

WHERE IS FACTORY LANE ?



The Story of Lowton Road (Primitive) Methodist Church Golborne, Lancashire

**149a Lowton Road, Golborne, Warrington. WA3 3HT
Makerfield Circuit - Liverpool Methodist District**

The First Edition and this revised edition
Compiled, researched printed and published by Alan Nixon

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The first edition of this booklet was published in 1993

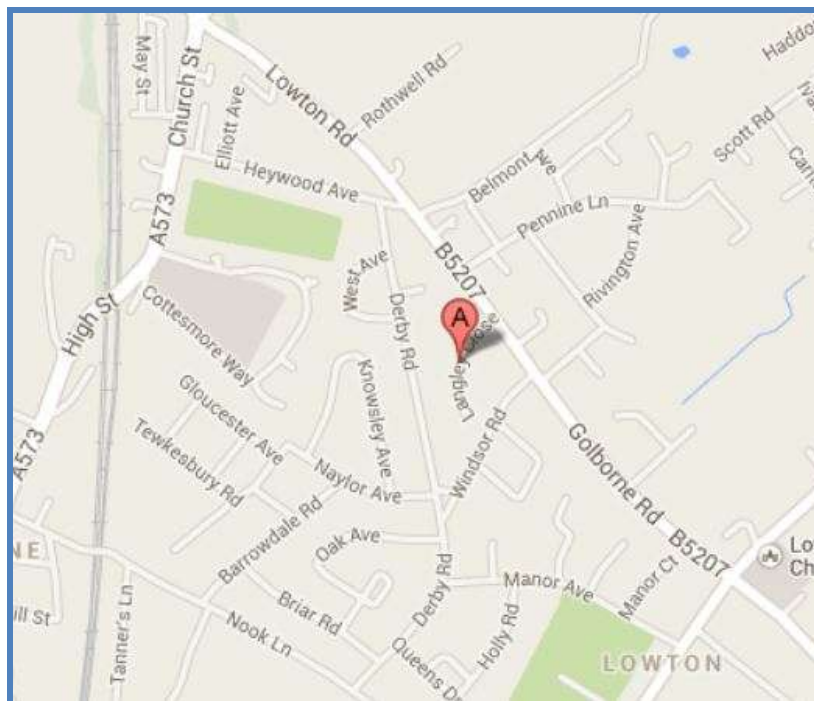
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INTRODUCTION

WHERE IS FACTORY LANE ? The question that is asked on the front cover of this booklet. The answer is of course now **LOWTON ROAD** Golborne.

