

**CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
1881 — 1981**

Methodist Church, Lane Head, Lowton.



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
LANE HEAD, LOWTON**

*Centenary
Celebrations
1881~1981*

**SOUVENIR BROCHURE
OF THE BEGINNING OF
METHODISM IN LOWTON
TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE
PRESENT BUILDING**



Interior about 1923.



Present interior

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

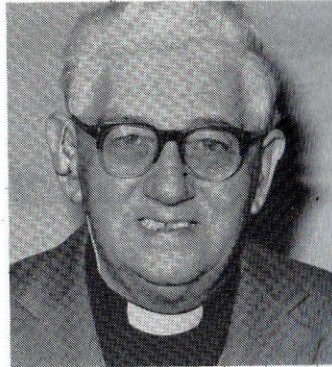
It is a great joy and privilege to offer my congratulations, and to write the Foreword to this brochure, which celebrates the beginning of Methodism in Lowton 150 years ago, and the opening of the present Church building 100 years ago. The members of the Centenary Committee have worked very hard to gather the material needed, and many hours have been spent researching and compiling this history. We are most grateful to them for this labour of love.

It is a great privilege too, to share in such an occasion — Centenaries do not take place every day! That such a celebration does take place is an indication of how well our fathers built, but also of the faithfulness and loyalty of the people who through the years have maintained and cared for the fabric. These were the Trustees and Chapel Stewards, but behind them were the many members and friends who worked hard to raise the money needed. Never an easy matter, it was often made more difficult by periods of war, economic depression and unemployment. Yet the loyalty and willingness to work and sacrifice have always been there.

The Church stands as witness to a Christian presence, a worshipping community. The Church is not just "a building", it is a place of prayer, a place of worship, a place wherein God's honour dwells. Even for those who do not use it, its very presence is a constant reminder that life has a third dimension — spiritual dimension which we neglect at our peril. Buildings are the work of men, but they are built, so far as Churches are concerned, to the glory of God, and to be the place in which men can offer to Him their worship, and from which they can take His Gospel out into the world. For 100 years, the Methodist community has offered its worship in this building; for 100 years the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed from its pulpit; for 100 years people have gone out into the world taking with them the inspiration, the message, the challenge they have received. For this we thank God.

But what of the future? For that we must trust in God and seek His guidance. Times change. Buildings do grow old, despite all the loving and faithful care given to them. "New occasions teach new duties", and different circumstances offer new challenges and new opportunities. If our worship has brought us closer to God, and made us more open to the prompting of His Spirit then the Church has fulfilled its function. The challenge we face is to seek and do God's will for the future. The Church which is people, must carry on their worship and mission. The Church which is bricks and mortar may have to take another form, another place. We don't know the answer — yet. But we go on in faith, believing that He who wrought a great work in the past, will guide us to still greater things in the future, if we are ready to follow.

Bill Lillie.



EARLY BEGINNINGS OF METHODISM IN LOWTON AND THE BUILDING OF OUR FIRST CHURCH

"October 24th. Went to Lowton, a distance of about twelve miles. We have preached at this place about nine months in a house occupied by a person of another community, but with no success. So we thought it best to return to our old custom of preaching in the open air; when hundreds rallied round the standard. We sung down the town, and held a prayer meeting in a field belonging to a friend, the house being too small to contain the people.

The weather being now too cold for worship in the open air, we preach in a large house belonging to one of our members. The house was crowded to excess. I felt the power of the Holy Ghost. The Word ran like fire among stubble. Held a meeting after preaching, several were in distress, and some found peace. I attempted to form a society, when about nine gave in their names. The work of God is still going on in this place."

So wrote F. N. Jersey, Methodist Missionary for the Preston Brook Circuit in his journal. The year was 1831.

From contemporary reports, the people of Lowton in the early 19th Century were "proverbial for wickedness of every kind, particularly for drunkenness, lying, swearing, Sabbath breaking and fighting. The ungodliness of the neighbourhood was notorious for many miles around, and it is generally acknowledged that it was dangerous for people to pass through Lowton on Saturday nights. Rich and poor, young and old, were living without Christ, having no hope, and without God in the world."

New light

However, a new light was about to dawn on this dark environment. About the year 1827, Missionaries from the Preston Brook circuit who were visiting adjacent villages, decided to direct their attention to Lowton, and a society was formed. Many persons were impressed by the Word of God, but the lack of a suitable place to worship soon caused the society to be dissolved.

