

THE BAPTISTS

**A celebration
of 100 years**

1901 - 2002

in Hoddesdon



**"A better investment in the
Lord's work could scarcely be
made in this land, and the
people are worthy."**

These words of the Rev. Charles Brown, D.D., President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1913 were spoken in support of the appeal for funds to build a new Baptist Church in Hoddesdon.

In preparing this short history we have brought together extracts from a variety of sources including Deacons and Church Meetings. We know it to be incomplete and we therefore apologise in advance to the many friends whom have not received a mention or recognition here of their work and service over the years in helping to build this thriving family of God. We hope you will forgive the terse style of this history - it is a reflection of the source material, much of which is committee minutes.

We gratefully acknowledge David Dent's kind permission to reproduce his photographs of the Three Cups Coffee Tavern and Ashford's Stores.

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THE BAPTISTS IN HODDESDON

1897 - 1901

The Rev. William Jackson of Waltham Abbey, brother-in-law to the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon endeavoured for some years towards the close of his life to establish a Baptist Church in this town. For various reasons his efforts met with no success, but in Sept. 1897 the Rev. E. A. Carter, Founder and Director of the Pioneer Mission, a society in some way connected with the Metropolitan Tabernacle and the Pastors College - engaged the Coffee Tavern Hall for this purpose. The first services were held on Sunday Sept. 5th 1897. Mr Carter preached in the morning to eight persons, and Mr. G. F. Laws (from Pastors' College) at night to twenty four.

For the first twelve months, the work was placed by Mr Carter, under the pastoral care of Mr Laws, who with various other students from the Pastor's College occupied the pulpit regularly.

The first three months of his ministry were full of difficulty. Both the Treasurer and Secretary gave much trouble, and at last it was thought desirable in the interests of peace to leave the Coffee Tavern Hall and worship at the small room in Lord Street let to us by Mr. H. W. Draper.

In November Mr G. J. Wright and Mr T. G. Reed were appointed

Secretary and Treasurer respectively in the place of the two who had resigned. We continued to worship in this Hall from Nov. 5th 1897 to March 27th 1898 and then returned to the Coffee Tavern Hall, at this time under the care of our friends Mr. and Mrs St. John.

We were greatly helped at this time by the presence of Mr. Cockrem the secretary of the Open Air Mission, and Mrs. Kirkham the widow of the former secretary. During their residence in Hoddesdon the communion plate was bought. We held our first communion service in the Coffee Tavern Hall on Sunday April 3rd 1898. Shortly after we were enabled to purchase our harmonium which added greatly to the attraction of our services.

On June 26th 1898 Mr. Laws preached his farewell sermons. He intended to stay with us only for the first year of his college life, and two years later he became the Pastor of the Baptist Church at Gosport, Hants

Mr. Laws was a young man of rare gifts, an attractive speaker, very earnest and effective, but his success here was not equal to

his expectations. He however kept the work together and left us with both the gratitude for past services and the good wishes of every one for his future success.

On Sept. 4th 1898 Mr. F. J. Skinner came as successor to Mr. Laws and on Sept. 11th Mr. Anderton came as joint pastor with Mr. Skinner.

Many signs of prosperity appeared during the first few months of the ministry of these brethren, the Hall was frequently well-filled and the ministry acceptable.

During Easter week April 2nd - April 9th 1899 a mission was conducted by Mr. Murray of the Pastors College and the meetings were wonderfully well-attended. The spiritual results were not what were expected, but many who occasionally worshipped with us were helped and continued with us. It was a most earnest effort to win souls for Christ, only the results were not at once apparent.

Mr Anderton left us in February 1900 to take up the work at Theydon Bois. He showed considerable pulpit power and

Below. The Three Cups Tavern Hall (where HBC held its early services) was built in 1882 in an attempt to wean townspeople away from alcohol. But even as late as 1898 there was one public house for every 127 people in Hertfordshire.



those who sat under his ministry confidently expect for him a useful ministerial career.

The whole of this year passed under the pastoral care of Mr. Skinner, a man of indomitable energy, zeal and grace. His love for the souls of men could not be easily surpassed.

On June 5th (Whit Monday) the first baptisms in connection with our work took place in the Meeting House of the Brethren, kindly lent for this purpose, when Mr. Nelson Varney and Mr. Geo.W. Reed were publicly baptised on profession of their faith in Jesus Christ.

On Feb. 5th 1901 the Rev. Carter paid the Mission a long expected visit. He preached at both services and also presided at the communion service after which he laid before the friends some conditions on which Church formation could only exist and the rules of the Pioneer Mission to which as a Church we were to submit. After due thought it seemed to us desirable to approach Mr. Carter with the view to our becoming an independent people, and taking up our position with the Baptist Churches in the County Association. He accepted our

decision in the matter, and on Sunday at the communion service conducted by Mr Skinner the church was formed.

The first church meeting was held on Wednesday April 3rd 1901 in the room kindly let by Mr. Williams (the one in which we formerly worshipped), there were ten members present, and the following General Basis of Faith (see box on next page) commending itself to each member. It was decided to insert this declaration in the Church Book and to obtain the signatures of each member to the same.

"We resolve to walk together in love, taking Christ for our only Lord and Head, and His Word for our only rule and guide."

Thomas G. Reed, Charlotte Pearce, George John Wright, Alice Barrett, Henry Bradley, Alice M. Pearce, Benjamin Byatt, Margaret Reed, William Ashford, Eliza St.John, Henry Williams, Annie Bradley, Frederick St.John, Alfred N. Varney

Deacons. The following members of the church were then elected as Deacons viz. Messrs. T. G. Reed, G. J. Wright, F. St.John, H. Williams and H. Bradley

Treasurer and Secretary. The church invited Mr. T. G. Reed to the office as Treasurer and Mr. G. J. Wright as Secretary, the invitations being accepted by both.

Church Meetings. It was resolved to hold meetings of the Church on the first Wednesday in each month.

Self Denial. It was proposed by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Ashford that in order to meet the deficit to the Treasurer a week of self-denial be set apart and that a Rummage Sale be held on May 2nd. Carried.

Envelopes. It was further decided that the envelope system be adopted, and that an effort be made to obtain a Standard Hymn Book for use in Public Worship.

Church Membership. Although the Church as originally formed consisted of Baptised and Unbaptised believers, it was decided on the proposal of Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. St.John that all future admission into the church be on a profession of faith in Christ in the ordinance of believers baptism, except under circumstances which may justify the Church in acting



FOUNDER & OFFICERS OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HODDESDON,
SEPTEMBER, 1897.
REV. E.A. CARTER, PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST PIONEER MISSION, - G.J. WRIGHT, - T.G. REED.
COMING OF AGE CELEBRATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1918.

DECLARATION OF FAITH 1901

We whose names are here subscribed, being either Baptised on a personal profession of our faith in Christ, or having made this profession without the ordinance of baptism, do solemnly give up ourselves to Christ our Lord, and to one another in the sight of God, and in dependence upon His grace, in order to form a Christian Church which shall assemble for Divine worship in the Coffee Tavern Hall, Hoddesdon, under the Pastoral care of Mr. F. J. Skinner student of the Pastors College, London.

Bank at 2.5% p.a. Maurice Smith and G. J. Wright elected Trustees of Building Fund.

June. Non baptised believers can be received into full membership.

Proposed G.J.Wright. Seconded Miss Phillips



1904



1905

otherwise

On May 26th 1901 Mr J. F. Skinner preached what proved to be his last sermons.

At the Annual meeting of the Herts. Baptist Association held at Watford on June 3rd 1901 our church was received into membership.

This was the very beginning of our Fellowship. The Coffee Tavern Hall still stands on the corner of Lord Street. It is now occupied by the Sports Shop

THIS SHORT HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN HODDES DON COVERING THE YEARS 1897 - 1901 WAS COMPILED BY MR. G. J. WRIGHT IN 1901



1901- 2002

In preparing the following history covering the years 1901 - 2002 we have brought together extracts from a variety of sources including Deacons and Church Meetings.



1901

June. At the Annual meeting of

the Herts Baptist Association held at Watford the church was received into membership.

August. The church invited Mr C. H. Lester to the Pastorate, initially for 3 months.

September. Induction of C. H. Lester and farewell to Mr Skinner. **Service held at the Coffee Tavern Hall.** It was said of Mr Skinner "He preached Christ fully and proved himself to be a godly man, full of zeal in the ministry and love for the souls of men".

