

EARLSWOOD VALLEY

METHODIST CHAPEL



1791 ~ 1991

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FOR ALL WHO HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED EARLSWOOD VALLEY

PREFACE

THERE ARE SPECIAL OCCASIONS in the history of both individuals and communities when an acknowledgement of the faithfulness, love and guiding hand of God should be made, and the Bicentenary of a chapel is surely one of these.

The aim of this booklet is not to present an exhaustive historical record. Its purpose is simply to serve as a souvenir - a token of remembrance of the consecrated men and women who over a period of two hundred years have sustained the work of Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel.

When it was suggested that some special recognition should be made of the history of our chapel in the Valley we did not anticipate the amount of work which would be done, nor did we know of the amount of help that would be given. To all who have offered help and to Isabel Morgan who has done most of the work may I offer sincere thanks.

I deem it a great privilege and honour to be the minister at Earlswood Valley Chapel at this time, and send out this booklet in the hope that it will quicken a deeper sense of the wealth of our spiritual inheritance and rekindle our zeal for God.

Caldicot Manse 1990

Joseph J. Rooney

Edinburgh,
17th December 2016

This is to record that I have scanned my copy of the Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel 200th Anniversary Booklet.

It is a wonderfully produced record that I have been using constantly as I research my great, great, great, great grandmother, Ann Rosser.

The original was produced in A5 format whereas I have digitised it as A4. To keep the files small I have digitised it at 150 dpi. This means that the text is eminently readable but the photographic images may suffer – albeit many are difficult to view in the original booklet.

The booklet has a blank page at page 4 where I am inserting this note. Page 2 is also blank except that it carries the name and phone number of the printers of the original booklet thus “Designed, Typeset and Printed at THE PICKWICK PRESS Newport Gwent. Tel 246700”.

The front and rear covers are unnumbered, so page 1 of the booklet is situated at page 2 in this document.

I want to just mention Ann Rosser's family. My own research does not lead to the identification of a James Lewis as Ann Rosser's first husband and therefore I do not support this narrative where it appears in the booklet. Further, on page 12 we are informed that the James Lewis, Trustee in 1862, is a son of Ann Rosser. This is not substantiated in the historical Registers – indeed he was born after Ann married John Rosser.

However, please enjoy this delightful record.

Bruce Vickery

How Methodism Came to Earlswood Valley

THIS BOOKLET tells some of the story of a building that has stood in the centre of Earlswood Valley for the past two hundred years. Some who have known it all their lives find it difficult to visualise the Valley without it. However, there must have been a time when the land on which Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel was built was part of the adjoining meadow and there probably sheep and cattle grazed.

How then was it that this chapel was built?

There have been no houses built in Earlswood Valley for a very long time. Some of the cottages have fallen into ruin and only two of those remaining have not been modernised.



Maytree, One of the remaining cottages

In one of those cottages, now just a pile of stones, lived a young woman called Ann Lewis, who later in life through a second marriage became Ann

Rosser. Across the water in the Horsefair area of the city of Bristol the first Methodist chapel in the world had been built. It was from there an Anglican priest, despondent with the apathy of his clerical brothers, was spreading the gospel throughout the length and breadth of the country, travelling on horseback and preaching in the open air. He was one called John Wesley.



The First Methodist Chapel in the World

When the young Ann Lewis found that he was to pay his first visit to South Wales she was determined to hear him preach. He crossed on the ferry to Black Rock and then reached Devauden Green on horse back. Ann was just one of the three to four hundred who heard him preach there. She was so inspired by his preaching that she travelled many miles on foot, including Abergavenny, Usk and Bristol to hear his message. At least John Wesley was sure he had one convert in the South Wales area for this young woman returned to Earlswood Valley, and with her husband, James, held prayer meetings in their little thatched cottage and founded a branch of the Methodist Missionary Society. She inspired so

many people that soon the cottage became too small and Ann knew a chapel must be built.

It is said she travelled far and wide to raise funds. She visited every cottage in the area collecting money, and crossed many times on the ferry to speak with John Wesley and his associates in Bristol. On one occasion she returned

with twenty pounds towards the building. Eventually there was sufficient money to purchase the plot of land. Most of the building work was done by local labour and there is a well known story which says that much of the stone from a nearby quarry was carried by the women in their aprons.

One remarkable story is that of Nathaniel Watkins whom, it is said, was a notorious local character, a drunkard and always in some kind of trouble. Where others gave up Ann continued to encourage and endeavoured to show this character that there was a better way of life. Imagine her joy when he became converted, actually preaching himself. He was actively involved with the building of the chapel and responsible for most of the stone masonry. He died on 12th April, 1812 and his tomb stone can be seen in the burial ground beneath one of the windows.

The Life of Ann Lewis (Rosser)

1747 - 1832

ANN LEWIS was born in the Earlswood district in September 1747 and was baptised at the local church on 9th October of that year. Little is known of her early life but we can guess that it was very spartan and correct. In 1769 at the age of twenty-two she married James Lewis. James, who was an agricultural worker, was born in 1732. Little did Ann realise when they built themselves a cottage with a thatched roof, that in future years, on land a short distance away, she would found a building to the glory of God where, in two hundred years time, people would still be meeting each week for worship.

A story that has been handed down over the years tells of the death of an infant daughter of Ann and James whom it is said was buried beneath the spot where the pulpit now stands.

One descendant of Ann, who has delved into his ancestry, found that records show her sons were named James and John and that James had a son, also James. He married Rachel Lewis. They had five children and these great-grand-children of Ann were called Richard, Elizabeth Ann, Mary Ann, Sarah Ann and James. The name Lewis has lingered on in Earlswood Valley to this

day and it is thought is connected with the founder of the chapel.

Ann's husband died on 28th January, 1792 but as Ann continued with her work in the cause of Methodism she met John Rosser, who was a firm believer and eventually they married. In later life John became an invalid and Ann who was then eighty-two years old did her best to care for him.

On the fateful night of March 11th, 1831 John was taken ill, his wife got up to attend to him and the candle she lit started a fire in the cottage which quickly spread to the thatched roof. The elderly couple had a very narrow escape when the cottage was burned to the ground. The result was devastating and John died of injuries shortly afterwards.

At that time the following appeared in "The Monmouthshire Merlin".

Fire.—On the night of Friday, the 11th inst., a cottage at Earlswood, in this county, occupied by an aged couple named Rosser, was accidentally consumed by fire. The poor man, who is about eighty years of age, being ill, his wife, who is some years older, while attending with a lighted candle to render him assistance, unfortunately set fire to the roof of the bedroom, which was composed of straw thatch. The fire raged with violence, and in a short time not only the cottage but nearly every article of furniture and clothing the poor couple possessed were entirely destroyed. The poor woman is a person well known to the Wesleyan Methodists, being the oldest member of the Society in this county—in 1831, some years ago she was the only member of that Society between Monmouth and Chepstow and the latter place and Newport. At that period her constant practice after her daily toil was to walk to Chepstow and back, a distance of ten miles and upwards, to attend the prayer meetings of her people. By her invitation the minister visited Earlswood, and in the cottage now destroyed regularly preached the Gospel. Through her effort in great measure ground was procured and a small chapel raised in which the cottagers have worshipped to this day. To accomplish this she made several trips to Bristol to solicit the help of other members of the Society, and frequently wrought with her own hands to carry stone for the building until her body was wearied and her fingers skinned with the toil. She has hitherto maintained an upright character, and the name of Mother Rosser of Earlswood is extensively known and will be lastingly so among that body of Christians to whom she has for half a century or more been warmly attached. Should this statement meet the eye of any charitable person who may feel willing to come to the aid of two very aged sufferers in time of need it is respectfully requested that they will forward their donations to Mr. Benjamin Taylor, of Chepstow, by whom such donations will be thankfully received and duly applied.

Ann died on January 2nd, 1832 at the age of eighty-four. She was buried close to the chapel door and her memorial can be seen immediately above on the chapel wall. It is interesting to note that a copy of the memorial on the back cover of this book shows that on the first line of this epitaph the stone mason ran out of space and put the letters *ne* above *sto* in the word *stone* and also note the spelling of the word *devinely*. Mistakes were quite common on stones in those days and sometimes a line was just chiselled through and the correct word put in.

In the Methodist Magazine of 1832 can be seen the following obituary notice: *January 2nd, 1832 at Earlswood in the Newport Circuit, Monmouth, Mrs Ann Rosser aged eighty-four, having been a member of the Methodist Society for sixty-two years. She was sound in the faith, a subject of deep experience, holy in life, eminently useful in leading sinners to Christ and in encouraging believers to hold fast their confidence. She frequently travelled many miles to hear the venerable founder of Methodism, was greatly attached to the preachers and did everything in her power to promote their usefulness and comfort.*

As she lived so she died, rejoicing in the God of her salvation.

Some of the Descendants of Ann Rosser

IN 1938 ELIZABETH COOPER wrote down information given to her by her mother whom she wrote was the grand-daughter of Ann Rosser. Her name was Susannah Tiplin.

She wrote that Ann's daughter, also Ann, married Thomas Lewis of Earlswood and went to live in a house at Itton called Bensons Bush.

They had five children, but only one, my mother, Susannah, had any children. My mother was born on October 16th, 1821. She married Thomas

Tiplin of Mynyddbach, born December 21st, 1809. They had twelve children.

They lived with Thomas Lewis of Itton as his wife had died. Nine of their children grew up into adult age.

The oldest was James Tiplin, born March 18th, 1842. He married Ann Griffiths of Shirenewton whose father was a local preacher in the Chepstow Circuit. They had seven children only one of whom is alive now.

Ann Tiplin, born January 16th, 1844, married George Evans of Itton. They had three children who are still alive.

John Tiplin, born December 7th, 1846 married Mary Elizabeth Thomas at Chepstow Church. They had seven children and five are alive now. *ADELINE BEATRICE - WILFRED & PERCY* *your grand parents* *BLANCHE your 3rd. Mother*

Jane Tiplin, born December 27th, 1849 married Thomas Edwards of the Glyn. They had two children. Their son James lives at and owns Nex Farm, Devauden.