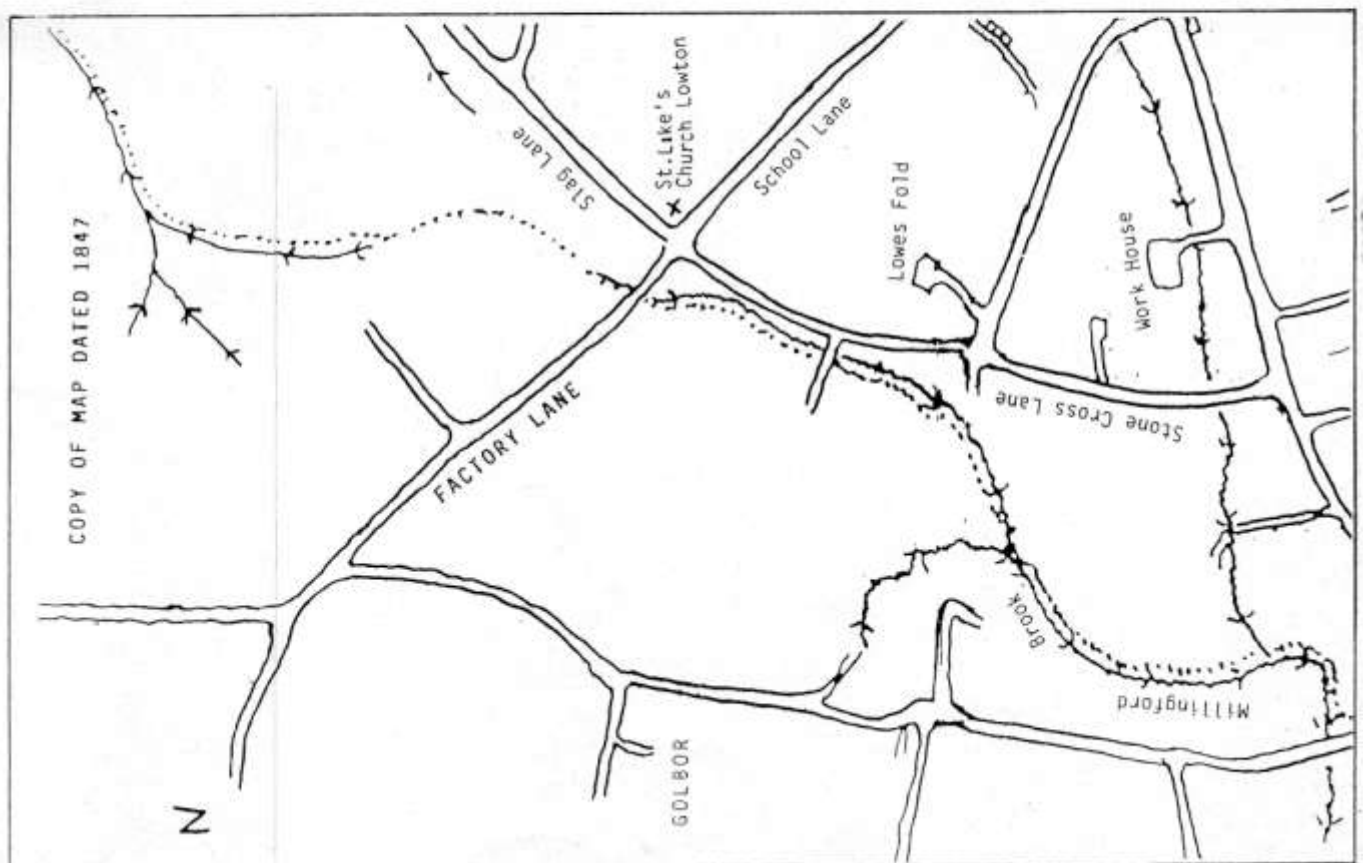
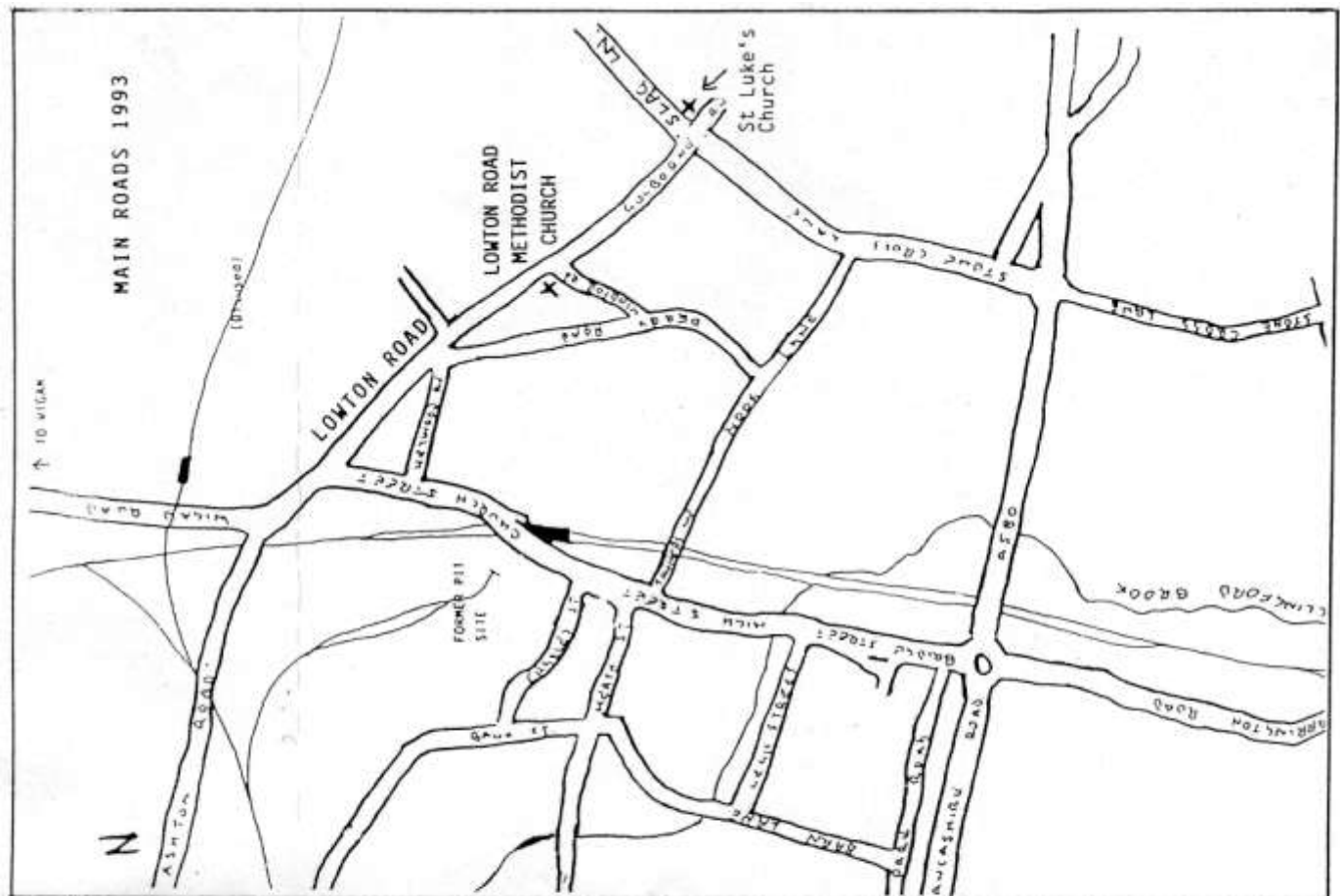
The factory that gave the lane it's name, was the first steam driven mill that was opened in the Golborne area and was situated behind the row of recently renovated cottages, Where the buildings once used by Barrows and then Alpro before being demolished to make way for the building of Langley Close and Barwell Close. It is believed that the name was changed to Lowton Road in Golborne and Golborne Road in Lowton about the year 1886.



