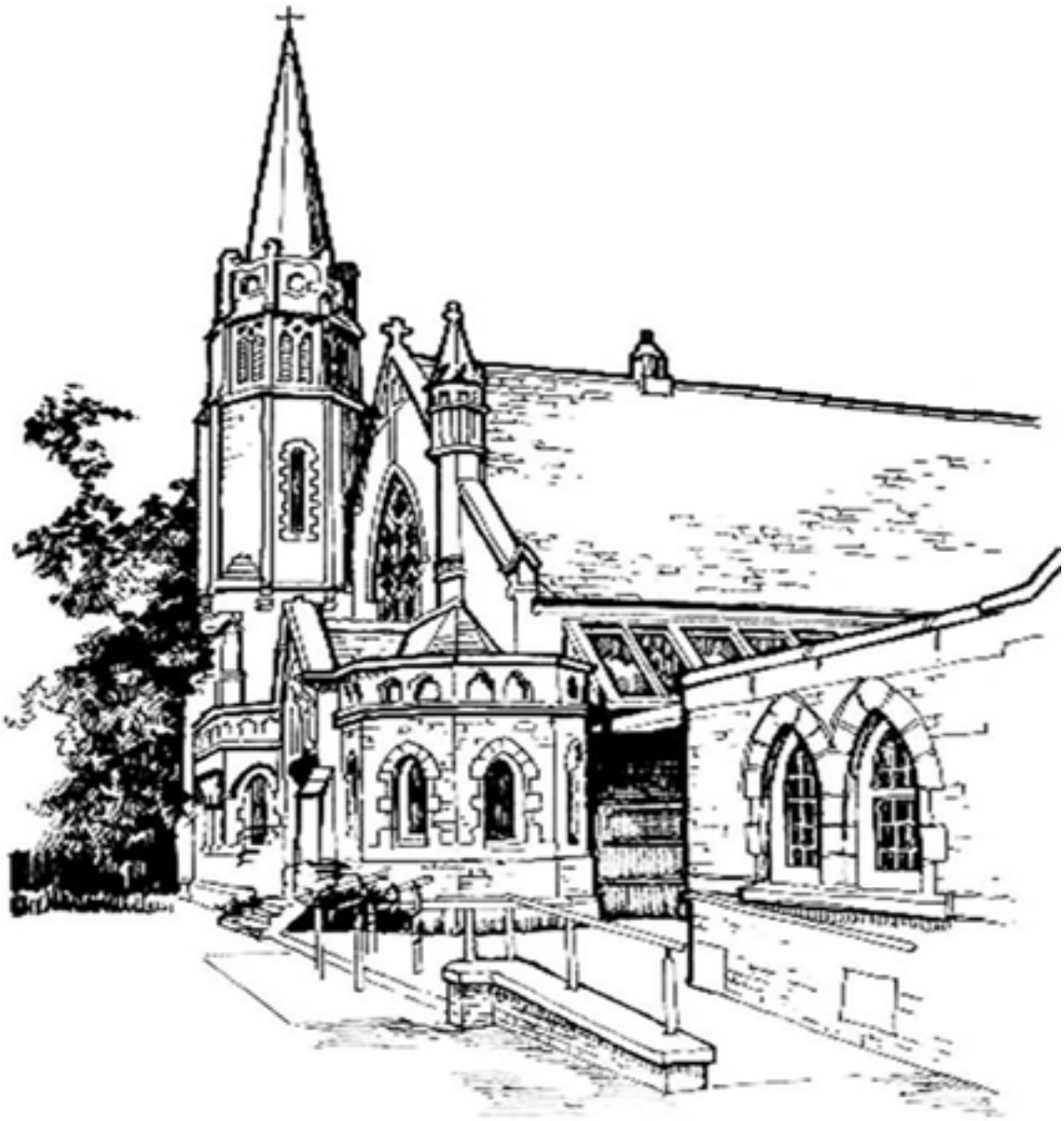


# TO GOD BE THE GLORY



A HISTORY OF  
FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION

1912 - 2012

# TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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## A History of Fulwood Methodist Church 1912 – 2012

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The First Years: 1912 – 1937

The Years of Growth: 1937 – 1962

The Years of Expansion: 1962 – 1987

The Years of Change: 1987 – 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

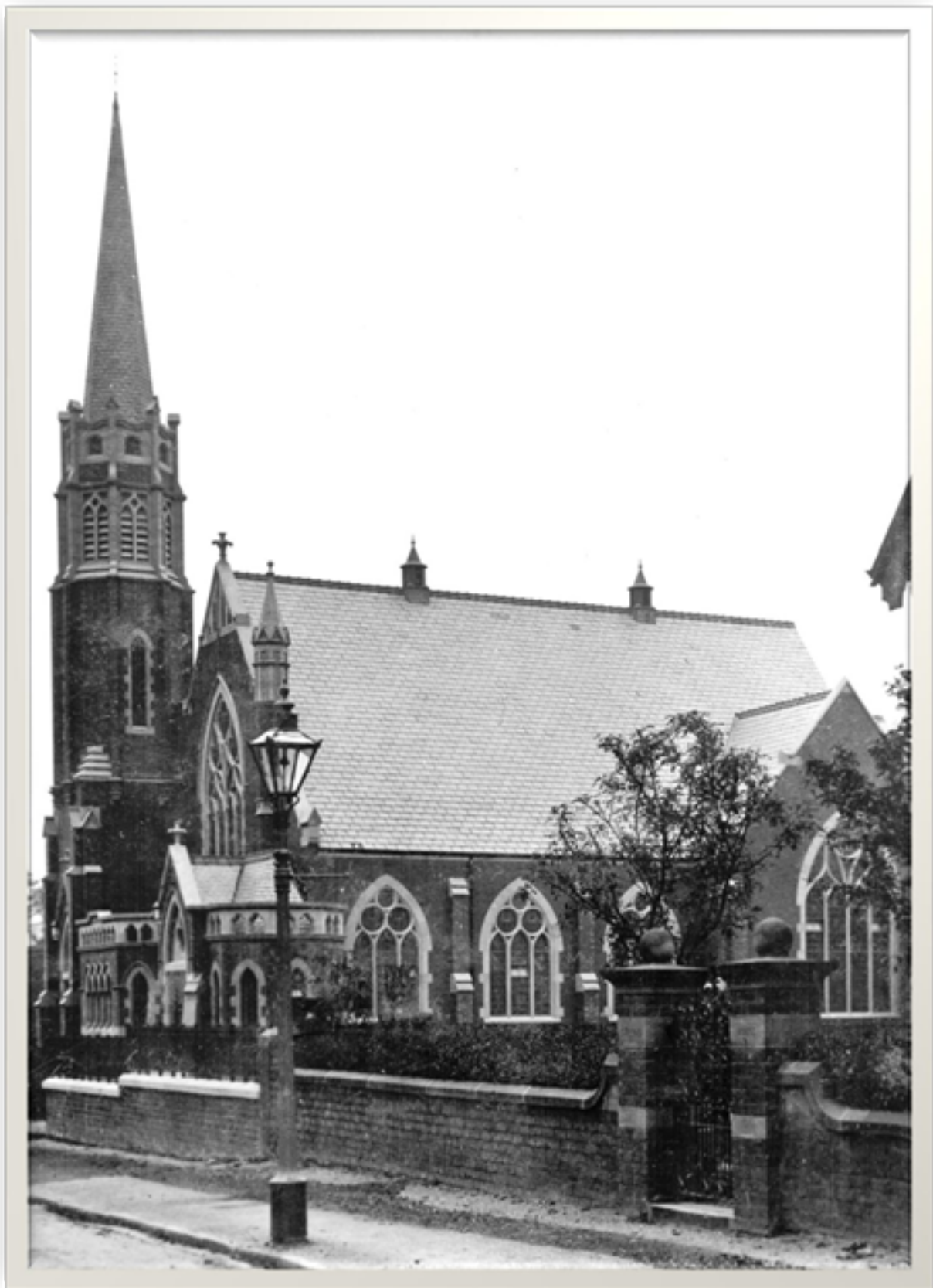
## **Note to 2nd Edition**

In 1987, Mrs. Hilda Porter produced a small booklet for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church outlining its history, entitled “To God be the Glory: A History of Fulwood Methodist Church 1912 – 1987”. This second edition of the booklet brings the story up-to-date as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of our church, and also includes more photographs from the first 75 years than I believe were available in 1987.

Hilda died in 1998, but I have no doubt that had she been alive and fit today she would have wanted to have participated in the production of this second edition. Many people have contributed to this work. Memories have been provided by Church members, along with diary extracts and photograph albums. Barbara Hothersall has done sterling work in the Lancashire Archives and has provided a calm guiding hand during many discussions over the last few months. We decided early on that we would maintain Hilda’s original work as written, as part of the historical record of Fulwood Methodist Church, and as tribute to her memory. I have made no attempt to maintain Hilda’s style in the new section; I trust that you will not find the stylistic change too jarring!

