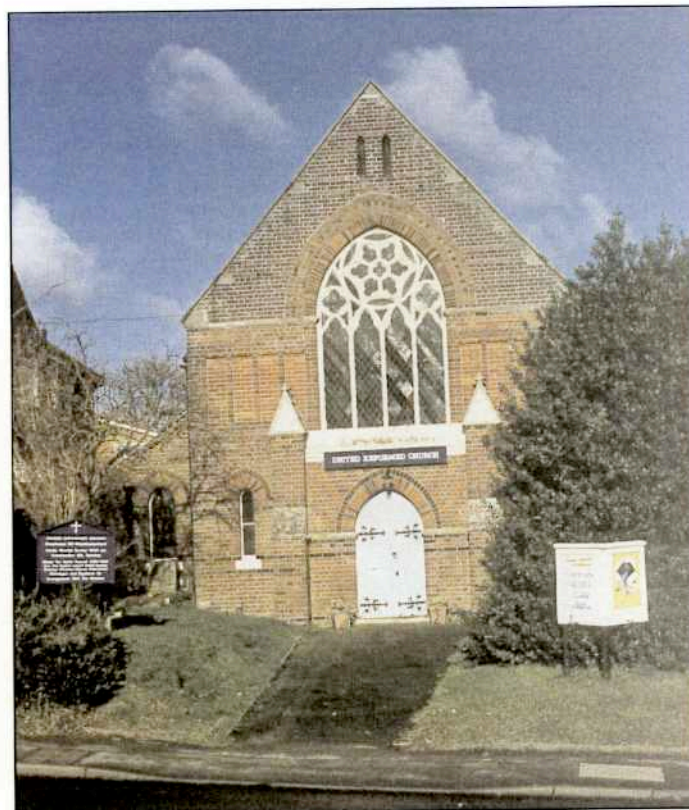
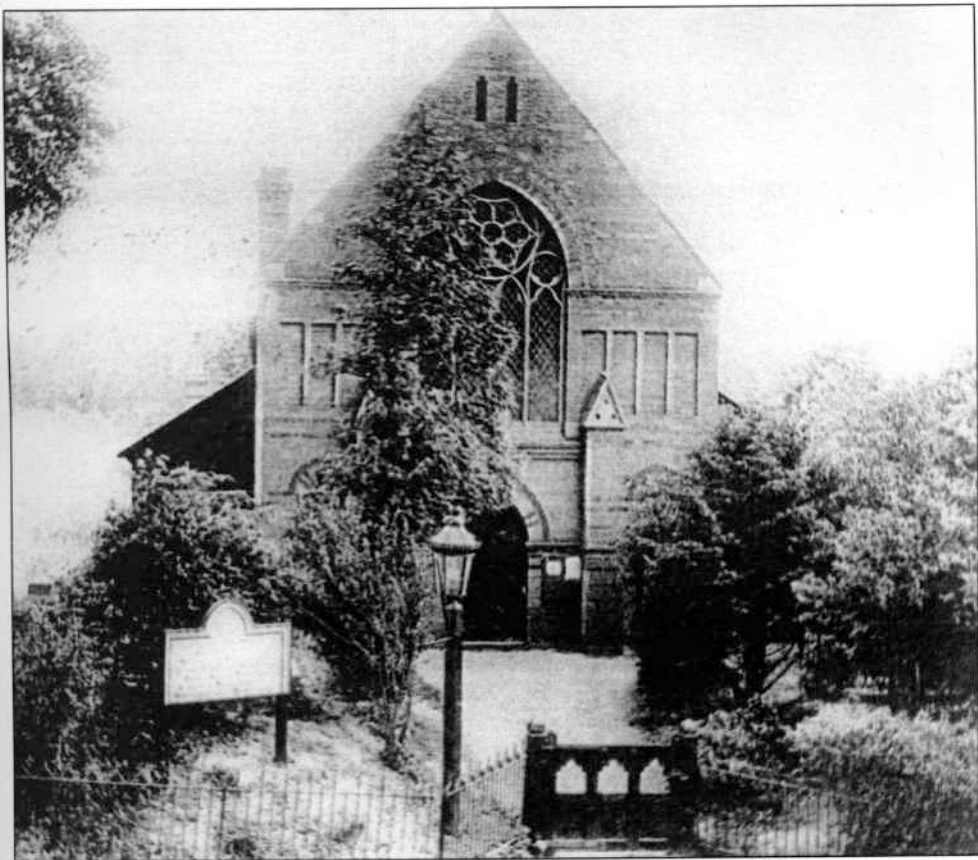


**THE HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH ON BREWHOUSE HILL.
(WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE)
FROM 1690 - 2002**

by DEREK HARRIS





Wheathampstead URC *about 1910*

THE CHURCH ON BREWHOUSE HILL

This booklet is the result of many hours of painstaking research by Derek Harris, our Interim Moderator. This has revealed fascinating information about the early days of our church and the building in which we now worship.

It is a tale of many difficulties, but also of the loyalty and generosity of so many people. The church went through troubled times, but has survived - and will continue to do so.

The more recent past reveals a determination to "forge ahead".... in accordance with the church motto: "FORTH IN THY NAME"

For many years there had been no mention of marriages in the records, but during Martin Truscott's ministry he conducted 3 marriages, and Derek Harris has officiated at 3 more. Several baptisms of children have also taken place.

Visitors frequently comment on our attractive church, and our hall is in constant use by both regular and occasional users.

Although our membership remains static, our aim is to "look to the future and endeavour to maintain our free church presence in Wheathampstead."

It is planned that Rev. Wynn Young will be inducted as our minister on July 13th 2002. This is indeed a year full of hope for the future.

Daphne Layzell,
Church Secretary

All the following details of events taking place in and with the Wheathampstead Congregational and later United Reformed Church, have all been taken from, Minutes of Deacons and Elders Meetings as well as Church meetings.

Derek Harris, 10th March 2002

It is interesting to note where and how far some of our predecessors in the mid 19th century, travelled to church.

They came from;

Place Farm	Cherry Trees
The Swan	No Mans Farm
Brewers Hill	Wheathampstead Hill
Folly	St Marford
Church Street	Batford
Buil Yard	Station Road
Amwell	High Street
Cattle Farm	Brewhouse Hill
Beechy Hyde Farm	Tallcut Farm
Harpenden	Pipers Farm
Hatfield Road	Bury Farm
New Marford.	

In the mid 20th century their occupations were;

Civil Servant	Boot Worker
Baker	Typist
Tool Maker	Plumber
Clerk	Cost Clerk
Shop Assistant	Machinist
News Manager	Display Assistant
Sales Rep.	Plate Layer
Platter	Engineer

People died from;

Convulsions	Asthma
Consumption	Meningitis
Old Age	Seizures
Cancer	

It appears in Wheathampstead there has been much interest in the following of the nonconformists tradition, since Henry VIII's Act of Conformity in 1662.

At that time it was necessary, for anyone who wished to worship, not as an Anglian, to register and obtain a licence to have nonconformist worship in their homes or buildings.

Wheathampstead had many who wished to follow this style of worship and the following, registered places and obtained licences for nonconformist worship;

- 1690 - A place certified by John Harding
- 1699 - A place on the east side of Gustard Wood By William Osman.
- 1723 - A place at Gustard Wood by William Young.
- 1723 - A place at Marshall's Heath by Richard Coddall.
- 1749 - A place by Andrew Tristram.
- 1808 - A dwelling house by Thomas Parrett.
- 1810 - A house by Mr T.Neale.
- 1812 - A house by George Sutton on 8th September.
- 1815 - A place by Mr W. Rogers & George Sutton on 26th May.

George Sutton was the man who really founded a place of worship for the nonconformists in Wheathampstead, and the following are the very first details of his wonderful work as recorded in the Church's first minute book, which appears to have been written a number of years later, as no doubt they wanted to place on the record their appreciation George Sutton's great love and faith for the Lord, and his foresight in seeing that the gospel of Christ was brought to Wheathampstead.

I cannot help wondering how he, George Sutton would feel now to know the nonconformist worship he started in 1812 was still taking place in Wheathampstead. He was a truly remarkable man.

FROM THE FIRST MINUTE BOOK OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

The Minutes respecting the first formation and subsequent proceeding of the Congregational Church of Christ at Wheathampstead.

The introduction of the gospel into the village of Wheathampstead was in the good providence of God, effected by the exertion of Mr G. Sutton of the watermill in that place.

His mind was for some considerable time impurified (?) with the mournful state of the inhabitants, who owing to utter destitution of evangelical instruction, were sunk into the deepest ignorance.

There was not, at this time, nor indeed for time afterwards when the meeting house was built any school for the gratuitous instruction of the children of the poor. Impurified therefore with the needful of the care, remembering the divine blessing which had accompanied the introduction of the gospel in other places and trusting the promises which a faithful God had (?) forth surely and clearly in his word for the encouragement of those who seek his glory.