Mr C. H. Lester ordained to Christian Ministry to the office of Elder or Bishop and invited to Pastorate.



1902

September. Discussed the question of a piece of ground in Amwell Street.



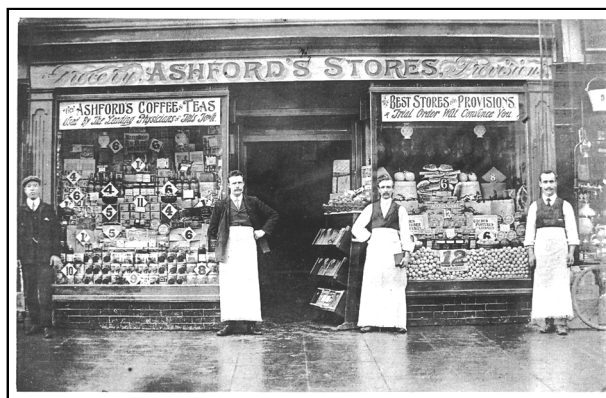
1903

April. Invested Building Fund money in Post Office Savings

March. Increased diaconate to 4

May. Pastor Lester gave his resignation. He accepted a call for a Baptist Church in Lyston, Nr. Leicester.

May. Farewell Service at Coffee Tavern Hall. Chair taken by Pastor Martin Ashby of Hertford. A purse containing £7.3.6d. was presented to the Pastor from members and friends. Coffee was served after the service at a



This picture of Ashford's Stores at 61 - 63 High Street, Hoddesdon shows church deacon Mr W Ashford (second from left).

charge of 3d.each.

June. Discussion on how to raise Building Funds. Picnic. Rummage Sale. No decision made.

September. 3 ladies and 3 gentlemen to be elected to the Building Fund

October. Building Fund Committee. Earlier decision

December 1906. If any member is absent from the Lord's Table for 6 consecutive months without any reason having been given, the secretary having communicated with same meanwhile, their membership to lapse.

rescinded. There are to be only male members on the Building Fund Committee.

"All male members of the church to be on Building Fund Committee with power to add to their number. All officers of the Church and Building Committee and Trustees to be ex-officio members of same". Sunday afternoon Men's Meeting to be taken over as part of church work and to be opened as an Adult Bible Class for men and women. Leader Mr. Norris. Secretary and Treasurer W.E. Ashford. Organist James Dover.

November. Reported land in Amwell Street SOLD. Members requested to be on the look out and to make enquiries re any land for sale.



1906

January. Communion Service once a month. Tickets to be purchased.

March. Social to be organised to welcome Pastor F. George, wife and daughter. Stipend £30 per annum.

April . Recognition services for Pastor George. Three services were held: morning, afternoon and evening. Then two more services were held the following day in the Congregational Church, High Street. Tea was served after in the British School kindly lent for the occasion.

June. Talked about Open Air Work for the Bible Class and a field to hold these meetings in.

December. Decided to join the

Baptist Union. Interested in B.M.S. and to have a Missionary Sunday.



1907

February. AGM Members present at opening 11. Members present at close 16.

May. Proposed by Mr Dover and Seconded by Mr Welch that the church undertake **vigorous and aggressive** open air work during the coming summer months.



1908

May 1909. The following resolution was proposed "That this meeting of members of HBC believes that the Lord is leading us as a church to the piece of land at the corner of Burford Street and Essex Road on which to erect church premises, and we hereby depute the Pastor and Deacons to take the necessary steps to procure as much as they think will be necessary for that purpose". Carried unanimously.

February. The question of a choir was not considered opportune. Suggested members who feel they could help are to sit together and practice at one another's homes.

Church decided to support Mr. Hawkins, a missionary to Zululand.

October. Afternoon Sunday School 2.15 pm. Bible Class 3.15 pm. Hoddesdon Baptist Young People's League very encouraging.

Monthly missionary prayer meeting with a brief missionary talk, was suggested and actioned in September 1909.



1909

February. AGM 16 present. Started year with £1.7.8d. deficit ended year with £8.18.4d. credit.

Pastor commended members for visiting one another in sickness. The organist was thanked together with all those who worked in the interest of the church.

June. Suggested having Psalms and Hymns occasionally instead of Sankey's Hymns.

September. Piece of land to be paid for when levelled.

Singing class to be held weekly.

Pastor F. George tendered his resignation giving 6 months notice as agreed in his contract.

Effective from March 1910. 4 years service.



1910

June. The matter of selling a portion of the land was discussed. After it was clearly shown that there was more than enough for the needs of the church – it was decided that a portion should be resold subject to conditions to be named. Mr Ashford was asked to

Rev. A. McCaig, B.A., LL.D., Principal Pastor's College.

"The friends at Hoddesdon have done admirable work for a number of years under difficult conditions. They are now taking steps to erect the much needed School-Chapel, which will enable them to leave the **small, inconvenient Hall** in which they now meet, and undertake more aggressive work. There is **real need** in this growing neighbourhood for a vigorous **Baptist and Evangelical** testimony: the young Church is living and earnest, but poor, and will need, as it deserves, the help of generous friends outside. Most heartily do I endorse their appeal."

One of 8 letters from leaders of the denomination supporting the appeal for funds to build the new Church and School . These letters formed part of the circular publishing the appeal for funds. (see elsewhere for the full text of the appeal)

get offers.

November. Mrs St.John offered for the children to meet in her room on Sunday afternoons. Mr. Barrett to conduct the class. The organ bought for the open air work to be sent round for their use. Meeting to be held each Sunday 3-4 p.m. to be called "The Young Peoples Bright Hour" Leaders Mr. Neave and Mr. Norris.



1911

February. AGM 19 members present. A Board has been erected on the site.

12 new members were received during the year.

5 transferred to other churches.

Balance in hand £2.15.4d.

£2 to Building Fund and 15/4d for Sunday school treat.

The usual Sunday school treat was to be held on February 15th. There was an attendance of 40 scholars.

A Deacon was empowered to sell 35ft. frontage and 29ft. side frontage off building site. Subject to approval of Building Committee.

March. "A scheme was introduced to augment the

Building Fund viz.

5 friends to promise 1/- a week for 6 months

10 6d.

12 3d.

12 2d

12 1d

which by the end of August would produce about £21".

May Church decided to try and obtain the services of student Pastor A Stone.

June. "Albert Stone feels that there are unmistakable signs that it is in God's Will that he should accept the invitation. He is prepared to spend his strength for the work; but points out that to carry the work on to great success that it cannot be done by him alone and that it can only be accomplished by a united people, willing to render hearty support and loyalty to all that he may seek to do".

He suggested starting his ministry on 18 June.

December. Purchased a new organ (a very fine instrument) for £7.7.0d.



1912

January. A.G.M. showed total receipts amounted to £78.4.11d. leaving a balance of £1.0.1d. Communion Fund showed a

balance of £3.15.4d.

Bros. Ashford and Norris re-elected as Deacons

Bro. W. S. Norris re-elected as General Secretary

Bro. Ashford re-elected as Treasurer and Door Steward

The secretary sent a letter to the Pastor concerning his long and trying illness.

May. Pastor Stone was being pressed by Dr. McCaig to take an engagement at Margate for a 4 month period and wanted him to take the Pastorate. "**The question was did we desire Bro. Stone to become our Settled Pastor? It was heartily and unanimously decided that we did.** Methods were discussed on how his stipend could be raised.

Dr. McCaig was unable to shake his decision and Pastor Stone went to Margate for the agreed time.

September. Albert Stone wrote a detailed letter accepting the offer from Hoddesdon to the Pastorate commencing on 13 October

October. Minister to be made responsible for the "communion fund" which is for the benefit of the needy members.

November. A baptismal service to be held at Hertford Baptist Church. 6 candidates.

A Bazaar was suggested and unanimously agreed upon to raise funds for the new building; Bro. Farrow to be recognised as the organising secretary.

December. Decided to have Communion Cards for 1913.

"Pastor asked to be advised if any member knew of a sick person or anyone in trouble that would appreciate a visit from him".

The Executive of the Building Fund gave a report on the position of the fund stating they had £98 in hand. £100 loan promised from the Baptist Building Fund and an anticipation of raising £100 at the Stone Laying and opening of the New Chapel. This would still leave a large sum to be raised before the place would be free of debt.



1913

January. A.G.M. 13 new members and 1 transferred during the year.

Amount received during the year £141.14.4d. Balance in hand £1.0.2d.

