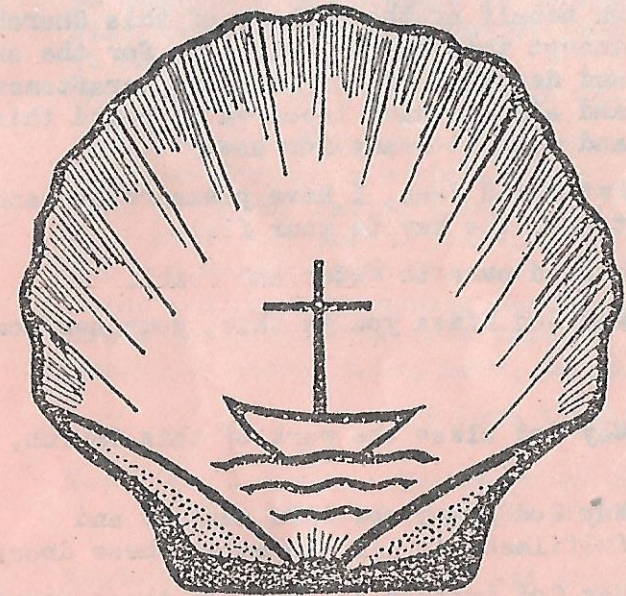


**GROVE STREET
METHODIST
CHURCH
RETFORD**



SERVICE OF DEDICATION

15th. FEBRUARY 1992

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDINGS.

Minister, Jesus said, "I am the door; anyone who comes into the fold through me shall be safe".

Builder. These buildings have been erected so that the work of this Church may continue to the glory of God and for the benefit of this town and community. I have great pleasure in presenting this key to you.

(The key is handed to the Minister.)

Minister. On behalf of the members of this Church I accept this key in gratitude for the skills and devotion of the builders, craftsmen, and all who have laboured to build this place and make it ready for use.

Builder. Peter and Jean, I have pleasure in handing to you the key to your flat.

(The key is handed over to Peter and Jean).

Minister. May God bless you in this, your new home.

OPENING.

Andrew Page. May God bless the work of this Church.

Rebecca Bradshaw. May God grant new life and joy and fulfilment to all who enter these doors.

Mrs.W. Dickinson. May God inspire all who use these premises to commit themselves to the service of their Lord and their fellow people.

Minister. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I dedicate these premises. AMEN.

(The Tapes are cut.)

OPENING OF THE ROCKLEY ROOM AND ALBERT HALL.

Mrs.P. Lancaster. In memory of the work that was done in the Methodist Church at Rockley, I unlock this door.

Miss D. in memory of the
Whatmough. Methodist Church in Albert Road, I open
this door.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION.

Minister. So that we may help the young, the old, the
blind, the handicapped, and all who need
friendship and love and faith;

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. So that we may pray and study and discuss
matters of Christian concern:

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. For the fellowship of food and drink, for
friendship coming from serving and waiting,
and for opportunities of offering Christian
love among the many people who will come here:

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. For the care of this building by our
Caretakers, that their flat may be a
Christian home.

People. Bless Peter and Jean and their flat, O Lord.

DOXOLOGY.

All sing. Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(The Ministers and Guests shall proceed through the
new premises into the Church. Will all other people
please take their seats in the Church as quickly as
possible for the service to proceed.)

Minister. Christ is risen.

People. He is risen indeed.

strength of thy staff and rod;
Thou hast called us to the journey which
faithless feet ne'er trod;
For the might of thine arm, we bless thee,
our God, our fathers' God.

For the love of Christ constraining, that
bound their hearts as one;
For the faith in truth and freedom in
which their work was done;
For the peace of God's evangel wherewith
their feet were shod;
For the might of thine arm, we bless thee,
our God, our fathers' God.

We are watchers of a beacon whose light
must never die;
We are guardians of an altar that shows
thee ever nigh;
We are children of thy freemen who sleep
beneath the sod;
For the might of thine arm, we bless thee,
our God, our fathers' God.

