



The Dial
Bulletin of the "Friends of Mount Zion"
Issue 30. May 2005



Dear Friends

First of all I must apologize to you all for there being no Autumn number of "The Dial". The pressure of work in the Circuit for which I am responsible as Circuit Steward had to take precedence and it was, therefore, impossible to get "The Dial" done. Now you get the Spring one and it comes with the greetings of all at Mount Zion.

We have now all had our Easter Celebrations and we are looking forward to the next season of Open Days, etc. when we hope many will come to look at Mount Zion in all its glory.

People seem to be most surprised when they come to Mount Zion for a first visit that it is so interesting, there is so much to see and learn of its history and the history of Methodism. They all seem to go on their way

with a lighter step and some joy in their hearts. They usually tell us what a gem we have and that it should be more well known. Unfortunately we are a little bit away from the more well-known Methodist Heritage sites so people have to come especially to see Mount Zion.

Information has gone out and is in Methodist publications about the site and the website is being used very much.

If any of you can come along to our events or Open Days you will be most welcome. There have been a number of opportunities to advertise widely through various publications and through newsletters and news-sheets. We have figured in the Methodist Recorder on a few occasions and have featured in some publications in the Black Country.

We would welcome you if you are able to visit us on one of our open days or the Heritage Open Days run by the Civic Trust.

With God's blessing,
Irene Cunliffe



PAST EVENTS

Thursday, 6th May, 2004 – The Ladies Fellowship Meeting at the home of Una Gill was in the form of an 80th birthday party for Mary Ayrton. Una put on a special supper with a birthday cake. Pat Varney took photographs as a memento of the occasion.

Sunday, 16th May, 2004 – The Gift Day and Songs of Praise – Unfortunately Rev. Lisa Quarmby was taken ill and was unable to be present. Mrs. Sue Watson took over at short notice and led a lively service, commenting on each of the ten hymns chosen by members and friends. Stephen Illingworth accompanied the singing on the organ. Gifts, donations and collections amounted to £573.30p.

Thursday, 3rd June, 2004 – The Ladies Fellowship met at the home of Mary Dixon. Interesting conversations take place at these meetings and local wildlife and Culpepper remedies for common ailments were the topics on this occasion. A collection for Network funds raised £37.70p.

Sunday, 6th June, 2004 – The Annual Church Meeting took place after the service.

Saturday, 19th June, 2004 – The first open day of the season took place but it was a very wet day and there were only two visitors besides six Mount Zioners.

Thursday, 1st July, 2005 – The Ladies Fellowship met at the home of Elsie Patrick.

Sunday, 4th July, 2004 – The Anniversary and Reunion – Unfortunately it was a very wet day but there was a good congregation. We were happy to welcome the Rev. Derek Hoe as our preacher. Derek is now living in Baildon and was the Superintendent Minister of the Halifax Circuit some time ago. Between leaving Halifax and retiring to Baildon Derek was minister at Ryde in the Isle of Wight. We were very sorry his wife Anthea was not well enough to accompany him. Stephen

Illingworth was organist and the Christ Church (Hipperholme) Music Group played for some of the hymns. Lessons were read by Irene Cunliffe, Mary Dixon, Ros Greenwood and Stephen Illingworth. Collections and donations amounted to £403. Tea followed in the cottage when Derek was able to meet old friends. Teas and a stall raised £37.

Saturday, 10th July, 2004 – A quiet day was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby when twelve members from Illingworth Moor and Mount Zion attended. The morning comprised Devotions, Bible Readings, discussions and a meditation. Lunch was at the Creek Restaurant, Ogden (formerly Rock Hollow) and the afternoon was spent at Ogden Water.

Saturday, 17th July, 2004 – Open Day – Again very heavy showers kept people away and again there were only two visitors in addition to the nine Mount Zioners.

Thursday, 5th August, 2004 – The Fellowship met at the home of Irene Cunliffe. This time conversation covered the gathering of peat, mines, museums and local Methodist characters of the past.