However, in the year 1831, Mr. Cuthbert Oliver, a pious and zealous member of the Primitive Methodist Connexion came from the North of

England on business connected with the Manchester and Liverpool Railway. He enquired for the Primitive Methodists but found none within a distance of five miles.

He noticed the ungodliness in the area and made, at intervals, application to Warrington Circuit urging officials to establish a Cause at Lowton. After much persuasion he was successful. Warrington Circuit sent a "Travelling Preacher" once a fortnight. One, an Elizabeth Allen, played a most important part in the founding of Lowton Society; she took her stand in the open-air and preached with remarkable power and acceptance. Many people were deeply moved, some of whom became Christians and formed a Society in 1832.

Great revival

Later that year a great revival took place and many souls were converted to God. New converts were subjected to severe persecutions. Some were deprived of their employment, others were ill-treated, ungodly young men attended these open-air services to mock and annoy — yet two years later the Society contained 50 members and God's work continued.

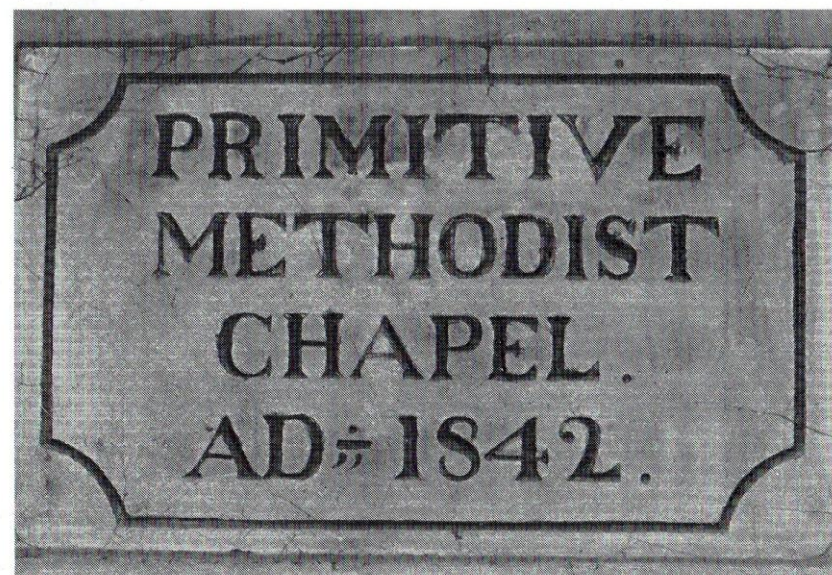
In 1833 a meeting was held to devise measures by which to raise a purpose-built Chapel. The Circuit (presumably Preston Brook) Quarterly Meeting governing the Society, sanctioned the scheme. An agreement was made for a site of land and a Chapel was built. But, alas, through the trickery of a certain individual the Society was soon deprived of the building. A second effort failed which caused the enemies of the Society to rejoice.

In 1841 Rev. R. Kay was preacher in the Warrington Circuit when another effort was made to raise a Chapel. After many fruitless attempts to buy land, ultimately a site was purchased from a Roman Catholic for £14 - 17s. 1d. The work of collecting funds proceeded, but numerous difficulties ensued.

A Chapel at last

In April 1842 building began but most materials were not available on credit. Bricks and mortar were put together spasmodically when cash could be found. As the funds of the Trustees exhausted, so their spirits sank, and sleepless nights followed. They wrote to their old friend Mr. C. Oliver, from whom they received £5, which enabled them to buy bricks. An agreement was made for timber which cost £31. Slate was then needed but no credit was allowed. A member came forward who had little money, to lend the trustees £10, which enabled them to purchase slate and other necessities and with the

people's perseverance the Chapel was ultimately complete. The dimensions of the building were 27 feet long by 22½ feet wide and cost £130 in total.



The date stone taken from the first Lowton Chapel, Winwick Lane. It was transferred to the inside south wall of the present Sunday School during its erection in 1914.

The opening service was performed on Sunday, June 12th, 1842, when the preacher in the afternoon was Mr. T. Unsworth and the Rev. R. Kay in the evening. Liberal collections amounted to £7 - 11s. - 10d.

Revival services in the Autumn of that year resulted in many conversions with the result that some of the most "vile characters" of the village being saved. This affected others who saw the change in their old comrades. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters prayed for each other and miracles of grace brought in 50 souls. The total membership about this time was 96, including 10 local preachers. In Lowton, light had come.