45 scholars in Sunday school.

Pastor gave notice that at the next A.G.M. the Church Organist would be elected in the same way as other Church officers.

It was decided to form a League of Ropeholders in connection with the B.M.S.

The matter of the alteration of seating was to be left until the stove could be dispensed with.

February. Sankey's Hymn book to be used for the Evening Service.

May. Bro.H.Warner gave the church a beautiful Bible for use in the pulpit.

Pastor Stone sent a letter of resignation. It was decided to lay

this letter on the table until 4th June when the same would be considered at a Special Meeting.

The Church offered to raise Pastor Stone's stipend, but he declined saying that his utmost desire was for the expansion of God's Kingdom and that he felt that all the money they had should be channelled into the Building Fund. He didn't see that the work could progress until they met in more suitable premises, and again asked that they accept his resignation.

Anniversary Services arranged for 19 & 26 June.

July. Coffee Tavern accounts approved.

September. The Baptist Hymnal to be used on Sunday evenings except the last Sunday in the month when "Sankey's" will be used.

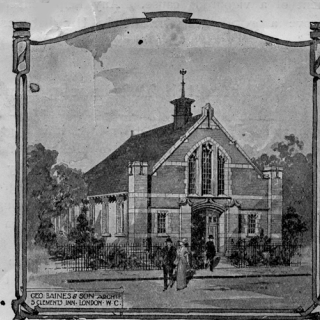
October. Many discussions were held regarding Pastor Stone and it eventually came to light that the question of the building was not the reason for Pastor Stone's resignation, but it was that he was leaving the Denomination.

December. Japanese Bazaar raised £108.

Rev.E.A.Carter of the Pioneer Mission asked to take the oversight of the church for a period of say two or three months. Dr McCaig recommended him and said he was exceptionally well experienced and qualified to assist the church at this juncture of its history.

Rev. Carter pointed out that his special work was to try and fill empty churches or to help in a forward movement. He consented to come if the Church would engage a larger hall say, the

Baptist Church, Hoddesdon



Proposed Church and School.

Foundation Stone-Laying Ceremony (D.V.)
Thursday, 23rd July, 1914.

What Baptist Leaders say of the work.

Rev. Charles Brown, D.D., Ferme Park Baptist Church.
Ex-President Baptist Union of Gt. Britain and Ireland.
National Federation of Free Church Councils.

"I have the utmost pleasure in heartily commending the appeal of the friends at Hoddesdon. It is a most promising and needy field. To seize the present opportunity will be to provide for a great future. A better investment in the Lord's work could scarcely be made in this land, and the people are worthy."

OUR APPEAL.

The work was commenced in the year 1897. The Church was formed four years later, the services being held at the Coffee Tavern Hall, and recently at the Baths Hall.

A fine corner site has been secured providing sufficient Land for the Church and School, and also for the large Church when the growth of the neighbourhood will warrant its erection.

It is decided to at once erect the Church and School, and plans have been prepared by Messrs. G. Baines & Son, Architects, which will give seating accommodation for about 200, besides a Schoolroom at the back, which will be separated from the Church by movable partitions, and when these are thrown open to the main building there will be seating accommodation for 270 persons.

The total cost, including the land, will be about **£1300**.

Feeling the great need of an effort to bring the people to Christ, we have put our hands to this work of erecting a permanent building with adjacent rooms. We have, with a little outside help, raised about **£500**, thus paying for the Land and leaving £200 in hand. At a meeting of the church and congregation, held on April 16th last, **nearly £120** was promised, spreading over a period of fifteen months. **This leaves nearly £700 to be raised**, and we are looking for help from those who are interested in the spread of the Kingdom of Christ.

There is not nearly sufficient provision in the existing churches and chapels for the population, and being within 17 miles of the metropolis, this is becoming slowly but surely a London suburb, and may at any time rapidly increase.

Arrangements have been made for the Stone-Laying Ceremony to take place on 23rd July, 1914.

The letters at the front of this circular will show that the work has the approval and confidence of Leaders of our Denomination.

Donations will be gratefully received by—

Mr. SAMUEL T. HAMPTON, *Hon. Secretary*, Eversley, Hoddesdon.

Mr. F. W. NEAVE, *Hon. Treasurer*, High Street, Hoddesdon.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed Barclay & Co., Ltd.

Institute Hall or the Baths Hall for
four Sundays.



1914

January. A.G.M. Members
present 28. Many unavoidably
absent through illness.

Mr. Norris reported 42 in
membership, 9 had left and not
transferred, 1 lapsed and 4
transferred and only 1 received.

It had been a year of perplexity

and trial alike for officers and members, and while deploring the barrenness of the results as far as membership was concerned, he counselled courage, fidelity and faithfulness for the coming year.

Income £152.5.6d.
Expenditure £132.3.6d
Balance of £20.2.0d.
Communion Fund £2.8.7d
Building Fund £112.6.4d.
Japanese Bazaar now standing at £118.0.0d.

Scrutineers Mr. Cakebread and Mrs. Teddar

Deacon: S.T. Hampton
Church Secretary:
W.S. Norris
Church Treasurer:
W.E. Ashford
Building Fund Secretary:
S.T. Hampton
Building Fund Treasurer:
F.W. Neave
Sunday School
Superintendent: Morning
S.T. Hampton. Afternoon
F.W. Neave
All the teachers were asked to continue.
Choir Master J. Dover
Organists: Mrs. Hampton and C. Byatt
Missionary Secretary:
Mrs Couch
I.B.R.A. Secretary:
Beatrice Little

Reporting Secretary: J.W. Wright
Secretary of Sunshine Committee: Rose Church
Door Stewards: Messrs. Neave, Norris, Channon, Cakebread and Church.

March. Rev. Carter to be caretaker minister until a new minister is appointed. Meetings to be held in the Baths Hall as this has a larger hall.

June. Plans for the Church Building had been accepted from Messrs. Baines the Architects. Estimate being about £1,000. Sets of plans are now in the hands of various builders who have been asked to tender. Four foundation stones are promised. Friends wishing to lay a foundation stone are to let Mr. Hampton know within the next 10

days and to state whether child or adult. **A stone could be laid from £3.3.0d upwards.**

Five hundred letters were sent all over the country. Rev. Carter strongly pleaded for earnest prayer for the success of the appeal. The Jacob's Ladder Chart recorded £650 raised out of a needed total of £1,300.

The Trust Deed for the Land and Property was passed.

July. Rev. Carter felt it time to move on and offered to find a suitable minister to introduce to the Church. He succeeded in his quest and arranged for Rev.



The flowers from the tea tables at the stone-laying were sent to the Hertford Infirmary. Photo 1914

Joseph Hume to come and preach on 2nd and 9th August.

The first foundation Stone-Laying Ceremony for the School Chapel took place on 23rd July and was a grand success. Rev. and Mrs. Carter laid a stone on behalf of the Church and Sunday school. No document to be laid under the "Church Stone" of the new church building.

November. "The question of darkening the windows of the school and chapel in order to meet the demands of the New Lighting Order was considered. Members present promised to comply with all that was needed.

Rev. J. Hume became the minister.

December. The Recognition Service for Rev. Hume to be held during last week of January 1915. Invitations sent to Congregational and Wesleyan friends.

A photograph is to be taken of Rev. Carter and the members of the Building Fund Committee. The same is to be framed and hung in the vestry as a permanent memorial of their services to the Church in the erection of the building, and also a copy is to be given to each member for their own homes.



1915

February. Immense increase in the Sunday school since meeting in the new buildings.

April. Weekly Open Air Witness to be started in May.

Mr. P. Church asked to wind church clock.

June. Pastor Hume mentioned that he had offered his services as a *munitions worker* to the Government Factory in Enfield. He was not accepted due to his being unskilled in that type of work.

December. 2.5% of all monies raised during the year for the Building Fund were to be credited to the General Funds. The Pastor spoke concerning a mission hoped to be held in February and mentioned that District Visitors would be needed to regularly visit the homes of people with *Tracts*. A Cottage prayer meeting for *Rye Park Nursing Assoc.* was mentioned. Rev. Dunn was to be the Mission speaker.



1916

September. The question about entertaining the wounded soldiers once a month was discussed and left over.

October. It was suggested starting a Boys Club for lads 12 years and upwards. A loan of a bagatelle board was requested.

Pastor suggested that for the Week of Prayer, that instead of meeting in the Coffee Tavern Hall as hitherto, they should use the six places of worship in the town.

