

Englesea Extra

No. 68: Wednesday March 6th 2024

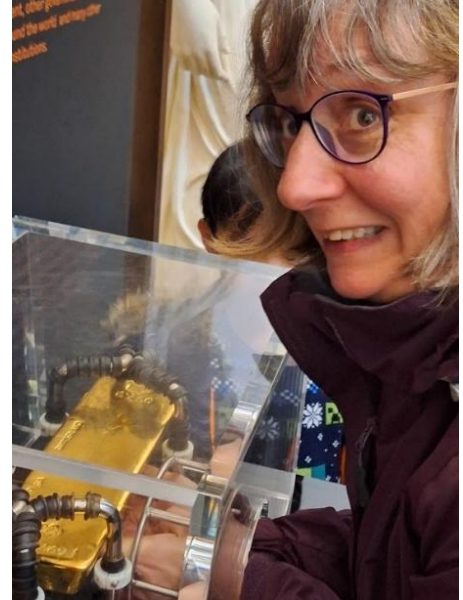
Price: justice

Strange Times

I feel like your roving reporter! Last month, I was sat with my mum as I wrote (she is stable, thank you for your good wishes); this month I am sat in the waiting room of the Driving Test Centre feeling more nervous for my daughter than I did for my own test! As I went through a last minute check of brake fluid and engine coolant with Esther (I can already hear you, like me, saying 'didn't ask that in my day'!) I can't help but think that if Hugh Bourne checked the state of his boots regularly, his feet might have fared better...

As you know, I do enjoy a quirky museum. On a university reunion recently, I dragged my friends to the Bank of England Museum in central London. What a hidden treasure – the first bank in the world which revolutionised how money could be exchanged by the words 'pay the bearer' – and visitors even get the chance to pick up a real gold ingot.

Just round a few corners from there was another hidden gem. Do you know what monument the 'Monument' underground station is named after? 'The monument', built in the 1670s was built to remember the Great Fire of London and is now surrounded by high rise office blocks. At 202ft tall, it represents the distance away from the start of the fire that the Monument was built.



It is our job at Englesea Brook to search for hidden treasures within Primitive Methodism and find glimpses of God in the present by exploring the treasures in our story. And look who visited our Root and Branch exhibition at Worcester Cathedral recently – the Archbishop of Canterbury! I hope +Justin was inspired by the faith of Anglican, Primitive Methodists and others that gave rise to the remarkable work of the Probation Service today.

The team at Englesea Brook are working hard prior to reopening on Thursday 4th April. Please encourage your friends and your churches to come and see the new exhibition and exhibits exploring different aspects of Childhood, and listen to memories of going to

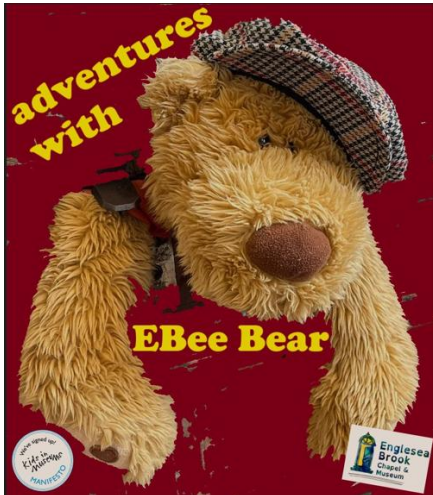
Sunday School. We have on loan items from Epworth Old Rectory and the Brampton museum in Newcastle-under-Lyme – and a new Children's corner, so there's plenty to see!

Every blessing

Ruth

Pause for thought

*If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful after all.
Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter, architect, and poet (6 Mar 1475-1564)*



Adventures with EBee Bear No.1

If you haven't already met, let me introduce you to EBee Bear!

EBee wandered into the tea room last year, his tummy rumbling, wearing only a fur coat.

All are welcome at Englesea Brook, especially curious bears. EBee soon had his nose into everything...and his paws. But, being a playful museum, we were more than happy to let him explore. He especially liked the dressing up corner but was a little disappointed that even with a generous tummy, the waistcoats swamped him. Ruth, ever resourceful, ran him up a lovely candy-striped waistcoat with matching bow for the cap he had become so fond of wearing. EBee was delighted and added his own sartorial elegance with a

rainbow-coloured cravat he made from a scrap of material he found whilst rummaging. (EBee likes rummaging best of all, as many bears do.)

