as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr Harry Alker | Assistant Schoolmaster |
| Mr Edward Armstrong | Retired Engine Driver |
| Mr Arthur Stanley Arrowsmith | Dustman |
| Mr Edward Crompton(Snr) | Pharmacist |
| Mr John Leslie Hall | H.M. Factory Inspector |
| Mr Kenneth Gray Hall | Civil Servant |
| Mr Herbert Duncan MacRae | Clerk |
| Mr William Henry MacRae | Joiner |
| Mr Robert Owens | Shopkeeper |
| Mr Ernest Tattersall | Shopkeeper |
| Mr Brian Arrowsmith | T.V. Engineer in H.M. Forces |
| Mr David Barlow | Plumber |
| Mr Ernest Bennetta | Joiner |
| Mr James Brown | Engineering Draughtsman |
| Mr Gordon Jackson Crompton | Assistant Schoolmaster |
| Mr Norman Fisher | Clerk |
| Mr Norman Hamer | Plumber |
| Mr Harold Thomas Hayes | Butcher Manager |
| Mr Derek Thomas Heaton | Company Branch Secretary |
| Mr Thomas Harold Marsh | Mill Manager |
| Mr Frank Whitehead | Engineer |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr Arthur Eric Woodley | Insurance Claims Engineer |
| Mr Gordon Richard Wray | Technical Lecturer |
| Mr Joseph Wray | Cabinet Maker in H.M. Forces |
| Mr Leonard Lang | Engineer |

After much discussion it was decided to ask for quotes for additional classrooms in the church building. Although the provision of toilet facilities in the main church building in addition to the rooms would have been desirable, it was felt that the finances did not permit this. Gilbert Collier & Son were asked to quote for two rooms with access to the east end of the church. The raising of the floor at the front of the Church to form a dias and panelling the walls was requested and a figure of approximately £1300 was discussed. On 16 February 1956 authority to sign a contract was given to the Rev. John Burton (Minister) Mr Herbert Duncan MacRae (Treasurer) and Mr Derek Thomas Heaton (Secretary). This work began on the 27 March 1956, and was completed in March 1957. A committee comprising Mr E Tattersall and Mr D J Heaton under the chairmanship of Mr J L Hall was formed to organise the opening ceremony on Saturday 9 March 1957. This took the form of a service conducted by Rev. E L Thacker and Rev. J Burton with the opening being carried out by Mr Edward Armstrong. A concert was given in the evening by the Farnworth Male Voice Choir and Moseley Common Methodist Church. A pulpit given by Mrs F Hall and Mr K G Hall in memory of Mr F Hall was installed at the time of the other work. In February 1957 a carpet to cover the new dias area together with a Communion Rail was given by Miss A Crompton. The valuation of the buildings was increased to £10,000 in 1957. Other alterations were carried out in 1965 when the stairs at the rear of the church which led to two upstairs rooms were removed and reinstalled in one of the rear vestries. This work was paid for by a donation made by Miss A Crompton.

About this time it is recorded that attendance at the Bright Hour was between 26 and 30 Ladies.

In February 1957 appointments made at the annual general meeting of the Trustees were

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Secretary | Mr D T Heaton |
| Treasurer | Mr H D MacRae |
| Stewards | Mr L Lang |
| | Mr S Arrowsmith |
| | Mr F Whitehead |
| Choirmaster & Organist | Mr G T Crompton |
| Assistant Organist | Mr N Fisher |
| Porch Steward | Mr G Ricketts |

A land mark was reached in 1958 when, at the Leaders Meeting held in June, it was reported that the Membership stood at 107. This was probably the first time in the history of the Church that the

membership had topped 100. In September a figure of 111 was returned with transfers from Middle Hulton Church which had closed. In December 1958 the figure was 113 and in June the membership had reached 116. After this the number varied owing to members leaving and also new members being received from other Churches closing. The membership rose to 105 in May 1967 mainly due to the transfer of members from New Bury.

