

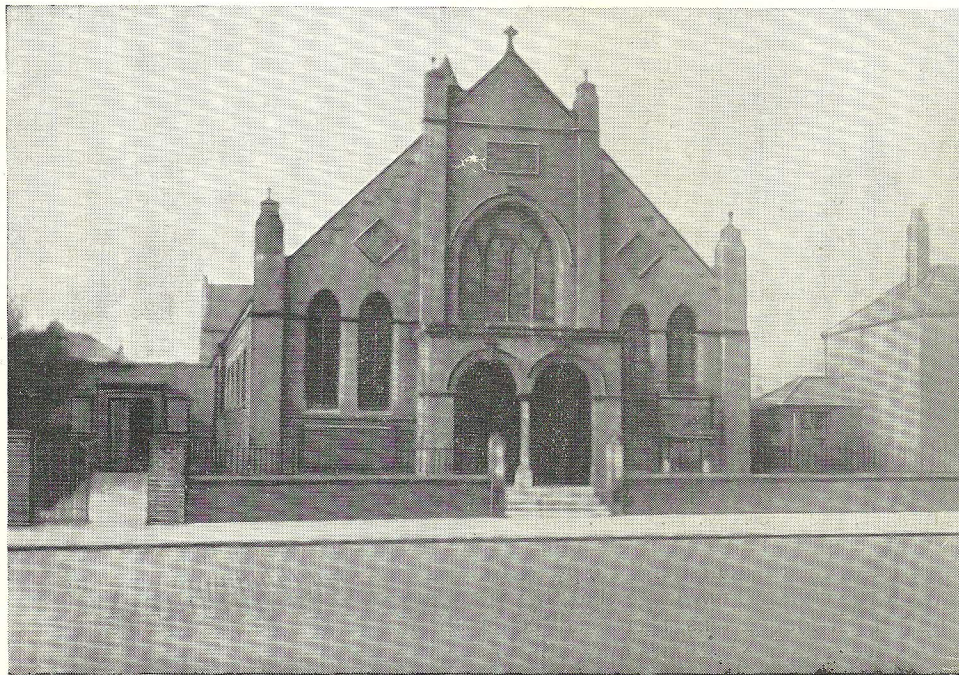
METHODIST CHURCH,

WORSLEY ROAD :: SWINTON

1850 - Centenary - 1950

Celebrations - Saturday, May 20th, 1950

Thanksgiving Services Sunday, May 21st, 1950



Please bring this Booklet with you on both the Saturday and the Sunday

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

*For all the Saints who from their labours rest
Who Thee by Faith before the world confessed
. . . Alleluia*

In 1850, the Wesleyan Methodist Association began its career in Moor Lane (now named Worsley Road) where John Chapman (who lived in Folly Lane) by the aid of James Johnson and his two sons William and Joseph, soon gathered a few friends together by holding cottage prayer meetings; camp meetings were also held in the field near the Dacca Twist Mill where a large number of people came to hear the gospel preached.

The success of the work in this hired preaching room led to the Services being transferred to larger premises.

A Dr. Dorning was at this time building two cottages in Bold Street; these two cottages are still standing and are numbered 1 and 3 and situated in Shaftesbury Road, off Worsley Road. After a visit being made by some of the friends, they considered that these cottages could be so constructed as to be very useful as a Sunday School and a room for holding Divine Service. As a result of an interview with the Doctor, he consented to so alter the property as to meet the requirements at a rent of £9 for the first year and £10 per year afterwards. As a guarantee for the rent had to be given, six members of the St. Stephen Street Church, Salford, promised £1 each per year, the remainder being made up by collections. Sunday School and preaching services were soon conducted in this place of worship, members steadily increased and then John Chapman died but the work was still carried on by those left behind.

In 1857 the Protestant Methodist, the Wesleyan Methodist Association, and the Wesleyan Reform Association united together and founded the United Methodist Free Churches, with the Rev. Arthur Hands as President. At the close of the year 1864 James Johnson died, the funeral service being preached by the Rev. Joseph Rendell before a crowded congregation.

The preaching room in Bold Street (now called Shaftesbury Road) becoming too small owing to increasing numbers, the old school and Chapel were built in 1865 on the present site.