Thomas Tiplin, born February 5th, 1851, married Elizabeth Evans of Itton who was a sister of George Evans. They had six children, four of whom are alive.

Elizabeth Tiplin, born December 29th, 1853 married Frederick James Cooper at Trinity Church, Port Elizabeth in 1880. They had five children all of whom are dead.

Mary Tiplin, born January 20th, 1855, died February 13th, 1877.

Rebecca Tiplin, born February 27th, 1858 married James Brimble of Chew Magna, Somerset. They had seven children, five are now alive and live in Canada.

Edith Tiplin, born April 24th, 1861 married George Alderton of Fleet. They had no children.

All Susannah's children were members of the Methodist Church. James and John were class leaders. James' son, also James, was for many years a local preacher in the Chepstow Circuit.

This is our family history as far as I remember from what my mother used to tell me. My mother, when she died, was the oldest member in the Chepstow Circuit. She died April 5th 1885.

E. Cooper, aged 84, April 28th, 1938.

P.S. Ann Rosser, her husband and her daughter, Ann Lewis and Thomas

Lewis and her grand-daughter Susannah Tiplin and Thomas Tiplin are all buried in the graveyard at Earlswood Valley Chapel. *E.C.*

We can be sure that members of the Ann Rosser family have visited the chapel over the years but in 1981 they were given a special invitation to evening service which was conducted by a descendant of Ann.

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

SPECIAL EVENING WORSHIP

Conducted by the Rev Leslie Tiplin-Vickery, MA,
OBE, L.Th, of Brisbane, Australia, past president
of the Methodist Conference of Queensland, direct
descendant of Anne Rosser, founder of Valley
Chapel, 1791.

COMMUNITY HYMN SINGING 8pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6.30pm.

Sadly, since then, the Rev. Tiplin Vickery has died. On that visit he expressed the wish that he would be able to return for the bi-centenary celebrations. We hope that his relatives living in Australia, together with other descendants will all be able to attend the special Family Service Celebration in June.



1981 Ann Rosser's Descendants arrive for the special evening worship
Descendant Raymond Lee with his wife Christina and son and daughter Michael and Marianne are members at Chepstow Methodist Chapel where they are involved in youth work.

Those Who Followed Ann

ANN ROSSER died in 1832 but the chapel she was inspired to found lived on in Earlswood Valley. Here we record some of the names of those who since her death to this present day spent many years, if not a life time, in dedicated service to the work of the chapel.

James Jones a farmer of Gray Hill, was just a young lad when Ann died, but we have reason to believe that he soon became very interested in the chapel and later became a local preacher, manager of the Sunday School and records show that in 1862 he was appointed a trustee.

The same record lists Ann's son, James, as a trustee so we can assume that he also was a dedicated worker at the chapel.

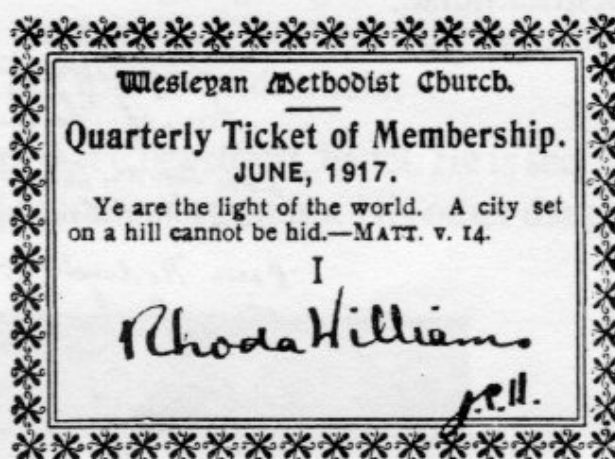
Charles James Phillips	Birmingham	Hotel Keeper
George Harris	Chepstow	Baker
George Lee	Chepstow	Boot Manufacturer
Joseph Cook	Chepstow	School Master
Benjamin Greening	Chepstow	Watchmaker
Charles Jones	Shirenewton	Boot & Shoe Maker
John Evans	Shirenewton	Farmer
William Spencer	Shirenewton	Boot & Shoe Maker
William Jones	Penycaemawr	Tiler & Plasterer
James Lewis	Grey Hill	Farmer
John Harris	Earlswood	Mason
James Jones	Earlswood	Farmer
John Bissell	Chepstow	Wesleyan Minister



Michael Quinton was very active in the chapel from about 1850 until his death in 1916. For some of this time he was the chapel steward. His daughter Elizabeth, son-in-law, Herbert Lewis and great-granddaughter, Ivy Morgan

can be seen here. Chapel House can be seen in the background.

Rhoda Ann Allen who through marriage became **Rhoda Williams** was born in 1850. In the years following her marriage she became a chapel member and was chapel steward for many years. She married **Thomas Williams**



Rhoda and Thomas Williams

After living at Shirenewton they moved to Chapel House, Earlswood Valley and finally to the house her husband had built, Rose Cottage, also in Earlswood Valley.



Rose Cottage

She had eleven children but four died in infancy.

Her youngest child born in 1890, Eliza Josephine, was Mrs Lizzie Hanbury, a member of the chapel, who lived at Rose Cottage all her life until blindness prevented her living alone and then her daughter, Mrs Ivy Bevan cared for her.

Rhoda was a devoted chapel steward in the days of oil lamps and coke burning stoves. She was known to everyone as Nurse Williams for she was the district nurse.

Registration of Births of children
Born of Thomas and Rhoda Ann Williams
Born Monday February 27-1871 at Haremont
daughter, died
Born Wednesday October 9, 1872 at Chappell
House Earlswood Alfred Thomas at 12 day
Born Thursday February 18, 1876 at
Chappell House William Thomas, at
quarter to nine at night
Born Sunday January 13, 1878, at
Chappell House, daughter died at night
Born Wednesday November 11, 1879 at
Langley's pitch, Mary Rebecca daughter
at quarter past four afternoon
Born Wednesday March 9th 1881
at Rose Cottage Frederick John
at half past five in afternoon
Lily Louisa Born May 13 1883
at night at quarter to two
Still Born September 10, 1885 son
Still Born November 2nd 1886 son
were
1887, Allen Augustus Born, Rose Cottage
Friday December 9th at 1/2 past two
in the morning
1890, Eliza Josephine Born
Saturday May 31st at twenty minutes
past midday in the morning at
Rose Cottage

Mr Herbert Lewis of Chapel House was steward for a number of years early in this century.

One interesting story his daughter Mrs Daisy Morgan told was that of his marriage to Elizabeth Quinton on Christmas Day 1902. As Earlswood Chapel was not registered for marriages they went to Albion Square Methodist Chapel in Chepstow, their transport being horse and trap. It was a very wintry morning with ice on the roads. The bridesmaid who was travelling with them got out of the trap in Shirenewton to ease the weight going down the hill, but unfortunately slipped on the ice and cut her face. However she was able to continue the journey and carried out her role as bridesmaid.

His daughter, Daisy, was also married at Chepstow Chapel. He is seen here with her on her wedding day in the mid nineteen twenties. His other daughter, Betty, was the bridesmaid.



Miss Hannah Williams of Chapel Farm was a very active member probably from about 1886 until her death in 1919 when she was forty-nine

years old. She worked tirelessly as organist, Sunday School Superintendent and in entertaining preachers visiting the chapel.



Miss Hannah Williams

Miss Sarah Jane Williams always known as Miss Jenny Williams was a close friend of Hannah. She was a member and society steward for many years. She lived at Argoed Farm but later in life moved to Red House. She died in 1949 at the age of eighty-six.

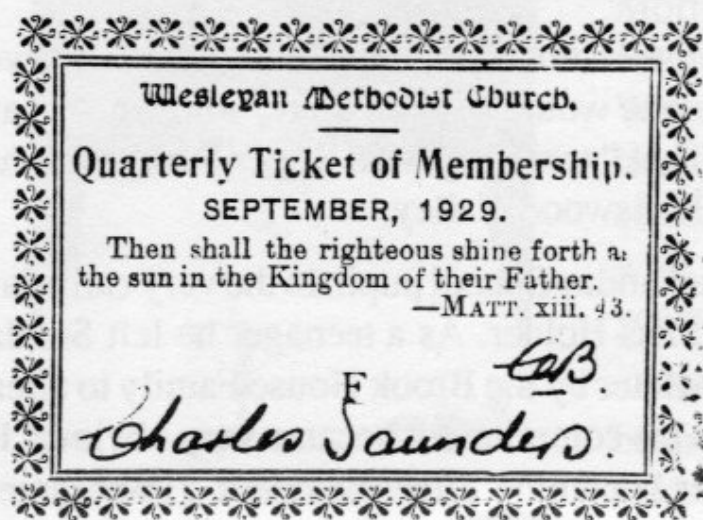


Miss Sarah Jane Williams

Miss Lydia Bowen followed on in the early twenties. She had lodgings at Argoed Farm and walked a daily distance of about six miles to Newchurch West School where she was Head Mistress. She played the organ and taught in the Sunday School. Some still remember her today as a great disciplinarian.



*Lydia at her Newchurch West School
Most of her pupils were also Sunday School pupils*



Mr Charlie Saunders lived at Old Home just a few hundred yards from the chapel, a faithful member and one of the well known characters of Earlswood Valley. On one occasion during a sermon, finding himself not in agreement with the preacher, told him so in no uncertain terms.

You will read later of the part he played when teas were served at the chapel.

His wife was an invalid and there are some who still remember how he carried her on his back to the chapel so that she could play her part as Sunday School teacher.

Miss Mary Holder was always known as Miss Dolly Holder or just "Aunty Dolly". In her youth she lived at Newbridge but was a frequent visitor to Earlswood Valley where she stayed with her relatives at Argoed Farm. Eventually she came to live with them permanently. As a young lady she was very active in the chapel and later, in about 1930 she became Sunday School Superintendent and organist. She held these offices for over forty years. She is seen here at Red House, in 1961, with her brother Rupert, and niece Janet.



Mr Roger Smith. Little did Miss Hannah Williams think when she lived at Chapel Farm, that in 1923 someone would be born there, who would have a life long interest in the chapel. That "someone" was Roger Smith who has devoted his life to the witness at Earlswood Valley.

