

Englesea Extra

No. 69: Wednesday May 8th 2024

Price: justice

Strange Times

Sometimes I wake on a Sunday morning and decide to travel with Rob to his preaching appointment, particularly if he's visiting a chapel I've never been to. Both my colleagues attend Coppenhall Methodist Church in Crewe – I'd never been AND I knew it was a former Prim chapel – so off I went.

As ever, the warmth of Methodist fellowship enveloped me! The building has been tastefully modernised inside, and is clearly well used by the community. I found myself particularly struck by the foundation stones in a row on the back of the building for all to see. These are the words that appear:



Each has a name on the stone too, doubtless because they contributed financially to the building of the chapel. Why do these words appear? Maybe the named people chose words

to represent their faith journey, maybe those words represented the choice of the church family to reflect journey of faith which had brought the chapel to this point. I found the choice of words humbling and inspiring.

What words would you use, for the community to see, that speaks of your faith journey, either your own or your churches? Thank you to the Prims of Coppenhall for their lasting message of hope.

Every blessing

Ruth

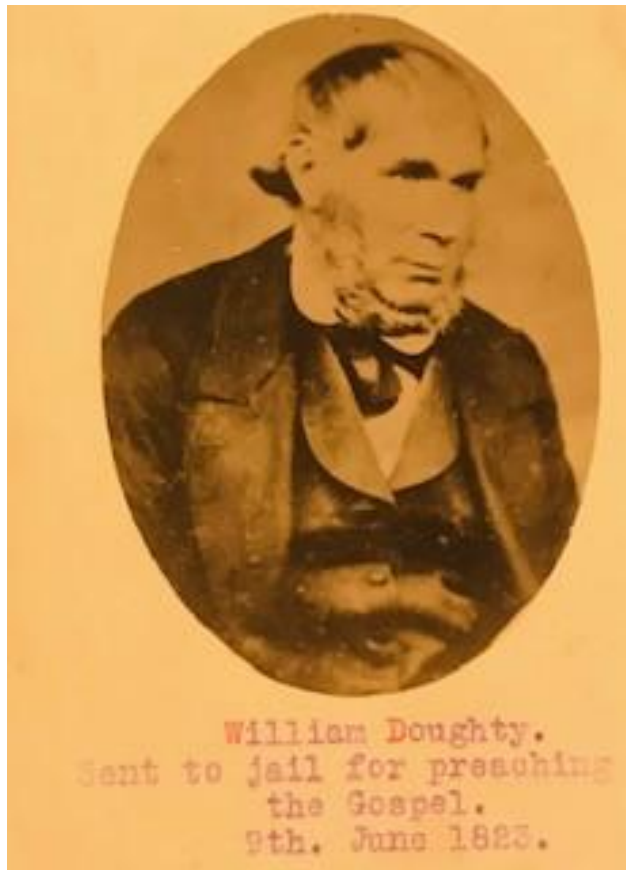
Pause for thought

I don't need time. What I need is a deadline.

Duke Ellington, jazz pianist, composer, and conductor (29 Apr 1899-1974)

The world in postcards

David Leese shares stories of a long ago hero and a less mainstream aspect of Primitive Methodism found in postcards on e-bay.



On the shoulders of giants

This is a postcard bought off e bay: no direct reference to Primitive Methodism is given. What is striking is that it simply defines the preacher by the one fact that he was sent to jail for preaching on 9th June 1823.

It is the standard portrait of William Doughty, and it could have said that he was born in Leadenham Lincolnshire 1798, and that he died on 1 April 1863 at Oswestry. It could have said he was a Primitive Methodist preacher sent out by the Tunstall circuit to open Oswestry. It doesn't. It defines his faithfulness to the Gospel call by this one fact—imprisonment 'for preaching the gospel,'

Both Petty and Kendall refer to and describe the incident in detail, and Kendall is able to give the background. However in its simplicity the postcard is striking. It may be said that we stand on the shoulders of giants!



A niche Primitive Methodist focus

The range of items on E bay is an ever-changing menu of the ordinary and the extraordinary, the expected and the unexpected. Recently there was the unexpected - a postcard of a prize winning marrow from Upperby Primitive Methodist church Harvest Festival 1922. This relates possibly to Upperby in Cumbria. The inference is that there was a vegetable competition of some sort associated with the harvest.. .