We soon realized that such a curious, adventurous bear could help us share our stories and activities. EBee was awarded his own 'volunteer' badge and carried on rummaging. Amy, who understands a smartphone, followed him around taking lots of photos and posting them on Facebook. To our astonishment, EBee became a bit of an internet star and influencer, gaining lots of likes and shares!

Christmas came and so did Wesley Bear from Epworth. The two immediately became bbf's (best bears forever), and joined in the festive fun, EBee swapping his flat cap for a Santa hat. Wesley Bear also loves dressing up and donned a special Christingle ensemble. EBee's little eyes lit up when he saw the plump round orange and sweets. And thanks to Amy's mum, EBee now has a plump round orange and sweets to wear on Christingle occasions!

It gets very chilly, even for bears, at Englesea Brook and crafty Frances worried that a flat cap and waistcoat alone would not keep the winter shivers away. To keep him snugly she wove EBee a fabulous woollen scarf.



Of course, EBee is more than a fashion icon: he is a curious, adventurous bear who likes to rummage. He has become an invaluable part of the team and as such he will soon have his own Facebook page (if Elizabeth can 'bear' to work out the tech!) so you can follow his furry adventures. He quite fancies becoming a video star (is there no limit to this bear's energy?). And from time to time Elizabeth will be reporting here our adventures at the museum. But do come and meet EBee once we reopen in April and see what he is up to and in to – he will be delighted to welcome you with a bear hug...and he might even have left some cake for you to enjoy!

Randle's rummagings

One of the first accessions added to the museum's collection this year came from [Jubilee Chapel, Marple Bridge](#). Outstanding among these items was the lovefeast set, consisting of three lovefeast cups, set on modern wooden bases, made from wood rescued from the chapel, together with matching jug and bowl, all believed to have been in use from when the chapel was built in 1833. Interestingly, this set was on display in the museum back in 1996, and they still retained our identity numbers from that time, but there were then four lovefeast cups. We are also particularly pleased to receive two framed, painted portraits, of the Revd Samuel Woodall (1853-1920), minister at the chapel 1906-9, and his wife Helena (1851-1948), who are buried in the graveyard there. Their son Ambrose later became an eminent surgeon and was elevated to the peerage as Baron Uvedale of North End. Between them they left substantial sums to Jubilee. It is hoped to hang these portraits in the store.

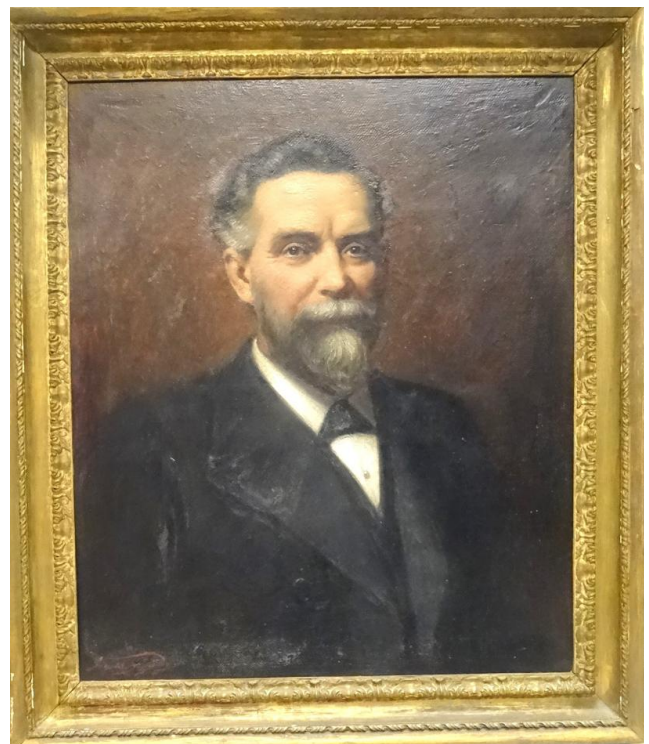
The Chapel was originally known as Compstall and the gift includes several items with that name, including three trowels dating from an extension to the chapel in 1893, recording stones laid by T. Sherwin, James Platt and Mr O. Hambleton – I wonder why Mr Hambleton got a 'Mr', Mr Platt a Christian name and Mr (or was it Mrs / Miss?) Sherwin only an initial. There are very few events for which we have multiple trowels, but we now have four for this one as we were given another 1893 trowel in 2017, for the stone laid by F. Brown, it was illustrated in EE57. Among the crockery are a small plate, a rectangular dish and a cup each with a picture of the chapel and a jug used in the Sunday School. There are two teaspoons marking the 150th anniversary of the chapel in 1983, but by then it was known as Jubilee.

