



Methodism, London to Ticknall

The origins and development of Methodism in the village of Ticknall, South Derbyshire UK
Transcribed by Bryan Smith from a photocopy of the original document by

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Aristocratic Curiosity

In 1759, the Hastings sisters of Ashby were in London for the season, along with many other members of the aristocracy of the land. They came to hear of a preacher called John Wesley and curiosity took them to Feters Lane where a group of Methodists were meeting. They were immensely impressed, especially Lady Margaret, who became a convinced Methodist. She lost no time in breaking the news to her sister-in-law Lady Selina, Countess of Huntingdon who resided at Donington Hail. She too became an ardent Methodist and in the following years invited John Wesley and other Methodist preachers to Donington quite frequently to address her friends.

Lady Selina had founded a school in Penn Lane, Melbourne, and had property and influence there. So, in June 1712, she persuaded Wesley to preach to the townfolk. He was not allowed into the pulpit of the Parish Church but found a good vantage point under a tree from where to deliver his message. .

Wesley's fervour and the urgency of his personal appeal fired the imagination of some of his audience. That was the beginning of Methodism in Melbourne - and perhaps in Ticknall, too. There would surely have been a Ticknall villager in Melbourne that day, by accident or design. If not, the news would have been all around the village before nightfall.

A slow beginning

In those days, people were highly suspicious of religious fervour and bigotry, which had brought Civil War to the country in the 17th century. Many of the gentry in any case took little interest in Church matters. Sir Henry Harpur of Calke Hall who was lord of Ticknall manor was chiefly interested in hunting and seeking favour at Court. Lady Selina and Lady Margaret had little success in converting him or indeed, any of the other local gentry. Perhaps the fear of the Catholics cast suspicion on people not conforming to accepted Anglican beliefs.

On 6th December 1745, the Catholic pretender Bonnie Prince Charlie led his army of Scottish clansmen into Derby, on his march to London to seize King George's crown. Fearing that the village might be ransacked, the Parish wardens spent 8s 10p on ale 'For watchmen for watchen three nights when the rebels were at Derby.' Ticknall's relief must have been intense when the news came that the lairds had forced the Prince to retreat to Scotland.

From the first, there seems to have been hostility to methodists in Melbourne from the Cokes at the Melbourne Hall and Anglican clergy and officials. Some of Wesley's converts, like Francis Smith, broke all ties with the Parish Church and founded the Baptist Church in the town.

Ticknall Methodists remained members of the Church of England, like John Wesley. Their cottage meetings were outside Church service hours and they evidently did not wish to

antagonise the lord of the manor and neighbours. They rather hoped to change and fire the Church from within.

Many clergymen and laymen in those days objected to John Wesley's claim that "all the world" was his parish. They considered it sheer impertinence that a preacher should step uninvited into someone else's parish and expect to be given leave to preach from the Church pulpit. They thought it even worse that, when permission had been refused, that preacher should preach to the common people in the open air. In 1751, a Methodist preacher from the Stoke area, Thomas Hanby, began to preach in Burton marketplace. He was shouted down and forced to leave town in a hurry. Ten years later, John Wesley was given a similar reception in Derby and had to abandon his sermon. This news must have been disheartening for Ticknall Methodists, but the cause grew steadily. No doubt some were able to visit Melbourne in 1757 to witness the opening of the Methodist Meeting House there.

Society and Chapel

From 1741, when Wesley first preached in Melbourne, Methodism slowly established itself in Ticknall. Its group of devoted supporters looked for help in Melbourne, Ashby and Donington. Then a new Methodist arrived.

In 1760, Harry, son of Sir Henry Harpur, came of age and inherited Calke Hall and the estate. In 1762, he married Lady Frances Greville, daughter of the Earl of Warwick.

She was the new Methodist. Ticknall Methodists must have rejoiced indeed. Perhaps in her honour, or with her encouragement, they declared themselves openly and founded the Ticknall Methodist Society.

Sometime before the end of the century, a meeting house was built, bringing to an end the overcrowded cottage meetings. Membership and support were sufficient to warrant the erection of a gallery. Perhaps this happened before or at about the same time as the construction of the Baptist Chapel on Main Street in 1795.

Ticknall village and limeyards

In the 1740s, the old open fields, a feature of Ticknall for centuries, were divided up and enclosed. One of the results of the new fenced fields was that landowners and tenants could experiment with new techniques. Spreading lime to regenerate farmland became popular. Now limestone outcropped in Ticknall. It was quarried and burned in yards at the Melbourne end of the village (Ticknall) and carted to local farms. In 1802, such was the demand for lime, a horse and cart tramway was laid over the 8 1/2 miles to the Ashby Canal at Willesley Basin. A bridge called the Arch took the track over the road in Ticknall and a 'cut and cover' tunnel took it under the drive in Calke Park. So lime was sold to customers miles away - down the canal network and Ticknall prospered and grew. In 1789 there were 125 houses in the village and the population rose from 1125 in 1801 to 1278 in 1831.

The break with the Church of England

John Wesley always considered himself an Anglican but despite his efforts, nationally Anglicans and Methodists began to drift apart. A Methodist Deed of Declaration was issued in 1784. and in 1787 Parliament passed the Act of Toleration under which Methodists were classed as dissenters and were required to license chapels and preachers. After John Wesley died in 1791, separation was virtually complete and Methodist ministers were even celebrating the Sacrament.

1791, the year of Wesley's death, was also the year of the death of the Countess of Huntingdon. Lady Frances Harpur, who had been widowed in 1789, left the district soon afterwards. The new lord of Calke Hall, Sir Henry, had no interest at all in religion and support for Methodism among the local gentry disappeared. By the close of the century, however, the Ticknall society found support from societies in neighbouring communities. From the first, Wesley had grouped societies in circuits. Ticknall was in the Ashby Circuit along with Melbourne and Donington. In the 1790s other societies formed in Heath End, Smisby, Hartshorne and Blackfordby. Methodism was evidently expanding rapidly in those days, certainly not with the aid of the Harpurs, but unhindered because of their indifference. The Circuit organisation was its mainstay.

By the end of the wars with Napoleon, Ticknall Methodists found themselves to be a growing cause in a growing village. The old chapel was proving too small. They had to face up to the task and expense of building a new, larger place of worship.

Building the new Chapel 1815.

The site for the new chapel was acquired in Back Lane - Chapel Lane - plans being drawn up for a place of worship to seat 200. Henry Smith spent 9 days cutting down trees and preparing the ground. He was paid £1 2s 6d. Then George Mason received £4 11s 8d for "getting stone and putting in the foundations." The stone bill amounted to £29 2s. 5 1/2 d. 23,000 bricks were carted from local yards at a cost of £31 5s. 8 1/2d. Casual labour in those days was cheap - 2s..6d to 2s..1d per day. All workmen however were given free refreshments during working hours. The Chapel steward paid out 8s..3d on ale for the men drawing and unloading bricks. Labourers who "gathered the scaffold poles", presumably from nearby woods, earned 4s. .0d, while 4 quarts of ale were supplied to the men who erected the scaffolding. It cost 4d a pint.

Timber for the roof, floor, stairs, gallery etc was supplied by Joseph Snow of Swarkestone, who organised the supply, transport and work of the joiners and sawyers. The "deals" arrived by barge on the Trent and Mersey Canal and were off-loaded at Swarkestone Wharf onto timber waggons. Some sawing was done at Snow's yard, but most of it was left for the sawyers on-site in Ticknall. The final bill for the waggons passing through the toll gate at Swarkestone Bridge amounted to £2 0s. 4 1/2d.

One of the first jobs to be done was the "sinking of a sawpit", undertaken by John Endsor, with his pick and shovel, at a cost of 7s. 0d. Two men had to wield the saw, one at ground level, the other in the pit, with the plank spanning the hole. Sawyers' bills finally

amounted to £2..0s. 41/2d., while the all-important nails from Samuel Bott's shop cost £4. 4s..6d.

Meanwhile, a number of Chapel officials claimed 2s 6d expenses on their ride to Burton to visit Hawkin's premises to view columns to support the gallery. The five they chose cost £13 15s 0d and 1s 6d was given to "Mr Hawkin's man for carting them to Ticknall. Stones to rest the columns on cost 8s. 0d and 12s. 11d. was paid to George Mason and his labourer for 11/2 days' work erecting them.

The chapel was roofed with slates costing £22 5s 0d and 200 tiles costing 12s 0d.

10s 8d was spent on refreshments for the men "bringing the slates from Swarkerstone". The Windows were fitted by Mr Evans for £88 0s 0d, 35 bunches of reeds for the ceiling cost £2 10s 4d and Mr Pratt received one pound for providing the "step-stone". John Pegg, Melbourne wood-turner, was paid 6s 2d for turning two newels for the stairs and the painters, Thomas Shaw and Samuel Bagnall received £18 12s 0d and £2 10s 4d respectively for their work.

Other essential items were a nine-step ladder costing 10 shillings and "hat-pegs, snuffers and hymns" costing £2 13s 2d. No mention is made in the accounts of any kind of provision for heating the chapel; no chimney, chimney pot, stove or fireplace appears in the records. Provision was made however for lighting on winter evenings. Besides the snuffers, candlesticks were purchased costing £12 9s 6d. Finally, for a new chapel, a new hymn book was bought, price 9s 0d and a new pulpit bible, price £1 6s 0d.

The largest bills the Steward had to pay, however, were to the architect, solicitors and builders. Mr Snow received £156 16s 0d. Mr Cope £90, Mr Sowter £210 and Mr Beaumont £30. No doubt the site was given by Sir Henry Harpur, who owned all of Ticknall. His agent, Mr Francis Woodward, received £30 for attendance.

When the workmen had finished, 12s 0d was paid to have the windows cleaned and 1s 6d was paid for cleaning up the interior. £2 was awarded to neighbour Mr Robinson for damage to his croft during building operations.

The total cost of the new chapel must have been close to £1000.

Disposing of the old and naming the new

As soon as the new chapel was opened for worship, the old chapel was sold. But first, workmen were employed to pull down the old gallery. They were paid 6s 0d. A shilling was paid to another labourer to clean out the interior. It subsequently became a dwelling house.

Around the turn of the century, the Methodist cause was weakened by the breaking away of a number of disaffected groups. In 1797 the New Connexion appeared, in 1806 the Independent Methodist Church and in 1811 the Primitive Methodists. None of their members visited Ticknall and Ticknall Methodists decided to declare their loyalty to mainstream Methodism. Set in the brickwork high over the front door, a stone tablet merely states, "Methodist Chapel, 1815" but members always called themselves Wesleyans.

Paying for the Chapel

In all probability, a good deal of money had been raised to pay for a new church before 1815. However, in the opening year, gifts were being gratefully received. Donations came from Mr Harrison (£5), Richard Nicklinson (2 guineas) Mr Richardson (a guinea) and Joseph Hyde and Mr Robinson, senior, (1 guinea each). Collections were made by Mr Kershaw and Mr Robinson (£10 each), by Mr Woodward (£3 17s 0d) and by William Ault's class (£8 10s 0d).

Substantial loans were also made to the chapel. John Ault lent £100 at 5% and William Kedger £150 at 4 1/2%. Other loans were made by Ralph Hollis, Miss Bagnall, and Mr Banks and £50 at 5% was lent by Samuel Hill of Smisby. There were evidently people with money in Ticknall and people who considered the chapel a sound investment. All loans were made out legally as promissory notes.

Members and officials

One of the most important members of the church was Mr Richardson, the church steward. He seems to have decided to see the new chapel built and accounts paid up before resigning. In 1816 Samuel Bott, shopkeeper and druggist, took his place. Mrs Cope.

In the accounts somewhere written as plain William or George, It was Richard Sheavyn who took over George Platt's class in 1816.

Other people were respectfully called "Mr" like Mr Richardson, Mr Kershaw, and Mr Robinson. These were most likely educated and more wealthy tenant farmers, second only in standing to Sir Henry Harpur. Certainly, they were a cut above craftsmen like the Aults (stonemasons), poorer farmers like William Woodward and Richard Sheavyn and shopkeepers like Samuel Bott and Ralph Hollis. In the same way, the chapel cleaner was Sarah Topliss, but the brickyard and limeyard owner's wife was Mrs Cope.

Expenses, quarterage.

Methodist chapels have always been grouped in circuits and through circuits linked with Conference for assistance of many kinds. Through circuits, ministers' stipends can be paid and advice and monetary help given where required. The Ashby Circuit in the early 19th century was large, the 1831 plan listing 40 societies ranging from Melbourne in the north, Whitwick in the east, Appleby in the south, to Swadlincote and Gresley in the west. Ticknall's contribution was in 1814 7 guineas per quarter year; hence the expression "quarterage". The amount varied slightly from year to year but was back to £7 by 1825.

Expenses - Chapel cleaning

Sarah Topliss cleaned the chapel for 25 years, from its opening to her retirement in 1940. She was paid £1 a year. Her daughter Ann took her place, her wages being increased to £2 a year in 1851. These entries in the Accounts would have concerned Sarah, 1819 - Brush and Stail 2s 6d. 1823 - Pail, brush, mop and flannel to clean chapel 2s 7 1/2d. 1832 - Glue, soft soap, whiting blue 5s 8 1/2d.

Expenses - printing

As the Chapel Anniversary was a special occasion when a special preacher would take two Sunday services and sometimes a third on a weeknight, details would have to be advertised at nearby chapels in the Circuit. In 1817, 2 advertisements, 100 handbills and 100 circulars cost 10s. 6d. and James Hudson was paid 5s. 0d. for a day's journey circulating them. In 1818 Mr. Wilkins charged 14s 6d for 10 circulars and posters. The printers employed from the 1820s to the 1850s were Messrs Wayte, William Hextall and John Beadsmore, all of Ashby. No doubt chapel officials took their custom from one to the other to keep quality up and prices down. In 1826, Mr Wayte printed 230 circulars and posters for 1 guinea. In 1834 William Hextall printed 150 circulars and 25 posters for 12s 0d. In 1837 Mr. Beadsmore printed 200 circulars and 25 posters for 12s 6d. In the 1850s, printing costs averaged 13s 6d and John Beardsmore was chosen regularly to produce the circulars and posters.

Expenses - Promisory Notes

Paying interest on loans was a substantial part of the expense account of the chapel well into the second half of the century. The stamp affixed to a Promisory Note cost 2s 6d and sometimes it proved expensive to secure signatures. An item in 1837 reads, "S Bott and Mr F Woodward, expenses on procuring signature to Esther Marsh's Note... 11s 0d. A greater burden on the chapel however was paying out interest, which averaged £34 annually in the 1820s, £19 in the 1830s and £12 in the 1840s.

Mr. Francis Woodward, farmer and agent for Sir George Crewe in Smisby, seems to have had transport, which other officials could not afford. He was often asked to deliver interest to Mr. Banks and Mr. Samuel Hill of Smisby. Mr Banks' note was valued at £100 and at 5% gave him interest of £5 per annum. Mr Hill's note was a £50 loan which at 5% realised £2 yearly. Mr Banks died in 1825 and Mr Hill in 1836.

Stonemason John Ault's note was of £100 at 5% realising £5 per annum. On his death this was made over to his son William, who increased the principal in 1829 to £140. After his death in 1837, the money was divided among his heirs. John Newbury Ann Astle and John Hyde's children. William Kedger's Note was worth £150 at the usual interest rate of 5%. It was drawn up in the form of a legacy and was paid out to members of the Dent family, each receiving an eighth share, £18 15s. The final payment was made in 1830.

The largest loan made in the first few years of the new chapel was from shopkeeper Ralph Hollis - £300 at 5% realising £15 annually. This was paid until his death in 1826.

From the 1820s interest on notes was reduced to 4%. William Woodward's in 1821 brought in £3 4s 0d per annum. This seems to have been paid at three-year intervals. After his death in 1837, Esther Marsh received 4% interest similarly. In 1825 Luke Bott, clock and watch maker and repairer invested £50. This was increased by £45 in 1842 but reduced to £30 in 1847.

When he became Steward in 1837, farmer Richard Sheavyn invested £100. At his death in 1843, Thomas Worstall made a loan of £50 to enable the new Steward to pay the

principal. This was insufficient, however, for in 1815 and 1846 notes for £50 were drawn up with a friendly society based at the Chequers Inn (The Druids) and with William Charlesworth, the Ticknall saddler and harness maker and landlord of the Royal Oak Inn.

Expenses - Books

The first Methodist Hymn Book had been published in 1780. No Baptismal, Wedding, Funeral, Christmas, Easter or other such hymns were contained in it, as Methodists were expected then to attend the Parish Church for such occasions. In 1831, a Supplement appeared to fill the gap. That December the steward paid 6s 0d for one. In 1843 a new Pulpit Bible was bought from Edwards' of Derby, priced at £1 2s 0d.

GLOVER'S DIRECTORY 1825

Lord of the Manor.	Sir George Crewe.
Vicar.	Rev Matthew Whitt.
Schoolmaster.	James Topliss.
Schoolmistress.	Ann Tomkins.
Gentlemen.	Thomas Cope, John Robinson.
Inns and Taverns.	Chequers, Ann Rollins. Royal Oak, John Hardy. Wheel, Gilbert Hutchinson.
Bakers.	Richard Nicklinson, James Powell, Richard Richardson, Ann Rollins.
Blacksmiths.	John Cartledge, John Martin, Henry Minion.
Butchers.	Henry Hide, William Richdale, Thomas Sale, John Shaw.
Brown earthenware manufacturer.	Joseph Hide.
Farmers.	Edward Boughton, Nathaniel Bryan, Thomas Richardson, John Richdale, Thomas Rose, Richard Sheavin.
Grocers, Drapers.	Samuel Bott, Ralph Hollis.
Limeburners.	John Cope, John Hutchinson, Gilbert Hutchinson.
Maltsters.	John Cope, John Hutchinson, William Woodward.
Shoemakers.	William Gee, Thomas Ratcliffe, Francis Smith.
Surgeon.	George Sheffield.
Tailors.	Jon Brooks, John Mitchell, Charles Peach.
Veterinary Surgeon.	Thomas Sheffield.
Wheelwrights.	Edward Dicken, Thomas Shaw, John Wragg.
Worsted manufacturer.	John Cheatle.

Expenses - Heating

It was 1838 before a fuel bill appeared in the accounts. Anne Astle supplied 9 cwt of coal in that year at 4s 10 ½d and 2 cwt in 1839 at 1s 2d. In 1839 the supplier was changed. Joseph Cartledge delivered 6 cwt at 3s 9½d and in 1840 a load costing 10s 4d. He must have died in 1841 for in 1842 and 1843 bills of 3s 3d and 1s 3d were paid to "Widow Cartledge".