In 1891 the need for a more commodious and convenient Chapel was felt and the energy and self-denial displayed by the adherents of this small Church was recognised by, and received the sympathy of, members of other Christian communities and the present Church was dedicated on Tuesday evening, May 15th 1900—exactly 50 years ago. The front gates and doors were formally opened by the late Mr. J. Hardy, the late Mr. G. Higham and the late Mr. C. Parkinson.

Messrs. J. Gerrards and Sons Ltd. were the contractors and the cost, including furnishing, was £1,320.

In December 1910 the old vestries were demolished and two new vestries were erected at a cost of £308.

By 1920 it was apparent that the School buildings, which were now in a dilapidated condition, were totally inadequate to the needs of the rapidly increasing population in which the Church now found itself the centre and the first donation towards the proposed New School was made by the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ezli Gillingham. The venture was enthusiastically received and the members, scholars and friends inspired one another in their endeavour to raise the huge sum of £2,000 which, at first, seemed overwhelming. In point of fact the cost of the New School exceeded £2,300. In the words of Scripture, however, "the people had a mind to work" and by faith, enthusiasm, perseverance and, not least, hard work, the task was accomplished and on May 20th 1933, the ceremony of the stonelaying was made by the late Mr. A. G. Waterhouse, J.P., the late Mr. R. H. Hardy, Miss A. Gillingham, the late Mr. A. E. Rawlinson, the late Mr. W. Parker, Councillor A. Bennett, J.P., in which the Superintendent Minister, the Rev. G. I. J. Cushing and Miss M. Sunman, B.A., also took part. On the following Saturday, May 27th, over 100 Bricks were laid by Scholars and Adults at a Thanksgiving Ceremony. The School was completed and opened on Saturday, September 23rd 1933 when the late Miss E. E. Higham opened the School Gates and the late Mr. E. Johnson opened the School Doors.

Thanksgiving Services to the Glory of God to mark this stepping stone were held and taking part were Ald. J. Rothwell, J.P., the Circuit Ministers, the Rev. H. C. Renshaw and Rev. H. Jones, Miss M. Sunman, B.A., and a former Minister, the late Rev. H. Cook.

For 100 years countless men and women have toiled devotedly in this corner of His Vineyard and we are now reaping the fruit of their labours for "He prospered the work of their hands." But what of the future? We must go forward in the certain knowledge that, having grounded ourselves in the faith and hope of our fathers and, building upon their foundations, there shall be days rich with blessing and this hallowed place will remain "a Lamp unto our feet and a Light unto our path."

*To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil.
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's Will.*

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 1950

The commencement of these celebrations takes the form of a Gift Day in which Scholars, Members and Friends are invited to make a Thankoffering for 100 years of Methodism at Worsley Road. Gift Boxes already distributed and Donations will be gratefully received in the vestry between 4.30 and 7.30 by the Rev. J. Morgan-Williams, B.A.

Tea will be served in the Schoolroom at 5 p.m.—Price 1/6

EVENING PROGRAMME

Chairman: Mr. Robert Peel

We respectfully ask our friends to refrain from smoking in the schoolroom during the evening programme except at the interval.

7.0 p.m.	HYMN I	<p>... .. All hail the power of Jesu's name ; Let angels prostrate fall ; Bring forth the royal diadem To crown Him Lord of all.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>... .. Tune—<i>Diadem</i></p> <p>Let every tribe and every tongue Before Him prostrate fall, And shout in universal song The crownèd Lord of all.</p> <p>O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall, Join in the everlasting song, And Crown Him Lord of all !</p>
7.5 p.m.	PRAYER		
7.10 p.m.	CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS		
7.15 p.m.	RECITAL	... ..	... .. Rev. Luke Hicks
7.30 p.m.	ADDRESS	... ..	... .. Mr. A. Bennett
7.40 p.m.	HYMN II	<p>... .. Our Father, by whose servants Our house was built of old, Whose hand hath crownèd her children With blessings manifold, For Thine unfailing mercies Far-strewn along our way, With all who passed before us, We praise Thy name to-day.</p> <p>The changeful years unresting Their silent course have sped, New comrades ever bringing In comrades' steps to tread : And some are long forgotten, Long spent their hopes and fears ; Safe rest they in Thy keeping, Who change not with years.</p>	<p>... .. Tune—<i>Missionary</i></p> <p>They reap not where they laboured, We reap what they have sown ; Our harvest may be garnered By ages yet unknown. The days of old have dowered us With gifts beyond all praise : Our Father, make us faithful To serve the coming days.</p> <p>Before us and beside us, Still holden in Thine hand, A cloud unseen of witness, Our elder comrades stand : One family unbroken, We join, with one acclaim, One heart, one voice uplifting, To glorify Thy name.</p>
7.45 p.m.	ADDRESS	... ..	... .. Mr. J. Rothwell
8.0 p.m.	ENTERTAINER	... ..	... .. Mr. W. Bumby
8.40 p.m.	INTERVAL—10 minutes		
8.50 p.m.	HYMN III	<p>... .. A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, A never-dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky :</p> <p>To serve the present age, My calling to fulfil : O may it all my powers engage To do my Master's will !</p>	<p>... .. Tune—<i>Asa</i></p> <p>Arm me with jealous care, As in Thy sight to live ; And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare A strict account to give !</p> <p>Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself rely, Assured, if I my trust betray, I shall for ever die.</p>
8.55 p.m.	RECITAL	... ..	... .. Rev. Luke Hicks
9.10 p.m.	ADDRESS	... ..	... .. Mr. J. A. Whitehead

