

Englesea Extra

No. 62: Wednesday August 2nd 2023

Price: faith

Strange Times

I hope you will forgive me this month for a late Englesea Extra; its August, which means longer opening hours (Tuesdays – Sundays throughout August) and its wet and rainy so more visitors looking for wet-weather options!



Glass cantharus (drinking cup), Roman, Early Imperial, Claudian or Flavian, circa 40–80 CE, Hand blown glass
© The Metropolitan Museum, New York

Tim recently sent me this, with the caption ‘PMs in Rome sharing an early love feast’!! But I was intrigued by the description, so I share it for us to learn a little more about the possible inspiration for Loving Cups:

The cobalt blue glass cup was made in Rome circa 40–80 AD. This is an early type of glass which would have graced the table of a wealthy Roman family. Because of the fragility of the glass few good examples have survived, and most examples of cups which existed around the time of Jesus were of bronze, silver or other metals.

In fact it is during the 1st century AD that a major new technique in glass production had been introduced: glassblowing. Before that, various more time-consuming techniques were used, by such means as using a mould made of stone or clay or casting glass. Glassblowing, as

used in this cup, allowed glass workers to produce vessels with considerably thinner walls, decreasing the amount of glass needed for each vessel and thus reducing production costs. Glass blowing was also considerably quicker than other techniques, and vessels required considerably less finishing, representing a further saving in time, raw material and equipment.

Rob and I had a week away in our trusty caravan in mid July. As the weather was rather damp, we too, sought wet weather options, so we spent a day in the National Portrait Gallery and another day in the Imperial War Museum. The portrait of John Welsely hung in the ‘Social Reformers’ section, next to William Wilberforce. No notable Prims, but good to see our Methodist heritage amongst the great and (not so!) good of British history. And being immersed in the horrors of war, I reflected on the challenge faced for Prims, and all Christian churches, in the face of such unimaginable circumstances.

The story we tell at Englesea Brook intersects with so aspects of our history – from Rome (!) right up to today. From Thursday 24th August, the Root and Branch exhibition we have developed in partnership with the Probation Service, will be on display at Englesea Brook for 6 weeks. Do come and see this previously untold story of how 5 shillings, faith and belief inspired the beginning of the Probation Service – I look forward to seeing you there!

Every blessing

Ruth

Pause for thought

You can never leave footprints that last if you are always walking on tiptoe.

Leymah Gbowee - Liberian peace campaigner and Nobel Prizewinner

Camp meetings today

David Leese reflects: Are we keepers of an aquarium or fishers of men?

150th anniversary Camp meeting: Mow Cop 1957



One of the acknowledged characteristics, if not the principal characteristic of Primitive Methodism was that of the holding of Camp Meetings. These featured on the circuit preaching plans, and additionally were scheduled on the plans for District Synods and Conferences.

Camp meetings were variations on a theme of preaching and prayer for most of the day, usually located at a very recognisable landmark which might be a hilltop or a convenient recreation field, and often followed by a lovefeast. The tense I have used in the previous sentence is deliberately past tense.

My first experience of a Camp Meeting was the 150th anniversary meeting at Mow Cop in 1957 to which we travelled as a family. As a seven year old I confess I cannot remember much about it, as can probably be seen from the photograph above with myself in the foreground. But I'd like to suggest it was a Camp meeting -I think because of the specific location and the history. In many ways though as I look back it was a re-enactment. This contrasted with the open air services the Longton Central Hall then had in Longton park after the evening services on summer Sundays- which were services of loud singing and a brief word- punchy and where people were in those days.

Many of us will be aware of the 'Camp Meetings' that still occur. I am aware of the one at Mow Cop and one at Cloud chapel which are both annual events. I do not wish to be critical or detract from them in any way, for I applaud the effort of these small societies in organising such an annual service, but in my opinion they are services in the open air rather than Camp Meetings in the proper sense of the phrase.

Cloud chapel has such a service in August and I observe attendance is usually 30-50. It is conveniently held in a neighbour's garden adjacent to the chapel.

There are four observations I wish to make.

- Firstly the preachers identified on the plan as leading the service seemingly (myself included) regard it as a service that is nearly the same as one in chapel but in the open air, and yes a good voice is needed.
- Secondly in these services I have to observe that we keep the rhetoric of our Primitive Methodist history rather than the reality.
- Thirdly if we are not aware of these happening, then I am sure both would appreciate some added support in 2024 and perhaps the nature of the service might be able to migrate more to a Camp meeting feel.

- Fourthly in case the question has not been considered -how about an Englesea Brook ‘Camp Meeting?’ There is the old challenge to us all but especially to those of us engaged in Christian Heritage -Are we keepers of an aquarium or fishers of men?

Cloud Chapel Camp Meeting 2021: chapel is to top left.



