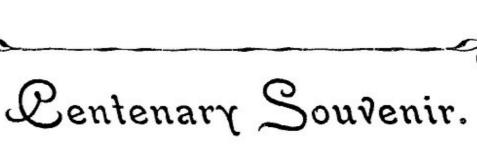
## 



1824----1924

HISTORICAL SURVEY.



PRESENT DIACONATE.

Messrs. A. Simms, A. Tetley, C. M. Sowden (Sec.), T. W. Robertshaw, W. Simms, W. Dyson. S. Robinson, Rev. J. I. Carlyle Litt (Pastor), A. Watmuff (Treas.)

## A Brief Historical Survey Sandy Lane Baptist Church.

In the year 1764 the Rev. Dan Taylor—the pioneer of the General Baptist Cause in Yorkshire—established the County's first Church of that category, at Birchcliffe.

Some seven years later he visited Queensbury (then known as Queenshead), and as a result of that visit two years later there were dismissed from the Church at Birchelffe 17 members, for the purpose of forming a Church at Queensbury—which Church came into being in 1773, with Dan Taylor's younger brother—the REV. JOHN TAYLOR—as its first Pastor.

Missionary zeal was a pronounced characteristic of Church-life in those days. As was the case in the earliest centuries, Churches were concerned about extending the influence of the Gospel beyond their own borders, and the Queensbury Minister did not confine his interests or activities exclusively to his own Church, but paid preaching visits to outlying districts, where remote farmers had not adequate supply for their spiritual needs.

His journeyings often took him to a small hamlet of half-a-dozen dwellings, environed by one or two scattered farms, and known by the name of Sandy Loin Bottom.

The travelling preacher's Message was evidently well received, for ultimately—though some 6 years after his death—there was established, with a membership of 15, a Baptist Cause at Sandy Loin.

Such is the "genealogical tree" indicating the "ancestry" of the Sandy Lane Baptist Church.

Land for a building-site was presented by Mr. John Mortimer, and in 1824 was laid the foundation stone of the



Old Chapel, built 1824



New Chapel, built 1884

hamlet's first building to be crected specifically for religious purposes—the Baptist Chapel.

A building to accommodate 300 persons was erected, and was opened on August 14th, 1825, the following men of eminence amongst General Baptists taking part in the opening service: Revs. J. G. Pike, of Derby; Richard Ingham, of Heptonstall Slack; S. Foster, of Farsley; and T. Stevenson.

The cost of the building was £700, of which only £70 had been subscribed when the building was opened, the balance not being cleared off until some 40 years later.

It says much for the enthusiasm of the founders of the Cause that they refused to be daunted, though faced at the outset with such a tremendous debt, and though it is far from the writer's intention to make a plea for outrageous finance, yet he would suggest that it would be well for us to-day if we had more of the enthusiasm that characterised those Christians of 100 years ago.

In exterior this former building was not very different from that which occupies the site to-day, the chief difference being that, of course, it was smaller, and had two doors instead of the one central porch of the present building.

The interiors of the two Chapels present a much greater contrast.

From the old records it appears that one side of the building was largely taken up by a vestry, and special pews for the children.

No beautiful organ graced this early Chapel—in fact, it appears that until 1854 there was no musical instrument to lead the singing, as the following extract from the "Minutes" of that year will show:—"That we do not object to a harmonium being played in the Chapel, in case one should be purchased for that end."

Nor was there any Baptistry in this building, and those who desired to join the Church were required to go through

the ordeal of Public Baptism in the neighbouring Cottingley Beck.

One other feature of interest is that this first Chapel had two pulpits—a lower one for the Clerk of the Church.

For four years the Church was served by MR. GEORGE ANDREWS, of Clayton, who served the Cause faithfully until the inauguration of a settled Ministry on February 8th. 1828. when the Rev. James Shackleton, a member of the Church at Heptonstall Slack, accepted the Pastorate of the Church.

By this time the membership had grown to 25. In these days the Services were held in the morning and afternoon, for the convenience of the farmers, who came in from the outlying farms, bringing with them their dinners, of which they partook in the Chapel, between the two Services.

