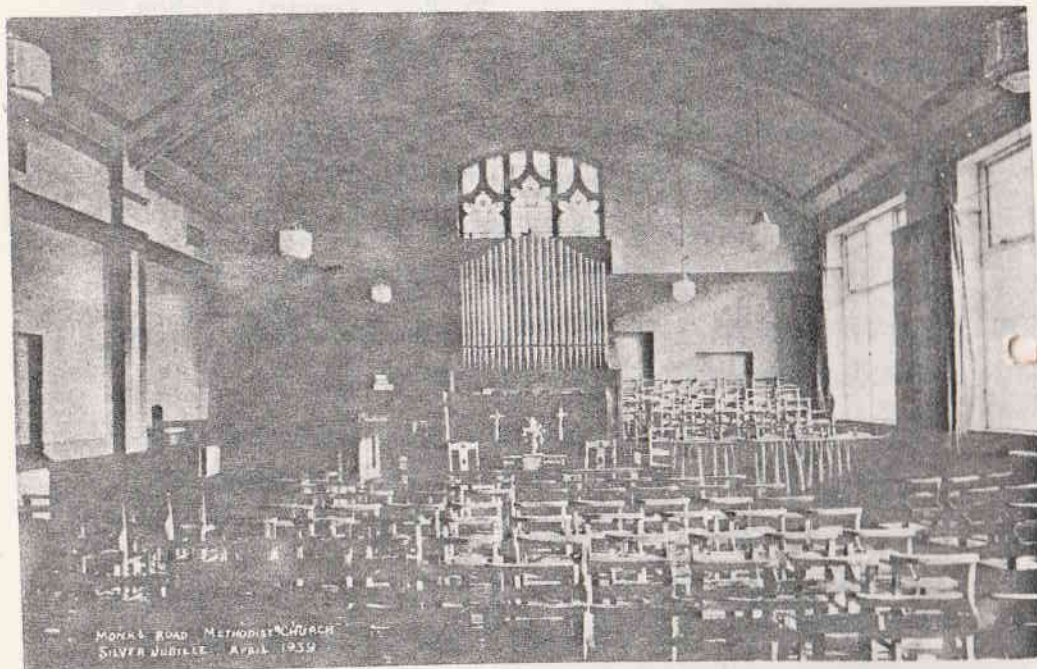
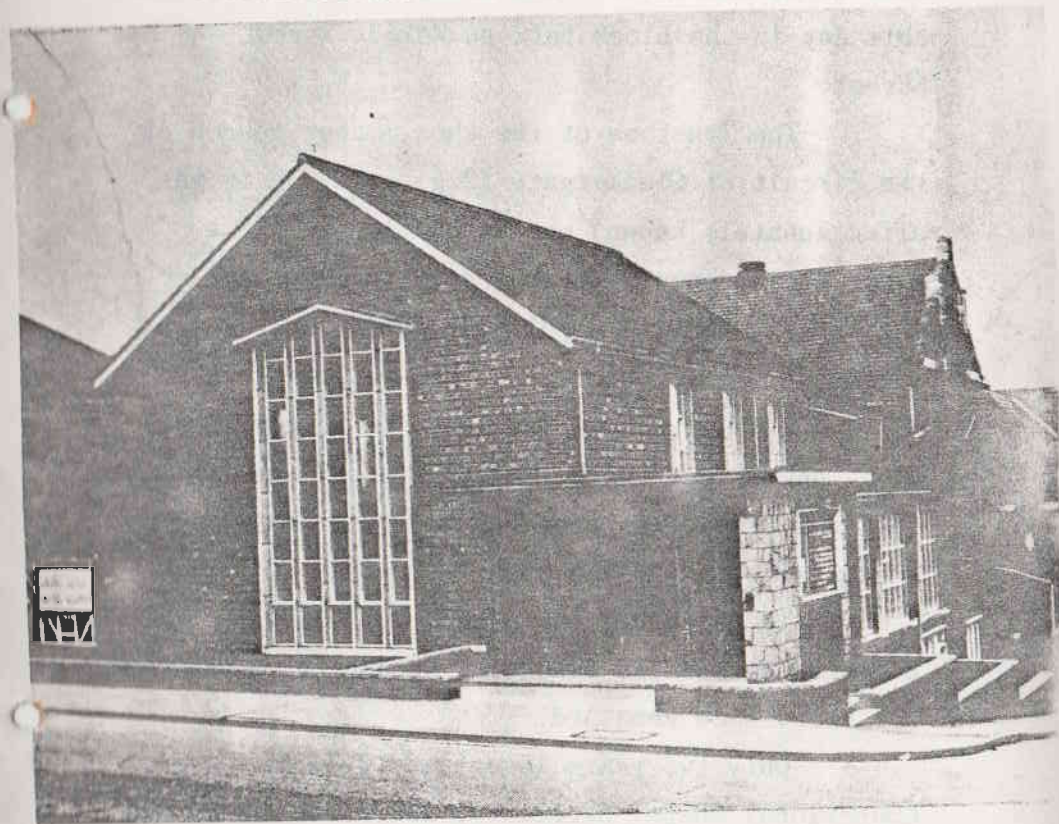


Times change, but our way forward is still one of faith, prayer, commitment and outreach.