S. T. Hampton and volunteers were thanked for cementing a path from the street to the Chapel door.

The Pastor gave an earnest invitation to all who could possibly rally to help in the Open Air work on Sunday afternoons and urged the necessity of more prayer.



1917

February. A.G.M. Membership: 66. Sunday school: 105. Lads Bible Class: 14.

International Bible Reading Association: 24. (IBRA)

May. A discussion took place regarding the £200 left on the Building Fund and it was suggested that they endeavour to clear it the next year. Various ideas including private trading and private enterprise i.e., (putting aside produce from gardens, monies received from preaching elsewhere, etc). It was unanimously decided to attempt to clear amount outstanding. Promise forms to be issued as last year.

Pastor Hume spoke very seriously about the prayer life of the church. The Saturday night meetings were not a success and spiritual progress not possible without prayer.

August. Pastor Hume explained the scheme for an Institute to be built at the rear of the school room. He felt it would be a valuable asset to the church when the **soldiers** came home again.

October. Opening of the new Chapel to be held on Thursday 15th November. Speaker and preacher for the day Rev. Martin Ashby.



1918

February. A.G.M. Membership: 68. Absent members: 7.

Condolences were expressed to the Dover family on the loss of their son killed in action in France. Condolences also to Pastor and Mrs. Hume on the loss of their "little baby".

May. Killed in action Charles Taylor and Horace Simons

June. Pastor spoke of his offer to the V.T.C. viz. 2 months special military duties. The question was asked could the church do without him and after discussion a resolution was submitted and carried in the negative.



1919

January. Pastor's stipend discussed and raised to £200 per annum plus £25 towards rent.

May. It was agreed a Peace Celebration Service should be held at the church.

The Baptist Young Peoples Society was mentioned and also the *need to lay hold of the men folk*. Mr Norris spoke of the "lamentable apathy among Christians towards aggressive Christian work generally"

June. The question of closer fellowship with the Congregational Church was introduced and suggested the matter of Prayer meetings, Guilds, Clubs, Temperance Work etc. in which a united work would be a distinct advantage to both churches.

November. Revs. Barclay and Buxton agreed to conduct the Watch Night Service. Members

MINISTERS OF HODDESDON BAPTIST CHURCH

1897 - 2002

1897-1898 Mr. G. F. Laws

1898-1901 Mr. F. J. Skinner

1901-1905 Pastor C H Lester

1905-1906 Interregnum

1906-1909 Pastor F George

1909-1912 Interregnum

1912-1913 Pastor Stone

1914-1923 Rev Hume

1924-1933 Pastor Geo A Griffith

1933-1934 Interregnum

1934-1939 Rev. S.H. Johnson

1939-1941 Interregnum

1942-1948 Rev. Henry Bryant

1948-1949 Interregnum

1949-1952 Rev. R. Michael Frost

1952-1954 Interregnum

1955-1965 Rev Jupp

1965-1968 Rev John Hutchinson

1968-1971 Interregnum

1971-1973 Rev Paul Bevan

1973-1979 Interregnum

1979-1992 Rev Eddie Purse

1987-1989 Rev Ted Rubesh

1992-1994 Rev Nigel Paterson

1994- Rev Chris Densham



The following policy for the sake of future members was to be adopted in relation to the Drink Traffic. "In view of the direct hindrance of the Drink Trade, to the best welfare of the Individual – the Family – the State – and the Kingdom of God, this Church first affirms its unequalled disapproval of that trade and secondly, asserts that no member of the Church of Jesus Christ should derive direct profit from the Trade and thirdly, that (without its being made a condition of membership) all in fellowship with the Church of Jesus Christ should practice and commend total abstinence. (February 1918)

were urged to join the I.B.R.A.



1920

January. A.G.M. Active Members 68. Absent members list 11.

1919, A year when it was said **"Ebenezer and hitherto has the Lord helped us"**.

A year of growth in every department – the days of infancy are over.

The attendances were varied.

"There were the faithful twicers that could be depended upon: would that all the Lord's people were twicers."

The Brotherhood doing a good work among big lads and young men and the Baptist Athletic and Football Club is a very live concern.



1921

February. A.G.M. Active members: 69. Absent members: 16.

A resolution was passed *urging the Government to strong temperance reform*. Copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister and the Member of Parliament for East Herts.

May. The "Deacons Court" recommended that the Club Room and the Primary Room be offered to the Hertfordshire County Council for use as Infants School Rooms.

The Primary School Room had been offered to Hoddesdon Chess Club for 2/6d per evening.

September. Money to be given to Russian Famine Fund: £21.



1922

February. A.G.M. Active members: 62. Absent List 14. Sunday school Morning 78 Afternoon 120 Primary school 64

Appreciation was expressed to all who were involved in the children's work and the various organisations connected to the church

May. A piano was purchased for £27.10.0d. for the Club Room.

Pastor suggested the following for inviting non church-goers.

- 1) Poster for front of church
- 2) Special leaflets for S. S. children to give to parents.
- 3) Special leaflets to be distributed during Open Air work
- 4) A case of invitations at the

Coffee Tavern.

A number of boxes of bedding out plants were donated for the church garden.



1923

January. A.G.M. Active members: 61. Absent list 19.

Sunday school
Morning 85 (8 teachers)
Afternoon 155 (19 teachers)
Primary 70 (9 teachers)

Women's Own uncomfortably crowded in the Club Room – they expressed their hope to use the church. Proposed increasing the Deaconate to 6. A new rule was introduced for the election of Deacons.

February. A letter was sent to our Member of Parliament urging him to support Lady Astor's Bill making it illegal for persons under 18 to be served intoxicating liquors

May. The question of a set of waterproof Baptismal Robes was brought forward. Mr Norris agreed to find the cost of same. £8.8.0d.

September. The Pastor tendered his resignation after 9 years, having received a "call" from Eden Bridge Baptist Church, Kent. To terminate at the end of October. Farewell service 29th October 1923.



1924

February. A.G.M. Active members 66. Absent list 19.

Rev. Griffith invited to come and preach with a view.

Invitation given to Pastor Geo. A. Griffith of Blisworth, Northants. to become Spiritual Leader and Pastor.

March. Telegram received from Pastor Griffith accepting the invitation.

and assured the Pastor and his wife of their loyalty and devotion. The Pastor responded feelingly and assured everyone of God's leading and they looked forward with great delight to the future.

Mr and Mrs. Hampton resigned church membership after serving for many years, holding various key positions during that time. A letter of appreciation and regret was sent to them.

All the money necessary to complete the purchase of the new manse was practically in and settlement was due to take place on 9th May 1924.

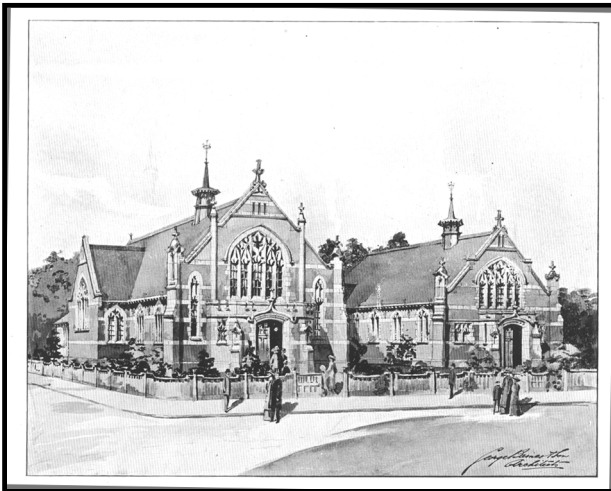
Broxbourne Station.

October. After looking at a sample it was agreed to arrange distribution of Gospel Leaflets around the district, purchasing 250 each month for the next six months.

Pastor thought of spending an hour in the vestry before the mid-week evening service, giving an opportunity for those inquiring the way of salvation and any who needed guidance and help in spiritual matters.

November. Mrs. Butcher, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Fred Durrant were seeking membership. They were duly visited and interviewed. They were recommended for membership and were ready to be baptised, except one who for medical reasons could not be at present, but quite understood it.

Gospel leaflet distribution increased to 500 each month – 250 not being nearly enough.



Plans to build a new church and convert the existing building into a hall did not proceed.

May. A Recognition Service to be held 29th May 1924. Preacher R.S.W. Hughes of Westbourn Park Chapel. Thanks were expressed to Miss Stella Smith for working the church initials onto the new communion tablecloth.