In a short booklet it is impossible to capture every aspect of the history of a community of three to four hundred people, particularly when that community is a continually changing one such as at Fulwood Methodist Church. If a key event in your memory of the last 25 years has been omitted then I apologise, but I hope that what has been included forms a coherent story that will remind you of the overall flow of the last twenty five years here at Fulwood. I am indebted to those who have helped in the production of this booklet – any mistakes are of course mine alone.

Chris Porter, May 2012



*Fulwood Wesleyan Methodist Church 1912*



## Preface to 2nd Edition

**Dear Friends,**

The picture of the church in 1912 is immediately recognisable as being of Fulwood Methodist Church. It could have been taken in 2012, until you begin to look more closely; the street-lights are of their period, the stone-work is clean and there are bits of the building definitely missing, not least the Hall. This sums up part of the story of this suburban church over the last one hundred years. Some things have changed as time has passed and new ideas have been brought forward. The years have also changed the way the church is perceived by the community. Finally new bits have been added to make the building fit for purpose in the 21st Century. Much of this is recorded in the updated history booklet, which brings the story up to the centenary year. However one important thing is missing from the photo and that is people, both members of the congregation and the community. Without them there is no story worth telling. A church building is only the vessel in which the congregation travel on their journey of faith, which is a visible symbol of that faith to the neighbourhood.

I have spent just eleven out of these hundred years as the minister at Fulwood. It has been a time of considerable change and development; not just the major changes that have been made to the building but the motivation for that work; to open up the church and its premises to the whole community. I am immensely grateful to the whole church for their effort and commitment to prepare the church for the next decades of its life; and you will find something of that story in these pages.

When we re-opened the building a discussion was held about appropriate name for the rooms and the place itself. If you ask anyone to describe Fulwood Methodist Church, most will say ‘it’s at the Withy Trees crossroads’; so we named the rooms after trees and the ancillary premises the “Crossroads Centre”. However it is still the Methodist Church at Fulwood, for that is its mission, to be a worship centre for the people of Fulwood. May they know that the cross at the crossroads declare our faith in Jesus Christ – who lived and died and rose again that we might have life in all its fullness.

God Bless



Peter Sheasby, May 2012



*1912 – 2012, 100 years of worship and service for ‘The Church at the Crossroads’.*



# Preface to 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

**My Dear Friends,**

I count it a privilege to be able to preface this booklet with a personal word.

“Don’t look back now” was good advice from a coach when I could run around the athletics track. It is often regarded as good advice when it comes to looking back into the past. Some suggest that progress is hindered by concern with what has happened in days gone by.

I want to suggest to you that for the sake of the future we need to read this account of the last 75 years. Loss of memory is a distressing condition in an individual. It is more tragic when it afflicts a Christian community. To look back in Christian experience is not to view a dead past but the living God at work in ordinary people, making them extraordinary in His work. “To God be the Glory” is not simply a convenient title but a recognition that the last 75 years and the last two-thousand for that matter, are a testimony to His power.

This booklet and our celebrations as a whole are going to be a sharp reminder that the roots of our present work must draw not only from the past but from the resources of our God. I hope and pray that the devotion of our spiritual forebears will be a challenge to renewed commitment on our part. If the celebrations of 1987 do not create a new resolve to reach out in mission and service we will have missed the point.

As the present minister at Fulwood I am very conscious of the ready welcome, the warm fellowship and the willing partnership in the service of the Lord I have experienced. I know that I also speak for all the ministers and their families who have served across the years.

The Church of the present and the future will remain indebted to those who have pioneered the work over 75 years. Not least we are indebted to Mrs Hilda Porter who has been responsible for the task of researching and writing this history and thereby introducing us to those who have worked before us.

May the richest Blessing of God rest upon us as we travel on.

Yours sincerely,

**Geoffrey Warburton**

Fulwood Wesleyan Church.

# Memorial Brick & Stone- laying Ceremonies



SATURDAY AFTERNOON,  
August 5th, 1911, at 3 o'clock.

TEA IN MOOR PARK WESLEYAN SCHOOL  
AT 5-30 P.M. TICKETS 6d. EACH.

## GREAT PUBLIC MEETING

IN MOOR PARK WESLEYAN CHURCH  
at 7 o'clock.

Chairman: - **Mr. E. P. BERRY.**

### SPEAKERS:



Rev. S. E. KEEBLE.

Rev. T. GALLAND HARTLEY (Chairman of the District).

Rev. JOSEPH WHITEHEAD.

Special Music by the Choir. Organist: Mr. C. Cadman.

During the interval between the Tea and the Meeting Old Hymns and Tunes will be sung.

# **A HISTORY OF FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH**

## **1912 – 1987**

### **THE FIRST 25 YEARS: 1912 – 1937**

#### **“In the beginning”**

Methodism was alive and at work among the people of Fulwood from the middle of the nineteenth century. There was a building on Cadley Brow called “The Cadeley Wesleyan Schoolrooms”, used exclusively for worship. The Religious Census of 1851 gives the date of erection as 1843 and that there were 60 free sittings and space for 20 more (presumably standing).

This was signed by Abraham Sedgewick, Chapel Steward, of Larch house, Fulwood. Larch house stood on the opposite corner of Garstang Road from our Church. The Cadeley Wesleyan Schoolrooms were demolished sometime before 1860.

In 1851 a Local Preacher named Peter Watson bought the barn of the demolished Horrocks Farm in Victoria Road and converted it to a house and a Chapel which became known as Brunswick Chapel. Unfortunately Peter was discredited and his name erased from the Plan. Brunswick was sold in 1864 and is now Christ Church Parochial Hall.

The first recorded Wesleyan Methodist place of worship in Fulwood was a house next to Willow Farm in Longsands Lane. Worship was held there from 1880-1884. Fulwood had begun to develop residentially in 1851 and although Preston Wesleyan Circuit had come into being with the erection of Wesley Chapel in 1839 and Moor Park in 1862 the need for an extension of the Circuit to Fulwood was obvious. In 1896 a committee was formed called “The Fulwood Site Trustees” and that committee bought the land on the corner of Watling Street Road and Garstang Road from James Gregson Esq. for £855 5s 11d. James Gregson lived at Highgate Park on Garstang Road and owned 80 acres of land.

In 1907 the Fulwood Extension Scheme was officially blessed by the Wesley Circuit, and the Site Trustees Committee was joined by a Building Committee chosen from the Wesley Circuit. The Secretary was Tom Robinson whose



energy and enthusiasm were a great inspiration to all. The Churches in the Circuit, especially Moor Park, gave him generous support. The idea of a “Cruciform” Church was his which the Architect, Mr. Fred Howarth, carried out in his plan. The estimated cost of the building was £3,500.00. The total estimated cost of the land, building and furnishings was £5,500.00. All plans and estimated costs were approved and building commenced.

Fulwood people had dreamed and worked towards establishing a Methodist Church for 60 years. The dream became a reality when the stone laying ceremony took place on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1911. A further ceremony took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1911 which was to allow many members of the Circuit to lay a stone or brick. It was £1. 1. 0 (£1.05) to lay a stone and 10.6d (52½p) for a brick. £2,622.19.0 was raised by this means.

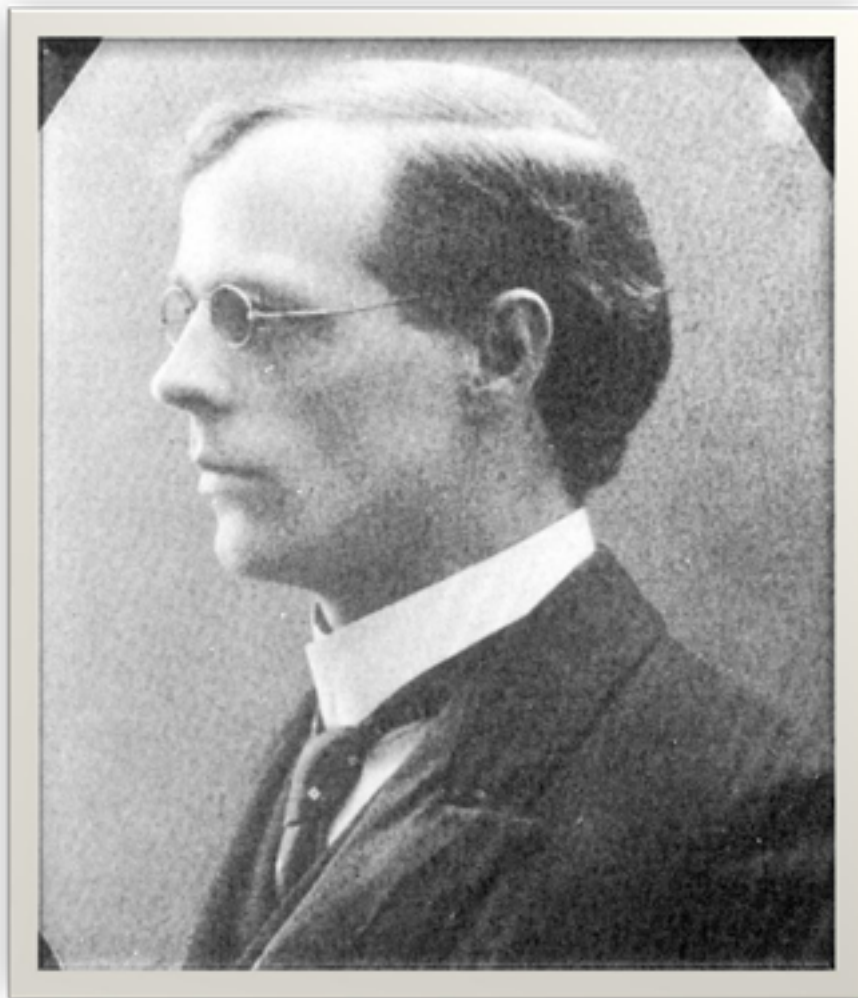
Fulwood Wesleyan Methodist Church was opened and dedicated on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1912 by the President of Conference the Rev. F.L. Wiseman B.A. who preached on the text “One thing I ask of the Lord, one thing I seek: that I may be constant in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27, v.4.)

