

Englesea Extra

No. 88: August 2026

Price: justice

Strange Times

I trust there has been much celebration this weekend to mark Yorkshire Day on Saturday? No? Just in our house then!

Recently I came across a short paper in our archive, written in 1973 by Mrs G. Reasbeck, entitled 'Primitive Methodism in Doncaster and District, c.1820-1920'. It made fascinating reading, so to celebrate Yorkshire Day, I thought I would share some of its gems.



In 1819, Jeremiah Gilbert, was sent out as a travelling preacher from Nottingham to start a mission in Sheffield and the surrounding towns and villages. In his journal he writes there was 'not much rough handling by the mob, but much clerical persecution'. Many hostile clergy prevented open air preaching in their parishes. Constables were often unwilling agents and hung back, then the clergyman himself would pull the preacher down. Gilbert records that in 15 months of preaching in the area, he was taken before magistrates 6 or 7 times. The response in his journal can be found on MyPrims – [Click here](#) – he was undaunted in his passion to share the gospel!

Under the heading 'Discipline', Mrs Reasbeck gives a wealth of information about people gleaned from Quarterly Meeting minutes, Local Preachers' meeting minutes, Leaders' meetings etc. The church, she says, was interested in and concerned about every member'. Standards of behaviour were well-defined, and if a preacher fell short, they were brought before the leaders' meeting.

"1851: Bro. _____ of Campsall be expelled for immortality in keeping open Public House and selling drink on the sabbath day.

1866: Bro. _____ expelled for marrying without ensuring the death of his wife's husband."

There were many neglected appointments, which, when one considers how far a preacher would have to walk, who can blame them?

"1857: Bro. _____ is exonerated for neglect of Hampole – he having gone part of the way and was detained until too late by a very violent shower of pitiless pelting rain, accompanied by roaring, crashing thunder and vivid blazing lightning. Mark! This must not be taken as a precedent by any other Brother".

These are just a few of the wonderful insights offered by this paper. The Prims fervour never ceases to amaze me!

Every blessing

Ruth

Pause for thought:

"Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."

Reparative justice

Philip Thornborow responds to Ruth's leader piece in Englesea Extra 87 – and Amy's rabbit hole

Like Amy, in her piece in EE87, I often find myself down rabbit or worm holes in the course of my work, and I would like to offer this account as a commentary on the reason it is thought we need reparative justice.

I have a particular interest in early Methodist registers, so picked up an enquiry from *My Wesleyan Methodists* as to whether the Wesleyans allowed lay people to baptise. The enquirer's ancestor had been baptised in 1835 by the splendidly named Kelsham Fullagar, who seemed not to have baptised anyone else. I was able to inform them that Mr Fullagar was actually a minister, but had been pulled out of his first Circuit after 6 weeks to fill a need in Jamaica. This proved to be a life changing event for him. He was in Jamaica at a time of great change, including the abolition of slavery. His brother stated that Kelsham "Had enlightened views of Christian liberty" and was opposed to ecclesiastical tyranny. He was accused of ill-defined faults by his superintendent minister, which resulted in him being dismissed from the Wesleyan Methodist ministry at the 1838 Conference. His former Chair of District, Thomas Pennock, had also fallen into disfavour with the Connexion, and together they took their congregations out of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion and joined the newly established Wesleyan Methodist Association, who had also left Wesleyan Methodism because of what was seen as ecclesiastical tyranny.

The basis for the expulsion of Fullagar and Pennock, and their making common cause with the WMA appears to be that when they looked at their congregations they saw Methodists. The colour and socioeconomic position of their members were irrelevant when considering their commitment to Christ, and ability to hold office in the church. Their fellow ministers, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and the Connexion thought that the church should be respectable and support the planters.



Yours faithfully
Matthew Baxter
President of the Annual Assembly
held at Leeds in August 1858

For more information the story is told on *My United Methodists* in the pages

<https://www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk/content/people/ministers/ministers-surname-f/fullagar-kelsham-1810-1841> and

<https://www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk/content/people/ministers/ministers-surname-p/pennock-thomas>

There is a Primitive Methodist connection, in that the former Primitive Methodist minister Matthew Baxter joined the Wesleyan Methodist Association and following Fullagar's death he went out to Jamaica with Pennock to build up what became the United Methodist Free Churches mission to Jamaica. <https://www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk/content/people/ministers/ministers-surname-b/baxter-matthew-1812-1893>

In reflecting on the past, and the need for reparative justice, we also need to acknowledge that some Methodists were working for the good 200 years ago. Some would also note that the Wesleyan Methodist leadership were far too concerned with respectability at home: it wasn't the leadership who campaigned for reparative justice for the Tolpuddle Martyrs, four of whom were Wesleyan local preachers.

Englesea Brook volunteers – thanks!!

There has been some sterling effort put in by the volunteers in the last few weeks, despite the blistering temperatures. I can confirm that regular tea breaks were encouraged! Thank you all for keeping the site attractive and maintained.



Gordon has sprayed anti-fungal cleaner on Hugh Bourne's memorial, been repainting the white edges of the steps, the coping stones around the chapel and museum, as well as those along the wall of the graveyard. His current project is repainting the railings!