Thanks to Mr. Challen for bedding plants.

Thanks to Rev. H. R. Cripps of Hertford for services rendered whilst the church was without a Pastor.

July. W. Upcott repaired the church organ "as a labour of love" for the Master's work, charging only 18/- for out of pocket expenses.

Missionary meeting held in Mr. and Mrs. Way's garden. The Rev. Ansty Smith from India.

September. A deputation from B.M.S. Medical work was coming, speaking at afternoon and evening services, but going to Waltham Cross for the morning.

Mr. Norris suggested advertising as a Church on a more extensive scale and thought they might do well by advertising it at

The Deacons felt that it was time to make a move to purchase a manse for the new Pastor. A house that should belong to the church.

Some felt that the existing debts should be cleared before getting into further commitments. A meeting was called and promises of interest-free loans were made and all outstanding amounts were cleared. So the way was opened to proceed to try and secure 33 Hertford Road, Hoddesdon as a manse. The Pastor to pay £1 per week rent.

April. A Church Social was held to give Rev. and Mrs. Griffith a very cordial and enthusiastic welcome. Representatives of most of the branches of the work spoke a few words of welcome



1925

January A parting present was given to Mr. Geo. Hampton who was leaving for New Zealand.

Baptismal Service to be held 25th January 1925

A.G.M. Active membership 69. Absent list 18. Deacons elected for 2 years.

The various branches of the work were in a most flourishing condition.

May. Mrs. G. A. Griffith asked to serve on the committee of Hoddesdon and Rye Park Nursing Association.

September. Members encouraged to read the Baptist Times thus keeping themselves in weekly touch with the work and movement of our Denomination.

October. Miss Gladys Simons asked for membership and baptism having taken a "decision

December. (1924) The following Resolution was sent to the Hertfordshire County Council regarding "7 day cinema licenses". This was passed at the executive meetings of Hertford & District Free Church Council.

"That this congregation of the Hoddesdon Baptist Church, places on record its protest against the proposal before the Herts County Council to grant Licences to halls and cinemas to open on Sundays between hours of 3 & 5 and 8 & 10 p.m. and appeals to the County Council not to sanction any organised movement that further threatens the day of worship and rest"

she yielded her life to the Lord and wanted to be baptised as soon as possible.

November. Mrs. Shaw asked for membership but stated that owing to physical reasons doubted if she would be able to pass through the waters of Baptism. A resolution was passed accepting her for membership.



1927

January. A.G.M. Active Members 86. Absent list 17. Received into membership 16. Baptisms 7.

Accounts showed that they were able

card" during the Special Week of meetings. Two ladies from Women's Own who also attended these meetings had decided to follow Christ.



1926

January. A.G.M. Active members 78. Absent list 13

Various branches of the work called for great joy. Benevolent Fund had been used to bring help and comfort to those who needed it.

March. A second hand Bell organ was purchased at 35 guineas.

April. Pastor enforced to take a rest from his work for a few weeks.

September. An application for membership had been received from Joy Neave who had been influenced through the meetings held in the town by Dr. Campbell Morgan. In one of the gatherings

to start the New Year free of debt. Thanks were expressed to all who so willingly helped in so many ways. Pastor encouraged everyone to continue steadfast in the great and glorious work.

Special prayer to plead for China during unrest and turmoil.

June. Financial Secretary reported a deficit of £32.19.4d. A letter had been written showing how this had accrued and suggesting a plan which if adopted would solve the problem. The letter was read and for anyone wanting a copy one was available.

September. Deficit now reduced to £9.4.4d.

Thanks were expressed to all for thoroughly cleaning the chapel buildings, gardens and grounds.

It was asked if there could be more lighting around the side entrances.

November. 30th Anniversary fixed for November 20th & 21st.

Rev. Walkey to conduct services and would give his famous Lantern Lecture.

Mr Dover and family would be leaving soon but no date fixed for their sailing. Many thanks were given for their devoted service and were commended to God for His protection, care and guidance.



1928

January. Founder members Mr and Mrs J Dover emigrated to Australia.

December. Pastor Giffith asked to continue his ministry indefinitely.



1929

January. Average weekly offering during 1928 was £14. 2s. 6d.



1930

January. Number of members is 107.



1931

January. Number of members 97.

Deficit in church funds of 18s 9d was met by generosity of a friend.

September. Church endorsed Miss Elsie Kirby's call to serve as a missionary in Zululand.



1932

January. Membership 106.

March. Week of prayer called for low state of church funds.

July. Pastor Griffith gives six

months notice of termination of ministry.



1933

January. membership 111.

November 1934. "The meeting considered the question of providing the Pastor with a baptismal suit. It was agreed that if suitable and practical, the trousers of the present suit might be lengthened with a gusset"

May. Pastor Griffith leaves church after 9 years.

June. Agreed to spend £17 to install electric lighting in the manse with a view to selling.

October. Church agrees a stipend of £250 pa for a new pastor at the appropriate time.



1934

January. Membership. 114.

Sale of manse to proceed. Expect to fetch £635.

March. Rev George Johnson invited to be Pastor for a period of 5 years.

June. Induction service for Rev Johnson.

October. Church agrees to the formation of a Girls Life Brigade.



1935

January. Membership 109.



1936

December. Decision made to extend the church building to increase the seating capacity by 50 - 60.



1937

January. Minister: Pastor G. H. Johnson. Deacons: W.E. Ashford, W.S.Norris re-elected. Secretary, J. Weekes. Treasurer, F. W. Neave. Financial Secretary, W. S. Norris.

Church Extension proposed; architects fees £75; approx cost £1800.

Average collection £7.00p per week. Membership 120.

February. Vote for Church Extension. 48 for and 32 against. Required two - thirds majority not reached therefore motion lost.

Membership:- 126 up 6 on previous year.(Effective membership 104). 38 people involved in church organisations.

Approval for church extension delayed.

March. Pastor given a £20 increase in stipend. It is to be paid at £2.0.0d per month for 10 months.

Salary increase for Minister rejected as a number of members abstained.

May. Church Spring Cleaning weekend 7-9th June.

Y.P.F closed but a Girls Bible Class started.

June. Redecorate the Primary Hall.

Summer Rally to be held at High Leigh.

September. Exterior of Church decorated by church members.

Thanks given to those who helped decorate the exterior of the church premises and those who helped with spring cleaning the church.

December. Pastor's stipend to be increased to £275 per annum for 1938.



1938

January. Membership 126 (static).

Average collection £5.8.5d per week. Membership 126.

Previous year had spent more than the income. Church to be written to presenting the immediate need and seeking their co-operation to correct the situation.

September. Rev. Johnson resigned.

December. Pastor tenders his resignation leaving September 1939.



1939

January. Membership 124. Active members 104.

April. Requested Town Council to reject application for Sunday opening of the cinema.

THE WAR YEARS

September. Rev. Johnson's farewell service 30th Sept. 39.

October. Agreed to afternoon services on Sunday during winter. Black Out curtains cost £6.0s.0d.

Wednesday evening services to be held if possible.

Vestry converted into a "Refuge Room".



1940

January. Membership:- 122 (12 removed from church roll). So real membership 110.

Without a Minister; no midweek meetings. Difficult to arrange business meetings due to the air raids. Average weekly offerings were £5.



1941

April. - Consideration of electricity in vestries and eventually in church. Estimates to be obtained.

Electric light installed in vestry and choir vestry.

Average weekly offerings were £5.6s.6d.

July. Annual pastor's stipend recommended at £280 - 300 per annum although pastorate at present vacant

General public cutting through grounds, church gates must be kept locked

August. Electric light installed in Church (150 watt and not 200 watt as first agreed).

September. Deacons unanimously recommended Rev. H. Bryant to the pastorate.

Meeting also unanimously carried the proposal to ask Rev. H. Bryant to be their minister. Agreed a stipend of £300 per annum.

November. Rev Bryant coming as pastor



1942

March. Consideration of joint services but concern expressed about difficulties, to be presented to the church.

April. Formation of Girl Guides

Rev. H. Bryant inducted as minister. Average weekly offerings were £8.17s.0d.

June. Mr W. S. Norris resigned as Financial Secretary and Deacon after 40 years service.

To be given an "Illuminated Address". Mr Norris became a member in 1902, Deacon in 1903, Church Secretary in 1904 until 1919 and then Financial Secretary from 1919 to 1942.

