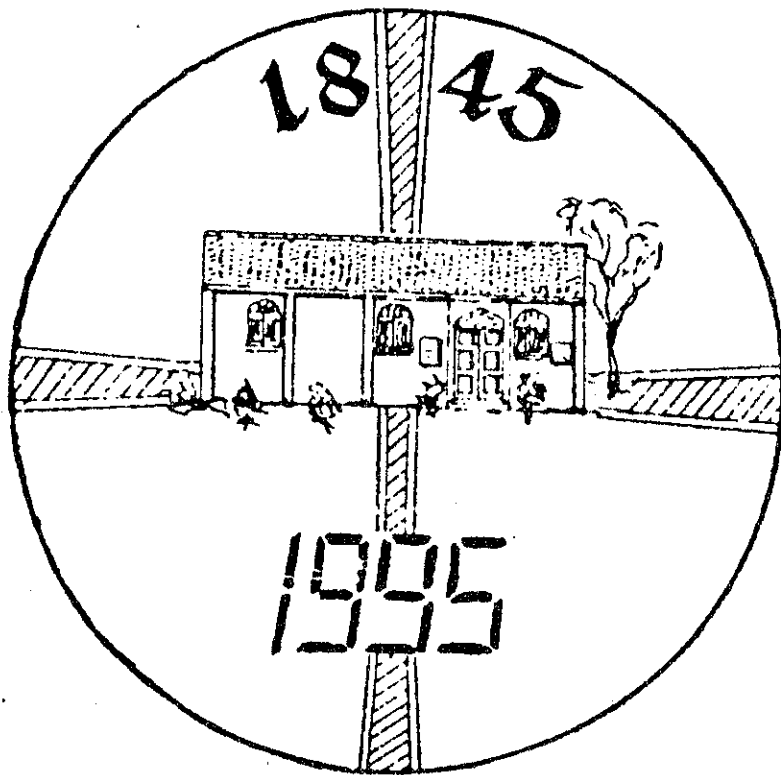


# Hindringham Methodist Church



150 Years Of Worship

## HINDRINGHAM

Although the chapel is 150 years of age the sunday school is much older because it used to be held in an earlier chapel.

One has only to look at the stone over the door way to see that work began in 1845 but it was not until 13th June 1846 that farmer Adcock transferred the site to the original trustees of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, originally there were to be nine of them but one did not subsequently sign the deed, the price paid was £60. for two roods and 18 perches, the conveyance was very specific in the terms it used to ensure that the building was to be for a chapel or meeting house and school for use by persons belonging to the Primitive Methodist Connexion resident at Hindringham and the neighbourhood thereof much was written into the deed which governed the running of the chapel, later the trustees raised a mortgage of £140. and the deed dated 6th July 1846, referred to the chapel or meeting house lately erected. The lender was the Revd. Robert Key a primitive Methodist minister of Cambridge. The rate of interest was 5%.

In January 1869 the Revd. Key who then lived in Norwich transferred the mortgage to Miss Sarah Neale of Harford Hall in the Hamlet of Lakenham, nowhere is there mention of the date when the trustees finally paid off the mortgage.

On the 16th November 1886 the last of the original trustees applied to retire and who can blame him, all the others had passed away, and he had moved to Oswaldtwistle, in Lancashire. Nine new trustees were appointed, one of whom lived at Thursford. The solicitors preparing the deed took the opportunity to incorporate the terms of a model deed drawn up in 1864, which governed the manner in which trustees should hold and manage Primitive Methodist chapels.

A letter dated 24th June 1920, sent to the then chapel secretary Mr. S. J. Massingham, pointed out that "for some time passed" the Gunthorpe estate had "in error" paid the tithe due on chapel land, 1/1d (5½p) was due to the vicar of Hindringham and 3/4d (16½p) to the dean and chapter of Norwich, despite these demands the members were able to put in new windows, in 1921 at a cost of £162:10s. The roof was raised in 1930. The bill amounting

to £149:3s 6d as five of the trustees appointed in 1886 had passed away and three of the others wished to retire, a deed was drawn up on the 11th December 1935. Thirteen trustees were appointed of whom four were ladies.

In 1938 Norfolk County Council bought a strip of land along the front of the chapel for road widening. The annual conference at Bradford in giving its consent agreed, subject to the County Council constructing a path and steps and providing a fence. It was not until 1939 that the chapel was registered for solemnisation of marriages. In 1943 the trustees adopted a "new" model deed which followed one laid down in the Methodist Church Union act of 1929. The Superintendent was the Revd. Norman Earl, of the thirteen trustees appointed in 1935 eight had passed away by 1968, two wanted to retire and so a deed was drawn on the 18th October 1968, the three remaining trustees were joined by another thirteen and of the total of sixteen nine were ladies, the Superintendent was the Revd. Albert Cowell.

In more recent times part of the land to the side of the chapel and a note on the original deed of 1846 refers to the conveyance of building plots to Ralph Edward Gidney on the 22nd January 1973.

Other interior alterations have been carried out during the last year or two and the building bears testament to the love and dedication of the generations of Primitive Methodists of Hindringham and it's neighbourhood.

This one of the few chapel that can boast of a Sunday School, Guild (from October to Easter) women's fellowship and two Sunday services today. Until recently, the members held a very successful flower and vegetable show every year. They also have a very successful catering servicer run by the members, serving teas to coach parties of tourist, and they have even catered for Weddings, they are well know and highly recommended.

In those days there were no motor cars, very few cycles, one preacher who cycled always had a cabbage leaf on his head in the hot weather, and a minister who cycled wrapped newspapers around his legs in the hot weather..

G. Den't.

LETTER      ANON

In those days it was the practice to count the collection before the end of the service, so during the singing of the last hymn the money would be shot out with a loud clatter on to the wooden pew and counted.

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