

**From: High Street
To: Trinity 1959-2020**



Keith Byatt

From High Street to Trinity

My Memories on Methodism in Chelmsford

Keith Byatt



Keith Byatt was organist at Trinity for over 40 years. He was born in Chelmsford and educated at King Edward V1 Grammer school. For a number of years, he was employed as a Principle Building Services Engineer, in the Property Services Department (formally the County Architects Dept) of the Essex County Council.

My acknowledgements to the late Ronald Sturt a member of Trinity, to the late Rev. Bernard Painton an early minister of the High Street and to Beryl Kemp a member at Trinity and a forma member of the Rainsford Road Chapel.

My sincere thanks to my wife Maureen for her forbearance at my hours spent at the Organ keyboard and the time writing this document at the computer key board. All my memories are those recalled in later life and I apologise for any mistakes and omissions.

THE ORIGINS OF RAINSFOR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

- 1883 Chelmsford Primitive Methodists missioned and rented a room.
- 3.3.1897 Open Air Services by Primitive Methodists sailed 9.3.1898.
- 27.1.1913 Conveyance of land bought by Private Treaty ~ November 1912 and formation of first Trust.
- 8.5.1913 First Effort for Funds to erect Church at Hall Street.
- 29.6.1913 Commencement of Camp Meetings on Site.
- 25.11.1914 Permission to erect temporary building for use of soldiers.
- 7.2.1915 First Sunday Service held in Building.
- 12.2.1915 First Certificate of Worship.
- 17.2.1915 Official Opening of Building.
- 1916-17 Requisitioning of Building by Military.
- 29.3.1926 Renewal of Trust.
- 7.2.1948 Adoption of Model Deed.
- 5.7.1948 Renewal of Trust.
- 12.12.1959 Purchase of Additional Land.
- 28.2.1960 Closing Services held in temporary building.
- 10.10.1960 Demolition of temporary building commenced.
- 25.3.1961 Stone Laying Ceremony.
- 15.10.1961 New Church Opened.
- 24.10.1961 New Certificate of Worship Issued.
- 25.10.1961 Marriage Certificate Issued.
- 10.1.1962 Renewal of Trust.
- 7.2.1962 Opening and Dedication of New Hall and Chapel of Youth.

Memories of Rainsford Road Primitive Methodist Chapel
By Beryl Kemp

Not a "tin chapel as it is often described, but a sturdy, well-built hall, rendered walls and a slate roof. A dual-purpose room inside, quite large with chairs ,grand piano and a harmonium which was played with great gusto by a Mrs .Mason whose brother was the Rev. Paradine Frost, father of David Frost, – yes the David Frost of TWTWTW fame!!

The heating consisted of large fearsome gas radiators. There was a platform for the choir and quite a large pulpit. Behind the room was a smaller room used as the Sunday school and there was also a very small kitchen.

The fact that the Services were held in the hall and perhaps the next day the chairs were stacked at the side and a social was enjoyed in the same space never seemed to worry anyone or make it any less of a place of worship.

There was a fair bit of spare land around the building, left mainly as a rough lawn and some flowers. This of course made it possible to demolish the original building and build Trinity and Annexe with a small car park at the side. The Link building came a lot later.

I found this photograph, but I have no idea who the gentleman is.

Our memories seem to be of hearing the building being used in the First World War as some sort of club, tea only provided, for the soldiers stationed around Chelmsford. Whether it was still used as a Chapel or commissioned, I do not know. I think Rainsford Road Chapel came into existence as some outreach work from members of the congregation at High Street, Wesleyan Methodists. Rainsford Road Chapel was not licensed for weddings so although I was a member there, I had to marry at the High Street Wesleyan Church.



THE ROAD TO RAINSFORD END

a chronology by Ronald Sturt

- 1784 9 January **John Wesley** aged 81 returned from Colchester at 8.30 am, had tea, went for a walk, rejoined chaise for London - journey broken at Chelmsford
- beginning C19 one circuit for whole of Essex. Colchester circuit town: Suffolk probably included.
3 ministers, 400 members. Chelmsford: no recognised Methodism
- c 1789 - 1810 **cottage meetings** in home of **John Leech** in Springfield ?
also in rooms over his shop (gunsmith ?) in Conduit (Tindal) Street
first Wesleyan Methodism ? very private
- 1809 **Mr Alexander** from **Goldhanger** near **Maldon** could not find a place of worship when he visited Chelmsford. Started service in his own house. Society formed.
- 1810 **first open declaration of Wesleyan cause** in Chelmsford.
Cottage hired in Springfield Road
- 1813 **earliest class ticket**
- 1814 Chelmsford - without a chapel - made head of a **Circuit** with **Leigh** and **Goldhanger**
- 1818 first printed **Circuit Plan**
"soon after" the first **Chapel** built in Springfield Road
"plain and unpretentious" it served to 1843 and was later occupied by the Salvation Army
- 1821 **Springfield Chapel Sunday School Society** was formed, with four elected Superintendents, and one to act if others absent
- 1823 **Rev Ambrose Freeman, Superintendent**, joined in Chelmsford Wesleyan Circuit by **Rev Robert Snowdall**
- 1843 Second **Chapel** built in Springfield Road, on site opposite first.
Superintendent: **Rev James Aldis**
chapel cost £1,000 - "no particular architectural beauty"
- 1860 **School Room** added. Now known as **Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School**.
- c 1870 Expansion. 56 additional seats, called "**sittings**". Three classrooms, minister's vestry and a portico in front of chapel added. Provision for 300.
- 1883 **Hall Street Society** recorded that successful mission likely at **Rainsford End**. Position carefully watched.
- 1887 **Open Air service** proposed
- 1889 Trustees set up Nucleus Fund
- to extend or build anew
- 1891 Committee to secure a site
- 1896 **High Street** site bought £1350
- 1897 **24 June Stone laying**
- 1898 **25 May Wednesday**
new Chapel opened by Conference
President Rev W L Watkinson
Cost £7,983. 750 seats plus 300 in school room.
- 1898 Proposal deleted
- 1912 group set up to look for site
14 November Lots 47, 48 and later 49
Coval Hall estate £347.10s.
75' frontage **Rainsford Road**