Friday Forum Theatre

A GUEST AT THE KNUTSFORD HOTEL

**Friday 8th September,
7-8.30pm**



WORK-ROOM, ON THE SILENT SYSTEM, AT THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION, TOTTEHILL FIELDS.

Ironically, the dreaded Knutsford House of Correction is now a luxury hotel, but what was life like for those who found themselves within its walls in the 19th century? Elsie Humble tells her tale and invites you to consider crime and punishment then and now



Tickets £8. Pay on the door.
Book your seats at
learning@engleseabrook.org.uk
Not suitable for under 14s
Parking available.

Chris' conundrums

Regular readers will know that there is a section on My Prims called Unknown chapels. It includes:

- pictures of unidentified chapels from multiple sources
- various groups of people in unspecified locations,
- references from sources such as the Primitive Methodist magazine where they tell you who donated the fundraising teas for a chapel but don't tell you where the chapel was
- references to common place names - care to guess how many places called Sutton there are in the UK?

As well as the 24 chapels in the current list, we are successful from time to time in identifying the building and there are 13 chapels in the Solved mysteries category.

And one more is being added to the solved. . The picture showed a group of mainly children in front of a chapel which carried the date 1863 Originally provided by Randle, it was added to the site in 2020 and now, three years later, we have received the following comment from Laura Robson:

"This chapel is just down from Lanehead, Coanwood Northumberland. My mother Audrey Shephard nee Bainbridge and Uncle , Ronald Bainbridge, are in the picture. The building is now flattened."



And an additional conundrum, this time from Randle

Among the framed items that came from Manchester is a print of an unidentified scene. It did once have a label on the frame, but it is now missing. Does anyone recognise it?



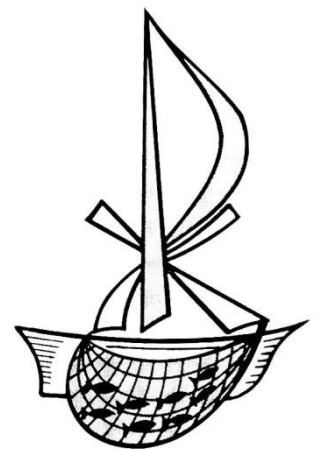
Randle's rummagings

On 25 June 1995, when I was on duty at the museum, a coach full of visitors arrived unexpectedly. They were a party from the Primitive Methodist Church of America, which, although only a small denomination, still has a separate existence in the United States. For more information on this group see Primitive Methodism in the United States, the two-volume doctoral thesis by our second director, Kevin Watson, and A History of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America (1909), by Revd John Holmes Acornley DD. There are copies of both works in our library. I found the volume by Acornley in a second-hand bookshop in Leek in 1992, and gave it to the library six years later when I discovered we didn't have a copy.

The visitors in 1997 presented me with one of their denominational badges, which was designed by Revd Norman Beck and approved for use by their Conference in 1975. They also gave me a second badge for the museum's collection. Each badge was accompanied by a sheet with a sketch of the badge and the following explanation of its symbolism:

The SHIP is representative of the vessel that is "fit for the Master's use" and speaks of our heavenward voyage. The MAST is the "Chi Rho" abbreviation for the Greek name of Christ. The "Rho" forms the sail to catch the "wind" of the Holy Spirit. The Net is to draw men to Christ with the lines of the net forming the longitude and latitude line of the world globe. The FISH are the sign by which early Christians identified themselves to one another in their fays of persecution. Overall, the insignia represents discipleship and the bringing of the lost of the world to Christ.

Before they left, Revd John Banks and their minister led a short act of worship.





Sunday, 6th August
2 – 4pm
Join us for:

- ∞ Crafts & games
- ∞ Story & songs
- ∞ Yummy summer tea



A fun free event for all the family!