He was first introduced to it as a Sunday School pupil, in the very early days with Miss Bowen and later with Miss Holder. As a teenager he left Sunday School, but was encouraged a little later by the Brook House Family to attend evening worship. As time went on his commitment became very obvious. He taught in the Sunday School, later becoming Superintendent. He became a

circuit helper conducting services in other chapels and he has held the office of Chapel Steward for many years.



Mr Roger Smith

Mrs Vera Morris. When Miss Holder's health failed, Roger Smith was responsible for inviting Mrs Morris to assist with the Sunday School. She had recently moved to School House, Earlswood when her husband Mr Peter Morris became Head Teacher of Earlswood School.



Mrs Vera Morris

The invitation resulted in Mrs Morris becoming a chapel member and entering fully into the life of the chapel. When she died in 1986 she was sadly missed, after carrying out her duties as organist and Sunday School teacher with great enthusiasm for eighteen years.

We know that these people have been pillars of strength in the Methodist Cause in Earlswood Valley for the past

two hundred years, but we can be sure that there have been many, many more unnamed and perhaps unnoticed who quietly played their part over the years.

When one such member died in her 92nd year in 1980, someone wrote "Her wonderful capacity for inspiring others will live on in the lives of many of us".

Mrs Herbert of Brook House was a member for over fifty years. She never held office as such but was always there to help when needed. During the week her family kept her busy, but never too busy to encourage others, especially young people, some of whom are active in the chapel today, including three of her own children.

For two hundred years others have had the capacity to inspire and perhaps this is the reason for the continuity of families who have worshipped there for two centuries.

Mr Michael Quinton became a member in the nineteenth century, his daughter was a member, his grand-daughter, Mrs Daisy Morgan is today's oldest member, and descendants Brian and Alan Quinton are also members and Brian's four year old son, Robert, it is hoped, will soon be joining the activity group. Other members of the Quinton family have also been connected with the chapel.

Many years ago Mr and Mrs Thomas Lewis of The Pandy regularly attended services, with Mr Lewis being chapel steward for some of that time.



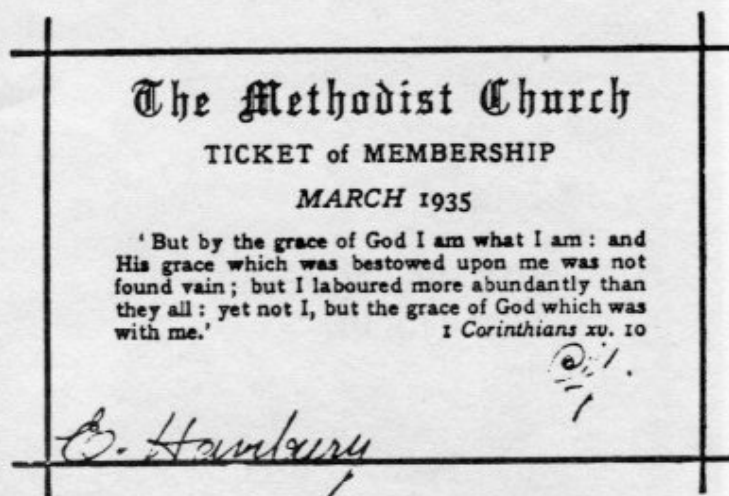
Mrs Doris Lewis with daughter, Ivy, Grand-Daughter Kerry and Great-Granddaughters Genette and Emma.

Their daughter-in-law, Mrs Doris Lewis of Chapel Farm, is one of today's very faithful members. Her seven children attended the Sunday School, her grand-daughter, Mrs Kerry Williams, is active in the chapel and great-grand-children, Genette and Emma belong to the Young Members Activity Group.

Mrs Rhoda Williams (see Those Who Followed Ann) was a steward, her daughter, Mrs Lizzie Hanbury, was a member, grand-daughter, Mrs Ivy Bevan, is a member today and great-great-grand-daughter, Jodi Bevan has been a member of Y.M.A.G.



Mrs Lizzie Hanbury in her youth



Mr Albert Morgan (see Local, Local Preachers) was the brother-in-law of Mrs Daisy Morgan. His daughters, Miss Nell Morgan and Mrs Cissie Dowler attend family and special services, his grand-daughter, Mrs Janice Jenkins is a choir member and his great-grandson, ten year old Rhys has been a Y.M.A.G. member since he was three years old, and his four year old brother, Joseph, is also a member.



The daughters of Mr Albert Morgan with grand-daughter, Janice and great-grandsons Rhys and Joseph.

Perhaps the most significant of these stories is that of Robin Harris of Pandy Farm.

From information given by the Ann Rosser family it has recently been traced that Robin is in fact the great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Ann Rosser.

He is a member of the chapel and has been involved there since he was a young lad in Sunday School. He is now one of the chapel stewards and takes a great

interest in keeping the Valley Meadow in good trim for any events taking place there.



*Robin seen here at Buckwell Farm once the home of his grand-parents
Mr and Mrs Luther Price*

Some "Local" Local Preachers

IN THE early days rural chapels depended very much on those dedicated people known as local preachers. Ministers were not frequent visitors. There were several living within three or four miles of the chapel. One of the first was James Jones (see *Those Who Followed Ann*). The small tomb stone can be seen at the lower end of the old burial ground with the following epitaph:

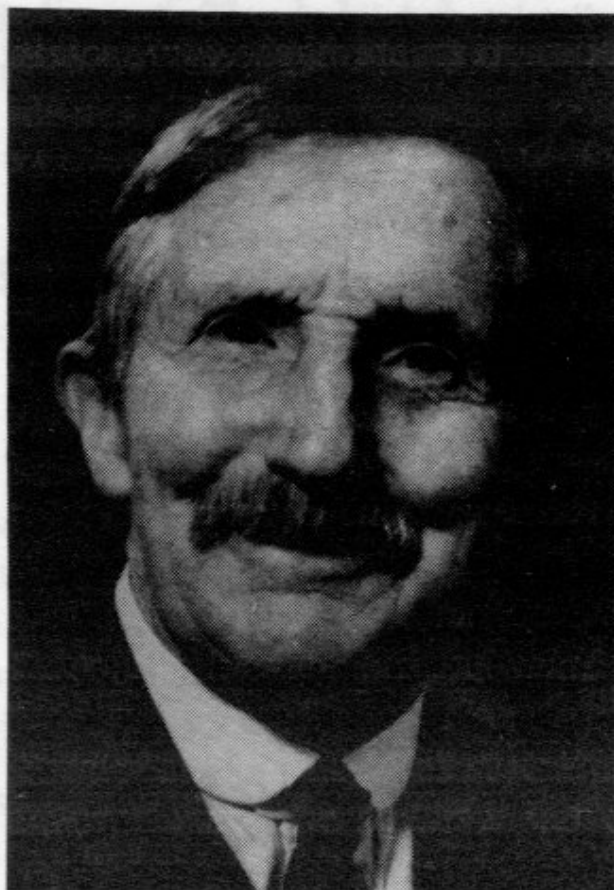
James Jones died 5th June, 1905, aged 81 years. 40 years local preacher and manager of the Sunday School here.

The following three are still remembered by older members of the chapel:
Mr Fred Price who lived at Penycaemawr and later at Little Llwyncelyn,

Shirenewton, was a local preacher from 1904 until his death in 1961, when he was eighty years old. He was converted at a three week mission held in Earlswood in 1903 where it is said there were thirty-six converts including the village policeman who was on duty there at the time. Mr Price was presented with a certificate after completing forty years as a local preacher.

Mr Albert Morgan of Devauden, lived very near Devauden Green where John Wesley preached. In 1947 he too received a certificate in recognition of forty years as a local preacher. Today it is treasured by his daughters and the framed certificate hangs in their home at The Nex, Devauden. The very attractive certificate with a picture of the

Wesley Memorial, Westminster Abbey at the top, reads, "The Methodist Church, October 1947, presented to Mr A. Morgan on the completion of forty years as a local preacher, with very cordial congratulations on so splendid a record of service for Methodism and the Kingdom of God." It was signed by



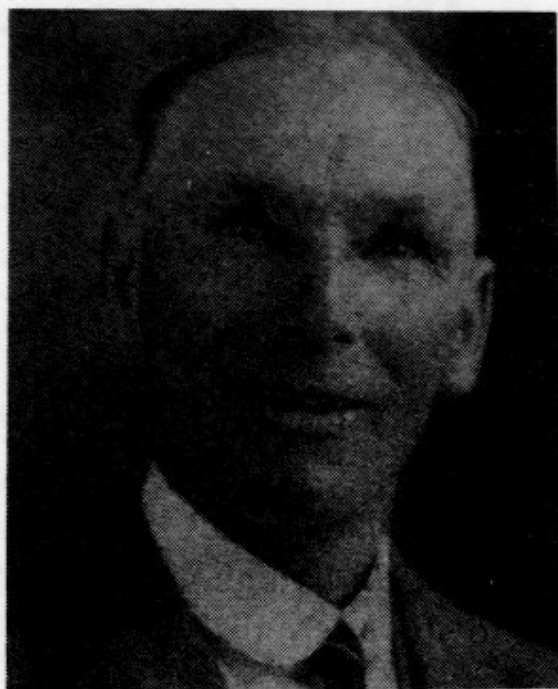
Mr Fred Price

the connexional secretary of the Local Preacher's Department. Across the bottom of the certificate can be read the words, "The best of all is, God is with us".

Mr Morgan was also converted in the 1903 mission.

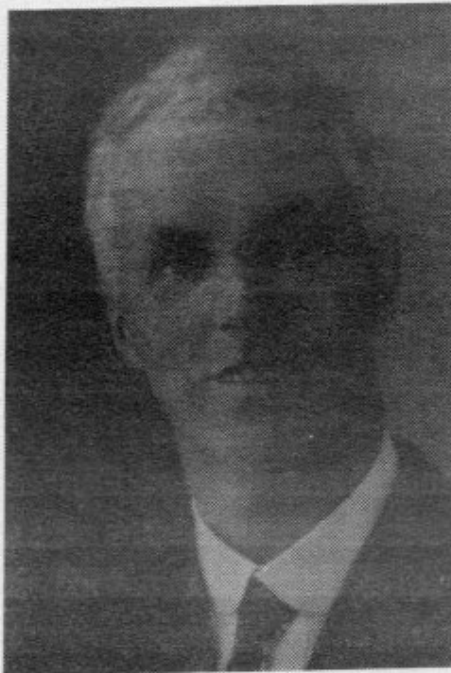
Mr Elijah Bevan spent his childhood days in the Kilgwrrwg and Devauden area but after marriage went to live in Llanhilleth.