First Sunday School

Subsequently a Sunday School was commenced. During the time of Rev. W. Rowe (1842/3) 205 scholars and 35 teachers were in attendance. Glorious work followed; the Holy Spirit's influence permeated the classes, until in one case, teachers and scholars wept, and they were compelled to turn the school

session into a Prayer Meeting which lasted two hours.

In 1843 the building was enlarged. Thomas Hindley, then a bricklayer, built the front wall. He afterwards became a minister in the Primitive Methodist Connexion.

As the work of God flourished in the village of Lowton, the Church became too small to house the ever growing Congregation; accordingly a plot of land in a good commanding situation at the junction of Winwick Lane and Newton Road was secured, upon which to erect a new and more commodious premises.

The new Church

Plans, submitted by the architect Mr. Richard Owens of Liverpool, showed the following characteristics of the proposed new Church:- the building to be built in the Romanesque style and to seat about 400 worshippers, the dimensions being 56½ feet by 34 feet and 24 feet high with a gallery running across one end, all the interior woodwork being of pitch pine with a vestry on each side of the pulpit and a commodious singers gallery at the back.

The estimated cost of £900 was accepted by the Church officials, and on Saturday, August the 14th 1880, the foundation stone was laid by Jabez Johnson J.P. Esq. of Kenyon Hall. The building work was entrusted to W & H Darbyshire of Newtown, Pemberton.

The new Church is complete!

Good Friday of 1881, was a day of great rejoicing amongst the Primitive Methodist body established at Lane Head, as it saw the completion of their arduous and excessive undertaking. The weather was very depressing, heavy rain falling for most of the day, until it finally abated in the evening. This, in no way, affected the wonderful ardour of the Methodist people. With a view to preventing a crush, and also to provide accommodation for friends from a distance, the trustees decided to issue admission tickets at a charge of 1 shilling each. The service was fixed for 2-30 and people were early seen wending their way to the "New Chapel" to hear the eminent Wesleyan Minister, the Rev. Charles Garrett of Liverpool, who, through the kind influence exerted by Jabez Johnson Esq., had agreed to preach the opening sermon, and thus open the new Chapel.

The presence of the minister alone was sufficient to account for the large number of friends from Edge Green, Golborne, Lowton, Earlestown,

Glazebury, Culcheth, Astley, Leigh and other places.

The Rev. gentlemen was accompanied by the ministers of the circuit, the Rev. J. Hall and Rev. J. Cooper.

Prior to commencing a most moving service, the Choir gave the Anthem "I was glad" by Sir G. J. Elvey. The opening hymn, commencing "God the Lord is King before Him." was then sung.

During the evening, anthems and suitable hymns were sung. Mr. Ashton presided at the harmonium during the day, with Mr. Cook having charge of the Choir.

Thus ended a very momentous day for the Methodists of Lowton and surrounding townships.

It was proposed that the Old Church building be retained as a Sunday School, and remained so until 1914 when the present fine school was built. As the trustees had now no further need for the old structure, they sold it to the local council. This building still stands at the end of the row of cottages down Winwick Lane.

LANE HEAD AND ITS MUSIC

"Methodism was born in song. Charles Wesley wrote the first hymns of the Evangelical Revival of the great Whitsuntide of 1738 when his brother and he were filled with the Spirit, and from that time onwards the Methodists have never ceased to sing."

Thus commences the preface to the 1934 edition of the Methodist Hymn Book currently in use at our Church.

The Methodists of Lane Head, from the first Church to the present day, have certainly "never ceased to sing", possibly not always with superb quality but always with enthusiasm and joy. The Anniversary Services from the very early days were famous for miles around. The singers gallery comprised of three or four rows of men, youths, young women and girls. (All persons having to be of "good moral character" before even being considered for a place in the Choir.) Most of the singers had to learn the Hymns or Anthems from memory. In some cases, the music was laboriously copied or "pricked out" by hand, due to the fact that full score music copies were unavailable because of the cost.

When the copying had to be done for Anniversaries and other special occasions, it may well be imagined that the task was enormous; but it was done willingly and cheerfully, because their hearts were in their work, and they were of one mind.

In the early period referred to, the young women singers had no knowledge of musical notation, but nevertheless performed their duties in the Choir efficiently and enthusiastically from memory training, and the leadership of the conductor during that time. Often they waited a long period to gain such a position.

