

Haslingden's Methodist origins with Salem, King Street and Manchester Road Chapels



Salem Methodist Chapel, Regent Street

It certainly is some years back that has a "wee nipper" I used to hold hands with Mrs. Edna Bastow or Alice or her sister who then lived on Blackburn Road who kindly would lead the way to the Sunday School at the enormous (or what seemed so to a four or five year old) Salem Methodist Chapel, which used to be on Regent Street, just on the corner with Salem Street which runs up by the side of the old Public Hall. Nowadays on the same spot is built the St. James C of E School. My early memory was of the large organ pipes that faced you when you went up the steep steps and into the main Church Building. It is so long ago now that I can't remember much of the buildings at the back and this is where the Sunday School was.

I can certainly remember the times when we would go to Blackpool and a large blue double decker bus belonging to Haslingden Corporation would be waiting at the front of the Church in readiness for our special trip!

I can also remember to the left hand side of the Chapel there was a couple of lovely little cottages, set back with gardens. They must have also been demolished when they sadly demolished the Chapel.

I have now received this photo (below) from Allan Bradshaw showing the Salem Cricket team from 1926. (Further details below)



(click over photo to enlarge)

Salem United Methodist Sunday School Team, who have won the championship of the B Division of Haslingden Sunday School Cricket League. This is the team that Leslie Warburton, now of Haslingden Cricket Club, developed with:

BACK (Left to Right) - F. Rawlinson, Councillor J. Sharples (vice-president), J.R. Belshaw, Fred Kay, James Bradshaw, Lawrence Bradshaw, Roy Holden, Rev. J. Rutherford (President), Herbert Warburton.

FRONT: Robert Emison (sitting), James Bastow, W. Nuttall (captain), Thomas Green, Harry Bradshaw (sitting) PHOTO: by T. McCourt, Haslingden. (thanks to Jackie Ramsbottom for newspaper cutting which has the names printed)

I'm attaching a photo of the Salem Methodist cricket team of 1926 who appear to have just won the "cup" I don't know if it was an inter- church competition confined to Haslingden or not. Perhaps someone knows. My dad Jim Bradshaw and 2 of his brothers Harry and Lawrence are on the picture, does anyone know any of the others (see below)?

*Also attached are pictures of his medal which my sister still wears on a necklace to this day!
All the best Allan Bradshaw*

Email received 5th December 2014 from Jack Pilling, Mercer Crescent, Helmshore

"The man in the middle with the trophy is my father in law William Henry Nuttall who was an overlooker at Birtwistle's Cotton Mill in Grane Road.

Dear Bryan,

Thanks for Haslingden Old and New. You may remember me from HCSS, Salem Methodist and St James' school.

I have just been looking at Alan Bradshaw's photograph of the Salem cricket team 1926. My dad, Bob Emison, is on the left - cross-legged and the other person I recognise is Tom Green who is seated on the right with the cricket bat.

I also have my dad's medal like that of Alan's sister, I think it will be for the championship of the Sunday

School's league which I think ran into the 1950's.

David Emison (email received 6th July 2014)

Hello Bryan.

I also remember David and his dad Bob from Salem and also the scouts I think and also them living in Townsend St near the bottom where its steep.

Going back to the cricket team picture my dad Jim is centre at the back, next to him on our right is my uncle Lawrence and sat on the right at the front is my uncle Harry who appears to be the stumper.

David recognizes Tom Green on the picture, I think he might be be Gerald Green's dad. Gerald had the fruit and veg shop on Manchester Rd next to Tomlinsons which was the subject of recent email you received.

