

Englesea Extra

No. 71 : Autumn 2024

Price: justice

Strange Times

Welcome back after a short break in Englesea Extra production. We have all journeyed through some extraordinary events over the past months:



A general election and a new government elected in the UK, the continuing horror unfolding in Palestine, an assassination attempt on Donald Trump and the turmoil of the US election, the tragic murder of 3 girls at a dance class and the subsequent riots around the UK, the ongoing war in Ukraine. Personally we have journeyed through the birth and death of our tiny baby grandson Caleb, born very prematurely, and I have been grateful for the compassionate leave granted to me to support our family through this difficult time.

As Englesea Brook closes for winter, I reflect on a good season, busy with visitors and particularly families. We think this is thanks to our more proactive approach to social media, and intentionally advertising our family-friendly activities around community Facebook pages all around south Cheshire. We have welcomed a group from Florida, and also a pilgrim group of local church leaders.

We have been delighted to discover, amongst the 52 framed items which we received from the Methodist Collection held at the Rylands, two paintings of a Primitive Methodist minister and his wife. As women are not widely represented in the framed items hanging in the museum store, the decision was made to replace the woodworm-damaged frames. When Amy researched the name of the artist, she discovered that Frank O Salisbury was a prolific and sought after portrait painter of the early 1900s. He painted royalty, including the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and a portrait of the Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen Elizabeth II. He even painted a miniature of Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, for the doll's house that belonged to her daughter, Queen Mary. He also painted the portraits of five US Presidents, including Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman! Unfortunately we don't know what the connection was between Rev Samuel Woodall and his wife Helena and Frank O Salisbury so if anyone can shed some light, we'd be delighted to hear!

I pray that, 'through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

Every blessing

Ruth

Pause for thought

*Do you wish the world were happy? / Then remember day by day,
Just to scatter seeds of kindness / As you pass along the way.*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, poet (5 Nov 1850-1919)

Feature of the month : Methodism and the workhouse

As a boy I used to take the produce from our ex Prim chapel's Egg and Flower Sunday to the local former parish workhouse. By then the workhouse provided care for older people. Does anyone else recall Egg and Flower Sunday? Does it still exist?

David Leese explores a little-researched area of the Primitive Methodist story.



Gressenhall Workhouse chapel

As with the development of municipal cemeteries, the organization of workhouses during the nineteenth century, provided an area of conflict between Anglicanism and nonconformity, with the Church of England struggling to retain control. In some locations there was mutual co-operation, but in others inter-denominational rivalry.

Gressenhall Workhouse in Norfolk has good records, and it was not until 1892 that nonconformists formally asked the Board of Guardians to allow them to hold church services of their own in the workhouse. Norfolk was a county in which Primitive Methodism was well represented. It was thus agreed that licensed ministers of the Primitives, Wesleyans, Baptist and Congregationalists could hold a service on conditions. These were that the service was held on the green or in the dining room, and at a time other than the Anglican services in the chapel. They were not allowed to use the chapel.

Perhaps unsurprisingly another request was made in 1895 to hold a service in the chapel. This was reportedly met with great opposition from the Church of England clergy, who were themselves well represented on the Board of Guardians. The compromise that was eventually reached was that the Church of England services would remain unaltered, but that nonconformists could hold their services in the chapel in the afternoon provided they did not use the east end of the chapel, which was reserved exclusively for Church of England chaplains. It is an area that merits further research.

Proud to be Primitive!

Have you seen David Leese's letter to the Editor of the Methodist Recorder?

Dear Sir,

I normally find the crossword clues in the Methodist Recorder straightforward and not contentious. I was however taken aback this week to read the clue- 'ancient, crude and simple'- and to find the answer was 'primitive!'

To those of us who are admirers of the Primitive Methodist Connexion such a clue seems disparaging and demeaning. Might I suggest that in Methodist terminology the clue 'authentic and original' might be more appropriate to describe our Primitive Methodist forefathers and mothers.