Incorporated in the building scheme was a plan for a Manse on the corner of Garstang Road and Watling Street Road. This plan was abandoned and the plot sold to Fulwood council for £300.00 on condition it remained as an open space or was used for necessary road improvements.

The new Society at Fulwood had no resident Minister but was regarded as a branch of Moor Park and in the care of the Rev. C.E. Norman. The first officials were – Society Stewards: Messrs W.H. Wilding, J. Sharrock and L.W.C. Whittaker; Poor Stewards: Messrs G. Toulmin junr and T. Robinson; Class Leader: J. Kirkman; Organist and Choirmaster: Mr. C.E. Lambert.

A Sunday School was soon organised with Mr. T. Robinson as Superintendent and Mr. A. Plumb as Secretary. The classes met in Church as there was, as yet, no Sunday School building. The Men’s class averaged 20 and met in the vestry with Mr. R. Plumb as teacher. The Primary met in the parlour with Mary Iddon as Superintendent. The parlour was important in the early years of the Church as it was the only social meeting place. The Society was a small one but there was keen competition for “favourite pews” and a ballot had to be taken. “Pew Rents” were the fashion of the time.

The first caretaker was Mr. J. Hammond, affectionately known as “Pop” who went on to faithfully serve the Church and Society for 32 years.



*Thomas Robinson, Secretary of the Building Committee*



*Fulwood Wesleyan Methodist Church foundation stone laying, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1911*

The coming of the 1914-1918 war brought changes by the influx of men to Fulwood Barracks. As many as 300 men would swell the morning congregation and all would watch as they formed ranks and marched back to the Barracks. Friendship, comfort and kindness were shown to many men far from home by people of Fulwood. There was a change of ministerial care when the Rev. J. Colliver Williams arrived in 1914.

After the war attendances at Church declined, especially at the evening services and the membership sank to 70. The Society Stewards at that time, David Jones and W. Parkinson, devoted much time to visiting Church members and others and numbers steadily increased. In 1919, Neville Hamilton Barron arrived in Fulwood with his family. Although he and his family eventually moved to Ashton his wonderful work at Fulwood continued. He organised a Young Men's class which became a Young People's class, the Fraternal which met on Monday evening for badminton and table tennis, and the Fireside Circle which met on Wednesday in the parlour round a coal fire. He wrote musical plays such as "Harvest time at Fulwood Lodge" and his charisma and influence on the young people over a period of 20 years cannot be over estimated.

The debt of £2,500.00 on the Church having been finally cleared in 1926, helped by a bazaar at Moor Park in 1925, the Trustees decided to proceed with the building of the Sunday School in 1927. This had been envisaged in the original plan. The estimated cost was £3,500.00 and £1,047.00 was already subscribed. Stones were laid on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1928 by Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Smith of Windermere, Miss Nora Robinson, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Plumb, Mrs. G. Toulmin, Mrs. J.P. Smith, Mrs. Willmoth, Mrs. Bannister, Mrs. Hodge, Mrs. Berry and Mr. C. Roberts. Another ceremony was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1928 for officials and Sunday School members. The building was opened on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1929 by the Rev. Edward Greaves who was presented with a gold key. The Superintendent of the Sunday School at that time was Mr. Milford Briggs.

Mr. J.P. Smith gave the land at the rear of the premises, now fronting onto Highgate Avenue, as a deed of gift to the Trustees in 1929!

1932 saw the union of Primitive, United and Wesleyan Methodists and so Fulwood Wesleyan Methodist became Fulwood Methodist.

The Junior Guild was begun by Mrs. Meadowcroft and continued by Mrs. Rawlinson and a Senior Guild met at the close of the Junior meeting. Successful bazaars were held in 1930, 1934 and 1938 to clear the financial debt on the Sunday School premises.

The ladies had a class meeting each Wednesday afternoon followed by the Ladies Tea organised by Mrs. F.W. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was the dynamic force leading the ladies in all the fund raising efforts in the '30s.





*Church Family Field Day circa 1912*



*First Sunday School Teachers, 1912*



*Church Choir, early 1920s*



*Children's Tea Party, Preston Guild 1922*

A feature of the 1930s was the Christmas Parcel scheme inaugurated by Neville Barron, and carried out by the young people. Food and necessities were delivered to needy families in the Circuit in the lean years of the 30s. There was also a group called “The Fulwood Players” who performed Missionary Plays at the Churches in the Circuit for Missionary Funds.

In 1932 Mr. Tom Howard moved from Walton-le-Dale with his wife and family to Fulwood. In 1934 he became the Choirmaster and served with distinction for 20 years. Under his guidance the Choir reached a high standard of performance leading the worship each Sunday and giving much appreciated concerts.

So 25 years had elapsed and the Silver Jubilee was held in 1937 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September. There was a tea and a cake. The Rev. Shirley Cumberland gave a lecture on “Lax of Poplar” and led the Sunday Services.

Tribute must be paid to all the people who made Fulwood a reality and gave unstintingly of their time and talents in the service of their Lord. We must remember Mr. Tom Robinson and Mr. John Rawlinson, teacher and choirmaster for five years, both of whom had served the Church from its beginning.



*Sunday School Stone Laying, May 5<sup>th</sup> 1928*





*Junior Guild Concert 1933*



*Choir Outing 1933*

## THE YEARS OF GROWTH 1937 – 1962

The congregation had slowly but steadily increased over the first 25 years of its life and it was decided that the time had come to establish Fulwood as a Church with its own Minister. The Trustees and Leaders with Mr. J. Willmoth as Chairman decided that they could increase the financial contribution to the Circuit from £268.00 to £388.00. This was accepted by the Circuit and the Rev. A.E. Folley was transferred from Wesley Chapel (which was to become a Clubland Church) to Fulwood in September 1939. It was a fortunate circumstance that the Wesley Manse was in Victoria Road in Fulwood.

War was declared in 1939 and there were dark days ahead. Mothers and children were evacuated from London and Manchester and billeted in Fulwood homes. Our premises were used as a day school and the evacuees also attended Church and Sunday School.

Lancashire County Council established a Library in the room alongside the kitchen which still bears the title today. The room on the left of the entrance porch was "The Firewatching Room". Six bunks were installed and there was a firewatching rota. Six young ladies from Fulwood kept watch every Friday night after the dustmen on Thursday night. The A.R.P. Wardens on duty would call in for supper at 10 o'clock.

The Government felt that something must be done to occupy the children and young people in Wartime. At Fulwood it was decided to start the uniformed organisations and Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts met for the first time in 1942. The Rev. A.E. Foley vigorously encouraged these activities and brought the Youth Centre into being. Classes for Folk Dancing, Drama, Handicrafts, Badminton and Table Tennis were held each night of the week. The Sunday School which met on Sunday afternoon decided to start the "Order of the Morning Star" to encourage the children to attend Church on Sunday mornings. The Junior and Senior Guilds had ceased to meet in the mid 30's and although there was an "Inters" Guild for a short time it was not until 1945 that the Wesley Guild was re-established.

The Rev. A.E. Foley was an energetic visitor, attendance increased, and new life and spirit began to flow through the Church. The accent was on youth and youth activities. Mr. & Mrs. Foley, Frank and Joan, left us in 1945 to be followed by the Rev. John Carter, his wife Helen, Rosalind and Richard. In 1945 a new Trust was formed when for the first time ladies became members. In 1946 it was decided to create a fund for a new organ and when in 1948 a fire destroyed the piano and damaged the organ and harmonium, the matter became extremely urgent. The fire was caused by an electrical fault but due to prompt



*Choir Trip, 1947*



*Fulwood Methodist Sunday School Staff Anniversary 1950*





*Church Service with Rev. John Carter, circa 1950*



*The Choir with the Choirmaster Mr. Tom Howarth and Rev. and Mrs John Carter, 1951*

action by the Caretaker and Mr. J. Eaves, Chapel Steward, more serious damage was prevented.

