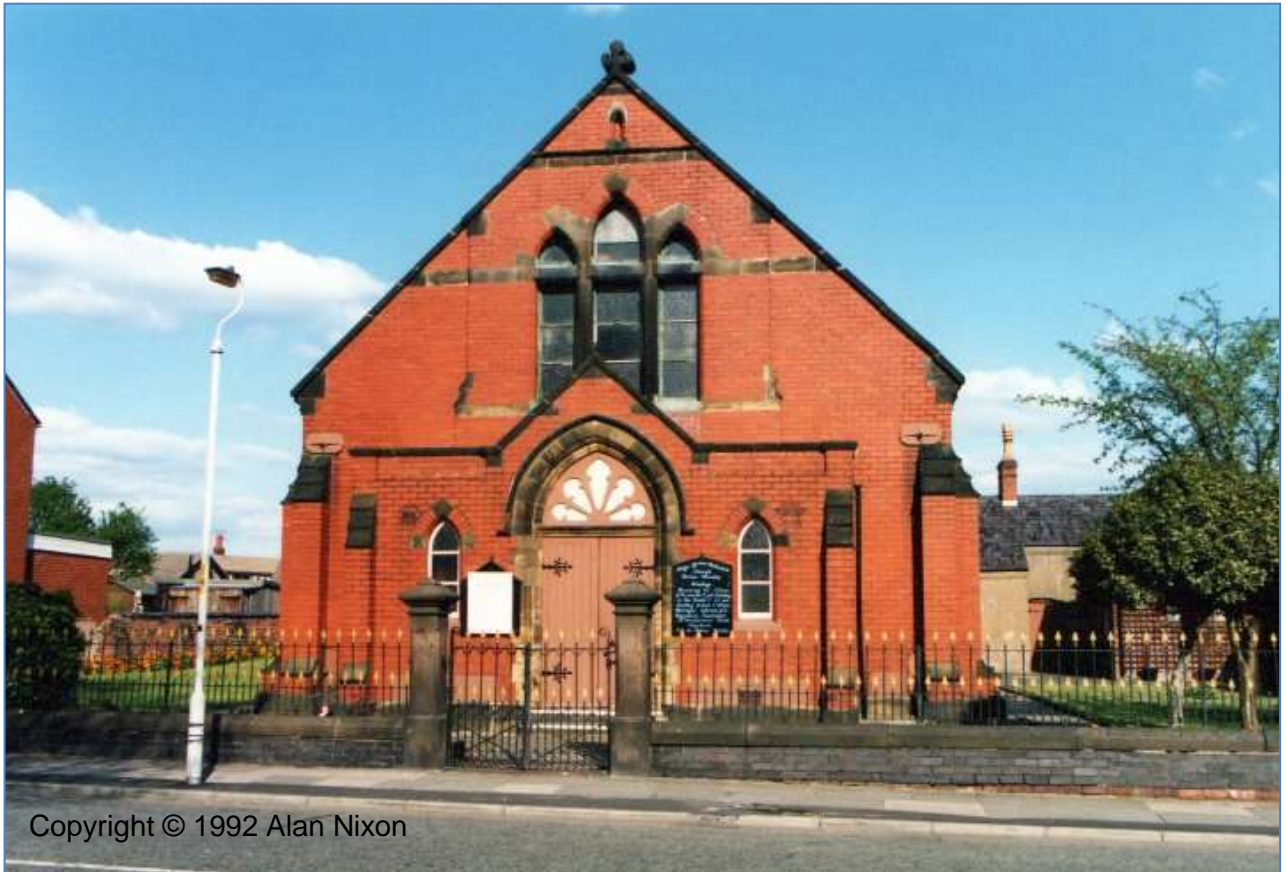


“Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us”



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The Story of Edge Green Primitive Methodist Church 1867 – 1992

Edge Green Lane, Golborne – Makerfield Circuit – Liverpool Circuit

[This Church Closed down on Sunday 8th January 2006](#)

This booklet was produced for Edge Green Methodist Church
To celebrate the 125th anniversary



September 1992



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Both Editions, Typeset and Produced by Alan Nixon

FORWARD BY THE MINISTER REVEREND NORMAN PINE B.Eng.

Many people in Golborne today think of Edge Green Chapel with great fondness, as they remember the part it, and it's people, have played in their lives and in the lives of their families and friends. They remember the preachers who have graced the pulpit and recall those days of great inspiration when they have felt the more deeply the Holy Spirit amongst them.