9.20 p.m.	HYMN IV	... ..	Tune—
	Be it my only wisdom here To serve the Lord with filial fear, With loving gratitude ; Superior sense may I display, By shunning every evil way, And walking in the good.		O may I still from sin depart ! A wise and understanding heart, Jesus, to me be given ; And let me through Thy Spirit know To glorify my God below, And find my way to heaven. Amen.
9.23 p.m.	ADDRESS	... ..	Rev. G. I. J. Cushing
9.30 p.m.	RESULT OF THANKOFFERINGS	... ..
9.35 p.m.	REMARKS	... ..	Rev. J. Morgan-Williams
9.40 p.m.	VOTE OF THANKS	... ..

DOXOLOGY

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SUNDAY, 21st MAY, 1950

MORNING SERVICE AT 10.30

Preacher: Rev. G. I. J. Cushing (of Chesterfield)

HYMN I Tune—*Reuben*

Come, ye that love the Lord,
And let your joys be known ;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
While ye surround His throne :
Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God ;
But servants of the heavenly King
May speak their joys abroad.

The God that rules on high,
That all the earth surveys,
That rides upon the stormy sky,
And calms the roaring seas :
This awful God is ours,
Our Father and our love ;
He will send down His heavenly powers,
To carry us above.

There we shall see His face,
And never, never sin ;
There, from the rivers of His grace,
Drink endless pleasures in :
Yea, and before we rise
To that immortal state,
The thoughts of such amazing bliss
Should constant joys create.

The men of grace have found
Glory begun below ;
Celestial fruit on earthly ground
From faith and hope may grow :
Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry ;
We are marching through Immanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high.

PRAYER—LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN II Tune—*Duke Street*

Fight the good fight with all thy might ;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right ;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face,
Life with its path before thee lies ;
Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide,
His boundless mercy will provide ;
Lean, and thy trusting soul shall prove,
Christ is thy life, and Christ thy love.

Faint not, nor fear, His arm is near ;
He changeth not, and thou art dear,
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

LESSON

SCHOLARS' HYMN

Children of Jerusalem
Sang the praise of Jesu's name :
Children, too, of modern days,
Join to sing the Saviour's praise.
*Hark ! While infant voices sing
Loud hosannas to our King.*

We are taught to love the Lord,
We are taught to read His Word,
We are taught the way to heaven :
Praise for all to God be given.

Parents, teachers, old and young
All unite to swell the song ;
Higher and yet higher rise,
Till hosannas reach the skies.

SCHOLARS' PRAYER
SCHOLARS' ADDRESS

ANTHEM " Blessed be Thou "

OFFERTORY

HYMN III Tune—*Simeon*

Go, labour on ; spend, and be spent,
 Thy joy to do the Father's will :
 It is the way the Master went ;
 Should not the servant tread it still ?

Go, labour on ; 'tis not for nought,
 Thy earthly loss is heavenly gain :
 Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not ;
 The Master praises ; what are men ?

Go, labour on, while it is day ;
 The world's dark night is hastening on :
 Speed, speed thy work, cast sloth away ;
 It is not thus that souls are won.