Alan did a wonderful job weeding the Peace Garden and clearing the bike racks in the car park:

Andrew has rediscovered the path in the graveyard by sieving the gravel – and got covered in dust for his troubles!

Finally, the weather has at least enabled more banner cleaning, although it did become a bit TOO hot!

Work Experience student brings IT gifts!

We were delighted to have Damien join us for a week in July as part of his Year 10 Work Experience. He has helped us to create QR codes for various artefacts in the museum, enabling visitors to discover more by linking them directly to MyPrimitiveMethodists. A special thanks to him.



AJ in the Collections Store Recent University graduate, AJ, has done a lot of work in the Collections Store for the past few months. Our MODES catalogue record holds all the important details about the artefacts in our collection and having photographs attached to each record allows for easy identification. However, there is a bit of a backlog regarding the photography of artefacts. AJ has been doing a brilliant, efficient job of working through the central display cabinets to photograph items and add them to the MODES records. We would like to say a big thank you to AJ for all his hard work. You would be an asset to any workplace.

Chris' conundrums

What's in a name? On My Primitive Methodists and the other Methodist Heritage Community websites we try to have only one page for each chapel for clarity. However, duplicate pages do creep in and we welcome contributions which identify them.

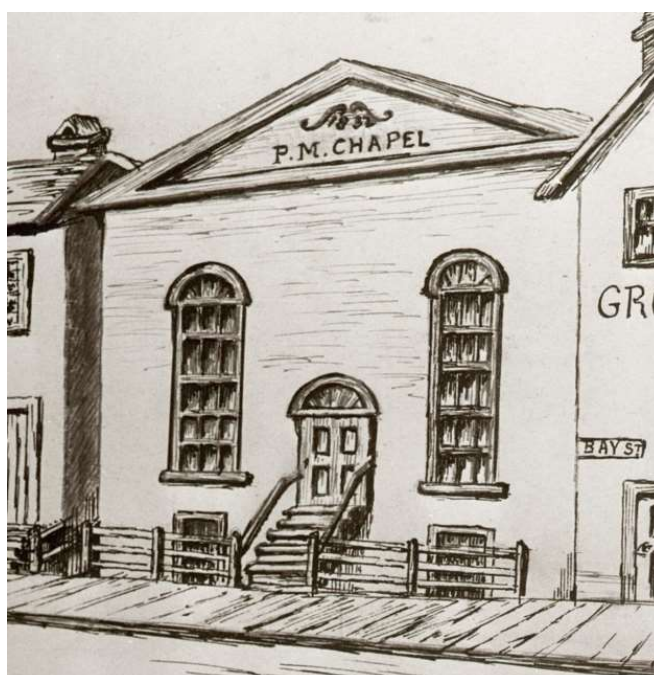
Part of the problem is that chapels have different names. We had separate pages for Sandy Primitive Methodist chapel and Girtford Primitive Methodist chapel until Tim Banks pointed out that they were the same society. The hamlet of Girtford is located in the east Bedfordshire parish of Sandy on the Great North Road. The pages have now been combined [here](#), with a title that includes both Sandy and Girtford elements.

Chapel names vary greatly. Local usage might simply reflect the history or local geography - new chapel, bottom end chapel. A chapel might carry a formal name – Ebenezer, Bethesda etc. A rural chapel may simply carry the village name – except my village was known as both Lower Stratton and Stratton St Margaret. In a town there will be more than one chapel, each could be named after the district or the road it is located on. Towns and cities often contain what were separate towns and villages to complicate it further.

In My Prims it's important that visitors to the site can find the chapel they are looking for, so we start names from the overall settlement and work down to detail. However, there are still duplicate pages. If you find one, let us know! It's improving the accuracy of the information on the sites that adds to their value.

Randle's Rummagings

It is ten years ago this month that we first heard of the existence of something that has since become one of our most treasured possessions at Englesea Brook. We received an email from a book dealer at Dallas in Texas saying that he had the journal of the Revd John Davison, PM minister, which he wanted to sell. It was potentially of great interest as Davison was son-in-law of the PM co-founder, William Clowes, but he wanted a lot of money for it, which we didn't have, and was it genuine? After further enquiries and seeing pictures of it, we decided to go ahead, and it arrived a few days later. It was not as good as we had hoped – it was infinitely better than we could possibly have imagined!



Davison was born near Newcastle upon Tyne in 1799 and was converted by the preaching of William Morris, a Staffordshire potter. He started to itinerate in 1824 and during the next 23 years he served in a dozen circuits, mostly in the north of England. In 1825 he married Charlotte Temperton, William Clowes's stepdaughter.

In 1847 he was asked if he would go to Canada as a missionary and he agreed. The journal begins with his preparations for departure and the journey across the Atlantic to New York, which took 40 days. He got on very well with the captain, but there was one subject on which they couldn't agree, the captain was a 'strong advocate' of dancing! He finally set foot on Canadian soil at 5am on 1 July 1847, and apart from one return visit to England in 1869, he remained there for the rest of his life and was buried in Toronto in 1884.