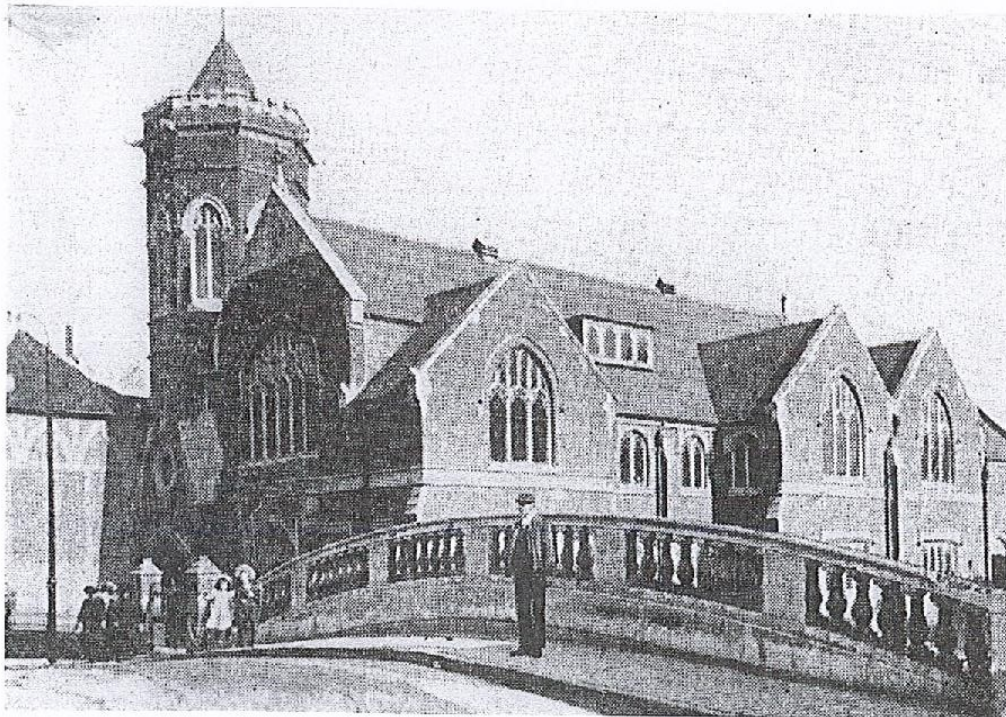
- 1913 first public effort to raise funds
first of **camp meeting** series on site
application for aid to build **chapel** and **school**
- 1914 **Borough** informed of intention to erect temporary hut, to serve as centre for soldiers billeted in area; after that, as **Chapel/School** for “some time” (to 1960 in fact)
- 1915 **Speirs** of Glasgow supplied **Speiresque Plasmentic Church** for £406. **Junior ‘Navy’ organ** installed. £627.19.11 total
Final £250 raised by 5000 shillings appeal
- 1915 17 February **Chapel** opened
April **Sunday School** formed
- 1916-7 requisitioned by military for medical examinations and billeting
The new **Society** met in St Peter’s Church in Primrose Hill and, in turn, in Townfield Street Hall Congregational
- 1932 Monday 3 October **Great Public Meeting** held in pursuance of Methodist Church Union Act 1929 in **High Street Church**
Address by Lord Bishop of Chelmsford
- 1958 **Circuit Quarterly Meeting** proposed a Society in Moulsham Estate. **High Street** asked to sell, to provide new Church.
- 1959 7 January **Trustees meeting** told by Mr Lewin “cost of converting **High Street** heavy and uneconomic”
28 January **Society meeting** agreed to co-operate in building **Central Methodist Church** and to sell **High Street**
2 April Tender for £81,000 for **High Street** site, subject to two year’s delay
19 October **Builing committee** meeting (including **Rainsford Road** members)
architect Cubitt Nichols
plans for 318 seats and 30 choir seats
hope expressed to secure additional land at “present used as a Builder’s yard”
- 1960 17 January **Gallery** to be deleted - made building “architecturally unbalanced”
- 64 seats lost
13 September estimated cost £43,332:
tender £41,967 accepted to complete in 11 months
- 1958-9 Discussions on future of semi-permanent **Chapel**, the **High Street Church** and the new **Town church**
Rainsford Road selected as most suitable site.
Piece of land at rear of 44 Cedar Avenue bought to meet planning requirements
- 1960 28 February Closing service conducted by Rev **Norman Povey**
- joined **High Street** for worship and later in London Road Church schoolroom
- retained identity until **Trinity** opened in October 1961

Memories of High Street Wesleyan Church
By Beryl Kemp

I think High Street Wesleyan Church began life at the bottom of Springfield Road and then was built in High Street very close to a small feeder stream for the river and actually beside the river near the Stone Bridge. Obviously water was a major factor in keeping the building free of trouble and eventually caused its downfall, costing too much to repair satisfactorily. So it was sold and the Cater Building was erected. High Street Wesleyan Church and Rainsford Road Primitive Methodists joined together whilst the new building, Trinity, was built and the High Street Church demolished. We met in what was then called the London Road Congregational Church Schoolroom for Services and Sunday school was held in the Friends Meeting House.

High Street was a large church with a balcony on three sides, a typical design of its time and difficult to heat. There were numerous rooms at the back reached by its own little bridge, school rooms and a kitchen, all very cobwebby! The caretaker's house was also part of the property down the dark side passage.

In its time it had been a very "posh" church with the local free church worthies, business people of the town, "very up-market" with named pews and "Woe-betide anyone sitting in my seat", sort of attitude. It was always the Super's Church and the main church in the circuit.



THE CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT: ORDER OF PUBLIC RELIGIOUS SERVICES, 1902.

Places and Hours of Morning Services, Morning Lessons	APRIL.				MAY.				JUNE.				JULY.	
	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	
CHELMSFORD Monday, P.M. Thursday	Orton Orton Orton	Horren Horren Orton	Kreunan Clarke Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Dawson ss Dawson ss Dawson	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
BRANTREE Monday Thursday	Horren Horren Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
MALDON Tuesday Friday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
WITCHAM Wednesday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
CORRESHALL Monday Thursday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
HATFIELD Tuesday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
GREAT TOTHAM Thursday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
GOLDHANGER Thursday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
OXNEY GREEN Wednesday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
BADDOW PARK Tuesday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	
EAST HANNINGFIELD Wednesday	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	Orton Orton Orton	

NOTICES.

1.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Brantree on Thursday, June 19th, at 3.30. Tea at 5. Local Preachers Meeting at 6.

The Quarterly Meeting is requested to meet Circuit Stewards at 3.0.

The Quarterly Meeting is requested to have the Statement of the Society Stewards and Week-night Services announced on the previous Sunday, and to forward Connexional Collections to the Superintendent, as early as possible.

3.—At Brantree it is desired that both parents be present, and due notice given to the Chapel Keeper.

4.—Every Preacher is expected to take his own appointments or himself provide an accredited substitute.

KEEPER-BENEFICES.

1. People's Service.
2. Sacrament of Lord's Supper.
3. Missionary Prayer Meeting.
4. Church and School.
5. Church Meeting.
6. Church Fund Collection.
7. First Fund.

1. Sermons to the Young.
2. Local Preachers' Travelling Expenses.
3. Chapel Anniversary.
4. Renewal of Tickets.
5. Wesley Guild.
6. Sunday School Anniversary.
7. Education Fund.
8. Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association.

NOTICES.

The Rev. J. T. Wattle Seaford will attend the Guild Festival at Chelmsford, on Wednesday, April 16th. Friends from all parts of the Circuit are cordially invited.

The Rev. W. Woodwell Jones, of Colchester, formerly of this Circuit, will preach at Chelmsford, on Sunday, June 29th, in aid of the Trust Funds.

The Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association Annual Meeting is held this year in London. They will receive the services at Chelmsford, Brantree, and Coggeshall on June 28th.