Saturday, 21st August, 2004 – Open Day – For a change the sun shone and we had five visitors plus three Mount Zioners.

Thursday, 9th September, 2004 – The Ladies Fellowship meeting was at the home of Ros Greenwood. Elsie Patrick happened to say that her grand-daughter was learning about World War II at school and had been asking questions. Away

we went on wartime reminiscences. Ros produced a wartime Identity Card and ration books to be taken to school.

Saturday, 14th September, 2004 – This was the Civic Trust Heritage Open Days but this year we opened only on the Saturday. There was a great deal of interest from several visitors and the weather was kind. Teas and a stall raised £27.80p. The Ladies prepared their usual lovely show for the Harvest Festival which was to follow on the Sunday.

Sunday, 12th September, 2004 – The Harvest Festival Service was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby with Stephen Illingworth on the organ. Collections amounted to £95.50p. Fruit and flowers were taken to the sick and elderly. The Illingworth Moor congregation (at present using the building for morning worship) very much appreciated having the Harvest Display. The preacher for the morning was informed that it was not the Illingworth Harvest Festival. We did not want him to turn round and go home because he had not prepared for Harvest!!

Saturday, 18th September, 2004 – The last of the Open Days had twelve members of Hebden Bridge Historical Society along with other interested people. Teas, a stall and Chapel boxes raised £36.

Sunday, 3rd October, 2004 – Chapel Anniversary worship was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby with Stephen Illingworth at the organ. There was a good attendance and collections amounted to £94.

Thursday, 7th October, 2004 – The last meeting of the season for the Ladies Fellowship met at the home of Jill

McArthur. She and Stuart had just celebrated their Silver Wedding and we were treated to party food and Wedding cake.

Sunday, 21st November, 2004 – The only service of the winter cancelled due to snow and ice!!

Sunday, 28th November, 2004 – This was the first Sunday of Advent when a reading, prayer and lighting of the first candle on the Advent Ring was carried out by Mary Dixon and Mavis Wilkinson. On two subsequent Sundays candles were lit by Stephen Illingworth and Una Gill.

Sunday, 19th December, 2004 – This was the Carol Service led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby who lit the candles. Stephen played the organ for eight carols chosen by members who also read lessons. Collections amounted to £120 and a retiring collection for the NCH realized £75. There was also a huge amount of tinned goods, domestic items, and more tea towels than we have ever seen. These items were brought by members and friends to be taken to the Huddersfield Methodist Mission which distributes emergency food parcels, packs for setting up home and personal emergency packs for people in crisis. The Mission members were very grateful and were amazed at the amount of things which we donated. They were especially “wide-eyed” at receiving tea towels and dishcloths by the thousand!! We were very grateful for this special gift to Piers Greenwood and the Yorkshire Cleaning Company.

Sunday, 2nd January, 2005 – Covenant Service led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby following which £100 was sent to the Tsunami Disaster Fund. Stephen played the organ.

Saturday, 19th February, 2005 – Visit of the members of the History and Archives Committee of the Methodist Church (for further details see Heritage Matters).

Sunday, 20th February, 2005 – Illingworth Moor's last service was held at Mount Zion before the opening of their new Church Building on the 27th February, 2005.

Sunday, 6th March, 2005 – Mothering Sunday when the service was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby who brought daffodils from Mount Tabor where she had been preaching in the morning. Pat Varney brought some snowdrops from her garden which were placed on Mrs. Reeve's grave. Each member of the congregation was presented with a Marie Curie Cancer Research fund silk daffodil for which donations of £62 was sent to the Appeal for the Hospice in Bradford. Stephen Illingworth played the organ.

Sunday, 27th March, 2005 – Easter Day when the service was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby and included the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. David Coggan played the organ. There was a retiring collection for Network Easter Offering which raised £27.04p.



Heritage Matters . . .