Allan (email received 9th July 2014)



Medal front above
and medal rear below



Jeff Stevens has kindly sent in the photos below which are 1) The Salem Cricket Team and 2) A production done by the children of Salem Methodist (approx 1952)



I have attached another photo, possible the Salem Sunday Cricket team. Again my dad Norman is shown with the cup at his feet next to him is his older brother John, and then to his right Bob Emison.
(Jeff Stevens - received 14th July 2014)



I have attached a photo that I believe shows an event at the Salem Chapel from around the 1953 period I think that David Emison might be the lad with the cushion to the right of the photo. My brother Bob stands next to the lady on the back row and that one next to the bespectacled lad on the left of picture is me!
Regards Jeff Stevens (14th July 2014)

"Jeff I think the lad on the left on the back row between you and your Bob might even be yours truly!" I can also recognize Jimmy Greenwood (the tall lad with glasses and stood up to the left side), and Lynn

Hargreaves (Rose Queen) in the centre with her sister to the right of David on the front. There are others also which look very familiar.

Hi Bryan - The boy with the spectacles on the third from the right (middle row) was called Peter Jenkins, he lived in Spring Gardens. He went to the Swimming Club when we did and I think he was in the schoolboys squadron team at one time - late forties early fifties. I believe he later worked at the baths. Don't recognise anyone else. Marie Ives. -

The lad who is fourth from the right on the middle row is Michael Whittaker and his dad was called Arnold Whittaker, who used to be the caretaker of the Church at the time. Michael remembers helping his dad to shovel the coke down the chute at the side of the Chapel when it was delivered for the boiler. It seemed a endless task because they delivered tons of the stuff at the time. *(information kindly from Michael Whittaker on 16th July 2015)*

Also we have several photos of the Salem UMFC choir with their production of Iolanthe in 1929. Because of the large quantity I have already moved them over to the photo album (external hosting site) which can be accessed here. [If you want to check them out please click here and select image and then enlarge if necessary.](#) when finished just keep clicking back button to return to blog - Here are the notes to accompany the photos for the Iolanthe production: The Lord Chancellor (Ben Stevenson) and the Earl of Mountararat and Earl Tolloller, Queen of the Fairies was (Hilda Hoyle), and Phyllis and Strephon was (Dorothy Wilkinson and Stanley Rawlinson.

And below is another fine photo from the Salem days showing "Old Susan's Fairies" a Sunday School production from c1932.



"Old Susan's Fairies from February c1932
Salem U.M.F.C.



This is a walking day procession for Salem Methodist whilst going past Cordingleys



I have attached a photo which shows my relatives who performed in a Salem production. On the left is my Aunt Edna Owen (nee Bastow) who is mentioned in the blog as a Sunday School teacher. Uncle Ross Taylor and my mother Vera Schofield (nee Hornung). Both girls were born in 1921, so the photo is possibly late 1920s. As a matter of interest Ross's dad Joe ran the snooker hall above the Co-op just lower down from the Library.

(Thanks to Paul Schofield for kindly sharing this photo which was uploaded here on 29th July 2016)



Salem contingent walking past Sandpits with Jeff Stevens cushion bearer at front
Photo: Kindly shared by Jeff Stevens and uploaded on 4th August 2016

I am indebted to my friend Mr. David Emison (ex pat now living in Yorkshire who has spent most of his life working for the Methodist ministry for sending in the following information)

Both sides of my family were connected with Salem Chapel. The centenary of the chapel was celebrated in 1961 and in 1962 the members took the decision to close and along with King Street Methodist and Manchester Road Methodist form a new church in the Manchester Road buildings. A centenary booklet was produced and I will try to summarise its story for the blog. The chapel was as you remember it with a circular gallery, large central pulpit and organ pipes spreading across the rear wall. There was a "lecture hall" beneath the chapel which is where you and I remember our days in "The Primary". Alice Nuttall, Edna Bastow, Dorothy Bevan, Eileen Green and Betsy Willan were our teachers. Perhaps you remember how an area was screened off for us and we used to march in each week to the same music played by Betsy on the piano. Behind the chapel was the "Upper School Room" which had been the original chapel built in 1861.