An organ was purchased from a church at Barrow on the recommendations of Wilkinsons of Kendal. The organ was re-built and dedicated on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1951 by the Rev. John Carter. An organ recital was given on this occasion by Dr. Reginald Dixon of Lancaster. A vivid memory remains of the gentleman wearing high-heeled boots and an earring. The total cost was £2,427.00. £503.00 was allowed by the insurance company but there was a debt at £300.00 which Mr. J.P. Smith, with his usual generosity, cancelled.

The Women's Fellowship was formed in 1945, since when it has contributed much to the life and service of the Church.

Preston Guild Celebrations were held in 1952, postponed for 10 years by the war. Led by the Rev. John Carter and his wife Helen, Fulwood Methodist Church took part in the Nonconformist Procession of witness, one of several which took place daily. Members and children of the Sunday School also took part and the latter presented colourful and striking tableaux. Over all floated the Church banner painted by Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Cooke, two members of the Women's Fellowship. With this event we said farewell to John Carter with great sadness but with many lovely memories of his kindness and caring concern for the Church Family.

The Rev. T.E. Earis and his wife Edith joined us together with Margaret, Roger, John and Deryk. He was vigorous and forthright and did much to encourage the young people. The Manse was open to them each Sunday evening for discussion and fellowship and he also took them on holiday to the Continent. Mr. Earis was also involved with the foundation of the Fulwood Over 60s Club which began meeting on our premises on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1955.

In 1955 plans were submitted to the Trustees for much needed alterations to and extensions of the premises. The original estimate was £4,000.00 and although £1,000.00 was given anonymously, this was thought to be too costly and the plans were modified. The scheme eventually cost £3,386.00. The Rev. T. Earis was succeeded in 1957 by the Rev. Ronald Jobling, his wife Jean and daughter Margaret. Mr. Jobling continued and extended the excellent work done by Mr. Earis with the Youth Fellowship Group. They took services, visited hospitals, trained as local preachers and two young men, Ian Sumner and David Halstead, offered for the ministry. The Men's Fireside came into being in 1958 and flourished for a few years.

In 1958, worship in the Church was enriched when the oak cross was suspended over the Communion Table in front of the blue curtain and blue carpeting was





*Sunday School Concert 1952*



*Guild Procession, 1952*

placed in the communion area. A crèche was started so that parents could worship while babies and toddlers were cared for.

In 1959, a start was made on the extension scheme which included a “Quite Room”, new toilets, a door to the east transept of the Church and a central hatch to the hall from the kitchen. After a “Ship” effort and gift day, the extension was dedicated by the Rev. Ronald Jobling in July 1960.

Further necessary expense was incurred when the central heating was converted to oil burning and dry rot had to be combated. Then the Church was redecorated and the Chancel recarpeted in time for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of 1962.

The choir, under the expert guidance of Mr. Brian Cryer and accompanied by Mrs. E.I. Beardsworth, won the Lancashire County Choral Festival for Church Choirs in 1961.

Another 25 years had passed and praise and thanks to God were given for 50 eventful and productive years. Many people had laboured in the vineyard among whom must be mentioned Mr. W. Willmoth, active from the beginning and Trust Secretary for 18 years; Mr. J.P. Smith, Chapel Steward, involved from the beginning, who gave so generously to the Church he loved; Mr. J. Eaves, Chapel Steward for 25 years; and Mr. A.R. Seed, Trust Secretary for 11 years. We asked God’s blessing on our Ministers who led us so faithfully and paid tribute to the Rev. and Mrs. F. Taylor who in retirement at Fulwood, continued to inspire and care for us.



*The Opening of the Quiet Room, 1960*

## **The Years of Expansion: 1962 – 1987**

The period began with a membership of 331, the highest ever recorded. With great regret we said farewell to the Rev. R. Jobling in 1963 and paid tribute to his careful guidance through the maze of the extension period and his happy faith in all spiritual matters. He was followed by the Rev. Clifford Chesworth, his wife Doreen, Kingsley, Raymond and Martyn.

In 1964 the practice of reading the Church notices from the pulpit ceased and from that time they have been printed. Family worship was inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1964 when the children joined in the early part of the service and then departed for Sunday School. In that year also the Young Wives began to meet fortnightly and the group has flourished ever since making a significant contribution to the life of the Church.

There had been a rapid turnover of caretakers for some years but in 1965 Mrs. E. Lambert was appointed, and she has served us faithfully in many ways for 22 years. In this period dry rot continued to be a problem and special appeals were made to cover the cost of repairs. The Women's Fellowship generously gave the carpet for the Church aisles.

A momentous decision was taken to hold a Stewardship Campaign in 1965 when Time, Talents and Treasure were dedicated to God and the service of His Church. Following the campaign a team of visitors was organised to be responsible for pastoral visitation. Mr. Stanley Maxwell made a gift to the Church of the Floodlights in 1966.

In 1967 a bus service was routed in the Wimpey estate area to bring people to morning Worship. As a result Church attendance greatly increased, the Sunday School was full to overflowing and was later named the Junior Church. The Youth Fellowship held monthly Sunday morning Prayer meetings and participated in deeply devotional sessions each Sunday evening at the Manse. They raised money at the Saturday morning car wash and joined in sponsored walks; one being to Lytham in aid of a Home in Kenya.

It was felt that a Deaconess would give a further impetus to our cause and Sister Julia Pallett joined us. Unfortunately, due to illness, she only remained with us for one year. A Toddlers' Club was formed where mothers could relax and chat on Friday mornings while little ones played. It has thrived for 20 years. There were House groups which fulfilled a need. The Wesley Guild was renamed The Wednesday Club and took on a new image and added interest. The room which had been known as the Choir Vestry was converted for use as the Church Office.

In the Summer of 1967 Mr. and Mrs. Chesworth and the boys visited Kansas, America and in exchange we welcomed the Rev. and Mrs. Niles and their son. The following year Mr. Chesworth arranged the first Spring holiday when Fulwood members could enjoy fellowship together at a Guest House. This continued for 10 years. In 1970 Mr. and Miss Maxwell generously donated a new amplification system for the Church. Leaflets were distributed to the new Broadwood estate in 1972 and brought some response.

The accent in this period up to the Diamond Jubilee in 1972 had to be on maintaining the Church fabric. A new boiler was installed and the tower and west wall on the Church were pointed in 1966 and the east wall in 1972. The paths surrounding the Church were re-surfaced and the Church was re-decorated. Finances were strained to the limit.

Mr. Harry Duckworth, FRCO, LRAM, ARCM, was appointed organist and choirmaster. He set a high standard for the choir and for 15 years our worship has been enriched by music of the highest quality.

Twenty years had passed and there was another Preston Guild. 350 people from Fulwood witnessed in the procession and tableaux. The overall theme for the Free Church Witness was "Who is my Neighbour?". One little group from our Junior Church portraying the Good Samaritan, complete with donkey, had great difficulty in coaxing it over every zebra crossing!

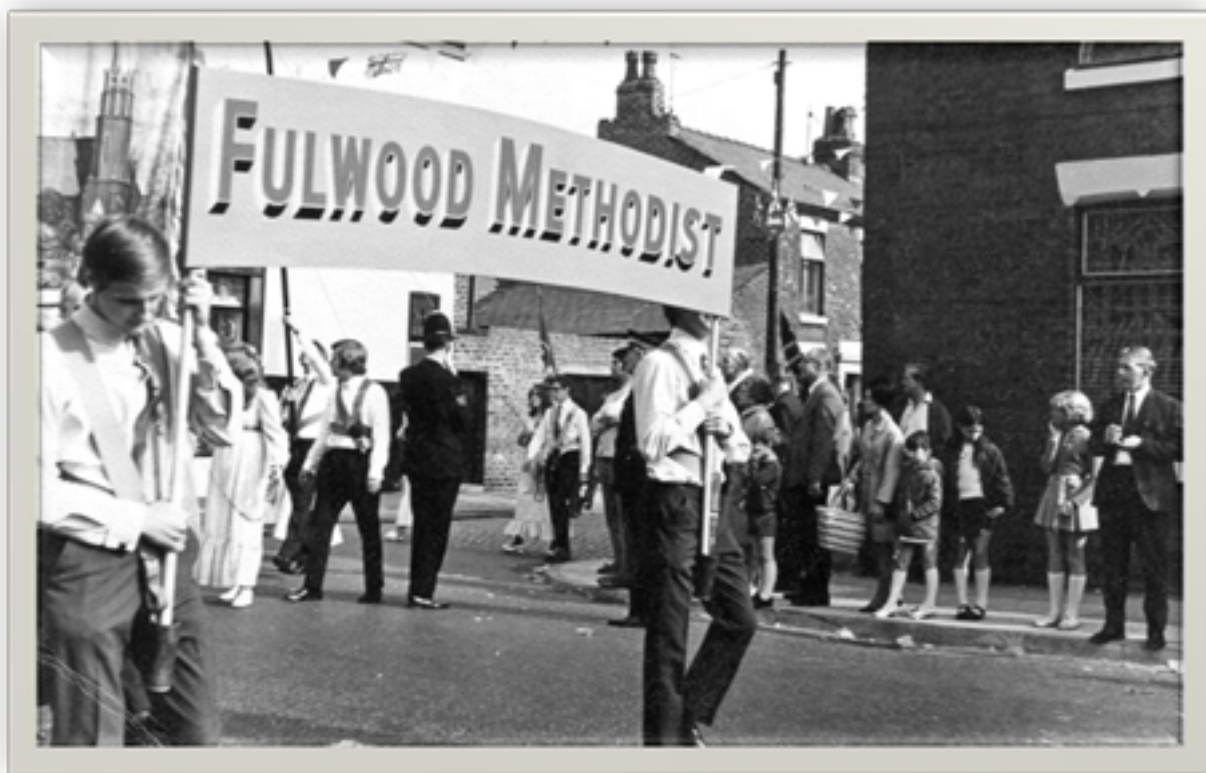
The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated on Sunday 24 September with Services conducted by Mr. Chesworth and a buffet tea in the Church hall. The following week there was a Church party and a concert given by the Choir.

