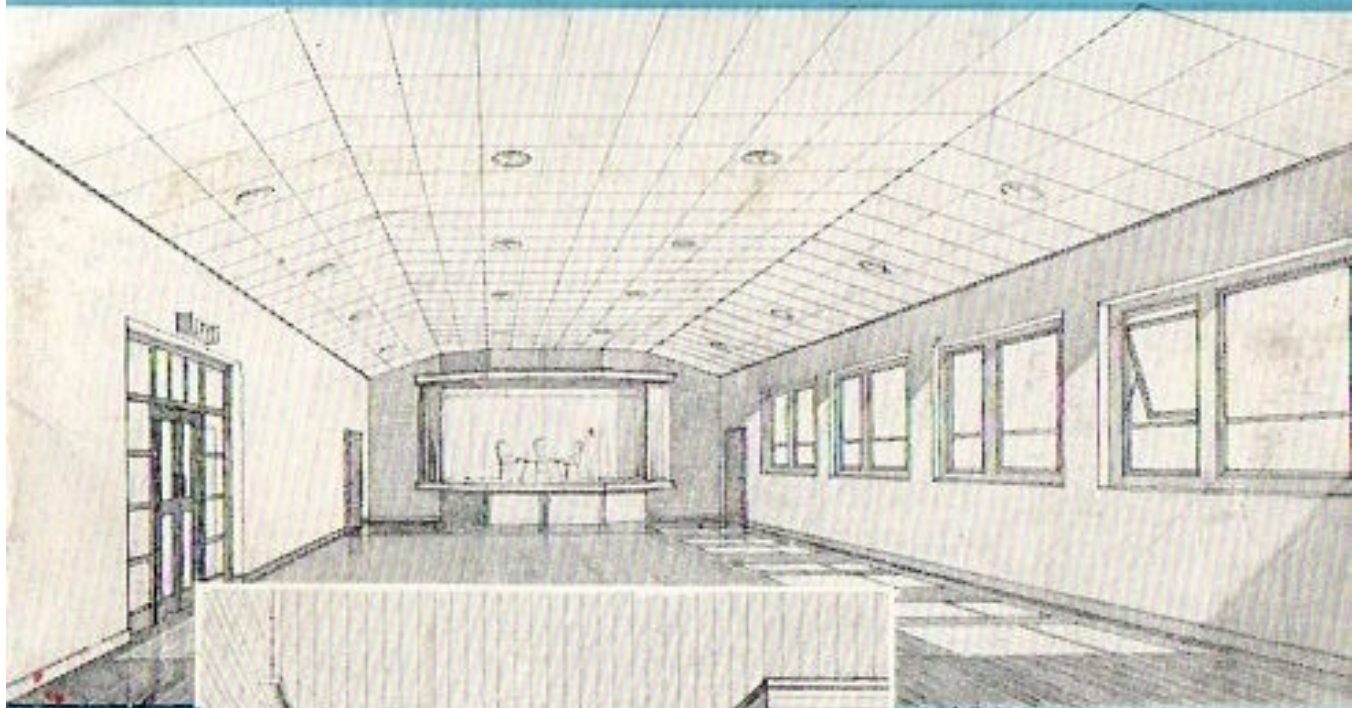


Woodford Methodist Church



THE CHURCH HALL

1960

Architect J. G. SIMPSON, A.R.I.B.A.

MINISTER

The Rev. David J. T. Matthews MA

<i>Society Stewards</i>	Mr. H. R. Gibson, Mr. J. L. Archer, Mr. C. R. Bell, Mr. R. F. Hurley, Mr. J. Watts
<i>Trust Secretary</i>	Mr. S. C. Hall
<i>Trust Treasurer</i>	Mr. W. G. Hammond

PROGRAMME

Sunday	11.0 a.m.	Divine Worship (with Junior Church)
	3.0 p.m.	Sunday School
	6.30 p.m.	Divine Worship (followed frequently by The Sunday Night Fellowship)
Monday	2.0 p.m.	Darby and Joan Club
Tuesday	2.45 p.m.	Ladies' Sewing Circle
	8.0 p.m.	Tuesday Fellowship
Thursday	2.30 p.m.	Wives' Club (fortnightly)
	6.45 p.m.	Junior Club
	7.30 p.m.	Inters' Club
Friday	8.0 p.m.	Youth Club
		Men's Club
		Choir Practice

The Church Prayer Meeting as announced

Mention should be made of the exceptionally close co-operation practised between our Church and St Mary's Parish Church during the past two years. This is known as 'The Woodford Experiment' and both the local and national press have featured accounts of its activities.