Salem Methodist Chapel – Haslingden

(The following is taken from the booklet published in 1961 to celebrate the centenary of the church)

Methodism came to Haslingden as a result of the visits of John Wesley in 1747 and 1748. In 1747 Wesley records in his journal "We left the mountains and came down into the fruitful valley of Rossendale. Here I preached to a large congregation of wild men, but it pleased God to hold them in chains so that even when I had done none of them offered any

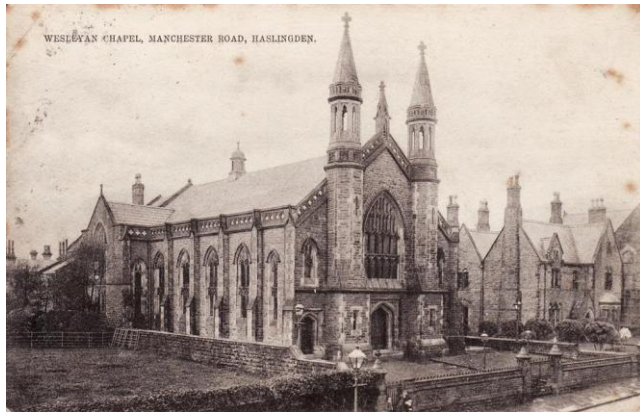
rudeness but all went quietly away.” In the following year Wesley recalls meeting “...a mob savage as wild beasts who, undeterred by the authorities, proceeded to every extremity of persecution short of murder”.



King Street Methodist Chapel

Despite this rather unpromising beginning the message of the Methodist preachers found a ready hearing amongst the growing populations of industrial towns such as Haslingden. Regular Methodist Class Meetings were held in the cottage of Mr Daniel Gregory of Gregory Fold in 1780 and in 1787 steps were taken to build a Methodist Chapel on Bury road (on the site later occupied by the Grammar School). The land was given by Mr John Holden of Caldwells who was impressed by the work that was being done and himself became a Methodist in 1791. John Holden died in 1794. In his will he bequeathed the land to the Methodist Society but this was successfully contested by his brother and the Methodists were forced to leave their building. A new chapel was built in King Street and opened in 1798.

The early years of the Methodist movement were years of rapid growth accompanied by disagreement and schism. The Methodist Societies had a deep commitment to education, self-improvement and social justice. Within the societies people found a new self-confidence and skills in leadership which they exercised in their communities and work places as well as in their chapels. Many of the early disagreements were about how the societies should be organised and how responsibilities should be exercised within them. In particular what the respective role of ordained and lay leaders should be. The parent body was the Wesleyan Methodist Church but other Methodist movements included the Primitive Methodists, The Methodist New Connexion and the United Methodist Free Church.



Manchester Road Methodist Chapel which in 1962 became the home for members of King Street, Salem and Manchester Road

Around 1860 a small group of mainly working people separated from the Primitive Methodist Society then meeting in a chapel in Higher Deardengate and formed a Methodist society aligned to the United Methodist Free Church. A cottage was taken in George Street for week-night meetings and the decision was taken to erect a building that would serve both as chapel and Sunday school. A site was purchased in Regent Street and the foundation stone was laid on the 31st August 1861 by Mrs John Whittaker of Waterfoot House, Grane Road.

1861 proved to be a momentous year for the people of Lancashire because it marked the beginning of the American Civil War and the boycott of cotton from the Confederate States. The hardship caused by the boycott became known as the "Cotton Famine" and led to great distress particularly amongst people such as those who had embarked upon the building of Salem Chapel. It is recorded that to save time and costs young women of the new society after work in the evenings carried stones to the site in their "brats" (aprons). The cost of the building was £800.00.

The chapel, later to become the Sunday school building, was opened on the 28th November 1861.

The work prospered and the membership of the church grew rapidly. In 1881 a new chapel was built with an imposing classical frontage on Regent Street and linked at the rear to the original building. The cost of the new building was £4,200.00 and it opened for worship in 1882. The street to the side of the chapel was named "Salem Street"

In 1922 a new pipe organ was installed as a memorial to the eight men of the chapel who had been killed during the 1914-18 war. The organ covered the north wall of the chapel.



The original site of the Salem Methodist Church,
now the site of St. James C of E School.

