

THE ENGLESEA EXTRA

13TH MAY 2020: 8TH EDITION

PRICE: ½ BAG OF COMPOST
Reminiscences of the Research

STRANGE TIMES

Even in these strange times, we can look to our Primitive Methodist forebears and their practices as an example to us as lockdown restrictions are eased. 'Walk or cycle to work' says Boris... the patched and worn boot of Hugh Bourne, the numerous accounts of preachers walking miles to take multiple services each Sunday and the bike with that beautiful, if rather uncomfortable-looking leather seat, bear testimony to their zeal and dedication to share the Gospel. And who needs a building to introduce people to Jesus and offer life in all its fullness? The growth of Primitive Methodism as we know stems not just from the camp meetings – a social distancing nightmare (!) – but from 'conversation evangelism', walking beside people on their faith journey. This article in the Guardian last week certainly reflects our experience at Wesley Place of surprising people engaging with prayer and faith being offered in fresh and innovative ways. So take heart and share the hope we have as Christians, particularly with young people in our families or that we know, to see us through these unsettling times.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/03/british-public-turn-to-prayer-as-one-in-four-tune-in-to-religious-services>

Every blessing Ruth

Director

In the first of a two-part series, Tim looks at the coming of Primitive Methodism to Chester and Saughall

Just over 100 years ago, Saughall celebrated the centenary of Primitive Methodism coming to the area. On 19th June that year they had a demonstration on Whit Monday (a Day beloved in Methodism and other religious groups for celebrating their identity with open air festivals and walks). A garden Party and rally was held in the field of Mr. E. Williams JP at The Croft, with tea from 4pm to 5pm followed by a great public meeting presided over by Alderman William Vernon. In a marquee with a united choir from the three circuits in Chester and district leading the hymn singing. Hundreds attended.

So what were they celebrating? It was the arrival of PM preachers of the Burland (near Nantwich) branch of the first circuit who came to Chester city and surrounding area, establishing preaching places which in time became chapels and societies. In the Spring of 1819, John Wedgwood inaugurated a mission, starting in Huxley and moving into the city the following year. It is recorded that "the countryside was moved at his coming. His open air and even his early morning services drew crowds". From Churton, the preachers moved into the city and to Saughall and beyond. Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Brownsword and others came. Often they preached at the Cross in Chester to hundreds of onlookers, moving down Watergate Street to a yard off it and on to Handbridge (places where there was open ground). Afterwards, sympathisers who became members opened up their humble cottages for prayer meetings. The

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first place licensed for worship was in Steven Street in 1821 and the first chapel was established in the poorer neighbourhood of Boughton in Steam Mill Street, on land given by Ephraim Sadler. From the beginning the Sadlers were involved in the spread of Primitive Methodism.

At Huxley, Sampson Turner, another itinerant preacher, visited the farmstead of Ephraim Sadler who with his brother William at Tiverton did much to encourage the early growth of Primitive Methodism. From this farm much of the organisation and support for the early causes was orchestrated. It was there that John Sadler, son of Ephraim, was born, who went on to serve 35 years as a local preacher and class leader. He was converted in 1819 under the preaching of Sampson Turner who came to the village saying: "Turn to the Lord and seek salvation". His tragic life included the early death of his wife and a cattle epidemic in 1843 which virtually ruined him. He died in Kelsall in 1871.



In the absence of photos of the churches mentioned, I found pictures of Tiverton Methodist Church, former PM chapel, then and now, and still used for worship today – Ed.

By 1822 Chester and its surrounding area became a separate branch of the Burland Circuit as the movement accelerated. In the Spring of 1822 Thomas Brownsword wrote: "I went to Chester and at eight o'clock preached on the Cross to 500 people. Many seemed much affected." After meetings in Watergate Street and Handbridge they had intended to have a meeting in Boughton " .. but the weather was so unfavourable that we were obliged to divide into companies and go into three houses and hold prayer meetings". It must have been such occasions that made them determine to find larger and enclosed premises. So the chapel in Steam Mill Street was obtained, helped substantially by the Rev. John Sadler's father (John?). Here and elsewhere the early PMs encountered much hostility as the rowdier low life of the city "hooted and howled and ran up against the worshippers". The city magistrates were unsympathetic as they said that it served them right for disturbing the peace of the city. Such was the reputation of the so-called Ranters! But by October 1821 when Thomas Bateman

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arrived to preach he found the situation much calmer: "Surely the bitter persecution will now drop?" As we shall hear later, that was a pious hope only!

By 1824, the cause had grown so that Chester was made a separate Circuit with its own itinerant minister stationed. By 1863, it had grown to having three ministers, 80 local preachers, 15 chapels including a new one at Saughall, the second largest society after what was soon to become George Street, the head of the circuit, 27 other preaching places and over 750 members.