In the year 1812 therefore he licensed his own house as a place of divine worship and in the spring of that year the first sermon (which was also, with the exception of occasionally our own labours, and of some Weslyn Methodists, the 1st sermon that is known to have been preached in the village since the memory of man) was preached by Mr John Hayter Cox, the pastor of the Congregational church at St Albans, in his parlour.

In the year 1814, when the attendance on the services started increasing, Mr Sutton's rooms were found too small to accommodate the Hearers, the work being accompanied with tokens of the divine blessings. He considered that it would be neither improper nor impracticable to attempt the erection of a meeting house.

Accordingly by a case having been prepared stating the circumstances and being duly attested by the most respectable ministers of the congregational & Baptist denominations in the neighbourhood Redborn; St Albans; Barnet; Market Street, Hertford; Ware; Buntingford; Luton; Hitchin; Royston;

Berkhamstead and 4 from London, Mr Sutton took every opportunity of laying it both before such of his own personal friends and others whom he knew or understood to be well affected to the increase of Christ's Kingdom and the spread of the gospel, and by very great expectations succeeded in collecting by the middle of the year 1815 the sum of £577 - 16s - 11d.

It was opened on the 1st July 1815 and from that date to February 1822 the sermons were supplied by the occasional labours of different ministers and students.

1812 The church originated.

1814 In George Sutton's house George & Issabella had 7 children baptised, February 14th, by Rev Jesse Smith of Redborn.
The Wheathampstead deed in the manor of the Dean and Chapter of Wheathamstead, was purchased off Mr H. Roberts and was invested in the 5 named; George Sutton; Thomas Roger; William Brown; John Bacon; and Joseph Woollatt, the last 4 men all from St Albans.

1815 The congregational church of Christ Wheathamstead was formed.
The first baptism, was Susan Halsey, who was born on the 1st March to Joseph Halsey, the mother's name was not recorded. The father was also baptised at the same time, on April 15th.

1822 The first recorded burial was Ruth Fisher aged 49 wife of James on September 24th. That year 4 children, under 11 years were buried and a man of 93 years.

1823 The first recorded new person Hannah Bailey was received into communion with the church.

1827 Mr (Rev ?) Thomas Cannon resigned and moved to London, with his house keeper.
8 people were received into communion.
William & Mary Webb, from a private offence, had forsaken the communion of the church.
William & Naomi Cathy had been suspended for improper conduct.
Mr (Rev) Francis Watts, invited to be pastor, but not to take communion and baptisms, for a 12 month trial.

- 1828 The Lord's Supper was observed after an interval of months.
- 1830 Mr Robert Coleman, age 73, received into the Communion of the church.
- 1832 March 4th. Elizabeth Faldin, now wife of George Nelson, having been suspended from communion, for about 9 months, for the usual reason of totally failing in the effect of immoral conduct and abstaining herself from attendance, with sorry for the sad state. She was this day separated from and dismissed from the church.
- 1835 December 2nd. Joined in association with the church at Harpenden, each giving £25.
- 1843 There were now 41 church members.
- 1844 January 10th. The chapel now registered for marriages, which cost £3.
February 4th, the first wedding at the chapel was between Mr John Streader of Barnet a turner and Dinah Purrott of Wheathampstead, a platter.
- 1846 Christmas. The balance of £2.14s. 11d, due to the builder paid, now out of debt.
A chandelier in the centre of the chapel was presented by a friend to the minister, as a token of her regard.
During the 7 year members died and were buried.
- 1847 22nd September. The time piece in front of the gallery was given by Rev Thomas Gilbert on his resignation. The "Seraphines", in the gallery, belongs to 5 people who paid £3.10s.0d between them. It was then in the home of Mr Seabrook of Brewhouse Hill.
- 1849 Monthly church Meetings appear to have commenced this year. They were mainly about new members, or discussing those Church members who were moving away.

1853 There were 32 Church Members, who lived in the following places; Wheathampstead, Sandridge, Marshall's Heath, Gustard Wood, Nomans Land, Colemans Gren & Docon (?) Green.

1859 2nd May. A Special Church Meeting, Mrs White, a benevolent lady, expressed a degree to build a Minister's residence, adjoining the chapel, a free residence for the Minister.

1863 There were now 33 members.

1865 Rev Wainwright said, "I think my work is done, and I would go to my Lord." He died the next day in a sitting position. One of God's faithful servants whose life here was a source of toil and understanding the meaning of the promise. He was buried in the chapel grounds.

1866 May 23rd. Rev C.H. Silcock was ordained to the work of the ministry and recognised as the pastor of Wheathamstead and Codicote churches.

There were 38 members. There was a move to build a new chapel.

1871 Mr Joseph Lilley turned his back upon the ordinances and gone to the Weslyns.

The Church Meeting discussed repairing the chapel windows, also that they should open, and collecting cards printed. They raised;

Collecting Cards	£15.18s.7½d
Good Friday Concert	£6.0s.0d
September Collection	£2.1s.1½d
Sundry Collection	<u>£ 2s 6d</u>
TOTAL	£24.12s.3d
cost of repairs to windows	<u>£15.10s.3d</u>
EXCESS	£9.2s.6d

£163.2s 0d placed in the bank under joint names for the building of a new chapel.

1872 October. Jesse Chennell readmitted after being away.

1874 23rd February. Resolution passed "That one third of the amount collected at communion be set apart for the relief of persons in

sickness and distress, the remainder to be distributed among the widows who are church members."

- 1876 The Foundation Stone of the new chapel was laid on 16th May, a large concourse of people attended. The site had 40 foot frontage, 120 feet long & 109 feet at the rear. The piece of ground on the public road from Harpenden to Wheathampstead and adjoining the premises. The ground was purchased for £96.2s.6d. The new chapel to seat 300 people. After the laying of the Foundation Stone, tea was provided for 200 people. The deed of the old chapel was with Jesse Chennells, who placed it the Enrollment Office, Chancery Lane. Later it was given to E.G. Watkins Esq, of New Barnet. In the evening there was a Public Meeting attended by many people.
- 1877 Tuesday 22nd May. The opening of the new Congregational Church, by a sermon by Rev Donald Fraser of London at 4pm. The church was well filled. At 5.30pm tea was provided for 200 people who sat down. Afterwards there was a Public Meeting, at which £47.11s.2d was collected. The cost of the building was £1,110 and the ground £98.2s.6d (In 1876 it mentioned £96.2s.6d).
- 1878 All money raised for the building has been paid, except for £100, borrowed from the Chapel Building Trust Fund to be paid at £10 per annum, with first payment due 21st June 1878. There were 15 new members this year.
- 1882 Church membership 73.
Oct. 1st. Michael Seabrook, a deacon was buried. He was an inspector at Hatfield Station, and was killed in an accident at the station. The service was held at 4pm the next day and the Superintendent of the Great Northern Railway kindly arranged for a special train from Hatfield and back, for the accommodation of the officials who desired to hear the sermon. 150 people attended.
"Mr Seabrook was a man of Christ."
In November, 11 young ladies and 3 young men were received into fellowship at the church Meeting.

- 1883 The first interment under the new Burial Act took place on the 4th August in the Parish church yard. It was the burial of a 7 year old girl, whose parents wanted a dissenting minister to conduct the service.
- 1886 At the Church Meeting of 18th January, 3 Deacons elected; William Thorson (?) of the Gate House, Smallford. A platelayer. Mr Robert Smith. A platelayer. Mr Owen Odell of the Folly. A builder.
- 1888 27th May. Mr Wainwright preached the Anniversary sermon, and then presented a painting of his father (Minister 1853-1865), to be in the vestry, when it was built.
- 1890 Membership now 105.
- 1892 27th December. £20 presented to Rev J.T. Hopkins, on his 20 years as a pastor. It was raised by the members and a donation from the Church of England. The old chapel was now too small to accommodate all the growing numbers who came to hear the gospel preached.
- 1893 A receipt was held by John Chennells as follows; "Received from Rev J.S. Hoppus the sum of £30.11s.0d being the amount required for the enhancement of the old chapel, dated 27th May 1893."
- 1894 Membership was 87.
- 1896 The Rev Hoppus feeling ill.
- 1897 The Church Meeting regretted that Miss Philis Seabrook, had resigned as organist after 8 years. Emily Nash of Castle Farm appointed organist.
- 1900 June? A report in the St Albans Times. "The New Pastor" and "Anniversary Service". Monday Service at 4pm. The choir sang the anthem "In thankfulness and joy" Miss P. Seabrook resided at the organ.

Rev W. Emlyn Jenkins preached at the Recognition Service. At 5.30pm an excellent tea was provided in the Village hall, where bunting and flags adorned the walls and a vein of patriotism seemed to pervade the whole proceedings.

At 6.30pm a Meeting was held in the chapel and Hymn No 1191 was sung. A Mr Haffer of Harpenden spoke. £250 was still required for the enlarging and repair of the Manse.

1901 11th April. Church Meeting. Thanks given to Mr Odell and the pastor for preparing and white washing the vestry walls, and paying all the expenses. Church Anniversary to be held on 19th May. September Church Meeting. £35.10s.0d raised from the sale of the Harvest goods.