Over the years Salem Chapel was a centre not just of Christian worship and teaching but all aspects of human well-being. It had an active Sunday School throughout its history (300 children and young people in 1921) For many years it sponsored self-help and self-improvement societies, choirs, an orchestra, a dramatic society (The Salem Players), sports clubs, youth clubs, cricket and Badminton teams. Such levels of activity were not, of course, exclusive to Salem but typical of all the churches and chapels in Haslingden.

In 1932 all the main branches of Methodism reunited to form The Methodist Church. Following the celebration of its centenary in 1961 the members of Salem took the momentous decision to amalgamate with King Street and Manchester Road Methodist Churches to form a new church on the Manchester Road site. The amalgamation took place in 1962.

The site of Salem chapel was purchased for the building of a new St James' Primary School and the buildings were demolished shortly afterwards.

Manchester Road Methodist Church, Haslingden

(A summary of the history of the church taken from a centenary booklet produced in 1957)

The notes on early Methodism above tell of the origins of King Street Wesleyan Chapel which was opened for worship in 1798. By the middle years of the 19th century the chapel was too small to accommodate the growing congregation and a new and larger chapel was built in

Manchester Road. The building in King Street was closed but eleven years later the new chapel was again proving to be too small and King Street chapel was re-opened!

The foundation stone of Manchester Road Methodist Church was laid in June 1855 by Mr James Stott of Sykeside House and the chapel was opened in February 1857. The cost of the building including the land and organ was £4,910 13s 9d. The large manse next to the chapel was completed in 1873 by Mr James Stott. In 1885 a chancel was added to the chapel and the Chapel Keeper's house and Lecture room were added in 1886.



Manchester Rd Day and Sunday School

Foundation stone laid May 1862 (*photo kindly supplied by Jackie Ramsbottom*)

A Wesleyan Day School was founded in 1824 and counted amongst its pupils Michael Davitt, the Irish patriot. On February 1st 1861 Mr James Stott was authorised to secure a site adjacent to the chapel for the erection of a new Day and Sunday School. The foundation stone of the school was laid in May 1862 by Mr Thomas Smith of Flaxmoss and the school was opened in December 1863. The cost of erection was £4,964 4s 4d. The school continued to serve the children of Haslingden until the opening of the Central Council School on Ryefield Avenue.

In 1962, following conversations with the members of King Street and Salem Methodist Churches it was agreed to form an amalgamated Methodist Church using the buildings in Manchester Road.

[You may also wish to check out the "Disappearing Churches" blog by clicking here](#)

Also of interest is the History of the King Street Methodist and here thanks to Jackie Ramsbottom I am able to publish scans of this historic document (history section only)



Click over to enlarge



Click over to enlarge

King Street Methodist Church, Haslingden. 1798-1948

In order fully to understand the effect of the introduction of Methodism into Rossendale it is necessary to have some knowledge of the social and religious state of the district two hundred years ago. Dr. Whittaker says of our ancestors at that time: "Their manners and morals were probably more degraded than in any other part of the island." Bull-baiting, dog-fighting and cock-fighting were the Sunday amusements of those days. John Wesley records in his "Journal" (May 7th, 1747): "We left the mountains and came down to the fruitful valley of Rossendale. Here I preached to a large congregation of wild men; but it pleased God to hold them in chains, so that even when I had done, none of them offered any rudeness, but all went quietly away." In the following year, in August, our founder, again in Rossendale, writes of "meeting a mob savage as wild beasts, who, undeterred by the authorities, proceeded to every extremity of persecution short of murder."

Such were the people to whom William Darney, a Scotch preacher, in the year 1744 offered the Methodist

way of life at Heap Barn, on the wild moor one and a half miles from Bacup on the Todmorden road. He was assisted in his work by Paul Greenwood and the Rev. William Grimshaw, the Vicar of Haworth, near Keighley.

These men, with their first convert, John Maden, were the means of establishing the Methodist doctrine in our district, and their names deserve to be remembered with pride. They were subjected to all manner of persecution, but persevered in their work in face of great odds, and, in the end, succeeded in founding little pockets of adherents—classes in farmhouses and cottages throughout the valley of Rossendale.