In the late fifties and early sixties many of the young men moved away in connection with their occupations or to get married. These included Jim Brown, Gordon Crompton, John Leslie Hall, Derek Heaton, Arthur Partington, Gordon Wray and later other keen workers including Mr and Mrs Higson and Mr H D MacRae left the district. This seemed to end one of the strong periods in the life of Plodder Lane. Before leaving, Mrs Barbara Higson was Sunday School Superintendent for several years and was responsible together with her husband Mr Joe Higson who held the position of Church Steward for many years in maintaining the interest of many of the young people at the Church. They carried on a long tradition together with Mr. Gordon Crompton of walks in the Lake District. The walk was usually planned in the 'Flying Dutchman' which was a cafe at Milnthorpe and a useful meeting point for cars. The walk was not considered 'official' unless chips were bought on the way home at 'Hanrattys' a chip shop in Kendal. The later building of the M6 and M61 motorways made these trips easier, although Kendal was bypassed on the way home. However petrol prices started to escalate and a period of repeated soakings damped down enthusiasm and walks finally ceased in the Lake District in the 1980's. Local walks were carried out sometimes led by Rev. David Frudd who was our Minister at that time.

An agreement was signed on 7 November 1960 for the erection of a Scout hut on the ground behind the Sunday School. This was drawn up by Mr H White. The uniformed organisations were very strong at this period. Mrs Dorothy Garside requested that the Brownie Pack be allowed to plant flowers and seeds in the Church grounds and later reported that there was a waiting list for entry into the Brownies. Miss Lever was soon to report the Guides had a membership of 26 and Mr F Whitehead reported there were 10 Rovers, 20 Scouts and 36 Cubs.

In July 1961 the death occurred of Mr Edward Crompton. His contribution to the Church in introducing the Youth Fellowship and his work in many spheres including local preaching was far reaching and incalculable. A special memorial service was held in October 1961. About this time the death occurred of Mr Edward Armstrong. This was a sad loss to the Church. He had been very

much involved in all facets of the Church for over 50 years.

In 1961 the Sunday School suffered one of its first acts of vandalism when damage was caused and a small amount of money was stolen. Later a seat which had been given in memory of Susan & Lorna Shaw and Sheila Watson was wrecked by vandals. A special alcove for this seat and its commemorative plate had been built into the boundary wall on Plodder Lane by Mr L Speakman and Mr H D MacRae. The seat was repaired free of charge by a joiner and then put inside the Church. It was not realised at the time that this vandalism would be a regular thing in the years to come. The Church building now started to show increasing problems of wear as time went on. Much was owed to work done by the Property Steward Mr L Speakman in repairing and maintaining the building and grounds at minimum cost and inconvenience. Appreciation was expressed at many Trust and later Property Committee meetings of the work done over many years by him.

In 1961 the Day School classes ceased and it was agreed that a Child Welfare Clinic for mothers and babies could use the building one day per week commencing 29 November 1961. This continued for several years until the Clinic felt that the facilities were becoming inadequate and they moved to more modern premises which were run by the local authority.

In June 1962 a crisis arose when the caretaker resigned. Mrs Nathaniel Hall, Mrs Ethel Knowles and Miss Ida Crompton agreed to prepare the Church for Sunday worship on a temporary basis. A rota of the ladies was later formed to clean the building. In later years the Church was to rely more and more on one or more of the ladies to do this work.

In 1963 the Church heating boiler was converted from coke firing to oil burning to make the boiler more automatic and less dependent on caretakers or willing volunteers. The cost of this and a 600 gallon oil tank was £261 and the conversion was carried out by Ellesmere Engineering.

In 1963 a new Trust was formed including for the first time some of the ladies of the Church. The new Trust was recorded as follows:

Gordon Jackson Crompton

Assistant
Administrative
Officer of Education
Dustman
Clerk
Civil Servant
Butcher
Contracting Officer

Arthur Stanley Arrowsmith
Norman Fisher
Kenneth Gray Hall
Harold Thomas Hayes
Herbert Duncan MacRae



Church after alterations, 1957.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Frank Whitehead | Engineer |
| Dora Arrowsmith | Married Woman |
| Dorothy Carrington | Married Woman |
| John David Goodall | Recording Engineer |
| Ida Alice Crompton | Teacher |
| Fanny Hall | Widow |
| Gordon Halliwell | Local Government Clerk |
| Robert West Hayes | Nuclear Technologist |
| Joseph Higson | Chemical Engineer |
| Rita Marshall | Cost Clerk |
| Robert James Reed | Shop Keeper |
| Walter John Rothwell | Paper Merchant |

In 1964 a joint meeting of the Trust and Leaders was held and our Minister the Rev. G L Clarke brought forward the question of a Stewardship Campaign. It was agreed that this should take place and be shared with Little Lever. For a time it revitalised the life of the Church.

