

Cropwell Butler Methodists



From 1773 – 2023

And Beyond

.....

Early Years

1773-1850

1773

Thomas Innocent registered his house as
Dissenting Meeting House



**See the Plaque
near sliding door to
Schoolroom**

1794

Cropwell Butler Methodist Society, with 12
members, became part of newly formed
Newark Circuit

Late 18th or early 19th Century

Chapel erected on land leased from Ann
Parr of Radcliffe

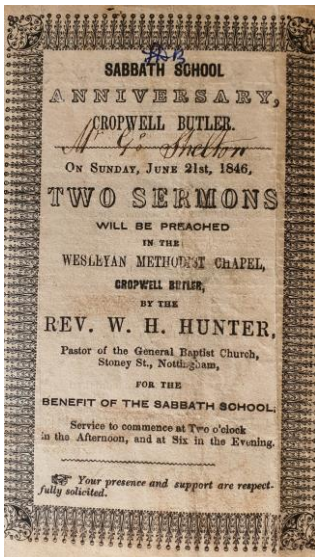
**Original building now forms part of
Schoolroom**

1813-14 Weekly Sunday service at 10am

1825 & 1831

Purchase of leased and additional land from Ann Parr

By 1837



Flourishing Sunday School had been established with regular Anniversaries held

Invitation for Anniversary on June 21st 1846

By 1843 onwards Regular Sunday services at 10.30am & 6pm

Part of Village Life

1851 - 1900

1851

- Attendance on the Sunday of the Religious Census: 75 at the morning service & 90 at the evening service
- 1st surviving register of Sunday School: 79 children comprising 46.7% of 4 - 13 year olds in Cropwell Butler

1839-1852: Competition for Wesleyans from the Primitive Methodists

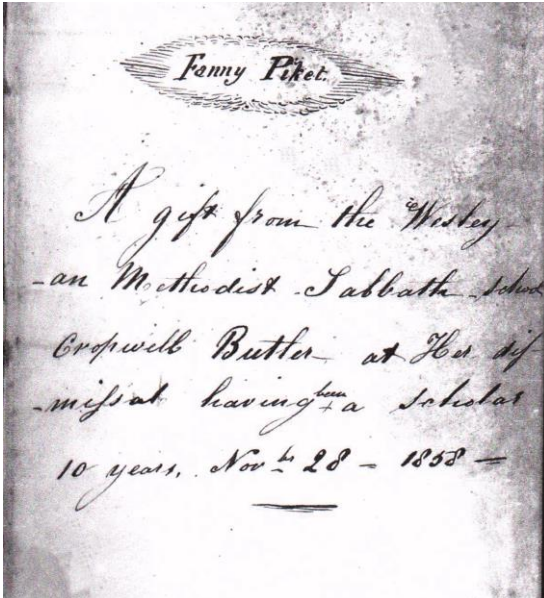
- Primitive Methodist Society established in Cropwell Butler
- Opening of Primitive Methodist Chapel
- Primitive Methodist Sunday School started

1852

Nottingham Guardian

"Teachers of Wesleyan & Primitive Methodist Sunday Schools at Cropwell Butler, gave their scholars the usual treat of plum cake and tea upon Christmas Day in their respective chapels"

1858 Sunday School scholars received a Bible after substantial attendance



Inscription
in Bible

*"Fanny Picket
A gift from the Wesleyan Methodist
Sabbath School Cropwell Butler at Her
dismissal having been a scholar 10
years, Nov^r 28 1858"*

1859 Alterations to Chapel at cost of £178 3s
10d

1850-75

Occupations of leading Methodists:

1 farmer; 4 agricultural labourers; 2
blacksmiths; 2 tailors; 2 carpenters; 1 groom; 1
lace worker



*Matthew Cooper
was an
agricultural
labourer and a
leader in the
Sunday School.
He and his
family
emigrated to
Canada about
1860*

Matthew & Hannah Cooper in Canada

1900 Sunday School registered 38 children:
24 boys & 14 girls

New Chapel for 20th Century 1901 - 1945

1903

- Building of New Wesleyan Chapel begun
**See the Foundation Stone inscribed
“Wesleyan 1903” above the window over
the front entrance**
- Cost just over £900 including fittings & heating
- People from Cropwell Butler and surrounding area purchased stones and bricks
See Memorial Bricks with initials in front wall outside
- Chapel was built in front of existing structure and connected by sliding door **(still in use)**

1904

- New Chapel opened on Easter Monday, 4th April. Marquee, hired from Mr Metcalf of Nottingham for £2 15s, erected opposite the Chapel. Public tea, at 9d per person
- 38 people paid pew rent of 7d/quarter
See numbers 1-23 on the ends of pews

1905

- Renowned evangelist Gipsy Smith visited the Chapel; 1500 people attended using a marquee in an adjacent field.
- Practical Christianity was the keynote of his address

*Extract from
local newspaper
22nd June 1905*

VILLAGE METHODISM IN SOUTH NOTTS.