Later he returned to the Chepstow



Mr Albert Morgan

district and lived at Earlswood. He became very well known to all the Earlswood Valley folk and frequently as a local preacher conducted services there.



Mr Elijah J. Bevan

**WESLEYAN
METHODIST CHURCH.**

WYE VALLEY MISSION.

**PLAN
OF
APPOINTMENTS,**

April to July, 1910.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Printed at the "Graphic" Office, Ross.

Preachers' Names and Residences.

REV. HERWIN SMITH M.A., B.D. Park View, Ross-on-Wye
 REV. B. F. HASLOCK St. James' Square, Monmouth
 REV. C. A. AMBY Crossway Green, Chepstow
 REV. T. FERRIER HULME M.A. Wainwright Road, Durdham Park, Bristol
 REV. H. M. NIELD Llandrinodod Wells
 REV. F. BALCH Paulton
 REV. A. SAYERS Monmouth
 REV. WILDING Monmouth

EVANGELISTS
 Garrick, J. M. Norton, Gwent, Hereford
 Capewell, G. G. Lower Angel, Shirenewton, Chepstow

LOCAL PREACHERS.
 Freeman, R. Forest Green, Walford, Ross
 Phelps, S. J. Wye Street, Ross
 Adams, W. Wood View Lane, Ross
 Evans, E. Forest Green
 Willis, B. B. High Street, Ross
 Sincok, S. Bristol House, Ross-on-Wye
 Gey, T. J. Camp Road, Ross-on-Wye
 Parsons, T. 15 Allen Street, Ross-on-Wye
 Hill, A. Tudor Hill, Ross
 Morris, W. Over-Ross

Jordan, R. W. (1) Marlham, Monmouth
 Jordan, R. W. (2) Llanguncock, Three Ashes, Ross
 Watkins, David Trelick
 Haskins, J. W. Barberr Farm, Penall, Monmouth
 Jones, J. Flager Post, Cross Ash, Monmouth
 Jordan, R. W. (1) Upper Trippan Kennet, St. Wascaris
 Edwards, J. A. Chapel Farm, Penall, Monmouth
 Law, J. J. Ebbw Vale, Monmouth
 Jenkins, Wm. Llanguncock, Ross
 Bowen, J. E. J. P. Monmouth
 Clark, E. Steeple Aston, Gwent
 Grantly, Harrow Marlham, Monmouth
 Jones, W. B. Marlham
 Jones, W. B. (Mrs.) Marlham

Harris, J. (1) Glynn Iron, Chepstow
 Williams, A. Thomas Chase, Chepstow
 Tiplin, J. Callicott, Newport, Mon.
 Price, F. N. Little Llyn Celly, Shirenewton, Chepstow
 Nicholas, W. Pwllmery, Chepstow
 Nelson, J. Oak Bin, Pwllmery
 Watkins, H. G. Radwick Avenue, Chepstow
 Thomas, E. Callicott
 Morgan, A. Glynn
 Bevan, E. Glynn
 Scott, James. Woodcock, Chepstow
 Jones, A. Pwllmery
 Adams, A. J. Radwick Farm, St. Brelais
 Simmons, J. Chepstow
 Thomas, W. R. Wockle Pottery Farm, St. Brelais
 Beckins, A. Tintern
 B. Foshill Cottage, Chepstow

LOCAL OFFICERS.

	Society Steward.	Poor Steward.	Chapel Steward.
ROSS	Mr. Shirley	Mr. Alf. Jones	Mr. S. Sincok
WEXTON	" A. Hill	" Davis	Miss Lewis
LEA HAYLEY	" T. Dowding	" W. West	Mr. Harris
PETERSTOW	" Jones		Mr. R. Preen
BISHOPSTOW	" Aubrey		
	" R. Preen		
MONMOUTH	Mr. D. Smith	Mr. Apperley	Mr. K. Hall
REDMOOK	" J. J. Law	" Brown	
LLANCLUDY	" E. M. Jordan		
LLANGROVE	" J. Williams	Mrs. Davies	
PARKHOUSE	" M. F. Matthews		
MARYLAND	" R. Richards	Mr. R. W. Jordan	
FIVE TREES	" Caleb Swain	" R. Edwards	" R. Edwards
LLANISHEN	" J. W. Haskins		
NORTON	" D. Edmunds		
GRAND HILL	" A. Heath		
LLANHOY	" G. Rock		
	" J. Adams		
CHEPSTOW	Mr. S. T. Rake	Mr. Lewis	Mrs. Hanbury
TINTERN	Mr. J. Lewis	" G. Fossall	Mr. W. Johnson
HOCKWELL	Miss Wain	" Adams	Rev. J. B. Alger
POLKERRY	Mr. Jordan		
CHALCOTT	Mr. Gridley		
GLYNN	Mrs. W. Maipus	Mrs. Varley	Mrs. Varley
LEVAUDEN	Mr. R. Davis	Mr. C. Harvey	Mr. W. Howard
L. HOSWOOD	" J. Tiplin, Jun.	" Hill	" J. Tiplin, Jun.
ROBENNEWTON	" Edw. Adams	" J. Roberts	" C. Lewis
ROBENNEWTON	" J. Harris (1)	" Shephard	" E. Bovas
ROBENNEWTON	Miss J. Michael		" Thomas
ROBENNEWTON	" Thomas	Miss H. Williams	Miss H. Williams
ROBENNEWTON	" S. J. Williams	Mr. C. Lane	Mr. C. Jones
ROBENNEWTON	" Collins		
ROBENNEWTON	Mr. W. Kelly		
ROBENNEWTON	" G. Ravenhill		
ROBENNEWTON	" F. Price	" F. Price	Mr. W. Price

NOTE.—Where no Name is given for the Poor or Chapel Stewardships, it is understood that the Society Steward fulfils the duties.

Through the Eyes of a Child when Life Revolved Around the Chapel in the Early 1930's

FOLLOWING 1930 for about forty years there were large families in Earlswood Valley at Chapel House, New Mill, The Pandy and at Brook House. This is the reason that for many years there was a very well attended Sunday School. However, from the early part of the 1930's for children of one such family it was not just Sunday School as most of their life seemed to be centred around the Valley Chapel as the following story tells:

Nine o'clock on a Sunday morning, with the smell of bacon sizzling in the pan on an open fire, or perhaps sausages for a treat, the children sat around the table ready and waiting for breakfast. Their boots and shoes, cleaned by father the night before, were lined up on the floor.

With breakfast over it was into Sunday best clothes and on the road to Sunday School just before eleven o'clock. When they arrived on a winter morning and found the chapel warm with the stove glowing in the centre, they did not realise that Mrs Rhoda Williams had been there earlier with granddaughter Ivy to light it, and this was sometimes not an easy task.

Miss Dolly Holder was there ready to greet them. She had walked a good mile down the road from Red House. The children all loved her but took no notice when she said in her own way those familiar words "Keep quiet".

One of their favourite hymns was "When He cometh, When He cometh, to make up His jewels." After prayers Miss Holder would talk through a Bible story as she faced the children, sitting with her legs through the back of a bench seat. She taught them some of her special Bible verses, one of them being the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophet!"

After playing the organ for the final hymn, she would fill up the stove with coke, and then it was back up the hill for her, to return later to play for evening service accompanied by her aunt, Miss Jenny Williams, and cousin Edith. She walked about four miles each Sunday.

Those children went back home to the smell of roast beef coming from the oven beside the open fire.

Sunday was a different day. They spent the afternoon quietly. Tea was at half past four, bread and butter, home-made jam and cakes. It was a special occasion when they had shop cake.

In the evening they too returned to chapel. On dark evenings they made a lantern by putting a candle in a two pound jam jar and tying string around the top for a handle, but on wintry nights it was difficult to keep it alight.

Often they met up with the preacher, cycling or walking. As children they always knew before they set out whether the hour in chapel would be interesting or boring. They decided this when they knew which preacher would be there. They knew the ones who would tell them a story and those who would just leave them alone, when they would quietly think over their tables still unlearned for Monday morning.

They well knew the one who never seemed satisfied until with his words he had encouraged them into a giggling session.

It was a very rare occasion when the minister conducted the services but he did come occasionally for a mid-week service, when Mrs Williams, or Nurse Williams as she was always known in Earlswood Valley, not only had to light the stove but had to cope with oil lamps as well.

The Pastor and Superintendent Minister visited the children's home frequently. They always seemed to know when it was baking day. The day when the baking oven was heated by filling it with long sticks and when they had burned away, the ash was raked out and the oven was ready to bake all those cakes and tarts.

It was about tea time when they arrived as the plum and apple tarts on large meat dishes were being put out on the table. They made no hesitation when asked if they would have plum or apple, they had obviously made up their minds beforehand.

For these children there were a few red letter days throughout the year. One of them was the Chapel Anniversary on Easter Monday when you had to have one of those pink tickets for two children to have tea. The children helped to sell the tickets around the Valley and on one occasion a small child was very distressed when he found that he could not keep the money he had received from selling tickets. The trestle tables were put up on both sides of the chapel for teas to be served.

The bread and butter was cut up in the vestry (no sliced bread) and the shop slab cake of two kinds, madeira and fruit was arranged on plates. The pink and blue chapel china was carefully taken out of the cupboard. Mr Charlie Saunders of Old Home cut wood and brought it along to light the vestry fire where he boiled the two very large kettles, each holding a small bucket of water. Miss Holder gave a stern warning when the kettles were about to be lifted from the fire to make the tea.



The children knew well the familiar figure of Mr Saunders sitting there, with ruddy face, the sleeves of his collarless striped flannel shirt rolled up to the elbows as he poked more long sticks into the fire to keep it alight.