Any suggestions are welcome.

A fascinating read.

In her book *From Coffin Grease to Love Feasts*, Tracey Messenger gives an account of a Primitive Methodist family in Westmorland. Click on the following link to explore the faith story of her great grandfather, Tom Robinson. [The story of Tom Robinson \(d35wuyehavsdko.cloudfront.net\)](http://d35wuyehavsdko.cloudfront.net)

Tracey Messenger's book, *From Coffin Grease to Love Feasts: A Primitive Methodist Family in Westmorland* is published by Bookcase, priced £12, and is available from www.bookscumbria.com

Randle's rummagings

Earlier Rummagings have referred to the collection of framed portraits we received from the Rylands Library. They came originally from Hartley Victoria College after the union of Hartley and Victoria Park Colleges, so it is not surprising to find some non-PM items in the collection.

One picture is labelled as the Methodist Union Committee. Not having examined it properly I had assumed that it referred to the 1932 Methodist Union, but closer examination has shown that this is not the case; it is clearly labelled the Methodist Union Committee 1902-06, so it is of those who arranged the union of the Methodist New Connexion, The Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Church to form the United Methodist Church in 1907. It is a collection of individual pictures, and each one is named. Closely associated with this is a large group portrait depicting the first Conference of the United Methodist Church, which was held in Wesley's Chapel in September 1907.

Among other non-PM items are a large photograph of Revd Thomas Dickson Crothers DD, Principal of Ranmoor MNC College 1886-98, who died on 11 June 1902 and Revd Marmaduke Miller (1827-89), who was president of the UMFC in 1868.



Another portrait in this collection is of Revd Robert Eaglen (1815-93). He was the minister preaching at the PM Chapel, Colchester, on the morning of Sunday 6th January 1850 when C. H. Spurgeon was converted. This in turn leads us to another recent gift, the pocket books of Rev Danzy Sheen. As an act of gratitude and remembrance in later life Spurgeon offered a free place to an aspiring Primitive Methodist travelling preacher at his college and Danzy Sheen was the man chosen. Sheen later married Eaglen's daughter, Mary Elizabeth.



REV. DANZY SHEEN.



REV. ROBERT EAGLEN.

1815 - 1893.
The minister who at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Colchester, on Sunday Morning, January 6th, 1850, led CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON to "Look to Jesus" and find Salvation.

Randle's previous rummaging

In EE48 I wrote a note about PM class tickets, triggered by receiving a ticket that was missing from the collection at the museum. A book we were given with these pocket books had two tickets in it, and one of them fills another gap, it is for August 1890. There are still a lot of gaps, a complete decade would consist of 40 tickets, but we have only 14 for the 1840s and 19 for the 1870s, so there is still a long way to go. By contrast we are only missing one in the 1830s, and we do have a photocopy of that, and only four are required to complete the 1850s.

Chris' Conundrums

Another unknown chapel

Every so often Randle uncovers a picture of an unidentified chapel - usually, but not always Primitive Methodist - which I add to My Primitive Methodists website. Can you help with this one?



There are very few clues: is the adjacent thatched cottage any help? Suggestions [here please](#).

Resolution of Little Sodom

It's taken at least seven years, but we now have a resolution to the [chapel in Moorhouse](#) - or rather, which Moorhouse, as there are several. We've been contacted by the building's owner, Lucy Saxelby, who confirms the location and provides the detail. We tend to think of chapels as fairly large and comfortable places. The 1856 building is a rare survival – and gives a clear indication of what many early country chapels would be like, when even a wooden floor would be a luxury.



Lucy says: "I own the field and the building that was once a chapel. My mother in law, who is nearly 96, Margaret Saxelby has the stone which was above the door, in her garden – it has writing on saying Primitive Methodist Chapel. Margaret's great great grandad, who was called Mr Price, from Egmonton, donated the chapel and land. Margaret and her friends Leaphia and others used to play in the chapel, in the 1930's. Mr P Rose took over the chapel in about 1940 and put pigs in it. Later it was made into a cowshed., and since 2009 it has been used as an occasional shelter for my horses."

Chapel or holiday chalet?