The
Monks Road Methodist Church
LINCOLN



A SOUVENIR HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

1914 - 1987

Compiled by Miss D.Owen

Price: 25p

THE EARLY YEARS - 1914-1961

The history of Monks Road Methodist Society starts with a praying house-group and the concern for outreach shown by another society.

About 25 Methodist people who lived in this area were meeting for prayer and fellowship in the home of Mr Hamilton. The house is still there to this day in the block between Walmer Street and Spa Street.

The Trustees of the then mother church of the circuit at Clasketgate (Big Wesley as it was affectionately known) met on 8th April 1907 to voice their concern for the spiritual welfare of the rapidly growing population in the East end of the city.

Only four days later a site at the top of a "new street called Walmer Street" was purchased for £390. £40 was borrowed from Big Wesley and the balance was loaned by a lady at 4% interest.

In June 1911 the scheme for building was deferred because of financial strain on the Circuit, but the vision remained.

Only two years later, in 1913, the then Connexional Chapel Secretary, Rev, John Hornabrook, advised the Trustees about an architect, and the Building began.

Architect: Mr Brocklehurst
Builder: Wm. Wright and Sons Ltd.
Cost: £1750

Money was raised by:
Special efforts at Big Wesley
Gifts promised at the inauguration ceremony on 30th April 1913
Proceeds from stone-laying ceremony - amounts charged to lay a brick: Adults 2/6d. (12½p.)
Children 1s.0d.(5p.)

The first foundation stones were laid by 3 ladies and 6 gentlemen.

24th June 1914 was a great day, when the upper floor of the completed first section of the building was opened as a church by Mr G.R.Sharpley and Miss Collingham. This was an interim scheme until the proper church building could be added on the Monks Road/Walmer Street corner.

The congregation paid 9d. per quarter rent for a seat in the new church, in addition to their collections.

World War I (1914-1918), industrial depression in the 1920's and early 1930's, World War II (1939-1945), building restrictions and rising costs all prevented the completion of the original plan for a corner site. Worship, times of fellowship and outreach continued, in what became

as "the church of the upper room". Even during this period the vision was not lost.

In 1935 an account was opened with £6.15s.0d. to be known as Monks Road Methodist Church Building Fund, and money was added as it became available. This was a gesture of faith, as the church property fund was overdrawn at the time.

1936 - Extract from Big Wesley's Centenary booklet:

At Monks Road we have a society that has faced difficulty and disappointment with great courage. Well led by Ministers and Officers, Monks Road bears its witness faithfully; there is a spiritual quality marking the society which is felt by the visiting preacher; its choir is rapidly winning a deservedly fine reputation in the city and district, and a band of keen people gives much promise for the future.

1938 - Opening and dedication of first pipe organ

The service was conducted by Rev. A. Young, and the opener was Mrs N, Andrews. The organ was dismantled from a private home and rebuilt by Ted and Frank Rawding. It was their spare time voluntary work for a whole winter.

The wooden casing, organ stool, alterations to pulpit and communion rail and redecorations were all undertaken by church members. The organist, Mr Arthur Corthorn, organised personal gifts to pay for the new instrument.

1939 - The Church's Silver Jubilee

was celebrated in the refurbished premises. Small amounts continued to be added to the Building Fund over the coming years. Even though there seemed little prospect of completing the scheme for a long time, the vision was kept alive.

Sunday School

There has always been an active Sunday School, which until the 1960's met both morning and afternoon. In the first 25 years, an annual Whit Monday Procession was held, in which all Sunday Schools walked behind their banner and decorated float, from the city to the Arboretum. At their journey's end, the children enjoyed games, a bun and milk.

In 1930, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Sunday School Movement started by Robert Raikes, our float was in the shape of a giant birthday cake with some of the scholars sitting on the tiers. Anniversaries and outings were also great occasions.

In the early years a very successful Senior department was started on a Sunday afternoon by Mr and Mrs Hanson, and continued by Mr Corthorn.

They also met for social occasions in a wooden hut at the side of the church, known as the Institute. Two musicals, "The Magic Hyacinth", and "Apple Tree Farm", were written and produced by Mr and Mrs Corthorn, and they led a group of

singers called "The Beverley Singers".

A young ladies weeknight devotional class was started in the 1920's and continued for many years. Although there are now no actual meetings, it is the last 'remnant' of this class which still contributes to Gift Day under the title "Ladies Class", obviously the "young" no longer applies!

The Women's Fellowship

(formerly known as the Sisterhood) was started in October 1933 by Mrs Hunt, wife of the Rev. Sidney Hunt. The meeting has always been held on a Tuesday afternoon. As well as being a devotional Fellowship meeting, it has over the years been active in fund raising, and also in providing entertainment, as an active part of the life of the church.