It may be that the chapel had been heated by burning wood before 1838 and perhaps the firelighter reverted to wood in the 1850s when fuel bills disappeared from the Accounts book. Perhaps coal was used to supplement the logs. The coal may have been dug from small bell pits at the top of Pistern Hills, but more likely came from pits at Moira, via the Ticknall Tramway.

Expenses - Lighting

Candles for lighting the chapel were purchased from Samuel Bott and after his death in 1840, from his son Edmund, who had evidently taken over the shop. Bills were paid at irregular intervals, averaging £2 10s 0d annually in the 1820s and £2 4s 0d in the 1840s.

Expenses - Transport

Ministers and preachers from Ashby and elsewhere came to Ticknall either on foot or horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle. In 1841 the Steward paid the blacksmith 8d for shoeing the preacher's horse. In 10s 0d was given to Mr Richardson's servant man for attending to the preachers' horses for two years. In 1822 John Murfin received 3s 6d for the hire of a horse for the ride from Ashby to Breedon. From 1824 to 1826, Mr Rollings was regularly asked to supply transport, but in 1832, Mr Charlesworth, village saddler and harness-maker, loaned his gig at a cost of 3s 0d.

Special preachers were normally invited to take the Chapel Anniversary Services. The Steward reimbursed them for travelling expenses. In 1813 he paid Rev Robert Wood of Sheffield 2 guineas; in 1819 William Atherton of Rotherham £1 18s 0d; in 1822 Mr Theo Lessey of Manchester 4 guineas; in 1824, Mr Edward Cakes of Kettering - no expenses, but given a small present, price 7s 0d; in 1832 Rev Robert Newton £1 15s also given a present of a Silk pocket handkerchief, price 5s 0d; in 1840, Rev Robert Nelson of Birmingham, 17s 0d. In the 1850s, preachers did not come from so far afield. In 1854 and 1855, Rev C Westlake received 6s 0d and 8s 0d. By then it would have been possible to come as far as Derby, Burton or Ashby by train, although a horse would have been necessary for the last few miles.

Expenses - Postage

In the early 19th century, letters were paid for by the sender and by the recipient. In 1815 the Steward sent a number of letters to Mr Jenkins, costing 1s 0d. Letters to Derby via Cox, the carrier, cost 6d. Incoming mail arrived by mail coach at William Statham's shop in Melbourne and had to be collected from there. In 1815 a letter from Runcorn was handed

over when 10d had been paid. In 1838, a letter to the Steward from Leeds cost him 91/2d. In 1825, 3s 6d was paid for letters respecting the Anniversary. In 1838, it cost 9d for "postage of a letter and parcel from Ashby and a letter to Derby". In 1852 and 1853, Rev Richard Rymer wrote 2s 6d each year in the expense accounts. By then, however, the modern system of buying and affixing stamps before postage had been instituted. Accordingly, the 1852 item in the Steward's book reads, "Stamps 2s 6d." By then, also, the cost of sending a letter would have been the same, no matter what the distance, within this country.

Expenses - Miscellaneous

The Chapel had to contribute to the Chapel Fund (a guinea in 1822), pay insurance (10s 0d in 1819) and buy materials for Sacrament and Love Feasts. Most expenditure however was to do with the upkeep of the building. Window cleaning was undertaken in the 1820s by James Hudson, in the late 1820s by Charles Wood (wheelwright) and in the 1830s by Thomas Hatton (boot and shoemaker). Thomas received 7s 6d in 1836 for doing the job for 2 years. Replacing broken panes was the work of plumber and glazier Mr Hollingsworth in the 1820s, but various people were called upon to paint the woodwork. An 1832 item reads - "Mr Hunt, painting 7 winders and door 3 coats - 5s 0d." Charles Wood often did these jobs, painting, cleaning the yard, mending benches etc. In 1837, the roof needed attention. John Smith was paid 3s 6d for "sement" and William Orton and William Pywell earned 5s 0d for the repairs and for pointing up round windows.

For repairing and cleaning the clock, Luke Bott received 17s 0d in 1840. Blinds for the downstairs windows needed replacing in 1825. The 8 yards of calico cost 10s 8d at 1s 4d per yd. Then in 1841, shopkeeper Henry Sheffield charged 1s 41/2d for 11/4 yds of calico. The accounts don't name the person who made up the blinds.

Income - Society, Trust and Sunday School

From the early days until the 1970s, when Church Councils were formed, village chapel affairs were shared by the Society and the trustees. Each had its own officials and its own finances. The Society, dealing with the preaching of the Gospel, paid the Quarterage. In the early 19th century, money was found through collections taken in classes by the class leaders. These amounted to £27 in 1815 and to £35 5s 8d in 1825.

The Trustees dealt with the upkeep of the building. Income came from hiring out seats. These "pew rents" were collected for over 30 years by Charles Wood, helped up to 1835 by William Pywell and from then to 1843 by Samuel Sheavyn. In 1837, rents from the east side of the gallery amounted to £2 7s 3d. From 1815 to 1820, the Trust received £68 13s 11d from seat rents and from 1846 to 1850 £29 12 6d. The two or three collections at the annual Chapel Anniversary were taken by the Trust. In 1818, when Rev Robert Wood of Sheffield preached, £30 2s 6d was taken. In 1822, when Mr Theo Lessey of Manchester was invited, collections amounted to £23 3s 6d.

Special collections were made and funds were set up for other expense items. A fund was created for bread and wine etc. for Sacrament and Lovefeasts, from which the Trust

Steward received £1 15s 31/2d in 1825. In 1839, he was given 7s 0d, collected by the "Sunday School scholars towards furnishing coal". From 1838 to 1850, collections were taken for a candle fund, which brought in at least £1 per year and as much as £1 12s 51/2 in 1843.

The Sunday School was a separate branch of the Chapel, treated sometimes as almost an outside organisation. The Trust Steward recorded the receipt of an annual rent, from the Sunday School treasurer "for the use of the Chapel". This rent, amounted to £5 from 1814 to 1826, £4 in 1827 and 1828 and £3 from 1829 to 1850.

Chapel Stewards and Leaders, 1815 to 1850

Ten years after the building of the chapel, William Ault, William Woodward and John Banton were still class leaders. Richard Sheavyn had taken over George Plastt's class in 1816, Samuel Topliss had replaced his father (William) in 1822 and Mrs Cope had retired in 1819. Other new leaders were Charles Wood and John Draper who had a class of Foremark Methodists. Thomas Banton was assistant leader to William Woodward.

Samuel Bott took over the office of Steward from Mr Richardson in 1816 and held it until 1837. Samuel Sheavyn held the Post for 6 years", until his death in 1843 when Edmund Bott took charge of the accounts. He was Steward for 9 years until 1852.

Ashby Circuit Ministers

It has often been customary to address ministers as "Mr" instead of "Rev". Perhaps that was the case in the early 19th century, making it difficult to distinguish between ministers and chapel members. Likely names, however, are John Townsend, who audited the accounts in 1817 and Mr Rossell, whose name appears in the Accounts Book between 1818 and 1830 and who took charge of the Chapel Insurance premium in 1818, no doubt posting it on to the Company along with other village chapel contributions. The Steward was again saved postage expenses on a trip to Ashby or Derby when Mr Fletcher passed on Ticknall's Chapel subscription in 1821. He had also quite obviously undertaken the correspondence relating to the Chapel Anniversary that year. Other non-Ticknall names appearing between 1824 and 1826 and doing similar helpful jobs were Messrs Pindar, Bridgenall, Graham and Taylor.

Improvements

In 1830 Joseph Shaw was paid 4s 0d for two days' work fencing the Chapel yard. The cost of the fence does not appear in the records, but in 1837 John Wragg charged 2s 0d for a new "stoop and rail". The fenced yard was covered in 1831 with 9s 0d - worth of gravel supplied by James Hickenbotham and Daniel Hill earned 3s 7d for two days' work spreading it. The gravel supplier in 1837 was Mr Bostock of Breedon Quarry, who received 3s 0d "for gravel to lay at the Chapel gates - evidently where it was most needed.

Evidently, too, there were undesirables in the village, for in 1838, 4d was spent on a new lock for the gate.

Other improvements were paid for by special appeals or subscriptions. £6 was raised in this way in 1838 "to buy land "whereon to build a vestry." The following year £6 19s 11/2d was raised "for erecting singing pews", which could only be choir stalls. In the event, only £6 1s. 21/2d was needed. Much more expensive was a new floor for which £17 3s 0d was subscribed in 1845.

Sir George Crewe - Ticknall Schools

Sir George Crewe of Calke Abbey, who inherited most of Ticknall and nearby villages in 1819, was by far the most important figure in Ticknall during the early years of the new Chapel. His father and grandfather had taken no interest in Church or Chapel, but he was a staunch Anglican, living at a time of Anglican revival and educational experiment. He was determined to repair some of the neglect of the past 60 years. In 1820, he had the old 1774 school rebuilt and gave £11 1s 0d for the master's annual salary. By 1825, 40 boys were on the register and Sir George had raised the salary to £20 per annum. The school was a "National" establishment, run on the monitorial system so popular at the time. The idea was to teach older pupils to teach the younger boys to read well enough to read the Bible, though a little writing and arithmetic were added. A similar free day school for girls was opened by Lady Crewe near the Arch in the same year, 1825.

Sir George Crewe -Ticknall Village

In those days Ticknall was a thriving village, its prosperity based on agriculture and lime. Pigot's trades Directories of 1828 and 1835 describe "its large limeworks wrought to great advantage, the lime being conveyed by a railroad to the Ashby Canal, and from thence forwarded to distant parts of the country." Evidence of prosperity appears in the Parish accounts in 1825 when the polluted stream which ran the length of the village street was culverted. At the same time, this "Town Street" was "formed and coated with proper stone." This must have made a considerable difference to the appearance of the place and to the progress of carts, carriages and pedestrians. The whole project cost £700, to which Sir George no doubt contributed.

PIGOT'S DIRECTORY 1835

- Gentry. Sir George Crewe (Caulk Abbey), John Cope, John Richdale.
- Schools. Sir George Crewe's Free School for Boys – teacher George Briggs.
Lady Crewe's Free School for Girls – teachers Charlotte and Ann Tomkins.
Day School – Frances Dicken.
- Bakers. Elizabeth Hollis, James Pywell, Richard Nicklinson, Ann Rollings, Thomas Dudley Rose.
- Blacksmiths. John Cartlidge, John Martin, Henry Minion, John Scaddows Wright.
- Boot and Shoemakers. John Brooks, Thomas Brooks, James Cartlidge, William Gee, Thomas Hatton, Thomas Ratcliffe, Francis Smith, George Smith.
- Butchers. Christopher Ferbans, Gilbert Mee, William Richdale, William Sale, John Shaw.
- Gardener and Seedsman. William Spencer.
- Grocers, Drapers, etc. Samuel Bott (and druggist), Elizabeth Hollis, James Pywell, Richard Nicklinson, Henry Sheffield, Mary Richdale.
- Inns, Taverns. Chequers – Thomas Dudley Rose.
Royal Oak – John Hardy.
Wheel – James Broadgate.
- Beer Retailers. John Cartlidge, William Charlesworth, John Wragg, Gilbert Hutchinson.
- Surgeon. Thomas Sheffield.
- Veterinary Surgeon. Thomas Sheffield.
- Carpenter, Joiner, Cabinet maker. Joseph Towle.
- Lime burners. Thomas Cope, Hutchinson & Ordish.
- Maltsters. Thomas Cope, John Hardy.
- Milliners. Elizabeth Cooper, Catherine Foster, Elizabeth Hickinbotham, Ann Robinson, Lydia Wood.
- Sadler, Harness-maker. William Charlesworth.
- Wheelwrights. John Dicken, John Wragg.
- Stonemason, Engraver. William Ault.
- Worsted manufacturer. John Cheatle.
- Tailors. John Brooks, John Hickinbotham, Charles Peach, Henry Sheffield.
- Coarse Earthenware Manufacturer. Ann Hyde.
- Glover, Breeches maker. Joseph Richdale.
- Carrier. Cox. To Derby (Angel Inn) every Mon, Wed, Fri.
- Coaches. To and from Ashby, Tamworth, Birmingham, and Derby, Sheffield, etc. pass through Ticknall and Swarkestone daily.

Sir George Crewe - the Parish Church

As a committed Anglican, Sir George spent large sums on churches. The most urgent problem he met was the repair of the floor of the Church of St Thomas a Becket, Ticknall Parish Church. He helped raise the £530 required to relay it in stone. Five years later, in 1826, he rebuilt the neglected Calke Church, a short walk away from Calke Abbey. In the next 20 years, Sir George, as patron, and the vicar and members of the Ticknall Church came to realise that the fabric was too decrepit to warrant expensive repairs and also too small for such a prosperous village. In 1842, therefore, it was blown up with gunpowder, only a small corner being left near the churchyard gates. A new Church, dedicated to St George, and designed by James Stevens, the Derby architect, was built further back from the road. It increased seating capacity from 300 to 734 and was the pride of the village. As in the case of the schools, the village street, Calke Church, Sir George must have spent heavily, for St. George's cost £5000. All Ticknall grieved at his death only two years later in 1844.

Methodist decline, 1815 to 1850

The 35 years after the building of the Wesleyan Chapel were marked by a gradual decrease in chapel income and presumably support for the Methodist cause. A certain slackening of enthusiasm was perhaps inevitable after the exciting days of 1815, but a more significant factor was the influence of Sir George Crewe as a convinced Anglican, Church patron and at the same time landlord and most likely employer. Perhaps to be a Methodist, did not carry with it the threat of losing home and employment under Sir George's displeasure, but it would have been only natural for him to favour Anglicans.

Meanwhile, his leadership in providing schools, in culverting the brook and paving Town Street, in Building a new church at Calke and Ticknall, must have drawn people to him and perhaps away from Methodism. In any case, some villagers would have been grateful to him. He provided work for the unemployed, by setting them repairing roads with stone from one of his own limestone quarries. He helped the poor and protected them from the worst evils of the Poor Law and Workhouse.

The Chapel Accounts give some indication of the extent of the decline in support for Methodism. Chapel Anniversary collections which totalled £35 6s 10¹/₂d in 1817 and £23 3s 6d in 1822, fell to £4 12s 21¹/₂d in 1854. Sunday school rent was reduced from £5 from 1814 to 1826 and £3 from 1829 to 1850 to £2 from 1854 to 1857. Perhaps most significant was the loss in income from pew rents. Amounts collected were £68 13s 11d from 1815 to 1820, £29 12s 6d from 1846 to 1850 and only £19 4s 6d from 1851 to 1855.

The Chapel in Debt

The fall in income was not matched by a fall in expenses and when Rev Richard Rymer took over the accounts in 1852, he found the Chapel in debt. Paying interest on the Promisory Notes held proved to be the main burden. In the early 1840s, the principal and interest on William Ault's note had to be paid to his heirs after his death and when Richard Sheavyn's Note had to be paid off in 1843, money had to be found quickly. Loans

were obtained from the Druids' Club (a Friendly Society operating from the Chequers Inn) and William Charlesworth, saddler and landlord of the Royal Oak.

Urgent appeals to members and friends brought in £7 each from Messrs Burton, Wilder and Sowter and ten shillings from Mrs Esther Marsh. In 1852, £18 1s 6d was raised and the chapel cleaner, Ann Toppliss donated 5s 0d. In 1853 a "friend" gave £50, Mr Clarke (Castle Donington) and Mr Ensor gave £10 each and Messrs Wilder and Sowter £5 each. In 1852, 1853 and 1854, the Chapel Relief Fund granted £5 annually. As a result in 1854, Rev Rymer announced the repayment of a loan from the Druids' Club and from William Charlesworth, together with other outstanding debts. The following notes were still held -
- Esther Marsh £120, Thomas Worstall £90, John Worstall £30, Luke Bott £30, William Adcock £30 - but at least, the Chapel faced 1854 with a positive balance of 1s 10 1/2d.

BAGSHAW'S DIRECTORY 1846

Lord of the Manor, Gentry.	Sir John Harpur-Crewe, (Calke Abbey). John Richdale, James Richdale, Richard Nicklinson, Mrs Elizabeth Bryan, Mrs Mary Sims.
Clergy.	Rev Richardson Cox M.A. (St Georges).
Post Office.	John Hickinbotham. Letters arrive from Derby at 7 in the morning and from Ashby at 6.30 in the evening. Letters are despatched to Derby at 6.30 in the evening and to Ashby at 7 in the morning.
Carriers.	John Smith – to Derby, Mon, Wed, Fri. – to Ashby, Sat. Thomas Charville – to Derby, Mon, Wed, Fri. Ann Cook – to Burton, Blue Posts Inn, Thurs.
Schools.	Sir George Crewe's Free School for Boys – master, George Briggs. Lady Crewe's Free School for Girls. School teacher, Susan Warrington.
Inns and Taverns.	Chequers – Thomas Sheffield. Royal Oak – William Charlesworth. Wheel – James Morley.
Beer Retailers.	John Cartlidge, John Briggs, William Shaw, George Topliss.
Bakers.	Elizabeth Hollis, John Nicklinson, William Soar.
Blacksmiths.	John Briggs, John Cartlidge, William Minion.
Bootmakers.	Francis Smith, George Smith.
Butchers.	Robert Mee, William Richdale, William Sale, John Shaw, John Wragg.
Gardener, Seedsman.	William Mason.
Surgeon.	George Sheffield.
Veterinary Surgeon.	William Sheffield.
Farmers.	Nathaniel Bryan, Benjamin Cheatle, Thomas Dumilow, John Richdale, Henry Spencer, Phillip Spencer. Samuel Sheavyn ((Repton). In the Southwoods area, William Woodward, William Swann, William Newbold, James Tomlinson. In Tatshall fee, 1 mile south of village, William Wilder.
Grocers, Drapers.	Edmund Bott (& druggist), Elizabeth Hollis, John Nicklinson, Henry Sheffield, Mary Richdale, John Hickinbotham, William Brook, James Topliss, William Soar.
Carpenter, Joiner, Builder.	Thomas Marriott.
Lime Burners.	Thomas Cope, Rowland Ordish.

Brickmaker, Thomas Cope.

Saddler, Harness maker. William Charlesworth.

Maltsters. Thomas Cope, Rowland Ordish.

Tailors. John Brooks, John Hickinbotham, Charles Peach, James Carter.