These include at least two joint Sunday services a year; periodical joint meetings of the Parochial Church Council and the Leaders' Meeting, and joint canvasses of our neighbourhood. Thus two churches speak with one voice to the wider world emphasizing that coming of Christian unity which will be 'not compromise for the sake of peace, but comprehension for the sake of truth'.

WOODFORD METHODIST CHURCH

DERBY ROAD, LONDON, E18

Souvenir Handbook

OF THE

OPENING AND DEDICATION

OF THE NEW HALL

Saturday 25 June 1960

- 8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
3.30 p.m. DIVINE WORSHIP
in the Church
to be conducted by
The Rev. David Matthews MA
assisted by
The Rev. Maurice A. Clarke BD
Preacher:
The Rev. Percy D. Beckwith
- 4.15 p.m. THE OPENING OF THE HALL
to be performed by
Mrs. L. A. Reddall
Chairman: Mr. L. A. Reddall
- 4.45 p.m. TEA
- 5.45 p.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT
entitled "To the Glory of God"

Order of Divine Worship

THE people standing, the Minister of the Church (The Rev. David Matthews MA) will say:

Serve the Lord with gladness: enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. O come, let us worship and bow down; and let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Let us pray;

O God, eternal and ever-blessed, who delightest in the assemblage of Thy people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into Thy house, in the multitude of Thy mercies, and grant, we entreat Thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls; that the glory of God may be the light thereof; and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*

The Minister will lead the People in the saying of the Lord's Prayer, followed by *the Hymn*:

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.
3. Father-like He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.
4. Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Amen

The Scripture will be read by The Senior Society Steward Mr. H. R. Gibson
1 Kings 8, 22-30

The Offertory

The Prayer will be offered by the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit
The Rev. Maurice A. Clarke B.D.

The Sermon will be preached by The Chairman of the London North-East
District of the Methodist Church

The Rev. Percy D. Beckwith

The Hymn will be sung:

1. Now thank we all our God,
With hearts, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.
2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With Them in highest heaven:
The one, eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. *Amen*

THE BENEDICTION

Organist: Mr. J. H. Hinds

The Opening of the Hall

AT THE DOOR of the Hall the Architect (Mr. J. G. Simpson, ARIBA) will hand the key to Mrs. L. A. Reddall, saying, 'I hand you this key, asking that, on behalf of the Church, you will declare the Hall open for the worship and service of Almighty God'.

Mrs. Reddall will say, 'In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, I declare this Hall open for the worship and service of Almighty God'.

Mr. and Mrs. Reddall will enter the Hall followed by the Mayor and Mayoress, the Architect, the Ministers and other Guests.

Having with them mounted the platform, Mr. L. A. Reddall will ask the Chairman of the District to offer the Dedicatory Prayer.

Mr. Reddall will then address the assembled People, after which he will call upon the following briefly to convey fraternal greetings:

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. B. Baverstock JP)

The Rector of Woodford (The Rev. J. C. Wansey MA)

The Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council
(The Rev. H. J. L. Hunter)

The Senior Circuit Steward (Mr. G. Crome)

Mr. Reddall will ask the Treasurer of the Trustees, Mr. W. G. Hammond, to express their thanks after which

THE DOXOLOGY

will be sung and the Superintendent of the Circuit will give

THE BLESSING

The Early History of our Church

THE CIRCUIT Local Preachers' Minute Book for the year 1919, in recording a lecture about the history of the Circuit, gives this account of our beginnings: 'The next movement was at Woodford. Many years before there had been a cause at Woodford Green. The chapel was situated not far from the present "Wilfred Lawson", and attached to the Waltham Abbey Circuit, but, at the time of the Reform movement, it passed out of the Connexion, and there arose in its place what was known as an Independent Wesleyan Chapel. It was not long before the minister retired and the leaders, in connection with a worthy Methodist who had just settled at Woodford, formed themselves into a Society, hired the buildings, obtained the services of a supernumerary minister, and Woodford appeared on the Plan (of the Clapton Circuit formed from the Hackney Circuit). About a year later the chapel in Derby Road was erected.'