Mr. Shackleton ministered to the Church for four years, occupying the pulpit for the last time as Minister on May 13th, 1832.

Three years elapsed ere a successor was appointed, but on April 30th, 1835, the Rev. Jonathan Ingham, having accepted the munificent offer of a stipend of £25 per annum, began a Ministry which he sustained faithfully for 13 years.



To the curious, who may wonder how he managed to exist on his meagre remuneration, it may be explained that he was a bachelor, had private means, and was provided with a house by the Church. How much the Church had profited by his Ministry and that of his predecessor may be gathered from the following statistics relating to the state of the Church when he left it in 1848:—Church members 73, Sunday School Scholars 106, Sunday School Teachers 22.

In 1849 Mr. Ingham was succeeded in the Pastorate by the Rev. J. E. Bilson, who ministered to the Church until May 6th, 1851. On this period an interesting side-light is thrown by the following record of a resolution passed in 1850:—"That we respectfully request the brethren and friends not to smoke tobacco in the Chapel"; and further by the following:—"That females be asked questions at the Church Meetings the same as males." Whether that indicates the beginning of the Women's Suffrage Movement, or simply shews that it was found difficult also in those days to get ladies to take part in discussion of the Church's business, it is not possible to discover.

Anniversaries have always been a big feature in the Church's life, and it is interesting to note that the earliest record of an Anniversary Collection available refers to the year 1850, when the day's collections amounted to £30 ls. 3½d., a sum of which the Church in those days might well be proud.

Gradually the Annual Collection has increased. In 1874 it amounted to £54 13s. 6d., and these days generally amounts to between £70 and £80.

In the year 1852 the invitation of the Deacons and Members of the Church was accepted by a man of the same name as the founder of the Cause—the REV. JOHN TAYLOR—who, for ten years, maintained a highly appreciated and spiritually prosperous Ministry.



Interesting glimpses of the life of the Church at this period are afforded by the following extract from the Church minute-book.—" agreed that the hymns be given out by two lines at a time instead of four."

"Agreed to petition Parliament for the repeal of the Marriage Act which prohibits marriage with a deceased wife's sister."

"Agreed to ask Thomas Rowling to be scribe for the pulpit notices."

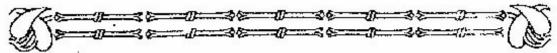
Evidence of the popularity of Mr. Taylor's Ministry is to be found in the fact that, at its close, it was found possible to clear off absolutely the heavy debt which had burdened the Cause since the erection of the Chapel, and also to erect a Sunday School building.

In 1865 the Pastorate of the Church was accepted by the Rev. W. E. Winks.



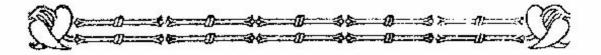
Schoolroom.

His Ministry was of less than three years' duration, but it was a Ministry of great power.





The Rev. W. E. Winks.



Congregations increased greatly, and a large number of people of all ages and both sexes was added to the membership of the Church.

There are still living some who remember this period, and they speak of Mr Winks with great affection, declaring that his own strong faith and unquenchable zeal were an inspiration to all who came into contact with him. His prayers especially, it is said, were unforgettable. Mr. Winks, retired from the Ministry, is now living at Llanishen, near Cardiff.

We rejoice that God has spared him to see the Centenary of the Church where he began his life-work, and we pray that for some time he may enjoy a happy and peaceful eventide.

The vacancy caused by Mr. Winks' departure was filled by the REV. THOMAS GILL, who—together with his wife, whose large-heartedness and winsomeness as a Sunday School Teacher rendered her exceedingly popular—carried on the Ministry until August 1871.



12

About this time (in the year 1868) it was felt by some members of the Church who resided in the neighbouring village of Allerton, that a branch-Church ought to be established in Allerton. Accordingly, at a Church meeting held on April 12th, it was decided to make arrangements with the

About this time an impetus was given to the growth of the village, by the erection of a worsted factory by Messrs. Charles Sowden and Sons, and in more ways than one the Church has cause to rejoice in the fact that Sandy Lane was selected as the place of establishment.