Wheelwrights. John Dicken, Daniel Shreeve, Thomas Hanbury.

Stonemasons, Engravers. George Leverett, John Richdale.

Brown Earthenware Manufacturer. John Hyde.

Clock, Watchmaker. William Atkin.

Woolcomber, spinner. Thomas Mason.

Builders. John Dickin, George Leverett, Thomas Marriott.

Brewer. Thomas Sheffield.

Woodman. John Wragg.

Fellmonger. William Hancock.

Landagent. Thomas Grime.

Collector. John Hutchinson.

Assistant Overseer, constable. William Kirk.

More Financial Troubles

Rev Rymer's efforts only provided a temporary relief. In 1855, Charles Wood handled the accounts and Rev S Dixon audited them. For the next two years, Mr Wilder kept the books and Rev W G Duncan audited and signed them. The Chapel was again in debt, only surviving by appeals to members and friends. In 1855, a friend gave £3. In 1857, a public collection realised £4 1s 7¹/₂d, the Chapel Fund granted another £4 and Mr Clarke of Donington donated £10 under express instructions that, the money be used only for paying off debt. In spite of these contributions, Steward Mr Wilder was out of pocket by £11 0s 6¹/₂d at the 1857 audit.

Ticknall in Decline 1850 to 1900

Ticknall must have reached the peak of its expansion and prosperity in about the 1830s. In all likelihood, it suffered, like the rest of the country, from food scarcity and inflation caused by crop failures in the "Hungry Forties". The popularity of the Free Trade ideals and the repeal of the Corn Laws brought corn in from abroad to stave off the threat of starvation, but the growing flood of foreign food imports in the second half of the century forced down prices and came near to ruining many English farmers. Agricultural prosperity in Ticknall came to an end, with farmers and farm workers often having to leave the village to find a living wage in town and city.

At the same time, the other source of the village's prosperity - the limeyards - also collapsed. This was partly due to flooding problems at the quarries, but mainly due to competition from larger companies with larger reserves of stone further to the north of the county. Even before 1800, Edward Banks & Co of Crich had been moving limestone by canal to wharves along the Trent and Mersey Canal. He had set up kilns close by the towpath to burn the stone on the spot and then sold the lime to nearby farmers.

For the limeyard workers, the situation became critical when steam railways arrived. A railway from Leicester to Swannington had been opened in 1829, but this was not extended to Burton until 1848. It could have been routed through Ticknall, but the planners presumably considered Moira coal to be more lucrative than Ticknall lime. In any case, Sir John Harpur and later Sir Vauncey were little interested in industry. They liked to hide away from society and the world of business and made Calke Park into something of a nature reserve and bird sanctuary.

In 1848, the Midland Railway bought up the Ashby Canal and closed the tramway from Ashby to Willesley basin. The only way for Ticknall lime to compete successfully with rival lime producers would have been to rebuild the tramway to Midland Railway specifications, making a branch line to Ashby suitable for steam locomotives. Sir John however was unlikely to approve and the amount of lime produced was thought insufficient to warrant such an expensive project.

So the limeyards gradually reduced production. In 1868, a railway was built from Derby to Ashby via Melbourne. It would have been easy to lay the track through Ticknall and along the tramway to Ashby, but it was thought more profitable instead to take the line through

Breedon. So Ticknall's limeworks disappeared, only a few loads being pulled along the old horse and cart tramway. In 1895, Bulmer's Trades Directory reported the workings closed for some time. The tramway was finally closed and the tracks were removed in 1913.

With its farms in a state of decline and the limeyards closed, farmworkers and limeyards hands were forced out of the village to find work in Burton, Derby or South Derbyshire. Population Census figures show a loss of half of the villagers: 1841 - 1271, 1851 - 1241, 1861 - 1008, 1871 - 886, 1881 - 795, 1891 - 708, 1901 - 630, 2021 - 612.

This was nothing short of a catastrophe for Ticknall and the Wesleyan Chapel. The decline in membership and receipts, following the days in the 1850s when the cause was heavily in debt might have resulted in closure. Only hard work and generosity on the part of the few devoted members could have saved the Chapel.

WHITE'S DIRECTORY 1857

- Lord of the Manor. Sir John Harpur Crewe.
- Private Residents. Samuel Bott, Charles Crossley, Mrs Maria Drewery, Rowland Ordish, Richard Nicklinson, Miss Sarah Ratcliffe, Joseph Richdale, John Wragg.
- Clergy. Rev Richardson Cox, Rev William Williams.
- Post Office. John Hickenbotham. Letters arrive by mail cart from Derby at 6.30 a.m. and are despatched at 6.30 p.m.
- Carriers. Charles Cartlidge, to Derby Mon, Wed, Fri; to Ashby Sat. George Peach, to Burton, Tues, Thurs.
- Schools. Sir George Crewe's School for Boys, master, John Sheldon. Lady Crewe's School for Girls, mistress, Elizabeth Fox.
- Constable. George Carter.
- Inns and Taverns. Chequers, Thomas Sheffield.
Royal Oak, William Charlesworth.
Wheel, Samuel Kirk.
- Beerhouses. George Bagnall, William Soar, Frederick Hutchinson (Repton Priory)
- Bakers. William Hollis, John Nicklinson, William Soar, Thomas Sheffield.
- Blacksmiths. John Cartlidge, William Minion, George Peace.
- Boot and shoe-makers. Joseph Brooks, Thomas Brooks, Janes Cartlidge, George Dolman, William Jay, John Hill, Joseph Ratcliffe, Francis Smith, George Smith, John Wright.
- Bricklayer. John Wooton.
- Brick and tile makers to Sir John. Joseph Hill, John Smart.
- Brownware manufacturer. John Hyde.
- Builders. John Dicken, George Levere±t, Thomas Marriott.
- Butchers. George Bagnall, S±ephen Charlesworth, William Cooper, William Richdale, John Shaw, Ann Wragg.
- Cattle-dealer. James Cheatle.
- Clock and watchmaker. William Atkins.
- Farmers. James Broadgate, William Bromley, Nathaniel Bryan, Benjamin Cheatle, Thomas Dumelow, Joseph Flint (Top Farm), Gilbert Mee, Thomas Richardson, Philip Spenser, William Wilder.

in Repton Priory, George Dexter.
in Southwood, John Richdale, Amos Swan, James Tomlinson, William Woodward.

Head gamekeeper.	Abraham Fairbrother.
Gardener, Seedsman.	William Spenser.
Glover.	James Richdale
Grocer, Draper.	Charles Carte, William Hollis, John Nicklinson, Henry Sheffield, John Hickinbotham, James Topliss,
Hairdresser.	William Brooks.
Limeburner.	William Garrard.
Maltsters.	Soar & Bowman.
Plumber, Glazier.	Thomas Wroughton.
Saddler.	William Charlesworth.
Smallware dealer.	Elizabeth Banyer.
Stonemason.	John Richdale.
Surgeon.	George Sheffield.
Tailors.	John Brooks, John Hickinbotham (& Hatter), Henry Peach, Henry Sheffield. in Repton Priory, George Bloor.
Veterinary Surgeon.	William Garrard.
Wheelwright.	John Dickin.
Woodman.	George Banton (Repton Priory).

WRIGHT'S DIRECTORY 1874

- Lord of the Manor. Sir John Harpur Crewe, Calke Abbey.
- Parish Church. St. George's. Vicar Rev Richardson Cox. Curate Rev Edward Fox.
Churchwardens John Greenwood, John Hickinbotham. Clerk Joseph
Hickinbotham. Sunday Services 10.45 and 3.0 (2.30 winter). Hymn
Book – SPCK. Sacrament – 8 times per year.
- Post Office. John Hickinbotham. Letters arrive 6.30 am. Box cleared 6.30 pm.
- Carriers. Charles Cartlidge. Ashby – Sat. Derby - Mon, Wed, Fri.
G Peace. Derby – Tues, Fri. Burton (Blue Posts) - Thurs, Sat.
- National Schoolmaster. John Sheldon.
- Bakers. William Hollis, Mrs Matilda Nicklinson.
- Blacksmiths. Thomas Earp, William Minion.
- Bootmakers. John Brooks, Thomas Brooks, Joseph Cartlidge, John Hill.
- Builder. Peter Marriott.
- Butchers. George Bagnall, Stephen Charlesworth, William Robinson, John
Mason.
- Drapers. Henry Brearley, John Greenwood.
- Earthenware manufacturer. Thomas Charvell.
- Farmers. Frederick Bromley, Stephen Charlesworth, Benjamin Cheatle,
George Dexter, Thomas Dumelow, Joseph Flint, William Garrard,
William Hollis, Frederick Hutchinson, Joseph Murray, Mrs Mary
Peach, Mrs Eliza Soar, Thomas Richardson.
- General dealer. John Cook.
- Hairdresser. William Brooks.
- Inns and Taverns. Chequers – Mrs Rebecca Freeman.
Royal Oak – Stephen Charlesworth.
Staff of Life – Mrs Eliza Soar.
Wheel – John Mason.
- Joiners. Peter Marriott, Charles Wood.
- Limeburner. William Garrard.
- Mail contractor. George Bagnall.
- Maltster. Thomas Mansfield.
- Market gardener. Joseph Joynes.
- Painter and paper hanger. George Hatton.
- Saddler. Stephen Charlesworth.

Shopkeepers, grocers. John Adkin, Henry Brearley, William Brooks, John Greenwood,
Arnold Hanson, Mrs Matilda Nicklinson.

Steward to Sir John. Joseph Milward.

Stonemason. John Hill.

Surveyor. William Dick.

Tailors. Thomas Bostock, Henry Brearley, Charles Cartlidge, Joseph Carter,
John Hickenbotham, Henry Peach.

Veterinary Surgeon. William Garrard.

Wheelwrights. Thomas Green, Thomas Hough.

The Sunday School in the 1860s

One bright hope for the future for members living in a declining village and attending a chapel in debt was a strong Wesleyan Sunday School. In 1867, the Superintendent was Samuel Wardle, Treasurer Thomas Mason and teachers George Shreave, Isaac Bloor, Joseph Marriott, George Gee, William Adams, Ann Webb, Lucy Mear, Luke Bott and Mrs Cheatle. There were 5 classes of boys, 4 of girls. The total number of scholars was 94, 53 boys and 41 girls. In that year the Sunday Schoon collected £2 10s 3d for the Wesleyan Missionary Society. Anniversary day was on June 23rd, when the sermons were preached by Rev J. Stevenson. Afternoon collection amounted to £2 14s 31/2d and evening £3 10s 31/2d, making a total of £6 4s 7d. The 200 circulars required had been printed at Ashby by Mr Bellamy at a cost of 7s 6d.

19th century Sunday School Registers reveal little hut names and number of attendances. A few notes do however give glimpses of life and ideas in those days. In October 1866 the / attendance marks on Class 1 boy George Mason's line came to an end and the words "gone to service" were added. In January and February 1867, the same remark was written on the lines of Class 2 boys Herbert Banton and William Ellis. These older boys had evidently been considered too old for the school and ripe for adult worship.

A sad note appeared on Annie Topliss' line in November 1867 - just the word "dead". Grief comes through, too, for Fanny Adams, a Class 1 girl, on April 5th 1868 with the simple words, "dead in good hope".

The Woodville and Swadlincote Circuit

The large, rambling Ashby Circuit to which Ticknall Chapel belonged was too large to deal with widespread county societies and with concentrated industrial societies. In the first half of the century, the development of collieries, pottery works and later pipeyards brought prosperity and rapid growth to Woodville, Swadlincote and Gresley. In 1872, it was decided to form a new circuit containing these places, together with nearby villages which helped supply labour for the industries and mines. Ticknall was too far away for anyone to walk to work even at Woodville, the nearest industrial village but perhaps it was considered an industrial village too despite the declining limeyards. On the other hand, it may have been thought that the growing churches, often supported by Methodist pottery and pipe yard owners, could afford to help Ticknall out of its financial difficulties. So although Ticknall seemed to have little affinity with South Derbyshire industries and mines and seemed to have closer ties with Melbourne and Ashby, it was included in the Woodville and Swadlincote Circuit. On the first plan, was the name of a Ticknall local preacher - John Banton.

Sunday School Anniversaries in the 1870s

The preachers at Tic-nall Sunday School Anniversary in 1871 and 1872 were Rev Renton and Rev Winspear. They were probably the last two Ashby ministers to take Ticknall Sermons while the chapel was in the Ashby Circuit. In 1873 it was in the Woodville and

Swadlincote Circuit and Woodville minister Rev Bishop preached at the Anniversary. Collections amounted to £7. In 1875, Sunday School officials invited the Ashby minister Rev Cutting for this special occasion, but the following year they chose the Woodville minister Rev A. Humphrey.

Sunday School numbers

From 1861 to 1881, Ticknall lost one-fifth of its population. It fell from 1008 to 795. In this situation, a fall in Sunday School numbers would seem inevitable. In 1867 there were 94 scholars on roll, in 1870 - 74 and in 1875 - 52. This was a loss of nearly half the school. Surprisingly, however, the number of boys fell only slightly - 1867 - 53, 1870 - 50, 1875 - 40. The larger fall was among the girls - 1867- 41, 1870 - 24, 1875 - 12. This would perhaps indicate that the loss of children was not altogether to do with the declining village population. Girls may have been kept at home to help with housework or looking after younger children. It may have become fashionable to think that school was more important for boys, who would grow up to be husbands and fathers and would dictate the religious lives of wives and daughters. Whatever the reason, the loss of so many scholars was a serious matter for the school and chapel in the 1870s.

BULMER'S DIRECTORY 1895

In 1880, the hamlets of Southwood, Repton Priory, Scaddows and Ticknall, formerly in Repton, were incorporated for all civil purposes in Ticknall. The Parish Room was opened in 1892, the Reading Room holding a library of 200 books. Ticknall lime quarries and the pottery have closed. The brick kilns are now only worked for estate purposes. Tatshall fee, 60 acres of land one mile south of Ticknall, formerly owned by the Earl of Stamford, is now owned by Sir Vauncey.

- Lord of the Manor, Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe, Calke Abbey.
- Vicar, Rev Thomas J Jones.
- Post Office. A Hatton, Highwayside. Letters from Derby by mailcar arrive 6.30 am. Letters despatched at 7.10 pm.
- Police Station. John Clark, constable.
- Parish Clerk. John Hickinbotham.
- Ticknall Parochial School.
Master - Harry Harrison. Mistress - Mrs Harrison. Infants mistress - Miss M A Lown.
Collector of rates and taxes, surveyor of highways. Thomas Charvill.
- Carrier. Mrs Martha Cartlidge, Springfield House. Derby (Robin Hood) Fri. Derby (White Swan), Mn, Wd. Ashby - Sat. All depart on return journey at 4 pm.
- Derby U O of' Oddfellows (at the Wheel Inn) — sec. H Harrison.
- Primrose League. - sec. Charles Hill.
- Ticknall Conservative Assoc. - sec. F Bromley.
- Ticknall Horticultural Society. — secs H Harrison, A Hickinbotham.
- Private Residents. Mrs Mary Archer, John Brearley (The Hollies), Frederick Brearley (Repton Priory), J B Chapman, Mrs Eleanor Dumelow, Mrs Harriet Millward, George Webster.
- Inns. Chequers - Thomas Warren.
Staff of Life - Mrs Eliza Soar.
Wheel - George Betteridge.
- Farmers. John Armson (White Hollow), Robert Armson (Orchard), William Bromley, Reuben Bosworth (Scaddows), Thomas Charvill (Basford's Hill), A Hanson, Henry Cheatle (Grange), Henry Dexter (Old Royal Oak), John Hanson, Richard Dexter (Repton Priory), Samuel Dumelow (Slade) Richard Flint (Top Farm), John Heath (Pistern Hills), Mrs June Hutchinson and John Hutchinson (Woodside), Henry Insley (Pistern Hills), George Shaw (Whiteleys), William Sheavyn, Knowle Hill), Henry Topliss (Old Potworks), Samuel Topliss (High St.)
In Southwood - J Dumelow, Frederick Soar, William Wilkinson.
- Bakers. Mrs Anne Hatton, Mrs Eliza Soar.
- Blacksmiths. Henry Hulse, George Minion.
- Brick and drainpipe maker for Sir Vauncey. Richard Dexter.

Butchers. Thomas Mason, Thomas Warren.

Carpenter. Thomas Draper Marriott.

Carter. Samuel Topliss.

Coal Dealer. George Topliss.

Cowkeepers. Mrs Anne Hatton, William Parkes (Scaddows), Henry Topliss (Old Pottery), Joseph Woodward (Southwood).

Deputy agent to Sir Vauncey. Thomas Charvill.

Draper. George Sheffield Brearley.

Ecclesiastical surveyor. William Dick.

General Dealer. William Freeman.

Hairdresser. John Hickinbotham.

Head gamekeeper to Sir Vauncey. Augustus Pegg.

Joiners. Roger Marriott, Estate Yard House (foreman joiner to Sir Vauncey).
Richard Dexter, (joiner to Sir Vauncey).
Benjamin Storer.

Lace Net Repairers. Boden & Co. Manageress Miss M James.

Lodgekeeper. John Banton (Ticknall Lodge).

Manager. William Greenwood, Victoria House.

Market Gardeners. James Joynes, Robert Armson (Orchard Farm), Mrs Mary Taylor (Repton Priory).

Painter. Thomas Hatton.

Saddler. Walter Charlesworth. Ticknall.

Sawyer. Samuel Banton.

Shoe dealer. Herbert Swann.

Shoemaker. Roland Cartlidge.

Shopkeepers. George Sheffield Brearley, Mrs Elizabeth Clark, Thomas Riddle, John Hickinbotham (tobacco), George Cater (confectionery).

Tailors. George Sheffield Brearley, Charles Cartlidge (High St.), George Cater (High St.), John Wardle.

Threshing Machine (steam) proprietors. Hill and Henson.

Wheelwrights. Andrew Cross (Briarfield Cottage), Benjamin Storer.

Woodcutter. Amos King (Repton Priory).

Woodman. Samuel Taylor (Knowle Hill).

Sunday School at the end of the 19th century

From its low point in 1875, Sunday School had recovered to its 1860s position before the end of the century. Village population figures continued to fall - 1881 - 795, 1891 - 708, 1900 - 630, but Sunday School numbers rose - 1875 - 52, 1880 - 62, 1890 - 93, 1900 - 95, Again, the boys' numbers show no great difference — 1875 - 40, 1880 - 49, 1885 - 43, 1890 - 48, 1900 - 49. Of much greater significance are the girls' numbers - 1875 - 12, 1880 - 13, 1885 - 33, 1890 - 45, 1900 - 46. Whatever had kept the girls away in the 1870s had gone and the chapel had a large, well-balanced School again.