May the shadow of thy presence around our
camp be spread;
Baptise us with the courage thou gavest
to our dead;
O keep us in the pathway their saintly feet
have trod;
For the might of thine arm, we bless thee,
our God, our fathers' God.

C.S.Horne. (1865-1914)

THE PAST.

Minister. Let us give thanks to God for men and women
of every generation who have loved God and
loved their neighbour as themselves.

Whatmough. Me thodist Church in Albert Road, I open
this door.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION.

Minister. So that we may help the young, the old, the
blind, the handicapped, and all who need
friendship and love and faith;

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. So that we may pray and study and discuss
matters of Christian concern:

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. For the fellowship of food and drink, for
friendship coming from serving and waiting,
and for opportunities of offering Christian
love among the many people who will come here:

People. Bless these buildings, O Lord.

Minister. For the care of this building by our
Caretakers, that their flat may be a
Christian home.

People. Bless Peter and Jean and their flat, O Lord.

DOXOLOGY.

All sing. Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(The Ministers and Guests shall proceed through the
new premises into the Church. Will all other people
please take their seats in the Church as quickly as
possible for the service to proceed.)

Minister. Christ is risen.

People. He is risen indeed.

Minister. Christ was sensitive to people's differing needs and situations.

People. Lord, help us to be aware of the needs and aspirations of this community.

Minister. Christ suffered and died for the world.

People. Lord, give us the courage to commit ourselves to the service of our fellow people, here in this place; here in this town; here in the world.

AMEN.

THE PRESENT.

READING: John.13.vv.3-9, & 12-17.

Minister. Life is for living and life is for loving
Life is for giving and life is for serving.
And so we present our symbols of love
and service.

Mr.J. I present this chalice as a symbol that
Duddles. Christ died to save the world.

Mr.J.Rew. I present this towel and basin as a symbol
of Christ's commitment to his brothers and
sisters.

Mr.G.Page. I present this brick to remind us that love
and ideals have to be earthed in bricks
and mortar.

Mayor of I present this map of the town because it
Retford. reminds us of the town in which we live and
work and which we seek to serve.

(Greetings from various people).

THE FUTURE.

Hymn. Pleasant are Thy courts above,
In the land of light and love:
Pleasant are Thy courts below,
In this land of sin and woe.
O my spirit longs and faints
For the converse of Thy saints,
For the brightness of Thy face,
For Thy fulness, God of grace!

Happy birds that sing and fly
Round Thy altars, O Most High!
Happier souls that find a rest
In a heavenly Father's breast!
Like the wandering dove that found
No repose on earth around,
They can to their ark repair,
And enjoy it ever there.

Happy souls! Their praises flow
In this vale of sin and woe;
Waters in the desert rise,
Manna feeds them from the skies.
On they go from strength to strength,
Till they reach Thy throne at length.;
At Thy feet adoring fall,
Who hast led them safe through all.

Lord, be mine this prize to win;
Guide me through a world of sin;
Keep me by Thy saving grace;
Give me at Thy side a place.
Sun and shield alike Thou art;
Guide and guard my erring heart:
Grace and glory flow from Thee;
Shower, O shower them, Lord, on me! AMEN.

H.F.Lyte 1793?1847.

SERMON

Rev. Ian Johnson - Secretary of the
Property Division of the Methodist Church.

HYMN

Captain of Israel's host, and guide
Of all who seek the land above,
Beneath Thy shadow we abide,
The cloud of Thy protecting love;
Our strength, Thy grace; our rule, Thy word;
Our end, the glory of the Lord.

By Thine unerring Spirit led,
We shall not in the desert stray;
We shall not full direction need,
Nor miss our providential way;
As far from danger as from fear,
While love, almighty love, is near.

C.Wesley. 1707-88.

PRAYERS led by the Revd. Barrie Morley.

NOTICES AND OFFERTORY.

HYMN. This, this is the God we adore,
 Our faithful, unchangeable Friend;
 Whose love is as great as His power,
 And neither knows measure nor end.

 'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
 Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
 We'll praise Him for all that is past,
 And trust Him for all that's to come.

J.Hart. 1712-68.

THE BLESSING.

Minister: The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy
 Spirit remain with you always.

People. Amen.