Rev David Leese

30 Tutbury Hollow, Ashbourne , DE6 1TD

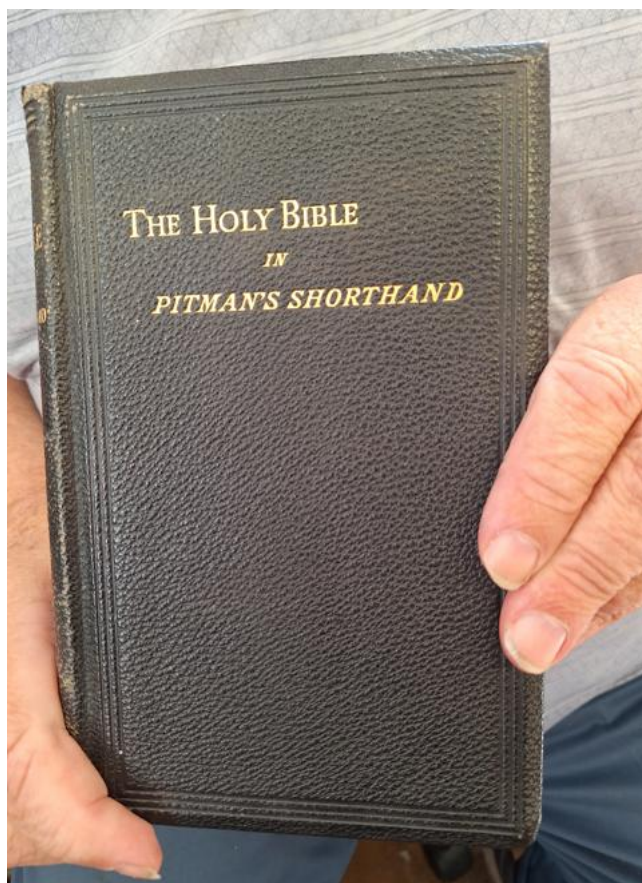
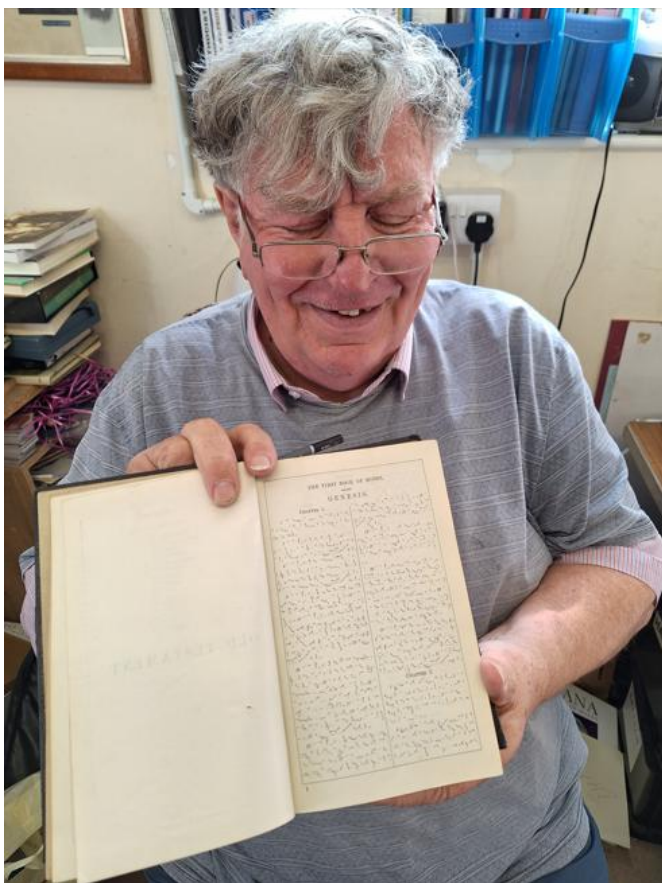
Another mystery to solve?