Contributions towards the Renovation of William Chapel will be thankfully received by Mr. Frisger, of William Chapel, the of the Renovation of Hethin Chapel by Mrs. Clarke, the of Street, Hatfield. Both are worthy of the generous help of our friends.

Ministers and Local Preachers.

Rev. THOMAS ORTON, Hamlet Road	Chelmsford
Rev. G. CRAIGS, 11, Kayne Road	Braintree
Rev. JOHN HOBDES	Maldon
Rev. J. JUTSUM, Great Totham	Richmond College
Student	Chelmsford
Mr. T. Rumble, 1, Swaitham Villas	Maldon
" S. F. Stratford	Chelmsford
" G. Young, 44, Anchor Street	Chelmsford
" A. G. E. Morton, J.P., 91, London Road	Maldon
" J. P. Freeman	Braintree
" G. Elizer, Bradford Street, Bocking	Maldon
" Joseph Wisbey	Maldon
" J. Lee, Mount View House	Stebbing
" W. F. Henshlin, Gas Office	Coggeshall
" A. H. Ellis, Station House	Chelmsford
" J. Taylor, 9, High Street	Chelmsford
" T. Overton, Springfield Street	Coggeshall
" W. East, Garange Villa	Chelmsford
" E. T. Thorogood, Baddow Road	Chelmsford
" J. Williams, 36, Hamlet Road	Chelmsford
" E. Tyler, Hindal Street	Chelmsford
" H. Glyn Waine, Lockertie	Chelmsford
" F. J. Smart, Fremford Villa, London Road	Chelmsford
" Newman, Baddow Road	Maldon
" E. Sains	Maldon
" G. S. Edmunds	Maldon
" A. Stringer	Maldon
Enn Trial.	
" A. E. Burgess, Rainsford End	Chelmsford
" A. Williams, Hamlet Road	Chelmsford
" A. Turner, Springfield Road	Chelmsford
" C. Gunton, Bechtingham	Witham
Exhortors.	
" H. Waldorf, Great Tacham	Witham
" G. H. Coleman, London Road	Chelmsford
" Rabies, Weight Road	Chelmsford
" Livermore	Maldon
FROM OTHER CIRCUITS AND CHURCHES.	
Rev. A. Jones	London
Rev. R. W. Hopewell	Braintree
Mr. Charles, Sadridge Lodge	London
" W. A. Trichell, London Hospital, E.	Colchester
" H. T. Walskin, 132, Maldon Road	Writtle
" E. A. Hunt	Writtle
" G. W. Isth, 8, Mansel Road	Maldon
" J. Stratford	Maldon
" F. Hale, Chigboro	Maldon
" Moss	Maldon
" F. T. Law, 24, Kentish Town Road	London, N. W.
" Sanders	London

N.B. - Wesleyan Periodicals, Hymn Books, and other publications may be had through the Ministers. Orders sent on the 15th of each month.

Special attention is called to the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, enlarged and illustrated; price 6d. Also to the Wesleyan Methodist Church Record, 1d.

Wesleyan Methodist Church.

PLAN

Chelmsford Circuit.

JANUARY 11th, to APRIL 12th, 1902.

Ministers:
 Rev. THOMAS ORTON, Hamlet Road, Chelmsford.
 Rev. CHARLES G. CRAIGS, Kayne Road, Braintree.
 Rev. JOHN HOBDES, Wante Road, Maldon.
 Rev. J. JUTSUM, Great Totham.

Circuit Stewards:
 ANDREW MORTON, J.P., Chelmsford.
 Mr. J. P. FREEMAN, Maldon.

Circuit Evangel Secretary:
 Mr. A. R. MORTON.

Mr. E. J. T. Treasurer:
 Mr. ROWE.
 Missionary Treasurer:
 Lieut-Col. G. H. COLEMAN.

The CHELMSFORD, BRAINTREE, MALDON, COGGESHALL, and HARTFELD Chapels are Registered for the solemnization of Matrimony. Application to be made to the Ministers.

Price 7pence.

CHURCH STEWARDS.

CHELMSFORD.	POOR.	CHAPEL AND FEW.
Mr. T. Reynolds	Mr. Digby	Mr. Leach
Mr. Rowe	Mr. Norris	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Coleman	Mr. F. Collins
	Mr. Davis	Mr. F. Fox
BRAINTREE.	Mr. Sorrell	Mr. W. F. Parkes
Mr. Elger	Mr. Ager	
Mr. H. A. Parkes		
MALDON.		
Mr. T. A. Dearth	Mr. Lymore	Mr. E. Hope
Mr. W. Wright	Mr. Bethel	
WITHEAM.		
Mr. Granger	Mr. Voell	Mr. Granger
COGGESHALL.		
Mr. Hotchkin	Mr. Hartley	Mr. East
Mr. East	Mr. W. M. Sign	
HARTFELD.		
Mrs. Clarke	Mr. Barker	Mrs. Clarke
Mr. Barker	Mr. Sparcks	

PASTORAL VISITATION OF CLASSES.

CHELMSFORD.	Sunday, February 23rd, 9.45 a.m.
Mr. Goulton	Monday, " 24th, 8.15 p.m.
A. R. Morton	Tuesday, " 25th, 8.0 "
Leach	Monday, " 28th, 8.15 "
Rumbles	" "
Taylor	March 3rd, 8.15 "
Mrs. Sargeant	Tuesday, " 4th, 3.30 "
Mrs. Rowe	Wednesday, " 5th, 7.0 "
Miss Morton	Tuesday, " 4th, 8.0 "
Junior Boys	Monday, " 3rd, 7.15 "
Junior Girls	Tuesday, " 4th, 6.15 "
BRAINTREE.	
Minister's	Monday, " 3rd
Mrs. Richardson	" 10th
MALDON.	
Mr. Finch	Sunday, February 16th, 12.0 noon
Mrs. Freeman	Monday, " 17th, 7.30 p.m.
Mrs. T. Jordan	" 18th, " "
Mrs. Bateman	Tuesday, " 18th, 8.30 "
	Monday, " 17th, 6.0 "

SOME THOUGHTS ON METHODISM IN CHELMSFORD

THE WESLEYANS

It is believed that the first Wesleyans meetings were held in the home of John Leech in Springfield and in room above Leech's Gun Shop in Tindal Street (currently a takeaway food shop). The early 1820's the first Wesleyan Meeting House was built in Springfield Road, somewhere near the present Iceland Frozen Food Centre. This served until 1843 when a second chapel was built almost opposite and the original Chapel was taken over by the Salvation Army. The new Chapel was described as 'being of no particular architectural beauty'. It was extended in 1860 and again in about 1870 to provide seating for 300. Subsequently, this building was used as a garage and car sales showroom, as accommodation for the Auxiliary Fire Services in the second world war, as the first JET Petrol Station and was finally demolished in the 1950's to make way for the new Tesco Store.

In 1897 a site was purchased in the High Street adjacent to the Stone Bridge beside the river Can for the sum of £1350 and the new Chapel was opened in May 1898. It was a handsome building in the Gothic Style and seated some 1500 people with a gallery on three sides and a chancel with communion table at the east end.