1903 2nd July Church Meeting. Mrs Hoppus expressed a desire to put in a stain glass window in the memory of her husband, the late pastor of the church. It was carried.
3rd December Church Meeting. The Fire Policy for the church, old chapel and manse were deposited in the strong room at Memorial (?) Hall. It was decided to start a "Clothing and coal club".

1904 15th June It was decided to purchase 12 hymn books, medium size, stamped, for the use of visitors. There would be a concert in November.

1905 5th January Decided to ensure the property for £2,000
17th February. The Huddersfield congregational Church sent 50 hymn books. Decided to decorate the inside of the church.
8th March. Decided to repair the church.

From here on the Minutes of the Church Meetings were more formal, with them being presented, voted on etc, but often they are very brief, with some being only 2 or 3 lines recorded, but all signed by the Minister and dated.

1906 8th May. A new organ which was presented by New Barnet Church, and the organ which was tastefully decorated by Mr. R. Clark, free of charge. Mr Odell gave the wood for the pulpit and the platform for the organ.

The New Church Hymnal was adopted. First indication that the Church Accounts were audited. An addition and enlargement to the manse was completed, and all costs were now paid, but the church had to pay rates on the manse.

21st December. We desire to put on record in the church books, its sense of deep obligation of Mr.J.Perrot of Harpenden, for so kindly laying out the grounds beautifying the surrounds of the church and manse. Mr J.Pearce appointed to collect the Paw Rents.

It was decided that Deacons shall be elected by ballot for the six offices. The 2 with the lowest number of votes to retire after 1 year. The 2 with the middle number of votes to retire after 2 years The 2 with most votes to retire after 3 years. Retiring Deacons were eligible to be re-elected.

RULE 3 (no mention of Rules 1&2) Monthly Church Meetings shall be held.

RULE 4 Deacons to elect from their number a Treasurer and Secretary.

Communion Services to be held once a quarter in the morning, and cards to be kept registering those present.

The church piano sold for £12, but there was still £10 owing from when the church purchased it.

- 1907 20th January. Repairs to the organ to be paid out of the 'Organ Fund.' The repairs to the blowers to be paid out of church funds. Agreed to purchase 2 new 200 candle power lamps, with a view of lessening the number of lamps and the time of labour reduced 31st October. Cottage Meetings to be commenced on Tuesday evenings. Iron railing to be erected outside the front of the church.
- 1908 The Nursing Fund was not sufficient to retain the services of a village nurse. A collection to be organised. Missionary Service taken by Mr Wilkerson a missionary stationed, since 1906 in Matabeleland. To keep hold of young people, after they have passed out at Sunday school, Bible classes to be held after Sunday morning services. 1st October. Individual Communion cups were presented to the church.
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- 1909 It was proposed that Communion Services to be held in the Evening Service, and that Prayer Meeting be held after the Evening Service, once a month.
- 1910 As Mr Joseph George of Gusford Wood had left the church £44.3s.8d in his will, his whole will was copied in the Church Minutes book. 1st December. The Ladies Needlework Guild gave to the treasurer £25.
29th December. It was agreed to accept from the Congregational Union £40, on condition the church raised £85 in a year.
- 1911 2nd February. Agreed that a Sunday School was to be held in the afternoon.
£45 invested in the Post Office Savings Bank.
30th March. £4 collected for the Wheathampstead Nurses Fund.
The Countess of Cavan rendered 2 solos at the Evening Service.
4th May. 21st May, the Church anniversary held service held.
25th June. The Sunday School anniversary.
28th September. £40.15s.0d raised from the Sale of Work and £2.10s.3d from the sale of the Harvest goods.
22nd October. At the London Missionary Society service Rev Hodge gave an interesting address chiefly on the Chaco Indians of the Amazon Valley. In the afternoon, he exhibited native costumes from various countries. In the evening he gave a lantern show of missionary work in China, India, Africa and the South Seas.
2nd November. A Watchers Band formed (?)
- 1912 4th January. Mr Fletcher Treasurer and Mr T. Brown, Secretary, re-elected for the 6th year.
4th April. The Deacons to consider the best way of raising sufficient money to repair the manse, church and hall.
4th July. Researched the cost of tuning the organ.
31st. October. The letting of the Village Hall (Church Hall) for Oddfellows Meetings 3s 6d per week. They would have to pay rates on the hall in the future.
28th November. Only members of the congregation allowed to practice on the organ.
10s sent to the Pastor's Retiring Fund.

- 1913 2nd January. A communion collection to be sent to the Missionary Widows Fund.
The Village Hall let for 10s. For a concert and 3s 6d per evening for the Wheathampstead Debating Society.
3rd April. A concert raised 2s.3d.
3ed July. All political meetings held in the hall to be charged 5s per meeting. The charge to include the use of the crockery.
30th October. Knebworth Church presented a stove.
The Village Hall to be registered as a place for religious worship. A new grate put in the manse. Mr Fletcher appointed to visit Mr Brown at Nomans Land Farm, to see if he was a suitable person to become a church member. (He was.)
- 1914 29th January. Decided to put the stove from Knebworth Church in the hall. Repairs to it quoted £1, Mr Wootton said he would do it for 12s.
26th February. A social lost 8s 8d.
2nd April. Miss Emily Nash had acted as the organist gratuitously for 8 years, and she was given a presentation.
2nd September. Miss Emily Nash resigned as organist.
- 1915 4th February. Proposed to hold a weekday service Tuesday evenings, a change from Thursdays. It was decided to present to Mr T. Seabrook, a silver mounted walking stick, on his retirement as Choir Master.
15th March. Rev Morgan receives a call from Bassingbourne Church Cambridge. No date fixed for his removal.
27th April. Mr & Mrs Hyde desired to place a Memorial Window in the chapel in the memory of their son Reginald, killed in France. (This was the first mention of the Great War)
9th May. Rev Morgan left.
1st June. Rev G.W. Berry of Hitchin to be approached to see if he would entertain an invitation from this church.
15th July. Rev G.W.Berry accepts the invitation. (His acceptance letter is stuck in the Minute Book.)
5th September. Rev G.W.Berry becomes the Minister.
16th September. Repairs to organ £4.15s.0d All Church Deeds deposited in the Memorial Hall.
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The Misses Matthews offered the post of "Church Keepers" of 3s.6d per week in summer, and 4s.6d in winter.

11th November. Choir to be responsible to raise 50 shillings per year, for the cost of organ tuning. The Church Meeting agreed to the improvements to the manse and pledged itself to meet the costs.

30th December. The Choir raised, carolling £8.17s 0½d.

- 1916 3rd February. The church windows to be darkened under the 'Lighting order.' (War time black out.)
2nd March. A box to be placed in the vestibule for 'The Restoration Fund.' Rev Berry appointed as Forces Chaplain to Blackmore End Hospital, and Manager of Ayot School.
3rd May. Only church organist permitted to give lessons of the church organ, cost 2s, per hour.
29th June. A collection of eggs at both Sunday Services for the 'National Egg Collection for wounded Soldiers and Sailors', brought forth 288 eggs.
31st August. A collection for Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund raised 13s.
- 1917 4th January. 5s sent to each of the 4 choir members who joined the forces.
29th March. Julian Pearce's son, Aubrey, killed in action on 26th February.
3rd May. Rev E.Morgan's son Lt. J.J.Morgan, fell in action in France.
26th July. Agreed to a Memorial window for the Aubrey Pearce to be unveiled on the 20th September.
175 eggs collected at services.
29th November. A collection of wool for socks for soldiers. It was decided to set aside 1 pew for soldiers.
- 1918 10th January. Decided to raise £80 again towards the Pastor's stipend.
7th February. Sunday collection of £2.6s 0d given to the "Knitting Class".
21st March. At the A.G.M. Robert Smith thanked for his 44 years of valuable service to the Sunday school.
- 1919 There were no records of Church Meetings this year.
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- 1920 2nd May. Proposed obtaining an Army hut to provide extra accommodation for Sunday School.
 4th June. First time mention of the number of Church Members, 36, at Church Meeting. Many members say the hut idea should be dropped. Proposed that 'The Minister and 2 others make enquiries for any other suitable building.' Vote, 32 'for' and 4 'Neutral'.
 9th November. Estimate from Harpenden Gas Co. to put gas into the hall was £19. Work to be put in hand.
 14th December. Gas put in the hall and the bill paid.
- 1921 18th January. 1920 a record financial year, Receipts just £9.15s.5d less that expenditure of £393.
 5th April. £4000 Fire Insurance cover for all the church buildings and contents, and a shed near the manse.
- 1923 11th November. Rev Berry receives call from Seaford Church, after 8 years at Wheathampstead. Church Meeting hoped that he would decline the call. He left 30th December.
- 1924 7th September. Proposed that a Rural Library be opened in the village, Parish Council agrees. Mrs Nash to have a stained glass window.
 11th December. Church Meeting give a hearty invitation to Rev Thomas Johnson of St Albans.
 21st December. Rev Johnson accepts the call, an acceptance letter is stuck in the Minute Book.
- 1925 27th October. Stoves in the church are worn out, and 4 x 6 cylinder gas radiators with a gas fire in the vestry to cost £31.1s.0d, and 2 radiators for the hall £1. There was the first mention of a Church Magazine.
- 1926 19th January. Excess for 1925 £6.10s.0d.
 19th July. Rev Johnson resigns and goes to Woolwich Congregational Church.
 8th September. Mr England takes over as temporary Pastor.