This account elucidates a statement faintly discernible on the first page of the first Minute Book of our own Sunday School Council: 'At a meeting held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom in April 1863 resolutions were passed to found a Missionary Society in connection with the Woodford Wesleyan Chapel . . . Treasurer, Mr. J. Thomas, Hale End, Walthamstow. Secretary, Rev. W. Burnett, Wesleyan Minister, Woodford. Committee: Mr. Allen, Mr. Buckley, Mr. Mills, Mr. C. Thomas, Mr. Holwell, Mr. Thomas.'

Since the Rev. W. Burnett's name is not recorded in the official list of Wesleyan Methodist ministers going back to John Wesley's day he must have been the *Independent Wesleyan* minister aforementioned: from the two statements taken together we can hence assert: 1. That a Wesleyan Methodist Society, associated with the Waltham Abbey Circuit, existed in Woodford Green more than a century ago;

2. That it abandoned its loyalty to Conference, becoming an Independent Wesleyan Society sometime between 1849 and 1856 (which are the approximate boundary dates of the Reform movement in Methodism);

3. That at some point after 1863 its minister retired and its members returned to the Wesleyan fold and continued to use the same building until 1876.

Further enquiry has revealed that this old building still stands in Sunset Avenue between Mill Lane and Chingford Lane: a Congregational historical brochure records that it was built in 1803 as an Independent Chapel, that it was used by Congregationalists until 1837, and that after that date the building was employed as 'a Wesleyan Chapel, a British School, a Church of England Mission, and a Workmen's Club'. Today it is a glass factory devoted to the manufacture of mirrors: true the date 1890 appears over the doorway but it is obvious

from the roof that the rear two-thirds of the building are much older than its front – evidently they are all that remains of the building which housed our Society until 23rd July, 1876. This last date is supplied by an advertisement appearing in the Woodford Times for 22nd July, 1876: 'Wesleyan Chapel, Woodford. Service as usual at British School-room on Sunday next, 23rd July. After that date the building will be closed and a new schoolroom at corner of Derby Road will be opened for service on 30th July.'

Since the stonelaying of our present Church only took place on 15th July, clearly the builders must have begun work at the back of our Derby Road site and nearly completed the hall before building the Church.

THE ERECTION OF DERBY ROAD

The 'worthy Methodist' who had so decisive an influence upon our history was evidently Mr. J. W. Thomas, to whose memory a fine stone memorial remains in our Church today. On 4th March, 1876, he wrote to the Rev. F. W. Greeves, of the Clapton Circuit: 'I presume that you will have heard from Mr. Withington that the piece of land which you looked at when at Woodford has been purchased . . . as it appears necessary to form a Trust at once I should be glad to know if the enclosed list would meet with your approval . . . It would be better to have a small Trust at present. If we are successful we shall soon require a larger chapel and then a new Trust can be formed . . .' (Alas! we have never required a larger chapel although we have long desired a larger schoolroom.) On 29th March Mr. Thomas wrote to Mr. Greeves: 'The size of the grounds is 80ft. by 135ft. The Chapel would probably measure about 35ft. by 60ft. in addition to which we hope to have a schoolroom. The materials would be brick and number of sittings 350. The ground with fencing and conveyance will cost £300. We do not want the building to cost more than £2,000, but I suppose we may reckon the total outlay £2,500.'

On 15th July, 1876, the stonelaying took place, a full account of which appeared in the Woodford Times, together with a most impressive subscription list. 'There was a goodly attendance of spectators but the oppressive heat rendered it rather fatiguing for those who were unprotected from the sun's rays.' The Rev. Frederick Greeves conducted the service, the young Woodford minister, the Rev. T. L. Withington, read Psalm 84, the Rev. J. Wood offered prayer, after which Mr. Greeves 'delivered an address setting forth the various reasons why they, as a body, wished to erect a church in the district. They were not doing it in rivalry or hostility to any existing church because they claimed to be the friends of all and the enemies to none, but because there was room in this growing neighbourhood to advance

the Saviour's name. He trusted that the doctrine which would be preached in that building would ever be that of the true catholic, evangelical church, and that many souls would be born to God therein.

