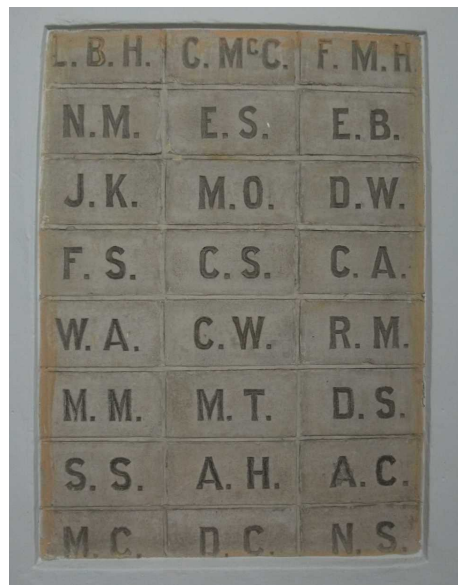


New Homes bring a New Church

by Tony Bowler, revised by Peter Barnes

In 1927 it was brought to the notice of the Derby first circuit of the Primitive Methodist church, that building schemes were proposed for the Chaddesden Park Estate. A special committee was set up in the July to visit this area under the guidance of Mr Thomas Coleman, a member of the King Street Wesleyan Circuit. He explained that 750 homes were to be built and that he was prepared to offer a site for a church and a £50 donation towards the cost of building it. Many other people also gave donations of £50 and their initials were carved on a tablet which is now in the foyer.

Mr N S Antliff was appointed architect, and a committee was set up to work on the plans. Mr M Basford was the builder and a board of trustees was appointed. The general missionary committee of Primitive Methodism made a grant of £400 towards the £1,800 needed to construct the building.



The foundation stone was laid on Saturday 21 July 1928 by Mr and Mrs Coleman in a ceremony presided over by Alderman Fred Porter. Although the church was financed by the Derby No 1 circuit (Traffic Street) of the Primitive Methodist Church, the ceremony was also attended by ministers and laymen of the United and Wesleyan Methodists in anticipation of the union of the three branches of Methodism.



The foundation stones, from left to right:

Borrowash Ladies Bible Class

Mrs A Clarke, Sunday School

Mount Street P M Trustees

This Stone was laid by Mr & Mrs T Coleman, 21st July 1928

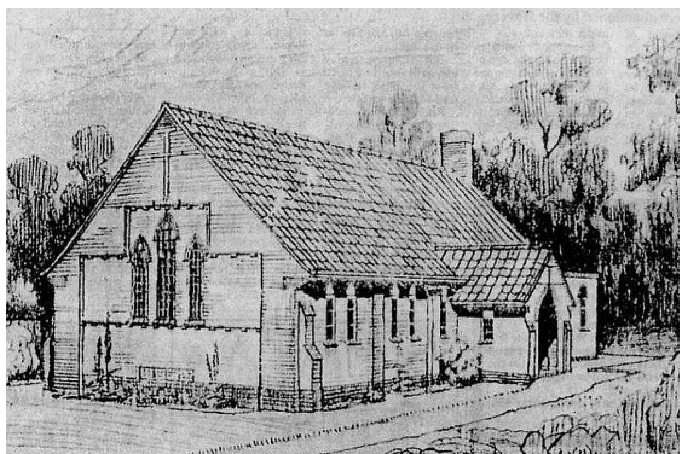
In Memory of Mr & Mrs M Hodgkinson sen. by the family

Mr & Mrs M Basford and family

Draycott Ladies Bible Class

Prior to the building of this new church, Sunday school and evening services had been held in a hut belonging to Mr E Smith who lived in the bungalow next door.

The church was completed and opened on Wednesday 17 October 1928. The ceremony was provided over by Mr J Potter. At 3pm Mrs A C Bonas unlocked the door and the assembled company entered the church for worship which was conducted by Professor A L Humphries of Hartley College, Manchester. Tea was then taken and the Mayor of Derby, Councillor A Sturgess presided. An organ was temporarily loaned by the Mount Street trustees. Mr and Mrs Nash made a gift of a pulpit bible and a hymnal.



Mayfield Road Methodist Church in 1928

Services began on Sunday 21 October, with the Reverend J Bradbury as the preacher. The church officers at that time were:- Society Steward Mr A.H. Clarke; Property Steward Mr M. Hodgkinson; Sunday School Superintendant Mr E. Smith. Mr Clarke was the Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr Smith offered to act as Caretaker for the time being without remuneration. In the beginning, thirteen people expressed their wish to be registered in church membership and about twenty others intimated their wish to be definitely associated with the new church.

Week night activities were arranged; a Fellowship meeting on Wednesday evenings led by Mr B. Barnard, a Young People's meeting in the earlier part of the same evening and a Woman's Bright Hour on Monday afternoons commencing on 12 November 1928.

The first anniversary came and the Superintendant Minister for the circuit Rev G.A. Morgan had been asked to take the services, but as he was unable to come, they were conducted by Rev E.W.Pope. In 1930 Messrs C. Wozencroft and J.A. Griffin were elected as members of the Chapel Committee to augment the Trust Board, and in the following year the latter succeeded Mr Townsend as Secretary.

In 1932 came the union of the Primitive, United and Wesleyan Methodists. Mayfield Road church was now simply a Methodist Church.

A Boys Brigade and Girls Life Brigade were formed. These were very successful until the war came in 1939 when the leaders were called up. At a later date the Girls Life Brigade was started again and run by Mrs Farnsworth.

In 1938 it was decided to try to clear the remainder of the money owing, and on the 12th anniversary of the opening of the church, all debts had been cleared and a Thanksgiving Service was held. In 1940 an Extension and Improvement Fund was formed to make improvements to the building. By 1958 a small entrance hall was added along with a vestry, toilets and a kitchen. In 1965 a wooden extension was built by members of the church and was used for a Sunday School. The money was raised for the building, which opened on 19 June 1965 at 4pm. A Young Wives group was formed in



The church in 2010. The houses behind are on Northwood Avenue.

1967. The present organ was purchased in 1968 at a cost of £345. This relieved the arduous task carried out by various Sunday School boys of pumping up — by hand — the old large organ. When St Andrew's church on London Road closed in 1969 some of their members joined Mayfield Road.

In 1977, the decoration of the church and its extension by volunteers was completed ready for the Golden Jubilee. On Sunday 16 July 1978 an open-air service was held by Mr Gordon Holmes and on Sunday 23 July, a special service was held, led by the Reverend Raymond Wright to commemorate the laying of the foundation stones. To celebrate the Golden Jubilee a two-day event was held on 14 and 15 October 1978.



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(Chaddesden Historical Group)