Thanks to Katherine Mezzacappa for contributing a picture to My Prims of a most unusual wooden -fronted Primitive Methodist chapel in Bridge, near Canterbury. The chapel dated from 1868; previously the Prims had met in a former Wesleyan chapel 'but they disturbed the whole neighbourhood'. The picture dates from 1920 when the building was in private occupation. it was demolished in 1951."



Every day is special at the Museum

April highlight



The Probation Service team that we have worked closely with over the last 2 years managed to secure space for the Root and Branch exhibition in the heart of Westminster - 102 Petty France, the HQ of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). It was quite a change in scale from Englesea Brook. 102 Petty France is a 1970s Brutalist building in the heart of Westminster. It towers over the buildings on Birdcage Walk and is down the road from Westminster Abbey.

Ruth and Elizabeth travelled down on Monday 8th April to meet the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Antonia Romeo. The exhibition was on display in the foyer of 102 Petty France for the whole week, and when we arrived, it was clearly generating a lot of interest. The Perm Sec (as she is referred to!) was impressed with the exhibition and exhibits – one of her team had never seen an alcohol tag before.

On Tuesday 9th April, Amy went to Petty France to deliver a talk explaining the origins of the Probation Service and its connections to Primitive Methodism and other denominations. Alongside Sonia Flynn, the former Chief Probation Officer for England and Wales, and James Ridge, Chaplain General and Head of Faith Services HMPPS, Amy presented to 157 members of the Christians in MoJ group. Her presentation was well received, with lots of positive feedback and thanks for an in-depth exploration of this little told origin story. She then popped down the road to Methodist Central Hall for a well-earned cuppa and cake.



the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Antonia Romeo, at the exhibition

Welcomes and visits

We have welcomed the following groups to Englesea Brook this month:

- The Ukelele Praise group from the Cheshire South circuit – they loved the acoustics of the chapel!
- Cloud Chapel and Youth group
- A group of Methodists from Florida, USA, accompanied by Rev Martyn Atkins

We have visited the following groups this month:

- Alsager U3A
- Weaverham History Society
- Alsager Family History Group

For a fuller picture of life at the Museum, settle down with a cup of tea and the Annual Review for 2023 - 2024 which is on the website:

<https://engleseabrook.org.uk/annual-review-2023-24/>

Adventures with EBee Bear No.2

PRINT WITH EBEE
AT
**ENGLESEA BROOK CHAPEL &
MUSEUM**



It's 200 years since the first Primitive Methodist Children's Magazine was printed on our Atlas Printing Press!
Celebrate by joining EBee Bear to...
Design and make your own wooden printing block
Try your hand at printing on our Georgian press
Print with fruit and vegetables
Friday 31st May & Saturday 1st June
1.30 to 2.30pm
To book please email learning@engleseabrook.org
tel 01270 820836
Englesea Brook CW2 5QW

Dates for the Diary

Friday 14th June

Crafty Ranters

Friendship, Fairness & Fruitfulness



Using clay we will explore what we feel about ourselves and our bodies and what we need to do to keep well. We'll look at how women's and men's health needs and treatments are wrongly regarded as the same, and also think about cultures where women's and girl's bodies are mutilated and degraded. These are issues that can touch deeply, so the session will be held with gentleness and sensitivity.

Friday July 26th

Friday
Forum
Theatre



July 26th: Tales from the Pot Bank – the early life of William Clowes

William Clowes (1780-1851) was one of the founders of Primitive Methodism. Converted in 1805, he was a charismatic leader with almost 'supernatural' powers. Born into the famous Wedgwood family on his mother's side and the son of a drunken potter, discover how his troubled youth led to his transformation into one of the greatest evangelists of the day.

Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 70

The plan is to publish Extra 70 on Wednesday June 5th. Your article, ideas, photographs by Friday May 31st please.

And a final prayer from Novette Headley, Chair, Birmingham Methodist District

Faithful God, open the eyes of our hearts to recognise your presence in the seemingly hopeless circumstances of life. Help us not to give up hope in the treasures of love, integrity and justice even when the news is dismal; when our institutions seem powerless against the forces of indifference and destruction; when people seem incapable of doing or even imagining goodness. Deep in the darkness of the soil, O Lord, you are feeding the shoots of a new community of hope. Amongst unseen communities, you are inspiring men, women and children to dream of, and make real, a new world that is courageous, gentle and just. Help us to value your way of being that brings true richness to life – the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.