The Schoolroom which contained several large rooms, kitchen and toilets was separated from the main Chapel building by a small channel that linked between the rivers Chelmer and Can. The property was subject to frequent flooding. The Chapel was the centre of Chelmsford Wesleyan Circuit with other chapels in such places as Maldon High Street, Braintree Rayne Road, Hatfield Peverel and Goldhanger. The circuit Superintendent lived in 14 Queens Road.

THE PRIMITIVES

Not a lot is recorded as to the beginnings of Primitive Methodism, although it is known that there was an early Chapel in Baddow Lane in the vicinity of the Odeon roundabout. The Hall Street Chapel was built in mid 1880s and this was the centre of Chelmsford Primitive Circuit with other chapels in such places as Galleywood, Broomfield and Howe Street. The Circuit Minister lived in 88 Mildmay Road.

As the turn of the century a successful mission was held in the Rainsford Road area of the town and in 1914 a 'temporary' chapel was opened, firstly as a hostel for soldiers and later as a place of worship. This continued until 1960!

METHODIST UNION

With the coming of the Methodist Union in 1932 the Wesleyan and Primitive Circuits were united to form the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit based around the High Street Church. It was a very wide area from Maldon and Goldhanger in the east to Witham in the north and Halstead in the west.

There were churches in many quaint villages many of which have long since closed – Bardfield Sailing, Stebbing (Bran End), Gt Bardfield, High Garrett, Gt Totham etc. It is interesting to note that in later years, members from High Street, would journey by cars to Gt Bardfield (some 20 miles) on Sunday afternoons to encourage the small Society there. Unfortunately, support from the locality was not forthcoming and the church closed – it has since been converted into a very nice house!

AFTER THE WAR YEARS

After the war years of 1939/45, congregations at the High Street Church began to dwindle. There was constant flooding and it was found that the building was beginning to sink into the river. There were various schemes to protect the structure and adapt it for modern day use but all these faltered. It was about this time that new manse was built in Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford. It was soon felt that the house was too far from the town centre and it was sold-on for demolition and future development. It is interesting to note that the house was not far from the present Manse in Dombey Close.

In 1958 the Revd. Norman Povey was appointed a Circuit Superintendent Minister with the directive to re-organise the Churches in the area. The hope was to close all three churches in the town and then erect a new purpose-built Church on a town centre site. Such a site proved to be unavailable and after much soul searching the congregation of High Street, Rainsford End agreed to unite and to build a new Church

on the Rainsford Road site. The Hall St. folk felt that it was too far from their present site and thus did not join in the total scheme.

The High St. site was sold to the Cater Food chain for the sum of £75000. The Rainsford End church closed in the summer of 1960, the congregation joining with those at High St. The final service in the High St Church was held on Easter Day 1961. Unfortunately, the new Trinity Church was not complete by that time and thus Sunday services continued for the next six months in the London Road Congregational School Halls (now under Parkway) with the afternoon Sunday School meeting in the Friends Meeting House. Weekday activities were held in the Hall St Church and in the Friars CP School (also now under Parkway). The first services in the new Church were held in the Autumn of 1961 but the first floor was not complete for a further few months.

At the time of the closure of the High Street, my father, along with Robert Heywood, the senior Church Steward, moved the Circuit Safe from the Church Vestry to Elms Farm, Roxwell, for the safe keeping! On the Easter Monday after the final services, younger members of the Church met in the School Room where we ripped up some of the wooden floor blocks and lit a roaring fire in the open grate and played silly games together. The very next day the demolition contractors moved in and that was the end of High Street Methodist Church and also the end of another chapter in the life of Chelmsford Methodism.

The foundation stones at Trinity Church were laid by Mr J King, a lifelong member of the Rainsford End Church (and father of Les King) and Mrs Donald Leech. It is interesting to note that Donald Leech was the son of Arthur Leech, a vulnerable member of the High St Church, who in turn was a relative of John Leech mentioned in the paragraph.

The remainder of the proceeds from the High St sales went towards the erection of the Church on the Moulsham Lodge estate, with smaller contributions to the re-building of the Churches at Broomfield and Witham.

TRINITY IS BORN

The building design was developed in the late 1950 and the relatively small site resulted in the design of a 2/3 storey building to be able to provide the accommodation required, with the worship area on the ground floor and gallery seating 350 people and a hall of similar size on the first floor. A three-storey 'annex' provided a vestry, three meeting rooms and a kitchen and toilets. The hope was expressed at the time to acquire additional land at present used as a builder's yard. The gallery was subsequently omitted before it was built, with the loss of about 70 seats.

The building, to be known as Trinity Methodist Church, was designed to be a church 'in the modern idiom' to be constructed of reinforced concrete and brick with large vertical windows flooding the building with light; with a copper covered pitched roof.

The worship area had a wall mounted communion table and black stained mahogany communion rail. Above the table was a large mosaic panel with a gold and purple cross set on a blue background, graduating from blue at the bottom to light blue at the top.

Two large carved stone panels, depicting some of the local industries and farming were set in the external wall, one over the main entrance to the church and the other in the wall adjacent to the entrance to the car park. The front elevation was completed with the installation of a large sixteen feet high stone cross.



Trinity was opened for worship in October 1961 with a membership close to 300 plus a large Sunday School, but the hall and some other rooms were not completed until a few months later.

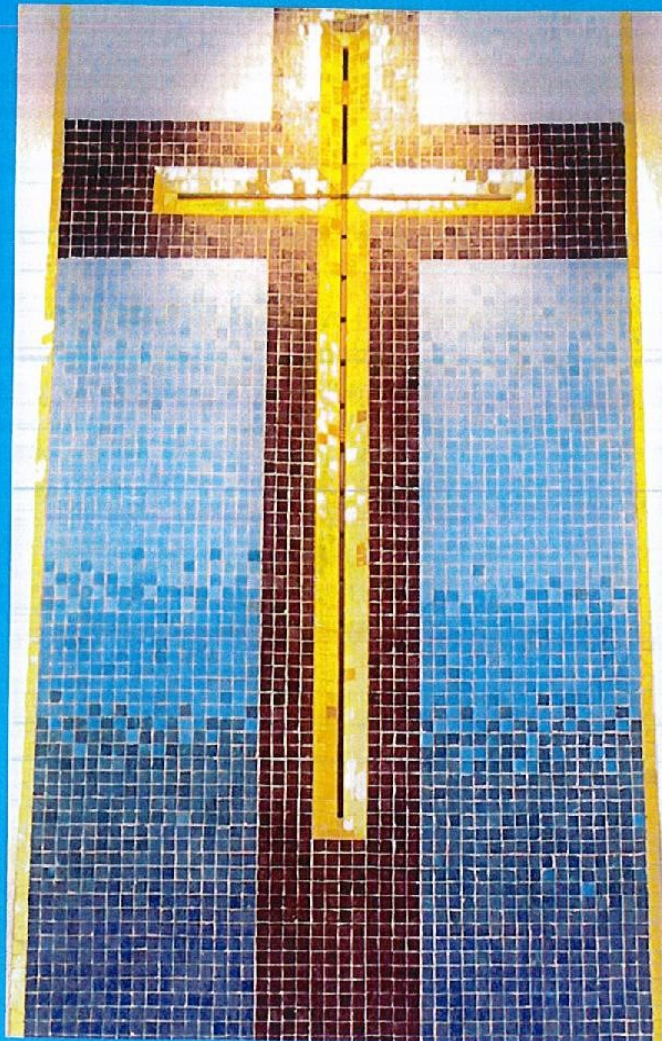
Trinity had a relatively large membership and a good number at Sunday Worship. The membership remained over 300 until about 1995 and peaked in the 1980's as more people moved into the growing town of Chelmsford. The building has been adapted over the years to meet the changing nature of church life and society at large.