In 1964 Mr. G Halliwell became Trust Secretary and in 1965 Miss Christine Lever took over the position. In 1968 Mrs D Carrington in turn became secretary.

In 1966 the congregational seats were altered from wooden forms to rows of seats which although reducing the seating capacity to 87 provided increased comfort.

In a Leaders Meeting in 1971 concern was expressed that enthusiasm had been damped down by the several blows that had been suffered through frequent changes of Ministers and the lack of Ministerial leadership this caused.

In 1973 a new gas fired heating boiler was installed. The previous oil storage tank had been subjected to vandal attack and also escalating oil prices made the switch to gas the obvious solution. The Church and Sunday School were now insured for £25,000.

Overseas Missions were always a important part of life at Plodder Lane. In 1948 Mr K G Hall succeeded Mr E Crompton Snr. who had been Missionary Secretary for 16 years. With the drive and enthusiasm of Mr K G Hall the collections for Missionary work increased and for many years Plodder Lane collected the highest total of any of the Churches in the circuit. Many young people were encouraged to become collectors and in December 1965 it was reported that over £200 had been collected for the first time. This was surpassed by £231 in 1971 and £241 in 1972. After a long period of 30 years in this position Mr K G Hall had to leave this office in 1978 due to the deterioration in his mothers health. She was then 89 years of age. Mrs G Harrison took over this position and although collections continued to grow, the rate of inflation in the country was very high. The highest recorded total was in 1985 when £584 was achieved. Subsequently the figure continued to drop as attendance at the Church and Sunday School declined.

The first joint service with the Anglicans took place at St. George's on Sunday the 19 January 1969 although discussions had first taken place in June 1959. Other meetings took place later. Joint flower distribution took place at Easter in 1969 and

carried on for several years. In 1970 it was agreed at the Leaders Meeting to arrange one joint service per quarter. Joint visiting in the neighbourhood also took place, but in November 1973 many of these contacts ceased.

At a joint meeting of the Leaders, Trustees and Youth Council on the 5 April 1974 the first appointments were made in accordance with the regulations for the re-structuring of the Methodist Church. Under this re-structuring the Church Council took over the duties and responsibilities of the Leaders, the Property Committee took over from the Trust, the Society Stewards became Church Stewards, the Chapel Stewards became the Property Stewards, the Poor Stewards became Communion Stewards and the Society Meetings became General Church Meetings. The first meeting of the Church Council took place on the 28th. August 1974.

In 1975 a decision to move the evening service to afternoon was proposed for a trial period from October to December. This reflected the concern of the older members leaving their homes and walking to Church in the dark at a time when personal attack was on the increase. About this time films for the young people were being showed in the Sunday School building on a Saturday morning and attendances of between 80 and 120 were reported.

In 1977 the first Property Committee was appointed and the members were:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Secretary | Mrs D Carrington |
| Treasurer | Mr H D MacRae |
| Steward | Mr L Speakman |
| Members | Mr S Arrowsmith |
| | Mr H Moon |
| | Mr & Mrs. R Wilson |
| | Mr W Ricketts. |
| | Mr E Brawn |
| | Mr K G Hall |

For many years the Sunday School Anniversary was held on the second Sunday in June and was a busy and enjoyable day. A procession of witness led by a band was held in the morning followed by a service at which the young people sang and in some instances played instruments. For a period the children were trained by Mr Owens and Miss L Entwistle and later by Mrs E Hayes assisted by Mr S Arrowsmith. Mrs E Hayes trained the young people for many years and even continued to do so after she went to live at Bromley Cross. On the occasion of the last Anniversary before her death in 1982 when she was too ill to attend, the young people were trained by Mrs S Caine and a recording was made and sent to Mrs Hayes. Mr S Arrowsmith died in 1980 and they were both sadly missed.