Men die in darkness at your side,
 Without a hope to cheer the tomb :
 Take up the torch, and wave it wide,
 The torch that lights time's thickest gloom.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch, and pray ;
 Be wise, the erring soul to win ;
 Go forth into the world's highway,
 Compel the wanderer to come in.

Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice ;
 For toil comes rest, for exile home :
 Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice,
 The midnight peal : Behold, I come !

SERMON

HYMN IV Tune—*Carlisle*

Rise up, O men of God !
 Have done with lesser things ;
 Give heart and soul and mind and strength
 To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God !
 His kingdom carries long ;
 Bring in the day of brotherhood,
 And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God !
 The Church for you doth wait,
 Her strength unequal to her task ;
 Rise up and make her great.

Lift high the Cross of Christ !
 Tread where His feet have trod ;
 As brothers of the Son of Man
 Rise up, O men of God !

BENEDICTION

AFTERNOON SERVICE AT 2.15 p.m.

The SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE will be held in the CHURCH and will take the form of OPEN SCHOOL.

Taking part will be Miss A. GILLINGHAM, whose family have lifelong connections with our Church, Mr. S. WAITE, President of the MEN'S CLASS, together with the TEACHERS and SCHOLARS of all departments, including the MEN'S CLASS.

A hearty invitation is extended to all

EVENING SERVICE AT 6 O'CLOCK

Preacher : Rev. G. I. J. Cushing

HYMN I Tune—*Hyfrydol*

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace ;
 Streams of mercy never ceasing
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious measure
 Sung by flaming tongues above ;
 O the vast, the boundless treasure
 Of my Lord's unchanging love !

Here I raise my Ebenezer ;
 Hither by Thy help I'm come ;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wandering from the fold of God ;
 He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be !
 Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee :
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love ;
 Take my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it from Thy courts above !

Amen.

PRAYER—LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN II Tune—*Edwinstow*

Praise ye the Lord ! 'Tis good to raise
 Your hearts and voices in His praise :
 His nature and His works invite
 To make this duty our delight.

He formed the stars, those heavenly flames,
 He counts their numbers, calls their names ;
 His wisdom's vast, and knows no bound,
 A deep where all our thoughts are drowned.

Sing to the Lord ! Exalt Him high,
 Who spreads His clouds along the sky ;
 There He prepares the fruitful rain,
 Nor lets the drops descend in vain.

He makes the grass the hills adorn,
 And clothes the smiling fields with corn ;
 The beasts with food His hands supply,
 And the young ravens when they cry.

What is the creature's skill or force ?
 The sprightly man, or warlike horse ?
 The piercing wit, the active limb ?
 All are too mean delights for Him.

But saints are lovely in His sight,
 He views His children with delight ;
 He sees their hope, He knows their fear,
 And looks, and loves His image there.

FIRST LESSON

SOLO Mr. T. S. Rothwell
 HYMN III Tune—*Missionary*

Our Father, by whose servants
 Our house was built of old,
 Whose hand hath crowned her children
 With blessings manifold,
 For Thine unfailling mercies
 Far-strewn along our way,
 With all who passed before us,
 We praise Thy name to-day.

They reap not where they laboured,
 We reap what they have sown ;
 Our harvest may be garnered
 By ages yet unknown.
 The days of old have dowered us
 With gifts beyond all praise :
 Our Father, make us faithful
 To serve the coming days.

The changeful years unresting
 Their silent course have sped,
 New comrades ever bringing
 In comrade's steps to tread :
 And some are long forgotten,
 Long spent their hopes and fears
 Safe rest they in Thy keeping,
 Who changest not with years.

Before us and behind us,
 Still holden in Thine hand,
 A cloud unseen of witness,
 Our elder comrades stand :
 One family unbroken,
 We join, with one acclaim,
 One heart, one voice uplifting,
 To glorify Thy name.

SECOND LESSON

ANTHEM "Hallelujah" *Handel*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERTORY

HYMN IV Tune—*Wilton*

O Thou who camest from above
 The pure celestial fire to impart,
 Kindle a flame of sacred love
 On the mean altar of my heart!
 There let it for Thy glory burn
 With inextinguishable blaze ;
 And trembling to its source return,
 In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
 To work, and speak, and think for Thee ;
 Still let me guard the holy fire,
 And still stir up Thy gift in me.
 Ready for all Thy perfect will,
 My acts of faith and love repeat,
 Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
 And make the sacrifice complete. Amen.