The first documentary proof of Methodism in Haslingden is contained in the following entry in the registers of the Parish Church: "December 1st, 1751. Baptised—John, the son of John Taylor, of Hollingate. A Methodist." Although it is clear that Methodism had obtained a footing in the town prior to 1750, no Methodist Society is known to have existed before 1775.

Click over to enlarge

Small groups of converts met at various places, notably Pitt Heads, Flaxmoss (Gregory Fold), and Sykeside. In 1775 Mr. Ralph Rishton induced one of John Wesley's travelling preachers, probably one of the two ministers of the Keighley Circuit, to preach at the Pitt Heads meeting-place, and the result was the formation of a Society there. Mr. John Stott, in his "Notices of Methodism in Haslingden, 1898," states: "This cottage (at Pitt Heads) was still standing till 1896, when it was pulled down for street improvements." And so, in 1775, was Methodism first established on an official basis in the town.

In 1786 the first Methodist Church in Haslingden was erected on the site now occupied by the Grammar School in Bury Road. It was built by Mr. John Holden, of Coldwells, himself not a Methodist at the time, at a cost of £800, and let to the Methodists with the cottage adjoining at a rent of £23 per annum, "the owner, discharging all rates except the Highway Rate." Two rooms in the cottage were reserved for the use of the travelling preacher on his rounds. The travelling preacher took six weeks to complete his round of the Colne Circuit, covering on horseback over 130 miles and preaching 61 sermons. The pulpit of the preaching-place, known locally as Holden's Chapel, was entered from the cottage through a doorway in the wall. There was

no access to it from the floor of the Chapel. In this respect the Chapel followed closely the plan adopted at the New Room, Bristol, and the arrangement was the customary one in chapels built at the period. It serves to remind us of the dangers of the preaching of "Dissent" in the early days.

Unfortunately, Mr. John Holden, who had become a Methodist in 1791, died three years later. His brother, Robert, contested his Will, in which the testator had made it clear that it was his intention that the Methodist Society should continue on the same terms as during his lifetime. The Will was declared void, and the Methodists were ejected from their first premises in 1796. So ended in sorrow the first venture.

Their trouble served only to put them on their mettle. Immediately they purchased a plot of ground on which to build a meeting-place from which nobody could eject them. The present Chapel was opened for public worship in 1798, and externally it appears to-day substantially as it was originally built. Small additions have been made at the rear, and, instead of the two original entrances at the front, there is now only one, but otherwise there is no change. An old sketch of the building now hanging in the Minister's Vestry proves this to be the case. The interior, however, was

Click over to enlarge

completely remodelled in 1888 at a cost of £1,500. Since that time only minor structural alteration has been made. Although the exterior is somewhat bleak and forbidding, arrangement of the seating and the siting of the rostrum make the old Chapel a delightful place in which to worship.

King Street Chapel remained the only Methodist place of worship in the town itself until 1857, when the Manchester Road premises were built. This was made necessary by the development of the Methodist movement and by migration of the inhabitants to new building areas as the town increased in population. From 1814 up to 1857 our King Street Chapel was the Circuit Chapel. In preparation for this the Trustees had, in 1810, bought a site adjoining their Chapel on which to build a house for their first Superintendent Minister, with whom the second minister, always a bachelor, resided. This house is shown in the sketch of the Chapel already referred to. The Circuit, of which King Street was the head, comprised Haslingden, Accrington, Hippings, Grane, Edenfield, Ramsbottom, and Oakenshaw. The first Quarterly Meeting was held at Haslingden on October 4th, 1814. The ministers at that time were the Rev. Joshua Fearnside and the Rev. Daniel Jackson, Junr. The number of members in the newly-formed Circuit

was 384, and the Circuit income at its first Quarterly Meeting was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Haslingden	14	0	0
Accrington	6	10	0
Hippings	5	10	0
Grane	5	0	0
Edenfield	1	10	0
Ramsbottom	0	11	6
Oakenshaw	0	10	0
Dinner Collection	1	18	0
	£35	9	6

The expenditure for the Quarter was £28 16s. 6d. The first Circuit Steward entered upon his stewardship with a credit balance of £6 13s. 0d.