September. Ministry of Supply to remove church railings

Agreed to purchase organ



1943

April. Annual Church Business Meeting. 40 people attended. Average weekly offerings were £6.6s.6d. Church in good heart, finances sound, conversions, baptisms and new members showed that God was at work in His people.

July. Consideration of acquiring purchase of Pastor's house as a manse.

October. Loan of £6 to the newly-formed Lifeboy team



1944

March. Annual Church Business Meeting. 40 people attended. Good year despite the restrictions caused by the war. Average weekly offerings were £7.10s.6d.

Agreed to pay 7s 6d a quarter for organ pumping

April. Agreed to hold a popular Sunday evening service using Sankey hymns



1945

END OF THE WAR YEARS

February. Recommendation to the church that a Church Building Fund be established

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 40 people attended. Average weekly offerings were £7.5s.9d.

June. Recommendation that the Baptist Union Corporation be the sole trustees of the premises

July. Minister concerned at the spiritual state of the church. Recommended a Saturday Evening Prayer Meeting every week.

September. Black out curtains removed and sold. Exterior of Church to be redecorated. Leadership of the Saturday Prayer Meeting to be open to all Church members.

October. Minister's 5 year period in pastorate nearly ended. Church voted to ask Minister to remain for an indefinite period. Rev. Bryant accepted.

December. Advertising of church services in local paper charged at 4d per line.



1946

March. Minister suggested a campaign in the autumn. A team of students from Spurgeons Bible College to "assist".

April. Evangelistic Campaign to be held in the Autumn.

Agreed to increase the Pastor's stipend by £25 per year and a bonus of £12 10s 0d.

Minister meets the three students and following strategy was agreed.

1. Prayer meeting prior to each service.

2. On the first Saturday a Welcome Service and Social where each student will preach on the following topics.

- a. Message - Christ.
- b. Motive - Souls.
- c. Means - Holy Spirit.

3. Preaching topics for each individual campaign service.

Sunday. Dead or Alive.
Monday. Now or Never.
Tuesday. Profit or Loss.
Wednesday. All or Nothing.
Thursday. Money or Your Life.
Friday. Innocent or Guilty.
Saturday. Coming or Going.
Sunday. Christ or You.

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 29 people present. Average weekly offerings were £7.4s.5d.

June. 18 members removed from Church roll.

July. 2,500 Invitation leaflets to be printed in preparation for the autumn campaign.

September. The fellowship and Church had been blessed because of the Evangelistic Campaign.

Mr Tribe and Mr Cooper elected to the diaconate.



1947

January. Jubilee Year. Church Jubilee to be held on 7th September.

February. Agreed to redecorate the church in preparation for the Jubilee Celebrations in the autumn.

April. Thanks expressed for the gift of three oak communion chairs in memory of Mr & Mrs Norris.

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 36 people attended. Average weekly offerings were £7.8s.9d.

June. Although food rationing

was still in force, the church members started sending food parcels to P.O.W families in Germany.

September. Jubilee Services.

November. Heartfelt thanks to all involved in the Jubilee arrangements and especially praise to God for His blessing/seal upon the events.

Market stall by Hoddesdon Christian Council for "Christian Literature", church gave the requested £1.1s.0d. towards this new enterprise.

Agreed to put a Christian literature stall in Hoddesdon market as suggested by the Hoddesdon Christian Council

December. Six parcels sent in November to P.O.W families in Germany and another six to be sent in January.



1948

February. Fence around church required complete renovation with concrete posts and wire. Baptistry needs attention. It was agreed to continue sending food parcels to Europe.

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 51 people present. Average weekly offerings were £6..16..7d. 21 food parcels sent and further collections to be made.

Sunday School Diploma of Honour.

Miss Stella Little	35 years
Mr Cooper	28 years
Miss A. King	28 years
Miss M. R Bridge	26 years
Miss J. Neave	26 years

June. Minister resigns after 6 years, leaving on 19th September 1948. Farewell Service and Tea on 16th September

Agreed that the halls be used for Margaret Cooper's 21st Birthday to be held on 24th July



1949

February. Mr Frost accepts call to pastorate at a salary of £325. 0s 0d.

May. Baptist Men's Movement visiting Church

The London Region of the BMM hold their annual conference at High Leigh - they have been coming to HBC every year since.

June. Rev. R. Michael Frost inducted as Minister.

Annual Church Business Meeting. 50 people present.

July – Missionary Council formed to increase interest and support in missionary work.

September. Application for membership by Lillian O'Rielly.

Miss Stella Little resigns from Sunday School staff after 36 years as a teacher.

First Missionary Council formed.

October. Application for baptism and church membership from Doris West and Mary Neave.

No accommodation found for Minister.



1950

January. First issue of church newsletter.

February. Consideration of new heating system.

March. Joy Neave donates two communion chairs in memory of her parents

April. Application by Mrs Traveller for church membership.

New heating system considered too expensive.

Mr Ashford retires from deaconate after 47 years of service.

June. Presentation of Bible to Mr Ashford in recognition of his long service.

July. Proceeded with the Christian Literature stall on market day

Diaconate agrees to purchase gas radiators for church



1951

The Saturday Prayer Meeting to be incorporated into the Wednesday evening service. Rev. Frost to arrange a convention for the "Deepening of Spiritual life". Proposed dates 15th – 18th Feb.

March. A Women's Missionary Prayer Group formed.

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 47 people present.

June Mr W. E. Ashford presented with a bible inscribed to witness to the church's appreciation and thanks for his loyalty and service to the church for 47 years, as Deacon.

September. The money in the Building Fund transferred to a new account and to be used for redecorating the exterior of the church premises, purchase of two new gas heaters and eight dozen hymn books. This would leave a balance of £126 for any other renovation work required on the church buildings.



1952

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 40 people present.

August. Rev. Frost resigns.

November. Manse Building Fund started. The lack of a manse was given as a reason for the difficulty

in attracting a new minister.



1953

June. Consideration of ceasing to sing 'Amen' at the end of each hymn, decision deferred to next meeting.

July. Agreed to refer 'Amen' to the next church meeting.

October. Concern expressed about spiritual condition of church.

May. Annual Church Business Meeting. 38 people present.

August. Manse Building Fund dissolved.

Church requested the services of a Moderator during the Interregnum.



1954

Discussion held about the possibility of having lady deacons.

A proposal was made to hold mid-week Bible studies as a trial, and to be continued if successful. This would be in addition to the Saturday evening prayer meeting.

April. Mrs Rawlings and Mrs Pennington apply for membership.

May. Recommendation to be put to church in the near future for the rules to be amended to allow the election of lady deacons.

Ralph Long transfers membership to church.

July. Consideration given to buying a Manse. Church meeting to be called to consider this matter.

Further meeting to consider purchase of Manse.

September. Harvest Supper, the

charge will be 1 shilling each, the menu will be kept a secret.



1955

January. House in Ware Road belonging to London City Mission up for sale – possible Manse.

April. Recommendation to Church to call Rev Jupp to pastorate

Rev Jupp accepts call to pastorate. Induction Service 15th September 1955.

June. Agreed to purchase 21 Highbury Avenue for church Manse.

October. Rev Lionel Jupp was called to the pastorate; his stipend was approved at £400.



1956

January. It was agreed to form a Girls Life Brigade company for the older girls. Miss M. Cooper offered to lead it. GLB company to commence in September.

Contact Campaign, a visitation to all on the electoral roll after a letter of introduction had been sent. This would require prayer partners, clerical assistants and visitors.

February. It was reported that 40 prayer partners, 20 visitors, 10 clerical assistants had offered to help in the campaign.

April. The number of prayer partners had risen to 78.

The question of lady deacons was reconsidered, but there would be no need to alter the existing church rules regarding male deacons.

May. Hector Hall accepted into church membership.

July. Almost 500 visits had been made in the Contact Campaign.

Ralph Long becomes convener of fall.
door stewards.



1957



1958

June. 'Questions Evangelism'.
Young people are to ask 7
questions of their peers at
school/work in order to stimulate
thought.

September. Ralph Long
suggested that the church look
into a covenant system of giving
to the church finances.

October. Joy Neave resigned as

**October 1958. No 66
Ware Road given in a
legacy as a manse for
the church.**

Primary Sunday school leader
after 30 years.



1959



1960

July. Donations of 1 guinea each
given to London Bible College
and Spurgeon's College.