For special services, in addition to the harmonium, a band of volunteer instrumentalists was engaged. Violins, clarionettes, cornets, flutes, piccolos, bassons etc. were used by these players. Oratorio music from the compositions of the great Masters, Handel, Hayden, Mozart etc. were included in the said services, also Anthems by Stainer, Goss and others. What thrilling emotions, religious fervour, reverence and awe, those strains produced within the hearts of the packed congregation. Often, a large part of the congregation being moved to tears.

Leaders of the Choir in the early days, Mr. Simeon Howarth, William and John Dickenson, William Mee, Joel Unsworth, Thomas Cook Junior, with John Hodson or John Ashton presiding at the harmonium, certainly had cause to feel proud of their Choir.

The last named, Mr. John Ashton (who incidentally was the great

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1981

WEDNESDAY, 15th OF APRIL

Centenary Service — 7.15 p.m.

Preacher — Rev. R. B. Jowett
(Superintendent Minister)

Special singing by children and choir

Light refreshments in school after service.

GOOD FRIDAY, 17th OF APRIL

Morning Service — 10.30 a.m.

Preacher — Rev. Charles Savidge.
(Ex Circuit Minister 1946 - 1949)

SATURDAY, 25th OF APRIL

Birthday party in Schoolroom at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets:- £1.00 Adults, 40p. Children.

SUNDAY 26th OF APRIL

Sunday morning — 11.00 a.m.

Preacher — Rev. W. Lillie

Special singing by children and choir.

CENTENARY SERVICE

April 15th, 7.15 p.m.
Conducted by Rev. R. B. Jowett
Organist Mr. K. Laybourne
Intro "Sing aloud" — Children and Choir

Let earth and heaven agree,
Angels and men be joined,
To celebrate with me
The Saviour of mankind;
To adore the all-atoning Lamb,
And bless the sound of Jesu's name.

Jesus, transporting sound!
The joy of earth and heaven;
No other help is found,
No other name is given,
By which we can salvation have;
But Jesus came the world to save.

Jesus, harmonious name!
It charms the hosts above;
They evermore proclaim
And wonder at His love;
'Tis all their happiness to gaze,
'Tis heaven to see our Jesu's face.

His name the sinner hears,
And is from sin set free;
'Tis music in his ears,
'Tis life and victory;
New songs do now his lips employ,
And dances his glad heart for joy.

Stung by the scorpion sin,
My poor expiring soul
The healing sound drinks in,
And is at once made whole:
See there my Lord upon the tree!
I hear, I feel, He died for me.

O unexampled love!
O all-redeeming grace!
How swiftly didst Thou move
To save a fallen race:
What shall I do to make it known
What Thou for all mankind hast done?

O for a trumpet voice,
On all the world to call!
To bid their hearts rejoice
In Him who died for all;
For all my Lord was crucified,
For all, for all my Saviour died.

Prayer	— Mr. J. Bridge
Anthem	— "I was glad"
Lesson	— Psalm 96 - Mr. J. A. Twist
Children's	
Hymn	— 'Jesus friend of little children'.
Lesson	— Colossians Ch.3 vs. 1 - 4 & 12 - 17
	Mr. H. H. Barrow
Hymn	— Words by Sunday School Scholars
	Mark Crowshaw, Susan Monaghan,
	Wendy Yates, Alexandra Platt and
	Nicola Yates.

Love of the world came down to Earth,
To our poor countryside.
To just a few His word bore fruit;
The rest, His word despised.
But those who loved the Lord, our God,
His love continually showed.
To men and women, rich and poor,
And countless boys and girls.

Until at last their numbers grew,
And swelled as does the tide.
Till it o'erwhelmed those evil few,
And spread both far and wide.
So now my task is clear and plain,
His word to all proclaim.
To live my life for love, not gain,
And serve Him all my days.

Greetings — Minister of Preston Brook
Methodist Church Rev. R. Brian Mavers.

Notices
Offertory — Dedicated by Rev. W. Lillie.

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
To crown Him Lord of all.
Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol Him in whose path ye trod,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners! whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall;
Go spread your trophies at His feet
And crown Him Lord of all.
Let every tribe and every tongue
Before Him prostrate fall,
And shout in universal song
The crowned Lord of all.
O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall,
Join in the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Sermon — Rev. R. B. Jowett

Captain of Israel's host, and Guide
Of all who seek the land above,
Beneath Thy shadow we abide,
The cloud of Thy protecting love;
Our strength, Thy grace; our rule, Thy word;
Our end, the glory of the Lord.