We had the usual Open Days but most of them were held on very wet days so the number of visitors was small this year but there was a good response on the Heritage Open Days. This year we were only able to open on the Saturday afternoon. It always falls on the same Saturday as the West Yorkshire Methodist Synod and as Circuit Steward I have to put in an appearance at Synod so can only manage the afternoon. This year the Chapel was being used on Sunday morning by Illingworth Moor for their service so we were unable to open on the Sunday.

There have been visitors from the United States and from Australia who are always delighted with their visit. Something as old as Mount Zion appeals very much to them. We have had a number of enquiries by e-mail from this country and abroad about the Chapel and the Heritage, etc. but also about the graveyard. We have been highly commended on the website. Recently I acquired the grave records from the Archives at Halifax Public Library to put them on the website and Pat Sewell the Archivist said it had been very useful indeed to be able to direct people who were enquiring about family history, baptisms and burials to look at mountzionhalifax.org.uk. Thanks to Anthony Greenwood for putting these records on and for all the work he does with promoting Mount Zion in so many ways and for the practical help he gives.

The Connexional Committee of Archives and History and the Heritage Forum met at Mount Zion on Saturday, 19th February, 2005. It was a good day although cold. There was no rain, wind or snow and ice – but some of the members from warmer southern areas felt it was rather open and quite cold. I am glad it was not a horizontal rain and gale force wind kind of day for their sakes!!!!

It was wonderful to have this meeting here but it was tinged with sadness as Rev. Dr. Donald Ryan was unable to come because of illness. Donald had been looking forward to showing Mount Zion to the Committee for so long. The members were very impressed indeed with what they saw and had no idea what a “Treasure” Mount Zion is. The ladies of Mount Zion provided lunch of soup and rolls, a buffet, fruit and cheese and biscuits which was much appreciated. Thanks to St. Andrew’s Methodist Church for lending soup bowls – but we do now have some which we acquired from Southowram when they left their building to continue worshipping in the local school. We are now well equipped.

The bound catalogue of the Hird Collection is now at Mount Zion. I collected this from Rev. Donald Ryan at Wesley’s birthplace, The Old Rectory at Epworth in the summer. It was a very interesting day because we did a recce of the house and talked about how it had been altered over the years. Joan Sidaway the Curator was very helpful and it was good to welcome Joan to Mount Zion in February. It is Donald Ryan’s intention to catalogue the archive at Wesley’s birthplace.

We have also acquired a photograph of Horace Hird from Bradford Library. He is pictured in his Mayoral Regalia. This is now on display on open days. Recently when I was visiting the Royal Mail Despatch Office to fulfil my duties as Chaplain, I was looking at their second hand book stall and came across “Bradford the City” which is a book of twenty essays about the City of Bradford (or Broad Ford as it was known) from Celtic times to the present day. It was written by Horace Hird so was quite a find for 50p. It will be displayed at Mount Zion.

Last year we reported the death of Mr. George Yates of Brighouse. His widow, Susan, has been in contact with me to ask if there is room at Mount Zion for some of George’s collection of books. They will be available for anyone to read and a list will be available on the website when they have been catalogued. I am sure George would have been glad for them to be at Mount Zion as he was a great supporter.

I have received some more photographs and cuttings for the collection and Mrs. Jane Nicholl of Illingworth Moor is donating some pottery for display.

We are always grateful to receive relevant items but we have a policy of collecting because we could become a repository for all sorts of things and we cannot display nor store too much. The policy is that we will accede anything with Mount Zion connections or anything relating to the Methodist New Connexion. Some other items of special interest of rarity will also be accepted.

Property matters move along at snail pace!! I am in the process of filling in schedules for the work to be done to make the outside toilet suitable for wheelchair users. We are also repairing the graveyard wall in the track and taking down three trees. These trees do not have a preservation order on them so they can be felled. They are pushing the graveyard wall out and there is no point in repairing the wall without removing them.