The most remarkable of the Sunday School staff to witness these changes was George Shreeve. He was teaching before 1866. He became Superintendent and served the School faithfully until his death in 1898.

The Marriott family played a conspicuous part too. In 1887, of the 8 teachers, three were Marriotts; George, Thomas and May. In 1890, four out of the six teachers came from the same family, George, Thomas, Tom and Samuel. George died in 1891, Jim taking his place and later John. At the turn of the century, the Sunday School staff included Thomas, Samuel, James and Joseph.

Others who served the School in the 1890s and well into the 20th century were George Gee and Ellen Dunning.

Chapel repairs - 1897

The chapel meanwhile came to the end of the century newly repaired and decorated and financially sound. In 1897, Rev J O Mann came to take the place of Rev W. Cooke. The Trust Secretary was Frederick Wright, tailor, and the treasurer was W Bromley of The Grange, Weston-on-Trent. All of these were involved in much hard work. The architect they employed was Charles F Underhill, 153 New Street, Burton, and of Market Place, Swadlincote, whose fees amounted to £9 0s 6d.

Edwin Clarke, Swadlincote Rd Woodville, was the builder entrusted with most repairs and other work. He reslated the right-hand side of the roof (the left-hand side had already been attended to). He demolished the old chimney and built a new one to the chimney pot, finally restoring the eaves and guttering. Then he installed a new stove. The lower part of the fan-light over the front door was repaired with new bars and some windows were given new sashes. The front lobby door frame was strengthened and new doors were fitted. Alterations were made to the gallery stairs so that doors could be installed halfway up. Mr Clarke supplied a number of reversible seats costing £8 and repaired some other forms. Extra seating was added in the "orchestra" and lamp pedestals were erected there. A grating was fitted in the ceiling and a new lock was fitted in the front door. Outside, the front gates were altered and moved back to their original position, while the yard and gateway were surfaced with two loads of gravel. Edwin Clarke's bills totalled £166.

The new stove, made by E H Shorland, Stretford Rd Manchester, cost £15 7s 0d. It was sent by rail to Melbourne station, carriage 2s 6d. Then Samuel Topliss, carrier, charged 2s 6d for the hire of his dray to bring it to the Chapel.

Messrs Ingram & Kemp (chandeliers, lamps, brackets & electric fittings), Newtown Row, Birmingham supplied 9 lamps, 36 wicks, 18 lamp chimneys and 18 globes. This modern lighting scheme cost £3 15s 3. Candles were not entirely phased out, for J W Tomlinson, ironmonger, 113 Friargate Derby, (lamps, wicks, petroleum oils etc.) supplied a pair of snuffers. He also sent 1 doz brass hat & coat hooks, 2 doz brass wardrobe hooks and screws costing 14s 0d.

A large bill of £49 9s 6d was submitted by George Potter, 68 Gerard St Derby. His work included staining and varnishing forms, painting the stairsides to the pulpit and choir, the platform margin, the large cupboards, the front and side doors and the iron standards to the Communion rail. He also frosted some of the ground-floor windows.

Other Expenses, 1897

Brealey & Co, grocers, linen drapers, tailors and funeral furnishers, supplied two mats for the doorway and forty feet of cord for the window sashes, price 11s 0d. Gravel for the yard was ordered from John C Shieds at the Breedon and Cloud Hill Limeworks, 2 ton 18 cwt at a cost of 8s 9d.

When the work was completed, Emma Holt, Mrs King and Mrs Clark were paid 10s, 6s and 14s respectively for cleaning up and W Charlesworth received 8s for cleaning the windows. Cleaning materials were purchased from A Cater's shop — brushes 4s 0d, scouring flannel 9d, 8 lb soda 6d, 2 wash leathers 1s 9d, 3 tins soft soap 1s 0d, 5 lb scouring soap 10d, brush stall 3d.

For the reopening ceremony, R Lee, the Swadlincote printer and stationer, Market Place Swadlincote supplied 50 posters with red borders for 7s 6d. The whole project cost £258 19s 0d.

The reopening and rededication were planned for 20 October 1897.

Collections and Bazaars

On 20th October, £12 was raised from the collections but the money required to pay for renovations came mainly from annual bazaars. Bazaars in 1896, 1897 and 1898 brought in £102 9s 3d, £48 4s 10d, £24 5s 1d. Generous donations came also from Mrs Mann (who collected £25), Mrs Soar (£5) and the late Woodward's family (£5 in his memory). Mr Wright also received at least one interest-free loan and a similar loan from S H Rowley, Swadlincote pottery works owner, for £7 17s 10d.

Bazaar proceeds and the funds of a Bazaar Savings Club were deposited in three local banks, £112 12s 3d in the Derby and Derbyshire Bank, £36 12s 0d in the Melbourne Post Office Savings Bank and £10 in the Ashby Post Office Savings Bank. By the end of 1898, the treasurer reported all bills and expenses paid.

Services and Preachers 1895 to 1900

In the old Collection Journal (1895 to 1933), collections were apparently only taken in the early years every fortnight. At least, these were the only ones recorded. In the last years of the 1890s, Thomas D Marriott signed each entry. By the side of each amount was written the cause supported - Chapel Fund "Surcet Aid", "Foreing Missionary", 'Wourn out Ministers", Lighting and Heating, Home Missions, Education, Local Preachers Mutual Aid, School Fund, Harvest Festival,

Sunday School Anniversary, Theological Institutions, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary etc. Some of the larger collections were - Chapel Anniversary £2, Harvest £3 12s 6¹/₂d, Lighting and Heating £1 19s 1d, and Foreign Missions 17s 10¹/₂d.

Ministers serving the Chapel from 1895 to 1900 were Revs L E Deen, W Cooke and J O Mann. Local preachers included Messrs Aidy, Ault, Bayley, Bodell, Broxholme, Butler, Chester, Ealles, England, Freeman, George Gregson, Harrison, Walford, Hudson, Kent, Leese, S Marriott, Marshall, E Moreton, Morley, Mountford, Price, Rowley, Shorter, Smith, Turmicliffe, Wilkinson, Williams, Woodward and Wright.

Sunday School Balance Sheet 1902

The 1902 Balance Sheet was printed out on the School Anniversary leaflets for 1903. Printing leaflets (circulars) cost £1 1s 0d, prizes £3 1s 6d (including books for school use), the Treat £2 6s 11¹/₂d and the rent £1 10s 0d. A new cloth for the front of the platform (8 yd. chintz) costing 6s 5d from Brealey's, bringing the total expenditure to £8 5s 0¹/₂d.

Income was made up of £7 Anniversary collections, 6s 6d paid by adults joining the scholars at the Treat tea and 18s 0d donations. These donations were 2s 6d each from Mrs Cowley and Mr C C Hill, 2s 0d from Mr Mear, 1s 0d each from Miss Dumelow, Mrs William Betteridge, Messrs Joseph Astle, A Barton, Bullen, Cantrill, H Grice, R Lee, Joseph Tomlinson and an old scholar and 6d each from Miss Tunnicliffe and Mr A Topliss. The above accounts for the year showed a deficit of 4¹/₂d.

Sunday School 1903

In 1903 there were 47 boys and 31 girls on the Sunday School Register. George Gee was Superintendent, Thomas D Marriott treasurer and teachers were Edmund Cross, Joseph Dunning, James Marriott, George Hancock, Mrs Morley, Kate Marriott, Fanny Dunning and Kate Hickenbotham.

On Prize-giving Day, 37 children received books, ordered from the Wesleyan Bookroom, 2 Castle St, City Rd, London and delivered by rail to Mr Gee via Melbourne Station. There were 7 best books priced 1s 3d each, 12 priced at 10d each and 18 at 9d.

The 1903 Anniversary

The Anniversary Services on June 7th 1903 were conducted by Rev H Wadsworth of Ashby. The children, supported by the Choir and Orchestra' had learned 6 special hymns for the occasion - "Another Happy Colden Year", "Bright and Joyous be our Day", "Tell of

the love of Jesus", "We're Soldiers in the Army of the Lord our King", Hosanna be the Children's Song" and "O Come to the Fountain". Music was ordered for the conductor, for Mr Barton, for violinists Messrs Swann and Marriott and for the harmonium player, Miss Dunning, with the choir - 30 copies altogether. Congregational hymns, sung at the beginning and end of each service were "Sing to the Great Jehovah 's Praise", "Jesus shall Reign", "My Heart and Voice I Raise", "Saviour again to Thy Dear Name We Raise". The music cost only 2s 1d. The 400 hymn sheets and circulars cost £1 0s 6d from printers Smith and Kellam, Tollgate, Woodville. The Sunday School staff must have been pleased with the collections which totalled £8 3s 10d.

Sunday School Treat 1903

Like many other Treats, before and after, the 1903 treat consisted of a procession through the village, a tea and games in a field. For the tea, El'iza Soar, Staff of Life Bakery, supplied 13 loaves (41/2d each) and 44 lb cake (4d lb). Alice Parkes' cows at Scaddows Farm supplied 2 gallons of milk (1d pt) and 1 quart of cream (6d pt). The rest of the provisions were ordered fairly equally from village shopkeepers, A Cowley, A Cater and A Hickinbotham. They included 7 tins salmon (9d tin), 3 tins of apricots (71/2 tin), 10 lb butter (1s 2d lb), 13 lb moist sugar (13/4d lb), 6 lb lump sugar (from a block, 21/2d lb), 11/2lb black tea (61/2d 1/4lb), ¼ lb green tea (61/2d) and 3 lb sweets at 4d lb.

The Chapel 1900 to 1914

The chief officials of the Chapel at the beginning of the century were Thomas D Marriott (1895 to 1911), Fred Wright, Snr, (1896 to 1910) Joseph Woodward (1901 to 190), George Gee (from 1301 onwards) and Fred Wright, Jnr (from 1911onwards). Ministers in those days (with approximate date of arrival) were Revs I Pollett 1900, T N Ritson 1902, G W Russell 1903, C Holman 1904, R B Woodward 1904, H Cowpe 1907, W Sharpley 1907, J Wesley Denham 1910, Hilderic Friend 1912, R Watkin Jones 1912 and E Percy Green 1914.

Local preachers taking services at Chapel included Messrs Bodell, A B Cash, Chester, Clamp, Cooper, England, Gladwin, George Gregson, Hall, Holford, Kent, Leese, Marshall, E Moreton, Mountford, Price, Seamark, Smith, Tunncliffe, Wilkinson, Woodward Wortley and Wright.

Collections were taken for the same causes as in 1895. Popular causes in 1907 were Foreign Missions (£2 12s 6d) and Harvest Festival (£2 15s 6d and £1 5s 3d from sale of produce). the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary (£1 10s 0d) Local Preachers Aid (£1 10s 0d) and Home Missions (£1 2s 71/2d). The Chapel Anniversary collection fell to 17s 111/2d and before 1914 the occasion had been dropped from the calendar altogether.

Collections were written in the Notice Book and announced on Sunday in the old style . . . "This is the day appointed for making the ----- Collection in this place of Worship."

Weeknight Meetings 1900 to 1914

Sometimes, at the end of the Notices, the preacher would read “. . . after the service, the classes will be met for tickets.” This happened at the beginning of the year, usually after the fortnightly Thursday evening service. The minister reserved that evening for visiting Ticknall and, in the days before motorised transport, ticket distribution would have to be done when he could be present. Similarly, Trust and Leaders' Meetings were held before or after the Thursday service.

The number of classes varied. There was always a Society Class and a Junior Class, but occasionally attempts were made to start new classes. In 1908 Mr Wright had a class, in 1910 Mr Marriott and Mr Woodward and in 1913 Mrs Peat. These were short-lived however and were soon incorporated in the one Society Class again.

These were the days of Temperance campaigns and the Band of Hope for children. The weeknight programme in late 1910 read . . . Tuesday 7.0 Mr Marriott's Class: Wednesday 6.15 Junior Class: Wednesday 7.0 Society Class (Mr Woodward) :Thursday 6.0 Band of Hope: Thursday 7.0 Weeknight Service.

Other Devotional Meetings

Once or twice a year (and four times in 1906) a Love Feast would be planned after the Evening Service. On a few occasions, a Love Feast replaced the normal preaching service on Thursday.

Prayer Meetings were held for a time, between 1905 and 1908 at 7.30 or 8.0 on Sunday mornings. In 1905, Joint Prayer meetings were held with the Baptists on Monday evenings.

The Choir 1900 to 1914

The Choir played a leading part in Chapel life in those days. Choir Practice was on Friday nights, when members were trained to lead the congregation on Sundays, from their commanding position behind the preacher. Choir trips, teas and socials were arranged to encourage old members and attract new ones - and raise Choir funds.

Backing the children at the Sunday School Anniversary was a special occasion for the choir, but the big event of the year came on a Friday night in late March or early April. A Public Tea" was advertised with "tea on the tables at 4.30." The price was 6d, adults, 4d, children. At 7.00 the Choir presented a "Service of Song", a story in song with linking readings. In earlier years these "connective readings" were given by George Wilkinson. Titles were - Adrift, 1906; Sunshine Sammy or Little Golden Hair, 1907; Three Little Wanderers, 1910; Daisy Meadow, 1911; Dady, 1912; Laddie, 1912; Only a Gipsy, 1914.

Teas and Concerts

Teas and entertainment must have been popular in the days before radio and television. The Baptists held an annual tea in aid of the Local Preachers fund. In 1912 at the Wesleyan Chapel, a tea was held before a business meeting to arrange details for a

bazaar. Tea was on the tables from 5.0 to 6.0, price 6d. On a Thursday in January 1913, a tea (on the tables at 6.0, price 4d) followed by a Society Meeting replaced the normal weeknight service.

Local artistes performed at Chapel concerts, as in 1906 when a Melbourne Concert Party entertained at the Baptists in aid of the "Cloathing Club". The Band of Hope staged concerts in 1907 and 1910 and in 1912, Miss Hunt and Miss Spencer brought their Concert Party from Derby.

Foreign Missions 1912

The centenary of the Wesleyan Foreign Missions Organisation (1812 - 1912) was celebrated in Nottingham and Derby with special conventions and demonstrations. Perhaps someone from Ticknall may 'have been able to attend, like Mr W F Bromley who for many years chaired the annual Foreign Missions weeknight meeting.

Repairs and Alterations 1907 and 1913

A large bill had to be paid in 1907 when the ten-year-old stove needed renovating. The work was undertaken by John Holdron's of Ashby at a cost of £9 8s 0d. Meanwhile, in the years before the outbreak of the First World War, Herbert Swann, carpenter, altered the Choir area. He spent 3s 3d on 21 ft of wood, 7 in x 1 in, 6d on 2 ft of 7 ½ in x in wood and 9d on bolts, screws and nails. He worked for 12 hours filling up the Choir stairs and platform," earning 6d per hour. In the following January (1914), he was paid 12s 6d for enlarging the platform for the Sunday School Annivæary.

Other events, 1900 to 1914

In 1905, the new Wesleyan Hymn Book was adopted. A Pulpit Notice announced that personal copies could be bought from officials of the Church and School priced 1s 4d. In 1908, difficulty was experienced in finding a Chapel cleaner. A special meeting was held to discuss the matter when Mr Wright said that he had already paid Fanny Woodward 7s.6d for cleaning she had done. In 1911, Miss Wardle started a sewing club. This operated for a time on Monday afternoons but was later transferred to Wednesdays. Two Chapel stalwarts died at this time, Fred Wright (senior) and Thomas Draper Marriott, in 1910 and 1911 respectively. Something else died in 1913, which recalled the days of industrial prosperity in Ticknall and finally cancelled any hope of a return to such days. On 20 May 1913, the last cartload of coal was hauled along the Ticknall Tramway for delivery to Mrs Smart at the Royal Oak. Then the lines were lifted.

World War I 1914-1918

The first full year under wartime conditions saw little change at Chapel. Collections maintained their usual pattern - Foreign Missions £3 5s 2d, Harvest Festival £2 1s 6d, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary £1 4s 4d, Local Preachers' Mutual Aid 16s 6d etc. A new addition to the list was a War Emergency Fund collection which realised 13s 11d.

During the War, Chapel stewards were George Gee and Fred Wright (junior). Ministers were Revs E Percy Green, R Watkins Jones and J H Waddington. Local preachers were Messrs Bodell, Clamp, Cooknell, Cooper, England, E W Holford, Kent, Moreton, Mountford, Powell, Seamark, Smith and Wilkinson.

For the Sunday School Anniversary, in 1915, Smith and Kellam printed 350 hymn sheets and circulars at £1 1s. For the Treat, Mrs Gee bought 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb ham from Melbourne grocer George Shaw, price 11s 0d. A Cater supplied 6 lb Maypole butter (1s.7d lb), 4lb best butter (1s 5d lb), $\frac{3}{4}$ lb best tea (7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d 1/4lb), 4lb moist sugar (33/4 lb), 2 lb lump sugar (4d lb), 2 oz mustard (11/2d oz) and 1s 0d worth of sweets. W Soar supplied 23 lb cake (61/2d lb) and 23/4 st bread (2s 6d st). A Cowley supplied 1/2lb best black tea (9d 1/4lb), 3 lb lump sugar (4d lb) and 1 lb mixed sweets (6d). Hickinbotham's shop had closed in 1909 when its last contribution to the treat was made.

Prayer Meetings

In 1915, united Baptist/Methodist Prayer Meetings were held after chapel on Sunday evenings. In late 1916 and in 1917, however, they were held in members' homes on weeknight evenings. Hosts included Mrs Cater, Mrs Cook (top of village), Mr Arthur Draper, Mr John Draper, Mr Gale, Mrs Greenwood, George Hill, Thomas Hill, Mr Johnson, Mr Knight, Mrs Miller, Mrs Morley, Mr Sam Topliss, Mr G Topliss, Mrs White and Mr Fred Wright.

Chapel Centenary and Other Events of 1914 - 1918

The Centenary of the Chapel building was celebrated on 4 and 5 April 1915. Sermons were preached by the Chairman of the Notts and Derby District, Rev Sanderson, on the Sunday and Monday evenings. Perhaps the occasion could have been even more special had it not been for the war. Nevertheless, collections amounting to £6 6s 9d were no doubt welcome additions to Chapel resources.