In the year 1875, the REV. W. H. SMITH. a student of Chilwell College, accepted the 1 a. h.

An illimitable energy seems to have characterised Mr. Smith, and he appears to have infused into the Church his own spirit of activity, for shortly after his departure the foundation-stone of the present beautiful building was laid. The erection was completed in a departure of Friday, 1884, the late Dr. John Clifford opened the new Chapel.

The building cost £1,500, and has a seating capacity of 500.

Some four years after the opening of the new building it was renovated, and an organ was installed at a cost of £300.

About this time also a Wesleyan Cause was established in the village.

In the year 1887 the REV. WALTER WYNN, of Nottingham College, was invited to preach at Sandy Lane. His preaching being very acceptable, this visit was repeated several times, and during the vacation of that year Mr. Wynn spent eight weeks amongst the people, as Student-Pastor.

The Deacons and Members were so impressed by his Ministry during that period that ultimately Mr. Wynn was invited to become Pastor of the Church.

He accepted the invitation, and began his Ministry on August 5th, 1888.

Though fresh from College, Mr. Wynn gave, even then, abundant evidence of the power of oratory which so characterises him, and which caused one local admirer to describe him as "The man who struck 12 all at once."



In March, 1891, Mr. Wynn reinquished the l'astorate and for a period of five years the Church was without a Minister.

In 1896 the vacancy was filled by the appointment of the Rev. D. G. Millar, whose sincerity and earnestness won for him the respect of all. It was with profound regret that we learnt of Mr. Millar's death in the early part of this year, and we pray God's richest benediction upon his wife, who spent her earliest days at Sandy Lane, and upon his son. Mr. Millar was in charge of a Church in South Wales when God called him home, and there he was held in the highest esteem and love, as all who knew him will readily understand. Mr. Millar left Sandy Lane in the year 1900, and, after a lapse of six years, was succeeded in the Pastorate by the Rev. J. Paton Rocerson, who had ministered for some years at Jedburgh.

In Mr. Rogerson we find a boundless energy and activity, and no small feature of his Ministry was his splendid systematic visitation.



Many will remember also the happy evenings that were spent in the Schoolroom when, by means of his lantern, Mr. Rogerson delighted his audience with the photographs of old friends.

From Sandy Lane Mr. Rogerson went to Sunderland.

About the close of Mr. Rogerson's Ministry was inaugurated a splendid and most beautiful annual event. The Ladies' Select Class conceived the idea of an Old Folks' Treat, to be held about Christmas-time of each year. This takes the form of a tea and entertainment to which all the inhabitants of the village, who have attained to a certain age, are invited. The idea behind the Treat is not one of charity (for the invitations are issued irrespective of station or position), but rather the idea of just expressing to the older friends the love and respect of the younger generation. The young people (for the young men throw in their lot with the young ladies in this) are to be congratulated on the conception of this most beautiful idea, and on the charming spirit with which the whole affair is carried out.



The Rev. J. Pulon Royerson.

In the year 1913, two years after Mr. Rogerson's departure, the Rev. G. E. Towle, then at Barnoldswick, accepted the invitation of the Church, and commenced a Ministry which he sustained faithfully for a little over four years. Mr. Towle is essentially a student and lover of books, and his quiet manner and kindly disposition soon won for him a place in the affections of the people. His Ministry covered a difficult period, for a little over a year after his settlement the nation was plunged into its most terrible war, and the young men of the Church were called upon to serve King and Country. We are proud of the fact that so many answered the call. For some the call was for more than temporary service, and we honour their memory as the memory of heroes and gallant men. May the thought of their heroism be a soothing balm to wounds which will never quite heal.

We would not pass on without a word of appreciation of the work of Mrs. Towle and others of the ladies who cheerfully took upon themselves extra duties in connection with the



War Memorial.

School and Church, that the work of Christ might not suffer more than could be helped at that time.