With a large membership and Junior Church, there was a need for additional space and in 1984 'The Link' was added with a meeting room, kitchen and toilets.

Around 1992 the office and administration grew and there was need an office. At the rear of the building, there was a spare piece of land and here it was possible to erect an office.

Approaching the millennium, it was recognised that the Worship Area was looking very tired and dated. After careful consideration and design by a professional Architect, in 1999 the area was refurbished and re-decorated. The centre of the ceiling was recessed and painted sky blue.

The lighting was redesigned and upgraded and a new warm air heating system installed. A raised dais, with three levels was built at the front with a removable communion table and pulpit. The ladies of the Church made new pulpit falls and kneelers for the rail. These were covered with tapestry depicting various aspects of Chelmsford life.



The Cross in Trinity Methodist Church

The Mosaic panel is illuminated by fluorescent tubes suspended behind it. The panel has a large cross cut into it through which the light shines and is reflected by the gold splayed edges, which contrast sharply with the surrounding purple mosaic which completes the cross. Purple and gold were selected, not only for their contrasting effect but also because of their traditional association with the story of Christ. The remainder of the panel is filled with blue mosaic graduating from dark blue at the bottom to very light blue at the top. Blue was chosen because of its association with heaven, and the graduation of shades was inspired by Salvador Dali's painting of the crucifixion. The panel symbolises Man's salvation by Christ; the Cross being the ladder between the darkness and the light.

MY MEMORIES AS ORGANIST AT TRINITY 1961—2014

Several weeks have passed since my last Sunday in July and I have had time to recall memories of 'days gone by'.

I was appointed as organist in the former High Street Church in 1960 and played at the final service there. As a church we were homeless for several months and it was not until 1961 that we began services in the present building. The organ was a Burge electronic type with two very large wall mounted loudspeakers. By some fluke, the speakers were able on occasions to pick up messages from passing police cars!

The minister at this time was Revd. Norman Povey, who had been specifically sent to Chelmsford to close the old church. He was a very strong personality and could hold his congregation 'spellbound'. In 1962, he was moved to Great Yarmouth to close yet another Church! He was followed by the Revd. Roy Freeman, a very different person to his predecessor. He told me quite regularly of his piano examination grades and the different examiners he had experienced. He was also Chaplain at the prison where I was also organist on alternate Sunday mornings. He was unable to drive, and I spent many hours transporting him from his Manse at the top of Patching Lane to his various local appointments!

In 1969 the Revd. Francis Case was appointed, another quite different person. He was very quiet but at the same time very determined as a Minister. Unfortunately, he died before the end of his five years. He was followed by the Revd. Roland Wilson who had come from Christchurch in Dorset, where his congregation was so large that they had to have two services every Sunday. He could only be described as holy, a true man-of-God and a very devoted Minister. He made it known before his arrival that he was to be addressed as the Revd. Roland Wilson. He had been organist at his College Chapel, and he knew what he wanted musically, and I still use some of his music! Unfortunately, he also died before the end of his allotted time.

For the next fifteen months Trinity was in the hands of the Revd. Ronald Taylor, who was also Minister at Witham. The Revd. Roland Joiner had already been appointed earlier to take the place of Rowland Wilson and after his retirement and eventually he took his position at Trinity in September 1980. Rowland, who came to us from Leytonstone in East London was a very lively and energetic person and it was in this time, that to cope with increasing size of congregations, it became necessary to commence the second morning service at 9.30am. In fact, for festival and other special services, it became necessary to hold services in larger venues in the town. This found me playing in the Civic Theatre, the Chancellor Hall and King Edward V1 School Hall. Rowland Joiner also had a great love for music and he too knew what he wanted! I am still in contact with Roland as he journeys between his homes in Grays and the USA!

In the early 1980's it became apparent that urgent repair work was necessary to the organ. As mentioned earlier, this was of the electronic valve type and it was the last model to me manufactured by Burge before they changed over to transistors and hence replacement valves were unobtainable.

By way of replacement we were fortunate to obtain a redundant pipe organ from a parish church in the suburbs of Birmingham. This was overhauled by a professional organ builder and the associated pipework was installed on the purpose-built platform at the back of Trinity. (In the original church design, it was anticipated that a gallery would be added at this point). A new organ console connected by low voltage wiring to the pipework was placed roughly where it still stands. The total cost of the purchase, cleaning and overhauling, the associated builders works, and electrical wiring was in the region of £11,000.

It was also during this time that the former Chair of the District, the Revd. Deryck Collingwood, became both Minister at Little Baddow UR Church and part-time Minister at Trinity. He was an outstanding preacher and personality and for some he had a certain aura. He presented me with a copy of his College Psalter.

It could be said that up to the present, the early years of the 1980's were the 'zenith years' of Trinity. There was a large membership, many of whom attended church regularly, some of these had young families and their children formed part of the large church. There were some very capable youth workers and part of their annual programme was to take a large group of teenagers to visit various Youth Hostels across the country. Congregations were so large that when the children were in church it was necessary to sit on cushions between the chairs. As a result of this, for anniversaries and Festival Days the congregation would meet in venues such as the Civic Theatre, the Chancellor Hall and the assembly hall of King Edward VI School Hall.

In the late 70's/80's, it was then that the age of the personal computers had arrived, and folk were having to prepare printed notice sheets and church magazines etc in their homes. It was then that the provision of a church office would be considered and in due course, following the necessary funding, the office was built on a spare parcel of land at the rear of the church. Access being provided through the ground floor meeting room. It provides accommodation for the volunteer Church Secretaries together with the necessary computers and printing facilities and has the benefit of being close to the Minister's vestry.

Of late, more Circuit Administration is taking place there.

It was in the middle years of the 1980's that the adjacent building, a warehouse of a local builder's merchant, became available for sale. It was considered that this added space would be an asset to the work of the church. The purchase went through and plans were drawn up as to how we could adapt the premises. Apart from the necessary essential building services, most of the work, including provision of a new roof and the provision of insulation to the internal walls, was carried out by self-help provided by members of the congregation.