On 6 April 1917, Good Friday, Mr Chower chaired a meeting gathered to hear a lecture by an Army Chaplain entitled "Tommy Atkins and Jack Tar". Then, on 22 April, Rev E Percy Green took the 6.0 Service, which took the form of a Memorial Service to two former Sunday School scholars killed in the war, Seth Woodward and Joseph Marriott. The war was never far from people's thoughts and there was much cause for grief in the hearts of most Ticknall villagers.

The Chapel continued its mission in those dark days. At the Home Missions Meeting on 24 January 1916 Rev J H Willington gave a public lecture on "Sammy Bradburn, Wesley's most famous preacher and early Methodism's greatest orator". On Friday, 21 April, after a Public Tea at 4.0, price 8d, the Choir presented at 6.45 a Service of Song entitled "The World's Redeemer." The connective readings were made by A P Shorter of Swadlincote.

On 29 June 1916, the Chapel received a visit from Sister Lucy Chapman of the Young Leaguers, who spoke on the National Children's Homes and Orphanages. She must have made an impression, for in July, a Ticknall Young Leaguers monthly meeting was begun. It

lasted until at least 1927 when a change in the weeknight meeting was mentioned in the Notices. It probably took the place of the Band of Hope youth meetings.

In 1916, Ticknall had the largest membership among the rural villages in the Woodville and Swadlincote Circuit. On the plan societies in industrial areas were Woodville with 194 members, Swadlincote with 138, Church Gresley with 81, and Castle Gresley with 61. The rural society list reads, Ticknall 29, Blackfordby 28, Hartshorne 25, Acresford 16 Netherseal 15, Coton Park 11 and Coton-in-the-Elms 11. Other rural communities besides Ticknall had suffered a decline in the second half of the 19th century.

Aftermath of the War

The horrors of war did not end with the Peace in 1918. In July 1920, a special collection was taken in Chapel for the "Save the Children Fund" in aid of the starving children of Eastern Europe and Asia Minor.

Inflation also brought problems to Chapel and the country alike. For Chapel and Sunday School teas, prices which had remained stable over the first 15 years of the century shot up alarmingly. Butter rose from 1s 2d t - 1s 4d to 2s..8d per lb from pre-war to 1921. Other price rises for other commodities were - moist sugar, 23/4 to 7d lb; lump sugar, from 3d to 7 1/2d lb; black tea, 2s 0d to 3s 2d lb; ham, 10d to 2s 6d lb. Smith and Kellam's Anniversary printing charges, £1 0s 6d or £1 1s 0d from 1900 to 1915, had reached £2 3s 0d in 1921.

The Collection Journal

From October 1920, collections were recorded in the Journal at weekly intervals instead of fortnightly as before. Extra collections were devoted to Trust Fund, Society Fund and Circuit Aid etc. Entries were signed by George Gee and Fred Wright, and occasionally by Alfred Gale.

The Choir

At about this time, the Choir's Services of Song were phased out. The last one was presented on 1 October 1922 at Harvest Festival time. Rev Thomas Barron took Sunday Services when collections amounted to £3 8s 0d. The sale of fruit and vegetables realised £2 6s 11d and the Service of Song £1. 7s 9d.

Renovations 1924

For several weeks in September 1924, the Chapel was closed for renovations. Sunday Services were held at the Baptist Chapel, although on 14 September an open-air service was conducted at 5.0 pm, in front of Mr Tompkin's house, when Wilfr'ed Eames of Newhall sang solos. Perhaps this was the time when a hot water pipe central heating system was installed. The reopening and rededication service was conducted by Rev Shapland and collections amounted to £8 6s 2d. Sunday collections right into November were devoted to defraying the costs.

Methodist Union

At 7.0p.m. on 8 January 1925, a Society Meeting was called. This was followed by a Leaders' Meeting at 7.30 and a Trustees' Meeting at 8.00. After the reading of the accounts, the main subject under discussion was the advisability or otherwise of the union of the different branches of Methodism. A vote was taken on the subject. Whatever the result in Ticknall, Union was not achieved until 1932.

Entertainment in the 1920s

Concerts in Chapel continued to be popular fundraisers. In 1928, a Concert by the "Gresley Friends" realised £2 2s 6d.

Lectures proved popular, too. In 1919, Mr Hancock read a series of papers entitled "Why am I a Christian?" "Is there a God?" "Friendship" and "Cliff College." On Monday evening, 6 September 1920, Rev 2nd T^h Woodward lectured on "Hugh Price Hughes". Mr Grew took the chair and a collection was taken for Trust Funds. In 1925, Rev J H Barnard spoke on "Life in the Shetland Isles" and in 1928 Rev Fytche, with Mrs Grew in the chair, took as his subject "Whittier, American Quaker and Poet."

Home and Foreign Missions

Home and Foreign Missions each received annual Sunday and Thursday evening collections. For a number of years in the late 1920s, Mrs Grew organised and chaired the Thursday meetings.

Foreign Missions receipts were always higher because of the addition of the contents of Missionary boxes, which had been gathering odd coppers in people's homes throughout the year. The Bromleys of Hemington Hall had past associations with Ticknall and Ingleby. They often organised and chaired the Thursday meeting. On 8 September 1927, it was held at Ingleby when the Mayor of Derby was invited to take the chair. Mr W F Bromley first presided over a Thursday meeting in 1910 - (collection £2). 22 years later, he took the chair on 20 October - (collection £3 2s 2d).

Ministers in the 1920s

Post-war ministers (with the approximate date of arrival in the Circuit) were Revs R Ernest Parker (1917), Thomas Barron (1919), R B Woodward (1920). Rev Woodward seems to have been popular, having returned to the Circuit after a previous spell between 1904 and 1907. Other 1920s ministers were . . . F H H Labett(1921), G H Barnard (1922), George Lampard (1922), W Garment (1926), Henry Fytche (1927) and C J Mitchell (1929).

Officials and Preachers in the 1920s

The most prominent officials in the Chapel in the 1920s were George Gee and Fred Wright. Local preachers taking the pulpit in Ticknall in those days were Messrs Arnold, W E Bonas, Bradshaw, E Bodell, H Ball, A Bosworth, Clower, Chester, A B Cash, Clamp, Calow, Cooper, Deville, E England, Farmer, Gladwin, G Hogg, Harvey, E W Holford, E T

Insley, Joe Kent, Lock, Mabe, E Moreton, T E Mountford, Patton, Parker, Richardson, Smith, A P Shorter, Sinfield, Tunncliffe, T Topliss, Wilton, Wortley, Fred Wright.

A deaconess Sister Eva preached in the Chapel in 1925 and in 1926. Then in 1927, Evangelist A E Tardiff took the pulpit for four consecutive Sundays.

KELLY'S DIRECTORY, 1925

Village population 1921, 761

Lord of the Manor, Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe.

Vicar, Rev Frederick Davis.

Post Office. Frederick Pipe.

Public Elementary School. Master, Harold Lewis.

Mistresses, Miss Jackson, Miss Sarah Clarke.

Police Station. Constable. Albert Mellor.

Parish Clerk, Arthur Kirkman.

Assistant overseer, tax collector, Albert Swann.

Reading Room secretary, Frederick Pipe.

Carriers. William Topliss, Ashby, Sat; Derby, Fri.

Arthur Parkes, Burton, Thurs, Sat.

LMS Railway, Melbourne Station. Goods collected and delivered.

Private Residents. Mrs Hall (The Priory), George Sheffield Brearley (High St.), Charles Moore (Park View), Miss White (The Hollies).

Inns. Chequers, Mrs Martha Betteridge.

Wheel, Mrs Mary Hicklinson Betteridge.

Apartments to let, Mrs Martha Greenwood (High St).

Blacksmiths. Samuel Hulse (High St), George Minion.

Butcher, Thomas Mason.

Carter, Albert Smith.

Cowkeeper, Mrs Alice Parkes (Scaddows).

Draper, Brearley & Co. (High St).

Farmers. Harry Draper, Pistern Hills; Samuel Dumelow; Thomas Eason, Foremark Pk; Mrs Mary Flint; William Flint, Scaddows; Thomas Frith, Potworks Farm; William Hallifield; Arthur Hutchinson, Woodside; John Hutchinson, Woodside; Mrs Margaret Matthews, Grange; Herbert Musson; William Roberts, Basford's Hill; Leonard Smith, Glebe; Walter Soar, (poultry); George Taylor, Knowle Hill; John Taylor, White Hollows; Samuel Topliss, Hayes;

. . . in Southwood, Ernest Charvill, Elizabeth Dumelow, Thomas Dumelow.

Head gamekeeper to Sir Vauncey, Agathos Pegg.

Market gardener, William Armson (High St).

Shopkeepers. Brearley & Co (High St), Mrs Almena Cowley, Frederick Pipe, George Shreeve.

Threshing machine proprietor, Mrs Martha Hulse.

Sunday School Anniversary in the 1920s

The Anniversary continued to be a highlight of the year. The 1920 "Sermons" proved so popular that on 21 August a rehearsal was arranged at 5.0 pm before the evening service for children and choir. The following Sunday, with Rev R B Woodward in the pulpit, Anniversary hymns were sung again.

In 1922, Mr E Clower ordered some new Anniversary music from Peace Bros of Ravensthorpe near Dewsbury, Yorks. He received 38 copies of "Honour and Duty" and 40 copies of the publishers' "22nd Set" of Anniversary hymns. They cost 8s 3d and 13s 4d respectively. Through the 1920s and for many years afterwards, such music from a long list of Yorkshire composers and publishers remained popular. It was reasonably cheap and offered a wide choice - a far better choice than was available at local music shops or at the Wesleyan Bookroom in London. Publishers who supplied Ticknall Sunday School were Albert E Parcell (Hull), A Carrington Briggs (Hessle), John T Hampshire (Thornhill via Dewsbury), A W Angus (Leeds), Herbert Lodge (Dewsbury), Taylor and Raywood (Hull) and Ernest Nicol (Kirkella, Hull).

After 1922, Fred Wright was responsible for ordering music. In 1929, he purchased from Hampshire's 36 copies of "Wayside Beauty" and 50 copies of "Little Deeds" at a cost of 7s 0d; From Nicol's, he purchased 50 copies of "Let There be Light", "Bells at Eventide", "The Art of Living" and "Sing and Rejoice", at a cost of 13s 6d.

From 1903 to 1927, Anniversary printing was done by Smith and Kellam of Woodville. In 1927, they had a blue bill head advertising the "Daily Telegraph" as the "best paper in the world." The bill for printing 400 hymn sheets (addressed to F Wright) amounted to £1 15s 6d (1s 0d discount). In 1929 and into the 1930s, the work was undertaken by Tickner Bros. (top of Market Street, Ashby). Their bill, as usual, addressed to F Wright, amounted to £1 15s 0d.

In 1926, an announcement appeared in the Notices, stating that the "sermons" platform would be left up ready for the Baptist Sunday School Anniversary on the following Sunday. The Baptists borrowed the Wesleyan Chapel as their own was too small for their Anniversary congregations. Perhaps this had been the custom before 1926 and it remained so until the 1970s when the Baptist School closed.

Prizes

Rewards for good attendance, conduct and work in Sunday School were awarded annually in late February throughout the 1920s. In 1921, prizes were picture books from the Bible and Religious Trust Society Depot, Bank Buildings, Irongate, Derby. There were 12 books at 1s 0d each, 2 at 1s 6d, 1 at 2s 0d and 1 at 2s 6d. Books presented in 1922 came from Capt. Davis of Doncaster. F Wright received a 3s 0d Bible and other books varying in price from 8d to 2s 6d. The bill came to £1 3s 7d. Capt. Davis also supplied the rewards in 1925. On Tuesday, 24 February, at 6.30 pm, the Sunday School staged an entertainment. Mrs Seamark presided and afterwards presented the prizes.

Officials and Various Expenses in the 1920s School

Anniversary and prizes were designed to attract new scholars, while at the same time reinforcing the weekly Sunday School teaching. In its work, Ticknall was then supported by the Circuit Sunday School Council. 1919, Ticknall's contribution to the Council, 2s 6d, was sent by George Gee, treasurer, and receipted by Rev R Ernest Parker.

In early May that year, George Gee's wife died. Rev J Willington took the Funeral Service at 3.0 on Tuesday, 6 May. George kept up his Chapel work but gave up his post as treasurer for the School. Fred Wright took his place, continuing until well into the 1930s. He paid the School's 2s 6d. premium, under the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Assurance Co Policy number 44981 covering teachers and officers against Scholar Accident Liability. Premiums were due at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Lady Day (25 March). Fred also paid Anniversary bills, reward bills, etc.

Sunday School Expenses in the 1920s

In 1920, Mr Fred Wright ordered from the Methodist Sunday School Department, London, 100 Star cards, priced 7s 0d and a 2s 6d Star roll. In the same year, 200 Clothing Club cards were purchased from Edwin Ward, Melbourne printer, at a cost of 17s 6d. The School evidently intended to encourage good attendance and work and also to help scholars whose parents were poor. The problem of poverty haunted the village through the days of depression and unemployment and dole queues well into the 1930s.

Ministers often ordered books and other materials for Chapel and School. They listed requirements from several chapels, then sent off a single large order. In 1921, Rev R B Woodward delivered to Ticknall School a 2s 3d and two 3s 0d hymn books.

In 1921, the School bought a number of items from F W Woolworth, 29 Victoria St., Derby. There were 6 boats - 9d, a drum - 6d, 3 boxes of puzzles - 9d, a tea set - 6d, 3 boxes of bricks - 41/2d, 3 books - 41/2d, a battledore - 5d, 6 ball- 1s 6d, a ball, 6d, 3 slates - 9d, 6 pocket books - 1s 6d, a pocket knife - 6d, 2 dolls - 1s 0d, 3 pencils - 41/2d, 6 pens - 1s 6d, 7 photograph frames - 1s 9d, 1 frame - 6d etc. These were no doubt for a Bazaar stall.

1920s Treats

1920s treats continued the tradition of a parade, tea and games. Food came, as usual from village shops, but occasional purchases were made elsewhere. In 1921, W Soar supplied 21/2 st of bread at 10s 10d and 4 cobs at 11s 2d. A Cater supplied 203/4 lb cake at £1. Brearley & Co (Sheffield House) supplied 2 lb butter - 5s 4d, green tea 1s. 11/2d, 1/2lb black tea - 1s.7d, 4lb lump sugar - 2s.6d and A Cowley supplied tea - 3s 4d, margarine - 11d, 3 lb butter - 8s 0d, 3 lb sugar - 1s 101/2d, bread 1s 1d, and sweets - 3s 4d.

Meanwhile, Mr F Wright spent 5s 0d on buns from Arthur Lees Castle Bakery, Melbourne and E Clower paid £2 6s 101/2d on 183/4 lb ham (2s 6d per 1b).

In 1924, an announcement was made in the Notices that the Parade would begin from the Chapel at 1.30 on Tuesday, 5th August. Old scholars and friends were invited to join the children at tea, at a price of a shilling each.

The 1926 Treat Parade was led by a Band. Their fee was £5 but half was paid by a friend. Higgs and Waller charged £1 13s for the hire of a bus. The hiring fee for the Village Hall, where tea was prepared and consumed, amounted to 8s.0d. The whole treat, including food, sweets, prizes etc. cost the School £8 3s 3d. During the Parade, however, £2.1s.0d had been taken in the collection boxes and 19 people paid to have tea With the children. Other items, perhaps including receipts from the sale of surplus food, brought the total income to £3 6s 6d.

As early as the mid-20s, however, signs of change could be detected. In 1925, Rev George Lampard conducted a memorial service on Thursday, 25 June. It was for Mrs Cater, whose

shop had supplied food for treats since at least 1903. 1926 was the last year that Soars (Staff of Life bakery) delivered bread for a treat. Only Cowleys and Brearleys were left.

In 1927, a Pulpit Notice announced that on Saturday, 23 July at 10.30 a.m. in the Welfare Hall, "cutting up" for the treat tea would commence. Chapel ladies and helpers must have been thankful two years later, when Itr Wright paid £2 4s 9d to H Meakin, secretary of Alvaston Brotherhood Institute, Brighton Rd, for entertaining the Sunday School. The treat had changed to a ride and tea and games in a strange hall and park.

In 1930, George Gee paid J Barrington, Spring Hill Farm, Whitwick, £2 17s 9d for 39 one-shilling teas and 25 nine-penny children's teas. Three shillings worth of cake was also consumed. No doubt games were enjoyed in a nearby field after tea. Transport may have been by horse-drawn dray or charabanc. The total cost of the treat was £6 6s 0d.

Ministers in the 1930s

In the early 50s, ministers visiting Ticknall were Revs D Paget Main, Alfred Fenton and J H Doddrell. When most branches of Methodism united in 1932, ministers who had previously been Primitives or Independents were added to the list. Perhaps the best-known in Ticknall was Rev C T Bishell (Primitives).

By 1934, Rev J Graham had replaced Rev A Fenton, who returned to the Circuit in the late 30s as a supernumerary. When Mr Alfred Gale died in 1934, Rev D Main conducted the funeral service, Rev J Graham led the Memorial service and Rev J H Doddrell wrote an appreciation of his work in the Circuit magazine.

1934 also saw the arrival in the Circuit of Revs T L Simpson, A L Powell and F C Wallis. On the eve of World War II, however, Rev A R Cornwall lived at the manse in Hastings Rd. Swadlincote, Rev J Truscott Chapman at Swadlincote Rd. Woodville and Rev B Crosby at Castle Gresley.

Local Preachers

This is a list of local preachers who took the pulpit in the 1930s. Some had preached at Ticknall through the 1920s and even earlier. Messrs Arnold, H Ball, E Bodell, A Bosworth, Bradshaw (Melbourne), Calow, Chester, Clamp, Cooper, DeVille, Farmer, Gladwin, George Hogg, Harvey, E W Holford, E Insley, Joseph Kent, Lock, Mabe (Melbourne), Patton, Richardson, A P Shorter, Sinfield, Topliss, Wilton, Wortley and Fred Wright. Newcomers to the pulpit were Messrs R Ball, Edwards, W H Frearson (Melbourne), Horace Kent, Marshall, G E Moreton, Saddington, Tomkinson, A Parker and Vernon.

In 1930, visiting preachers included Messrs R Lowe (Warwick) and T C Lowe (Sheen), both relatives of the Lowes of Bendalls Farm (Repton Rd), staunch supporters of Ticknall Chapel.