Tim

Connecting the Connexion

A new initiative has been developed by the Methodist Church - a FREE phone service and another imaginative initiative to come out of these strange days:



To listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

To listen to Methodist news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday evening.

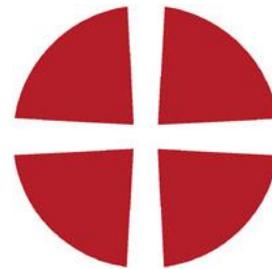
[A message from the President and Vice-President, Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh, on their Facebook page. I thought I would share it here as I know not all of you have Facebook:](#)

Dear lovely fellow Methodists

I know this time is really hard for everyone, and I am SO proud of you and all you are doing in so many creative and imaginative ways. . If you are feeling down and lonely, then please know we are still together and praying for each other.

Thank you for your courage, faithfulness and wisdom.

These days will also pass God is with us



THE PERCIVAL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The important thing about faith is not our flickering and fluctuating love for God, but his great love for us. We have our moods, but God is the same today, yesterday and for ever. And God is not limited by our ideas about him, nor by our response to him.

Frank Thewlis

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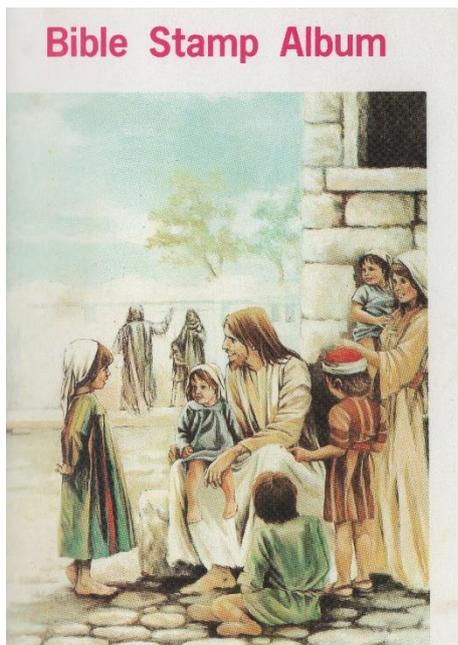
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FROM MARGARET:

So those dangerous-looking implements that Margaret shared with us last week weren't Victorian barbeque implements, but hair curlers and hair straighteners...

Come on, confess, who's hair could do with these in the absence of hairdresser visits during lockdown? Me!!!

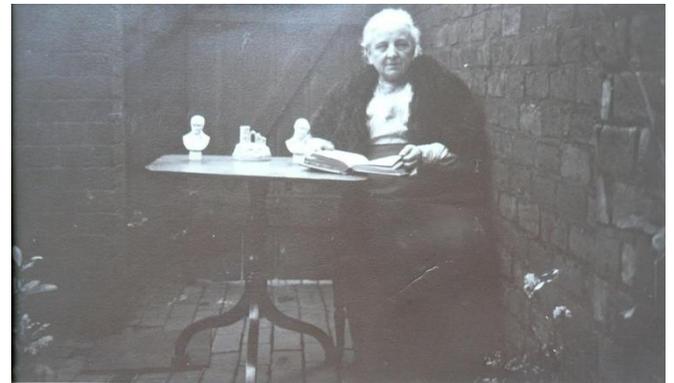
This week it's a trip down memory lane for some of us... Who remembers these?



FILLING THE TIME....

Being in lock down and like everyone else gradually going up the wall, if not round the bend!, I have been indulging in some family history, and like most family historians, now feel the need to bore others with some of my findings! I attach some findings regarding my family's links with that of William Clowes.

Anderson – Clowes connections.



Sarah Ann Baddley 1864 - 1938.

Sarah Ann Baddley was the great niece of William Clowes being the granddaughter of William's younger brother, John Clowes. Her son, Thomas William Baddley, was married to my mother's cousin. It was he who got me to sign the pledge, he being what was then called the "Christian Citizenship Secretary."

My 3 x great grandmother, Sarah Howard nee Wedgwood, was a distant cousin of William Clowes's mother, Ann Clowes nee Wedgwood.

John Anderson

Thank you, John, – the photo and information below has been added to the MyPrimitiveMethodist website.