GIPSY SMITH VISITS CROPWELL BUTLER

“They can do anything at Cropwell Butler.” The flattering observation was made by a Bingham lady, well acquainted with the movements of the Nonconformist bodies in the neighbourhood, and referred to the leaders of Wesleyanism in the pretty but somewhat wandering village to the south-east of Nottingham. It was a complimentary criticism, but the results of the labours of this progressive band of Methodists more than justify the statement. The oldest church in the Bingham circuit, it has done splendid work; there is a large Sunday school in connection with it, and even a greater Band of Hope membership, which during the past three or four years has grown remarkably.

The village, unfortunately, like many others, is suffering from the rural emigration; but, this notwithstanding, the congregation continues to increase. A little over a year ago a new place of worship was erected at a cost approaching a thousand pounds. This was a momentous undertaking in a little community of only four hundred and fifty inhabitants, but possibly the most memorable event in the history of the church took place yesterday when there was seen the culmination of the efforts to clear off the debt of about £400 remaining upon the chapel.

Chiefly owing to the exertions of Messrs. Newton, Crompton, and Walker, the family of each of whom have been prominent Wesleyans for many years, the well-known Free Church missionary Gipsy Smith visited the village and conducted a service there during the afternoon. The evangelist received a welcome which must have been intensely gratifying, for there were assembled to hear him in a huge marquee quite fifteen hundred people. Indeed it was a gathering of Methodists.

1905-c.1945

Regular services were 2 on Sunday and 1 on weekday

Early 1930s

'Bright, Brief Services' held Sundays at 10.30 and 6.00 and Weekdays at 7.00; preacher: Sister Ada Brown

1932

Electricity came to Cropwell Butler and oil lamps removed from the Chapel

1934

Primitive Methodist Chapel closed following reunification of branches of Methodism in 1932

1945 Mains water connected

Progress & Anniversaries

1946-1999

1957 Gift of new organ from home of Mr Doncaster of Bingham

1958 Conversion of the lavatory

1960

- Exterior painting of church, cloakroom and buildings by Mr L.B. Taylor for £76
- Electric lighting alterations by Lenton & Wilkinson at cost of £65 5s 8d

1961

- Mrs Ida Holroyd donated 2 chairs in memory of her husband
See the Chairs by the Communion Table at the front
- Small refreshment counter erected to be used by newly formed Youth Club

1962

6 infra-red overhead heaters installed in Schoolroom by Lenton & Wilkinson for £72

1963

- Ground at back of Chapel improved by Denis Barratt and Frank Branston
- Wooden cross on wall behind pulpit made and donated by Roy Barratt

See the Cross on the north wall

1964

- Tubular under pew heating installed by Lenton & Wilkinson for £261 7s 5d
- First Candlelit Service on Christmas Eve in the Chapel, jointly with the Anglicans

1966

- Funds of the Chapel Trust and Society merged
- Joint Anglican & Methodist outing to visit Coventry Cathedral
- Repairs to roof

➤ Cropwell's Guild started in place of Fellowship Meeting

<u>THE CROPWELLS' GUILD.</u>		
Secretaries - Mr. M.E.Gray, Cropwell Butler. Miss J.E.Robinson, Cropwell Bishop.		
Treasurer - Mrs. M.Henstock.		

1973		
Oct. 3	Cropwell Bishop	Mrs. F. Garner, "Strangers of the Night".
Oct.17	Service at Grantham. (7.p.m.)	Speaker - Rev. Donald R.Lee, M.B.E., B.D., President of the Methodist Conference.
Oct.31	Cropwell Bishop	Mr. Harrison Slater, "Poems and Story Recital."
Nov.15 (Thurs.)	Cropwell Butler	Overseas Missions.
Nov.28	Cropwell Bishop	Miss A.O.Swift, "Pestalozzi Children's Village, England."
Dec.15 (Sat.)	Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall	Christmas Party.
1974		
Jan. 9	Cropwell Bishop	Mrs. S.E.Gardiner "Visit to Australia".
Jan.23	Cropwell Butler	Mr. A. Harper, "History of the Cropwells".
Feb. 6	Cropwell Bishop	Home Missions.
Feb.20	Cropwell Butler	"Any Questions". Chairman - Mr. R.Barratt, Panel - Mrs. K.Jenkins, Mrs. E.W.Sheeran, Mr. D.Atkins, Mr.R.Benson.
Mar. 6	Cropwell Bishop	Rev. W.H.Farmerey, "Memories Junk Shop".
Mar.20	Cropwell Butler	Concert - "The Happy Wanderers".
Mar.27	Cropwell Bishop	Annual General Meeting. - - -
Meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. Exceptions marked.		