The life of the Church was however being hit (in the same way as many other Churches) by the growing number of family cars, caravans and

television. Numbers dropped additionally as people moved from the area, promising young people left to join Colleges or Universities and start life elsewhere. Miss Ida Crompton and later Mrs Lorraine Mellor and Mr R Wilson did spells as Sunday School Superintendent but when they moved away the position could not be filled. In the mid 1980's about 70 children were attending but the lack of teachers and facilities soon reduced this figure. Although difficulties were being experienced in finding Sunday School teachers Mrs G Harrison and Mrs S Caine worked very hard with the children. Later the Minister's wife Mrs M Paterson did much work and also Mrs A Green was released from her local preaching duties and travelled from Little Lever to help. Mrs D Garside and Mrs P Croucher did what they could to assist, but further reduced numbers of children and lack of modern facilities made continuation very difficult. Mrs C Bradley agreed to help and took the children for a period but when the remaining children and young people decided to attend St. Catherine's where there was a bigger group it was arranged for them to return on the occasion of the family services only.

About this time, in common with many other Churches, the buildings were repeatedly attacked by vandals causing much damage, work, and expense. The cellar steps leading to the gas meter and boiler were wrecked and new access had to be made from inside the building. Many of the memorial glass windows were smashed and the window frames in the 'new' vestries were totally destroyed leaving no option but to brick them up spoiling the appearance. Waste pipes were stolen, doors smashed and finally an attempt was made to set fire to the Sunday School building. Fortunately prompt action by a neighbour saved that building. It was now in a very unsafe condition but could not be pulled down until alternative toilet accommodation could be provided. Agreement was made with the Scouts who used the toilet facilities to build two sets of toilets in the Scout hut. The Church agreed it would make a grant of up to £1000 towards this work. In fact one toilet was built of surplus material and installed by Scout members at no cost to the Church. As soon as this toilet was completed in May 1991 arrangements were made to pull down the old Sunday School building. At first a charge of about £2000 was asked for pulling down this building due, the contractor said, to the hazard of the asbestos roof but another firm contacted our Minister the Rev. K Halden offering to pull down the building free if they could keep the proceeds of the sale. This offer was accepted and the building was removed in November 1991, some 53 years after it was erected as a 'temporary' building.

In 1970 a Ranger Troup was started by Mrs. B Higson to add to the uniformed organisations at that time.

In 1978 the death occurred of Mr George Ricketts. He had held the position of Door Steward

for 38 years and his dependable attendance, warm welcome and smile were greatly missed by the congregation.

About 1960 a Youth Club was started by Mr J Higson. This proved very popular with the young people of the Church and in February 1962 a attendance of 80 was recorded although problems were experienced with a rowdy element who turned up. In an effort to combat this it was suggested that entrance to the Youth Club should be related to attendance at Church. In April 1963 Mr J Higson reported attendances of 30 to 50 on Friday nights and 25 to 30 on Sundays. In 1966 the problem of lack of facilities was raised and it was pointed out that a new Youth Club known as the Highfield Centre was much better equipped. The closing of the Youth Club was discussed. Later a club for 12 to 14 year olds was started by Mrs Moon but difficulties of supervision and the attendance of non Sunday School youngsters caused problems. Later Mr Brian Fletcher took over the leadership of the club. In 1981 the Youth Club again re-opened led by Mr John Lever and this ran until 1985.

In 1980 due to the low attendance figures, and the fact that then there was one Church Steward only, the Church Council voted for one Sunday service only as from the last week in October. In 1981 the one Church Steward, Mr S Rowlands, resigned through ill health. He had held that position faithfully for many years. Mr R Wilson agreed to take his place.

The problem of filling positions and meeting expenses became critical about this time. Over the years since the Stewardship Campaign, Plodder Lane had contributed generously on agreed formulae to many external causes including Methodist Missionary Society, Methodist Relief Fund and Connexional Funds. The treasurer at that time Mr K G Hall had felt that our giving to these causes should be related or index linked to our income. However at the Finance Meeting held in November 1981 the Treasurer pointed out that the circuit assessment of Plodder Lane had gone up by 140% in three years and the current rise of 30% made it impossible for the external grants to be maintained on that basis. The Treasurer made strong representations to the Circuit Meeting following which a reduction of £108 a quarter was made although still leaving Plodder Lane paying a higher assessment per member than any other Church in the circuit.

In 1984 Mr K G Hall resigned as Church treasurer due to the need to care for his mother then 95 years old. The position was taken over by Mr John Harrison. In 1986 the Property accounts maintained for so many years by Mr H D MacRae were merged with the Church account maintained by Mr J Harrison.