After describing the contents of a bottle which was about to be placed under the stone, and assuring the members of the swell mob, if any were present, that it did not contain a single coin of the realm, nor anything which would be of the least value to them, he called upon Mr. Alderman Barlow to lay the stone . . . The stone having been properly adjusted and lowered into its place, Alderman Barlow said: "I declare this stone to be well and truly laid in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost." The Alderman then delivered a brief, earnest address . . . The Treasurer, J. Thomas, Esq., of Hale End, was then called upon to read the list of subscriptions received or promised . . . (the proceeds of the day were £1,109 1s. 5d.).

The Rev. George Thomas Egg (Congregational Minister of George Lane) . . . reminded the friends that they were meeting on St. Swithun's day, a day usually associated with rain. The rain he wished for them today and that continuously was one of gold and one of spiritual blessing . . . The Rev. J. B. Shrewsbury delivered a most telling address on the necessity for cultivating personal holiness . . . A tea was provided in the Board Schoolroom, Churchfields, at half-past five, and a public meeting was afterwards held in the same room, at which the Rev. G. T. Perks, MA, ex-president of the Conference, and other ministers and gentlemen delivered addresses . . .

One great day necessarily led on to another: on 9th January, 1877, the new Church - our Church - was opened. According to the Woodford Times the building by now had cost £3,400, that journal writing with pointed frankness as follows: "The new Wesleyan Chapel - The opening of this building for Divine Service takes place on Tuesday evening next, at 7 o'clock, when the Ex-President of the Conference, Rev. Gervase Smith, MA, will preach the sermon. The building is situate in Derby Road, and has been erected at a cost of about £3,400. It has a commodious schoolroom at the rear, and the cause will doubtless prove a great convenience and benefit to the Non-conformist residents of that rapidly increasing neighbourhood.

We need scarcely remind our readers that the object of enlisting the services of the ex-president of the Conference to open the Chapel is to draw a large congregation for the purpose of increasing the building fund, and we trust the collection will not disappoint those who are responsible for the undertaking.' A series of special services followed upon the opening: the Church, as we know it today, had begun its mission to help 'many souls to be born to God therein'.

The Building since 1876

THE CHURCH premises continued unaltered until 1898 when Mr. J. W. Thomas told the June Quarterly Meeting 'that certain alterations were going on in Woodford Chapel and premises. The total outlay would be £800 of which they had promises of nearly £400 and that they required another £400'.

What were those alterations? Probably the erection of the two classrooms behind the schoolroom stage was amongst them. The recent removal of plaster from the wall at the stage-end of the schoolroom – which wall is being retained at the back of the stage in the new hall – showed that originally there were two windows in that wall which were later altered into doorways, and which doorways now in 1960 have been bricked up again. A bricked-up doorway also exists between the Church Parlour and the new hall, suggesting that alterations were made too at the opposite end of the schoolroom.

Further changes in the fabric of our premises may be listed chronologically.

1921 The Memorial Institute (later known as The Hut) was given by Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Hedges.

1922 The organ, which originally stood in the corner of the Church where our present side-chapel is, and which had later been moved into the gallery, was removed back to the ground-floor of the Church again to its present position in the west transept. During this year also part of the Church was underpinned owing to subsidence.

1926 A doorway was cut between the Minister's Vestry and the Church Parlour.

1927 Central heating was installed, also 'a baize door between vestries to exclude noise'.

1932 Electric light was installed.

1935 Further underpinning of one corner of the Church was effected.

1938 At a Trustees' Meeting it was suggested that 'a sub-committee of four persons be appointed to consider rebuilding new premises on the present site', but the suggestion was withdrawn after discussion.

- 1940 An air-raid slightly damaged the Church.
- 1941 A Building Fund was begun by Mrs. Galey.
- 1944 A doorway was cut between the two classrooms behind the Hall platform.
- 1944 A meeting was called 'To consider a resolution that has been passed by a meeting of representatives of several phases of Church activities regarding the desirability of making arrangements for a suitable hall for social and Sunday School work'.
- 1951 The exterior of the Hut was re-covered with aluminium sheeting.
- 1956 October. The Trustees 'Agreed to endeavour to raise the sum of £3000 for building the kitchen and lavatories, and re-designing the front of the Church, and carrying out inside repairs and decorations to the Church'.
- 1956 November. Mr. J. G. Simpson was instructed 'To prepare sketch plans for the extension of the schoolroom, new kitchen and lavatories and the front of the Church'.
- 1959 July. The tender of Messrs. C. S. Foster & Sons Ltd., was accepted for the re-building of the Hall.
- 1959 1st October. Work began on the re-building.