Sometimes the children sat through what was called the Love Feast, when visitors, mostly from Chepstow Chapel, gave their testimony. They must have wondered why they were never invited to join those who had slipped away up to Gray Hill.

Following Easter the next highlight was the Sunday School Anniversary. Through the summer months, Wednesday evening was practice time to prepare for the big event on Sunday and Monday of August Bank Holiday. Finally the day arrived. The new dresses, the yellow straw hats and new shoes had been bought. Sometimes there was panic when the parcel from J. D. Williams only arrived just the day before. The boys had their outfits too, some, perhaps, turning out in their first long trousers.

The children sat on benches arranged at the front of the chapel, and how they sang and recited their "piece" as recitations were called. Some even did dialogues. The chapel was always crowded, the sun was always shining and with the door open it was best when reciting to keep ones eye on that gravestone just outside the door.

Earlswood Methodist Sunday
School

ANNUAL TEA

August Bank Holiday Monday

At 5 o'clock.

Tickets - - - 9d. each.

On Monday there was a repeat but the children never seemed quite so spick and span, as

beforehand there had been tea in the chapel followed by sports in Newton Meadow.

One August Monday following the service when all had gone so well, there was tragedy as one lady slipped on the step in the chapel and fractured several ribs. The children were so upset that even the trip to Barry Island the following day did not help them to forget this incident.

The Sunday School outing was looked forward to for many months. It was an eight o'clock start from Earlswood School and no-one minded the overcrowding, three to a seat and a few in the gangway. You see, Miss Holder was so good natured, she never turned anyone away so she brought stools with her when she got on the bus at Red House knowing full well that she had overbooked.

She always warned when a bus was approaching a town and asked everyone to sit down.

One year Miss Holder found herself with real problems. Because of numbers two buses were booked, one from each of the local companies. Just the day before the trip news came that the one bus had broken down. She hastily made arrangements for the other bus to make two journeys, the result being that some families found themselves on the Barry Island sands at seven o'clock in the morning and having to leave for home in the late afternoon, probably missing all the fun of the fair.



*Typical scene on Barry Island Day
but a little later than 1930's*

On arriving at the seaside she often gave the children sixpence to add to their hard earned money which they had been saving for months to spend on ice-cream and the fair.

It was a very exciting day, building sand castles, paddling, games on the beach and finally the fair where they were never satisfied until their last penny was spent.

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Making up ones mind what to buy the following evening from this eye catching display was difficult and, having made the final decision, the problem was, would someone else get there before you.

The last event of the year, but by no means the least, was the Christmas party with a tea just for the children, followed by games in the vestry. There was Ring on the String, Duckie Duckie and Blind Man's Buff. It was very lively and no-one ever fell on that huge open fire. Miss Holder's favourite game was Sausage and at one party she really let her hair down and played Rachel and Jacob with Pastor Hollis.

Just before leaving, prizes for the year were presented, books for everyone, with names and attendances for the year inscribed.

*Presented to
Isabel J. ...
Earlswood Methodist
Sunday School
Christmas 1936*

52 Attendances.

m. Holder

Many past Sunday School pupils who read this story probably will remember the same excitement through their involvement with the chapel. One former pupil certainly did. Now a senior citizen living in Cornwall, he recently wrote:

"In the early and middle nineteen thirties I lived near Earlswood Chapel and spent many happy times attending the chapel especially on Sundays which I remember was the high spot of the week for my family."

The Sunday School

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL has played a very important part in the life of the chapel.

On the tomb stone of James Jones one can read "Manager of the Sunday School here". He died in 1905 at the age of eighty-one, so we can assume that he was busy in the Sunday School probably before 1850.

Sunday School prizes from about one hundred years ago show that work was going on with young people at that time. The earliest records go back to 1921.

The names of D. Lewis, now Mrs Daisy Morgan, and L. James, now Mrs Lilian Remnant can be seen on the 1921 register. Mrs Morgan has been connected with the chapel all her life, living for many years at Chapel House. She had nine children most of whom attended Sunday School. She is now the oldest member of the chapel.

Mrs Lilian Remnant with her brother Mr Harold James (also on the 1921 register) have always been connected with chapels in the area. Mrs Remnant is organist at Gaerllwydd Chapel and at Newchurch Church. She remembers well collecting money for missionary work and working for scripture examinations. She still has the certificate which she received for her efforts. She also remembers working in the group that won the shield which can be seen in the chapel today.



Lilian and Harold James



Daisy Lewis with her sister, Betty 1913



1926 Earlswood school pupils, many of whom were members of the Sunday School



Mothers of children in Sunday School 1921 - 24



Sunday School Pupils 1921 - 1924 as recorded in registers.

D. Lewis	D.Bennett	Lloyd George Harding
Archie Quinton	Ernest Rees	Trevor Harding
Stanley Quinton	Gus Rees	James Williams
Arthur Davies	O.Glanville	Alan Stevens
Gus Davies	W.Jeremiah	Hilary Pengelly
Leslie Waters	Gladys Martin	Arthur Hanbury
Harold James	G.Peters	Sidney Hanbury
Doris Baynton	Reg Phelps	Jack Birden
Ivy Baynton	R.Baynton	Ronald Wheeler
Ethel Hodges	Trevor Baynton	Tom Lewis
Edna Waters	Clifford Baynton	Jim Lewis
Olive Waters	Idwell Baynton	Millie Quinton
Betty Lewis	Ivy Hanbury	Cressley Phelps
Muriel Davies	Leslie Phelps	Phyllis Hookway
Doreen Phillips	Justice Phelps	Dorothy Thomas
Ethel Lingard	Ada Richards	Queenie Packer
Lilian James	C.Birden	Doris Williams
Ivy Bursey	Daphne Webb	Marie Williams
Olive Bursey	Nancy Phelps	Helen Herbert
Irene Charlotte	Georgina Richards	Cora Brown
Percy Jeremiah	Hilda Reece	Rita Brown
John Smith	Harold Jeremiah	Iris Baynton
Mabel Hanbury	Olive Harding	Vera Brown
H.Bennett	Olive Glanville	Leslie Jeremiah

List of Sunday School Pupils as recorded in registers 1925 - 1977

Frances Attewell	George Bryant	Stanley Bryant
Colin Attewell	Henry Bryant	Dennis Baynton
Charles Attewell	Raymond Bryant	Francis Bryant
Jennifer Ball	Wilfred Bryant	Bob Brown
Joyce Ball	Arthur Banfield	Margaret Cooper
Sheila Ball	Bernard Banfield	Barbara Cooper
Stan Bevan	Donald Banfield	Daisy Cook
Dorothy Bryant	Wesley Banfield	Peggy Cook
Mary Bryant	Raymond Birden	Willie Cooper

Phyllis Cotter
Gwen Davies
Barbara Davies
Ruth Davies
Brian Davies
Lesley Davies
Nancy Davies
Wendy Davies
Maureen Daw
Robert Davies
Margaret Daw
Diana Davies
Diane Ellis
Charles Ellis
Olwen Fisher
Doris Fisher
Ronald Fisher
Trevor Fisher
Eileen Fisher
Dawn Goulding
Claire Goulding
Joanna Greenfield
Rosalind Gill
Edward Gill
Nancy Higgs
Donald Herbert
Trevor Herbert
Isabel Herbert
Edmund Herbert
Joan Howells
Valerie Hayward
Gertrude Hayward
Joan Hayward
Edward Hayward
Vernon Hayward
Christine Herbert
Lilian Hookway
Mervyn Hookway
Janet Hall

Robin Harris
Beverley Hookway
Ann Hookway
Julie Hookway
Joanna Harris
Trevor James
Iris James
Lawrence James
Raymond Jeremiah
Heather James
Terence Jones
Edna Jones
Peter Jones
Graham Jones
Aileen Jones
Sybil Jeremiah
Pamela James
Cheryl Jones
Pauline James
Glenys James
Linda Jeremiah
Elaine Jeremiah
Clare Johnston
Andrew Johnston
Andrew Jackson
Andrew Jeremiah
Fife Johnston
Christine Kyte
Vera Lewis
Douglas Lewis
Daphne Lewis
Kenneth Lewis
Trevor Lewis
Doreen Lewis
Elma Lewis
Marion Lewis
Olwen Lewis
Ivy Lewis
Tony Lewis

Ivor Lewis
Joan Langrish
Teresa Langrish
Gilmore Lewis
John Lewis
Margaret Lewis
Catherine Lewis
Barbara Miles
Brenda Miles
Dorothy Miles
Dennis Miles
Jack Marshall
John Morris
Richard Martin
David Martin
Sheila Morris
Glenys Morris
Cecil Morgan
Vinnie Morgan
Gwen Morgan
Joan Morgan
Kathleen Morgan
Maud Martin
June Martin
Jane Miles
Stella Miles
Rosemary Miles
Carol Morgan
Susan Morris
Barbara Morris
Catherine Morris
Robin Miles
Richard Miles
Robert Morgan
Howell Morris
Graham Morgan
Reuben Morris
Mary North
Albert North

Michelle Nightingale
 Danny Nightingale
 Maureen Ostler
 Louise Ostler
 Marion Price
 Raymond Price
 Alan Price
 Ivy Parker
 Eric Petts
 Eileen Petts
 Jane Prince
 Angela Powell
 Kerry Powell
 Denver Pengelly
 Sydney Pengelly
 Ivor Quinton
 Brian Quinton

Marjorie Quinton
 Alan Quinton
 Kenneth Rees
 Kevin Roberts
 Keith Rixon
 Ida Smith
 Roger Smith
 Mervyn Smith
 Ann Saysell
 Terence Saysell
 Royston Stephens
 Sheila Stringer
 Fairy Stringer
 Pamela Stevens
 Ivy Saysell
 Carol Saysell
 Brenda Trigger

Pearl Trigger
 Lottie Trigger
 Phyllis Trigger
 John Trigger
 Doreen Trigger
 Margaret Titcombe
 Dinah Thomas
 Kathleen Williams
 John Williams
 Dorothy Waters
 Sybil Williams
 Mary Williams
 Joyce Waters
 Sheila Withers
 Jill Waters
 Paul Waters

Baptisms

RECORDS OF BAPTISMS held at the chapel go back to 1953. Earlier baptisms were possibly recorded at Chepstow or Caldicot Chapel.