By Thine unerring Spirit led,
We shall not in the desert stray;
We shall not full direction need,
Nor miss our providential way;
As far from danger as from fear,
While love, almighty love, is near.

The blessing

Donations received during these events will go towards maintaining the fabric of our Church and Sunday School.



Wedding party taken in front of the 'old' Chapel, Winwick Lane, in the tranquil pre-Great War years.

grandfather of our present organist and choirmaster) was a man of unrivalled keenness for Church music at Lane Head. For over fifty years, he was concurrently choirmaster and organist, and he it was, who speculated in the first pipe organ, lodging it at his home, until the Trustees of the Church took it over from him.

Mr Ashton also trained two or three brass and silver band companies of young men who rendered valuable free service for Church and Sunday School work.

Such was the enthusiasm of the early pioneers of music at our Church. May those who carry on in the musical sphere, do so with something of their fervour and enthusiasm.

The 'old' Chapel as it is today in the harsh reality of 1981 - used as a garage by Golborne U.D.C.



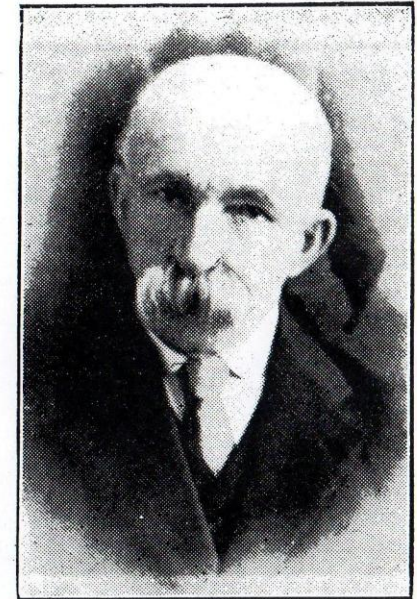
WELL worth recording for posterity is the following extract from a detailed obituary in The Church Echo, Primitive Methodist Church Lowton Circuit magazine, dated September 1926, of Mr. John Ashton, Organist and Choirmaster. Mr. Ashton is just one of the many men and women who have, in the past, dedicated their lives in His Service at Lane Head Chapel.

"THERE are some men who impress us at once with their sincerity and goodness; there is that about them which makes one feel that the world is a sweeter and a better place because they are in it. Such personality was Mr. John Ashton. He was born on the 28th November 1853, in Lowton, where he lived the whole of his life; there he died on August 3rd 1926, in his 74th year. His education was of a very rudimentary nature. He commenced work at an early age, being employed most of his life at the Sankey Sugar Works, Earlestown. His work was of a laborious character, and he daily walked to and from the works. The hours of work were varied during night and day, and he frequently was on duty during long day and night shifts. He married Miss Sarah Ann Clayton, of Lowton Primitive Methodist Church. Mrs. Ashton predeceased her husband in July, 1923, aged 69 years. A family of nine children were born.

Arduous years of toil and care, 'by stony paths and rugged ways', fell to the lot of Mr. & Mrs. Ashton in rearing their large family, but they bravely faced up to their circumstances. They did not whine about their troubles, nor expect to be 'carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease.'

Mr. Ashton was a total abstainer from intoxicants, and a non-smoker. Mrs. Ashton also was a worthy companion in abstinence principles. Early in youth, Mr. Ashton manifested a faculty for music. Before his marriage, he studied and practised music, especially the harmonium, then a popular instrument. He became possessed of a strong desire to play this instrument in the service of praise at the Lowton Primitive Methodist Church. To this office he was duly appointed by the Trustees, and in that capacity he thenceforth threw himself heart and soul into his musical calling.

For many years he was concurrently choirmaster and organist, making over fifty



THE LATE MR. JOHN ASHTON, LOWTON.

years' service without a break. His devotion, energy, patience and lively interest in his musical career at Church services were exemplary. Only rarely was he absent even by sickness, or when detained by his daily employment.

As the journey of life gradually became near completion there was light at eventide. Conversation on his condition about spiritual things seemed like meat and drink to his soul. He understood his position and trusted in his Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He died in the Christian Faith. His end was Peace."

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

In the early days, a pianoforte or harmonium was used to accompany the singing. These instruments being augmented with other instruments, (as previously mentioned), on special occasions.

