

LINDAL -in- FURNESS METHODIST CHURCH
CENTENARY BROCHURE



ULVERSTON CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Rev A.J. Woodley (Super) Rev A Mirrilees Rev D A Jackson M.A. DPH.

The Manse,
Dalton.

Dear Friends:

Lindal Chapel, like so many others owes its existence to mining folk moving into the area during the last century. The mines have gone but the chapels remain as an enduring memorial to the piety of those who worked in them. This brochure concerns the Centenary of Lindal Methodist Chapel and you will find in it a calendar of events for the year, a short history of the chapel selected from a mountain of material most diligently collected and memories from far and near.

The result is well worth the asking price and it is our hope that you all enjoy reading it and join the thanksgiving services.

David A. Jackson.

Nab Gate,
Cornbirthwaite Road,
Windermere.

Dear Friends,

I write to send to you the good wishes of the Carlisle District as you celebrate your Centenary Year. The period round about 1870-71 was certainly a time of great growth in Methodism in this part of the world. This was particularly so in West Cumberland and the Furness area of Lancashire. The coming of the railways and the development of coal and metal ore mining brought a big influx of population - including many loyal Methodists. Lindal has never been a huge society and owes a great deal to families who have been faithful through generation after generation. Those who keep the Church going to-day face great difficulties which are not likely to get less with the passing of the years; at least not in the immediate future. They will be sustained, however, by the knowledge that man cannot ignore the revelation of man's true nature brought by Jesus Christ for ever. Through His Cross and Resurrection He has won a victory that in the end must be acknowledged by all men. Therefore those of you who start out on the next 100 years at Lindal will do so with good heart and strong courage. As a District, we pray God's blessing upon you as you go.

With warm personal greetings,

Yours sincerely,

M. Wesley Earl.
(Chairman of the Carlisle District).

21, The Drive,
Kilner Park,
Ulverston.

Dear Friends,

It is a very real pleasure to convey my hearty congratulations, and those of the whole Circuit, to you as you celebrate the centenary of the Methodist Church in Lindal. Methodist fellowship and witness had, of course, begun in the years preceeding the opening of the chapel and that work has continued unbroken for a hundred years because of faithfulness and love of the founding members and those who have followed them.

This is a proud heritage and carries with it great responsibilities so you will not just be celebrating the past in various ways but, in the spirit and with the faithfulness of those who have gone before, you will, I am sure, be addressing yourselves to the future believing that, "The best is yet to be" and sure that whatever the future brings "God is with us".

No one can be sure what the future may hold - - - - it may be that the greatest enemy we shall have to fight is apathy and that within the church as well as in the church's outreach. Worship out of which springs true fellowship and service to the community will remain our greatest contribution to the work of the Kingdom of God. This is true of the smaller causes like Lindal no less than of the larger churches in the circuit.

We all pray that God's blessing will be on all your future work and witness both in Lindal and in the wider life of the circuit of which you are a valued member.

The grace and love of the Lord be with you all.

With warmest greetings

Yours sincerely,

Alex. J. Woodley.

Superintendent Minister of the Ulverston Circuit.

FROM THE SOCIETY STEWARDS:

To the readers of this brochure we would ask you to think carefully of the stalwarts of old who, by faith gave of their talents and money so much that it hurt, and then compare our present day lives by theirs. Can the glory of former days be restored? Can Methodism in Lindal be reborn?. We believe the spirit and faith which filled the hearts of our spiritual ancestors is available for us today. God challenges each of us to meet the demands of the 20th century in his mighty power and grace.

There is so much we would have liked to include in the story but the size and cost would have been prohibitive. A few names are mentioned to give the story continuity, but there are many, many more we could have added. Instead we ask you to read between the lines, put in the names you remember and thank

God for all those who by prayer and faith helped to build your church and our church and preserved it over the years. Some as corner stones, others as fillings, but all necessary to the building and who can say that anyone more than another was more essential to the Society?.

"Each have had their part, to each must go the praise". We are greatly indebted to Rev. L. F. Spencer for sifting through the many notes given him and for the splendid story he prepared. We give you a special invitation to the meetings and services printed on the centre pages and assure you of a cordial welcome any time you visit the LINDAL METHODIST CHURCH.

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Our thanks are due to Mr. W. Dewhurst for his sketch of the chapel and to Mr. J. Keefe for his sketch of 22, London Road.

THE EARLY YEARS

A century ago was a period of Methodist expansion, not the least in the Ulverston Circuit in which a number of our churches will be celebrating their centenaries over these next few years.