Reminiscences of Derby Road from 1900 *by Reg C. Hedges*

IN THE first place try to visualize Woodford as a small self contained semi-country town. The only means of transport was by rail, horse carriages, bicycles or walking.

In 1900 Derby Road Chapel was much the same as it is today, except that it was in a far better state of repair. Originally it was intended that two towers should be erected over the two front corners of the church and a gallery in each transept. This work was never carried out as it was found that foundations had not been put in deep enough.

The choir, all male, was honorary but the choir boys were given a Christmas gift of 2s. 6d. each for their services.

The congregation was large and the majority fairly well off, quite a few families arriving by horse and carriage. The majority of the male congregation wore top hats and frock coats, and their wives and children their special Sunday clothes.

The Sunday services were very similar to those of today except they were a lot longer and much more set. They consisted of four hymns, two lessons, a short and a long prayer, a chant, anthem, sermon and collection.

There was one very famous minister who on retirement came to live in Woodford and used to preach at Derby Road two or three times in each quarter. He was one of the most powerful preachers I have ever heard and really frightened us as children. He would start very quietly, build up to a terrific climax and end with his mane of white hair shaking and tears streaming down his face. The congregation carried away with emotion would break out with loud amens and shouts of hallelujah.

Among the other Church activities were the monthly working meeting for the general congregation, and the Ladies Sewing meeting to which you were INVITED if you kept a maid.

Now for a word about the Sunday School to which nearly every child belonged and loved. It consisted of eight classes with a teacher and ten to fifteen scholars in each class, also a primary and a senior men's class which was held in the church parlour each Sunday. Regular attendance at Sunday School was looked upon as a duty.

Each scholar had a star card which was stamped every week for morning or afternoon attendance.

At the Sunday School Anniversary prizes were given for regularity and every scholar who managed to attend morning and afternoon school for five years without missing was awarded an engraved gold medal and an additional gold bar for each succeeding year.

I well remember the record held by the late Bertie Russell, elder brother of Syd Russell of Dagenham. He won a gold medal and five successive gold bars; ten years perfect attendance morning and afternoon.

Activities which were run in connection with the Church at various times were two cricket teams; for which several of the circuit ministers played with some distinction, two football teams, a scout troop and guide company and a brownie pack for the juniors.

Everything seemed to be running well and then came 1914 and the tragedy of the first World War. Nobody can realise today the terrible losses our Church suffered in the following four years.

1918 saw the Armistice and the end of hostilities. Soon in ones and twos the men who survived came drifting home again. What could be done to help them fit into a normal life once more?

The Church leaders called a meeting at which various schemes were proposed and after a long discussion decided that a small hall should be erected on part of the manse garden.

The idea was that it should be used as a centre of recreation and meetings for the benefit of the youth of the Church.

A Committee was formed to make enquiries and finally an offer of a dismantled army recreation hut came along. A member of the Church offered to pay for this if the Trustees would arrange for the transport etc. This was agreed. The site was cleared and with the help of a band of church volunteers it was erected, decorated and furnished.

One of my proudest moments was when my mother, Mrs. Hedges, was presented with a silver key on declaring the hut open. It was dedicated to the memory of those who died in the war.

From its opening date and for many years it served as a very valuable asset to the activities of the Church life.

Some of you may recall the wonderful use that was made of it in this last war. How under the late Rev. Harry Webster and his wife assisted by a noble band of church volunteers, the hut was opened every Friday to members of the Forces for refreshments, recreation and assistance. After the Sunday evening service the troops were entertained and served with tea and cakes.

They were wonderful evenings and deeply appreciated. Many of you may remember the numerous occasions on which the sirens sounded and the guns started, the helpers all having to make a hurried dash in the pitch dark to take shelter in the cellars of the manse.