List of Baptisms recorded at Earlswood Valley Chapel

18th January 1953	Phillip James Bryant, Whitewall, Earlswood. Rev. A.H.Gledhill
18th January 1953	Anne Christine Oakley, Woodside, Llanishen. Rev. A.H.Gledhill
27th September 1953	Diane Smith, Little Cherry Orchard, Earlswood. Rev. A.H.Gledhill
17th July 1955	Harry George Herbert, Brook House, Earlswood. Rev. A.H.Gledhill
16th March 1958	Patricia Lois May James, Dingle Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. Windsor Bevan

16th March 1958	Ronald Clive Fisher, Whitewall, Earlswood. Rev. Windsor Bevan
26th November 1958	Terry John Bryant, Chapel House, Earlswood. Rev. Windsor Bevan
21st October 1959	Lynda Elizabeth Fildes, Itton Road, Chepstow. Rev. Windsor Bevan
28th February 1960	Martin Gundry, Chapel House, Earlswood. Rev. Windsor Bevan
30th April 1961	Angela Lynne Powell, Bluebell Cottage, Penycaemawr. Rev. Leonard Rowley
30th April 1961	Julie Elizabeth Davies, Bluebell Farm, Newchurch West. Rev. Leonard Rowley
25th March 1962	David Andrew Oakley, Crown Cottage, Tintern. Rev. Leonard Rowley
3rd June 1962	Michael David Howells, Longcroft Rd., Caldicot. Rev. Leonard Rowley
21st April 1963	Brian Paul Kelley, Wentwood View, Newchurch West. Rev. Leonard Rowley
21st April 1963	Richard David Kelley, Wentwood View, Newchurch West. Rev. Leonard Rowley
22nd April 1963	Richard Gundry, Chapel House, Earlswood. Rev. Leonard Rowley
1st August 1963	Kerry Lorraine Powell, Parsons Grove, Earlswood. Rev. Leonard Rowley
1st August 1963	Tracey Louise Fisher, Green Pool, Earlswood. Rev. Leonard Rowley
24th May 1964	Trudy Ann Smith, Laurel Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. Leonard Rowley
28th February 1965	Robert John Morgan, Beaufort Bungalow, Llangwm. Rev. Leonard Rowley
28th February 1965	Linda Caroline Morgan, Beaufort Bungalow, Llangwm. Rev. Leonard Rowley
28th February 1965	Linda Elaine Gundry, Church Farm, Newchurch. Rev. Leonard Rowley
5th June 1966 at Gwern-y- saint Methodist Chapel	John Bevan Smith, Gwern-y-saint, Wonastow. Rev. Leonard Rowley
9th April 1967	Angela Jane Lewis, Avon View, Tidenham. Rev. Leonard Rowley

7th May 1967	Julie Alison Gundry, Warren Farm, Trelleck. Rev. Leonard Rowley
19th November 1967	Reuben Alfred Colin Morris, Old Home, Earlswood. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
23rd June 1968	Heather June Smith, Laurel Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
23rd June 1968	Helen Louise Smith, Laurel Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
1st June 1969	Andrew Jackson, Blethyn Close, Mynyddbach. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
16th May 1971	Andrew Robert Powell, Green Lane, Caldicot. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
31st October 1971	Carrie Anne Turner, River View, Bridgenorth. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
16th September 1973	Linda Jackson, West End, Earlswood. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
14th July 1974	Bobbie Ann Turner, River View, Bridgnorth. Rev. C.H.Blackmar
26th October 1975	Marc John Gwillim, Church Road, Newport. Rev. A.J.Neville
6th April 1980	Craig Richard Beckett, Chapel Farm, Earlswood. Rev. J.C.Pugh
3rd August 1980	Wayne Matthew Gwillim, Church Rd., Newport. Rev. J.C.Pugh
23rd May 1982	Genette Anne Williams, Llwyn-y-Celyn Farm, Shirenewton. Rev. J.C.Pugh
30th October 1983	Donna Marie Beckett, Severn Cresc., Chepstow. Rev. J.C.Pugh
5th February 1984	Karl David Kington, Brook House, Earlswood. Rev. J.C.Pugh
4th November 1984	Stephanie Anne Drake, Hillside, Mynyddbach. Rev. Stanley Martin & Rev. Joseph Rooney
7th July 1985	Stanley Nigel Brentnall, The Curlews, Llangwm. Rev. Joseph Rooney
3rd November 1985	Emma Elizabeth Williams, Fiddlers Cottage, Itton. Rev. Joseph Rooney
4th May 1986	Danielle Emma Lush, Forest Close, Cwmbran. Rev. Andrew Cordy

7th December 1986	Claire Philippa Penney, Lower House Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. Andrew Cordy
7th December 1986	Oliver Michael Penney, Lower House Cottage, Earlswood. Rev. Andrew Cordy.
29th October 1989	Joshua Paul Kelley, Hardwick Avenue, Chepstow Rev. Joseph Rooney
29th October 1989	Tina Marie Mustoe, Oxpool, Earlswood. Rev. Joseph Rooney
29th October 1989	Kevin Michael Mustoe, Oxpool, Earlswood. Rev. Joseph Rooney
29th October 1989	Katrina Margaret Mustoe, Oxpool, Earlswood. Rev. Joseph Rooney
18th February 1990	Samuel Joseph Gomer, Parsons Grove, Earlswood. Rev. Joseph Rooney
29th April 1990	Philippa Georgina Morris, Filton Avenue, Bristol. Rev. Joseph Rooney

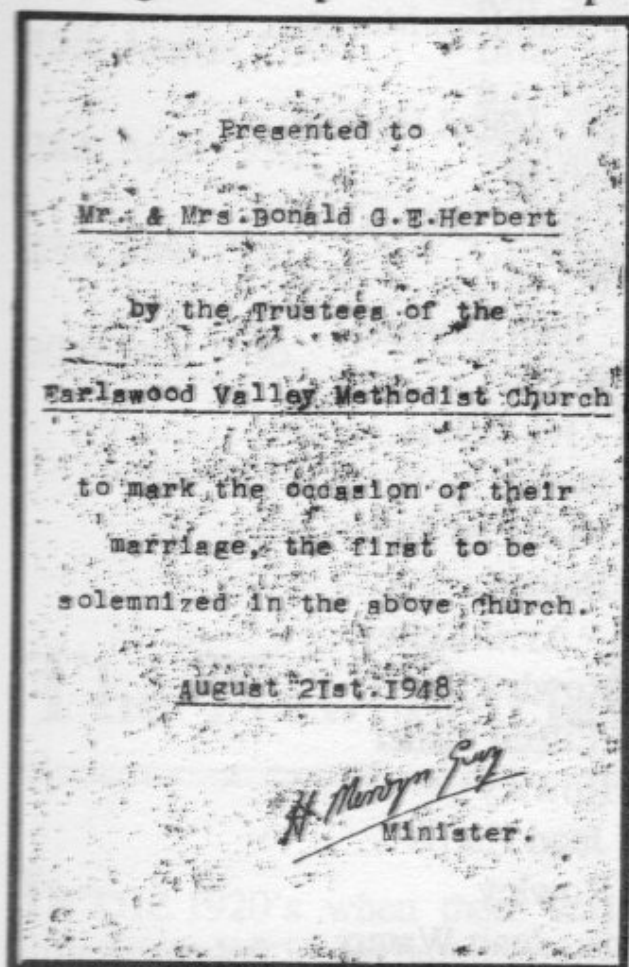
Marriages

MANY OF THE NAMES found on the list of Sunday School pupils can also be found on the list of marriages.

The chapel was not registered for the solemnization of marriage until 1948 when, on 21st August of that year the marriage of two former Sunday School pupils took place, Marguerite Brown of Brook Farm to Donald Herbert of Brook House, both of Earlswood.



They were presented with a Bible at the ceremony because it was the first marriage to take place at the chapel.



Bible Inscription



Joanna Pritchard and Graham Morgan

The last wedding to take place before the bi-centenary year was that of Joanna Pritchard to Graham Morgan, the great-great-grandson of Mr Michael Quinton, already mentioned as a chapel steward in the nineteenth century.

Marriages 1948 - 1990

21st August 1948	Donald Herbert - Marguerite Brown. Rev. Trevor Pearson
26th March 1950	Ronald Potter - Brenda Trigger Rev. David Rudall
26th August 1950	Wilfred Bryant - Ivy Morgan Pastor Mervyn Guy
6th August 1951	Stanley Hughes - Vinnie Morgan Rev. David Rudall
5th September 1953	George Goulding - Daphne Lewis Rev. Gordon Lang

31st July 1954	Tony Williams - Sheila Withers Rev. A.H.Gledhill
26th March 1955	Ronald Fisher - Kathleen Morgan Rev. A.H.Gledhill
10th November 1956	William Morgan - Isabel Herbert Rev. Windsor Bevan
8th February 1958	George Fildes - Betty Beilby Rev. Windsor Bevan
11th July 1959	Derek Guntry - Joan Morgan Rev. Windsor Bevan
31st October 1959	Robert Powell - Ivy Lewis Rev. Windsor Bevan
16th April 1960	Brian Kelley - Maureen Daw Rev. Windsor Bevan
10th September 1960	Mervyn Smith - Avril Kelley Rev. Leonard Rowley
9th January 1965	David James - Eileen Fisher Rev. Leonard Rowley
21st August 1965	John Waters - Joan Harris Rev. Leonard Rowley
6th August 1966	Arthur Gibbons - Joan Waters Rev. C.H.Blackmar
25th March 1967	Derek Jackson - Janet Hall Rev. C.H.Blackmar
24th September 1977	David Lush - Dawn Goulding Rev. Gordon Lang
23rd June 1979	Robert Beckett - Claire Goulding Rev. Gordon Lang
31st July 1981	Derek Williams - Kerry Powell Rev. Clive Pugh
14th May 1983	Alistair Rowlands - Angela Powell Rev. Clive Pugh
20th April 1985	Stuart Clarke - Trudy Anne Smith Rev. Stephen Bywater
31st August 1985	Peter Gomer - Karen Powell Rev. Joseph Rooney
3rd May 1986	Arthur John Bradley - Barbara Morris Rev. Joseph Rooney

25th August 1986	Stephen Dally - Carol Morgan Rev. Joseph Rooney
12th August 1989	Brian Mark Chapman - Susan Mary Morris Rev. Joseph Rooney
28th April 1990	Michael Powell - Sarah Rathnal Rev. Joseph Rooney
23rd June 1990	Gary Wharton - Ruth James Rev. Joseph Rooney
30th June 1990	Graham Morgan - Joanna Pritchard Rev. Joseph Rooney

The New Burial Ground

IN THE 1920's when there was little space left in the burial ground at the chapel, Mrs Herbert Lewis, Chapel House, was approached regarding the purchase of the field across the road, immediately opposite the chapel. She was not keen to sell the land, but there was nothing else available and, wanting to help the chapel, she agreed to the sale. The price agreed upon was £50.