The gable walls were limewashed in June, 2004 but unfortunately the limewash has all come off and we are trying to find out what the rendering is made from. It has been suggested that the wall needs a bonding agent and then masonry paint but English Heritage will not

allow that. These walls are open to the prevailing winds and stormy weather so are very vulnerable. We press on.

We now look forward to the months of “summer” when we will have our open days and to the visit of the West Gallery Music Association in June. This is a group of people who sing in galleried Churches and they are having a workshop at Heptonstall Methodist Church on Saturday, 18th June, 2005. It is to celebrate the life and writing of Accepted Widdop. He was a cloth worker whose grave is in St. Mary’s Churchyard, Illingworth and upon which is inscribed “a celebrated singer, author of several volumes of anthems and many well-known psalm tunes”. Two of his hymns are in the Methodist Hymn Book. On the Saturday workshops will be held from 10 a.m. led by Ken Baddley. There will be evensong at 5.30 p.m. led by Rev. Tony Buglass of Hebden Bridge, minister at Heptonstall. On the Sunday there will be a tour when singers and musicians will visit Mount Zion, Rishworth Congregational, Wainsgate Baptist, Hebden Bridge and Blackshawhead Methodist where they will sing at each place for about forty minutes. They are at Mount Zion at 10 a.m. on the 19th June. You are welcome to come if you wish and join with the singing or play with the orchestra. There are three manuscript books of hymn tunes in the Archive at Mount Zion dating back to 1825. The West Gallery Singers have put these on disc and will be using some of those tunes by Accepted Widdop. The books will be available for the workshop.

The story of Accepted Widdop is (it may be allegorical but who am I to say it is or isn’t) that he was the last child of a large family and was “an accident” but when he was born his mother said, “Well, never mind he’s accepted”. It’s very much in the realm of possibility in those times!!!

We recently had a quinquennial inspection of the graveyard. This has to be done to ensure that the gravestones and monuments are safe. We were highly commended on the state of the graveyard and because of the plan and description of graves, etc. on the website the inspector was happy to inspect a few of the graves. There are some wobbly crosses which need some attention which they will get!



PEOPLE

TREVOR HOYLE

We are very glad to have Trevor worshipping with us regularly again after his operation. He has recovered remarkably well and we hope he will continue to progress.

JACK ILLINGWORTH

We are glad that Jack has recovered so well after very radical surgery and treatment on his face and that he has been back to

worship with us for some time. Unfortunately Jack recently had a fall which caused a fracture to his pelvis. He is making slow progress in Bradford Royal Infirmary but should be home quite soon. We wish him well and hope to see him back in the pew in the future. We send him our greetings and love for a full recovery.

MARY AYRTON

Our greetings and good wishes go to Mary who is finding it very difficult to get about. We are always glad to see her at Church whenever she can come and to the Ladies Fellowship from time to time.

GEOFF CARR

We are very sorry to hear that Geoff is in hospital again and hope that he will improve and be able to have some pain relief and further treatment and return home soon. All our good wishes and love go to him and to Winifred.



Remembering

PEARL BROADHURST

Pearl was a “Friend of Mount Zion” and had been from the beginning. She always enjoyed reading the news from what was her home area. We have a key in a velvet lined box in the archives and Pearl gave that to Mount Zion when we became a Heritage Centre. Muriel and Betty Jagger visited her occasionally and Betty writes the following reflection about her:

Although I never knew Pearl when she lived in Halifax I have much to thank her for.

When I went to study at Southlands College, Wimbledon in 1952 it was quite a challenge for me and quite an adventure to go to live in the Capital after having spent all my early years in Halifax.

On hearing that I was going to London Pearl’s parents who were members at Bethel Methodist Church (in fact her father was choirmaster and organist), put me in touch with Pearl who was working there and who lived near Baker Street.