*Cropwell Guild Programme
Oct.1973 - March. 1974*

1967

- First experimental joint services with Anglicans
- Wooden forms replaced with 50 new stacking chairs at 30s each
- Vestry ceiling lowered and tiled for £28 10s

1970

- Dedication of Communion Table donated in memory of Mrs Ida Holroyd
See Communion Table at the front
- New Hymn Books and covers bought for £10
- Outside light installed at back of Schoolroom
- Kitchen modernised

1972

- Donation of a New English Bible Old Testament by Miss Clara Frankton and Miss Gladys Frankton, in memory of Miss Doris Scott

1973

- Sponsored 12 hour organ playing marathon by Roy Barratt raised £282 and led to the start of the monthly Sunday evening Fellowship



- Interior redecorated

1974 Outside painting at £150

1976

- Church Council replaced Board of Trustees
- Chapel of Ease closed and united services began in the Methodist Chapel

1979

75th Birthday Celebrations of opening of Chapel Building; Service of Thanksgiving, exhibition of 'All Our Yesterdays' & performance of 'Oliver' by children of the village

1980

Extensions to Schoolroom of new cloakroom, toilet and storeroom; all done with voluntary work by Chapel members

1982

- Dedication of items brought from the Chapel of Ease: Font, Chairs, Brass Lectern and Brass Vases

See Font, Chair and Plaque

Font decorated for 1990 Anniversary Celebration



- Dry rot treated and Schoolroom redecorated

1986

- 80 new Hymn Books purchased
- Shelf unit for Hymn Books made and dedicated to memory of Mrs Doris Brown

See Shelf Units in Porch

- Exterior painting done for £585

1987

- Extra Christmas Fellowship started
- Blinds purchased for west side of Chapel at £75 per window
- Cushions purchased from a donation following Mrs Edna Baldock's funeral at £20 per 6 foot pew

See pew cushions

1988

Gate and railings painted

1990

- “Born in Song”, a celebration in music and flowers of 200 years of Methodism in Cropwell Butler; range of events including excerpts from ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’ by the children, a plaque commemorating the start of Methodism, with a time capsule placed behind it.

See the Plaque near sliding doors commemorating Thomas Innocent and the start of Methodism



Plaque unveiled by Denis Barratt

- Chapel rewired
- New piano purchased for £500

1991

Interior redecoration carried out at cost of £1600

1993

- Various repairs to roof and maintenance of building
- Chapel Library started, using bookcase donated by Rebecca Shaw and presented by her and other scholars leaving Sunday School

See bookcase in Schoolroom

1994

- Plaque dedicated in memory of Roy Barratt

See Plaque on wall beside organ

- Chatterbox Club started as a weeknight meeting for children instead of traditional Sunday School

1997

First Pet Service held, which became a regular event



Shelly, the tortoise, has been at every pet service since the start



1999

- Friday Club started for older children and teenagers
- Car park lighting improved

Into the Future

2000

2000

- Wooden lectern donated and dedicated in memory of Tom Simpson
See Wooden Lectern and also Plaque on the west wall
- Family Services increased to twice a month and planned around a theme each quarter
- Chapel redecorated inside and out
- Millennium Banners made

See Banners on the north wall

2002

New outside Notice Board erected

2003

- Celebrations for Centenary of opening of New Chapel building
- New Grantham and Vale of Belvoir Methodist Circuit formed

2006

- Little Saints baby & toddler group started jointly with Cropwell Bishop Chapel and Anglicans (held at Cropwell Bishop)
- Plaque donated and dedicated as memorial to Denis and Bessie Barratt. Denis was a steward for many years and Bessie the organist

See Plaque on the south wall

2010

Kitchen refurbished

2013

Chapel website set up

2015

- Messy Chapel for children (4-11) started
- Chapel Facebook page set up

2017

All 6 main side windows replaced at cost of £7140. £5000 met by grant from Samworth bequest to village

2018

- Dedication of new windows
See Plaque on the east wall
- Vestry refurbishment
- Pulpit removed with front remaining as feature on north wall

2019

- New carpeting laid at front of Chapel
- Balcony in schoolroom removed and new lighting installed

2020

- Chapel closed because of Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdown
- Collections continued to be organised for Foodbank
- Church Council meetings & monthly Fellowship held via Zoom
- Nativity service held via Zoom and villagers put Nativity displays in windows

2021

- Chapel reopened for worship in June
- Tableau of Nativity Scene visited by over 30 people during Christmas Eve. No service because of continued Covid infection risk



2022

First 'Carols by Candlelight with Nativity' held since pandemic

2023

Celebration weekend of 250 years of Methodism in Cropwell Butler

This booklet has been compiled by Dr Anne Woodcock on behalf of the Cropwell Butler Methodist Chapel.

The source material is drawn from personal collections of members, official Chapel records and documents in local and national archives. Detailed references are available on request.

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