Mr. Towle left Sandy Lane in 1917, to proceed to Derby, whence he went abroad to take his place amongst the troops in the field. Five years elapsed between the departure of Mr. Towle and the settlement of the present Pastor.



Whilst the Church was under the Ministry of "Supplies" during this period, it was learnt that the Rev. Walter Wynn had been advised by his doctor to take a twelve months' change of air and rest, and it was decided to ask him to spend that period at Sandy Lane. The invitation was accepted and a somewhat amazing twelve months followed. Mr. Wynn's oratory drew immense crowds, so that special cars were put on the Allerton route for Sundays, and the unusual sight was witnessed of long queues of people waiting outside the Church before the doors were opened. Sunday after Sunday the building was packed with people from Bradford and district, many of whom brought their teas with them that they might be present at both afternon and evening

services. But the most remarkable of all gatherings was that which was held at the close of Mr. Wynn's stay, when at a Farewell Service held in a field in the village 3,000 people were present. The collection amounted to £40, half of which was given to the Institution for the Blind.

Whilst referring to this period prior to the settlement of the present Minister, mention must be made of the splendid service to the Church rendered by Rawdon College. Whilst the Pastorate remained vacant the pulpit was occupied almost exclusively by Students from the College, and many have testified to the high standard of the preaching.

In the Summer of 1921 one of the Students—the Rev. ROWLAND H. PEARSON, now of Spennymoor—took oversight of the Church for two months, and in that short time made his influence distinctly felt in the place.

An interesting change was made about this time, in the replacing of the old Communion Service by a new one, consisting of Individual Cups—for which the Church is indebted to the kindness of Mr. Harry Sowden.

The Church has always been blessed with generous and exmest members and workers, and if reference has not been made to them earlier in this narrative the omission is due to the difficulty that the writer has found of placing them in chronological order rather than to a lack of appreciation of what they have done for, and meant to, the Church.

As a record of this nature would be obviously incomplete without a reference to the stalwarts who have upheld the hands of the Ministers of their respective periods, and have carried on the work at such times as the Pastorate has been vacant, may the writer now make mention of such men as Edwin Cockro't, John Greenwood, Isaac Holmes, Alfred Ingham, Ernest Ingham, Sam Illingworth, Thomas Illingworth, William Jennings, William Middlebrook, Bairstow Mortimer, Dalby Robertshaw, Thomas Robertshaw, Joshua

Robertshaw, Ezra Simms, John Simms, Charles Sowden, Abraham Sowden, David Sowden, Peter Stead, Albert White, Sam White and Stephen White.

We praise God for such men, without whom this Cause could hardly have survived to celebrate its 100th birthday.

Not only did they give unstintingly in their life time, but many of them are still giving to us, for they so inspired their sons and daughters with a love for the place that to-day are to be found in the offices and membership of the Church, their descendants—and their zeal in Service is no less fervid than was that of their ancestors.

This is also a fitting place for mention of the loyal service of a special body of men and women, to whom the Church owes much.

Sandy Lane Baptist Church has always been noted for its singing, and its Choir has always been characterised by its talent and its loyalty.

The Choir of 1924 is not behind those of earlier days in either particular, and the Church is deeply indebted to the members of the Choir for their generous service, to Mr. Percy Robertshaw, who was so devoted in his position of Choirmaster until the doctor compelled him to relinquish that office a short time ago, and to Messrs. Arnold Chadwick and Charles Dyson, who are now acting jointly as organist and choir leaders.

On September 3rd, 1922, the present Minister—the REV. J. I. CARLYLE LITT—began his Ministry.

Early in the following year there was held a big bazaar, which is especially worthy of mention because of one outstanding feature. On the Saturday the platform, at the opening ceremony, consisted of the Lord Mayor of Bradford (Mr. Thomas Sowden), the Mayor of Pudsey (Mr. Richard Ingham), the Mayor of Nelson (Mr. Edgar Boothman) and the Ex-Service Freeman of Bradford (Mr. Robertshaw). All these

gentlemen were connected with our Sunday School in their early days, and we are proud of them, and rejoice that men have appreciated their worth and have presented them with their well-merited honours.