On many a Sunday I took the bus from Wimbledon into central London and met Pearl who took it upon herself to “educate” me and open up areas of life I knew nothing about, so we visited the “sights” including many museums and I particularly remember seeing the large collection of miniatures in the Wallace Collection. Another highlight was acting as Steward, along with Pearl at Ealing Town Hall where Moiseiwitsch, a celebrated pianist, was giving a concert – I have the autographed programme to this day! Additionally there were visits to several Churches (it was the days of Sangster, Soper and Weatherhead) and on one occasion we joined in a Christian Scientist Meeting. At her home she provided me with meals and it was there that I first experienced yoghurt (little known at the time and not to my liking) and also chicory as a salad ingredient.

Years later Muriel and I visited Pearl when she lived in Putney and in the late 1990’s, on two return journeys from Easter People in

Bournemouth, we visited her at Denville Hall in North London. This was a beautiful old home in lovely grounds where retired artists lived and Pearl seemed very happy there. It was good that she was able to spend her last years in such pleasant surroundings.

NOTE: I believe Peggy Mount whom many of you will remember, also lived in the home where Pearl was and Maurice Denham. I.C.

DOUGLAS HALLIWELL.

Douglas was also a "Friend of Mount Zion" and he and Vera supported Mount Zion's various events and came along to services, etc.

Douglas was, like Pearl Broadhurst, from Bethel Methodist Church where he had gone from being a child and where he was a member until Bethel closed. He and Vera then went to Northowram Methodist Church as they lived in Northowram.

Douglas had been in the Boys' Brigade and went through the Sunday School as scholar and teacher. He taught the Senior Group for many years. Douglas enjoyed many of the activities at Bethel and held many offices. He was also at one time Circuit Finance Steward.

In the past few years Douglas has been in failing health and became very frail and unable to come to Mount Zion but his interest still remained.

His funeral service was at Northowram and was taken by Rev. Ruth Gee. It was a wonderful service of thanksgiving and the Church was full. People came from organizations with which Douglas had been associated, from his place of work (Asquiths) and some past scholars.

We send our condolences, prayerful thoughts and heartfelt sympathy to Vera.



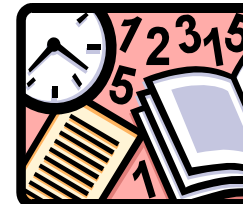
Dates for your diary

The fellowship meets the first Thursday of each month until november 7.30 p.m. at the homes of members:

9th JUNE - Ros Greenwood

7th july - Elsie Patrick

4th august - Irene Cunliffe



1st september - Mary Dixon

6th october - Pat Varney

3rd november - Jill McArthur

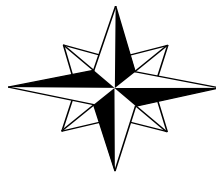
Sunday 3rd july, 2005 - anniversary reunion.

Service at 2.45 p.m. WHEN THE PREACHER WILL BE REV. CYRIL BLOUNT. CYRIL HAS BEEN A MINISTER IN THE HALIFAX CIRCUIT FOR THREE YEARS AND WILL RETIRE AGAIN IN AUGUST, 2005. CYRIL CAME TO US TO HELP OUT FOR THREE DAYS EACH WEEK AND TO PREACH ON SUNDAY HAVING BEEN RETIRED (WELL SEMI-RETIRED!!!) FOR SOME TIME.

Sunday, 4th September - HALIFAX CIRCUIT SERVICE will be held at St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Huddersfield Road, Halifax, when the preacher will be Rev. Brian Hoare, past president of the Methodist Conference. Irene Cunliffe will be presented with a certificate to commemorate 40 years as a local preacher. The service will be at 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 11th September - Harvest Festival

***OPEN DAYS: 18th June, 16th July, 20th August and 17th September, 2005 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Heritage Open Days Saturday, 10th 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
and Sunday, 11th September, 10.30 p.m. to 12.30 p.m.***



IT'S OFFICIAL

Yes, it's official – MARY DIXON IS HISTORY – because it has been published in "The Courier"!!