Methodism was 'on the march' and establishing her bases in strategic positions in town and country. Among them was Lindal but, it is right that tribute should be paid at the outset to Marton, a quite flourishing cause then, with many intrepid workers. On Sundays the Lindal families would wend their way to the Marton Chapel which was well served at that time by the brothers William and John Noall and William jun. and from them receive much encouragement.

In the years 1865 - 1870 there was a movement of many families into the district. Some came from Cornwall and other from Isle of Man, attracted by the prospect of employment in the Iron Ore Mines. These were families of deep religious fervour. They found their spiritual home in this particular locality and Marton ultimately became the 'Mother Chapel' of Lindal. The Lindal friends attended the Marton Chapel when the weather allowed but during the winter months prayer meetings and class meetings would be held in their own cottage homes. Mr. E. Bayliff has supplied a vivid illustration of a typical cottage meeting in 1869, in the homes of the Hoggarth family of 22, London Road. Mr. Thomas Troughton, described by Robert Docker as 'that brilliant local preacher' was the leader. With him are James Lewis, Wm. Noall, R. Docker, the Hoggarths, Hodgsons, Gilchrists, Thompsons, Hindles, Storeys, Jacksons, Hollidays and many others. These and other names are written into the story of what was soon to become the Lindal Chapel. During one of these meetings the Superintendent Minister, Rev. Walter Briscoombe, threw out the challenge, 'why not build a chapel of your own' and it met with an immediate response. We owe a debt to Mr. R. F. Docker for some valuable information of those

days when he wrote from Millom in 1941 at the age of 90. "There was an old orchard where the chapel now stands, owned by a Mr. Irwin, he sold it to the Circuit and, through the kind influence of Mr. Noall and Captain Thomas mine manager, they were given permission by the Mining Company to get the stone from the Bell Hill Quarry. My brother-in-law James Lewis and myself helped to quarry the stone in our leisure time, the permission given being on that understanding, and young Jim Hindle carted it to the site". At the Quarterly meeting of March 1870 a minute was recorded. "A list of subscriptions from the friends at Lindal towards a proposed new chapel there, having been read amounting to £46/14/3, a request was made for the sanction of the meeting to build a new chapel". The decision was deferred to an adjourned meeting but the Lindal class was included for the first time and recorded 18 members. At the adjourned meeting, on April 21st 1870 "the case of the new chapels at Askam, Kirkby and Lindal were considered and passed". But, the course was not yet set for plain sailing for the District Chapel Committee considered the scheme premature and declined to approve it. What a disappointment that must have been, but, in the hope of an early reversal of this decision the Lindal friends made preparations. In October 1870 it was resolved to purchase the land and building plans were prepared. The District Committee opened the way forward by giving their approval following the March Quarterly Meeting in 1871. The land purchased once belonged to one Sir Alec Douglas Home a relative of the Buccleuch family. It was sold by Mr. Irwin, 272 square yards for £34 and in those days was copyhold, a halfpenny per year rent being paid until the freehold was purchased on payment of £7/15/11. A list of the first Trustees and their dossier will be of interest. William Ripley; Circuit Steward, Partner in the firm of Ripley & Winston Grocers. Now Rogers & Tyson, Ulverston. James Ormandy; Yeoman, I suppose quite a wealthy man. His memorial stone being the one he laid that day in August 1871 and is still our corner stone. Circuit Steward.

Thomas Barrow; Ulverston draper. One time circuit Treasurer of the aged ministers fund.

Charles Winston; Partner with Wm. Ripley and member of a family still well known in Ulverston.

William Bond; Solicitors clerk. No doubt the legal adviser on the many documents being prepared during those busy years.

John Long; A Pennybridge Paper Manufacture who at that time was Secretary to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

John Gunson; One time Circuit Steward. Bobbin Manufacturer of Sparkbridge and a benevolent man if ever there was one. Had an interest in many of the chapels built at that time. The family originated from Oak Bank, Ulpha.

Joseph Thompson; Of Lindal, whose occupation was given as a Tailor.

Edward Simpson; Lived at 5, Hempland Cottages. One of three brothers who were given the contract to build the chapel. Originally from Askam.

Thomas Troughton; A brilliant local preacher said Mr. R. Docker. The deeds record him as a miner of Lindal.

William Woods; Miner of Lindal. Beyond the fact that when the Trust was renewed in 1890 he died there and is no other record. James Lewis; A Lindal miner. A sister married Thomas Farrer Hoggarth and became the mother of our own Mrs. Jane Dickinson and Mrs. Gilliland. Was a Trustee for more than 55 years. J. C. Lewis, his son also became a Trustee.