In 1987 Mr R Wilson agreed to continue as Senior Steward but was now joined by a team to give a total of six Stewards. In November 1987 a meeting was held at Plodder Lane with the Church

Council meeting members of the local Anglican Church to discuss possible ecumenical projects.

In 1988 regular Fellowship Meetings on a weeknight at the manse were good with about 50% of those attending being from St. Catherine's. In 1988 it was voted to have two joint services per quarter with St. Catherine's.

At this time expenses for re-roofing the vestry, rewiring the Church plus the extra circuit assessment required for the new manse created problems.

It was felt that a celebration should be held in 1988 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Church. A committee was formed led by Mrs G Harrison who was Property Secretary at that time. It was decided to have a Birthday party on Saturday 11 June prior to the services the following day, the party also to be a re-union for as many previous members as possible who had moved to other parts of the country. The existing Fire Regulations limited the number of people who could be invited. It was also arranged that a display of memorabilia should be held; Mr K G Hall and Mr W Ricketts were appointed to supervise this. Large number of photographs of all activities were displayed also a selection of documents including one from the Wesleyan Chapel dated 16. July 1888 to build 'Chapel and Vestries' Account books of 1904 and 1944 were on display. It was further decided to hold a flower festival on the Saturday and Mrs Irene Wilson was appointed to arrange this. Mrs M. Paterson, the wife of the Minister at that time was asked to help and it was arranged for various sections of the Church to produce displays on the theme of hymns. These displays were held in the Church itself during the afternoon while cream teas were served by the Ladies in the School Building. A record should be made here of the hard work put in by Mr John Lever the Property Steward. A mention has been made previously in this account of the severe vandalism being suffered by the Church and Sunday School. On the Saturday morning concerned he replaced all broken windows to make sure that the old building would look its best. The repairs could not be carried out the previous day because they would probably have been broken again that evening! The party and re-union were a marvellous success and the fellowship known many years before was renewed. A cake with many candles was cut by the Minister Rev. 'Nick' Paterson, with the singing of "Happy Birthday Plodder Lane". The worship on the Sunday started with a procession led by a band. This was one of the last processions held at Plodder Lane when it's members walked under the Church banner around the neighbourhood. The morning service was led by Mr J Mellor of Little Lever (previously of Plodder Lane) and the service started with a reading given by Mr Matthew Harrison. There was a young peoples choir trained by Mrs S Caine and Mrs G Harrison. The young people sang to the organ and

also a keyboard played by Miss E Caine and guitars played by Miss C Harrison, Miss A Caine, and Miss R Caine. The evening service was led by Mr Norman Beswick of Little Lever, the young people also sang and played at this service. In September 1992 the Ladies Bright Hour had their last meeting. Over many years the life of the Church had been strengthened both spiritually and financially by the Ladies. Their meetings and activities had always been an important part of the Church life. However as congregations started to decline and social conditions induced more of the younger ladies to take careers or occupations on a full time basis, the number attending the Bright Hour decreased. The average age of those attending was rising and, as infirmity and illness started to take its toll, despite the vigorous efforts of many of the ladies including Mrs D Garside, Mrs F Brabin, Mrs P Croucher and many others whose names are not recorded, it was decided to cease meeting. That was the end of a great tradition.

During the 1980's thoughts had turned to the necessity of a new building which would offer more facilities, additionally would have a less gloomy external appearance, and which might attract new members and their families. It was noted that some people on the estate went past the building on their way to other Churches in Farnworth. It was decided to open a Building Fund and much effort and enthusiasm was put into the project. Socials, jumble sales and a variety of efforts were arranged. A Christmas Fayre was held in 1983, recorded and photographed in the local press. However it became obvious that, although some funds were being raised, the decreasing circle from where money could be raised would never produce sufficient funds for a new building. In 1987 the possibility of selling part of the land at Plodder Lane, to help the funds, was explored but it proved that it would yield only a small capital figure.