This arrangement, with King Street as head of the Circuit, persisted until the erection of the Manchester Road premises in 1857. It was intended that the new

Click over to enlarge

building should supersede the King Street Chapel, and accordingly the latter was closed in that year. The whole congregation removed to Manchester Road to the new Church. Before very long it became evident that the accommodation was quite insufficient, and in 1868 the old premises were re-opened. The Sunday School continued to meet in the body of the King Street Chapel until the new Sunday School at Manchester Road was ready in 1863. The scholars walked in procession from School at King Street to Divine Service at Manchester Road. As lately as ten years ago there were several people in the town, Mr. J. H. Trickett and Mr. J. H. Anderton, for instance, who well remembered these processions of their childhood. As a result of these developments Manchester Road Church became the head of the Haslingden Circuit in 1857, a position still retained.

The story of the Sunday School movement in Haslingden is a fascinating one. The ideas of Robert Raikes took shape in 1781, and John Wesley's followers at once seized the opportunity afforded and organised their Sunday School work. It is not certain that our founder's visit to Haslingden in 1788 had for its purpose the foundation of a Methodist Sunday School, but we do know that the first of our own town Sunday Schools met in Holden's Chapel in that year. Two years later

a code of seventeen Articles was drawn up, and a copy of these is still preserved. The master was paid a small salary and was responsible to the Trustees for the instruction and discipline of the School. Fines of 6d. were inflicted on teachers and "overlookers" for absence or lack of punctuality. The School met at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Some of these regulations are exceedingly quaint. For example:—

10. Every master and assistant are to make use of every opportunity of procuring scholars and begging books.
13. The doorkeeper is to see that the children come clean or send them back.
14. No scholar to be admitted into the School to write only—but read.
15. No woman but what is admitted by the Committee to be teachers in the School.

Other days, other ways. From 1788 to 1823 the Sunday School was conducted in the body of the Chapel, first in Holden's Chapel, and from 1798 at King Street. The numbers attending this School are astounding. In 1824, according to the "County Directory" of the period, there were 700 scholars. It must be remembered that large numbers attended from Rawtenstall, Crawshaw-booth, Edenfield, and Baxenden, as well as the children

Click over to enlarge

of the town. The accommodation was strictly limited, and the Trustees, one is sure, must have had recourse to some form of shift arrangement.

In 1822 a public appeal for funds was made—public because the School doors were wide open to children of all denominations. Need not creed! A new School was built in Chapel Street, and this served until the building of other Sunday Schools relieved the position. The Chapel Street premises remained as a Day and Evening School until the Manchester Road School was opened in 1863. When it is remembered that Michael Davitt, the Irish patriot, was a pupil at this School, its value to the community will be readily admitted. Men like John Holden, a teacher and Superintendent of the Sunday Schools at Bury Road and Chapel Street from 1788 almost to his death in 1848, did a great pioneer work in education. Mr. Holden is buried in the Chapel graveyard near to the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gregory and Mr. and Mrs. George Ashworth. Our Methodist forefathers certainly did a fine work with their Sunday School project, and their success must rank high among the records for the whole country. We should always remember that the great majority of our people relied entirely for their instruction on the voluntary efforts of Sunday School workers.

One other development in connection with the Sunday School cannot be omitted. Following the re-opening of King Street Chapel in 1868 it soon became necessary to consider the question of new premises for the Sunday School. There was no longer any need for the old Manse in King Street alongside the Chapel. The Superintendent now lived in the Manchester Road Manse, and Eastville was built in 1871 by private subscription at a cost of £1,350. The old King Street Manse therefore gave way to a new Sunday School. Formal sanction to its erection was given at the March Quarterly Meeting, 1872, and the foundation stones were laid in August of that year. The School was opened on Good Friday, April 7th, 1874, the Rev. Luke H. Wiseman being the preacher for the occasion.