This project involved a large amount of fund raising and as this time it became apparent that the church organ also needed upgrading. It was an electronic type organ and it was one of the last to operate through valves. An option was to purchase a second-hand pipe organ and following research by Peter Hindes and Keith Byatt, a suitable model became available in a redundant church in Birmingham. This was in due course purchased and the whole instrument was overhauled and fitted on a cantilever bracket at the back of the church, complete with a new electric console at the front of the church. The total cost, including the purchase, the overhaul and fixing of the platform, pipework and wiring was £11,000.

In 1987 the Revd. Hamer Savage became Minister, together with his wife Sister Rita Savage, who has responsibility for Broomfield Church. He was a quiet and self-effacing person but perhaps he will be remembered for his pastoral care and his capacity to remember peoples' names. It was in 1986 that the new Ecumenical Church at South Woodham Ferrers was opened, and the Revd. Hinch was appointed as the Methodist Minister of the team. He shared his time there as assistant Minister at Trinity.

In 1992 it was decided to place the Circuit Superintendent at Maldon and the Revd. Dr Bill Parks became Minister at Trinity. In his last circuit he had been Mayor of Dudley and he had been to America on several Ministerial exchanges. His quality lay in his preaching and his love to Sankey and Moody hymns, but he also has a great affection for modern hymns of the time. My main problem was his habit for repeating verses at the end of the hymns without warning me! He was a sick man and suffered a lot of pain and it sometimes reflected in his moods. At this time, the assistance Minister was the Revd. Tony Perry. He and his wife had previously been Salvation Army Officers. He could be remembered perhaps for his rather long and sometimes drawn-out sermons, especially on Sunday evenings. In 1996 the Circuit Superintendency was brought back to Trinity and Dr Bill became Superintendent. The Revd. Mark Davies was appointed to act as assistant Minister at Trinity, he came from Devon where he was Minister to a very large congregation. Following the retirement of Bill Parkes in 1998, Mark became Superintendent. For twelve months 1998/99 the assistance Minister was the Revd. Jeffrey Wilson who, with his wife the Revd. Robyn Wilson (Minister at Broomfield) were on placement from the USA. It was a joy to experience the different culture of American Methodism.

To celebrate the new millennium, it was decided to redecorate the church and to carry out certain remodelling works. These works included the provision of a covered way between the church and the Link Building. It had long been thought necessary to provide a modern electric passenger lift to serve all floors. An architect was appointed and a scheme was drawn up to include the church remodelling, the Link between the two buildings and the loft. There was a problem with the costings as prepared by the Quantity Surveyor and the tender provided to a considerably in excess of the estimate and the monies so far promised by the congregation.

In view of the considerable monies that the congregation had raised for other recent works that had occurred recently, they were not prepared to raise the additional funds to meet the balance between the budget and the tender. Therefore, for the time being only the re-decoration and re-modelling of the church proceeded. Time passed and the need for some form of lift was resurrected. Some members had used a form of Platform Lift in local shops and stores that was suitable for either a wheelchair and an attendant and two passengers. There were certain limitations, such as the limited speed of the car, the need to hold the button down continuously whilst in motion and more particularly, compared with the normal type of lift that was originally considered, this lift was somewhat inferior. However, the price of this proposal was more in keeping with the budget. Further tender documents were prepared including the lift and the Link corridor between the two buildings and, in due course, a satisfactory tender was accepted, and the installation works proceeded. (In retrospect, I would suggest that the wrong decisions were taken, in firstly not providing the lift as originally specified and secondly, finally providing the sub-standard platform type lift!).

In September 1998 the Revd. Barnard Arnold became our Minister and Superintendent. He and his wife Ruth had moved from Colchester and it is rumoured that a whole fleet of furniture vans moved them from their large manse in Colchester to a somewhat smaller house in Newland Springs. The church had gone through some very difficult months, but Bernard was welcomed to a recently refurbished and remodelled building for a fresh start. He was with us for nine years and for me, one of the memorable occasions was when the Circuit hosted at the Cathedral, the inauguration of the Methodist District with the appointment of Revd. Anne Brown as District Chair—I was at the cathedral organ and our choir were in the choir stalls. For a time, the assistant Minister was the Revd. Ken Nicholls. This was his first appointment on leaving college.

In 2004, the Methodist Church nationally, was encouraged to make efforts to work more closely with their local Parish Church and maybe forge a local covenant between respective churches. Trinity is in the Parish of Ascension with All Saints in Maltese Road. However, at that time, Trinity also had a very close relationship with the Cathedral, mainly through the efforts of Revd. Barnard Arnold who was Minister at that time. In the circumstances and after considerable consultation with members of the respective churches, a binding Covenant was formed between the Cathedral, the Ascension with All Saints and Trinity. This Covenant is still active. In recent months a celebration was held at the Cathedral to mark the 15th anniversary of the Covenant.

It was in September 2008 that the Revd. Vivienne Gasteen was appointed as Superintendent—the very first lady Minister for Trinity. It was in the previous October, that Maureen and I as Senior Circuit Stewards had the privilege to be the first to meet Viv and by that evening, we were able to offer her the Appointment which she was pleased to accept. Viv's ministry at Trinity was highlighted by her enormous energy and her ability to welcome people by name. Her easy manner with people attracted them to Trinity and the Congregation and Junior Church increased significantly in numbers. Her empathy with people was very evident when conducting Funerals. She also witnessed from her local pub where she watched live football regularly and was always available for a 'chat' with the locals, several of whom felt able to call upon her when in need. She initiated the 'AA' meetings at Trinity which are still flourishing as an integral part of Trinity's Outreach. She participated in the weekly Communion Service with Clergy at the Cathedral and had close links with the Catholic Priests. After seven years of extremely busy and productive years of Ministry in Chelmsford, Viv decided to take her well earned retirement to The Wirral, close to Liverpool where she has continued with part time Ministry.

Moving onto 2014/15, it was now considered that the condition, size and the facilities that were provided in the existing kitchen were insufficient to meet current regulations. It lacked the sufficient modern appliances and as such was not attractive to those wanting to hire the facilities. The decision was taken to possibly remodel and extend the building and the necessary fund raising was started. In due course a scheme was designed, and tenders invited. An extra pod was to be built onto the kitchen and sadly this took away two parking spaces along the side of The Link. Tenders were invited and accepted, and the works completed. This has proved to be an asset to the church and those who would wish to hire this facility.

In the last few months of Viv's time in Chelmsford the Circuit Stewards were busy preparing and viewing profiles, regarding the appointment of a new Circuit Superintendent. Unfortunately, at the first meeting of Connexional Stationing meeting, there was nobody who appeared to be suitable or who even wanted to move to this area. It was after further Stationing meetings that still no one was available and the District Chairman had to intervene to find someone to fill this important position. So in September 2015 began the ministry of the Revd. Mike Lewis, together with his wife Pam. In September of the next year the Minister at Moulsham Lodge should have been replaced but it became apparent that the Circuit membership had fallen below a certain number. This meant that it was not either permissible or financially viable to make an appointment. As a result, Mike, as Superintendent, became responsible for the five churches. He offered to conduct two services on a Sunday morning. In order to do this, it would be necessary for one of the Churches to change their start time. As none of the other Churches were prepared to change it fell upon Trinity!