Wesley Guild

For many years there was an active branch of the Wesley Guild, which catered for all ages, meeting on Thursday evenings. The programme covered devotional, literary, Christian service, and social evenings, and outings in the summer. Many younger people had their introduction to charring meetings in the Guild, and were given encouragement by its senior members.

In the 1930's there was a Men's Circle led by the minister. The meetings were partly devotional and partly topical, and they fielded a cricket team.

The Wives and Mothers Circle was started in 1959 as a young wives group, by Mrs Powell, wife of Rev. McAuley Powell. To open the meeting, the name was changed to the Women's Circle. The programme of meetings is varied, and members take an active part in the life of the church.

NEW CHURCH PREMISES

A period of frustration and discouragement in the building of the new church came to an end with the sale of Big Wesley in 1959. The town church which had been responsible for the birth of the original Monks Road church was now to play its final part in completing the original plan. The Trustees generously allocated £10,000 from the sale for a new church on the corner site of Walmer Street. The vision of 1914 was at last a possibility.

Local building fund	£1913.00
Sale of Wesley	£10300.00
Joseph Rank Trust	£4000.00
Methodist Chapel Committee	£1000.00
Sale of Well Lane chapel	<u>£500.00</u>
	£17713.00

Fund raising started with renewed effort and members pledged themselves to give a fixed amount over a period of time.

21st October 1961 - Stone laying ceremony

The foundation stone was laid by the only surviving member of the Big Wesley Trust involved in the original building scheme of 1907, Mr J.R. Halkes. Members again paid for bricks, and £300 was raised at the ceremony.

Architect	Mr B.W. Blanchard
Builders	S.J. Scott and Co. Ltd.
Pews and furniture	Wilkinson and Houghton Ltd.
Cost	Site already owned - total cost £19,348.00

The people at Monks Road owes a great deal to Rev. Alan Grant for his leadership and foresight at that important time.

1st September 1962 - Opening and dedication of the New Church

Minister	Rev. A.H. Grant
Opener	Mrs E.S.G. Stephenson of Wragby
Preacher	Rev. Harold Roberts, M.A., D.D., Principal - Richmond College

In the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Lincoln, Councillor Mrs H.M. Kerry and Miss Wendy Travis (now Mrs J. Parkinson), and the

Sheriff's Lady, Mrs G.D. McNab. There followed a buffet tea served in both schoolrooms, and an evening programme, which consisted of "This is Our Life", a chronicle of the church's history.

Worship on Sunday was conducted by Rev. McAuley W. Powell.

The new church on the corner site was a reality, and was to be the new spiritual home for the Monks Road members, and some members from Big Wesley and Hannah Memorial who had been merged in to one new society and family - a very happy union.

It was soon realised that a pipe organ was needed to enhance the new church. The money was raised by individuals and groups pledging to buy parts of the organ, including the stops. The new instrument was dedicated by the superintendent minister, Rev. Maldwyn Williams, and opened by Miss D.I. Rawding on 9th October 1965. Over the years many gifts have been added to our church, often dedicated to the memory of church members who had worshipped and served God at Monks Road and are now part of the Church triumphant.

In the early 1960's, Rev. Alan Grant introduced house group meetings. Members met together to help stimulate and build up their faith by Bible study, fellowship, discussion and prayer.

In the early 1960's an ecumenical committee was formed with representatives from Monks Road Methodist, All Saints and the Baptists. Later St. Swithins and St. Hughs also joined. Joint meetings, services, outings were arranged, and a monthly discussion group called 'Meeting Point' still continues during the winter months.

Although there have been disappointments nationally along the way to Christian unity, there has been progress in friendship, co-operation and greater awareness of each other's contribution to the Christian church.

Over the years there has been mid-week activity for young people, and the present youth club has its roots in a club started in the mid 1960's. Under able leadership the club continues to reach young people in the area.

In 1968 a new outreach was started by Mrs Kathleen Grant, in the form of a Toddler's Club. This still thrives and grows, led by Mrs A. Peet and helpers, and makes a valuable contribution to our work in the community.

June 1964 celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Society and special services and entertainment was provided.

June 1974 saw Diamond Jubilee celebrations, with the Bishop of Lincoln, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Riches preaching, for the first time in our history.

In May 1984 Rev. I. Field conducted our first cradle roll service, when babies baptised over the past 3 years joined in the afternoon service, then had tea with the whole congregation. A similar service was held on 22nd March 1987 conducted by Rev. T. Nowell.

June 1984 saw Sister Ruth Baudains preaching at the 70th Anniversary service, having been a part of the Lincoln City Centre Team Ministry in the 1970's.

A Sunday evening youth fellowship, 'Sunday Joint', began on 11th January 1987, led by our minister, Rev. Terry Nowell. These young people presented the musical 'Daybreak' for the Easter period at the Junior Church Anniversary.

The latest addition to our mid-week programme is a Bible Study group led by Rev. Terry Nowell, which began on 6th May 1987, meeting on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is hoped that the good start will be continued.

The choir has always provided a valuable contribution to the worship of our church. Although at present smaller in number, the same devotion of its members still exists to lead the singing in our services and on special occasions.