Collections

Sunday offertories in the 1930s were taken for the Quarterly Assessment, Circuit Aid, the Theological Fund, the General Chapel Fund and the Connexional Funds. Largest

collections in 1932 were for Foreign Missions (8s 8d on Sunday, preacher Mr Moreton and £3 2s 2d on Thursday, chairman W F Bromley); Harvest Festival (Sunday ££2 8s 5d, preacher Mr Bemrose, Monday Sale £1 19s 6d); Home Missions (Sunday 7s 0d, preacher Mr Lock, Thursday 13s 8d, chair Mrs Grew); Derbyshire Royal Infirmary (£1 4s 6d, preacher Mr Holford); Local Preachers' Mutual Aid (16s 0d, preacher Mr Bosworth).

Meetings and Officials

In the 1930s the Chapel and Sunday School lost some of their most stalwart members and supporters. Alfred Gale died in 1931. The following year, Fred Wright set up his tailor's shop in Swadlincote. Then in 1938, Miss Ellen Wardle purchased a ten-shilling wreath from J Hurd, Market Hall, Derby. It was laid on the grave of George Gee, who had served Chapel and School since the last years of the 19th century.

Sunday services in those days were held at 3.0 and 6.0 and a Thursday service was timed at 7.30 pm. Thursday was the day the Minister visited Ticknall and Leaders' and Trustees Meetings had to be held on that evening after service. In the years before the Second World War, a Bible Class was held on Wednesday evenings, led by Miss Lowe. One of the last of these, before the War intervened and the Lowes left the district, was held at the Bendalls Farm, on 13 August 1939.

Organists

In the early 1930s, Mrs F Wright played the organ; in the later 1930s, she was succeeded by Miss Elizabeth Wardle.

1939 Amateur Dramatics

In the days before television, live plays on stage were popular. A local amateur group, the Dickensian Society, drew large crowds in Swadlincote and district. On 2 April 1939, they performed "Lady Dedlock's Secret" in the Village Hall, Ticknall. Tickets cost 1s 6d, 1s 0d and 6d.

Late that year, on 23 November, Rev A R Cornwall brought a group of young people from Swadlincote to Ticknall Chapel for the annual Overseas Missions Meeting. The visitors presented a most suitable play, "The Blindness of Wong Far".

The Bright Hour

The proceeds of the April concert were in aid of the 'Bright Hour' Funds. This was a joint Chapel meeting, held on Tuesdays at 7.15 alternately at the Baptists and Methodists. Each meeting had a chairman and speaker and musical items often adorned the programme. Like the old Wesley Guilds, some meetings were devotional, some of a literary turn, some dealing with topical subjects and others were social evenings. On 10 January, Mr E Bloor, chairman, introduced Mr Rex, the village schoolmaster, who spoke on "Old Christmas Customs". Taking the chair at other times were Miss E Lowe, Mr J Lowe, Mr J Exley, Mr F Wright and other Chapel members.

Electricity, 1939

On 26 October 1939, a Faith Tea was held in Chapel and at 6.45, a short service followed, with Mr J Buck of Melbourne in the chair and Mrs G Mason singing solo items. During the evening, Rev A R Cornwall switched on the new electric lights and dedicated them. Some people preferred the warm glow of the old paraffin lamps, but they had to admit to better visibility and convenience. Blackened chimneys, cracked glass and the smell of oil had gone forever. After the Second World War, two oil lamps, donated in memory of Mr Gale, were hung from brackets under the gallery. However, electric light bulbs lit up the chimneys.

Sunday School in the 1930s

Mr F Wright had been involved in Sunday School work for at least 15 years when he moved to Swadlincote in 1935. Mr George Gee, another long-serving teacher and official died in 1938. For most of the 1930s, the Sunday School was led by the Misses Ellen and Elizabeth Wardle.

Sunday School prizes had from 1921 been bought from Capt Davis and West of Doncaster. However, in the 1930s, teachers took a Trent bus to Derby and chose books from the shelves at the Central Educational Co. in St Peter's St. In 1936, they spent £1 17s 6d on 27 rewards. There were two 2s 6d books, six 2s 0d. books, 7 at 1s 6d, 4 at 1s 0d, and 3 at 9d. For the very young they selected picture books, 2 at 1s 0d, 1 at 9d and 2 at 6d.

Anniversaries continued much as before, although increasing reliance had to be placed on Melbourne singers to boost the choir. As before, music was ordered from publishers like Peace, Hampshire and the Hull firm, Jamouneau. Early in the 1950s, printing was done at Tickner's in Ashby, but in 1937, Edwin Ward printed the circulars, followed by B Andrews, George St, Melbourne, who supplied 400 hymn sheets in 1938 at a cost of £2.

During these years, scholars were treated to a party just before Christmas or on New Year's Eve. On 29th December 1936, Bird & Tunncliffe, Staff of Life bakery, delivered 5 small sandwich loaves (1s 9¹/₄d) and 13 cartons of cakes (6s 6d). A discount of 3¹/₄d reduced the bill to 8s.0d. A Cowley's bill totalled 5s 7¹/₂d for 2¹/₂ lb Danish butter (2s.11d), ¹/₄ lb tea (7¹/₂d), 1 lb sugar (5d), 2 1b sweets (1s 4d) and chocolate (6d). For the sandwich filling, T Mason, a family butcher near the Wheel, supplied 1 lb 11 oz potted meat, price 2s 6d.

Sunday School Treats in the 1930s

An old-fashioned Treat Tea was enjoyed in 1932. Cowley supplied 1lb ham (8s 8d), ³/₄ lb black tea (1s 9d), 4 lb lump sugar (1s 0d) total 11s 5d. From other sources came bread (1s 6d), milk (1s 4d) 1 lb sugar (3d), cakes (8s 0d,) and sweets (4s 0d). One of the main suppliers was Derby Cooperative Wholesale Society, Melbourne Branch, delivering to Miss Edith Bloor, Banton's Lane (Share No 60415), 3 lb butter (3s 6d), 2 square sandwiches(1s 0d), 2 raspberry jam sandwiches (10d), 2 Chocolate Swiss Rolls (1s 0d), 2 lb fruit slab cake (1s 4d), 2 tin loaves (6d) and 1 small currant loaf (4d) total 8s 6¹/₂d.

1934 tea was also held in the Welfare Hall but afterwards 2 coaches from Hanfords "Barton Turn Garage", took children and adults who had paid to join the outing to Tamworth to the Hospital Carnival Parade. Coaches cost £3 10s 0d.

In 1936, the Sunday School party stopped at the Long Eaton Coop Cafe, Derby Road, where 23 one-shilling teas were enjoyed. Miss Wardle purchased from S H Cowley 4 lb sweets and bags (3s 4d) as an extra treat. This practice was continued until the beginning of World War II.

The 1937 Treat venue was Loughborough, where 30 x 1s 6d teas were served at the Kettledrum Tearooms (proprietors, the Misses White). 1938 found the children, teachers, parents and friends at Coalville, where 24 1s 6d teas were provided at the Midland Cafe.

The last Treat before the War in 1939 was a trip to Trentham Gardens. Hanford's Barton Turn Garage charged £6 5s 0d for a coach to take 25 adults and 13 children. Admission was 6d adults, 3d children. Tea was taken at the Gardens Cafe, 25 at 1s 6d, 3 at 2s 4d, 3 at 2s 0d, 4 at 1s 9d and 2 at 1s 0d. The total bill at the gardens amounted to £3 15s 3d, but a discount reduced this to £3 9s 7d.

Ticknall Chapel in World War II

From 1939 to 1945, winter evening services could not be held in Chapel, because it was impossible to black out all the windows. Services and meetings could however be held in the vestry or Sunday School room on the opposite side of the pulpit and choir seats. Preachers arrived in those days with their gas masks, on Trent or Barton buses with dimmed headlights, blacked-out windows and one or two dim blue lights over the gangways.

War-time ministers were Rev Edward Penna who replaced Rev T J C Chapman in 1941, Rev F Collen, Rev T E Freeman who replaced Rev B Crosby and Rev A H W Houchin, who replaced Rev A R Cornwall in 1944.

The list of local preachers was restricted to older men, for young men had been called up into the Forces. They included:- Messrs William Astle (Newhall), George Calow (Midway), G Edwards (Swadlincote), T Edwards (Swadlincote), William Frost (Spondon), George Hogg (Castle Cresley), E W Holford (Woodville), George Jarvis (Linton), W Mabe (Melbourne), E Moreton (Swadlincote), G E Moreton (Swadlincote), D Prentice (Moir), B Richardson (Netherseal), Miss Tunnicliffe (Woodville) and Mr Fred Wright (Swadlincote).

The War drew the three Churches in Ticknall close together. Thursday evening services were held jointly, in turn at the Parish Church, the Baptists and the Methodists. The three ministers shared the services, Rev G Pope (St George's), Rev S W A Moisey (Melbourne Baptist) and Rev E Penna (Woodville Methodist).

Stalwarts of the Chapel who carried on during those difficult years included Miss Ellen and Miss Elizabeth Wardle, (both Sunday School teachers), Ada Bostock (Sunday School teacher and Temperance work collector), Miss Fanny Dunning (Sunday School teacher) and other Trustees, leaders and members like Mr Walter Frearson, Mr and Mrs Harry

Gee, Mr and Mrs Arthur Gee, Mr and Mrs Draper, Mr and Mrs Bloor, Mr and Mrs Sutton, Mr Tomkins etc.

Special Occasions and Teas, 1939-45

Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival were the chief events in the calendar, as were Missions and Chapel Anniversary days. On Thursday, 28 March 1940, at 6.45 Mr J R Exley took the chair at a Home Missions Evening. The speaker was Rev R Crosby whose subject was "The Manchester Mission". The Chapel Anniversary was celebrated that year on 24 July. Rev F Collen led Divine Service at 4 pm and 6.45 pm and addressed the meeting on "Some Obsessions of Today". Mr E Moreton of Swadlincote was in the chair and musical entertainment was provided by the Gresley Park Church Prize Choir.

Between the two meetings, tea was served at 5 pm, and 9d each. This was difficult in times when meat, sugar, tea, and butter were rationed and other provisions were in short supply. But the ladies made do with what they could afford to give or could manage to beg.

Rations were even less in 1943, but the ladies still provided a tea at a Rally on 29 August. Rev A W Buckley took the 3.30 Service and at 6.30 was introduced by the chairman, Mr Robey of Melbourne, when he spoke on "India". The tea, priced at one shilling, was at 5 pm.

The Sunday School in wartime

The same ladies somehow organized teas for Sunday School Treats, since wartime conditions made it impossible to travel far or book teas at cafes. On 31 August 1940, the Treat Tea was served in the Chapel. Cowleys provided most of the necessary food, their bill amounting to 9s 41/2d. Bird and Tunnicliffe supplied bread (2s 0d) and Miss Dunning obtained 5s 0d worth of cakes from Melbourne. Mrs Clifford Topliss sent 6 1/2 pt milk and 2s 0d worth of cream. Tea was taken at 4 pm, and ten friends paid £1 to join the children. After tea a circular tour (mystery trip) was arranged, the coach costing £3 The treat was found to have cost. the school £2 6s 11d.

For another wartime Treat, Fred Wright persuaded Waterfield's of Gresley to supply 7 1/2 doz rolls (3s 9d), 2 doz buns (2s 0d), 4 doz cakes (6s 0d) and 4 lb 10 oz slab cake (5s 11d). Mrs Emily Gee supplied 6 qt milk and 11/2 pt cream for 2s 6d. After tea, the children, teachers and friends enjoyed a bus ride to the "pictures" with ice cream at the interval. The final cost of the treat was £2 6s 1d.

Anniversaries continued as before, although clothes rationing restricted the customary new clothes for the children. In 1940 special music ordered from John T Hampshire - "Anniversary Praise", "In the Bright Blue Sky", "Voice 'Divine", "Thornfield", Dainty Little Snowdrop", "Onward We Go", "On this Anniversary Day". 38 copies each cost 15s 9d. The School was indebted to Melbourne friends for choral hacking for these children's songs and hymns.

Teachers, the two Miss Wardles, Miss Dunning and Miss Bostock and Miss Sutton bought prizes from the Central Educational shop in Derby. In 1941, 3x 2s 0d books were purchased, and 3x 1s 9d 3x 1s 6d, and 4x 1s 3d. 3 Bible Story books cost. 1s 6d each and two picture books 9d and 6d. Including a 9d register, the bill amounted to £1 7s 3d.

The Post-war Chapel

With peace came the end of the United Services: and the resumption of Thursday Evening Service at the Chapel. The organist was Miss Brenda Johnson (organ blower, Miss A Marriott) Miss Elizabeth Wardle married Mr Lowe and left Ticknall. Some special services were planned, like the Overseas Missions evening on 27 October 1946. Chairman Mr W Hardwick introduced Rev A P Hadwen, a missionary from China.

It soon became apparent, however, that the reconstruction of the country after the war was for most people unconnected with church-going. Chapel and Sunday School went out of fashion. In addition, young people were forced out of the village to find homes and work. Neighbouring towns had industry and council house estates, but not Ticknall. The result was declining membership, attendance and Sunday School numbers and the inevitable financial crisis.

The 1950 Crisis

The main expense the Chapel had to meet, was the quarterly Assessment levied from each place of worship in the Circuit to pay ministers' stipends and other Circuit bills. This was paid from the Society Fund. In addition, the Trust Fund had to make a number of donations and pay a variety of bills.

In 1950, the Trust treasurer paid £1 12s 4d Chapel insurance, 5s 0d to the General Chapel Fund, 2s 6d to the Local Preachers Fund, 2s 6d to the Benevolent Fund, £1 5s 0d electricity bill and £1 10s 0d to the organist. The highest outgoings were on coal bills (£9 18s 6d) and caretaker's wages (£11 2s 0d). Three Sunday collections, harvest collections and sale and Chapel Anniversary receipts were insufficient to cover such expenses. At the annual Trust Meeting in January 1950, the balance sheet showed an accumulated deficit of £55 7s 6d.

Trust income in 1950 came as follows:- Three Sunday Collections realised £3 19s 7d. Harvest receipts amounted to £6 2s 11d. and a legacy brought in £10. £1 13s 4d came from the William Clower bequest and £1 14s 6d came from donations from Miss Cartledge, Mrs Gee, Mrs Sutton and Mr Tompkins.

Rev Percy Bailey and Chapel officials organised a number of special efforts to increase income. A New Year Party brought in 7s 0d and the sale of scent cards realised 6s 6d. £6 16 3d was raised at a Melbourne Bright Hour Concert at the Welfare Hall. Chapel Anniversary collections and tea profits realised £17 8s 9d. Then the Sunday School, always well-blessed financially, made over a gift of £16.

The main fund-raising scheme however was the Silver Tree. Members, scholars' parents, friends, old members and scholars who had left the village - all who were in any way indebted to Ticknall Chapel were asked to decorate a tree, set up in the Chapel for the purpose, with small containers holding a silver coin. This was a great success. The tree was stripped at the Chapel Anniversary and the silver was found to amount to £30 18s 3d.

At the next Trust Meeting in February 1951, a balance in hand of £11 4s 10d was reported. The Chapel stalwarts realised that when an urgent appeal for help was published they had plenty of friends. If congregations were small, there were still many people who did not like to hear that the Chapel was in difficulties.

Chapel in the 1950s - Expenses

During the 1950s, attendance at Chapel and School continued to dwindle. Calke Estate Office refused to allow the building of new dwellings and, as by law householders paying rent in Estate houses could not be evicted, the village lost its young people. Village and Chapel alike were becoming the preserve of old people. Rising prices, especially of fuel, rapidly outstripped collection receipts and even after the Silver Tree, financial problems were hanging over the Chapel.

Maintenance of the building brought expenses over and above normal outgoings. In 1951, Mr Cook was paid 5s 0d for sweeping the chimney. In 1952 a bill of £2 10s 6d was paid to Mr Heath for repairs to the roof. In 1953, it decided that a boiler attendant should be employed to light the fires and ensure that the Chapel was heated. Mr Harrison was the first and he received £4 11s 0d. In 1953, a sum that was soon increased to £5 5s 0d. The boiler however frequently gave trouble. Mr Don Lea of Woodville overhauled and repaired it in 1955 at a cost of £8 11s 6d.

In 1952, it was decided that the organ-blower, Mr Draper should be paid an annual sum of £1 10s 0d for his services, the same as the organist, Miss Gee.

The Chapel however did allow itself a few small luxuries in the form of modern electrical appliances. An electric fire was given cheaply in 1952 for 3s 5d. In the same year, an electric boiler for Chapel tea was bought for £5. Installation and wiring cost £7 12s 6d. Then in 1957, 7s 2d was spent, on a light rod for the pulpit.

Two unexpected items were, firstly, that the Chapel safe needed repairs. A large bill had to be paid to Withers & Co. Secondly, organist and Sunday School teacher Miss Daphne Gee was married in August 1958. The Chapel gave her a tea service and the Sunday School a coffee set.

Chapel Income in the 1950s

During the 1950s the decline in Chapel attendance brought about the end of Thursday evening services. After the war, the two Sunday services were never resumed. In post-war years, Thursday services were first reduced to once a fortnight, then abandoned. It was thought better for the minister to spend his "Ticknall time" visiting. Only the one Sunday evening service remained.

The Chapel struggled to keep out of debt. Donations from Sunday School and Ladies' Bright Hour helped. Sunday School gave £10 in 1951 and £11 in 1952. The Ladies gave £1 12s 6d in 1955, £2 in 1956 and £1 15s 0d in 1958.

1953 was the year of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. A street party was held in Chapel Lane. 18s 6d was received from the organisers for use of the Chapel forms and use of the Chapel's outside light after dark.

Ministers and Preachers in the 1950s

After the Second World War, Rev Lionel H Jones replaced Rev Edward Penna. In 1948 his place was taken by Rev Percy Bailey. Other Circuit ministers were A H W Houchin, replaced by Rev H S Ridgway in 1947. Rev H C Marshall took his place in 1950.

Rev Percy Bailey was very popular in Ticknall and the Circuit. After a long spell in the district, it was with great sorrow that Chapel members heard of his death in 1955. Rev H S F Rossiter came to take his place. Towards the end of the 1950s, another popular Circuit minister was Rev Creasey Worth.