Once again Plodder Lane suffered from many changes of Minister. In 1987 the Rev. N Paterson became Minister. In 1990 the Superintendent Minister Rev. K Halden took over Plodder Lane and Rev. N Paterson, the Churches formerly covered by Rev. K Halden. In 1991 Rev. M Chapman took over from Rev. K Halden and in 1993, the Rev. T Humphreys. These rapid changes of Minister did not help the stability at Plodder Lane at what was a very critical period. In fact this was the second time that anxiety had been expressed. About this time it was mentioned to our Minister Rev. Michael Chapman by St. Catherine's Anglican Church that they were having problems with their building. Repairs which were essential were of a major nature and were not economical or practical to carry out. The idea of joining our two Churches gradually took hold and was strongly supported by the team rector of St. Catherine's at the time, the Rev. Paul Kerr and his wife Rev. Jean Kerr. Joint meetings were held and the vast majority of the congregations at both Churches supported the

idea. On Sunday 4 April 1993 at a joint service held at Plodder Lane, a declaration of intent was signed to hope to unite the two congregations in the next three years. The declaration was signed on behalf of St. Catherine's by Rev. Paul Kerr and Miss Annie Hall and for Plodder Lane by Rev. Michael Chapman, Mr Kenneth Gray Hall and Mr Walter Ricketts. The signing was recorded and a photograph appeared in the Methodist Recorder and the local paper. Unfortunately, soon after this signing,, the Rev. P Kerr and Rev. J Kerr moved from the district. Again Plodder Lane had another change of Minister. When Rev. N Paterson left the district at the end of his stay it was decided that the Superintendent Minister Rev. M Chapman would have pastoral oversight of Trinity and Kearsley Churches and the new Ministers Rev. Teifion Humphreys and his wife Rev. Jean Humphreys would become responsible for Plodder Lane. They quickly proved themselves to be enthusiastic about uniting the two Churches and towards the end of 1993 planning permission was sought for the site at Plodder Lane. This was a necessary step to ensure that if the site was to be sold it would be attractive for development. A group was formed to draw up the constitution for the new Church and Mr & Mrs L Speakman and Mr R Lowe were elected from Plodder Lane. Other members were to join as found necessary. In October 1993 a representative of St. Catherine's attended a Church Council Meeting at Plodder Lane for the first time. At a Church Council Meeting held on the 21 March 1994 it was reported that planning permission had been received and that the site could be sold to produce funds towards a new Church to be built on the site of the existing St. Catherine's Church. After discussion at that meeting a unanimous decision was made for Plodder Lane Society to cease meeting at Plodder Lane Methodist Church after the last service in August 1994 and formally to join with St. Catherine's on 1 September 1994.

On Sunday the 28 August 1994 the final morning service was held at 10-30 am. The worship was led by our Ministers the Rev. Teifion Humphreys and the Rev. Jean Humphreys. Communion was shared for the last time at Plodder Lane. This proved to be a very emotional occasion for those with memories of many years of worship and service in the Church at Plodder Lane. At 3-0 pm. a special service was held. starting with a call to worship given by Mr Brian Tomkin of St.Catherine's. The Prayers and Confession were given by Rev.Teifion Humphreys and Rev. Jean Humphreys. Scriptures were read by Rev. Andrew Ballard, the Anglican Area Dean and Mr Stanley Crompton as the longest serving local preacher with 59 years service to the Farnworth Methodist Circuit. The Prayers of Intercession were led by Rev. Michael Chapman the Superintendent Minister and the sermon was given by the Rev. David B Reddish, the Chairman of the district. The first half of the final hymn was sung in Plodder Lane

Church and at this point the Ministers and congregation moved in procession to St.Catherine's Church where the final hymn was completed. The Blessing was given by Mr Bob Lowe of Plodder Lane. The service ended with the singing of the Doxology. On completion of the service the ladies at St.Catherine's provided tea and cakes The Stewards for the final service were Mr L Speakman and Mrs Alice Speakman. The two organists Mrs Dorothy Garside and Mr Walter Ricketts shared the playing of the organ.

Church Officials of Plodder Lane at the time of joining with St. Catherine's.

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| Chapel Stewards | Mrs D Garside Mr R Lowe Mrs D Warburton Mr K G Hall Mrs A Speakman Mr W Ricketts |
| Communion Stewards | Mrs J Bennetta Mrs A Speakman Mrs D Brandwood |
| Organists | Mrs D Garside Mr W Ricketts |
| Church Treasurer | Mrs J Bennetta |

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| Covenant Secretary | Mr K G Hall |
| Church Council Secretary | Mr W Ricketts |
| Property Committee Secretary | Mr W Ricketts |
| Pastoral Visitors | Mrs A Lowe Mrs E Warburton Mr K G Hall Mr W Ricketts |
| Property Stewards | Mr J Lever Mr E Caine |

Organists at Plodder Lane Church from 1888-1994

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| Mr J W Jackson Miss D A Jackson Miss M Jackson Mrs H Richardson (nee Stones) Mrs D MacRae Mr W Berry Mr G Crompton Mr N Fisher Mrs E Whittaker Mr K Taylor Mr W Ricketts Mrs E Warburton Mrs P Croucher Mrs D Garside |
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And so a new chapter begins. Just as Abraham, moving at God's command, tied up loose ends and gathered together his people and their possessions, so the next week saw much activity as we worked together to transport the furnishings and memorials to our new home.