People also recall the names of those devoted servants, who were involved in the earliest days and those who with the same devotion have followed them in keeping God's witness alive in the surrounding area.

So much is owed to those men and women of former days and they are always remembered with deep-felt affection. They were people who were inspired with the love of God and it has been the tradition ever since that the people of Edge Green Chapel share that love fully, yet quite simply, with all those who come into contact with them. So it is that have made Jesus known all down the years.

Within it's fellowship, from the newest attendee to the most experienced of preachers, all find the warmest of welcomes and are so encouraged to serve in the word and in deed.

It has been a great joy for me to be part of the endeavours of this small chapel, if only for a short while in the first 125 years, and so be included within the unfolding story of it's invaluable work and witness enclosed in these pages.

Looking back to the beginnings of the work here and to the loving and dedicated Christians who have served God in Christ so nobly in the past, may be inspired to serve Him the better in the days that lie ahead.

NORMAN PINE

Norman Pine

THE EDGE GREEN STORY

In 1831, Mr Cuthbert Oliver a Primitive Methodist, came from the North of England on business connected with the Manchester and Liverpool Railway, finding no Methodist Church within a distance of five miles, he made application to the Warrington Circuit officials that urgent effort should be made to establish a house at Lowton, after much persuasion he was successful and they sent a travelling preacher once a fortnight.

The Lowton friends came over to Edge Green and open air services were held. James Hesford and John and Thomas Cook soon gathered quite a croed around them. Nanny Dicks, feeling sorry for them in the cold weather opened up her cottage for their services, and also as a base from which they could work. Soon this became too small and they moved to Mr James Ball's cottage until 1946 when they decided to build a chapel.



The Old Chapel 1846 – 1867

This was built on the green down Dam Lane then known as Cale Lane, at the end of a row of cottages known as "Glory Row". It took fourteen days to build and was opened on Sunday 12th June 1846. At the opening

ceremony tea was provided in the workshops of Josiah Evans (Edge Green Colliery). This chapel served for twenty one years until it was decided to build a church on a site more prominent in the village. On September 29th 1866 the foundation stone was laid by Mr Thomas Cobb of Lowton, members and friends marched from the old chapel singing hymns, to a service at which the circuit minister Reverend Walter Graham read the 84th psalm. The address was given by the Reverend W Rowe.

The new chapel was built on Mr Lees ground, adjoining Mr Hiram Ball's cottage, and this was opened in May 1867, the old chapel, which had been used as a day school was vacated and eventually demolished during the Boar war. It was not forgotten as the organ became the first musical instrument and a stone from over the door bearing the inscription "Hitherto the Lord helped us" was transferred to the new chapel.

The new chapel was built by Mr Harris of St Helens at a cost of £550, and opened in May 1867, a resolution was passed by the trustees of Mr William Sharpe (Chairman) John Sproston, James Glover, James Ridyard, William Latham Snr. William Haeyes, James Twiss, George Bate, George Palin, Thomas Unsworth, Ebenezer Sproston, George Prescott and William Sharpe, that three Sabbaths should be used to celebrate the opening. The following were invited to preach at the services. First Sunday morning, Mr Thomas Bateman of Chorley, in the afternoon and evening Reverend William Roaf of Wigan. Second Sunday morning and evening, Reverend J.A. Baston of Darlington. Third Sunday Reverend John Alexander of Norwich.



The New Chapel 1867 – 2006

On the 1st February 1883, it was decided to accept Mr R Randels tender for heating the church with hot water, to help pay for the installation a lecture was given by Reverend D Sproston of Walkden. Tickets were sold for 4d, 6d and reserved seats 1/-.

At a trustees meeting held on 31st May 1883, it was resolved that £10 be spent in “beautifying” the chapel, the work being carried out on 10th March 1884 by Messers J Higham and Sons of Wigan and on 18th March 1884 Messers J Highams tender for a “Singing Gallery” was accepted.

On march 11th 1889 it was decided to refront the chapel and build the porch, it was to be built using best Accrington brick and stone brought from a Yorkshire Quarry, Mr Pennington’s tender of £333.19.1d was accepted.