Collecting the information about Lowton Road Methodist Church for this booklet has not been an easy task, as most of the early records are “missing”, it has been said that they were kept in the homes of the early members and were disposed of when these people were deceased. Most of the information in this booklet had had to be gleaned from the records of other churches and denominations in the Golborne and Lowton area, circuit records, newspaper reports and the recollections of the older members.

The compiler of this book would be pleased to receive (on loan) any photographs, booklets etc., for scanning for any future edition.

COPY OF MAP DATED 1847 & MAIN ROADS IN 1993





Photograph taken 2007

The church at Lowton Road celebrated it's centenary in 1969, a plaque over the choir stalls states **Primitive Methodist 1869** and the present building will celebrate it's centenary in the year 2000.

However information has been gleaned during my research shows that the year 2000 will be the 150th anniversary of Primitive Methodist services at Factory Lane, now known as Lowton Road.



During the research a preachers' plan for the Warrington Primitive Methodist Circuit has turned up for the years 1846, 1847 and 1850.

The first recorded services at Factory Lane are shown as **GOLBOURNE F.L.** as the latest group to have joined the circuit. This 1859 preachers' plan has been reproduced elsewhere in this booklet however the quality is not very clear.

From this plan we can see that services were held at 2-30pm and in the evening at 6-00pm in the “church” at factory Lane, also from the way that the plan is set out we can see that the same preacher was planned for both services, the first recorded preacher to be found to date who preached on Sunday 21st July 1850 was M. Dickinson of Lowton and the following week A. Murphy of Golborne (Trinity Bridge Street was known as Golborne at this time).

Operetta held in 1923, Note the fine pipe organ located in the present choir stalls



and the gas light which would have been over the preaching platform. The text around the chancel area is still there today (September 2013) it reads “How amiable are thy tabernacles O Lord of hosts”



Photo taken 1993

It is understood that the pipe organ was removed in 1961 and replaced with an electronic one that stood in the centre of the choir stalls behind the pulpit but was in turn replaced by another more modern organ which was placed in the body of the church so that the organist was not sitting with his or her back to the congregation as shown in the photograph a loud speaker system was also installed with a hearing loop at the same time as this last organ was installed.

As we have seen copies of the preachers' plans for 1846 and 1847, that do not show Factory Lane, it is reasonable to assume that the meetings had not yet started as meetings are shown on the first Sunday of July 1850 on the plan it can also be assumed that they must have been planning to open on this date or were already holding meetings as time would have been required to plan the circuit preachers and have the plans printed.

As no other references are made about any services or meetings being held at Factory Lane prior to 1850 either in records or newspapers of the time, it must be assumed that the year 1850 was indeed the year that Factory Lane Primitive Methodist Chapel was born.



The photograph is of Mrs Twiss who was one of the founder members.

If we accept that 1850 was the starting date for the meetings and that the first chapel opened in 1869 we must wonder where the services were held twice each Sunday had been held for this first nineteen years. It could be that if the cause was small, then the meetings could have been held in one of the cottages in Factory Lane, the Independent Methodists were also holding meetings less than quarter of a mile along the road in Mr Ashton's house in School Lane (now Church Lane) about where the Co-op now stands.

Or they could have met in the mill itself or as some Methodist gatherings of the

day in a local public house, this could have been in the original Horns Inn (st the time of the first edition derelict but now restored) opposite the entrance to Rothwell Avenue.