- 1927 1st December. One of the most memorable Meetings in the church history as 9 young candidates were accepted as members on 'Profession of Faith'.
- 1928 8th March. Discussion about church extension. The Woolwich Boys Brigade wants to use the Hall and piece of ground at back of the hall, in August.
 3rd May. Mr & Mrs Chapman of Nomansland celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.
 30th August. The opening of the church after its renovation. To be redecorated after Harvest.
 1st November. Mr England presented with £25 for his faithful and dedicated service over the last 12 months.
- 1929 17th February. Mr S. Bangs resigned as organist.
 9th July. Land at back of church leased out at £5.p.a. A wall to be put round the garden. A new Hymnal adopted. Proposed that Musical Service on last Sunday of the month, with an 'At home' afterwards.
- 1930 21st January. A.G.M. 1929 balance £127.8s.5d. The attendance at Sunday Worship not so good, but Communion attendance above average.
 7th March. Deacons voted 8 - 1 to invite Rev Rushton of Bow, South Devon, to preach with a view, and if he is called a stipend of £120, from the church and £20 grant, plus manse, rates and taxes.
 6th April. Rev Rushton now offered £165, plus use of manse. This proposal rejected by Church Meeting. Matter left in Deacons hands.
 1st July. Rev Rushton had settled in.
 30th September. A large notice board needed outside church.
 W.I. enquires about the hall for Wednesday afternoons and 2 evenings a month. Agreed the afternoons, but not the evenings as 'The British Women' use it then.
 18th November. Renovation of church cost £39.9s.6d Church attendance not so good.
- 1931 19th March. New room in hall proposed, 12x16 feet leaving the vestry as it stands, but extending it 3 foot outside.
 20th October. A gas fire for the new room. 45s, from the Gas Co.
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- or 15s. from another. Church accepts the 15s. one.
17th December. The new room opened at 4pm.
- 1932 Problem in finding Members to stand as Deacons.
- 1933 31st October. Church in debt. Special effort called for to clear the debts.
- 1934 11th January. A.G.M. "The spirit of love and unity which exists was something of which our church can proud." The Church Secretary reported.
25th September. Rev Rushton proposed that the church be lit by electricity, with electric blowers for the organ.
- 1935 15th January. A.G.M. opened with a hymn and prayer, the first time this was recorded. 1934 balance £2.10s.5d., necessary to raise funds for repairs.
3rd December. Money still needed for repairs. Deacons to see how to raise funds. Agreed to continue with present Pastor.
- 1936 21st January. A.G.M. £33 for repairs to roofs of church and hall. Renovation of church, but still no money. Gifts welcomed in confidence.
3rd November. £25 received towards repairs. Church owes bank £3.7s.4d.
Deacons proposed that lady Deacons should be elected. Matter deferred. Application to use the hall as a cinema for 2 days a week was voted 'No'.
- 1937 21st January. A.G.M. Deficit of £10.7s.6d. Sunday collections down. Woman's Guild very active. Carol singing raised £11, which was used for parcels for the needy of the village.
- 1938 4th April. Electric blowers for the organ were a necessary improvement.
18th June. Garden Fete.
- 1939 26th January. A.G.M. 1938 deficit £69.15s.3d
18th April, repairs to church ceiling £32.10s.0d.
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21st May. Church Anniversary.

22nd October. Rev Rushton informs that he is leaving after the last Sunday in December.

- 1940 21st February. First Church Meeting since April 1939. Church Meeting disagrees with the Deacons over Rev Ruston's resignation.
Proposed to raise a loan on the manse to pay off the cost of repairs to the church, manse and hall. The £250 loan to be negotiated with Barclays Bank.
6th March. Still talk of raising the £250 loan to pay off debts. *
Agreed to send Rev Rushton £10 raised by donations.
9th July. Owing to National Circumstances (The 2nd World War) there would be no Deacon's Supper nor Garden Fete, but there would be a Harvest. *
A letter from Spicer Street Church proposed that both churches unite to call a minister between them. The Deacons of both churches to meet.
Church Services (Evening ?) to be held in afternoons because of the blackout.
W.V.S permitted to use the hall for evacuees, all expenses to be paid by the W.V.S.
? November. Mrs Nash died and left the £650 to the church from the sale of her house.
- 1941 No Church Meetings recorded.
- 1942 6th May. Herts Congregational Union asked to raise £8,000, (for what?) This was 3d per member per week for 3 years. *
Agreed. *
29th November. Rev James Henderson of Greenwich invited to preach with a view.
- 1943 12th January. A.G.M. No minister for 3 years. A good number now attend communion. Deacons propose that a call be issued to Rev Henderson with a stipend of £170 p.a. plus manse and rates. Agreed.
17th April. Induction of Rev Henderson. Church balance now £350.
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An improvement in collections. A Young Girls Club started. In future Church Anniversary to 1st Sunday in April.

27th July. Gift Day in October proposed, followed by Thanksgiving Service & Social. Names of members & relations of the church, in the forces, to be mentioned in last Sunday of the month services.

- 1944 28th September. Church Members invited to a social at the Folly Methodist Church.
- 1945 20th February. The damage done by the Fly Bomb (Flying Bomb?) has been repaired. Congregation much smaller. 1944 deficit £83.17s.0d.
29th May. Church balance now £259.9s.1d. Organ overhauled and 2 new stops added. Organ decorated. Proposed Community Singing Services, once a month, in October. (No mention of forces killed in the war, nor the Victory Celebrations).
- 1946 16th January. Evening Services to be at 6.15pm, on the first Sunday of the month. Trinity choir invited on Saturday before Church Anniversary.
29th October. As so few attended the Church Meeting they could not discuss important items.
11th December. Rev Henderson accepted call from Bishops Waltham, in Hampshire. Terminates as our Minister on 31st December. Decided not to hold Morning Services, pro tem.
- 1947 20th January. Manse let for 25s. per week. Work of Women's Guild very commendable. Appeal for members to attend Evening Service.
15th August. £39 cost of cleaning walls and ceiling of hall. New front gate. Need to raise funds.
- 1948 30th January. Much progress in Sunday School. Secretary reports at A.G.M. 'A happy and united church.' Collections increased.
22nd July. New gates to entrance of hall and grounds.
Ordered 50 chairs from memorial hall at 21s each.
- 1949 18th January. Women's Guild now has 35 members.
19th July. Proposed raffles and guessing games to raise money.
Proposed curtains for the church.

- 1950 16th January. Primary Sunday School children now 18, an increase of 7.
26th November. Rev Middleton accepts call and will commence on 1st January.
- 1951 1st January. Rev Middleton started. Darby & Joan club uses hall. Hall used for distribution of ration cards.
6th May. Church Anniversary.
30th June. Church Fete opened by Lord & Lady Baxton.(?)
10th July. Mid week Service now held in the hall.
Proposed to dispense with the old organ, and make room for the new one, presented by Mrs Wright.
14th August. Estimate for lavatories in hall £120.
A Young Peoples Club formed.
9th October. Manse still occupied by Caretaker and a query about cost of decorating it, as church supplied the materials and paint.
13th November. Local Labour Party hires the hall.
- 1952 5th February. Repairs to the church gable £78.
11th March. Purchase of new piano for hall £114.10s.0d.
5th July. Grand Garden Fete. Hon Grimpton M.P. opens it.
Fete raised £156. Rev Middleton resigns.
7th October. Organ repaired with improvements £168.
- 1953 13th January. A.G.M. Secretary reports, "It is very apparent that owing to the poor attendance on Sundays, lack of interest in the church fellowship at Mid Week Services and Church Meetings, that apathy was creeping in." They then prayed for guidance.
12th May. Agreed to support the Coronation Service at St Helens.
11th August. Repairs needed to manse and hall.
10th November. The Knitting Class was flourishing.
- 1954 11th May. Not enough Members at the Church Meeting.
1st August. Proposed a call to Rev F.G.Bromily.
6th August. Rev Bromily accepts call. (His letter of acceptance glued in Minute Book.)
16th November. Hall decorated in pink and almond green. Kitchen painted in off white and blue.

20th November. Official opening of redecorated hall followed by a 'Silver Collection.'

3rd December. Recital of Dicken's Christmas Carol by Mr Snowdon.