A Message from the Minister

WRITING of that Wren city church, St Stephen's Walbrook, notable for its interior beauty, but notorious for its mean exterior, somebody once said, 'Never was so sweet a kernel in so rough a shell, so rich a jewel in so poor a setting'.

Through the years a great work among young people has been accomplished by Woodford Methodist Church in premises which were originally inadequate and have become increasingly dilapidated: that devoted work has been as a sweet kernel in a rough shell, a rich jewel in a poor setting.

The generosity of our members and friends, assisted by the munificence of the Rank Trust, the Methodist Department for Chapel Affairs, and the London Mission Department of the Methodist Church, have now remedied this state of affairs.

As the Minister of the Church I would express my heartfelt thanks to all who have helped to make possible the building of a new Hall, while sharing with them in praise to God who has once again shown Himself 'able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think'. Thanks to Him the sweet kernel has now a smooth shell, the rich jewel a resplendent setting!

DAVID MATTHEWS

MINISTERS 1876-1960

1876 Rev. T. Lawry Withington	1909 Rev. Edwin C. Lansdown
1878 Rev. William Done	1913 Rev. John Barns
1879 Rev. Henry H. McCullagh BA	1917 Rev. F. Russell Watson
1882 Rev. William Mellor	1922 Rev. Charles J. Wright BD
1885 Rev. Thomas Featherstonchaugh	1926 Rev. T. Harold Mallinson BA
1888 Rev. William Phipps	1929 Rev. Robert H. Hingley MA
1891 Rev. D. William Barr	1935 Rev. William L. Waights
1894 Rev. John Aldred	1938 Rev. Harry Webster OBE
1897 Rev. George W. Sawday	1944 Rev. Alfred J. D. Llewellyn BD
1900 Rev. Walter W. Ward	1948 Rev. John R. S. Hutchinson
1903 Rev. George Lunn	1953 Rev. Ernest G. Panton
1906 Rev. W. Herbert Parkin	1956 Rev. David J. T. Matthews MA

Messages from Former Ministers

WE HAVE been delighted to receive messages of good-will from several of our former ministers. In recording their greetings we pay grateful tribute to their respective writers whose labours in past years have so largely contributed to the making of our present achievement possible.

The Rev. Dr. C. J. Wright (1922-1926)

On my arrival I found that the Church imperatively needed to be underpinned. We set to work at once, and in a few weeks, by the willing gifts from many friends of the church, the work was completed. During the time we were at Woodford the interior of the Church was suitably decorated. The present members should be reminded of a few who did good service to our time. The two Society Stewards were Mr. Hedges and Mr. Hicks. Dear old Mr. Chardin (of Huguenot descent I believe) was a man of truth and integrity. Dear old Mrs. Smith who lived in Woodford Green astonished many by continuing to manage a large business in the London Docks when she was well over seventy years of age. Nor must I omit the name of Mr. Blundell who managed 'The Wilfred Lawson', a very sincere and devout Christian who looked after Chingford Hatch. These all 'died in the faith'. I am glad to know that you are now erecting a larger and better hall. My wife and I send our best wishes for June 25 and hope that new and fuller life may come to Woodford.

The Rev. T. H. Mallinson, BA (1926-1929)

My wife and I have happy memories of our years at Derby Road and do not forget the many kindnesses received. It gives us pleasure to recall the gatherings of young people. They had, and practised, the spirit of evangelism. For their successors the new hall will form a centre of wider opportunities for religious and social service than the old premises which have served well their day and generation. God speed to all your work and greetings to all our friends.

The Rev. R. H. Hingley, MA (1929-1935)

It is with very great pleasure I have learned of Derby Road's new adventures in wider fellowship and now of this building for youth and the future. Under the guidance and blessing of God may your future utterly eclipse your past. Please assure my old friends who are still with you, or may read your Handbook, that they have an unique place in my memory and affection. And to those who have come to reinforce your endeavours I send my warmest greetings and best wishes. May great grace be on you all.

The Rev. William L. Waights (1935-1938)

Time seems to give one a true perspective of people and events in relation to reality. Actions and events that seemed so vital and momentous at the time of happening seem to fade into insignificance and are all but lost in the mists of forgetfulness. There shines as radiant stars memories of treasured friendships, tokens of goodwill, manifestations of patience, encouragements and forgiveness. Such memories defy the flight of years, or as Paul put it, 'Love never faileth'. They are the heartbeat of the Church.