On Easter Monday 1925 the ground was dedicated by the Chairman of the District, the Rev. H. Pritchard.

A tent borrowed from Sir Edward Curre of Itton Court was erected in the new ground and a bazaar was held on that day, presumably to raise money towards the payment for the land. Mrs Daisy Morgan remembers well this event.



Mrs Herbert Lewis

It was a very hot Easter Monday and tea was served outside. Mr Herbert

Lewis boiled the kettles on the vestry fire after carrying the water from the spout at the bottom of the garden at Chapel House.

The tea hostesses were Miss Jenny Williams, Miss Edith Williams and Miss Dolly Holder with Lilian James, now Mrs Remnant, and Muriel Davies, (the late Mrs Ostler) looking after the "Pots and Pans" stall.

At that time the entrance to the field was on the corner of Chapel Hill, but this was closed and Mr Herbert Lewis opened up the bank to make the new entrance. He was paid £5 for carrying out this work.

Earlswood.
Burial Ground.
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.
WYE VALLEY MISSION.

PARK VIEW,
GLOUCESTER ROAD,
ROSS,
HEREFORDSHIRE.

The
Rev. Keith Griffiths
5 Hillside
Caldicot.
W. Chaplain

is Minister in Charge and is responsible for all funeral arrangements. To him, as soon as possible notification of a funeral should be made.

Fees.
(1) Grave. Member or Non-Member - 10/0.
(2) Grave Digger. (a) 20/0. Double depth grave.
(b) 10/0. Single adult grave.
(c) 10/0. Child's grave.
(3) Officiating Minister.
(a) 0/6. For adult.
(b) 2/6. For little child.

The Old Burial Ground is full and is now closed. All funerals in future will be in the New Ground.

Signed -
Frederick Mackenzie.
Supt. Minister.

25 April 1981.

List of Burials in the New Ground compiled by Mr Roger Smith September 1981

Date of Burials Unknown

Mr Dole and Miss Dole, Chapel House, Earlswood.
Mr and Mrs Daniel Harris, The Blackbird, Newchurch West.
Mr and Mrs H. Lewis, The Spout, Earlswood.
Mr John Harris, Local Preacher, The Glyn.
Baby Packer, Earlswood.
Mrs Thomas Lewis, The Pandy, Earlswood Valley.
Mr and Mrs Charles Saunders, Earlswood.
Mr and Mrs Robert Quniton, The Pink, Newchurch.

1925 Mr Lewis Davies, Little Bushes, 75 years.

1928 Louise Smith, Chapel Farm, Earlswood, 78 years. Mr F.N. Price.

1931 Mary Remnant, Newchurch, 87 years. Rev. Ivor Davies, Rector of Itton.

- 1933 Lionel Lewis, The Pandy, 1 year 6 months. Pentecostal Minister.
- 1935 Mrs Lewis Davies, Little Bushes, Earlswood, 84 years.
- 1938 Nurse Rhoda Williams, Rose Cottage, Earlswood, 88 years. Mr. F.N.Price, Local Preacher.
- 1939 William Davies, West End, Earlswood, 65 years. Mr F.N.Price.
- 1940 Elsie Lewis, Wentwood Lodge, Earlswood. Rev. G.Joycey.
- 1944 Mrs Mc'Cabe, Newbridge. Pentecostal Minister.
- 1949 George Arthur Herbert, Brook House, Earlswood, 59 years. Pastor Mervyn Guy.
- 1950 Christine Herbert, Brook House, Earlswood, 11 years. Rev. David Rudall and Roger Smith.
- 1952 Sarah Ann Davies, West End, Earlswood, 75 years. Rev. A.H.Gledhill.
- 1953 Lewis Quinton, Chapel House, Shirenewton, 82 years.
- 1958 Mr Remnant, Newchurch. Rev. Windsor Bevan.
- 1959 Annie Harris, The Blackbird, Newchurch West. Rev. Windsor Bevan.
- 1959 Bertha Beilby, Wentwood Lodge. Rev. Windsor Bevan.
- 1959 Edward Cooper, Caldicot. Rev. Windsor Bevan.
- 1960 Rita Beilby, Wentwood Lodge. Rev. Windsor Bevan.
- 1961 Cecilia Quinton, Chapel House, Shirenewton. Rev. Leonard Rowley.
- 1961 Mrs Cooper, Caldicot. Rev. Leonard Rowley.
- 1963 Brian Kelley, Newchurch West, 24 years. Rev. Leonard Rowley.
- 1969 Mrs Moore, London. Rev. Alfred Olds and Pastor H. Lewis.
- 1969 Elizabeth Ann Smith, Long Meadow, Earlswood, 77 years. Rev. C.H. Blackmar.
- 1969 Doris Kelley, Newchurch West, 53 years. Rev. C.H.Blackmar.
- 1970 Elijah Lewis Smith, Long Meadow, Earlswood, 80 years. Rev. C.H. Blackmar.
- 1972 Horace Lewis, The Nook, Earlswood. Pentecostal Minister.
- 1973 Rosetta Richards, Penhow. Rev. Gordon Lang.
- 1973 Amelia Lane, SRN, London. Rev. C.H.Blackmar.
- 1974 Harry Lewis, The Spout, Earlswood. Rev. C.H.Blackmar.
- 1975 Elizabeth Lewis, Langstone, Newport. Rev. C.H.Blackmar.
- 1976 Archie Quinton, Oxpool, Earlswood. Rev. Alan Neville.
- 1977 Sarah Prince, New Mill, Earlswood, 69 years. Rev. Alan Neville.
- 1977 Arthur Quinton, Chapel House, Shirenewton, 93 years. Mr Roger Smith.
- 1980 Arthur Ambrose Lewis, Upper Bushes, Earlswood. Rev. Clive Pugh.
- 1980 Eleanor Rose Herbert, Brook House, Earlswood, 91 years. Rev. Ernest Ball and Mr Roger Smith.

- 1981 Jack Marshall, May Tree, Earlswood, 54 years. Rev. Clive Pugh.
 1982 Mary Annie Louise Holder, Weymouth (formerly of Red House)
 Rev. Clive Pugh.
 1983 Royal Winston Kelley, Newchurch West, 72 years. Rev. Stephen
 Bywater.
 1984 Edith Mary Birden, May Tree, Earlswood, 90 years. Rev. Clive Pugh.
 1985 Ivy Elizabeth Bryant, Sandy Lane, Caldicot, 57 years. Rev. Joseph
 Rooney.
 1985 Eliza Josephine Hanbury, Baytree, Chepstow (formerly of Rose
 Cottage) 94 years. Rev. Stephen Bywater.
 1986 Mervyn Gwyn Smith, Laurel Cottage, Earlswood, 52 years. Rev.
 Joseph Rooney.
 1988 Stanley Quinton, Newport. Rev. Joseph Rooney.
 1988 Ethel Virginia Lewis, Monkhall, Bridgnorth, 83 years. Rev. Joseph
 Rooney.
 1989 John Waters, Pandy Farm, Earlswood, 57 years. Rev. Joseph Rooney.
 1990 William Llewellyn Lewis, Upper Bushes, Earlswood, 68 years. Rev.
 Joseph Rooney.

The Old Burial Ground Adjoining the Chapel

*The following details have been obtained from the memorial stones.
 However, digits on some are very difficult to distinguish so we cannot be
 certain that every "date" or "age" is correct.*

Ann Rosser died Jan. 2nd 1832 aged 84 years.

James Remnant died April 17th 1842 aged 47 years.

Mary wife of above died Dec. 16th 1874 aged 69 years.

Thomas Davies died 30th Sept. 1859 aged 78 years.

Jane, widow of Thomas Davies died ---- aged 76 years.

Jane daughter of John and Mary Lewis James of parish of Llanvaches died
 August 14th 1828 aged 16 years.

Also Mary wife of John Lewis James died Nov. 17th 1846 aged 72 years.

Elizabeth Smith died Dec. 1822 aged 67 years.

Also Martha wife of John Williams and sister of the above died 6th August 1830 aged 67 years.

Also Sarah daughter of John and Mary Williams died Jan. 1869 aged 4 years.

Also John son of the above died Feb. 1871 aged 7 years.

On the other half of the same stone:

Sarah daughter of William and Hannah Jones of the parish of Llantrisant died May 1841 aged 3 years.

Also the above Hannah Jones died April 18th 1864 aged 71 years.

Also her husband William Jones died Oct. 1864 aged 73 years.

Charles Morgan died 3rd Feb. 1912 aged 72 years.

Also Elizabeth his wife died 25th April 1917 aged 78 years.

Mary wife of William Powell died 13th November 1866 aged 65 years.

Elizabeth daughter of Thomas and Mary Griffiths of the parish of Llanvair died April 5th 1824 aged 27 years.

Ann Michael of the parish of Kemeys Inferior died April 29th 1823 aged 77 years.

Ann wife of James Phillips died Sept. 3rd 1811 aged 44 years.

James Wixey died Sept. 15th 1851 aged 83 years.

Ann, relict of James Wixey died May 25th 1856 aged 76 years.