Malcolm Lorimer tells us about a recent donation to the wonderful Alsager Book Emporium

Every week we get donations of bibles, quite a lot of new ones and some very unusual. We sell at least one a week but this week, we had one in which I have never ever seen before, and can't understand why it was written. I think everyone knows about Pitman's shorthand, that secretaries used to use to take notes before computers. We've just received a complete bible in Pitman's shorthand. It was printed in 1920 and I can't understand why anyone would want a bible in Pitman's shorthand because it's all about dictation and then being typed up!

Can anyone tell me the reason?

Interestingly, it came with a receipt tucked inside, and it sold in 1993 for £3.50!



Randle’s rummagings

Resisting the temptation to make comments about collecting Primitive Methodist relics, Randle tells us about a Primitive Methodist entrepreneur selling to a niche market

Concerning PRIMITIVE METHODISM.



Edwin H. Eardley, Printer, Tunstall.

The largest, most interesting, and unique
Collection of Primitive Methodist Relics
is now on VIEW, at
VODREY’S Great Book Shop, TUNSTALL.

The following are amongst the most interesting :—
 James Nixon’s own Class Book with ‘Phillip Pugh’s’ signature.
 Primitive Methodist Magazines from 1819 to 1870.
 Seven Primitive Methodist Hymn Books, printed at Bemersley
 all before 1835.
 View (Wood Cut) of Camp Ground, 1807.
 First Tract printed at Bemersley.
 100 Photos of Old Primitive Methodist Preachers. and many
 other interesting items too numerous to mention.

Vodrey, Bookseller, Tunstall

We have recently received at Englesea Brook an advertisement for the bookshop of William Vodrey at Tunstall – and how I would have liked to visit it! The advert is undated, but it is headed ‘Concerning PRIMITIVE METHODISM’ and claims that ‘The largest, most interesting and unique Collection of Primitive Methodist Relics is now on VIEW.’ Among the items listed are James Nixon’s own class book, signed by Philip Pugh, PM



A SMALL COLLECTION OF PRIMITIVE METHODIST RELICS ON VIEW A FEW YEARS AGO IN HANLEY GENERAL MARKET. NY

Magazines from 1819 to 1870, seven PM hymn books all printed at Bemersley before 1835, the first tract printed at Bemersley, a woodcut of the camp ground (1807), and ‘100 photos of Old Primitive Methodist Preachers, and many other interesting items too numerous to mention.’

We have also been shown a picture of the stall he ran on Hanley Market, which looks equally intriguing. The man at the stall is thought to be Vodrey himself, though clearly he was then much older than in the other picture.



William Vodrey was born at Silverdale on 21 June 1869, the son of William and Susannah Vodrey, who came from Burslem. William senior was a grocer and furniture remover, and he also had a daughter Elizabeth. By 1891 the father had died, and William junior worked as a print compositor at Tunstall. In 1901 William was established as a bookseller and stationer, and later that year he married Winifred Charlotte Jones. They had at least six sons and two daughters. He died in 1951 at Newcastle.

I suppose it is highly likely that some of his PM items were purchased by local people and became part of collections which were subsequently donated to Englesea Brook, but all I can identify at the museum that definitely came from his shop are some PM magazines in the library dating from the 1830s which carry his stamp, and a photograph stamped 'Vodrey, Bookseller, Tunstall' and labelled William Vodrey. The photograph was taken by W. H. Bentley at the Rembrandt Studio, 10 Hope Street, Hanley, but Bentley didn't move there

until after 1896, so the picture must be of the bookseller, not his father. The picture does seem similar to the man standing by the Hanley stall.

Heritage Talks January – March 2025

Join us online, from the comfort of your own home!