SERMON

SOLO Mr. T. S. Rothwell
 HYMN V Tune—*Shepherd*

How pleasant, how divinely fair,
 O Lord of Hosts, Thy dwellings are !
 With strong desire my spirit faints
 To meet the assemblies of Thy saints.

Blest are the souls that find a place
 Within the temple of Thy grace ;
 Here they behold Thy gentler rays,
 And seek Thy face, and learn Thy praise.

Blest are the saints that sit on high,
 Around Thy throne of majesty ;
 Thy brightest glories shine above,
 And all their work is praise and love.

Blest are the men whose hearts are set
 To find the way to Zion's gate ;
 God is their strength and through the road
 They lean upon their helper God

Cheerful they walk with growing strength,
 Till all shall meet in heaven at length ;
 Till all before Thy face appear,
 And join in nobler worship there.

BENEDICTION

VESPER

THE day Thou gavest, Lord is ended,
 The darkness falls at Thy behest ;
 To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
 They praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy Church un-
 sleeping,
 While earth rolls onward into light,
 Through all the world her watch is keeping,
 And rests not now by day or night.

So be it Lord ; Thy Throne shall never,
 Like earth's proud empires, pass away ;
 Thy Kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
 Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

FACTS AND FIGURES

We feel sure that the following extracts, taken at random, for our records will prove of interest to all our friends to-day, in addition to conjuring up a wealth of memories to our older members.

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Since the "outward and visible sign" of our Faith was made manifest in the erection of our present and former Churches, the Trustees have been served by the following Secretaries:—

1867 — 1870	James Holland.
1870 — 1900	George S. Higham.
1900 — 1946	Arthur Bennett.
1946 —	Fred Meadowcroft.

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On the 8th February 1946 Mr. Arthur Bennett relinquished the position of Trustees' Secretary—a position which he had held for nearly 46 years and on the 22nd March 1946 a supper was held at which Mr. R. Peel, on behalf of the Trustees, made Mr. Bennett a presentation of a silver cigarette case suitably inscribed. In addition, Mr. Bennett had served as Trust Treasurer and Choirmaster for many years.

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So far as we are able to ascertain, the following have found joy in serving the Sunday School as Superintendent or Co-superintendent:—Messrs. F. Waterhouse Senr., G. S. Higham, R. H. Hardy, C. Parkinson, E. Hardy, A. E. Rawlinson, Robt. Boothman, F. Boothman, W. Warrender, F. Meadowcroft.

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The Church was licensed for Marriages in December 1900 since when 135 marriages have been solemnized.

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Our record of Baptisms dates from 1873 and from that year to the present time there have been 472 Baptisms in the Church.

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Again, so far as we are able to say, organists who have served us are:—Messrs. J. Willcock, P. Brookes, P. Whitehead, J. H. Higham, F. Hardy, H. Mitchell, G. S. Holiday, R. N. Parker, W. Warrender.

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Whilst on this subject, it is interesting to recall that our first organ was purchased in 1875 for the sum of £18, to be superseded by a second one in 1880 at a cost of £70. In 1918 the organ belonging to Liverpool Street Church, Salford, was purchased for £40 and in 1943 our present organ was purchased from the friends at Ellesmere Street Church, Pendlebury,—the total cost of removal, repairs and re-assembly being in the neighbourhood of £250.

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Most of our young men who have been brought up in the Sunday School have, at some time or other, performed heroic feats as organ blower until 1948 when the present electric blower was installed at a cost of £80.

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Whilst it is not possible to say with certainty when our official connection with Salford Circuit began, it would appear to be as early as 1864, if not earlier, as James Holland at that time was both a Trustee of our Church and a member of the Circuit Committee. The following extracts from the Circuit Minutes shew the progress of those early days:—

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—16th December, 1869. Moor Lane Society. Resolved:—"That the following brethren be a deputation to the friends at Moor Lane on Tuesday evening next viz: Rev. M. T. Myers, T. Kench, T. Boddington and J. Willett."