November. Colours for the
church redecoration would be,
walls Arctic blue, the dado gull
grey, and the reveals pearl grey.
Miss Rogers offered a red pulpit



1961

April. The YPF would be closed
temporarily due to lack of
support.



1962

May. Resolution passed to build
a new church at a minimum cost
of £12,000 and the existing
church building would become a
hall, but the majority was too
small to justify going ahead at
once.



1963

March. Miss Cooper
recommended the purchase of a
piano for £3.

Ed Hall accepted by LBC for
mission work, called by God into
translation work.

May. The afternoon Sunday
School would be closed and the
children attend during the
morning service.

July. There was difficulty in
obtaining organ blowers, it was
hoped to draw up a rota.



1964



1965

January. Rev Jupp left the
church.

April. At a Special Church
meeting the rules were
changed to allow lady deacons.

May. Rev John Hutchinson called
to the pastorate, the induction
would be on Oct. 2nd.



1966

April. A coach was arranged to
go to the Billy Graham rally at
Earls Court.

September. Work began on
building the new halls.



1967

March. Building work on new
halls finished.



1968

May. Rev Hutchinson resigned as
he intended to join the Oriental
Missionary Society.

September. Agreed to send a gift
of £10 to Hertford Baptist church
for the recent flood damage.



1969

February. A very snowy night,
only 7 members present at the
church meeting.

December. Joined the national
movement to sign a petition
asking the government to allocate

March. (1956). Discussion on which organ was most suitable for use, the reed or the pipe organ. The difficulty of organ blowing was mentioned and the deacons asked to consider increasing the organ blowers payment to possibly 12/6 or 15/- per week. It was agreed to use the pipe organ for Sunday services and the reed organ for emergencies.

1% of the national income to under developed-countries.



1970

The membership is 75.

June. The idea was suggested that we start a Sunday School on the Hundred Acre estate. No bookings were available at Cranbourne School, so it was suggested that children could be brought to the church in cars.

October. Frank Baker elected to the diaconate and as church secretary.

December. Shortage of candles owing to the power cuts, unlikely to have enough for a Carols by Candlelight service



1971

January. Rev. Paul Bevan invited to the pastorate. Membership 81.



1972

January. The church withdrew from membership of the Baptist Union and from the Herts Baptist Association.

October. There were complaints about the length of Sunday Services especially with communion.



1973

August. Rev. Bevan leaves the church.



1974

March. The car park fence was a problem, there was discussion about putting the chain back to

stop unauthorised parking.

The church rejoined the Baptist Union.

May. Margaret Cooper to organise a football match with All Nations.

June. Mrs Weeks resigned as Secretary to the Missionary Council after 52 years.

In the last minutes she compiled Mrs Weeks wrote *'Here endeth the rambling memoranda of Norris Weeks'*

July. A quote for £230 was approved for plastic coated fencing around the church.



1975

January. Rev Bob Hunt agreed to try out a keep fit class on a Friday evening for members and friends of all ages.

February. The Car park needs levelling and filling in because of the mud. Mr. Warner to look at the condition of the drainage.

For many years, following the departure of Pastor Paul Bevan much of the conduct of the sacraments and ministry of the church fell upon the shoulders of the Rev Ron Davies. This coincided with a time of numerical growth in the church and HBC was blessed by having so able a deacon to help in its moves forward. Ron was then a tutor at All Nations College and when he later came to work for his PhD at Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, USA, a part of his dissertation was a study of the church growth of Hoddesdon Baptist Church. A copy of this still resides in the library at Fuller and for many years it was the only British study of its type on their shelves. A copy is still in the possession of Bob Hunt and is available amongst the exhibits. Ron and Anne now live in Stanstead Abbots and worship at Hertford Baptist Church.

April. David Hunt was asked to lead a meeting on the Christian attitude to joining the Common Market.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of having a part-time pastor.

May. AGM report, 15 had been baptised in the year and there were 19 new members.

June. The deacons recommended that 10% of the church's income be used for missionary work.



1976



1977

May. Rev. Bob Hunt welcomed onto the diaconate.

An Agape meal was held to mark the beginning of the One Step Forward campaign.

The Rainbow Club was started for boys and girls aged 6-9.



1978

July. Eddie Purse was invited to come and meet the deacons.

September. Church week end

held at All Nations, the nominal charge was 10p per person.



1979

February. It was unanimously agreed to invite Eddie Purse to

the pastorate. The induction would be June 16th.

November. Average collections had risen from £138 in February to £237 in November.



1980

April. Visit of Cliff Richard.

May. It was agreed to put an extension on the church linking the halls, with a new entrance kitchen and toilets at a cost of £38,000.



1981

October. It was agreed that Guiseppe Cappalonga should work with Eddie for 6 months before going to Italy.



1982

January. Average attendance: 102 am., 125 pm.

Extension linking the halls and with a new entrance to the church now finished.

January. A Parent and Toddler group to be started.

May. Membership 139.

Joni film shown at the Civic Hall.

December. Dave Pope of Saltmine Trust Christmas Praise at John Warner School.



1983

January. Barry Kirk ordained at HBC.

April. Membership 171.

September. Church week-end with the Bishop of Lewes as speaker.

Guest service with Gerald Williams.

Ruth Simonson to work with CMS in Sudan.

Julie Wheeler to work in Marseilles for a year with NAM.

September. There was concern at the slight drop in attendance.



1984

April. Seriously seeking an associate pastor especially for youth work.

Lynn Badcock to Belgium on a BEM year team.

December. Outreach mission led by Dave Pope and the Saltmine Team.

It noted that there had been 42 baptisms during the previous two years.



1985

January. Attendance 128 am. and 125 pm.

Membership 174, 90 members involved in specific work.

September. Manse on 60 Lampits, sold for £59,000, 1 Briscoe Close bought for £67,500

Church weekend with Ray Mayhew from Icthus.

December. Grand piano bought in memory of Fred Bye.



1986

January. Acquired buildings belonging to Mannamead

Fellowship in Duke Street.

March. Appointed Joan Stott as Church Counsellor.

July. Church voted in favour of asking Ted Rubesh to be Associate Pastor. Initially for one year.

September. Marilyn Baker Concert at the Civic Hall.

Church weekend, Bryan Gilbert, from One Step Forward campaign.

Ted Rubesh took up position as associate pastor.

October. Dana concert in the Civic Hall.

November. David Smythe offers to serve as church Administrator for one year. Happily accepted.

December. Mannamead property in Duke Street handed over, deacons to be the Trustees.



1987

March. Day of prayer and fasting seeking God about an eldership.

Discussions about enhancing worship, church to be turned through 90°, facing car park for a trial evening service.

April. Church agrees to appoint Elders.

May. Elders appointed. Frank Baker, Bob Hunt, Will Vincent.

Ted and Renate Rubesh agreed to stay for another year.

'Shopstop' Children's mission with Andy Payne a very successful week, many non-Christian contacts.

July. Problem of accommodation for children and young people's

Youth gospel concert sell-out

BROXBOURNE Civic Hall was enveloped by Christian spirit last week as thousands of people visited the various events presented by the Salt Mine Mission.

The 25-strong team of evangelists took over the venue to deliver God's message for the world today by way of speeches, drama, dance and music.

During their 14-day visit to Hoddesdon, Broxbourne and Wormley (sponsored by the area's Christians) the team has presented over 100 shows at many venues including schools, homes and churches.

Topping the week with a 560 capacity crowd at the Civic Hall was a Youth

Many youngsters were turned away

the meal and coffee — without mishap! companies, to spread the christian message.

How To lose A Fortune And Make A Profit was the speech given by Rev. Ian Coffey at the men's dinner attended by 170 last Monday.

While children became the focus of the attention for Saturday afternoon's Shopstop special.

Other events included the We're All Lit Up evenings which combined modern christian songs, a speaker, dance and drama

A CAPACITY crowd left the Broxbourne Civic Hall bursting at the seams for a Youth Gospel Concert on Friday evening. The group is pictured here engulfed in dry ice and playing rock music with a Christian message.



The 'sell out' Youth Gospel Concert at the Civic Hall was the highlight of the Into Focus fortnight and grabbed the headlines in the Mercury dated October 23 1987. "Bursting at the seams" was how the Mercury's reporter described the event.

groups.