This completed, we began in earnest the next stage in making our dreams a reality, coming down to earth as we encountered the legalities of the Church, County, and Charities Commission!

Any uncertainties that may have remained however, were evaporated as we walked into our new home at Highfield on that first Sunday of September. We had already felt the warmth of the Anglican folk as they had walked this last year with us; but we were not prepared to see so many of our treasured memorials taking their place within the sanctuary.

We were also thrilled at the way so many people had gathered to share this, our first communion together, as we began the next stage of our journey to becoming one people in one building. It was a joy to share in the leading of worship with the Rev. Dougie Bird. His relaxed and unpretentious way led us through the act of worship with confidence and ease. And as I stood beside him sharing in the Eucharist I felt at home.

We know that there are still many hurdles to overcome. Some of our people feel that the journey is not for them; we wish them God's blessing as they find a new spiritual home. But, as I served at the communion rail that morning, sharing in the one cup, I was assured that this was God's plan for His people in this place and this generation. Like Saint Paul, I felt like shouting from the roof tops, "If God is for us who can be against us." As the months turn into years let us look straight into the eyes of Jesus embodied in the community we serve with all its problems, hurts, pains, and joys, so that we can be a God-send to our neighbour.

We now await with the joy of the induction of the Rev. Ashby Owens, together with his wife Lindsey, who herself will be ordained next year. They will join the team of our Lay Readers, alongside Alison, Dougie, Eric, Jean and myself. In the Name of Christ we offer ourselves to you all.

Rev. Teifion Humphreys

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH

Organ Hymn Book given in memory of Miss Deborah Ada Jackson by Mr J W Jackson.

Two Flower Vases given in memory of Ernest and John Hall by their brother Mr Nathaniel Hall

Christening Font given in memory of Mr William France by his wife.

Cross given in memory of Janie and James Tattersall by Mr & Mrs J Tattersall and Family.

Communion Table given in memory of Joseph Berry by his family.

Pulpit and Chairs given in memory of Mr Frederick Hall by his wife and son.

Clock given in memory of Mr W M Henry Birtles by his family.

Pulpit Fall given in memory of Mrs Mary Williams by her daughter Mrs Whitehead.

Windows given in memory of Mr Samuel Jackson by Mr H Crompton at the bequest of Mr T Jackson.

Table Runner given in memory of Mark and Annie Penny by Mr & Mrs E Tattersall.

Bible Stand given in memory of Mark and Annie Penny by their daughter.

Sacrament Table Cloth and Bible given in Memory of Mr & Mrs E Armstrong by their daughter.

Hearing Aid System given in memory of Mrs N Hall by her son.

Seat given in memory of Susan Shaw aged 12 years, Lorna Shaw aged 10 years, Sheila Watson aged 13 years and Leading Fireman Liptrot.

Flower Pedestal given in memory of Mrs Maggie Jane Tattersall by her family.

Flower Vase given in memory of Mrs Annie Ratcliffe by Mr F Ratcliffe.

Communion Set given in memory of Mrs Gladys Ricketts by her husband.

Pulpit Fall given in memory of Mrs Gladys Ricketts by Mr & Mrs H Kingston.

Hymn Board given by Mr & Mrs R Wilson in memory of their parents.

Display of Artificial Flowers given in memory of Mr & Mrs G Hampson by their daughter.

Communion Table Runner given in memory of Mr Schollick by his wife.

Bible given in memory of Mr George E Laraway by his wife.

Hymn Book given in memory of Mr William Tattersall by Mr & Mrs Tattersall and family.

Portable Communion Set given in memory of Fred Rothwell aged 8 months by his parents Mr & Mrs H T Rothwell



Officials and congregation at the final service on Sunday 28th August