In 1974 re-structuring of the Methodist Church took place when the Church Council replaced the Trust Committee and the Leaders Meeting. The various departments functioned with their own committees. In that year we sadly said farewell to the Rev. C. Chesworth and paid tribute to his drive, energy and enthusiasm which led us onward and outward to fresh fields of commitment and service. In his place we welcomed the Rev. Michael Wearing, his wife Elizabeth, Paula and Jonathan.

Teenmeet was the new name for the Young People's group which met on Sunday evening. "Canticle" was the name for a group with guitar accompaniment which sang for Church services and meetings.

In 1975 the Church bus route was extended to serve estates in the Sharoe Green area. Ecumenical affairs took a step forward when the Sisters at Lark Hill Convent invited the Young Wives, Women's Fellowship and The Wednesday Club to a service of prayer for Christian Unity. Christ Church and the United Reform Church joined us in a Holy Week service and there were pulpit exchanges with other de-nominations.





*Chris Porter (l) and Martyn Chesworth (r) lead the Fulwood Methodist Guild procession, 1972*



*Church Choir, with Harry Duckworth, early '70s*



### *Sponsored Walk along the Canal, 1982*

Two of our young men, Philip Clarke and Bob Kitchen, were ordained in the Ministry. Pastoral visitation of new estates was organised and St. Vincent's area, Highgate Park and Fulwood Park were covered.

The first activity week was organised by the Social Committee when all age groups could take part in competitions, games and activities. This has continued each year. The parlour was refurbished in 1976 with colourful chairs and attractive carpet tiles.

It was felt that more emphasis should be placed on bible study and New English Bibles were donated and placed in the pews in 1977. New Service Books were brought into use and a book stall was established in the Church porch.

It was decided to apply to the Harold Bridges Foundation for a Church minibus. This application was successful and the minibus arrived in 1978. A garage was built and the land at the rear of the Church became a much-needed car park. There were special appeals to cover the financial cost of this work. The Church bus contract was cancelled and the minibus was used to transport people to worship and was used during the week by our Church organisations. The first Church Picnic took place when the minibus and cars departed after the morning service for Bolton Abbey. The day ended with a service at Beamsley Methodist

Church. The picnic has been held each year and Whalley Abbey and Fairhaven have also been venues.

Constant maintenance work on the fabric of the Church continued to be necessary. Practical and valuable work has been done by members of the Church on a cost of materials basis. The School Hall was painted by volunteers in 1980. Our enemy Dry Rot re-appeared and the exterior of the Church was painted in 1981.

The Church's outreach in the community was considerable. Whittingham Hospital was visited regularly and when former residents moved into the area a social evening was arranged in the Parlour and the minibus took them for outings. The Vietnamese Boat people arrived in the area in 1980 and Fulwood and Ingol people undertook to furnish one house. A Friends and Neighbours group was formed and regular services were held at Meadowfield, a Home for the Elderly.

A New World Mission took place in 1981 when the Rev. Byron Wilkinson from America visited our Church. Sunday services and weekday activities emphasised the Mission within the Church and the outreach to the community, leading to personal commitment.

In 1981 we regretfully bade farewell to the Rev. M. Wearing and expressed appreciation of this work and dedication at Fulwood which showed in the deepening of the spiritual life of the Church. He was followed by the Rev. Geoffrey Warburton, his wife Jean, Helen and Paul.

A group of members from Fulwood travelled abroad on holiday to the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1980, to Israel in 1982, and again in 1986. The first Church Christmas meal at Whalley Abbey was arranged in 1982 and this happy event has continued each year.

A group of children from Belfast came on a holiday in 1982 and were welcomed into Fulwood homes. Pastoral visitation was extended to Ribbleton Hospital when the Rev. G. Warburton became chaplain.

A Property Appeal was launched to deal with the ever-increasing repairs necessary to maintain the fabric of the Church. A new gas-fired boiler was installed; the south walls of the Church and School were pointed; the south window of the Church was re-leaded and double-glazed; the slates on the east side of the Church roof were re-nailed; the Church was re-decorated and the organ was overhauled.

In 1983 the AM group came into being – a retired Men's Fellowship for men of the Church and neighbourhood. YPF – the Young People's Fellowship – was the name for the group meeting after Church. It was decided to order copies of





*AM Club trip to Jodrell Bank, mid. '80s.*



*The Cub football team wins the Cub Challenge Cup, 1987.*



the new Methodist Hymn Book – Hymns and Psalms – and invite members to buy one for the Church. A cleaning rota was established to relieve Mrs Lambert of cleaning duties.

A new approach to Stewardship Renewal was made in 1984 when informal coffee evenings were held in approximately 30 homes in the neighbourhood. Later in the year we were happy to welcome members from Moor Park into the fellowship of Fulwood when Moor Park closed. The Rev. Geoffrey Warburton became the Superintendent of the Circuit in 1985. Church membership stood at 430.

Fulwood has been “missionary minded” from the early years. Children collected each Sunday and the Overseas Missions Society and Women’s Work contributed much to the Methodist Missionary Society. We had our own missionary in the field when Miss Elsie Fielding went out as Sister Tutor to the Wesley Guild Hospital at Segbwema, Ilesha, Nigeria after the war in the 1940s. She was there for 10 years. In 1985 £1,305 was given to the World Service and Mission Fund of which £1,017 was raised by Junior Missionary Association collectors. In 1986 the Methodist Missionary Society celebrated 200 years of work overseas at Trentham Gardens and a coach load from Fulwood joined in the celebrations. We now sponsor Miss Patricia Butler for two years with VSO while she is working as a radiographer at the Gedarof Hospital in the Sudan.

In October 1985 a Renewal Programme was arranged entitled “Growing Together”. Mr Warburton and four invited ministers preached each Sunday and the theme for each week was pursued in 30 House Groups. During this period we were joined by a team of students from Cliff College. People were challenged to think about their commitment to God and his Church. Four permanent House Groups emerged from this series.

What of today? Each Sunday morning the New Testament lesson is read by a member of the congregation. Mr. Graham Jackson now plays the organ admirably on Sunday mornings in term time while Mr. Duckworth attends to his school duties. Work among children in the Junior Church and among the Young People progresses well. The Uniformed Organisations are flourishing. The Young People’s Fellowship meets after Church each Sunday evening and a Young Adults group has been formed. The Young Wives, Women’s Fellowship, Wednesday Club and AM Groups continue to meet and are well attended. There is a Prayer Group each Wednesday evening. Ecumenical activities are increasing. Ministers from other denominations have joined Panels for questions and discussions. Ecumenical House Groups have been formed in the neighbourhood and the feasibility of the Fulwood and Broughton Council of Churches entering into a Local Covenant is being explored. The Church family

at Fulwood is indeed fortunate to be placed in the pastoral care of our well-loved minister, the Rev. Geoffrey Warburton.

Maintenance work on the property is an on-going concern. Measures have been taken to prevent the roof of the hall, parlour and vestry from “spreading”. A new amplification system has been installed and staging modules have been prepared for the Church. Dry rot has emerged once again and has been treated at a cost of £6,000.