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—17th March, 1870. Report of the deputation to the Society at Swinton:—The Chairman stated the deputation had met the friends at Moor Lane and had a lengthy conversation with them respecting reorganizing the Society and reported the present position of the Church as promising and expressed great hopes for the future.

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In 1893 our Quarterly Assessment had, by resolution, not to exceed £5 10s. 0d. By 1900 this figure was increased to £8 0s. 0d. In 1950 our Assessment is about £50. Revaluation?

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In 1900 we had 49 Church Members and 120 Scholars on our books. This year's figures are 140 members and 250 Scholars of the Sunday School which now includes a flourishing Primary and Beginners' Section. Few of our Friends realize the difficult conditions in which the Sunday School works. On a normal Sunday afternoon the School is packed to capacity, every room is utilized, including the Church, and the need for extension is very real. This is a problem which will have to be faced in the near future.

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Processions of Witness have been held for very many years and last year when we were the Leaders of the United Procession, our School and Church were splendidly represented numerically, and we had the proud distinction of having the largest number of men walking with us.

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On the 9th March 1900 permission was sought from the Circuit Meeting to abolish Afternoon service and to substitute Morning service.

Resolution :—" That we commence to hold Harvest Thanksgiving Services " was passed on the 17th July 1900.

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Our Men's Class has been in existence now, apart from an interruption due to war conditions, for nearly 40 years. The name of Edward Johnson is remembered with gratitude as President for over 25 years.

Master speak ! Thy servant heareth

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In the 1914-1918 World War, a large number of our young men served the cause of Freedom and the following made the supreme sacrifice :—H. Higham, F. Mather, F. Brooksbank, T. Crosbie, H. Brooksbank.

During the 1939-1945 World War, again a large number of our young men and women answered the call to fight aggression and we humbly give thanks to God that all returned safely to their loved ones.

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The Ladies' Tea Meeting which is now held in the schoolroom on Wednesdays was commenced well over 20 years ago. We record with pleasure that all departments of the Church have benefited by their unbounded generosity.

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We have been served faithfully and well by the Door Stewards in our Church. Names that at once come to mind for many years loyal service are :—Mr. H. Winkley, Mr. J. Bennett, our present Steward, Mr. F. Warrender who has served in this capacity for over 40 years.

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Having close ties with our Church are Mr. J. Rothwell of St. Stephen Street, Salford, and Mr. J. A. Whitehead of Happy Land Church, Pendlebury, to both of whom we offer our sincere thanks and congratulations for having completed over 50 years as Local Preachers.

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In 1900 a Cricket Club was formed in connection with our Church and School and took the name of Swinton Methodist Cricket Club. During the past 50 years, this name has won an honoured and respected place in local cricketing circles and we are proud to say that, at the present time, 90% of the members are Sunday School Teachers, Scholars and Officials of our Church and Trust.

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The name of Worsley Road, we like to think, is remembered by former scholars who have emigrated to the four quarters of the globe.

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One of the first organists at our Church was Mr. Joseph Willcock who composed a hymn tune whilst organist here which he named " Shepherd." He left our Church in 1878 to become the organist at the Independent Methodist Chapel, Moorside, which post he retained for many years. As a former organist, Mr. Willcock was invited to play at one of the Jubilee services and the tune " Shepherd " was played and sung at that service.

His son-in-law who was present at the service said to him afterwards " That was a good tune, I wonder where they got it from ? " " I wrote it " modestly admitted Mr. Willcock " when I was organist here and I had forgotten about it, but I have a copy somewhere and we'll have it at Moorside."

There is a touch of gentle irony in the fact that we had to go to Moorside for a copy of this tune for this day's service which the son-in-law, Mr. W. Pearson, Mr. Willcock's successor as organist, was only too delighted to give us.

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One of the founders of our Church was Mr. Joseph Whitehead, who was affectionately called and is still remembered as " Old Joseph." He was a saintly man filled with the Grace of God. In his latter days he became very deaf and used to sit below the pulpit with his hand cupped behind his ear, so as to catch every word spoken by the preacher.

On one occasion, a certain minister during the sermon asked the question " Where is the Kingdom of God ? " and immediately came the unexpected answer from " Old Joseph "—" In your heart, in your heart."

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We trust that, by the Grace of God, during this week-end of rejoicing, thanksgiving and celebration, our hearts will have been enriched and many souls added to His Kingdom.