- 1955 12th January. Redecorated hall reopened.
4th February. Jumble Sale 7pm.
Lack of children at Sunday school.
8th February. Curtains for platform in hall £20. A piano given for the Primary School Room.
Womens Guild attendance 24 average and they introduce a sick fund.
2nd June. Garden Fete with the Dagnall Street Boys Brigade Band.
13th July. 9 new members received at Church Meeting.
7th September. Harvest Festival in afternoon.
Drama Society wished to use hall, but turned down because they did not have a license for dramatic purposes.
Young Peoples Service held on Wednesday Evenings.
12th September. Sent 2 representatives to the London Missionary Society at Trinity to hear a talk on 'Missionary work the Mau Mau.'
6th November collection of £1.11s.6d. for Congregational Welfare Fund.
A Prayer Fellowship commenced.
14th December. Deacons proposed that, "no games of chance to be permitted". Agreed. Rev Bromily to remain for another year was agreed.
- 1956 18th January A.G.M. Rev Bromily offered an extra £5 for travelling, he accept £3. Sunday collections increased.
Financial balance end of 1955 £210.13s.9d. The Sunday school numbers have kept up. The numbers attending the Youth Fellowship, up.
15th February. Talk on 'Evangelism' & making a start and thinking afresh.
14th March. Evangelism discussed and members to be approached to clear responsibilities in their work. The books on 1914 - 1918 work to be sent for salvage.
30th June. The Luton Salvation Army Band at Garden Fete. 300 programmes to be printed, Gold fish given as prizes at Garden Fete, this should not be allowed and only inanimate prizes given.

Agreed. 2 Representatives sent to U.N. Meeting on refugees in Europe, in Mayor's Parlour.

11th July. Repairs needed to tennis court.

17th September. The Harvest Festival was; a short dedication, a short address, 2 musical items. Mrs Daisy Glensihie (?) died singing the Harvest Anthem.

The Deacons recommended that 4 radiators be installed in school hall, if Gas Co will lay mains. Proposed joining the St Albans Council of Churches.

16th October. The 'Old Folks' from St Albans put on a concert.

25th November. retiring collection for Hungarian Relief, raised £4.10s.0d. Gas cooker for the kitchen purchased, second hand for £2.

12th December. Rev Bromily said "it would be right for him to conclude his ministry at the end of April". Deacons recommended that he continue in 1957. Agreed.

- 1957 6th January. A Hot Supper raised £8.12s.0d.
- 30th January. A.G.M. Womens Guild going well. The Sunday School now had, 20 Beginners, 59 in the Main School and 12 staff.
- 4th February. The Luton Temple Young Peoples Band gave a concert.
- 10th April. Rev Greaces seen by Deacons and invited to preach for a 2nd time. Repairs needed to walls and ceiling of church vestry, and pulpit to be carpeted. Could not obtain estimates until colours agreed. All seats to be cleaned and varnished. Evangelical campaign in full swing.
- May 1st. Rev Graves declined call. Rev Rafe of stroud agrees to come and preach in June.
- 5th June. Rev Rafe decides not to come and preach, and 2 others also decline to come. Colours of church agreed; blue for the pulpit end, oyster pink for the other 3 walls. Also Blue carpet and curtains for the church.
- 17th July. No progress in finding a minister members urge to pray seeking guidance as to the future pastoral oversight. Rev. Bromily agrees to continue for the time being. Advised that they would not have a full time minister in future.
- 14th August Mr Hanson embroiders pulpit fall. Church agrees to form a Guide company.
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9th October. Moderator advises church to contact Rev E. Preston of Newcastle Under Lyme, he agrees to come and preach on 11th November.

13th November. Rev Preston's health not good and he is not asked to come as Pastor. Writing yet again to moderator.

Rev Bromily prepared to continue until Easter.

17th November. Sacred Songs Service. Mr Spacey offers a Christmas Tree to the church. Discussion as to how to make the church more noticeable.

11th December. Rev Bromily says "I must conclude my ministry at Easter". Mr Simmonds (a student ?) to be appointed to take over for 6 months.

1958 15th January. Mrs Spacey, Girl Guide Commissioner, asked for permission to restart the Brownie Pack again. Agreed. Girl Guides to hold monthly Parade Services. Moderator "Impossible for Mr Simmonds to undertake pastor charge and continue his preparations for the ministry."

Agreed to write to Rev Ellam Dennis.

12th February. Rev Dennis accepts pastoral oversight.

5th April. Rev Ellam Dennis inducted

16th July. Newly formed Boys Brigade & Life Boys Enrolment & Parade Service.

3rd December. Senior Sunday School formed.

1959 28th January A.G.M. No nominations received for Deacons. Sunday School now 95-100 children.

Life Boys now 24 boys. Girl Guides had a busy year.

Rev Ellam Dennis tenders his resignation for 1st April due to ill health.

Church offers £250 p.a. towards the stipend for a new minister.

16th September. Grant from Head Office so they could have a full time minister.

Mrs Knight & Mr Morris became official Sick Visitors. New Youth Club to be Formed.

14th October. Hall floor need repairs. Church floor to be varnished.

11th November. A hot water system to be put into the manse.

Mr Wheeler invited to preach.

9th December. Meeting happy with Mr Wheeler's service, and agree to ask him to become minister.
Agreed that electricity needed in the manse as 2 rooms are now used for Sunday School. Also lighting needed outside the church.
Miss Cooper now organist. L.M.S. collecting 'odd pennies'

- 1960 6th January. Mr Wheeler accepts call.
13th February. The Induction and Ordination of Mr Wheeler.
Considerable increase in F.W.O.
Agreed to hold a Gift Day on Good Friday. Agreed to obtain 2nd hand duplicator for Newsletter.
13th March. Mr Dyson & Mr Spacey to organise Garden Fete and Lady Lenonton to be Opener.
Members asked to consider having a Morning Service. On Good Friday there will be 'Meditation of the Cross.'
24th May. Meeting to consider erecting a hut at the rear of the hall.
8th June. Planning permission sought for a new hall, costing approx £350.
Agreed to sing the 'Amen' after The Lord's Prayer & Benediction.
6th July. Concern at state of hymn books. No money to buy Congregational Praise. Regarding the new hall discussions with the owner of the land at the back of the hall, concerning the lack of privacy at the manse. Graveyard needs tidying up. Damp in church.
24th August. Church offers £310 towards stipend.
28th September. New hall needed urgently for Sunday School and the youth. Plans of new hall available. Mr Browden appointed organist.
2nd November. Plans for hall approved by Council. Notice put in local press re levelling of graveyard. Plans for a new garage for storage.
- 1961 4th January. Further plans requested by Planning Officer, showing inclusion of car park.
1st March. Plans for hall passed "with condition for revision after 10 years." No mention of cost.
5th April. Hall on site and would be erected during next few days.
10th May. Much work to be done on hall.
An appeal from Brookmans Park Church for assistance in paying off a debt, and £1.1s.0d donated.

Bank balance £143.11s.4d. Tom Spacey and helpers did the car park.

6th December. Next year is the 150th Anniversary of the church. Chiswell Green church opened.

- 1962 6th June. Mr Wheeler gives notice, no further mention of the Anniversary.
29th August. Minister asked to leave.
10th October. Minister asked to hand over surplus Communion money and petty cash.
The old hall still in existence. There were still iron railings and a 4 foot gate outside the church.
- 1963 7th March. A freeze up and the boiler burst, also the pipes under the floor, and lavatory. no heating.
4th September. 4 second hand convectors obtained for hall.
Pastorate vacant since October 1962.
Once again mention of dampness on west wall of the church, and complaints about defective guttering.
At this time many people left the church, and their names were removed from the church roll.
A desire to abandon the Morning Service, as numbers attending very low. It was felt that the damp on the west wall was exacerbated by the building of the house next to the church.
Church now had £300 in the bank. Manse still empty.
- 1965 6th January. An important document placed with Bank for safety?
10th March. 24 hymn books purchased. The church refused permission for a caravan in the car park.
Still there were many plans for the Manse.
June 3rd. Rev D.S Hopkins, not issued a call, by the Church because of his age of 72 years.
7th July. Rev Stanley Smith's name appears in the Minutes. Many months of discussion regarding incorporating part of the Manse into the hall, Rev Fred Pope of Ware & Rev Ernest Wimpress are advisers to the Church.
14th August. A possibility of redevelopment of the site. There had been a fire in the old hall. There was now an active Youth Club. Freda Frost very active now she had become a Deacon.
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- 1966 8th June. Premises inspected, possible redevelopment of part of the site, which is not occupied by the church buildings.
14th August. Plans received.
7th December. Rev Stanley Smith asked to take Dunstable Church, when Wheathampstead had a minister.
- 1967 11th January. Rev Phipps Jones, at Hatfield Church approached to come to Wheathampstead.
1st March. Rev Phipps Jones agreed to a part time ministry at Wheathampstead.
5th July. Still considering converting manse in to 2 flats, and double glazing church.
- 1968 7th March. Mention of possibly selling the 2 cottages adjoining 'the premises'
12th December. From Herts. Congregational Union "It would be in order to sell the graves area, providing it was not built on."
- 1969 1st May. "It was noted that the tombstones had been removed from the eastern boundary to the west wall in front of the church.
4th September. Possible sale of the Manse.
- 1970 5th February. Mention of the "New Hall." Mr Eames to be responsible for supervision of the erection of the hall.
2nd April. Court Homes offered £8,250, for what? Church decided not to progress this offer.
- 1971 17th May. Lower hall and manse demolished.
1st September. Barnet, St Johns, gives light fitting to church.
Damp reported in the vestry again.
- 1972 3rd May. Reports of progress of the New Hall.
6th December. Formation of the United Reformed Church.
A Thanksgiving Service for opening of the New Hall.
Church Membership 45.
- 1973 3rd February. The official opening of the new hall. Mrs Pickett gives to the church her painting of 'The Last Supper'.
(This hangs in the church.)