Photograph taken in 1993 this is now a housing estate (2013)



*Members of the Sunday School Circa 1920
with Scripture Examination Shield*

Looking at the plan for 1850 elsewhere in this booklet, it is interesting to see the number of churches in the Warrington Circuit, from Cinderland near Altrincham and Partington to St Helens and Platt Bridge. It is also interesting to note the THREE spellings of Golborne (Trinity), Golbourne F.L (Factory Lane) and then three lines further down the page Golborn is holding it's Chapel anniversary led by A. Stranger (someone from another circuit or another denomination), also Lowton is spelt Lowton for Sundays and Lawton for week night services of course these could just be printers typos.

Also listed on this plan are services at Risley (now in the Independent Methodist Connexion), Vulcan Foundry thought to have been held in the workers institute and Burtonwood, this is interesting as they are shown to have been meeting from 1846 or even before until 1850 after which no further mention is made of them, all other records we have found are for the Wesleyan's and these Wesleyan records pre date any we have found for the Primitives by at least 25 years and to the present time.

Quarterly Meeting Regulations

1st. Any preacher missing his or her appointments on the plan, must specify the cause of such neglect to the next Preachers' Meeting, or sink one figure on the plan for each neglect.

2nd. If a preacher cannot possibly attend his own appointments, he is affectionately requested to use his utmost endeavours to get a suitable supply.

3rd. The preachers and stewards are affectionately requested to be punctual in publishing, in proper time, for Lovefeasts, Revival Meetings, collections, &c.

4th. No person is allowed to preach in any of our places of worship, unless duly authorized by the quarterly meeting or circuit committee. This does not interfere with duly authorized preachers in other evangelical denominations.

5th. That none shall be appointed as delegates from any society to a general quarterly meeting, but such as by virtue of office are regular members of the quarterly meeting.

6th. The preachers are requested not to go by railway on Sunday, either going to, or returning from an appointment.

7th. Long preaching being very injurious, it is hoped that preachers will guard against it.

Reproduced from the preachers' plan sated April 1847
*I wonder if the ministers and preachers to-day
would take note of regulation number 7 ?*

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS

1850.

$$P_{\text{max}} = 100 \text{ g/g}$$
WEEK NIGHT.

1875

Fit, so sweet, to you mountains.
 Then the gentle stream dail' d'ye
 There you'll find an open fountain.
 That will wash you white as snow,
 O come quickly.
 And its cleansing virtue know.

But to delivery repair.

There's the fountain for maintenance, and the water is coming there.

Current is strong.

Now his garden has to there.

When our great Redeemer died
and that blood will you obtain,
Whom others 'tis applied,
From salvation.

Erin Zuzan wounded still,
Quiet is ready to receive you!
See his bloody eyes appear
From your side he will receive you.
And disperse your doubts and fears,
He will still receive you.

O—Behold the Lamb arising,
 For the reigning son of God,
 And that love he much admires,
 Which appears in vessels of bread,
 Praise the serious,
 Praise the word most Lamb of God.

The Circuit Committee is the Sub-Mission Committee, and G. HEROD, the Sub-Treasurer, J. STANDISH, Secretary.

WOODHOUSES, August 11th, by G. HEROD. WARRINGTON, Sept. 22nd, by G. HEROD.
GOUBOURN, August 13th, by A STRANGER. PARTINGTON CHAPEL, will be REOPENED
LONDON, September 20th, by A STRANGER. on August 18th, by A STRANGER.
CHAPEL ANNIVERSARIES.

SCHOOL ANNIVERSARIES.

WARRINGTON, July 21st, by G. HEROD. | BEDFORD, July 28th, by G. HEROD.
BROAD HEATH, July 21st, by J. STANDRIN. | ST. HELENS, August 1st, by G. HEROD.

CAMP MEETINGS.
CARRINGTON, July 28th, Nos. 1, 4, 7, 16, 31, and 52, to attend.
KISLEY, August 4th, Nos. 2, 13, 20, 30, and 49, to attend.
CARRINGTON, August 25th, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 10, and 52, to attend.
SAND HEATH, August 15th, Nos. 3, 6, 31, 34, and 41, to attend.

ST. MELLIS, August 18th, Nov. 2, 9, 27, 42 and 52, to attend.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

LANTON, September 1st, No. 2, to attend, a supply to be obtained.

EDDREDGE, September 22nd, No. 2, to attend, a supply to be obtained.

EDDREDGE, September 15th, No. 7, a supply to be obtained.