So began a new era at Trinity of morning service at 9.30am! This situation was not all together totally accepted or happily received by the congregation. Eventually it was arranged for a Deacon to help in the running of the five City Churches and in due course we welcomed Deacon Ramona Samuel. She has proved to be a real asset to the Circuit. We were sad when Peter Hindes died, he had been assistant organist for many years and later had become the Organist. At about the same time, our choir Mistress Liz Tiplin, felt that the time had come for her to stop driving between New Eltham and Chelmsford and so she retired, she too is very much missed. The organ continues to be played by Gerald Hindes, Sarah Stonehouse (local professional organist) and Keith Byatt. Mike was a capable guitar player and often led the singing for Family Services. Both Mike and Pam experienced times of poor health but happily they recovered. In due time, Mike's ministry of our years passed and it was time for him to retire. They were fortunate to find a suitable bungalow near the south coast and we wish them a long and happy retirement together.

In September 2019 we were very pleased to welcome, as Circuit Superintendent and Minister of the Chelmsford City Churches, the Revd. Mark Pengelly and his wife Sheridan and we look forward with prayer and hope for many years of successful ministry and witness.

When this Church was first opened, Rainsford Road was one of the main roads connecting towns and villages with the town centre. In the early 80's a dual carriage inner relief road was built though the town from east to west. One of the outcomes of this was that a large parcel of land was left next to The County Hotel and opposite the Church. The road outside the Church became a cul-de-sac. The vacant land was left in the hands of the Essex County Council who used it for staff parking. At weekends and the evenings, the Church was permitted to use the area for Church member parking. In recent months the land has been sold and will be used for sheltered housing. This loss of parking facilities is causing considerable inconvenience to both Church goers and those who hire our premises. However, as always people are adaptable and Church life goes on, as must be God's will.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

It is said that 'Methodism was born in song' and music has always played a prominent part in local Church life. In the 1950's a series of celebrity concerts were held in the High Street Church amongst those who appeared in front of large audiences were; The Luton Girls' Choir (a popular choir at the time), Gwen Catley soprano and Isobel Baille, the soprano. On this occasion a large queue formed over the Stone Bridge towards the Regent Theatre.

The High St Church, and of course Trinity, have always been proud of a good choir.

The organist at High Street for some years was Fred Billington who later moved to the London Rd Congregational Church and then to Christchurch when that Church was built.

He was succeeded by Dudley Lovegrove and to mark the closure of the High St Church, he arranged for a performance by the Church choir of Judas Maccabaeus by Handel, supported by professional soloists.

The anthem that was sung on the Sunday morning that the High St and Rainsford Rd congregation united was "The Heavens are Telling" from the Creation by Haydn, with soloists from the choir.

Dudley then moved away and I was appointed Organist. Due to early demolition works, the final service was held in the adjacent school hall with piano accompaniment and with me playing the Te Deum! The original organ at High Street was a two manual pipe instrument and was in poor condition due to lack of service and to flooding. It was finally scrapped.

The choir moved to Trinity Church under new direction—Ron Wade as Conductor and me as Organist.

Unfortunately, Ron was soon promoted at work and he had to move away.



It was at this time that Ken and Margaret moved to Trinity and Margaret was soon invited to become Choir Leader and she and I had some good time together. She used to sit next to me by the organ console and conduct the choir across the Church—no room for any of my mistakes! As a choir we had the privilege to learn and present a completely new work—it was Christmas Cantata 'This Child Behold' by Donald Cashmore (he was well known at the time) and his work is still nationally performed. When Margaret retired, I held the joint post of Organist/Choir master for a short while but this proved to be too much for me and we were pleased that Liz Tiplin was appointed Conductor. I had known Liz in other music circles and I believe that we worked happily together over the years. I had had assistant Organists: Albert Stoakley and Peter Hindes. Albert was older than me, I was less experienced and we sometimes clashed! Peter and I have worked together for years and he helped me in so many ways. I greatly appreciated his help when we selected and installed the 'new organ'. The first organ at Trinity was a three manual electronic type and was the very last to be manufactured by the company using valves. It was complete with two wall mounted speakers. In the early 1980's it became impossible to obtain spare parts and the organ was replaced with the current instrument. This was a second hand two manual pipe organ purchased from a Parish Church in Birmingham. It was restored and installed at Trinity by Henry Groves of Nottingham at a total cost of £10,000.

In the early years at Trinity there was an ambitious production in the Church, under the direction of Len Marrington of 'The Zeal of Thy House' by Dorothy L Sayers. This was a spectacular event and involved many members of both the congregation and choir. This could be considered as the beginning of the current Trinity Drama and Music Society.

SOME PERSONAL ANECDOTES

My paternal grandparents were members of the Peculiar Peoples' Chapel in Legg Street (behind the Cathedral) but as membership of the sect did not allow care by a doctor, they transferred to the Hall St Methodist Chapel. My maternal grandparents were lifelong members of the Peculiar Peoples' Chapel in Gt Baddow, but my grandmother was president for several years of the Women's Own at the Galleywood Methodist Church – an early ecumenist!

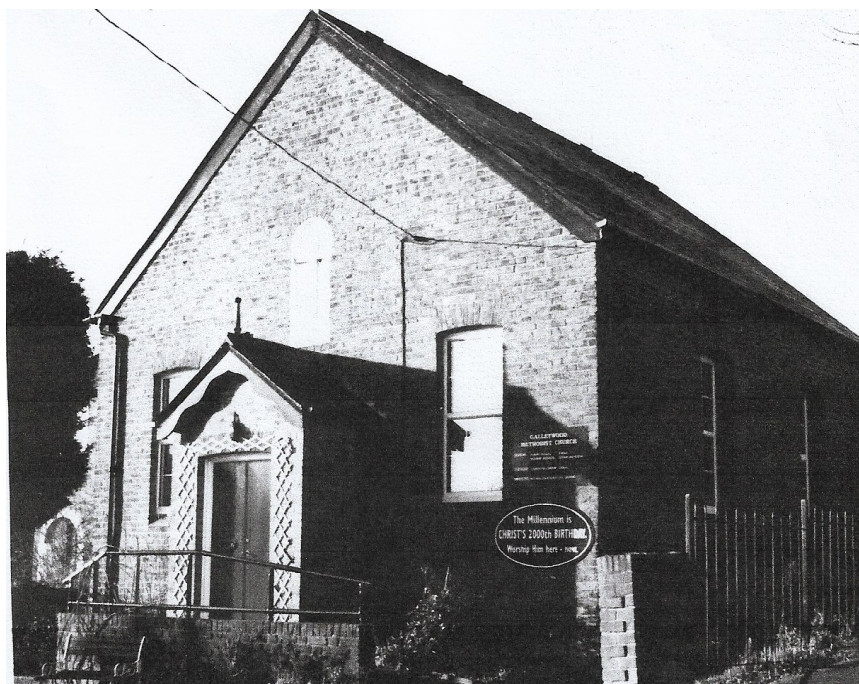
My mother as a teenager rebelled against the and became involved in both Hall St and Galleywood churches. Her parents were heavily criticised by their Chapel authorities and received a severe lecture by the People's Bishop with a treat of discommunication! She was married to my father in Hall St and I was later baptised there – some members of the family were disgusted that the water was contained in a pudding basin – “primitive Methodism”!