Tom Spacey offers wooden cross to the church. (Is this the one fixed to the organ pipes?)

A mention of partitioning off part of the hall to make rooms for Sunday School. People mentioned are; Mr Weaver who had served for many years.

Mary Minall and Claud Frost became Elders.

Ann Barratt appears Hall lettings & Crèche? Jon Barratt retired as Elder. Grace Spacey and her husband, who did an enormous amount of work. Freda Frost, Deacon and then Elder.

The following is an extract of a paper attached to the Minutes in February. "It came to pass that group of christians who met for worship each week in this very building, I don't think they were very happy. They were without a minister. The manse was not only unoccupied, it was deteriorating, as were all the premises. They kept patching up the buildings, mending windows, cutting down a jungle that was once a tennis court, and so on. But all the time they maintained a sizable Sunday School. They hung on and prayed. It was the summer of 1966 that help was sent. Rev S. Smith, who took pastoral care of Wheathampstead. I don't think he was an expert on woodworm, fund raising, but he was what the church needed most, a good pastor. When after a few months he had to leave us to help Dunstable, the church was very much better for his ministry."

During 1966 various suggestions were put forward for the whole premises. The church (this present building), the manse, the Old Chapel (known as The Lower Hall) and a prefabricated building, at one time a bungalow, known as the Upper Hall.

Some 29 Committee Meetings, 200 letters, 200 phone calls, 10 meetings on site, something had to be done. We were recommended to demolish the manse & halls and redevelop the site.

By 1967 it was too expensive to alter the manse into 2 flats. Also in 1967 we gained a new friend and leader when Rev Phipps-Jones became our minister. In 1968 we considered not building a new hall but convert the church into a dual purpose building. At about this time a Mr Eames produced a scheme to convert the manse into 2 semis and build another house on the site of the lower hall. It is wonderful how things work out when we ask God for guidance, for Court Homes offered £8,500 for a part of the site.

The actual demolition of the old buildings was carried out in May 1971. The upper Hall was sold, dismantled, and re-erected as stables in Redborn.

Sometimes we ask for a stone and are given bread, and this was certainly God's response to our prayers. Gifts of money equipment and help for the new hall have been coming in, and our Treasurer, Jon Barratt shows on his statement that we can face the future with confidence.

This is not a sermon, but the appropriate text would be "Go back home and tell them everything that God has done for you."

- 1974 12th June. Agreed to alter toilets etc. to provide an additional room.
9th September. Annual dinner of the Christian Mens Forum.
11th December. It was decided to purchase pre-fab garage, as a store.
- 1975 12th February. Woodworm in church and the piano.
3rd September. Suggestion that St Helens and our Sunday Schools combine, but no further news from St Helens. So no action taken.
Mr Mason resigns as organist, vacancy put in local paper, but no replies, Carpet donated for church.
Foundation of the May Gray Room £265, covered by donations, in her memory.
10th December. The garage, for storage arrived.
- 1976 12th May. Miss Wright's piano pupils raised £22 in their concert, for the piano fund.
8th September. Mr Gray offered to make a cross to be hung in the church. The offer was warmly welcomed.
10th October. The Centenary celebration of the laying the foundation stone of the church.
The wooden cross, was made by Mr Gay's nephew was installed in the church, and they wondered if it should be illuminated.
27th October. A very successful Christmas Bazaar.
8th December. Agreed to hold a Morning Communion Service on the 4th Sunday of the month on the communion table.
Looking at links with Hatfield U.R.C., who in turn were having discussions with 2 Methodists Churches.

4th October. Rev Phipps-Jones wrote that he intended to retire in August 1978. Possibly be part time there after for 3 years.
The Church Meeting agreed. The Church Membership was now 37.

- 1978 17th April. A Flower Festival was held.
9th May. Tony Weaver retired as Church Secretary.
13th June. The Elders agreed with the Minister that he could marry divorced people.
1st July. The Sunday School had an outing to Clacton.
5th December. The buildings and contents were insured for £68,000.
- 1979 6th February. A duplicator was purchased.
Sunday Evening services were not well attended by the young people. (These were special services for the older children.)
2nd March. A crèche was started. The children would now meet in the hall and not come into the service; but there would be a Family Service every 3 weeks.
3rd April. The loud speakers were installed in the church. The Elders agreed that "Baptism was not the only door to the church, and that infant baptism is not Church Membership."
- 1980 9th January. Decided not to extend vestry because of cost.
12th March. Looked at having Port-a-cabins, cost too high £800.
Looking at ways of increasing the congregation. Agreed to invite St Helens Sunday School to use the hall during school holidays or join our Sunday School.
9th July. Decided not to hold Evening Services.
10th September. A.G.M. Rev Phipps-Jones felt all should adhere to all decisions made at Church and Elders Meetings. Church without a Secretary and organist. The 4 retiring Elders re-elected were; Mrs Minall, Mrs Spacey, Mrs Walker & Mr Arnold.
19th November. A suggestion to have a false ceiling in the church. A Sunday afternoon club for 11-14 year old was proposed.
- 1981 21st January. A discussion on the question of the termination of the minister's 3 year period, ending in August. Rev Phipps-Jones expressed his willingness to continue for another year. This was accepted.

18th March. Jeremy Meager now organist. The URC basic stipend increased to £4,000. Reported that the church had no damp course, and architect to be asked to advise.

20th May. 6 passes, 2 with honours achieved in scripture exams. Good News Bible introduced.

16th September. A.G.M. 2 new Elders, Eric Artiss & Mrs F. Frost. Jon Barratt, Treasurer announced weekly offerings & tax recovered was £1431. Church Membership was 30.

29th November, Repairs to damp, roof and electrics needed.

1982 20th January. Hope of starting a 3rd Brownie pack.

17th March. £104 from 'Young Mums' donated for water shortage in India. District Council gives permission to seek a retired or auxiliary minister, following the retirement of Rev Phipps-Jones.

9th May. Roof repaired and damp treated. Rev Jean Holdsworth agreed to be Interim Moderator.

All the children passed the Scripture Exam.

21st July. Jackie Seller welcomed to Church Meeting & she offered to help at Sunday School. Rev Phipps-Jones retires.

£34 balance in Accounts.

15th September. A vote of thanks for Rev Phipps-Jones for being a faithful minister for 15 years. 3 new Elders elected, Vera Gallie, Bettie Lambert & Claude Frost. A suggestion was made for a crèche at services. Still no Church Secretary. Help needed at Sunday School.

1983 19th January. Agreed to purchase 24 New Church Praise.

Considered double glazing the vestry.

16th March. Still problems with the guttering.

1st June. Sunday School Anniversary. Flower Festival & Mini Mart all planned.

Rev. Roy Eames invited to preach with a view on 12th June.

28th July. Rev. Roy Eames inducted.

21st September. A.G.M. Mrs P. Martin voted in as an Elder.

The Minister Rev Roy Eames, hopes to start a Youth Club & Boys Brigade, also Healing Services.

Estimate for £1,500 for an open plan chancel with a platform.

The young people painted the hall.

- 1984 18th January. New amplifier system being installed.
 21st February. Plaque in memory of 5 late Church Members, will be dedicated on Easter Sunday.
 30th June. There was a church walk to Ayot St Lawrence.
 19th September. Overhaul and repairs needed on church roof & fence. Annual accounts show a deficit of £311.
 Still no Church Secretary.
 21st November. A successful Church Walk.
- 1985 13th March. A Minutes Silence observed for the memory of Tom Spacey & Don Summerton.
 17th March. A Black Gospel Group came and sang.
 17th April. Mrs Spacey wished to present an inscribed Communion Plate in memory of her husband.
 19th June. The Minister thanked all the Sunday School staff for their good effort with the children. Mrs Gallie spoke of her experience of 'Speaking in tongues.'
 18th September. A.G.M. 28 members attended. Jackie Seller asked to be Secretary of Sunday School. Rev Roy Eames called to Woodhall Lane W.G.C. at ½ scaped, he would remain loyal to Wheathampstead, he said.
 20th November. Rev Roy Eames willing to continue until June, when his contract ends. £48 collected for Sudan relief.
- 1986 12th March. Possible union with St Helens. Each church would retain its denomination with Elders linked with the P.C.C.
 Comments; How would church growth increase ?
 Did not want to see church vandalised
 A younger minister would be better.
 St Helens would get the better deal.
 'Our church has a future.'
- It was decided not to renew Rev Roy Eames contract. He said he would be sorry to leave.
 16th April. Elders recommended not to enter into negotiations with St Helens.
 11th May. Mair Luck received into Membership.
 11th June. Woodworm in church floor. Rev Roy Eames was thanked by Eric Artiss for all he had done, and wished him every blessing at Woodhall Lane.