Ray Johnson – Film of Hugh Bourne and Joseph Cook

Saturday 11 Jan 11:00 AM

Meeting ID: 953 2808 8352 Passcode: 282893

David Heatherington – The Methodist Tapestries Collection

Saturday 15 Feb 11:00 AM

Meeting ID: 985 3475 8846 Passcode: 081715

Amy Wilkinson – Just Women: Women in the Primitive Methodist Movement

Saturday 15 March 11:00 AM

Meeting ID: 913 3647 6597 Passcode: 090814

Chris' Conundrums



A regular conundrum on the Chapels pages of My Prims is to decide the proper name of a chapel. Names - and spellings - change over time - and of course the official name may not be the one in local usage

One of our regular contributors, John Walley, is in the process of finding all the coal pits within 10 miles of his Northumberland home; so far he has identified over 300. In the process John explores historic Ordnance Survey maps on the National Library of Scotland website – and in the process finds former Primitive Methodist chapels which he passes on to My Prims.

On the site, each chapel has to be given a name: the chapel in the picture is a good illustration of how that is not always straightforward. The former Primitive Methodist chapel on Benton Park Road in the northern suburbs of Newcastle upon Tyne sits on the boundary between Gosforth & Longbenton. Its growth is linked to the mining community of around 600 people that grew in association with the nearby Gosforth pit. The chapel appears on the 1895 Ordnance Survey map at the northern end of a terrace of housing called Gosforth Row. On the 1913 map the chapel is still there, but is labelled as Wesleyan Methodist. On the 1940/41 map the building is unlabelled. Gosforth Row has disappeared. In recent years the building has been used as a car repair workshop. Encouragingly, it retains a carved cross at the front apex.

But what do we call it? It had closed by the 1940 Methodist inventory of buildings; we have no access to local preaching plans; John hasn't found it in local authority archives. The 1851 Census records a Prim preaching place in a cottage in Gosforth Row, but calls it Longbenton. On My Prims currently it is called Gosforth Primitive Methodist chapel, but that could change. Read more [here](#).

Dates for the Diary

Heritage talk

This Saturday 16th November , 11:00am

Heritage Talk with long-time friend of Englesea Brook, John Anderson. Join us, via Zoom, to discover more of the history of Primitive Methodist Pottery, examining its iconography and looking at who made it and why.

https://zoom.us/j/99452796845?pwd=sZdvgGEGP8nOsz7yp9c9iRI5ubxcbp.1&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1iGtg44amqsodNUuDA1ouKcdzJwF2GhCT9c1s2rknI75sm8tuLxQSS9Gc_aem_inO72pGZF3jzY9MUgjHilA

Meeting ID: 994 5279 6845

Passcode: 151080

Bible Studies for Advent

4 consecutive Wednesdays - Wednesday 27th November, 1st, 8th and 15th December, 10.30-12 noon
via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/91451125989?pwd=hxYbhGUu8bLZuqu7bK7ohpGThGNGpM.1>

Meeting ID: 914 5112 5989

Passcode: 769740

This year, in a series entitled "Rejoice In Our Advent Hope" Tim Macquiban will lead us in reflecting on what it means to live the joy of the Gospel in everyday life, experienced in the darkness and fears of our lives as well as in the light of the hope of peace in a justice-seeking community.

Join us for one, some or all of them. Everyone is welcome.

Wreath Making

Friday 13th December, 11am-1pm. £15.00 per person, join us in the atmospheric Chapel to create your own Christmas wreath. Seasonal refreshments to sustain the creativity included!

A Christmas Carol

Friday 13th December, 7-8.30pm. Tickets: £8 for adults, £3 for students. Under 14s free. Seasonal refreshments included.

An atmospheric retelling by candlelight of Charles Dickens most famous tale, told by professional storyteller, Elizabeth Morris

Victorian Family Christmas

Saturday 14th December, 2-4pm. Pay on the door: £2 for adults, £1 for children under 14. Under 5s free.

Enjoy a Victorian Family Christmas experience, including Christmas crafts, carol singing, storytelling and Victorian-style refreshments!

Carol Service

Sunday 15th December, 3pm

A service of carols, readings and sketches, led by Rev Helen Kirk, and followed by seasonal refreshments.

Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 72

The plan is to publish Extra 72 on Wednesday January 8th. Your article, ideas, photographs by Christmas please!

And a final prayer from Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo (332-387)

Nothing is distant from you, O God, with whom we have no fear, by whom we are raised up and in whom our hope is fulfilled.