Just three days after his arrival in Canada he took two services in Bay Street Chapel, Toronto, built in 1832, it was the first PM chapel in the country. His entries in the journal eventually become briefer and less frequent, but he continued to add to it throughout his life. There is no room here to recount any of his extraordinary experiences, but if you would like to know more about the Revd Davison and his journal, the museum has published a pamphlet about it, costing £3.50, plus postage.

Summer's Here SO ARE THE EVENTS!

AUGUST

2026

ENGLESEA BROOK



SAT 8TH
11 AM -
4 PM

**FUN FAMILY
CRAFT DAY**

Twig weaving
Bread making
(11am & 2pm)
Pottery & much more!
No need to book

ADULTS £2.50, CHILDREN £1.50

**BARBEQUE &
QUIZ**

£12.50 (UNDER 16S £6.50) BOOKING REQUIRED

FRI 14TH
6 - 8 PM

SUN 23RD
3 PM

**MUSEUM 40TH
ANNIVERSARY
SERVICE**

FOLLOWED BY CREAM TEA.

No need to
book

**INTERACTIVE
CHILDREN'S TRAILS**

FOR OLDER & YOUNGER ONES - FREE

**TUES -
SAT**
11AM - 4PM

**TUES -
SAT**
11AM-4PM

**TEA ROOM OPEN FOR
HOMEMADE CAKE, ICE
CREAM & MORE**

FREE ENTRY TO MUSEUM, DONATIONS WELCOME



The Story of Primitive Methodism

WWW.ENGLESEABROOK.ORG.UK

CW2 5QW

Fun Family Craft Day

Explore the creativity and activism of
the Primitive Methodists!

Try your hand at traditional crafts:

- Flour grinding & butter churning
- Pottery flowers and coilpots
- Stick weaving



Plus!

Shape & Bake bread
workshops

11am & 2pm

Make your point:

- Embroider or draw a flag

Choose from prepared
designs or create your own



No need
to book!

Saturday, 8th August

11am to 4pm

Adult: £2.50

Child: £1.50

Light refreshments,
including home-made
cakes, available in our
Tea Room



CW2 5QW
www.engleseabrook.org.uk
01270 820836

SUMMER BARBECUE AND QUIZ

Friday 14th August, 6-8pm

Tickets £12.50 each (under 16s £6.50) includes
barbecue, cake, drinks (non-alcoholic) and free
entry to our general knowledge quiz (with small
prizes for winners!).

Bring a picnic rug or chairs if weather fine; event
to be held inside if not.

To book email admin@engleseabrook.org.uk.

Vegan or veggie? Let us know when booking.

Please note: alcohol is not permitted on Methodist
premises.

Pay on entry.



Tel: 01270 820836. Parking available.

Scan the QR code to find us.

Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum,

Englesea Brook Lane, CW2 5QW

www.engleseabrook.org.uk. Registered Charity No. 1132237



GOOGLE

MAPS

ENGLESEA BROOK CHAPEL & MUSEUM CELEBRATING 40 YEARS: 1986-2026

Join us for a celebratory service followed by a delicious cream tea.

Sunday 23rd August, 3-5pm
Free event, all welcome



Englesea Brook Chapel and
Museum of Primitive Methodism
Englesea Brook Lane
CW2 5QW
Parking available.
Tel: 01270 820836



DOES GOD DO CARTWHEELS?



An exploration of children's spirituality
and lessons we can learn for
intergenerational worship through:

- bible study
- creative practice
- Methodist heritage

**Open to all, and particularly for
preachers and worship leaders**

Where: **Englesea Brook Chapel and
Museum**

When: **Saturday 19th September
9.30am for 10am start - 3.30pm**

Cost: **£15 to include lunch**

To book email:
learning@engleseabrook.org.uk

JAZZ CHAPEL

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
3PM

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum

Led by Rev Rob Hilton and
Chris Hill Jazz

Come and enjoy:

- easy-style jazz music
- music and worship with
improvisation and flexibility

ALL ARE WELCOME

Englesea Diary

See the posters on pages 6, 7 and 8 for details.

Cottage Crafts Day

Saturday 8th August – Cottage Crafts Day for all the family!

Interactive Children's trails

All through August - Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm.

The Annual Barbeque and Quiz

Friday 14th August 6-8pm - The Annual Barbeque and Quiz

Sunday service

Sunday 23rd August 3:00 – 5:00 pm– Celebrating 40 years of Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum. Led by Rev Helen Kirk

Sunday September 13th 3:00 pm– Jazz chapel: Music and worship with improvisation and flexibility, led by Rev Rob Hilton with Chris Hill Jazz

Does God do cartwheels?

Saturday 19th September 10am-3.30pm Details on the poster.

Opening times for 2026/27

August Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11am-4pm

September to October Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11am-4pm

Copy and publication dates for Englesea Extra 89

The plan is to publish Extra 89 on Wednesday September 2nd 2026. Contributions to Ruth by Friday, August 28th please.

And a final Ethiopian Orthodox prayer

Shine on us, O Son of God, with grace unfailing, granting us the gift of wisdom, the power of faith and the endurance of hope.

Amen.