Thomas Storey; A Lindal miner.

William Gilchrist; Engine driver of Lindal. Well known as the husband of Alice 'that little old lady trimmed with lace'.

John Holliday; Of 21 London Road, Lindal and was a miner.

The building contractors were Joseph Simpson of Askam and his two brothers Edward and Robert. Reference to 'finding the stone' for building has been made earlier. The stone laying ceremony took place on August 21st 1871. Soulbys Advertiser has this to say about it, "On Monday there was an interesting Service at Lindal in Furness in connection with the placing of a memorial stone of the new Wesleyan Chapel. Ministers taking part were the Rev. T. D. Anderson, Rev. E. Abraham, Rev. A. F. Fogwell. A silver trowel was given to Mr. James Ormandy who laid the stone. Tea was served in Mr. Redheads barn which housed the evening congregation, Mr. J. W. Lawn reading the 46th Psalm. £30 was raised during the day for the building fund."

Enthusiasm now ran high, cottage meeting continued to be held, the men gave up their evenings to dress the stone, the women folk supplied the workers with refreshment and the children enjoyed clambering over the stones until - on February 6th 1872 the Certificate of Worship, giving legal recognition was received. This gave the 'green light' for the actual opening ceremony which, the Barrow Times of February 12th 1872 reported, took place on February 10th and 11th. The Rev. Walter Briscoe, who by this time had moved to Rawtenstall came to take the first Sunday Services. Again Robert Docker keeps us informed when he reports "the text for the morning service was taken from Revelations 21 verse 14 and for the evening from 1st Samuel chapter 7 verse 12. Mr. Docker must have had a wonderful memory for at 90 he goes on to say "We knew nothing of long or short metres and Mr. Simpson, the Ulverston Methodist Choir master brought his tuning fork to help pitch the tunes." "God was good to us for he sent Mr. James Dickinson and Family from Southampton and also one Thomas Martin who had special training in tonic-sol-fa and we soon raised a full choir and a harmonium." Membership returns reflected the enthusiasm, 24 in December/71, 30 in March/72 and 35 in June.

What has already been written tells of the dedicated men and women who rejoiced at the culmination of their sacrificial labours and the fulfilment of a worthy ambition. The story of Lindal Chapel

in following years is no less thrilling. Glimpses can be given showing the progress of the work and the 'Triumphs of His Grace'.

BUILDING

The clever bees toil night day
Building their comb, section by section,
But what use is all that toil and sweat
If the Queen bee does not give it her affection.

The joiners and builders toil night and day
Building the church, section by section,
But what use is all this toil and sweat
If the Lord God does not give it His affection.

Kathryn: aged 10.

LINDAL: (2nd Part) - - Following Years.

There was a remarkable build up of the life of the church in the years between 1871 & 1887. A list of Sunday School scholars and teachers in this latter year shows 60 girls & 40 boys with 15 teachers on the register.

Items in the trustees minute book for 1887 point the contrast to present day 'finances', e.g., "resolved that the chapel cleaners money be advanced by 2/- to put fires in the schoolroom for the class meeting during the winter months," making trestles 14/6, two carts of coke 13/3. Almost 10 years later 1896, it was decided to improve the interior surrounds by adding pitch pine boarding at a cost of about £19. How do you think they raised the money? Coffee evenings!! (There is nothing new under the sun is there).

At the turn of the century - 1907 - there is still a flourishing Sunday School consisting of 7 classes and 60 scholars. Added to which is a record of 20 Adult members of a Bible Class. Two highlights of each year were a School Trip to Lakeside and the School Anniversary with its three bumper services, and the scholars seated on an improvised 'gallery'. There was also a thriving Band of Hope with 42 members.

From time to time improvements were made to the premises and surrounds, requiring the labour of love that is so characteristic of our people in churches large and small. The years 1928 to 1933 brought together a band of people who helped to install electric lighting, put a new roof on the schoolroom, cemented the yard and looked for a system that would improve the heating of the premises. One such system was the McClary Furnacette in 1929 which raised the typical question, always put by our revered treasurer 'Sammy Thompson', should it be fitted before the money was raised, or wait until it was in the bag'. A compromise seems to have been agreed whereby an instalment method was adopted for payment to the contractors, and it is recorded that the last payment was held up due to the poor results experienced. A very successful

Sale of Work held in the spring easily cleared the debt reaching a total of £98/3/1. The aim had been £60. To complete the story of adequate heating a full overhead electric heating was installed in 1961 and the total cost was borne by two very good friends of the church, a gift which will be long remembered.