In 1898 a pipe organ was installed, having been purchased from Wargrave Parish Church. The organ was situated at the rear of the Church behind the pulpit.

This instrument was hand blown, usually by two small boys for ordinary Sunday Services. For "specials", two male adults were usually employed to assure a sufficient and steady source of wind from the bellows to the organ pipes. This arrangement was always a cause of disappointment amongst the smaller boys who had performed sterling service during the ordinary services throughout the year.

But, small boys are notorious for their lack of concentration, the affects of this being that the air supply to the pipes would "dry-up", much to the wrath of the organist who was wanting to play with "all-stops out".

After 30 years of service, it was decided by the Trustees that the old organ be replaced by our present organ, which is situated in one corner of the Church near the pulpit.

The specification was drawn up by Mr. Joseph Hull F.R.C.O. of Leigh, and the building contract was given to the organ building firm of Messrs. Laycock & Bannister of Keighley, Yorkshire.

The fine new organ was opened on Saturday, June 20th, 1931, the organist being Mr. Joseph Hull with guest vocalists Mr. F. Gore (Atherton) and Madam M. Twist (Leigh). Mrs. W. Hindley of Kenyon performed the ceremony of unlocking the organ.

In a letter from Mr. Hull to Mr. J. Eckersley (Trust Secretary) dated 26th June, 1931, Mr. Hull states "you have acquired a very fine instrument, modern in every respect, beautiful in tone, finish, and general appearance, at a most reasonable figure".

The total cost of the instrument amounted to £755 - 14s. - 6d.

For fifty years the instrument has performed nobly and well, despite the extremes of temperature usually associated with Churches that are empty and cold for most of the week.

May its rich and inspiring sounds still carry on to the "Glory of God" long after our present generations have passed on.

Primitive Methodist Church

LANE HEAD, LOWTON.

Opening of New Organ

AND

Unveiling of New Window

SATURDAY, JUNE 20th, 1931.

The Opening Ceremony at 6-30 will be performed by

Mrs. W. HINDLEY,

of Kenyon,

who will unlock the Organ.

Chairman: **Mr. I. TALBOT,** *of Earlestown.*

An Organ and Vocal Recital

will follow.

Organist: Mr. **JOSEPH HULL**, F.R.C.O., *of Leigh.*

Vocalists: Mr. F. GORE & Madame M. TWIST
of Atherton. *of Leigh.*

THE NEW WINDOW

will be unveiled by

MRS. DARROCK,

as representing the Ladies of the Church.

The Electric Light will be switched on by

MR. S. HAYES,

as representing the Sunday School.

COLLECTION IN AID OF THE ORGAN FUND.

W. H. Stafford & Co., Limited, Printers, 92 Railway Road, Leigh.

Facsimile of leaflet produced to celebrate the installation of present organ 50 years ago

LIST OF MINISTERS FOR LOWTON PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, LANE HEAD

The Lowton Society started from a 'Mission' from Preston Brook about the end of the 1820's and was put into the Warrington Circuit in the Manchester District in 1841. Warrington disappears in 1855 and the Circuit is renamed Lymm.

Lowton was moved into the Leigh Circuit in 1868 till 1885 when Lowton became a Circuit in its own right. It looks as if it might have been a "single station" as there were very many of these kinds of Circuits in the Primitive Methodist Connexion.

Beginning with 1841 because it is the firmest date:-

WARRINGTON: 1841-54

1841	Robert Kaye, S. Maund.
1842	Robert Kaye, William Rowe (A).
1843	Robert Kaye, J. Lamb
1844	Thomas Greener, John Aspinall, William Wilkinson
1845	Thomas Greener, John Aspinall, John Pine
1846	John Britain, James White
1847	John Britain, D. Holdcroft, James White.
1848	John Britain, D. Holdcroft, James White
1849	John Oscroft, J. Davy, James Openshaw
1850	George Herod, John Standrin, Joseph Fargher
1851	George Herod, Joseph Unsworth, John Standrin (St. Helens Circuit)
1852	J. Cheetham, Thomas E. Tootill (St. Helens Circuit)
1853	Matthew Lee, Daniel Jowett, James Bottomley (St. Helens Circuit)
1854	Matthew Lee, R. Arnfield, James Bottomley (St. Helens Circuit)