October. Into Focus mission by Saltmine Team in conjunction with Hoddesdon Christian council. Nearly 100 events organised around the town over a two-week period including river cruises, coffee mornings, keep-fit sessions, drama and dance events, etc. Civic Hall booked for one week (day and evening) for special events including mens' dinner, ladies' lunch, Gospel Rock Concert for young people, praise and worship, etc.

November. Experiment to use John Warner school for Sunday am services. due to large numbers attending services.

Margaret Cooper to Pakistan for 2 years with SIM



1988

January. Caravan bought to be used by the primary Sunday School.

Decided not to continue with services in John Warner school.

Committee formed to look at possibility of extending existing buildings.

June. Portable building purchased to ease space problem.

October. Rylands School made available for car parking on Sundays.



1989

Michelle Kemp to work with Oasis for a year.

Attendance:- am 132, pm 121



1990

February. Church decides to invite Nigel Paterson to be Associate Minister.

Church week-end at All Nations, with Stuart Banks of Heathfield. Ordination and Induction of Nigel Paterson as assistant minister

September. Creative Arts Festival.

October. Musical evening, including Captain Noah and his floating zoo.

Attendance:- am 134, pm 123



1991

January. Sale of Mannamead building in Duke Street, completed.

April. Dave Nevitt, Keith Smith and Elaine Wulcko go to Romania with a Task Force team.

June. Rev Eddie Purse announces his



Ted and Renate Rubesh said farewell to Hoddesdon and set off for missionary work in Sri Lanka in 1989



The church's first Elders, Bob Hunt, Will Vincent and Frank Baker were elected in May 1987

intention to relinquish the pastorate in Summer of 1992.

July. Church week-end at All Nations.

At least 10 spend part/all of their summer holidays serving the Lord at home or abroad.

Open Gardens scheme to raise money for youth week-end.



1992

February. Steve Warner to join Saltmine.

Paul Harrison to work in Egypt for 6 months.

July. Proposal to allow membership to those not baptized by immersion rejected.

Eddie and Cynthia Purse left Hoddesdon for Eastbourne.

August. Stewart and Ali Pepper go to work for FEBA in the Seychelles.

Nigel Paterson acting pastor.

November. Dave Green accepted by YWAM.

Attendance:- am 120, pm 93.



1993

Cathy Fleetwood to work in Africa for a year.

Creative Arts Festival held.

August. Chris and Wendy Paxon's sponsored tandem bicycle ride Land's End to John O'Groats for Dave and Julie Nevitt.

September. Dave and Julie Nevitt to London Bible College.

October. First alternative Halloween Party.

December. First sports night at John Warner school.

Attendance:- am 118, pm 71



1994

January. Covies become Energiser.

May. Chris Densham accepts the call to the pastorate.

August. Nigel and Shelia Paterson leave for Norfolk.

September. Church weekend at All Nations, with Geoff Treasure.

Chris Densham's

induction.

Creation/Harvest festival.

December. Decision to buy 101 Burford Street with money from Mannamead Trust.

Attendance:- am 128, pm 60



1995

April. Holy Man musical production by Hoddesdon Christian Council.

Prayer Ministry Team formed

September. Church weekend at Buntingford with Keith White.



1996

January. On-going discussion



This old photograph of The Mannamead Centre (then a cycle shop) appears to predate the construction of the church building next door in 1914. The decision to purchase the premises was taken in 1994.

about church growth and space, whether to plant a new church or hold two morning services.

Experiment with seating layout, facing the windows, south.

March. Margaret Cooper returns to Pakistan.

April. Cannon and Ball at the

September. Opening of **Mannamead Centre by Eddie Purse; as a coffee house, counselling centre and for youth work.**

May. Report at AGM of a difficult year for the fellowship.

September. Mission statement drawn up.

November. 3 pilot cells (small groups) set up to meet weekly.



Civic Hall.

May. First Alpha course.

25 members of the congregation visit Israel.

September. First residential church week-end at High Wycombe, speaker Dave Nevitt."



1997

January. Schools worker starts in Hertford, Ware and Broxbourne.

March. Renovation and refurbishment of Mannamead complete.



1998

May. Jubilee 2000 demonstration at the G8 summit in Birmingham.

August. Prayer-walking and visitation around the church.

Gordon and Ann McBain go to North Africa with BMS.



1999

January. Auction of Promises in aid of the church refurbishment raised over £2,000.

Leanne Melville to take a year out to work with the young people.

Bible U Like, interactive Bible studies for new Christians began on Sunday mornings with Bob and Di Hunt.

March. Passover meal with Richard Harvey from ANCC.

June. Jubilee 2000 demonstration, Drop the Debt, in London well supported by HBC.

June. First of the 'WOW' evening services, with upbeat worship style.

July. Church day out to Gifford's Hall Vineyard in Suffolk

September. Refurbishment of the church and halls, kitchen etc, chairs purchased for church and new boiler and heating system installed. Sale of pews, 6-seater for £70, 3-seater for £35.



2000

Millennium party!

September. New Horizon's men's group started monthly meetings in Mannamead.

Revision of Church rules to allow membership to those who have not been baptised by immersion.



2001

January. A right Royal Event: Children's holiday club fun day.

April. Beginning of the Centenary Year, with Rev Peter Nodding from the Millmead Centre, Guildford.

Discussions held about the future use of Sunday evenings.

Yvonne Steel presentation after 18 years leading and working with Parents & Toddlers.

Easter Eggstravaganza, fun day for children.

September. 'On the Move' with the CTH, **3,000 burgers and sausages served to the public in 4 days.** Many contacts made.

October. Groundbreakers Holiday Club for 3 days.

Largest Alpha course to date held in main church building using the video projection facilities, approx 40 guests and helpers.



2002

January. Six month experiment with two morning services began, 9.15 and 10.45 am. No evening service.

February. Three new cell-type groups began from the Alpha course with several new Christians and those continuing to seek God.

The Hoddesdon Baptist Church Today

100 years on the Baptist Church in Hoddesdon offers an even wider range of activities to the townsfolk than it did in the early years. The extent of these activities is readily seen from the summary below.

Alpha Courses

Alpha is for anyone These courses of 12 weeks, which are run throughout the world, offer an opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith

in a friendly setting. Each evening starts with a meal, followed by a video and then discussion in a small group. Alpha at hbc is shown either on the large projection screen in the main church building or on a TV in the Mannamead Centre next door. See leaflet or website for details.

Women's Own

Women's own meets every Thursday at 2:30 pm in the church. New members are always welcome to join in by coming along, any Thursday, or by first contacting Gladys on 01992 460843

The Parents and Toddlers Club

The Club meets in the church hall every term-time Thursday & Friday mornings, from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

The club is very popular. Contact Viv on 01992 427714 if you would like your name placed on the waiting list.

New Horizons

The New Horizons club hold regular monthly meetings and outings for retired men, or men who are free during the day, on one day a month. Outings have included: Ten Pin Bowling, The London Eye, Thames River trip, open top bus tour of Cambridge, talks, games afternoons, etc Contact Will on 01992 467801

Small Groups

Small groups of 8 - 10 people meet informally, each week in people's homes, for worship, Bible study, prayer and also for social events.

Contact Chris on 01992 462838

The 101 Coffee House at Mannamead.

Enjoy a coffee in the relaxed atmosphere of The 101 Coffee Shop in the Mannamead Centre. The coffee shop is open for coffee, tea and light snacks every:

Wednesday
10:00am to 2:00pm and every
Saturday
10:00am to 12:00 noon.

The After School Club

is open to anybody on their way home from High School who want to get some cheap food and drinks, play some games or chat in a chilled out atmosphere. We are open every Tuesday in term time 3:30 - 5:30pm. For more details. Contact Neil on 01992 446546.

The Mannamead Art Group

meets every Wednesday evening in the church hall at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret on 01992 445293

The Flower Arranging Group

meets on one Wednesday in every month, in the church hall. New members are welcome. Contact Pat on 01992 464809 for details

Sunday Services

**9:15 am &
10:45 am
and
occasionally at 7:00 pm**

Young people are catered for in a variety of ways during Sunday morning services including:

Creche
Primary
(for ages 3 - 6).
Adventurers
(for ages 7 - 10)
Energiser
(for ages 11 - 14)

In compiling this history David Smythe wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance provided by the following church members:-

Frank & Mavis Baker, Richard & Marion Childs, Bob Hunt, Janet Ince and John & Rita Kemp.
Church drawing by Chris Paxon

"By God's grace and power, we aim to be a worshipping, serving people, committed to following and becoming like Jesus and to helping others do the same."