For more details contact learning@engleseabrook.org.uk

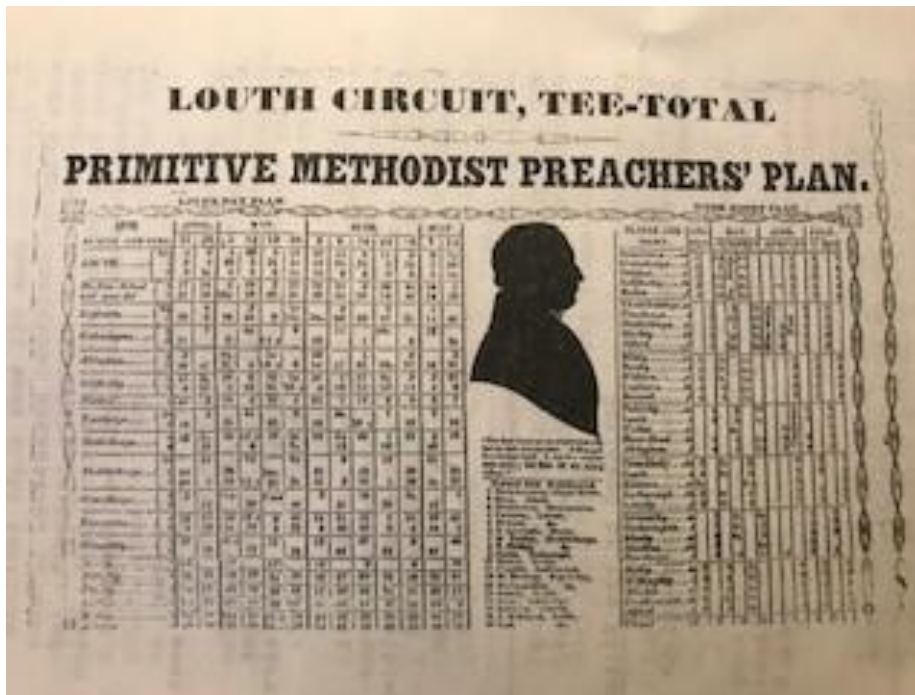
CW2 5QW

www.engleseabrook.org.uk

The Story of Primitive Methodism

Louth circuit tee-total Primitive Methodist preachers' plan

David Leese highlights a unique plan



In recent Englesea Extras there has been reference to the circuit plan. The late William Leary claimed to have a *unique* (a word used carefully) PM plan. He featured this plan in a 1996 Cirplan journal (issued by the now defunct Cirplanology society). The present location of the plan is not known,

It is an 1839 April to July plan, the same, in all but one aspect, as other preachers' plan of the time. The plan itself makes no reference to temperance meetings but is unique in the use of the title 'TEE-TOTAL.' No other such plan was known by him.

The background to the Louth circuit was that prior to Rev Adolphus Beckerlegge's arrival in 1838, the circuit had experienced the radical teetotaler John Stamp who was to be subsequently excluded from ministry partly because of his then unpopular teetotal views.

Leary concludes that Beckerlegge was championing the cause for which Stamp was subsequently expelled.

The plan also features a central silhouette of a person who it is assumed is Rev. Beckerlegge.



We'll be **FLYING HIGH** this August!



Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 3pm:
Self-led easy crafts
(No charge, donations welcome)



Fridays at 11am:
Sensory story & cake!
(£2 per adult. Children free)



The Story of Primitive Methodism



For more details contact: learning@engleseabrook.org.uk
CW2 5QW www.engleseabrook.org.uk



Englesea
Brook
Chapel &
Museum

You are invited to join us for

A QUIET DAY

A loosely structured event whose theme and activities will provide a unique opportunity to reflect, recharge and return refreshed to your church or place of work.

Wednesday 27th September
10am-3pm

* HATCHING HARD BOILED EGGS *

Each of us has our own story. Whether you want to look afresh at ways of sharing it, to rewrite it or you want to challenge entrenched, challenging or divisive stories, this Quiet Day will use our artefacts to hatch new perspectives and possibilities.

£25 per person including:
homemade soup and cake lunch;
refreshments throughout the day;
behind-the-scenes access to the museum's
unique collection of objects and archives.

To book contact Ruth Hilton at
director@engleseabrook.org.uk
01270 820836



Englesea Brook Chapel
and Museum, Englesea
Brook Lane, CW2 5QW
Parking available.

Dates for the Diary

Heritage Service: Sunday 6th August - Messy Church Heritage Service. See poster for more details

Crafty Ranters: Friday 11th August - Do your own thing! Another opportunity to bring along your own craft to share and to learn from others in the group. However, there will also be an opportunity to make a pennant to add to the 'Women's banner of strength' started at the July gathering!



Flying High: Summer Activities for families throughout August. See poster for more details

New exhibition: On Wed 23rd August, we are launching a joint exhibition with the Probation Service 'Root and Branch' at Englesea Brook. We would love you to join us, together with representatives from the Probation Service and our funders AIM, to celebrate the achievements of this partnership, understand how the world's first Probation Service grew out of the Temperance movement and the Primitive Methodists involvement in it through the work of the Court Missionaries.

Quiet Day on 28th September, following the success of our first one recently. See poster for more details

Friday Forum Theatre on the 8th September, 7:00 - 8:30 : A Guest at the Knutsford Hotel. See poster for more details

Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 63

Extra 63 will be published on Wednesday September 6th. Your article, ideas, photographs by Friday September 1st please.

And a final prayer from David Hinchcliffe, SE District Chair

Jesus, you invite me to love God, and to love my neighbour as I am loved myself. Such love will transform the world. Set my heart on fire with love! Help me to respond to the greatest commandment! I dedicate myself to love God, and love my neighbours, and love myself, even as I am fully loved by you

Amen.