16th July. John Williams appointed Interim Moderator for 1 year.
17th September. Mair Luck voted as an Elder.
19th November. Sunday School outing to see 'Toad of Toad Hall'
18 children & 12 adults went.

- 1987 21st January. Query if we can afford a minister.
18th March. Elders recommend 2 Communion Services a month.
3rd May. A retired Methodist minister Rev Munday preached with a view.
20th May. The church voted not to give a call to the Rev Munday.
The Sunday School concert was a great success.
16th September. A.G.M. An enjoyable Harvest Supper and £48 collected for Bangladesh.
Proposed that Mr Williams continue as Interim Moderator.
17th November. Mr Norman Vivian would become a Pastoral Assistant in February 1988 for 6 months until he began his ministerial training.
6th December. A Parade Service for the Guides and Brownies.
- 1988 20th January. Estimate awaited for repairs to car park. Damp in church and slates off roof.
23rd March. Moderator came and there would be a long term vacancy because of;
a) No manse.
b) Only elderly people in congregation.
c) Members had rejected a closer relationship with St Helens.
There were 3 ways to go;
1. Close the church.
2. Amalgamate with another church.
3. Continue as we were.
A Mr Henne was proposed by the Moderator to take 3 services a month.
18th May. The arrangement with Mr Henne was off. Mr Norman Vivian not accepted for the ministry, no reason given.
20th July. More levelling needed in car park.
Suggested that every 4th Sunday the children decide on the readings and hymns, starting in October.
21st September. A.G.M. Now in a strong financial position. Pot holes filled in car park.
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John Williams thanked for shepherding the church through another year. Secretary reported "We all feel that there is a real place for nonconformist witness in the heart of the village of Wheathampstead and must not be obsessed by the value of numbers in the congregation" said by Marie Phipps-Jones.

3rd October. Members of the congregation met for a 'Think Tank' to find the future of the church.

20th October. Agreed to repairs to roof, front door, windows, notice board, & external painting of hall.

23rd November. Rev Ian Meredith to take 1 service a month.

18th November. Carols by Candlelight.

27th November. Daphne Potter received into Membership on transfer from Christ Church, Enfield.

Trial morning Service at new time of 10.30am.

1989 January. Rev Ian Meredith appointed Interim Moderator

8th March. Agreed that children may take Communion.

24th May. Average attendance now 27-30. Some ministers do not dress adequately for services they take.

27th September. Basically the church was in good heart.

Daphne Potter elected as Elder. Jackie Sellar reported that there were now 3 Sunday School classes.

1990 31st January. Proposed that Mr Bob Green, at present training as an Auxiliary Minister, be asked to share the duties of ministry with Rev Ian Meredith.

11th February. Bob Green unanimously invited to become the Auxiliary Associated minister. He accepted.

22nd July. Bob Green Ordained & Inducted.

30th October. A.G.M. 9 new Members this year. Mums & Toddlers disbanded. Rev Ian Meredith had problems, causing stress, and resigned. In future we would see only Rev Bob Green.

5th December. Members asked to study a list of 'Aims for the church'.

1991 27th February. Repairs to roof, guttering, gable & damp cost £11,000. Christmas Bazaar raised £509.

29th May. Increase in the number of children attending church.

Womens Guild dedicated one of their meetings to 'Prayer & Bible Study.'

31st July. The Surveyor's Report showed that there was nothing needing urgent repair.

The first Sunday Evening Service was held in the hall. Alastair Jones had the support of the church in his application for the ministry.

2nd October. A.G.M. The Secretary's Report expressed gratitude for Rev Bob Green's leadership, and there had been an increase in numbers.

8th December. £25,000 of repairs needed. Wet rot, woodworm, slates off roof.

The church was presented with the options for the future of the church:

- a) Close the church and develop the hall.
- b) Sell whole site.
- c) Rebuild church in centre of village.
- d) Unite with Folly Methodists.
- e) Sell part of site.

It was agreed to make an application to the U.R.C. for a £15,000 grant & a £10,000 loan.

1992 22nd April. District Pastoral Committee visit and reported;

1. A happy congregation.
2. Lack of children and men.
3. Heavy demand on minister.
4. Recommended no application for a grant.
5. The church had reached the end of its useful life and should be demolished. Rev Bob Green was not prepared to accept this decision and went ahead and applied for the loan, which was later granted. (Thanks to the good stewardship of the Treasurer Jon Barratt it was repaid within 5 years)
6. It was noted that the church and site belonged to the U.R.C. There was no preservation order on church, but St Albans Council would not be happy about its destruction.

30th September. A possible link with Spicer Street Church.

1993 27th January. The Round Table paid for a hand rail outside the church.

24th February. The district Council Agrees that Rev Bob Green can stay for another 3 years. A grant of £10,000 and a loan of £10,000, towards repairs are granted.

28th April. Hall redecorated. Voted 21 to 13 to continue Morning Worship at 10.00am.

30th September. A.G.M. Jackie Sellers, Eileen Powell & Angela Beech, received into Membership.

As the church was being repaired the services were held in the hall.

- 1994 26th January. Guttering repaired once again.
24th July. Rev Bob Green's last service.
26th October. Rev Wyndham Lewis appointed as Interim Moderator. Repairs and decoration of church completed.
- 1995 15th February. The Church Deeds were with Mr Lane of the U.R.C.
28th May. District Council approves of Harpenden and Wheathamstead be scoped as 1 minister.
June. Rev Martin Truscott meets with the Elders.
19th July. Church votes unanimously to issue a call to Rev Martin Truscott.
October. Rev Martin Truscott Inducted as Minister.
- 1996 10th January. Proposed to Folly Methodists that we form a United Church. The organ needs repairing.
16th February. The Songs of Praise was well liked.
18th March. The Folly Methodist's Stewards were considering the United Church.
24th April. The Folly Methodist's Stewards willing to meet U.R.C. Elders.
22nd May. The organ was repaired.
4th September. Hall floor flooded and damaged.
4th December. Jon Barratt gave 2 years notice of his intention of resigning as Treasurer. Church and hall insured for £388,600. Contents of hall are not covered.
- 1997 26th March. Estimate to sand and polish hall floor £1,115. It was not proceeded with.
16th September. An evening Bible Study started.
23rd November. A joint Communion with Folly Methodists.

- 1998 9th February. Estimate for replacement value of organ £76,500. Therefore it would not be insured. Agreement with Play Group for a 6 month termination clause, for both sides.
Hall insured for £153,000. Balance of £10,000 loan repaid to U.R.C.
30th June. Agreed to send £50 to Sudan Appeal. Nicky Holland had been received into Membership.
30th August. Mary Coates & Ian Donald received into Membership.
27th September. £100 sent to the Bangladesh Appeal.
19th October. A presentation made to Jon Barratt on his retirement as Treasurer. Ann Jack from Trinity St Albans, completed her years placement at Wheathamstead, as part of her training for the Ministry.
- 1999 11th January. Sue Chapman, a student with us for her placement, in her training.
7th April. Rentokill had finished their damp work under warranty, on the dividing wall between the church and the vestry. Pointing on front of church completed.
20th May. Still damp in vestry. Church used as a Polling Station.
6th September. A Thanksgiving Service for Marie Phipps-Jones was packed. The pews were varnished.
27th September. A new carpet was given by a church member and fitted in the church. Eileen Powell made new organ curtain, and table runner.
18th October. Everybody pleased with the church refurbishment. The Elders recommended the rejection of Resolution 34, re Human Sexuality.
October. A.G.M. Numbers attending services maintained. During the year Trica Murray & Ted Pentecost were married.
Church balance at 30 June was £15,333.
16th November. Junior Church outing to 'Creation'
- 2000 25th January. Joint Elders Meeting with Harpenden.
Agreed to spend from Marie's legacy, cost of extra hymn books.
29th February. The holly bush outside the front of the church was cut down by working party.
April. Rev Martin Truscott told the congregation that he would be leaving in July to take up a position as Ministerial Training Officer in Manchester, in conjunction with the 50% pastorate of a church.
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The news was received with dismay, although the congregation unanimously wished Martin well in his new calling.

21st May. Sue Chapman conducted her last service and she was presented with a Dramatised Bible.

25th June. Jon Barratt, Ted & Tricia Pentecost and Alison Short received into Membership.

30th July. A Good Bye Lunch for Rev Martin & Margaret Truscott.

August. Derek Harris appointed as Interim Moderator. There was a need for more Elders.