In 1871 a new Sunday School was built attached to the chapel and opened on 10th September 1871. Mr Travis formerly of Chorley was invited to perform the opening ceremony, plans for the enlargement of the Sunday School were passed on 27th August 1889, Mr Vernon’s tender for building the classrooms on the new extension of the Sunday School was accepted at a cost of £330. The stonelaying took place on Saturday 10th May (known as Newton Race Day) at 3 pm. The infants classroom stone was laid by Mrs J Bridge on 10th May 1889. Mr Vernon was asked to put a platform in the new school room the cost not to exceed £1 (one pound) ! The new school was opened on 9th August 1890, Mrs R Johnson and Miss Ellen Sproston were asked to form a ladies committee to provide teas, Tickets 1/- . On 26th August 1890 Mr Jones tender of £34.10.1d was accepted for fixing high pressure pipes in the schoolroom.

In 1893 the teachers and scholars each “beautified” their own classrooms. Each raising funds to cover the cost and on 12st February 1899 the school room and infants room were whitewashed.

On 6th February 1900 it was resolved that permission be granted to the library committee to have the library located at Edge Green, and that they pay a nominal rent of 2/6 per year (12½p), this included the use of a cupboard for their books.



THE ORGAN

Built by Robert Massey of Liverpool

In 1835 the organ at Edge Green was placed in St Peter's Church on High Street, Newton-le-Willows. It was described as a large G two manual organ with partial swell, it was in use there until about 1870, when they were given a new organ in memory of Louisa McCorquodale. It was then sold to Mr John Pearson of Golborne Park (what is now Haydock Park Golf Club) and remained there until 1874, when it was sold to the Edge Green trustees for £200. Miners carried the organ to the chapel during a miners strike. The young people resolved that there should be no debt and took immediate steps to clear the amount. The organ was cleaned and repaired in 1884 by Mr George Prescott, and was raised to its present position in February 1885 by Mr Wakefield and Messers Massey at a cost of £5. It was completely overhauled in June 1957 by Pendlebury organ builders at a cost of £404.

Mr George Prescott was the first organist and at a trustees meeting held on 31st May 1883, it was resolved that Mr Prescott arrange that the organ be played each Sabbath, by himself, his son or Mr James Johnson. Mr George Prescott was succeeded by his half brother Mr James Johnson. Mr James Prescott eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Prescott was elected to succeed Mr James Johnson. When Mr James Johnson was elected organist at Lowton Parish Church, he was succeeded by his brother Mr Handel Prescott. Mr Thomas Prescott followed in the line of succession and served as organist for twenty

seven years until poor health compelled him to retire. His nephew James Henry Prescott was elected organist in 1927, he served for thirty eight years until his death in 1965. His cousin Miss Winifred Prescott (Mrs Crowther) served until her retirement for health reasons in 1977, she was succeeded by her cousin Mr James E Monks and Miss Iris Speakman.



The First Wedding

In 1954 a licence was granted for the solemnization of marriages. The first wedding took place on Wednesday 23rd March 1955 between Miss Clara Cowell daughter of Mr and Mrs Wilfred Cowell and Mr Arthur Bromilow, Reverend J Gordon Webb officiated and a bible was presented by Mr J.J. Horn. To mark the occasion trees were planted at the side of the church, a gift from Mr and Mrs Cowell.



The banner during Golborne Churches Walking Day

THE BANNER

The Banner was made by Onward Co. of Manchester and is 125 years old. It was not in use for a number of years, but it was decided to bring it out on a windy Easter Sunday for a walk around the estate. During this walk the banner was very badly damaged. In 1982 it was repaired and strengthened by Mrs Margaret Ashcroft and it has been in use every year since for the annual walk of witness.



The Pulpit Fall and Brass Tablet

The Pulpit fall and brass tablet were donated by the members of the church in memory of Mr Thomas Victor Lowe, who served this church and Sunday School faithfully. It was dedicated on Easter Sunday 31st March 1991 by our minister Reverend Norman Pine.

Althow only a small congregation, we thank God That we are able to carry on the witness and work at Edge Green, and that we can re echo the words from the first Edge Green Chapel

“Hitherto hath the Lord Helped Us”

Publishers note added to this edition published in 2013

It was with regret that the Edge Green (Primitive) Methodist Church was closed on Sunday 8th January 2006. The third Methodist Church in Golborne along with Trinity (Bridge Street) and Lowton Road to close, the Edge Green buildings have been demolished and a housing development is now in it's place, all the houses are believed to be occupied. Lane Head Lowton has also closed in June 2010 and merged with Heath Street to become The Methodist Church on Golborne and Lowton. (Publisher)



The Church Prior to demolition



The houses that have been built on the site of the chapel. All that remains are sections of the boundary walls (Covered by the bush)



Old picture postcard

Thanks to the Publisher for re publishing this booklet that was first
published on the occasion of the 125th anniversary

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