Now we approach 75 years of worship and witness in our Fulwood Methodist Church. We have tried to be “constant in the house of the Lord”, and we would like to say, like our founder John Wesley “The World is my parish”. We look forward to the future and we look back and thank God for all who have made the present a reality. It is not possible to mention everyone but there are those who must not be left out. Mrs. Lily Rawlinson, wife of John, who was a founder member, teacher and leader; Mr. Albert Atherton who came as a boy to “blow the organ” and remained to become active and to hold office in every aspect of Church and Circuit life; Mr. Austen Speight who worked so hard for the Sunday School as teacher and Superintendent, as Church and Circuit Steward; Mr. Edgar Blackburn, constant in the choir, signwriter and photographer, who used his talents in the service of his Church; Miss Dorothy Fielding who was Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years and Church Treasurer for 16 years. Dorothy was born the year Fulwood opened and grew up with the Church she loved; Mrs. Greta Broadley, whose life and witness in the Church were an inspiration to all who knew her; Mr. Norman Lambert, Sunday School Secretary, Scoutmaster and trustee who was a little boy when the Church opened; Mrs. Shirley Ferris, daughter of Albert and Connie Atherton and wife of Keith, whose life was like a bright shining star, epitomising her love for others and her God. She was constant and dedicated as Junior Church Superintendent, invaluable in her work for the Church Office records and as Secretary to the Circuit meeting.

Their joy unto their Lord we bring;  
Their song to us descendeth;  
The spirit who is them did sing  
To us his music lendeth;  
His song in them, in us, is one;  
We raise it high, we send it on,  
The song that never endeth.

## **The Years of Change: 1987 – 2012**

Looking back to 1987 from the vantage point of 2012 we see a buoyant Fulwood Methodist Church eagerly awaiting its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Church had grown from its inception at the start of the twentieth century, and had become an established part of the Fulwood scene and a leading element within Preston Methodism. A vibrant church life provided many outlets for worship and socialising for its 400 plus members.

However, it is clear that the state of the church fabric was of concern, with many warnings and pleas for support for its upkeep. This was to become a major issue and challenge for the Church over the next 25 years.

In 1987 we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Today, Geoffrey Warburton, our Minister at the time, remembers: “I was minister when we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We released hundreds of balloons, sent up to share our confidence in the Good News about Jesus. As far as I can remember we only heard about one that landed in Bolton. I have no doubt that they need the Good News in Bolton, but I rejoice with you that over 100 years the message, embodied in the life of the Church, has spread through the lives of its people to the end of the earth.” To mark our 75th anniversary we had TWO birthday cakes which were ceremoniously cut by Joan Hardman and Ernest Walters in a “This is Your Life” style celebration for the Church. During this event, ably compered by Geoff Oldham, members of our congregation presented their memories of the Church. At the end of the evening the epilogue was led by three of our ministers, past and present, along with their wives, namely Jean and Geoffrey Warburton, Ronald and Jean Jobling and Clifford and Doreen Chesworth.

In 1987 a new amplification system was installed in the church and new motorised valves were installed in the heating system; a pay-phone was installed in the corridor between the church and the hall.

The Methodist Church in Recklinghausen became our partner church in 1987. Before his recent death Derek Clarke, who was the principal organiser at Fulwood, remembered: “It all started when seven of their members, including their pastor Siegfried Ermlich, were invited to visit us and were given accommodation by members of our congregation in their own houses. Our return visit took place two years later and again we were housed in private homes. These visits turned out to be very successful so the future of twinning with the Recklinghausen Church was decided to take place on a two yearly basis. There were two exceptions to this: one year in the early '90s Fulwood could not find private accommodation to house them. This was due to the Methodist Conference being held in Blackpool that year when accommodation



*Two 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cakes!*



*Joan Hardman and Ernest Walter do the honours overseen by Rev.  
Michael Wareing*



was at a premium. The many ministers that attended the Conference had been already allocated their accommodation so they were not available for our German friends. Then, in the late '90s, a similar occurrence took place and they could not put our side up because they were very much involved in the opening of their new extension. The visits enabled each side to see how our partners worked in their respective communities and gave the opportunity of worshipping together. There was also opportunity of seeing the sights in the surrounding district and of longer visits to see prime areas. For instance, coach journeys to places like the Lake District, York, Chester and Liverpool.” A close link with our friends in Recklinghausen continues to this day.

In 1988 Michael Wearing, our minister from 1974 to 1981, returned to Preston as Chairman of what was then the North Lancashire District. Michael writes, “Elizabeth was delighted to meet up with friends again and transferred her membership to Fulwood. She joined the choir and valued the opportunity to prepare and help to make music for the worship on Sundays. She found a deep and caring fellowship among the choir members in those days – a very devoted group. Moreover, together they had a great deal of fun!”

January 1988 saw Fulwood become one of the six (now eight) covenanted Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton. Ann Done, who has been closely involved with this Covenant since its inception writes: “The aim of these Churches - Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed - was to form and develop friendships between members of the various congregations. Since the covenant signing, a range of activities have been undertaken; visits have been made to the majority of the cathedral cities in the north of England including Carlisle, York and Durham; ecumenical house groups have been formed; ecumenical processions have been held between the various participating churches; and a real sense of unity and fellowship has been established. Arising out of these house groups came the desire that we should work together on a community project and, following an approach to the Chaplain at Royal Preston Hospital – Rev. John Bolton – the Information and Welcome Desk was established in the hospital foyer in 1996. Originally there were over 70 volunteers from all the churches and the scheme continues today providing a service to out-patients and visitors alike”.

The following year, on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1989, Fulwood changed from being part of the Trinity Circuit to part of the Preston Circuit and we said a fond farewell to our much loved and respected minister Geoffrey Warburton. Geoffrey was succeeded by the Rev. John Beardsley, who joined us along with his wife Eileen. They remember: “We were both impressed by the range of age group activities in the church at this time. There was a large Junior Church and a variety of youth groups, as well as meetings for men and women. Eileen particularly appreciated the lively and enthusiastic Ladies After Eight Group.

Not so easy to deal with at times was the large variety of approaches to theology, music, worship and just about everything else! It occasionally seemed as if there were three or four *different* Fulwoods! John's conviction that it is good to be a pluralistic church was much tested."

During this year we paid tribute to Mrs. Lambert as she relinquished her role as caretaker. For some 24 years Mrs. Lambert had faithfully carried out her role in the service of her Church, and she was to be missed although happily she was able to continue providing her renowned hot-pots for various church "dos".

In 1990 we installed a new carpet in the main church, and in 1991 we modified the toilet adjacent to the church office for disabled use.

In 1992 we "did our bit" for the Preston Guild. Again Eileen writes, "...the Methodists took an enthusiastic part in the Preston Guild celebrations, working alongside other churches in Fulwood and Broughton on the theme of 'Pilgrims Progress'. For the first time Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists were to process together – Preston was beginning to catch up with the rest of the country in ecumenical matters. What really stands out from the Guild was the open-air service in Avenham Park on a very wet Sunday afternoon, with the national leaders of the churches taking part. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Basil Hume, bless him, took pity on us and abandoned his



***Fulwood Methodist Float 'Pilgrim's Progress', Preston Guild 1992***





*Fulwood Methodist's Beavers, Preston Guild 1992*



*Fulwood Methodist's Rainbows, Preston Guild 1992 (the blue box at the front of the float concealed a portaloo!)*

prepared address in favour of a few words of greeting, but the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, who was himself protected from the elements on the platform, gave us the full works in spite of the downpour. Our Orders of Service were finally reduced to pulp on the front of our anoraks as we ended the occasion by singing ‘Shine, Jesus, Shine’!

In December of 1993 we enjoyed the production of “Mother Goose”, performed by members of our own congregation, ably organised by Delma Whitman. Since then, theatrical performances have gone from strength to strength, with a major performance most years. These include: “Burning Questions” 1995, “Cinderella” 1996, “Robin Hood and his Merry People” 2001. Following that Pantomime, it was decided that, in order to continue the enjoyment and pantomime spirit, a “theatrical group” would be formed called ACTS, (Active Christian Theatre Society). Under Delma’s leadership, ACTS has continued in fine tradition, with Productions including: “Oliver!” 2002, “One of Us” 2002 (clearly a busy year!), “Snow White” 2003, “Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat” 2004, “Jack and the Beanstalk” 2005, “Biblical Mystery Tour” 2006, “Babes in the Wood” 2007, “The Peace Child” 2008, “Burning Questions” this one in 2009 at Ingol Methodist Church, and “Nowtappening or How the Prince Found his Katy” in 2011. These productions have given much pleasure, not only to the audiences, but to the many people involved in the actual performances, whether on stage or in the supporting roles. We are all grateful to all those who give of their time and talents with ACTS.

In 1994, John and Eileen instigated “Birthday Evenings at the Manse”. Each month those with a birthday during that month were welcomed at the Manse for tea, cakes and a natter.

Towards the end of John’s time with us, under a new Methodist scheme, John took a short Sabbatical. John used this time to raise £5,500 for Methodist Homes by walking from Lands End to John O’Groats. We are reliably informed that, now in retirement, John dreams of doing the walk from Dover to Durness (the other diagonal), but at the time of writing has not yet achieved this.