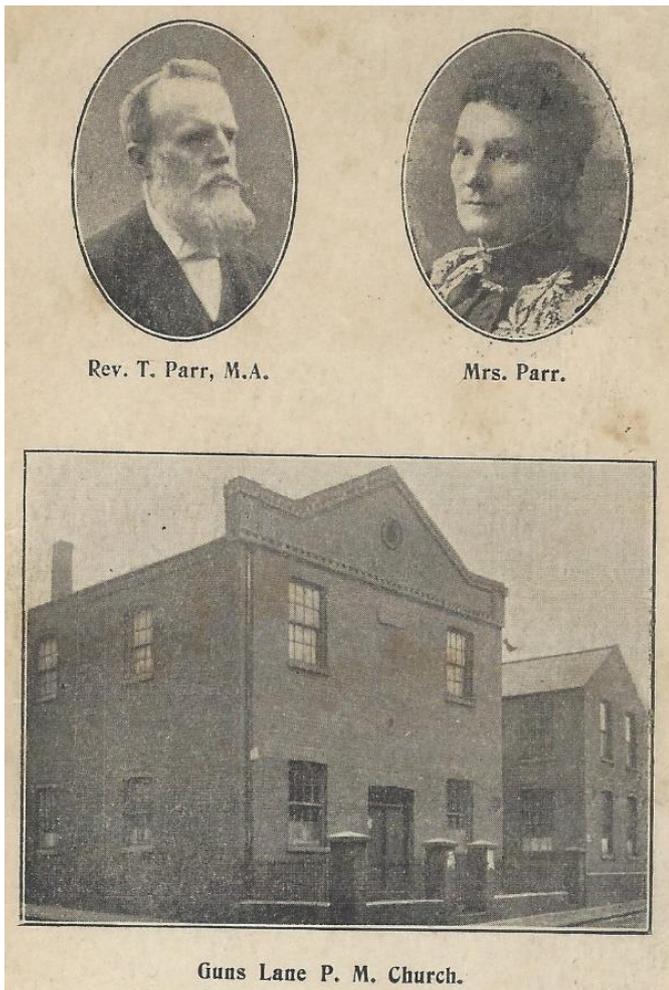
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RANDLE'S RUMMAGING!

This week's exhibit is a postcard of Guns Lane PM Church, West Bromwich. Chris has placed an article about this church on myprimitivemethodists, but he had no picture, so I will forward this to him. The card also illustrates the minister when the card was posted in 1904, Revd Theophilus Parr. There is an article about him, with an illustration, on the website, but there was no picture of his wife, until this card was identified, and Geoff has already added her to the record.



Chris's Conundrums

Here are the answers to last week's questions, how did you get on?

At which Welsh chapel was the opening disrupted (but not prevented) by impassable roads covered by eight or nine feet of snow with drifts 25 feet deep in places?

Answer: Sirhowy, near Tredegar

In which Lincolnshire coastal chapel was the land paid for by a gentleman bather?

Answer: Frieston Shore and he was Mr Bates

Another classic couple of teasers from Chris this week – tripe for supper anyone?? (they sell it in our local farm shop!)

Which Cambridgeshire chapel opening resulted in magistrates being less busy and less liquor being sold?

Which County Durham Prim society met in a tripe shop in Ann Street (amongst other places) before they opened their own chapel in 1861?

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From Robin and Anne Mann.
Robin is one of our newest volunteers
and has patched, mended and
repainted at various points around
the cottage and museum.
Thanks Robin!

This re-working of a popular hymn was sent to Singing the Faith Plus, and we wanted to share it with you. It works sung or spoken, and we know others have already found it helpful. Denise is a deacon in the South Holderness Circuit Take care all.

Father, I place into your hands the things I now can't do.

Father, I place into your hands the times we're going through.

Father, I place into your hands the world as it is now,
for we need your courage, strength and hope.

Father, I place into your hands my friends and family

Father, I place into your hands the people I can't see.

Father, I place into your hands those finding life lonely,
for I trust that you are with us all.

Father, I place into your hands all of the NHS.

Father, I place into your hands all those now full of stress.

Father, I place into your hands my prayers for you to bless,
for I know you hear my requests.

Father, help me to see your face, help me to hear your voice.

Father, help me to sing your praise and in your name rejoice

Father, give to me peace of mind, and to the dying - rest,
for I know how much we need you now.

Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.

Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.

Father, I want to love the ones that you are loving too,
may I know that I am one with you.

Adapted by Denise Creed from the original hymn by Jenny Hewer (b. 1945)

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Jane's Picture Quiz:

Last week, Jane introduced our Facebook audience to our Hartley's jam jar collection. This week Jane is taking a different angle...
any ideas?



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That's Puzzling!

And now, for something a bit different: Jane is throwing down the gauntlet this week. Instead of a wordsearch, how many words, 3 letters or more, can you find in 'ENGLESEA BROOK'? There will be a prize for the person who sends me the longest list!

Date for your diary:

Heritage Zoom service

Sunday 24th May at 3pm

Friday Prayers at Noon

We continue to come together wherever we are, at noon on Fridays to pray. We will close our prayer time together in this, Christian Aid week, with a prayer from Christian Aid:

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth,

in these times of isolation,

apart from loved ones

distant from friends

away from neighbours

thank you that there is nothing

in all of creation,

not even coronavirus,

that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails

continue to be shared

through the kindness of strangers

looking out for each other,

for neighbours near and far

all recognising our shared vulnerability,

each of us grateful for every breath,

and willing everyone to know the gift

of a full and healthy life.

Keep us all in your care.

Amen