Local preachers in the 1950s included (from Swadlincote) Messrs Birks, Gibbs, Lawson Harvey, Frederick Iredale, D G Robertson and Miss Childs; (from Woodville) Messrs J Childs, E W Holford, Ivor Moon, Eric Wood and Miss Whitehead. (from Church Gresley) Messrs William Beard, C Brookes, George Clamp and Cilliver; (from Melbourne) Mrs Cartledge, Messrs W Mabe and Mellor; (from Linton) Messrs George Jarvis and William Storer (from Midway) Messrs George Calow and Warwick Steel. From other parts of the area came E Bloor (Ticknall), George Hogg, (Castle Gresley), Herbert Cooper (Smisby), Wilfred Farmer (Castle Donington), Miss Fern (Coton-in-the-Elms), Ray Fisher (Hartshorne), B Richardson (Netherseal), Harold Whittaker (Newhall), J H Gladwin (Alvaston) and Mr Marples (Wirksworth).

The Organ, 1959

In 1959, Mr Cantrill of Castle Donington came to overhaul and repair the organ. He also suggested that the old manual blower be replaced by an electric blower. To pay the expected heavy bills, a Renovation Fund was established. School donated £10 and the Bright Hour £11 10s. When the work was done, Mr Cantrill gave an organ recital, £10 5s 6d being collected on the day. Mr Cantrill's initial bill was £20, but further payments for tuning and other items of repair and overhaul were anticipated in 1960.

Sunday School in the 1950s

In the 1950s, Miss Daphne Gee was the only School teacher. She continued the Christmas or New Year party custom and selected books to suit the individual scholars at Derby bookshops. Prize-giving Day was also about Christmas time or New Year time. Miss Gee played the organ at the Anniversary, as well as the rest of the year. The choir and children were trained by a Melbourne conductor, such as Mr Hatton, who recruited Melbourne

singers to help out. The Anniversary always yielded more than enough in collections to cover all Sunday School expenses. It was always popular.

In the days when many Sunday Schools took children to parks like Trentham Gardens, Alton Towers or Wickstead Park, and venues like Matlock, Ticknall children were given a Treat at the seaside. As there were too few children to fill a bus, parents friends and other visitors could be invited. They paid, but less than the normal bus excursion rate. Parents looked after their children and it was of course impossible to provide children with tea. Popular venues were Skegness, Blackpool, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bridlington etc.

Chapel expenses in the Early 1960s

Chapel income in 1960 came from Chapel Anniversary collections (£10 0s 6d), the Harvest Festival (£8 4s 6d), the William Clower bequest, (17s 6d) and donations from the Sunday School (£5 10s), the Bright Hour (£1 1s 0d) and the Ticknall Dramatic Society (£1 1s 0d).

Normal expenses were to the Connexional Funds - 5s 0d each to the general Chapel Fund and the Ministers' Retirement Fund and 2s 6d each to Local Preachers Mutual Aid, Ministerial Training Fund and Performing Rights. Electricity bills amounted to £2 10s 5d and Insurance £1 14 7d. An organ tuning bill amounted to £1 10s 9d.

Heating expenses were reaching alarming proportions at the time. Messrs H Barker, plumbers were paid £12 15s 2d for overhaul and modifications to the boiler, which could then be fed with coke. Mr Jack Smith's coke bill amounted to £6 13s 4d. Late in the year, Mountford's of Swadlincote was asked to repair the boiler again, the work costing £3 17s 6d. Meanwhile, the Chapel paid Mrs Cunnington (caretaker) ten guineas per annum and also paid the fire lighter/boiler attendant 5 guineas.

Expenses in 1961 were Insurance of £4 1s 10d, and £26 0s 3d to Mr Cantrill for further work on the organ. There were also Connexional Funds, electricity bills, boiler attendant and caretaker wages etc. The coke bill amounted to £8 3s 6d and Barkers charged £13 7s 3d for more repairs to the boiler.

A concert was arranged in January which realised £14 12s 0d and collections at Chapel Anniversary (£15 14s 3d) and Harvest Festival (£17 9s 8d) were encouraging. However, something had to be done about the boiler and heating expenses.

Electrical Heating

In 1962 therefore it was decided to dispense with the boiler/water pipes heating system and adopt overhead electric heaters. It was considered better to pay much-increased electricity bills rather than face more boiler repairs, increasing coke bills, boiler attendant wages and the danger of burst pipes in frosty weather. The convenience of electrical heating was also a persuasive argument.

Special efforts were arranged too for the new heating system. Mr Arthur Gee raised £3 10s 0d in 1962 by selling soap (from Ashby Soap Factory). Scrap iron dealers, Wards of Woodville, paid £18 11 s 0d for the old boiler and pipes. The chief fund-raising event however was a Gift Day, which realised £211 16s 9d.

In 1963 heaters were installed by Battersby and Welford at a cost of £116 16s 0d. Another electric heater was purchased from Derby Cooperative Wholesale Society for £9 1s 3d. Work to walls and seats where the old pipes had been ripped out was undertaken by Smedley's of Ticknall. The bill amounted to £33.

The heaters were timed only to operate if required, at normal service and meeting hours. Charges were at a much reduced off-peak rate. Inevitably, however, electricity bills rose sharply to £15 14s 11d in 1963 and £27 6s 1d in 1970. The heaters were only fixed to heat ground floor seating and the choir/pulpit area - not the gallery. Heating the entire Chapel would have been an exorbitant cost. In very cold weather, therefore, heating has never been satisfactory - but neither was the old hot water pipe system.

Chapel Expenses, 1964 - 1970

In 1964 and 1965, two heavy bills had to be paid for repairs to the roof, one from Mr H Heath (£16 11s 11d) and the other from Mr Edwin Smedley (£14 1s 3d). Also in 1965, Connexional Funds were increased, all to 10s 0d. In 1968, Mrs Cunningham, the caretaker, had her wage, raised from £10 to £12, steps were bought from Salts of Swadlincote for £4 6s 0d and Mr R J Lomas was paid for overhauling the heaters.

These were all in addition to other expected outgoings, like increased Assessment and much larger electricity bills. Finance continued to be a major problem.

Chapel Income, 1964 - 1970

The first Covenanted gift was made to the Chapel in 1964, £2 10s being paid to the treasurer in tax refunds. In 1967, £2 2s 0d was donated in memory of Miss Ellen Wardle. One of the chief fund-raising events of the year was the Chapel Anniversary. Local singers entertained at the evening rally, as in 1966 when songs were sung by duettists Clifford Worker (tenor) and Maurice Jones (baritone) and blind soprano from Burton Miss Dorothy Stones.

The 150th Anniversary, 1965

Messrs H J Till of Swadlincote printed leanets advertising the 150th Anniversary of the building of the Chancel. It was held on Saturday, 22 May. Rev George H Sully took afternoon Service at 3.45 and preached at the evening rally at 6.45. Musical items were provided by the Gresley Male Voice Choir. Tea (moderate charges) was served at 5 pm. The Sunday Service at 6 pm was taken by the minister, Rev A Juan Thompson.

A "Silver Tree" was decorated that June by members and friends. It was stripped by Mr Ted Moulton, a local farmer (Scadows Farm) and television personality. A total of £78 5s 4d was raised.

Ministers, members and Preachers in the 1960s

Rev John S Loxton was the minister in the early 60s, Rev A Juan Thompson in the mid-60s and in the late 60s, Rev J Martin Bailey and Rev D Lees. Revs Taylor and John White also

visited the Chapel. On account of the reduction in the number of Circuit ministers, laymen were at this time empowered to audit the Chapel books. Mr Jack Draper signed the accounts in the early 60s, and Mr Walter Frearson in the late 60s.

Mr Draper's death was a sad blow to the Chapel. A set of new hymn books was donated in his memory. Other stalwarts in those days were Mr and Mrs Merrick Adams, Mr Jack Cartledge, Mrs Daphne Fowkes, Miss Annie Gale, Mr and Mrs Arthur Gee, Mr and Mrs Harry Gee, Mrs Rosemary Mumford, Mr and Mrs Reg Sutton, Mrs Sutton (Snr), Mrs Cliff Topliss and Mr and Mrs Alf Wood, Miss E Bloor and Mrs Hatton.

Local preachers visiting Ticknall in the 60 were Mr J H Adams, Mrs B Belcher, Messrs G Belcher, J Bradford, H Cooper, T Exton, C Fairbrother, Miss Fern, Messrs A Foster, G Hogg, W Johnstone, Mrs Miller, Messrs I Moon, H Poxon, A Redfern, F H Redfern, A Webster, H Whittaker and E Wood.

Sunday School in the 1960s

Sunday School in the 60s (10.30 am as usual) taken by teachers Mrs Daphne Fowkes (nee Gee), Mrs Rosemary Mumford and Mr C Fowkes. They introduced painting, craftwork, filmstrips and slides to enliven lessons. They bought percussion instruments to give a new dimension to hymns and songs, especially at Anniversary time. Children who could play recorders or other melody instruments were also involved.

Anniversary music from Yorkshire publishers, Peace, Hampshire, Nicol etc., was phased out at about this time in favour of more modern material available in local music shops. Music by the 20th Century Light Music Group was often used, such as Michael Brierley's tune "Camberwell" to the words of "At the name of Jesus" and Geoffrey Beaumont's "Hatherop Castle" to "O Jesus I have promised".

The Choir to support the children was recruited from Ticknall, Melbourne and the South Derbyshire circuit. Mr Fowkes conducted and Mrs Fowkes played the organ. Mrs Mumford supervised the children's activities and movements.

As in past years, the Treats were day trips to seaside resorts and New Year parties were held. Children gave special performances at special Christmas and Harvest services.

In the late 60s, School numbers dwindled until there were fears that closure might be imminent. But children from Woodville helped at Anniversaries and with the building of new houses in the village and the appearance of more children, the crisis was surmounted.

Repairs to a 'Listed' Building in the 1970s

In the 1970s, the Chapel had to face the problem of dwindling membership and the need to execute urgent and expensive repairs to the building. Transfer to the Melbourne - Donington Circuit was considered. Other ideas included demolition and the erection of a smaller chapel on site. Thought was also given to a scheme to extend the gallery to form an upper floor, thus halving the space to be heated for most functions.

Meanwhile, Derbyshire County Council, in a campaign to preserve buildings of historic interest, declared the Chapel a 'listed building', not to be demolished nor to have its appearance or character changed. Accordingly, the Society had no option but to find money for expensive hand-made repairs and replacements for rotted window and door frames, for broken slates letting in rain and for rusted cast-iron gutterings and down-pipes. In addition, brickwork needed pointing, parts of the interior walls needed replastering and the whole interior was sadly in need of decoration.

A long-standing requirement, if funds allowed after such expenditure, was the provision of piped water supply and kitchen unit and flush toilets. The only water supply was the pump on the grass verge outside the Chapel, installed by the Harpur Crewe family in 1914.

One encouraging piece of news for members came from Rentokil inspectors who investigated woodworm in floorboards and furniture. They declared the infestation no longer active and Chapel timbers and woodwork in no further danger.

Expenses and Inflation in the 1970s.

Inflation drove up expenses in the 70s at a rate far in excess of collection receipts. Insurance cost £17 16s 6d in 1970, £29.96 in 1977. (The change to decimal coinage occurred in 1971.) Electricity bills rose from £27 6s 1d in 1970 to £58.34 in 1976. By 1977, Connexional Funds were £1. 50 each and the Assessment had risen from £28.56 per quarter in 1971 to £42 per quarter in 1976.

Meanwhile, gifts of £5, £10 and £15 were made to sustain the Circuit in 1975-6-7.

In 1975 the electric overhead heaters had to be repaired, Mr A W Oliver charging £20.15. Further modifications and repairs were made by Goodmans of Swadlincote in 1976.

The largest bill however came from Midway carpenter George Delahay — £596.29. He made and fitted two ground-floor windows, front doors and a fanlight. All were hand-made copies of the originals. They were dedicated at a special service on 8 May 1976, when the Gresley Male Voice Choir entertained.

Finding the Money

Special efforts had to be made to pay such bills. Chapel Anniversaries were fully exploited, with afternoon service, tea and evening rallies. They realised £18.44 in 1972, £50 in 1976 and £29.30 in 1977. Local artistes were often invited, such as Derby policeman, baritone and comedian Ron Applegate, who gave a whole evening's entertainment on his own on 19 May 1979.

Harvest collections and receipts from the auction of produce afforded £23.67 in 1972 and £35.50 in 1976. Coffee evenings, with 'Bring and Buy' stalls raised £37.17 in November 1972, £75.65 in December 1973, £72.35 in 1974 and £80 in 1976.

Concerts were staged, in Chapel or the Welfare Hall realising £16.40 in October 1973 and £18 in April 1976. A special year was 1979. On January 10th, the Ticknall Music Group, conducted by Mrs Palmer, presented the musical 'David and Goliath' in the Welfare Hall,

with a group of children taking part as singers, instrumentalists and dancers. On 22 September, Melbourne Male Voice Choir entertained and on 10 December, the Rolls Royce Ladies Choir sang in the Chapel (tickets 50p, children and pensioners 30p).

Other smaller-scale fundraising efforts were invaluable in helping pay the bills. One such was the sale of Webb Ivory stationery, which realised £5 in 1976.

Strawberry Teas, Markets and Gifts in the 70s.

A mile out of Ticknall on the A514 to Swadlincote lived television personality Ted Moulton, who farmed Scaddovrs Farm, specialising in "pick-your-own" strawberries.

Through his generosity, strawberry teas were held at 15, Church Lane, home of Mr and Mrs Palmer. Afternoon rambles before tea, led by Mr Alf Wood, were also very popular. One of these teas in July raised £24.21 and another in 1976, £11.39. In August 1977, a different kind of scheme was a Mini-Market when £24.53 was taken.

Meanwhile, covenanted giving through the envelope system began to grow, so that in 1976, £23.50 was recovered in tax repayments. Direct gifts were made by the Women's Institute (£30 in 1975) and the Village Hall Quiz Group (£20 in 1977).

In memoriam gifts came from the Gee family. £50 was received from Mrs Sally Gee's estate in 1973 and £32.16 was collected in memory of Mr Arthur Gee. Mrs Emily Gee's memorial fund realised £21.30 in 1975 and the family donated an additional £150.

Sunday School in the 70s.

In 1974, £30 was given by the Sunday School to help defray repair bills. However, the separate divisions of the Church - Society, Trust and Sunday School were soon to be abolished when the new Church Council was formed. The Council, comprising all members, ordered all aspects of Church life, the treasurer holding all monies. Accordingly, in 1977, £162.18 was transferred from Sunday School. Meanwhile, School activities continued on customary lines. Prizes, hand-picked in Derby, cost £10.40 in 1977. In the same year, the Treat had a double venue. The bus called at Chester for parents and children wishing to spend the day there then drove on to Rhyl. Coach operators, Weildons of Castle Donington charged £75, but £40.55 was recovered in fares paid by parents and friends. In the 60s and 70s, Treats to popular seaside resorts were often booked with Aaron Hart's coaches of Moira.

The 2.30 and 6 pm services at the 1977 Anniversary realised £84.71. There was a special preacher, hymns with Choir backing and instrumental additions by children, playlets, mimes, readings, paintings etc. Mr Fowkes conducted and Mrs Palmer accompanied at the piano. Later in the 70s, Mr Palmer conducted while Mr Fowkes played. Meanwhile, Mrs Fowkes played the organ for Congregational Hymns and Mrs Mumford supervised the children's movements. Mrs Brenda Belcher and Mrs Doreen Crowder were popular preachers at Anniversaries and other children's services, such as at Christmas, Harvest and Prize-giving. Other Anniversary preachers were Rev Percy Parkin, 1971, Rev Jack Charlton, 1972-3, Mr

Peter Nelson, 1976 and Rev John Perkins, 1980. 1979 celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the Sunday School movement by Robert Raikes. At the 1980 Anniversary, children sang excerpts from the Raikes musical, "A Grain of Mustard Seed."

In the 70s, music was obtained from local shops, Foulds (Derby) and Normans (Burton). Collections like the 'Youth Praise' books were used and popular songs from these were 'The King's Highway' 'Sing Hosanna', 'Amazing Grace' etc.

Gradually, Sunday School numbers began to recover. To make School attractive, teachers used the best lesson books on the market, and all kinds of visual aids and the 10.30 School was sometimes held in teachers' homes, with car transport arranged and refreshments provided. Meanwhile, older scholars were encouraged to teach groups of younger children. Some who helped for a time were Gordon Adams, the Misses Wood, Mumford, Poxon, Smart and Fowkes. They were led by teachers-in-charge Mrs Fowkes, Mrs Mumford and Mrs Palmer.

Ministers in the 70s.

Early in the 70s, Revs Pursehouse, Percy Parkin and Jack Charlton preached at Ticknall. In the later 70s, new Circuit ministers were Revs Alan Roberts, Alan Baxter, Francis Lucock and John Hardy.

Preachers and officials in the 70s

Local preachers visiting Ticknall in the 70s included Messrs J M Adams, Bales, G Belcher, Mrs B Belcher, Messrs Booth, J Bradford, H Cooper, Mrs D Crowder, Messrs Dolman, T Exton, G Hogg, C Hancock, Mrs D K Miller, Messrs H Poxon, A Redfern, Sanderson, H Stretton and Mrs Roberts.

Ticknall Church Councill officials were, Mr M Adams, steward, Mrs E Sutton, secretary, Mrs R Mumford, treasurer. Mrs Palmer took over as organist from Mrs Fowkes, Mrs Hatton and Miss Gale.

Chapel Services in the 1980s

In the 1980s, services were held at 6 pm except in winter when the time was brought to 3 pm. Ministers in the 80s were Revs Francis Lucock, John Hardy and Alan Roberts followed by Revs Allen, Desmond Hettle, and Ken Kilby. The whole Circuit grieved the loss of Rev Allen, who was replaced for a year by Rev George Nunnerley. There followed the retirement, due to ill health, of Rev Desmond Hettle. In January 1990, Circuit ministers were Revs Phillip Fanning and Mark Hathorne, assisted by lay pastor Michael Holmes.

Ticknall Chapel was well served by local preachers, including Mrs B Belcher, Mrs D Crowder, Mrs D K Miller, Mrs J Greenwood, Mrs L Parkin and Mrs V Westwood, Messrs J M Adams, G Adams, R Allison, J Aucote, Banton, Bavage, J Bradford, G Belcher, Clark, Dubberley, T Exton, C Fairbrother, Gates, C Hancock, P Liversuch, P Nelson, H Poxon, A Redfern, C L Smart, H

Stretton, F Watson and C Whitell. A monthly Monday evening Fellowship was begun and in the late 80s, a monthly Wednesday meeting for the ladies.

On the Church Council, Mrs Palmer took over from Mrs Sutton as secretary.

Special Services

In the 80s, the Remembrance Day Service in early November was a united service held in St George's.