The children at Bradshaw School were given a taste of what school life was like before their time. Former pupil Mary Dixon returned to Bradshaw School where she was a pupil from 1929-1936 to speak to the children there now. Mary visited to take part in the schools "enrichment hour" which aims to give children time to concentrate on subjects they would not usually do. They are working on a magazine called Bradshaw Past and Present, and are reading about the history of the village and school and interviewing people. Mary is reported to have said "The children were lovely and asked all kinds of different questions about what school was like, from school dinners to whether we were able to wear make-up". The school is looking for their oldest former pupil. Mary did not fit that category.

It is very good to hear that to-day's young people are looking back to see what was done in school in days gone by. Some people say that we should not look back, but if we don't how do we know from whence we came?

The first Sunday School building at Mount Zion was also a day school. The Sunday School was upstairs and the day school downstairs. It was, of course, Sunday Schools where formal education began in the 19th century. It was not until Bradshaw School was built that day school teaching at Mount Zion ceased. We have a photograph in the collection of that Sunday School building which shows a sundial and some foundation stones. The foundation stones are in the house which was converted from the last Sunday School building.

Mary is always a good source of information from which we can get to know something of the past. She has a great history

in the area of Bradshaw and Ogden. Thanks to Mary and congratulations on becoming HISTORY!!



MAUNDY THURSDAY AT WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL

This year the Queen came to Wakefield Cathedral to distribute Maundy Money. It was with great expectation and anticipation that we welcomed this service and all began to wonder if we would know anyone who had been chosen to receive the money from the Queen. It was amazing how many we knew:

Marjorie Tatham who is a Friend of Mount Zion and often comes to services (sometimes when we have had to close for snow and ice!!) with her family.

Michael Scott a local preacher in the Halifax Circuit
Gwynneth Westwood who worked with mothers and children in Halifax

Arthur Beevers who was for many years verger at Halifax Parish Church.

There were of course some 75 others ...

The coverage on TV, especially locally, was disappointing, but when Marjorie next comes to Mount Zion she is going to bring her purses so that we can all see them.

V FOR VICTORY

8th May, 1945 – 60 years on. This anniversary has caused people to look back on the years of the Second World War and celebrate the ending of that conflict. Many people have personal memories of that time, some have only read about it and seen pictures in newspapers and on television. Whilst we cannot dwell on it and there seems to have been innumerable programmes on TV (a lot more is you have Sky) about every aspect of it. The sadness is that in those sixty years there has not been what could be classed as a World War but there have been many wars in different parts of the world. Perhaps the most recent conflict in Iraq has brought memories flooding back, particularly to those who served in the armed forces sixty plus years ago.

What do you remember:

I was a child in the War and I have lots of memories, but my memories are not of hardship, worry and the loss of loved ones. It was the only life I knew so it was “just what life was about”. In Halifax we had only one “bomb” dropped with any effect – at the end of Crossley Terrace in Hanson Lane and I remember going with my mother and grandmother to the Economic Stores in Hanson Lane, very near to the place where the bomb dropped and looking for an aeroplane in the hole – the concept of the aeroplane and the dropping of bombs from it was beyond my very young mind to understand.

I remember the air raid drills and going under the school when we had them, the air raid shelters at Butlers Machine Tool Works where we went almost every night it seemed – donned in siren suit over pyjamas, and a book to read!

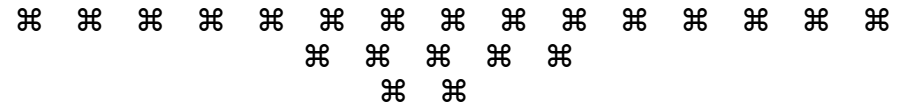
What about school parties – Oh, yes, we had them at Christmas and it was great fun! We had to take our own sandwiches, buns and jelly. Yes, jelly on a saucer. It was all put into a “bun tin” to carry to school, kept upright so that the jelly did not end up in the bottom of the tin. I can’t remember what I took, nor what flavour the jelly was but I can remember the bun tin. It was yellow, eight sided and had on the lid a picture of a man and woman in a punt – all 1930’s. It was a Riley’s toffee tin. If we were lucky we got some drinking chocolate powder, which was sent for schoolchildren from Canada. We didn’t make a drink with it we “dipped” it with our fingers, like we did with cocoa and sugar when we could get it.