25th October. A.G.M. Church Wance is £17,312

24th December. Jane Deller inducted and ordained as an Elder.

- 2001 Request from the Elders for a Church Anniversary again.
- 11th June. The Elders had a joint Elders Meeting with Harpenden Elders following up an insufficient majority to call a minister who preached with a view. The Elders decided to put together a Church History. A weekday Fellowship Meeting tried.
- 9th July. The Weekday Fellowship Meeting was not a success.
- 29th August. Both Harpenden Elders and our own interviewed a minister, but both Elders decided not to ask him to preach.
- 19th November. Decided Anniversary 22nd May 2002, as this is the 125th Anniversary of the church being built. The Anniversary Service will be on 26th May, with a lunch afterwards. New chairs selected for Communion Table and platform area.
- 2nd December. Our Moderator, Roberta Rominger led our worship and preached.
- Items brought to the Gift Service given to NOAH in Luton. New curtains hung in the hall.
- 5th December. The Quinquennial Survey took place.
- 2002 20th January. Rev Wynn Young preached with a view.
- 23rd January. Joint Church Meeting with Harpenden, when the whole meeting voted unanimously to issue a call to Rev Wynn Young to be the minister of Wheathampstead & Harpenden Churches.
- 26th May. The 125th Anniversary of the opening of the new Wheathampstead Congregational Church.
- 13th July. Rev Wynn Young Inducted into the Ministry of Wheathampstead and Harpenden United Reformed Churches.

**MEMORIES OF REV MARTIN TRUSCOTT
MINISTER FROM OCTOBER 1995 - 30th JULY 2000**

Within the context of the history of Wheathampstead U.R.C., five years is a short time . The starting point for our mission, in that period was my first Elders' Meeting. The Elders told me that they were getting on in age, there were not many of them and we were a small church.

Then they asked me the crucial question 'What can we do about it ?' and that question has never left me because it overrode everything else. Whatever the problems or challenges, the key question was about mission.

So we set about making our life and premises more attractive and more accessible. We realised that churches are strange and off-putting places if you are not used to them. We set about letting people have the chance to see what Christians are really like, cheerful, enthusiastic people who enjoy life to the full whatever is happening.

And we met new people through the Coffee Mornings, the Carol Service, and so on. The time had been when the church was only full at funerals - we started being full at weddings also. New people started sharing with us in worship and in exploring what it meant to be disciples of Jesus Christ, at the end of the 20th century.

We had our ups and downs, illness and death among our numbers, but a steady sense of the presence of Jesus Christ inspired us and gave us a sense of vision and purpose that has stayed with us ever since, and shows clearly in the present life of this special church.

For a minister, there can be no greater thrill and privilege than to have served Wheathampstead U.R.C.

**MEMORIES OF REV ROY EAMES
MINISTER FROM JULY 28th 1983 - JULY 1986**

The membership, when I was inducted, was around 28 members and 15 friends. We had very strong Guide Company and 2 Brownie Packs, but most of the girls went to St Helens. There was also a Playgroup in the hall.

The Eiders were; Ken & Phyll Martin; Eric Artiss; Mary Minall; Margaret Lane; Vera Gallie (whose husband was Warden at Bernard Shaw's House); Les Morris and Robbie, (who used to be a guide at Hatfield House.)

I found the village was likened to a corridor, with people moving in and out, so that only a few people were expected to stay for a longer period of time.

During my ministry I compiled a history of the church, and noted that since the end of the war, 1945, with the exception of 2 ministers, Rev Bromily and Rev Phipps-Jones, ministers did not seem to stay longer than 3 years

When the church was first formed in 1815, it met in the watermill, and if you ever get the chance, go and see the brass headed nails used to indicate the names of those attending.

There was contact with outside bodies, like the youth club, run by the late Douglas Phipps-Jones and Marie, Mary Minall The British Legion and the '60 Club' and Eric Artiss was Chairman of the 'Paths and Ways' on the Parish Council and he organised the rambles for us, along the old railway line and in Brocket Park, through Gustard Wood to Shaws Corner.

One must remember Robbie who prayed regularly for people at 10pm every evening, not only for members of the church, but for others who requested prayers to him.

**MINISTERS OF WHEATHAMPSTEAD
CONGREGATIONAL & UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

1822 - 1827	Rev Thomas Cannon
1827 - 1828	Rev Francis Watts
1828 - 1832	Rev Charles Wildey
1832 - 1835	Rev David Francis
1835 - 1838	Rev T. Salmon
1838 - 1841	Rev H. Davis
1841 - 1848	Rev Thomas Gilbert
1848 - 1852	Rev James Reading
1853 - 1865	Rev W. Wainwright
1866 - 1872	Rev C. F. Silcock
1872 - 1899	Rev J. G. Hoppus
1900 - 1915	Rev Morgan
1915 - 1923	Rev G. W. Berry
1924 - 1926	Rev Thomas Johnson
1926 - 1928	Mr England
1928 - 1929	Vacant
1930 - 1939	Rev Rushton
1940 - 1942	Vacant
1943 - 1946	Rev Henderson
1947 - 1949	Vacant
1950 - 1952	Rev Middleton
1954 - 1958	Rev Bromily
1958 - 1959	Rev Ellam Dennis
1960 - 1962	Rev Wheeler.
1963 - 1964	Vacant
1965 - 1967	Rev Stanley Smith
1968 - 1982	Rev D. Phipps-Jones
1983 - 1986	Rev Roy Eames
1986 - 1990	Vacant
1990 - 1994	Rev Bob Green
1995 - 2000	Rev Martin Truscott
2000 - 2002	Vacant
2002 -	Rev Wynn Young.

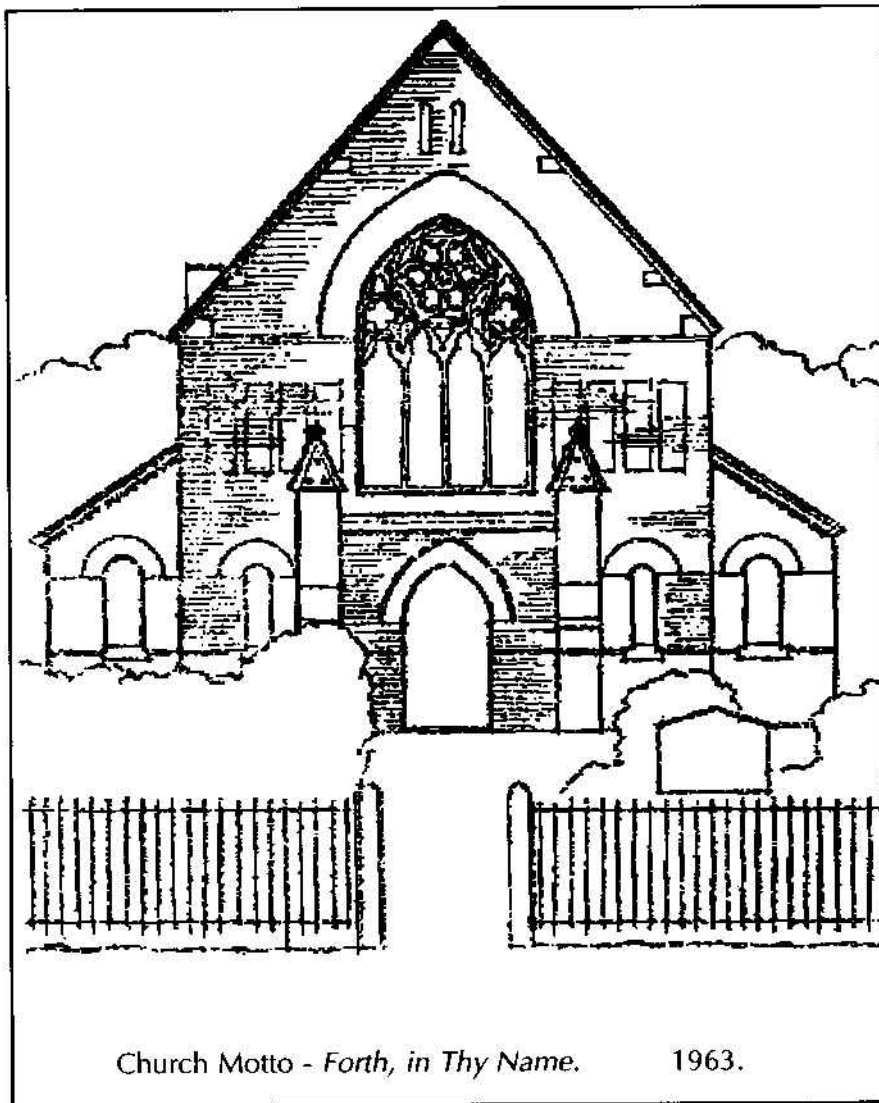
Rev Martin Truscott
with Sunday School



A Prayer Meeting/
Coffee Morning

Some of our congregation
enjoying a day out





Church Motto - *Forth, in Thy Name.* 1963.