***Peculiar People** were a Christian movement that was originally an offshoot of the Wesleyan denomination, founded in 1838 in Rochford, Essex, by James Banyard, a farm-worker's son born in 1800. They derive their name from a phrase found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament of the King James Bible, in Deuteronomy and 1 Peter.*

In the King James Version of the Bible, first published in 1611, Deuteronomy 14:2 reads as follows:

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."

It will be seen that the phrase 'Peculiar People' was not in any way a criticism, but a proud Biblical phrase that could be viewed as a badge of honour.





Throughout the 1939/45 war years and for some time after, my parents and I would go each Sunday morning to Hall St and then by bus to Galleywood for the afternoon service. My father played the harmonium there and was also secretary to the Trust. I would comment on a lot of local preachers that I heard as a child! The minister at the time was Rev. Wilfred Little – he is now in his nineties and is still a vice-president of the Methodist Church Music Society.

I particularly remember one dark Sunday night waiting for my Mother for a bus at Galleywood Eagle, when planes came over and bombed the house of the Mayor (next to the present Christchurch in London Road) and killed him

and all his family. When the bus eventually came, we had to go down London Road past all the rescue activities.

The highlight of the year at Galleywood was Easter Monday tea and entertainment. This involved much sharing of ration coupons to provide a tea of egg and cucumber sandwiches and homemade cakes. The entertainment sometimes took the form of a concert by the Hove St Chapel Choir and would include the stripping of the Treasure Tree!

In my early teen's year, my parents felt that I should go to a Church where there were more young people – so we 'graduated' to High St. We were not complete strangers there as my Aunt & Uncle were members (having also moved from Hall St) and we did all worship together there as a family on occasions. Also, my cousin who had recently completed her course at the Royal Academy of Music was organist for a short time. I did not attend Sunday School there, as we still journeyed to Galleywood in the afternoon, but I was a member of the very active Junior Wesley Guild.

As the years passed, we stopped going to Galleywood and became fully integrated into the High St Church. I became assistant organist, with the honorarium of two guineas per annum also singing in the choir. On Sundays after the evening service there was usually a time of hymn singing and fellowship for all ages. I had to play for this quite often and it taught me a lot about sight reading and the Methodist Hymn Book – I was ably guided by one Wyn Foster-Jones.

OTHER CHURCHES THAT I HAVE PLAYED IN OVER THE YEARS

Chelmsford Prison

For many years, before the disastrous fire, I played the Organ for both Methodist and Anglican Services.

Holy Trinity Church Springfield

Many years ago, I was invited by the local Vicar to help out on several occasions, including a Confirmation Service.

St John's Church Moulsham

For a whole summer, I played for morning services while the organist was away sick. I managed the service at 9.30am before making for Trinity at 11am!

Little Baddow United Reform Church

For many years I have played the organ for the Welsh Society services.

Chelmsford Brother Hood meeting at the now demolished Baddow Road Congregational Church.

I played the organ here for two years while the organist was on National Service. A weekly service on each Sunday afternoon, with four hymns and a soloist but with no advance warning as to the music to be played!

All Saints Church Deganwy North Wales

For a number of years I played the organ here for the morning Eucharist services. I am of help to the local organist who suffers poor health. The great thing is that I am able to choose my own hymns, suitable for the respective season!

Wedding and Funeral Services

Over the years, I have been invited to play the organ at many Wedding and Funeral Services, in all the various denominations, with many different types of instruments and in all parts of the country.

Cymanfa Ganu (Welsh Singing Festivals)

For many occasions I have played at these annual festivals, to accompany the singing. Stock All Saints (three times), Roxwell St. Michaels (three times) and once at the Ascension Chelmsford.

MINISTERS AT TRINITY METHODIST, CHELMSFORD

Rev. Norman Povey	1961-1964
Rev. Roy Freeman	1964-1969
Rev. Frances Case	1969-1973
Rev. Roland Wilson	1973-1979
Rev. Ronald Taylor <i>Temp Superintendent</i>	1979-1980
Rev. Rowland Joiner	1980-1987
Rev. Deryck Collingwood <i>Joint with Little Baddow</i>	1982-1984
Rev. Hamer Savage	1987-1992
Rev. Raymond Hinch <i>Joint with South Woodham Ferrers</i>	1987-1991
Rev. Anthony Perry <i>Joint with South Woodham Ferrers</i>	1991-1996
Rev. Dr William Parkes	1992-1998
Rev. Mark Davies	1996-1999
Rev. Jeff Wilson <i>From USA - Joint with Broomfield</i>	1998-1999
Rev. Kenneth Nicolls <i>Joint with Broomfield</i>	1999-2001
Rev. Bernard Arnold	1999-2008
Rev. Vivienne Gasteen	2008-2015
Rev. Mike Lewis	2015-2019
Rev. Mark Pengelly	2019 -

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

1.GALLEYWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 2011, the Membership and Trustees of Galleywood Church, decided that now that the membership of the Church had fallen below 9 members, sadly the time had come to see closure of the Society. The necessary discussions were held at Circuit and District Levels and the closure of the Church was finally agreed at the September Synod. After a few weeks, the final service was conducted in the Church led by Revd. Vivienne Gasteen, attended by old friends and members from other Circuit Churches. For me it brought back many childhood memories, particularly of my father playing the harmonium.

The following year, I was the Circuit Property Secretary and it was my duty to organise the sale of the property. I arranged for the appointment of an Estate Agent and the sale was advertised locally. In due time a purchase was agreed with a local resident, in the sum of £120,000. The internal height of the Church was such that it was possible to provide a mezzanine floor and together with some 'velux' type roof lights, it became an attractive house.

2.THE YEAR 2020

This year brought about a world-wide Coronavirus pandemic, Covid 19, which originated in China and reached Britain in March. The effects were to be brutal, resulting in the death of over £46,000 people. The government ordered a complete 'lockdown' in an attempt to contain the virus.

This lockdown resulted in all places of worship being closed down completely and led to the introduction of 'virtual' Church services on-line, using various means of transmission such as YouTube and Zoom. In the case of Trinity, the 10am Sunday morning service saw us sitting down at home, in front of our laptops or iPad to join in worship with the other five Methodist Churches in Chelmsford, led by the Minister and volunteer readers and musicians. On three evenings each week, a prayer time was introduced on-line.

At the time of writing (July 2020), the lockdown is starting to be eased in stages but it is far from being clear as to when the Churches will be opened again for worship or the remainder of the buildings opened again for normal week day activities and lettings. One this is for sure, life will never be the same again!!



View from Moulsham Street to the High Street—pre 1913

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