Of the work of the present Pastor the writer is not qualified to write, but he can refer to the loving sympathy, the loyalty and the kindness which have been meted out to him,—and he would like to close this short and very imperfect historical survey with the observation that, so long as there continues in the Church the Devotion, Unity, Loyalty and Tolerance by which she is characterised to-day, the Sandy Lane Baptist Church will, in spite of all her difficulties, continue a life of useful service for the Kingdom of God.





#### GREETINGS FROM FORMER MINISTERS.

#### From REV. W. E. WINKS (Llanishen):-

- "My warmest Christian love to all at the Centenary gatherings, whom I salute in the Name of our Heavenly Father, employing the words of the Apostle Peter:
  - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His great mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto Salvation, ready to be revealed at the end of the age."

#### From Rev. J. P. ROGERSON (Manchester):-

- "The celebration of the Centenary of a Church ought to be, as indeed it is, a red-letter day. With individuals their powers decrease with age, but the opposite ought to be the case with Churches.
- "My prayer for you is that there will be a conscious realisation of dependence upon the Great Head. It is perhaps well to point out that the function of a Church is not that of an amusement caterer, but a witness to those things which, though unseen, are nevertheless very real.
- "May the second century be one of great spiritual prosperity."

#### From Rev. WALTER WYNN (Chesham):-

"Mrs. Wynn and I join in heartiest greetings to Pastor and Members of the dear old Church of Sandy Lane."

#### From Rev. G. E. Towle (Fleet, Lines.):-

- "As a former Pastor who has enjoyed the privilege to minister to the Church at Sandy Lane, I would desire to send affectionate greetings upon the occasion of your Centenary celebration.
- "It is with thankfulness that I recall the memory of personal associations with this Church as well as the historic record of service which it is known to have achieved. With congratulations and sincere wishes for your continued success and spiritual prosperity, in which my wife heartily joins me."

## SANDY LANE BAPTIST CHURCH.

# . Centenary. Celebrations,

(1824-1924)

SATURDAY, 19th JULY,

3-0 p.m., PUBLIC WORSHIP,

Preacher - Rev. J. PATON ROGERSON,
Former Minister (Manchester).

4-30 p.m., TEA in Schoolroom. Price 1/3.

6-30 p.m., PUBLIC MEETING,

Chairman - Rev. J. I. CARLYLE LITT,
Speakers - Rev. J. PATON ROGERSON,
Rev. G. E. TOWLE,
G. H. ROBINSON, Esq.,
H. HALEY, Esq., (President, Bradford)

COLLECTIONS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES.

SUNDAY, 20th JULY,

SPECIAL SERVICES, 2-30 and 6-0.

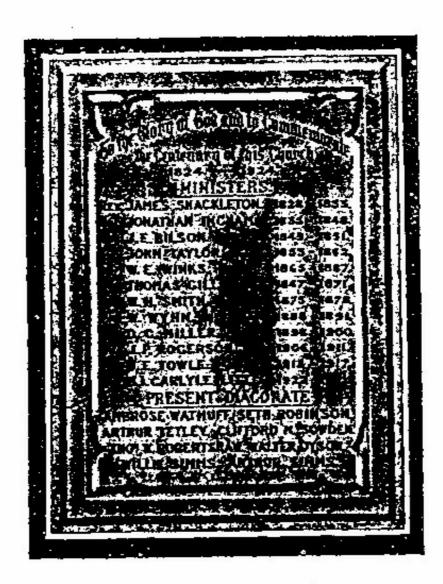
Preacher - Rev. J. I. CARLYLE LITT, (Pastor)

Special Music by the Choir.

SUNDAY, 27th JULY,

SPECIAL SERVICES, 2-30 and 6-0, Preacher - Rev. G. E. TOWLE, (Former Minister) Special Singing by the Choir.

Win. Foster & Sons, Printers, Aldermanbury Bradford



Commemoration Tablet.