During these years, less emphasis was placed on Chapel Anniversaries, perhaps because of the work involved in Sunday School Anniversaries, Flower Festivals and other summer efforts. 1990 was looked forward to, however, as the 175th Anniversary.

Celebration of Harvest continued in late September or early October, with the Chapel decorated with harvest gifts and flowers ready for a morning or afternoon children's service and the 6 pm service. The old Monday evening auction of produce was changed in favour of a Harvest Supper, sale of produce and a slide show or similar entertainment.

Another 'special' was the Christmas Eve Service of carols and readings, usually arranged and led by Mrs Wood. Readings, often involving friends from other churches, were marked by the lighting of candles. The service ended at midnight with "O Come All Ye Faithful" and early Christmas Day mince pies and coffee.

Sunday School Anniversary Services were still held at 2.30 and 6 pm. Music was chosen from songbooks and hymnaries like "Sing to God" and the BBC's "Come and Praise". Popular items were "Who put the colours in the rainbow?", "Light up the fire", "You shall go out", "Family of Man" etc. Anniversary Day was, as for many years, about the second Sunday in June. The preachers included Mr P Nelson (1981), Pev K Kilby (1983), Mrs Kilby (1985), Mr D Charles (1986), Miss Boshell (1987) and Mr P Nelson again (1989).

A theme was chosen for the day, developed and illustrated by hymns, readings, poems, paintings, and playlets. mimes etc. A choir of friends from Melbourne and the South Derbyshire Circuit and Ticknall itself provided backing music.

The 1970s arrangement of Mrs Palmer conducting, Mr Fowkes at the piano, Mrs Fowkes playing Congregational hymns at the organ and Mrs Mumford supervising the children's activities, continued.

Sunday School in the 1980s

Besides the Anniversary services and the Harvest service, the Sunday School arranged, during the 1980s, a Carol Service, on a Sunday morning or afternoon shortly before Christmas. This included a Nativity playlet acted out by the children. Early in the year, also, a special service was held during which prizes were presented by a specially invited guest. In 1987, the guest presenter was Mrs Daphne Fowkes. After a lifetime in the Sunday School, as a scholar and as a teacher, she had decided to retire in 1986.

By the end of the 80s, teachers were Mrs Mumford, Mrs Palmer, Miss Michelle Twells, Miss Vicky Randall and, a recent addition to the staff, Miss Illsley. About 15 children of various ages came to School, their numbers steadily increasing over the decade.

Early in the 80s, the old Sunday School Treats - the excursions to seaside resorts - had to be phased out. The cost of coach hire was the chief reason, although perhaps day trips to the sea had lost some of their old popularity. Instead, other local outings by car, sometimes to a pantomime, were arranged - and there was always the party (parents and friends invited) in the new year.

Ticknall Music Group

This mixed Choir was formed from the group of singers invited to help at Sunday School Anniversaries. It included people from other Ticknall churches and other South Derbyshire towns and villages. The group staged a number of concerts for Chapel Funds and other charities and sometimes involved children, singing or playing instruments. Items included folk songs, Anniversary music and classics such as Schubert's "Rosebud" and Tchaikovsky's "Legend." In 1985, Stainer's "Crucifixion" was presented at St George's and in 1989 Maunder's "Bethlehem" at Melbourne Methodist Church. The Choir was conducted by Mrs Palmer.

Flower Festivals

Through the 80s, Flower Festivals proved very popular. Marvellous displays of flowers illustrating a theme were exhibited by Mrs Wood, other ladies of the Chapel and experts from neighbouring places like Melbourne. A weekend festival often ended with a concert. In 1981, 9 - 11 April, a Daffodil Festival finished with entertainment by the Melbourne Singers. On 13 July 1987, the closing concert featured the Music Group.

Markets, Fairs, Strawberry Teas, etc.

In 1981, a Saturday morning market was held on 7 March at the Village Hall, with a variety of stalls and Ploughman's Lunch to follow on the platform. This kind of fund-raising event proved very popular and became an annual occasion, though it was normally arranged as a Christmas Fair (held in November for Christmas shopping) with Santa Claus in attendance, as an added attraction.

Strawberry teas at the Palmers' retained their popularity, as did the afternoon ramble, in spite of occasional weather problems and the difficulty of fixing the date to coincide with fruit ripening time.

The late 90s witnessed an annual 'Open Garden' event, bringing crowds to Ticknall. This was a summer Sunday event and the Chapel remained open until evening service, providing visitors with teas and refreshments. People stayed to look around the chapel and to gossip about their own churches, sometimes many miles distant.

Members in the 80s.

Members and regular chapel-goers in the 80s were Mr and Mrs Adams, Mrs Fowkes, Mrs Hollingsworth, Miss Illsley, Mrs Marriott, Mrs Mumford, Mr & Mrs Palmer, Mrs Sutton and Mr & Mrs Wood.

Urgent and Expensive Repairs in the 1980s

The 1980s saw the completion of a long list of repairs to the Chapel. All were done expensively in accordance with 'Listed Building' regulations. The first stage in the programme was reached in 1976 when George Delahay's new front doors (with fanlight) and two new windows were dedicated. The cost was £596.29. In 1978, he was paid £356.40 for replacing four more windows. Five years later, W B Bradford attended to the remaining windows, his bills amounting to £1993.94.

Before repairs to the windows had been completed, however, serious leaks in the roof were detected. Extensive work refitting and replacing slates by the Ernest Wedge Roofing Co. cost the Chapel £4129.48. Shortly afterwards, in 1982, another urgent work was performed by electrician Don Bradshaw, who rewired the premises. His bill amounted to £330.25.

Decoration of the shabby interior of the Chapel had to be delayed until a slight woodworm problem had been investigated. Pestico Midlands dealt with the matter at a cost of £240. Then in 1986, the Community Task Force painted walls and ceiling, charging only £183.60, the cost of paint and other materials used. Decoration was completed by signwriter M C Elliott who was paid £115.92 for painting the inscription 'Glory to God in the highest' on the wall above the organ.

Other expenses the Chapel had to meet included £62.50 to Mr Buttlig for repairs to ceiling and plasterwork, £40 to Mr Brooks for painting the vestibule, £59.50 to Mr Cantrill for attention to the organ and £246.92 to Mr D Moore for a new vestry door. The largest series of bills, however, was received from Mr E Smedley the Ticknall builder. His main work was pointing the outside brickwork, not with a trowel, but smoothing off the mortar with a rag, to match bricklayers' practice in 1815. He also replaced cast iron gutters and downpipes. His bills, paid in 1988, amounted to £273 for gutters, down-pipes etc. and £4990.96 for other work. Meanwhile, at the other end of the scale, the re-tiling of the vestibule floor cost nothing. It was kindly paid for by a Chapel member.

The final cost of saving the Chapel totalled about £14000, raised in about fourteen years. Money was raised by increased gifts on the collection plates and by generous donations from village groups, organisations and individuals. In 1979, Mr Peter Gale donated over £1000 in memory of Miss Annie Gale. In 1987, £584 came from Albert Village Methodist Chapel, which closed in that year. Generous grants over the 14 years came from the Methodist Church Property Division (over £1000) and upwards of £3000 from the Derbyshire County, the South Derbyshire District and the Ticknall Parish Councils. These were not awarded until the Chapel had proved its ability to cover the rest of the expenses, but they provided an incentive and brought the target much closer. Most of the money needed,

however, came through the hard work of a small body of members and supporters, raising funds through concerts, coffee evenings, flower festivals, Christmas fairs, strawberry teas etc.

Ticknall Chapel in 1990

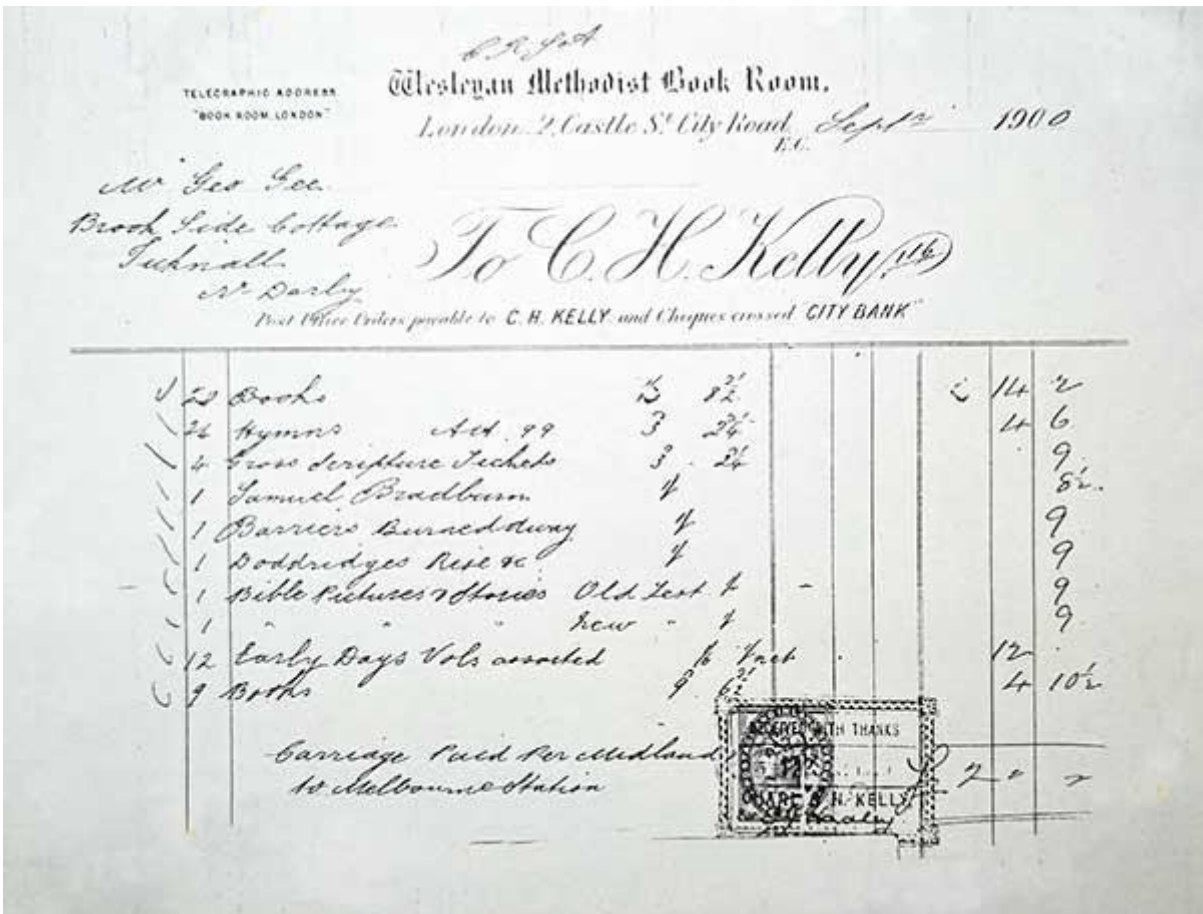
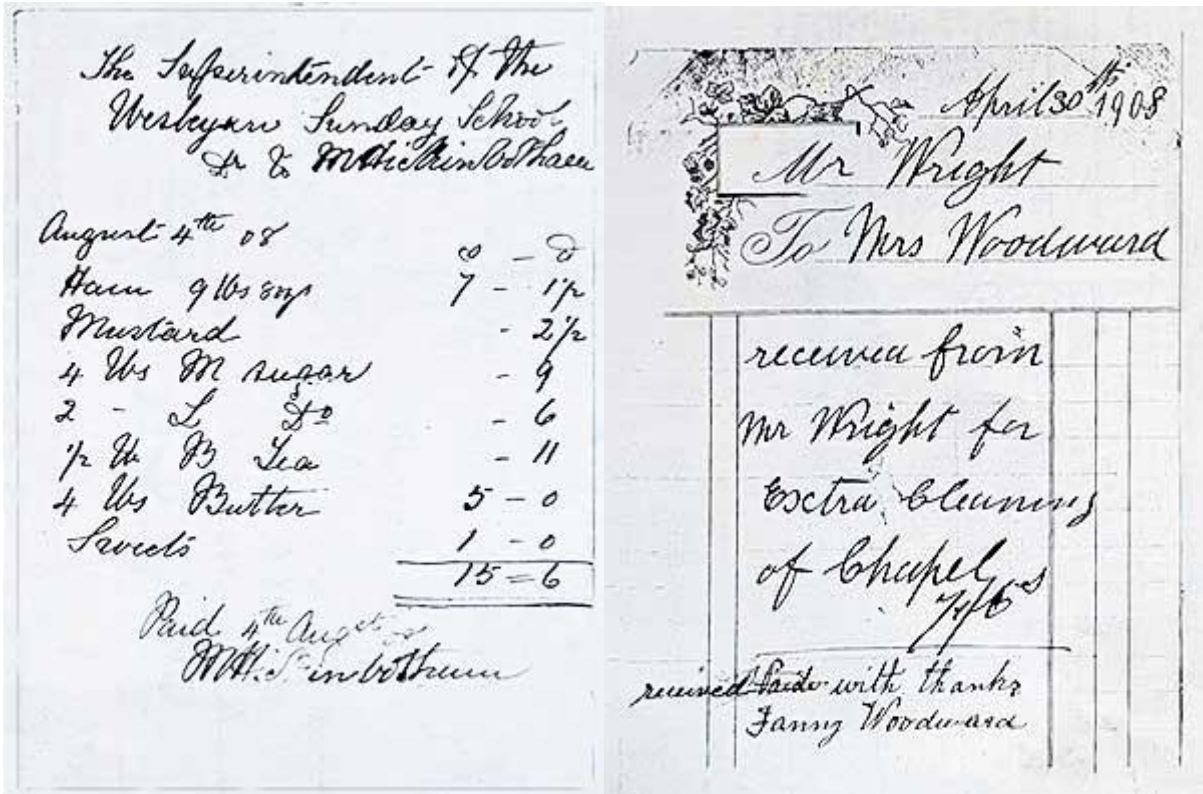
Further improvements to the Chapel are not difficult to see, perhaps the most obvious being the installation of a piped water supply, flush toilets and sink unit. In 1990, the nearest source of water was the pump installed by the Harpur Crewe family on the grass verge outside the Chapel in 1914. Nevertheless, the building is now well-maintained and tastefully decorated befitting a place of worship 175 years old.

Sunday services are at 6 pm or 3 pm in winter. Sunday School is at 10.30. The new "Hymns and Psalms" hymn book is used. A monthly Monday Fellowship is held for all members and friends and, for the ladies, a monthly Wednesday Meeting. The Chapel is in the South Derbyshire Circuit and the minister having oversight of Ticknall is Rev P Fanning.

Ticknall Methodists are proud of the history of their Society and their Chapel. They offer a warm welcome to all visitors and confidently extend to them the message that John Wesley preached two centuries and more ago.

Images

These are the images that I have been able to extract from the photocopy document.





Wesleyan Methodist Chapel,
- - TICKNALL. - -

Sunday School *
* **Anniversary**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7th, 1903.



Sermons will be preached by the

Rev. H. WADSWORTH, F.R.
M.S.
(OF ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.)

TIMES OF SERVICE: Afternoon, 2-30, Evening, 6-9.

SPECIAL HYMNS AND ANTHEMS
by the Children and Choir.

COLLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDS.

DONATIONS will be thankfully received by the Treasurer,
MR. T. D. MARRIOTT,
or any of the Officers and Teachers.

YOUR PRESENCE AND SUPPORT WILL BE ESTEEMED
A FAVOUR.

Smith & Kellam, Printers, Woodville.





August 2 1904
 Bought of *Mrs. J. Gee* Superintendent
 of Sunday Schools
Mrs. E. SOAR,
 Baker at Beer Retailer,
TICKNALL.

Brewed by WATNEY, COMBE, REID & Co., Limited, London.

August 2	Bread	4/11/02
	Butter	12/04
		18/20
August 4 1904 and with thanks		

CHIEF BONUS TEA.

GRAND TEA
 SPLENDID  PRESENTS

SEE THAT THE ABOVE TRADE MARK IS ON EVERY PACKET.

August 8th 1905
 Bought of *M. Wesleyan* *Colonial*
A. COWLEY,
 PUBLIC SUPPLY STORES,
TICKNALL.

1/2 lb Tea	1/3 lb Butter	3/9	1/4
1 lb Sugar	10 lb Soap	6	1/4
			6/11
Paid with pleasure A. Cowley			

CLOSE ON
WEDNESDAYS
AT 2 O'CLOCK



WEST END HOUSE.
Ironmongery & Implement Warehouse, near the Monument,
ESTABLISHED 1853
No 13, MARKET STREET,
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH,

TELEPHONE No 14.

DEC 2 1907 1907

At The Trustees Wesleyan Chapel Ticknall

BOUGHT OF JOHN HOLDRON,
Manufacturing and General Ironmonger and Cutler,

AGENT FOR & DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY.

BRAZIER, TINMAN, LOCKSMITH, BELLHANGER & GASFITTER,

Dealer in Lamps, Oils, Grease, &c. IRON & BRASS BEDSTEADS, Sewing Machines, Beds, & Pallisasses.

BRADFORD'S PATENT MANGLES, WRINGERS, & HOME WASHING MACHINES, ENAMELLED & MARBLE CHIMNEY PIECES, REGISTER STOVES & RANGES

1907
Nov. 1

Taking down hot air stove
cleaning out flues & fixing ventilator
in ceiling

- 1 fluted down draught pipe
- 1 warm air straddle pipe
- 1 cast iron bottom grate
- 1 set fire grates
- 1 pair protecting plates for stove door
- 2 pieces grating 22" square
- 1 piece m/c Zinc 21" x 21"
- 1 flue door
- Bricklayers & Joiners' charges &c.

allowance

£	9	15	6
		7	6
		9	8 0



Dec 13/1908.
J. Mann

Wesleyan Chapel

Mrs Marriott

Dr to E. Soar

Settled Aug 26/11
H. B. Johnson
E. Soar

August

8	26 lb Cake @ 5 ² per lb	10	10
1911	3 stone Bread @ 1/8 stone	5	0
		15	10

Wesleyan Chapel Trustees
To Hubert Swann

Sept 1913

To Filling up Choir Stalls	1. 0
Platform 12 hrs @ 6	6. 0
2 ft. 7 x 1 in R.D. 3/3	2 ft. 7 x 1/2 @ 6 = 3. 9
Two bolts with nuts & washers 4 nails @ 2 =	9
	<u>10. 6</u>

Rec^d Sept 20th 1913
H. Swann