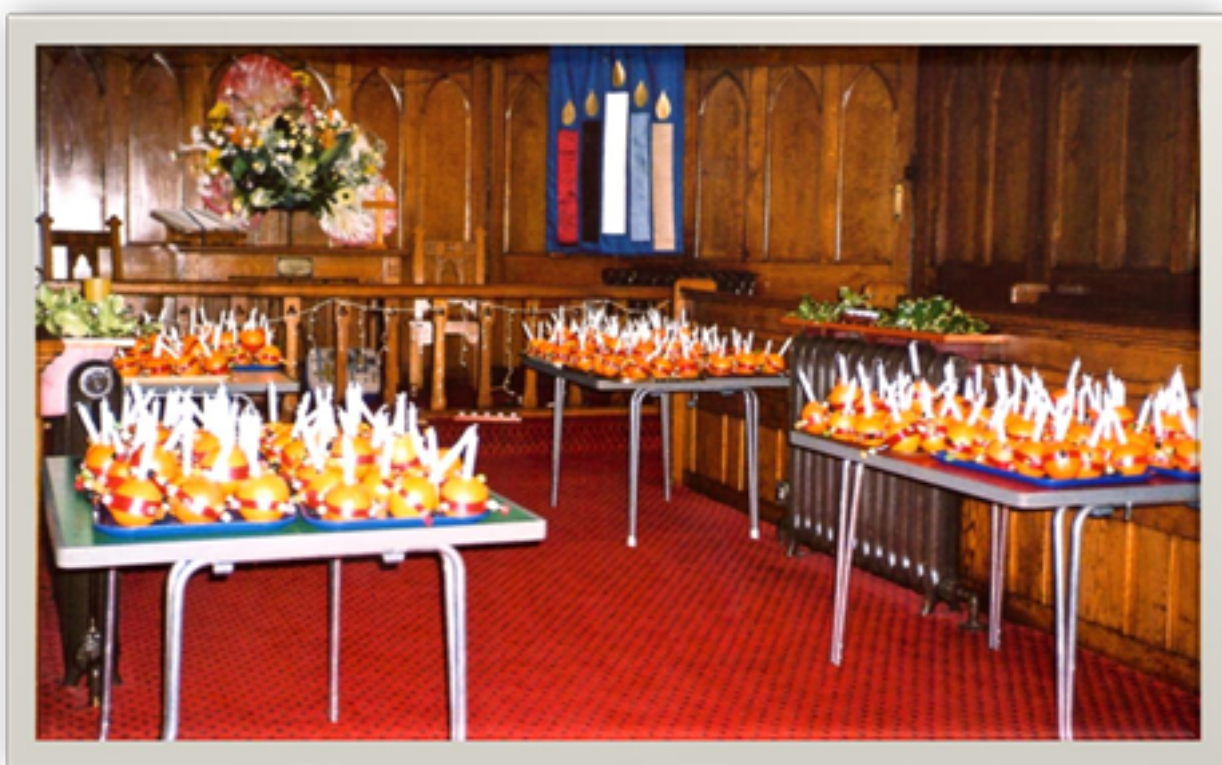
It was during John’s time at Fulwood that we first began to explore the possibility of changes to the premises. For some years, the required upkeep of the church premises had become an ever-increasing burden. Years of active service was taking its toll on the fabric of the building, and the Church Treasurer, Chris Penrith, was signalling that projected income did not balance up against projected outgoings, with a major concern being the cost of upkeep of the buildings themselves. There was also a strong body of opinion that, although the Church buildings had provided good service over the years since the opening of the Church, new forms of worship and a desire to further increase outreach into the surrounding community required modifications to the



Church buildings. It would be wrong to say that there was wide-spread initial enthusiasm for this, but the seeds had been sown for subsequent bold developments.

In 1996 we said our sad farewells to John and Eileen Beardsley, as John went south to take up the position of Superintendent in the Cheltenham circuit. In John's place we welcomed the Rev. Stephen Poxon, his wife Sister Myrtle, a deaconess within the Church, and their children Matthew, Tamara, Daniel and Joseph. We were not to know that Stephen would only spend a relatively short time as our minister, as he was bound for Higher Office.

For Christmas 1997, Stephen introduced a Christingle service. Having asked Janet Porter to organise the production of some 150 Christingles, the first Christingle service was held in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and Christingles were handed out to everyone who attended. There was an element of 'family-hold-back' as no-one was quite sure whether we had made enough Christingles to go around, but 150 turned out to be about right. This service has continued to this day, with Janet handing the reins over to Louise Brown in 2010. Always a popular service, it was particularly pleasing to see additional seating being required for the 2011 service during which over 350 Christingles were distributed, which I think we may take as a sign of success!



*Christingles Galore*

In the summer of 1999 we shared in an American exchange of pastorates. Stephen exchanged churches with a minister of the United Methodist Church in Manchester (of all places!), Pennsylvania, for six weeks. During this time Keith and Diane Schmuck and their 17 year old son Jason came to live in the manse and shared in the life of our Church. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Church at Fulwood to understand something of our sister Church in the USA and to share in a different approach to ministry.

The year 2000 was an important year not only for the nation as we celebrated the Millenium, but also for Fulwood Methodist Church. Those discussions and vague plans since John Beardsley's time about redeveloping the building which had served us well for almost 90 years became more focussed. On 28<sup>th</sup> November 1999 the General Church Council agreed to the proposal to redevelop the church and, in 2000 under Stephen's guidance, building plans were drawn up for a major redevelopment of the premises. Meetings with the Methodist Property Division and representatives from the Lottery Fund were held and it seemed likely that there were funds potentially of about £1M to be had. The overall proposed cost of the project was £1.7M, leaving the church membership to cover the remaining balance. The scheme would have led to a 2-storey building in place of the Sunday School Hall and rooms as well as a total redesign of the interior of the church.



*Walk across Morecambe Bay, Sister Myrtle centre-right*

It was with much regret that we said farewell to Stephen as he took up the reins as Chair of the North Lancashire Methodist District. However more steps up were to follow for Myrtle and Stephen. We were all delighted to hear in 2003 that Myrtle was to become the Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2004-5. Not to be outdone, Stephen became President of the Methodist Conference 2008-9. Stephen and Myrtle are the only married couple (so far!) to have held both of these important posts, and we at Fulwood are very proud of them and of our association with them.

We were unable to be offered a replacement minister for Stephen in 2000, so for twelve months we were under the care of the Reverend Tony Farrar, Superintendent at Ashton, and Ian Hu, a minister-in-training at that time at Lea.

It was with great joy, and not a little relief, that we welcomed the Rev. Peter Sheasby, his wife Christine and daughter Anna, to our Church in September 2001. With a challenging project to redevelop the Church on our hands, a great deal of our efforts over the next ten years would be associated with raising funds for the new development and in coping with the upheaval that would inevitably ensue. Fund raising for this scheme formally began with a public exhibition and launch in May 2001 with the fund raising continuing for a number of years.

Unforeseen to all, however, a recession was looming and our plans proved unsustainable. When the recession hit, the majority of the grant making trusts drastically cut back on their grants and the lottery rules changed. In July 2005 a special Church meeting discussed the changed circumstances of the Development Fund when it was realised that the original plans were now not attainable. This meant that in the end the Church still needed to raise substantial sums, but without much of the other grant funding which had been expected the building plans would have to be altered to a more manageable size.

Len Fletcher takes up the story of the church re-development. "So, after further consideration of our intentions for the premises we made a short list of six firms of architects based in the North West, all with appropriate past experience in ecclesiastical buildings. They were invited to meet a small "Development Group" from the church, hear our plans and then come back with a simple outline of their ideas, interpreting what they had been told. This work was to be kept simple and to be done at no cost to the church. One firm withdrew at once, unwilling to do any work for no fee at all.

"The remaining five firms came back individually to meet the group and present their first sketch ideas in discussion with us. Each meeting took quite some time as we jointly tested the suggestions against our needs. All five, in different ways, were possible approaches respecting the existing buildings while moving forward to interpret what we were seeking.





*'Building Together' Launch, 2001*



*Balloon launch, 2001*



“At the end of this process we selected two of the five for further exploration, among other criteria selecting the two firms with whom we felt we would develop a comfortable working relationship. Those two firms returned with schemes worked up further and after careful consideration the group recommended to the Church the Clitheroe practice of IWA Architects, led by principal Ivan Wilson. Ivan is a practising Christian with long experience in design of new buildings and alterations to older church premises for several denominations.”

With the appointment of IWA Architects at the start of 2007, the concentration was now on providing increased hall space and some new meeting rooms; renewing the heating system and seeing what roof works needed doing; refreshing the front of church to make it more suitable for modern worship, and providing a better, more welcoming entrance. All this within a revised estimate of about £750,000.

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007 we held a Big 100k Weekend, aimed at refreshing our Building Together programme (as our development scheme was now called), reviewing the new plans to redevelop the premises, and recommitting to the vision for our church in the community. During the Saturday, our architect was present to answer questions on the plans and to listen to our feedback. In the evening the Cambourne Circuit Ladies Choir, who had offered to visit Fulwood in support of our efforts, entertained about one hundred folk in a very well received programme. In our worship on Sunday morning, we were able to dedicate the gifts and pledges made over the weekend which came to over £90,000. Lunch in the church hall and an evening Communion service rounded off a very successful weekend.