There are also items from two other chapels, Hollywood Primitive Methodist and Mellor United Methodist Free Church, both now closed. From the former are a trowel dated 27 July 1905, used by James Platt, who had laid a stone at Compstall 12 years earlier, and a ceramic plate, and from Mellor there is a metallic plate dating from 1866, together with three mugs and a bowl associated with the Sunday school there.

[Ed's note: There is no Hollywood Prim chapel on My Prim's: is it an alternative spelling for [Hollinwood](#), which was in the Oldham circuit? If it is a different place, can you add a page about Hollywood?]



Helena Woodall (1851-1948)



Revd Samuel Woodall (1853-1920)

Randle's previous rummaging

Randle's Rummage in Extra 67 showed two postcards showing very different interior pictures of what was labelled as the same Leek Methodist chapel. Thanks to John Anderson for the resolution.



Both of the postcards show the interior of Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel Leek.

They are of exceptional interest illustrating the development of furnishings of the chapel and the significant changes made over a long period. The chapel was built in 1811 and the top photo shows some of the original fittings including the two tier pulpit and reading desk. The lower photo (shown here) shows the interior after the complete refurbishment carried out at the time of the centenary in 1911 - new gallery fronts, seating and rostrum etc.

Pub Quiz Fundraiser

Friday 22nd March 2024

AT

The Duke of Gloucester

Registration at 7:00pm
Quiz starting at 7:30pm





- ♥ £7 per person
- ♥ Maximum of 6 people per team
- ♥ Entrance fee includes Chilli & Rice at the interval
- ♥ Raffle

All proceeds go to the Statue for Ada Campaign



A Statue for Ada

Feedback welcome!

Thanks to those who responded to pieces in last month's Extra. It's good to know that Extra is valued and read in the community. Please let us know your response to what is in each edition.

Explore the History of Primitive Methodism

HERITAGE DAY



10am - Noon

Guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

Noon - 2pm

Lunch break with guided tour, DVD and conversation

2 - 4pm

Different guest speakers, choir and hymn singing

10 am - 4pm Saturday 11th May 2024

Mow Cop Methodist Church, Woodcock Lane, Mow Cop,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3NH

For more information email Rev. Yanyan Case
yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

Chris' Conundrums

Easily forgotten

One thing it is very easy to forget is how different life was for many Primitive Methodists compared to our present day assumptions. We see the word "chapel" and think of the traditional Victorian building - solid, soundly built and well fitted. In reality it was often not like that, especially in rural areas where the funding came from poor labourers. It's not uncommon for accounts of chapel openings in the Primitive Methodist magazine to celebrate the fact that the new building had a wooden floor.

I've now added to My Prims a wonderful gallery of pictures of [Baughurst Primitive Methodist chapel in Hampshire](#) just before it closed in 1987, provided by Andy Thompson. The chapel stands on land that belonged to Upper Farm owned by one of Andy's ancestors, George Jacob. What makes the photographs special is that they include pictures of some behind-the-scenes parts of the building, including vestry, storage and what I believe is the only picture of a loo on any Methodist Heritage site. The loo was not a water closet; it had no cistern and emptied straight into the ditch that ran alongside the chapel.

Andy had previously added to the page a tale related to him by his late cousin Iris Stanley about George Jacob and Baughurst chapel

George was one of the trustees of the congregation and wanted to donate some land on which to build a chapel. Not being able to give himself land he already owned, he resigned his position and sold the trustees the land for £5. He then donated £5 to chapel funds and became a trustee again! I suspect this was the simplest way he knew around the legalities.