One might go on at great length quoting quaint and interesting minutes from Trustees' and Society Minute Books, or genealogical tables could be built up from the records contained in the two baptismal registers, which give particulars of every baptism from the erection of the first Holden's Chapel in 1786 to the present day. Lack of space forbids this. A record of all the Circuit Ministers resident in the town since the Haslingden Circuit was formed in 1814 appears in another section of this brochure, but this is only one side of a story of great endeavour. The names of prominent lay people

Click over to enlarge

have been preserved in the Church records, and it must be remembered that many hundreds of good men and women, whose names never appeared in records as having taken office, have laboured here to the glory of God during the past century and a half in their several ways.

In the very early days of our local Methodism we read of the work and sacrifices of men and women like Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. George Ashworth, and Mr. John Rishton, who was the leader of the Class at Gregory Fold. Mr. Gregory was a farmer whose home, Fold House, Gregory Fold, was the meeting place of Mr. Rishton's Class during the stirring times of the later half the 18th Century. He lived to see King Street Chapel built, and was the second to be buried in the graveyard in 1798. The first interment was that of Alice Dewhurst, "mantuamaker." Mr. George Ashworth was the first Steward of the Haslingden Circuit, commencing his duties in 1814 and being continuously in office until his death in 1836, while Mrs. Ashworth was the saintly daughter of the Mr. and Mrs. Gregory mentioned above.

Mr. John Stott, in his "Notices of Methodism in Haslingden," gives an interesting account of his being taken by his father to visit this dignified Christian lady

at her home when he was quite a small boy. Mr. Thomas Kay, who became Mr. Ashworth's colleague in the Stewardship, was the father of Mrs. James Stott (the mother of Mr. John Stott), Mrs. Thomas Smith, and Mrs. Peter Whitehead, Rawtenstall. Here we have the Methodist springs of the families of Stott and Smith, and of the Whitehead family of Rawtenstall.

Mr. William Robinson was Class Leader and Society Steward for over twenty years, and served also as Circuit Steward. He was killed in tragic circumstances in 1841 as the result of a coach accident. His eldest daughter married the Rev. Samuel Merrill, who was second Circuit Minister, 1832-34, and whose portrait now hangs in the Minister's Vestry. The second daughter became the wife of the Rev. William Sugden, and the third married the Rev. William J. Skidmore, who was third Minister, 1841-43. It may be remarked here that from 1836 the Haslingden Circuit had three ministers. Other names prominent about a century ago were those of Messrs. Thomas Falshaw, James Greenwood, James Cronshaw, William Dean, and John E. Lightfoot.

To come down to living memory, many of us remember Mr. J. Theodore Donaldson, who took a prominent part in the Centenary celebrations of the Church. Contemporary with Mr. Donaldson was Mr. John Chew,

Click over to enlarge

whose care of the fabric of the Church was a consuming passion. And finally, a perusal of the names of the worthy people who have loved the place and its work will show that in the last fifty years the cause of Christ has had at King Street no lack of distinguished and fearless champions. Among those who held office during this period were Messrs. James Lonsdale, Abraham Ashworth, Matthew Ainsworth, James McEwan, John O. Swire, James Ormerod, John H. Trickett, John Moss, William Ormerod, Jonathan Birtwistle, Thomas Haworth, G. Ernest Newbold, John W. Hargreaves, and Miss Florence E. Holmes.

We should not forget those who laboured to make the musical part of the services attractive. Mr. Alfred

Smethurst was organist for a considerable period, in addition to holding many offices in Church and School. Mr. Francis E. Whiteley was organist and a generous benefactor for well over forty years. Mr. J. S. Titcherington was choirmaster for a long period, and his interest in the work is shown by the transcriptions of music which are still used by the organist and choir. To these and many others, of whom there is no space to write, the present generation owes a deep debt of gratitude, and their work and the sacrifices they made to do it should be a great incentive to us to see that they have left the Cause in good hands. This Cause is the greatest of all causes. The Society, of which we are members, has a great tradition. We must not fail in our duty to it or to the Christ we proclaim.



Click over to enlarge

Posted by **Bryan Yorke** at **16:35**