I very sincerely wish you every success in this your new venture and may the blessing of God rest upon you all for evermore.

From the son of Mrs. Harry Webster

Mother wishes me to say that she sends fondest greetings to all the many friends that both she and my father made during a very happy stay in Woodford, and for Mother herself, later at Buckhurst Hill, where she made many new and treasured friendships. She hopes the new School Hall will be of great blessing to the young people of Woodford and that June 25 will be a real red letter day.

The Rev. A. J. D. Llewellyn, BD (1944-1948)

Recalling as I do the immense difficulties with which together we had to grapple at Woodford during the war years, I welcome the more the completion of your great task, as I also rejoice that, by my daughter's membership among you, and my own continuance in the Circuit, I still have a strong stake in your affairs.

The Rev. J. R. S. Hutchinson (1948-1953)

I am very pleased indeed to felicitate you on the erection of the new hall at Derby Road. I don't know how you've done it with all your heavy commitments in other ways. But your spirit always triumphed over severe structural limitations, and a day which at one time you might have thought would never come, has arrived. Blessings on you all.

The Rev. E. G. Panton (1953-1956)

I appreciate the privilege of associating myself with the building of a new Hall and the necessary amenities at Derby Road Methodist Church. The dream of modern premises and kitchen equipment, with up-to-date utensils, will give pleasure to all concerned with the catering; while the enlarged premises will afford ample scope for the development of God's work. I wish to congratulate everyone concerned with this magnificent effort, and pray God's richest blessing will rest upon the Church in the coming days.

Messages from Former Members

Many old friends have written expressing their interest and good wishes. It would be quite invidious and in fact impossible to name the many who have served our Church and who retain an affectionate interest in its well being.

It is an honour we cherish that four of its members have been called to the Methodist ministry. They send the following message:

'We remember many happy times of fellowship in the old hall, and trust that the new will be an even greater blessing.

'With good wishes to you all and special greetings to all those with whom we enjoyed fellowship in years gone by.'

Paul Morton-George	(The Rev. Paul Morton-George MA)
Kenneth Underwood	(The Rev. Kenneth Underwood BD)
Douglas Wollen	(The Rev. Douglas Wollen MA)
Leslie Wollen	(The Rev. Leslie Wollen MA, BSC)

Mr. Sydney Russell, Warden of Kingsley Hall, Dagenham, in associating himself with the above, adds 'I never forget my debt to Derby Road and all the friends there. You know the long connection of my family with the Church.'

From Queensland, Australia, the Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Langford write: 'We send greetings across the sea to all our friends at Woodford, and our grateful love to the Church at Derby Road that nurtured us, and trained us in the Faith. May she continue "Holding forth the Word of Life".'

Also from abroad comes this message from Cyril and Joyce Sumner: 'We send greetings across the seas to all our friends at Woodford, and hope that the good days of the past may prove to have been the prelude to the better days of the future.'

Forward

SO FAR this handbook has been largely concerned with past history, culminating in the erection, opening and dedication of these excellent new premises.

Before looking to the prospect of the years ahead, a warm tribute must be paid to all those whose devoted efforts have resulted in translating a dream into the reality of today.

How much of the success achieved has been due to the sustained enthusiasm and inspired leadership of our beloved minister – the Reverend David J. T. Matthews, MA, is beyond the capacity of the Editor of this souvenir to tell.

It would be invidious to name those who are now the mainstay of the many activities associated with the Church and Sunday School at Derby Road. Suffice it to say that in its entire history it has probably never been more richly endowed with keen and capable workers of all ages, who give of their best to promote increasing success for the work of the Master in this neighbourhood.

For many years past the handicap of limited and unsatisfactory premises has been keenly felt. With the opening of the new hall with its ancillary accommodation, there will be a stimulus to the enthusiasm of the splendid band of workers who have carried on for so long under conditions calculated to discourage any but the bravest hearts.

The word now is Forward. Forward to a brighter era than the past years can record. Forward with confidence that with the advantage of the now available premises a new and brighter page will be added to the future history of the Methodist Church of Woodford.

WALTER SHAW



THE OLD HALL 1876-1959