Lymm: 1855-67

1855	Robert Kaye, John Dumbell, Ambrose Kirkland (St. Helens Circuit)
1856	Robert Kaye, John Dumbell, Ambrose Kirkland (St. Helens Circuit)
1857	Robert Kaye, Matthew Lewis, Ambrose Kirkland (St. Helens Circuit)
1858	John Judson, James Openshaw, Stephenson Stobbs (St. Helens Circuit)
1859	John Judson, James Openshaw, Stephenson Stobbs (St. Helens Circuit)
1860	John Judson, James Openshaw, Stephenson Stobbs (St. Helens Circuit)
1861	James Peet, Edward Kershaw, John Mould
1862-4	James Peet
1864-5	Robert Hill
1865-6	Henry J. Huffman, Walter Graham
1866-8	Matthew Shorrocks

Leigh: 1868-1885

1868-70	George Kidd
1870-73	Thomas Willshaw
1873-75	William Thornley (A)
1875	John Hancock, Tobias Savage
1876	John Hancock, Thomas Hindley (A)
1877-79	Ambrose Kirkland, Thomas Hindley (A)
1879-81	James Hall (A), James Cooper, George Kidd (Supernumerary 1879-84)
1881	William Thornley (A), James Cooper
1882-84	William Thornley, Richard Crewdson
1884	Richard Crewdson, Thomas Vaughan

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Who can say what will become of our Church over the **next** 100 years. In these days of speedy travel to all parts of the world, will people still want to go to "Lane Head Chapel" to hear the Word of God, or go to the Chapel or Sunday School Aniversaries as in days past.

Church buildings and fabrics grow old, townships diminish and increase, new interests arise in this technological era. The early pioneers of our first Church faced, and overcame with zeal and endeavour, problems of their own day and age, just as we and future generations must do in order that our Church might survive.

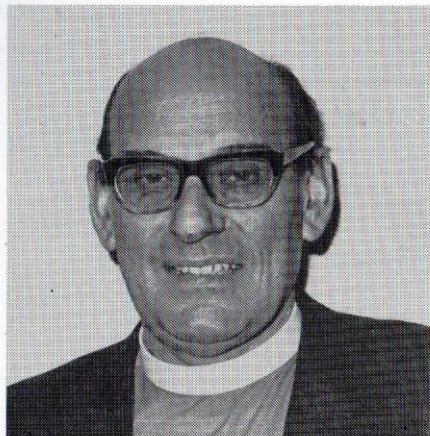
There is a wonderful feeling of fellowship in our Church at this time of rejoicing, and long may it continue.

Lowton: 1885-1954

1885-89	Thomas Vaughan
1889-91	James Dudley
1891-94	Walter Graham
1894-98	John Hancock
1898-03	George H. Birch
1903-06	Benjamin Moore
1906-09	David T. Mann
1909-14	John T. Collier
1914-18	W. Francis Clulow
1918-22	Herbert Haynes
1922-24	James Wright (B)
1924-28	Robert H. MacFarlane
1928-32	James H. Rollaston
1932-37	L. James Jackson
1937-41	Thomas H. Champion
1941-44	William J. Targett
1944-46	James Axson
1946-49	Charles Savidge
1949-52	James Lindsay
1952-54	J. Gordon Webb

Earlestown & Lowton: 1955-68. Makerfield: 1969

1955-57	J. Gordon Webb
1957-62	Harry Lee
1962-67	G. Dean Sherriff
1967-68	Harry L. Wisbey
1968-71	J. Ronald Maddran Makerfield Circuit formed, 1969.
1971-75	J. Wesley Parfitt
1975	William Lillie



Rev. R. B. Jowett present Superintendent Minister

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APRIL 1981

You will observe that over the preceding pages, very few individuals concerned with the history of our Church have been named.

How can one begin to name personally, the many loyal and devoted people, who, during varying lengths of time of serving the cause of Methodism, have performed their duties, however great or small, with ardour and dedication and love for their Church.

Nevertheless it would seem very fitting to thank God for the lives and works of past and present Ministers, lay preachers, Sunday School teachers, musicians and choirs, officials and congregations who have served the Church loyally over the past 150 years, thus enabling us to rejoice in the 100 glorious years of the existence of our present building.

Our thanks must also go to those people who have kindly consented to take part in the services connected with this wonderful event. May everyone experience a time of great fellowship and rejoicing.

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Centenary Committee:-

Mr. W. Monks
Mr. J. Laybourne
Mr. A. R. Thompson
Mr. K. Laybourne

Lane Head crossroads circa 1910



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