REFERENCES...C. Quarterly Collection...L. Lovefeast...T. Tickets...S. Sacrament...
P. Prayer Meeting...M. Ministry Meeting...O. Gas Collection...I. Leaders Meeting...J. Teaching
Meeting...C. M. Camp Meeting...B. School Address. 112

REDUCED IN SIZE IS THIS REPRODUCTION OF THE PRIMITIVE METHOD-
 IST PREACHERS' PLAN OF THE WASHINGTON CIRCUIT DATED JULY
 1850.



Flower Festival Circa 1960



Ladies Luncheon

It is interesting to note that preachers were requested not to travel to or from appointments' by train or to preach long sermons. One of the older members recalled to me that her father would get up at 4-00 o'clock in the morning in order to WALK from Golborne to Preston Brook in Cheshire, to conduct their services and would walk via Warrington because it was not permitted for him to use the ferry at Fiddlers Ferry to cross the river Mersey. I think if I had walked from Golborne to Preston Brook, I would not have been in any fit state to preach never mind a long sermon.

Reference to Factory Lane church is again noted in 1867 when along with Golborne Bridge Street and Edge Green Churches, can be found as part of the Lymm circuit, the Warrington Circuit having been split into a number of smaller circuits. One of a number of circuit changes made by the Golborne churches.



Two Members Jim Cordiner and James Twiss

The chancel wall at the rear of the choir stalls is believed to be the front outside wall of the first chapel the plaque on the wall that states Primitive Methodist 1869 was over the front entrance door.



The present building dates from 1900 there are four commemorative stones built into the front of the chapel, if we look at the front of the chapel all the stones were laid on July 7th 1900 reading left to right they are inscribed as follows; Mrs John Bridge of Wargrave, Mr John Eckersley of Lowton, Henery Taylor on behalf of the Sunday School and Mrs Robert Allen of Culcheth.

The date 1900 is part of the design above the entrance doors and the words Primitive Methodist are in a semi circle around the top windows and are part of the brickwork.



Shown just above the wall are the commemorative stones



Communion rail, table and pulpit

A fine pipe organ stood in the chancel area of the church but this was removed and replaced by choir stalls and an electronic organ in about 1961. The new organ was opened with a grand recital given by Mr Sandy McPherson. This organ was replaced by a new electronic organ in 1961 but this one was placed in the body of the church.

At the time of writing (1993) there is a possibility of the chancel being re ordered once again. (However this was never done)

A Sunday School was built around the first chapel and was extended at a later date, when a fellowship room, kitchen, toilets and store room were added.

A stage was added in the mid 1950's and many shows were held, the stage was removed early in 1993 when the members carried out the work of renovating the hall.



Members renovating the hall in 1993

The last paragraph in the first edition of this booklet (1993) read. Local newspapers have reported the threat of closure of Lowton Road some 25 years or so ago, but Lowton Road Lives on to serve the Lord !

LOWTON ROAD (PRIMITIVE) METHODIST CHURCH , GOLBORNE

This section was added in 2013

In the two decades before the closure of the chapel it had a very active congregation and young people's department.

I am not sure where you would place the chapel, it was at one end "Happy Clappy" and at the other end "High Church" and evangelical holding outreach missions. I understand it was the only church in the circuit to use a chalice for the communion wine in place of the normal individual glasses and one of the ministers would "robe up" when serving communion.

The church was active in the Golborne United Churches ecumenical group and was one of the lead churches for the Leigh Make Way marches.



Lowton Road, members attending the Leigh Make Way March 1986

However after a dispute over doctrine and church politics the majority of the congregation including some descendants of the founder members resigned their membership not just of the chapel but to Methodism.

The congregation attended a fellowship weekend every year at Conwy or Rhos in sea, some of the former congregation continue this to this day.

However after a period of "Church hopping" a large percentage of the resignees found a home with the Independent Methodists and some with the Parish Church.

This mass defection eventually led to the closing of the chapel in 2007. The Chapel and hall are now used as a day centre by Wigan & Leigh People First an independent user led self advocacy charity for people with Learning Disabilities here is a link to their website. www.wiganandleighpeoplefirst.co.uk.

Another item of note even since 1932 when the different Methodist denominations merged people still considered they were Primitive Methodists and when their chapel closed they would not transfer to ex Wesleyan Chapels preferring to travel to other areas to attend ex Primitive Chapels.



Picture of position of the Third Organ



£89,950

Character Property for sale

LOWTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, LOWTON, WA3 3HN

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From Estate agents Brochure



Pews Removed



Choir stalls Part removed



Sunday School Hall

The three photos are thought to have been taken by the estate agent prior to sale

Lowton Road (Primitive) Methodist Church