Different times!

What is PSA?

In Extra 67 I asked *What is PSA?* The success of PSA was celebrated in an article on Abertillery Primitive Methodist chapel in the 1924 Aldersgate Magazine.

The article proclaims: *"It is this temperament and influence that makes P.S.A. so popular, a popularity maintained for over fourteen years. The best artistes are sought and the crowd responds. It is never without Bible reading and Gospel address. The school numbers about three hundred scholars, and the P.S.A., which is regarded as part and parcel of the school, five hundred members."*

Thanks to those who responded with the answer, including Ted Royle, David Sharp and Susan Howdill.

Ted Royle:

PSA = Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, which was an attempt to reach men who did not usually frequent Sunday worship. Details about it can be found in many standard works - e.g K. S. Inglis, Churches and the Working Classes, pp. 79-85 (with useful references for further information). There was also in some places a PMA (Pleasant Monday Afternoon) for women!

Best wishes, and keep up the good work.



David Sharp:

My understanding is that it stood for "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon." I have certainly seen references from time to time to "Pleasant Sunday Afternoons" as part of a church's programme.

But I may be wrong!

Every good wish.

The PSA motto *All ye are brethren* was derived from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 23 vs. 8 – “But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and *all ye are brethren*” (King James Bible).

I've created [a page for the PSA movement in Primitive Methodist chapels on My Prims here](#). It's quite limited at present; please add to the story if you can.

Mow Cop Churches Together

EASTER MORNING SUNRISE SERVICE

At Mow Cop castle

6:30am

HE IS Risen

“...at early dawn, they went to the tomb and found out that he was not there...”

All welcome to join us for a time of worship at the castle on Easter Sunday morning and a time of fellowship afterwards at Mow Cop Community Church. Bring and share breakfast.

For more information, email yanyan.case@methodist.org.uk

Dates for the Diary

Heritage Talks: Saturday 10th February @ 11am.

No matter where you are in the world please join us via Zoom on Saturday 9th March 2024 at 11am GMT for our latest #englesea Brook Heritage Talk.

Improbable as it sounds today, in the early 1900s the centre of Winsford in rural Cheshire was blanketed with toxic black clouds that blocked out the sunlight; living conditions were miserable and, with no running water or sewerage system, unhealthy. One visitor described the town as a “vile place, akin to the black hole of Calcutta”. The cause? Hundreds of chimneys belching out clouds of smoke from the open pan salt making process heated by the nation’s dirtiest coal. One local Primitive Methodist preacher led the fight to tackle these problems.

David Nellist, retired Operations Director with Nestlé UK, is now Chair of the Winsford History Society. A trustee of the Middlewich Heritage Trust and member of Nantwich Museum’s research group, David is involved in a number of local history projects.

The event is free. Everyone is welcome. The Zoom details are:

<https://zoom.us/j/99711104002>

Meeting ID: 997 1110 4002

Passcode: 414327

Lent Bible Studies Our Lent Bible Studies continue on Zoom on Wednesdays from 10.30am-12 noon. Led by former vice-president of conference Barbara Easton, the theme is: ‘Wells in the Wilderness’. We’re halfway through the series, but join us on 13th and 20th March for reflection during the 40 days of Lent. . The Zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/97501823056?pwd=RINCTGIxMHZlaG1kZU9zdFBZcHNwQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 0182 3056

Passcode: 887750

2024 Reopening!

Thursday 4th April sees the Chapel and Museum reopening. Come and see the next exhibition and exhibits, including artefacts on loan from Epworth Old Rectory and the Brampton Museum in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Love Feast Sunday 7th April at 3pm– an informal act of worship led by Rev Pat Percival and Ruth Hilton.

Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 69

Extra 67 will be published on Wednesday April 3rd. Your article, ideas, photographs by Friday March 27th please.

And a final prayer from Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference,

Holy God, may your light shine in all the dark places of our lives, our churches, our communities and our world, so that the treasure that lies within might be revealed to us.

In the name of Christ, Amen.