Later in this story attention will be called to the memorials in the church but it is fitting that one should receive mention at this point. That one is the pulpit. The inscription reads: "In memory of Joseph Edward Dickinson 1887-1937, who held every office in the church over the years." Mr. Dickinson was a man of deep dedication and inspired leadership. The pulpit was purchased from the Methodist Furnishing House at a cost of £20/10/-, local friends made the necessary furnishing adjustments in the church and it was dedicated at a special service on Sunday June 26th 1938 by the Rev. Roland Hind, Mr. Tom Parnham presiding. The Vicar of Lindal Rev. J. J. Jackson took part and gave a greatly appreciated message. The passing of Mr. Dickinson has been described as "the end of an era" by one who worked closely with him and knew his worth. A local committee that did a fine work for many years was known as 'The Improvements Committee'. It was devised as an auxiliary to the Trustees, to raise funds and assist in the maintenance of the premises and here one must mention the names of Miss Farish and Miss Richards who, acting as Secretaries did an immense amount of good work for which Lindal must be ever grateful. The beginning of another meeting is noted in a minute dated October 1938: "It was resolved that the ladies of the church form a weekly meeting to be called 'The Womens Bright Hour' and it lives up to its name still. It is greatly valued for its fellowship and loyal service for the church and other good causes, and that its members are drawn from other churches in the village.

In more recent years the church has, from time to time, devoted itself to efforts involving a far wider community than its own members. In 1940 there was a special series of efforts, known as "Red Letter Days" with five events in three weeks. These included, in addition to a fair and a concert, a 'birthday party' at which each person sat at a table representing the month of his birth, the tables being decorated in an appropriate manner, 250 people attended this party.

Lindal Church is still good at dealing with large numbers of people. Every year, when the church is decorated for the Harvest Festival, there is an afternoon concert and tea. Over a hundred people crowd into the church - the aisle holds two rows of chairs - to listen to a musical programme by a visiting choir. After this the whole congregation is served with a tea prepared in the small schoolroom premises. Plates and cups of tea are passed along the pews, attendants following with sugar bowls, and the whole operation is carried out with a deceptive appearance of ease.

Last year, Lindal church provided hospitality at the start of the peripatetic Circuit Rally. As the coach loads of members from both end of the circuit squeezed themselves into the church an arresting sight met their eyes. The double doors to the school-room were open, and, centrally placed in the back room, a steaming cooper was being stirred by what looked like a broom handle. Half a dozen strong men were in attendance, some stirring, others setting out cups and biscuits. When everyone was seated - or rather inserted - in the pews, the double doors were closed, Mr. Joe Adamson led community hymn-singing, and there was a brief service as well as the coffee and biscuits before the rally moved on, leaving Lindal with 200 dirty cups and 200 dirty saucers. For at least one visitor, the hospitality and ingenuity of this small society were summed up in that glimpse of a copper full of coffee.

Looking back over the years, particularly the time of great expansion at the beginning of the century, there are many factors that point to a changed situation. The wars took a sad toll of many, modern communications no longer encourage concentrations of population on the local scene and the iron mines, there brought so many of our 'pioneers' to the district have closed, giving place to a wider spread of employment. Because of the general widespread indifference to organised religion and for other reasons, numbers today bear no comparison with those of earlier years even though our membership now is exactly as it was that day in August 1871 when Mr. James Ormandy laid the stone.

There are still loyal and ardent members and friends, there is still the same challenge to the Master's service; we have a charge entrusted to us and we pray for grace and wisdom to fulfil it.

The sons and daughters of those early pioneers are still active with us, for we have the descendants of the Ormandys, Hindles, Riggs, Whites, Dixons, Dickinsons and Thompsons keeping up the challenge of their forbears. That challenge must be met: Will you help?

The Chapel Memorials:

Like many other churches Lindal has its memorials shaped in stone and wood to those who have contributed to its history. They are representative of all who have 'left a name' through their devoted service.

So we read on the original foundation stone: "This stone was laid by James Ormandy of Ulverston on August 21st 1871. He became one of the first Trustees being listed there as Yeoman and supported the society till his death

At the 70th anniversary of the church on August 10th 1941 a stone was unveiled by Mrs. W. Ormandy and Mrs. J. Hindle, the oldest members of the church at this time. It reads "in remembrance of those, who during the past 70 years served God and this church."