In May of 2008 we finally got our planning permission and the process of drawing up the detailed plans was started, and in 2009 we reached the stage when building was ready to start! On 1<sup>st</sup> April (a date that certain of our ‘wags’ commented upon!) we moved out of our church and surrendered it into the tender hands of our builders. This was a major milestone for us, and one that had seemed a long time a-coming. Over the next 15 months the weekly Sunday morning worship was held at St. Pius X Preparatory School, less than half a mile away, up Garstang Road. Evening services were held jointly with the URC congregation on Symonds Road, and thanks to the help and support of other surrounding Churches providing us with space, all of the usual church meetings continued. We were able to keep track of the progress of the building work via the internet. John Butterworth and Barry Crossley regularly braved the building site with camera and hard hat, and posted pictures for us to view on flickr.com. [I am conscious that a reader from 100 years ago, even 25 years ago, would be completely lost by the last two sentences. I wonder how they will be viewed in another one hundred years.]

The great day for us to return to our newly re-furbished church finally arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010. On that Sunday the congregation met at St. Pius X School and paraded down Garstang Road to worship in the renewed premises. For many it was their first real view of the work and there was great pleasure at what had been achieved. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the church was joined by worshippers from all over Preston and beyond to witness the Church being officially re-opened and rededicated by Rev. Stephen Poxon, in his role as Chair of District. Stephen was full of praise for the new Church and its potential for furthering the work of God in Fulwood. However he warned us not to be too protective of the building. This is a building that has to be used, and in being used it will be bruised: a salutary reminder of our logo “A God-Centred Church, Actively Serving Others”.

During the twelve years of fund raising, ably led for most of this time by Barbara Hothersall and her dedicated team, many different things were tried and it is with some pride that we can say that no event ever made a loss. Fund raising events have covered a vast range of activity and there have been too many to list each one. Individuals raised money through making things, (cakes/crafts), weekly donations of their small change brought to church each week, and through their workplace. Sales of all kinds: cakes, books, plants, crafts, table top, “new to you”, were organised through the year with the annual Autumn Craft Fair and Christmas Fair as flagship events. Concerts with music of all kinds; brass bands, barbershop, choirs, and soloists, have been staged and high profile events such as two Singing Days with John Rutter and a concert at the Guildhall with Grahame Kendrick. There have been talks given by members of the Church family and folk from further afield on a wide range of topics. Events revolving around food proved very popular – the Pudding Club with their puddings and ice creams, the special national Saints’ nights with their suppers both at church and at Preston College, the Murder Mysteries and Safari Supper. Equally popular were barn dances and ceilidhs and musical gigs staged by the Hybrid Flower Monkeys (a Church based band).

The uniformed organisations also supported the fund raising by taking part in family events such as sponsored walks, helping at the Christmas Fair, baking and selling cakes and sponsored knitting. There were several other sponsored events involving individuals, Paula Black’s parachute jump, Janet and Chris Porter’s 2-day kayak trip up the navigable length of the Lancaster canal and John Ferris’ entry in the Great North Run. Ladies After 8 (and friends) walked the Coast to Coast and the St Oswald’s Way and various folk were lead up (and down) Scafell Pike, Snowdon and Ben Nevis by Dave Ridout, the Group Scoutmaster.



*Walk from St. Pius X Preparatory School to Fulwood Methodist Church, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010*



*First Service in the new church, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010*





*Peter & Christine Sheasby*



*New church entrance*



Right from the start of our fund-raising effort we believed that it was important not to forget our usual charitable efforts. Throughout the twelve years, the church has donated 5% of all the money raised from each event to various charities, in our community, this country and around the world.

Money was also raised from pledges, gifts and bequests, supported by interest free loans, and it is our hope that the debt will be paid off by the end of 2012. The total cost in the end was £1,032,000, of which the church will have raised well over £600,000! A final Gift Day will be arranged to coincide with the Centenary celebrations in September 2012.

Raising the money has been hard work but well worthwhile and along the way, Fulwood Methodist has made many friends and shared some wonderful experiences. We now have a splendid building from which to reach out to the community, and one that we are slowly learning how to use.

So what of today as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

Well we continue to hold regular Sunday morning services in church, although nowadays we join with the local URC Church at their premises for the evening service. Our Junior Church is still flourishing; they join in the early part of most services before going out to their own groups. A new 3-year curriculum has been drawn up by the staff under the wise leadership of Janet Wales. Music is an important part of our service, and we are lucky to have an excellent Choir Leader (and organist) in Mavis Fletcher. Over the years Geoffrey Bond has given sterling service as organist and, although he “formally” retired some years ago, he is still a regular contributor to morning services. We have a worship band that regularly take part in our Services and performs more generally under the name of “*Three One Six*” (from John 3:16), playing a mix of music, ranging from rock to ballad style, including many home written songs.

At Christmas we look forward to the coming of the Peace Light from the Holy Land, a lovely tradition started by Peter. A Palestinian Nativity group of characters makes an annual Posada, being hosted in several of our homes before featuring in our Christmas Services. Peter also pioneered the use of electronic audio-visuals during our services and we eagerly look forward to whatever computer animation he has found for us to support the Christmas Day service. Themes running through Advent and Lent have enabled continuity in worship and study groups for the major festivals.

We have active uniformed organisations; comprising Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides; with Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts coming under the leadership of the Group Scout Leader Lesley Thomas. There are also the Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network available on a District basis. Lesley took over this role from Dave Ridout who was a Fulwood stalwart and Scouting enthusiast for many

years before his untimely death. Our thanks go to all who are involved with our Uniformed Organisations, our Junior Church leaders and Youth Club leaders, for the tremendous work that they do with our young people.

During the week we have a wide range of activities, including Men's AM Club, Women's Fellowship, Ladies After 8, a younger women's group called WoW(!) that meets monthly, a very popular Toddlers' Club as well as Scottish Country Dancing and Zumba sessions for the more energetic. As part of our re-invigorated outreach we now open the church up for tea and coffee every Tuesday morning. For several years, Fulwood folk ran the Thrift Shop at Ingol Methodist Church on Wednesdays which was very successful both in terms of outreach and money raised. Sadly this link with Ingol ceased in 2011, but has been replaced with "Welcome Wednesdays", open to and supported by the community, this is a time for light refreshments and lunch with craft and book tables and a nearly new stall along with a space for jigsaw puzzles or board games.

We now know that Peter will be leaving us this September to go to his new appointment as the Superintendent Minister of the Trinity (Retford and Worksop) Circuit. We wish him Godspeed and thank him for his work in shepherding us through the difficult times of the last 11 years. We look forward to welcoming Rev Malcolm Hickox and his wife Christine, from Salisbury, who will arrive to share with the church two very special occasions.

So, one hundred years of worship and service centred at Fulwood Methodist Church is soon to be celebrated. During 2012 Preston will also celebrate another Preston Guild, London will host an Olympics, and the Queen will celebrate 60 years on the throne. Our celebrations will probably not be on quite the same scale as those others; however we will be just as enthusiastic. We will express our gratitude for all of those who have contributed to the worship and work of God at Fulwood, and we will thank God for all of His mercy and goodness that He has shown us over those years. With our new buildings we are now in an excellent position to continue God's work well into what is still a relatively new century. To those who will take over the reins of this task and who, we hope, will look back in 2037 over 125 years of Fulwood Methodist Church's history, we wish you every blessing.

## The Ministers of Fulwood Methodist Church

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>
<b>Rev. C.E. Norman</b>	<b>1912</b>	<b>1914</b>
<b>Rev. J. Colliver Williams</b>	<b>1914</b>	<b>1918</b>
<b>Rev. Joseph S. Baker</b>	<b>1918</b>	<b>1923</b>
<b>Rev. Joseph Henderson</b>	<b>1923</b>	<b>1926</b>
<b>Rev. Stanley Hubbard</b>	<b>1926</b>	<b>1929</b>
<b>Rev. R. Tudno Davies</b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>1931</b>
<b>Rev. Robert Ellison</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>1935</b>
<b>Rev. J. Parry Brooks</b>	<b>1935</b>	<b>1939</b>
<b>Rev. A.E. Folley (First Fulwood-based Minister)</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>1945</b>
<b>Rev. John Carter</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>1952</b>
<b>Rev. T.E Earis</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>1957</b>
<b>Rev. Ronald Jobling</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>1963</b>
<b>Rev. Clifford Chesworth</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>Rev. Michael Wearing</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>1981</b>
<b>Rev. Rev. Geoffrey Warburton</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>Rev. John Beardsley</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>Rev. Stephen Poxon</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Rev. Tony Farrar + Ian Hu</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Rev. Peter Sheasby</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Rev. Malcolm Hickox</b>	<b>2012</b>	

