

THURSFORD

The story of Thursford Methodist Church.... is one of loyalty and much faithfulness on the part of a small group of dedicated people who made it their business to be stewards of the church... in the name of Christ.....A life long Methodist, Mr.F.Bushell placed at the disposal of the society a site for the building of a church, and started the fund with a gift of £5. At the first quarterly meeting of the newly constituted Fakenham and Wells Circuit, held at the Fakenham Buckenham Memorial Church on September 20th 1933 it was decided to put Thursford on the Circuit plan and to appoint local preachers for the next quarter. At a following quarterly meeting, plans for the building of a church to seat 80 people were approved - Thursford friends had already raised nearly £50 by this time also the Methodist Society was already getting into action, and Messrs.C.Plumbly and H.Baker were appointed Society stewards with Mr.E.Lee as class leader.

It was a great occasion when in March 1934 the stone laying ceremony took place, and on June 20th following, amidst great rejoicing, the late Mrs.W.J.Aldiss, of Fakenham, performed the opening ceremony, using a silver key which was presented by the architects for that very special occasion. The service of dedication was conducted by the Rev.W.H.Heap, chairman of the East Anglia District, assisted by the Rev.R.A.Inham, Rev.T.Featherstone, and Pastor J.H.Johnstone, circuit ministers. The large crowd that gathered were so many that they could not be accommodated in the church, so an overflow service had to be arranged in a large barn. We take pride in the fact that this church, built at a cost of £498:15s.6d., was the first following Methodist Union, to be erected at a place where previously no branch of Methodism had existed.

The building was done by Mr.Hinson, of Wells, whose estimate to the trustees was for £378. Oil lamps were given by Banney Methodists and amongst other gifts, Walsingham Methodists gave a pulpit Bible, hymn book, and collection plates.

From the 1930s on, the lists of Office holders shows such familiar names as Plumbly, Baker, Bushell, and Lee, with the annual comment "there were no changes in office, and all were thanked for