The school windows had criss crosses of 2” wide brown paper stuck on them, as did the glass doors. I thought it was all part of the pattern and was quite surprised when it was taken off after the War. Can you remember going to get your No. 8 battery for that precious commodity a torch.

My last memory to share – again in my childlike innocence – is that when peace was declared I said, “There won’t be any more news now will there.” I had never heard a news bulletin without the war being its main content. I had listened to Alvar Liddel, Bruce Belfrage and Wilfred Pickles, read the news but quickly learned that you don’t know who is reading it when there isn’t a war. The lights went on in the streets and the shops were lit up.

I’m glad bananas came back – such useful fruit easy to unzip!!!!

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to think that if we all continue to work towards peace it would be achieved, but it is an ongoing struggle to attain it.



REV. WILL MORREY, President of the Methodist Conference 2004-5.

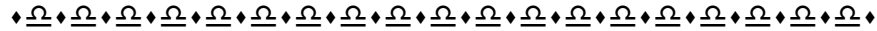
We were delighted to hear that Will had been elected the President of Conference and asked immediately if he could come to Mount Zion during his official visit to the West Yorkshire Methodist District. That did not happen but he did come to Illingworth Moor. We were all glad to share with our friends at Illingworth the completion of their building work and the re-opening of the premises. Will came to open the new Church on the morning of the 27th February, 2005. It was an all ticket event but some of us managed to get a ticket and it was a wonderful occasion. We wish Illingworth well for the future and hope that the work there will be fruitful.

It was good also to see at that service Will’s wife Vicki, Stan, Mary and Catherine Brown and John and Sue Lambert. All had been very much involved in the vision, planning and carrying out the work which has been done.

We were glad to be able to offer Mount Zion for Services of Worship and the cottage for meetings to the “homeless” Illingworth Moor.

We continue to watch with interest reports of Will’s visits around the Connexion and overseas and to read the column in the “Methodist Recorder”. Some of us went to Huddersfield Mission to meet Will on the Saturday afternoon when he did a workshop about God at Work (not the workshop, but at work in the world). He is a very stimulating person and has brought much wisdom to the Church so far in

this special year. He has spoken very challenging words and gives us some encouragement to change to be able to speak to the world of the 21st century. That is indeed a wonderful but perhaps a somewhat scary undertaking.
All our good wishes go to Will and all the family.



And an end note or three:

God sends the sunshine and the rain
to make us think along the way
That life with all its ups and downs
is like a changing April day,
It's easy to be happy through
all the sunny hours,
But we must learn to smile and sing
when sunshine turns to showers.

If there's a job you ought to do,
although you hate to do it
You'd better get it done at once –
before you live to rue it
And when it's done (you will agree)
how very, very pleased you'll be.



Methodist New Connexion – Alexander Kilham

After Wesley's death there was growing dissent in the Methodist Church which resulted in some groups breaking away. One of these groups was led by Alexander Kilham who was born at Epworth in 1762 the son of a weaver. He became a preacher at the age of 20 and became one of John Wesley's travelling preachers. He made a name for himself as a powerful writer and orator. He began to press for greater lay representation in the governance of Wesleyan Methodism.

He made fellow preachers angry and his ideas and proposals were turned down. He persisted and in 1796 was put on trial and expelled from the membership of the Methodist Church by Conference. As a result he started the Methodist New Connexion the next year. He was appointed secretary but died shortly afterwards.

Mount Zion had a very strong and large group of Kilhamites and they threw out the Wesleyans and took over the Chapel. Mount Zion is the oldest Methodist New Connexion society which has continuously met.