Also Elizabeth beloved wife of John Wixey died 13th March 1875 aged 50 years.

William son of Henry and Ann Highman of the parish of Newchurch West died March 19th 1857 aged 2 years.

John Jones died March 1810 aged 58 years.

Also Emmeline Lewis died Jan. 21st 1911 aged 76 years.

Mary Cox widow of James Cox of Pensford, Summersetshire (note spelling) died 4th Jan. 1810 aged 58 years.

Thomas Lewis died 20th June 1904 aged 79 years.

Elizabeth wife of Samuel Michael died Oct. 9th 1814 aged 30 years.
Also Hannah, their daughter, died aged 6 years and Martha 16 months.

Ann wife of Thomas Lewis of the parish of Newchurch East died Oct. 18th 1835 aged 53 years.

Also Elizabeth Lewis daughter of the above died September 12th 1835 aged 18 years and 9 months.

Also Thomas Lewis son of the above died Nov. 29th 1819 aged 7 years and 4 months.

Mary wife of John Williams died 24th December 1915 aged 87 years.

Also John Williams born 4th April 1832 died 22nd Feb. 1924.

James second son of John and the late Mary Williams who died suddenly at Long Eaton 21st October 1916 aged 54 years.

Also Hannah their youngest daughter died 25th March 1919 aged 49 years.

Mary wife of William Walters died 20th May 1812 aged 45 years and George who died in infancy and William Walters died Jan. 2nd 1849 aged 82 years

Hannah wife of William Lewis died 17th May 1823 aged 45 years.

Edward Pendry died 29th March 1879 aged 68 years.

John Pendry died December 1st 1888 aged 81 years.

George Maybury died 25th March 1901 aged 64 years.

Also Eliza his wife died 11th July 1903 aged 69 years.

Ann Kilford died Nov. 21st 1864 aged 62 years.

Also Enoch Kilford died 8th February aged 84 years.

Phoeby Morgan their daughter died 28th April 1914 aged 75 years.

Mary wife of James Williams died 15th Feb. 1874 aged 70 years.

Also the above James Williams died 27th Feb. 1878 aged 75 years.

Also Thomas D. Harris great grandson of the above born 11th Oct. 1899 died 9th August 1911.

A Cross In Loving Memory of Mary and the beloved children of William and Elizabeth Reece born June 20th 1862 died Jan. 17th 1863.

Side 2 Elizabeth born August 25th 1873 died March 22nd 1874.

Side 3 Edwin born September 3rd 1875 died May 14th 1876.

James Jones died 5th June 1905 aged 81 years. 40 years local preacher and Manager of the Sunday School here.

James Quinton died 18th Feb. 1915 aged 75 years.

Emma his wife died 15th Feb. 1913 aged 70 years, Also their loved son and daughter. Thomas died 16th August 1917 aged 50 years, Minnie died in infancy.

James Williams died 3rd June 1911 aged 69 years.

John Harris died 27th Dec. 1880 aged 46 years.

Sarah his wife died 3rd June 1900 aged 65 years.

Nathaniel Watkins died April 11th 1811 aged 59 years.

Jane wife of James Harris died August 20th 1815 aged 59 years.

James Harris died March 1838 aged 86 years.

Also Joseph son of above James Harris died June 20th 1869 aged 78 years.

John Harris died 22nd June 1875 aged 74 years.

Mary wife of above died 7th August 1891 aged 88 years.

Edmund Cook son of John and Jane Cook died 12th June 1831 aged one year.

Mary Jones died 3rd June 1926 aged 62 years.

Jemima Jones died 1837 aged one year 5 months.

Cross Evelyn Eva Bovett died 21st November 1908 aged 14 months.

William Sims died June 30th 1871.

Cross near chapel door

Louise Carter RRC wife of Robert Lionel Carter

passed away at Winnepeg, Canada 5th November 1921 aged 34 years.

William husband of M.A.Remnant died 21st of June 1921 aged 88 years.

David Thomas Lewis who fell asleep in Australia on May 18th 1945 aged 19 years.

Also William James Lewis died 4th April 1931 aged 6 years 10 months.

Elizabeth Ann Lewis died Sept. 1949 aged 79 years.
Also Herbert John Lewis, husband of the above
died August 1955 aged 75 years.

The stone leaning against the wall at the side of chapel was brought from
"Brockweir" and does not relate to a burial in Earlswood Valley.

Details:-

Sacred to the memory of George Williams who died April 15th 1840 aged 74
years. Also Mary wife of the above who died Jan. 1st 1856 aged 83 years.

The Life and Witness of the Chapel Today

EARLSWOOD VALLEY is one of seven chapels in the Chepstow and
Caldicot Circuit. The Circuit has two ministers, the Rev. Joseph Rooney, B.A.,
who is Superintendent Minister and lives at the Caldicot Manse and the Rev.
Andrew Cordy, B.A., who lives at the manse in Chepstow.

Our Valley Chapel is under the care and guidance of Rev. Rooney who with
his wife, Margaret, do everything possible to enhance the spiritual and social
life there.



Harvest Festival 1990 with Rev. Joseph Rooney, B.A.

In the late seventies a monthly family service at 3.00p.m. was introduced. The young people of the Sunday School were fast growing up and there were very few younger children in the area. It was felt this service would accommodate these teenagers as a follow on from Sunday School.

As 3.00p.m. proved a very popular time, finally all services were changed from evening to afternoon.

The family service was very popular attracting families with children from far and wide.

In the early 1980's the Young Members Activity Group (Y.M.A.G.) was formed with its members meeting at various times of the month and taking a very active part in family services or as some prefer to call it "All Age Worship".

About ten years ago the choir with about twenty members was formed, locally known as the Valley Singers.

A mid week Bible study and prayer fellowship conducted by Rev. Rooney is held fortnightly.

Y.M.A.G. certainly lives up to its name as it is a very active group, meeting sometimes on Sunday mornings, occasionally on a Saturday and one morning weekly during the summer holidays.

The children usually meet in the vestry which was once the place where preachers coming on horseback stabled their horses.

As well as taking part in family services they are always there to join in those special services at Easter, Chapel Anniversary, Harvest Festival and Christmas.



Making the Easter Garden

However their interest does not remain within the chapel walls. They show concern for children in greater need than themselves by contributing monthly to a meals sponsorship programme and make a further "special effort contribution" at harvest time.

They have visited a local hospital and residential home to entertain the elderly residents.



A Christmas Visit to Severn View Residential Home 1989

They collect foil and postage stamps to raise money for charities. Their special efforts each year for the "Starving Children of the World" have been very varied, ranging from a fortnightly travelling shop to a picnic and rounders match when they challenged their mothers to form the opposing team.

As a little reward for all their thought for others the December Family Service takes the form of a gift service when each child receives a gift and following the service refreshments with a distinct Christmas flavour are served.

The adults join the children in their concern for others, often joining them or supporting them in their activities.

At Christmas time a box is placed beneath the Christmas tree and is always filled to overflowing with gifts which are distributed by Rev. Rooney to those in need.

Another annual event at Christmas is an evening carol singing through the valley and on this occasion they wear traditional dress.

The Valley Singers joined the children in their visits to the homes for the elderly.

When the Valley Singers began Mrs Vera Morris was their "Choir Mistress". However when Vera became ill another "Vera" kindly stepped in as temporary organist. She was Mrs Vera Bowles, the wife of the late Rev. Reginald Bowles, a supernumerary minister, who lived at "Mayhill" St. Lawrence Road, Chepstow. She showed a great interest in all chapel activities especially the Valley Singers and in all the work being done with the children, assisting wherever she could with the activity group. She continued as organist until she left Chepstow to live in Creech St. Michael, near Taunton. She was greatly missed by everyone at Earlswood Valley. Today's organist, Mrs Carol Fleetwood, shows that same interest, a comparatively newcomer to the area, with two young sons who are Y.M.A.G. members.

Children and parents, with members and friends of the chapel, join in fund raising efforts for charity and for chapel funds.

Following Christmas 1988 they were able to send £100 to the Armenian Disaster through the Methodist Relief Fund.

The travelling shop of 1989 raised £250 for Starving Children of the World. At the rounders match and picnic this year £105 was raised for this same cause.

In April this year a Sponsored Outreach and Silent Sit In was organised to raise funds for the 200th Anniversary Year.

Over fifty adults and children set out on a beautiful April morning, running, jogging or walking from Earlswood Valley to reach one of the other Circuit chapels, while four remained in silence in the chapel for two hours. It was a very happy enjoyable event and a great financial success raising well over £1,000.

For a number of years members of the chapel sponsored a Mexican child, sending a monthly contribution towards his education and welfare.

Although forms of worship and activities have varied over the years, the central theme has always been the same as that presented by John Wesley.

*'Tis worth living for, this,
To administer bliss
And salvation in Jesus' s name.*

The Carpet Makers of 1980

SIX TEENAGERS were given one pound by their chapel in an up-to-date approach to the parable of the talents. This certainly caught the headlines in the local paper in 1981.

It went on to say "On an exceptionally beautiful sunny evening recently six young people made their way along the narrow lanes of their quiet corner of South Gwent to the tiny Earlswood Valley Chapel.

"These were the paths they had travelled as long as they could remember, but this time they were meeting to put the finishing touches to a task which had occupied them for eleven months.

"Children of three families grew up in friendship together as members of the Sunday School. Anxious to find a project to keep them together, Sunday School teacher, Mrs Vera Morris, thought about the chapel's need for a carpet. Following the example of the parable of the talents each was given one pound with which to start raising funds for the project. So last summer Earlswood became a hive of industry. Soft toys were made, dolls' house furniture, and local families became quite used to opening the door to find a plate of cakes or tarts offered for sale.

"A grand sale took place at a coffee evening at the home of Mr and Mrs Lewis of Chapel Farm. By late autumn the initial sum of six pounds had increased to one hundred and forty pounds and work could begin

"While waiting for materials the youngsters learned how to do canvas work with oddments of material and were ready to begin work in earnest in November 1980

"The oldest member of the chapel, 91 year old Mrs Eleanor Herbert had died recently, and in her memory the pattern chosen was from a carpet made by her.



Mrs Daisy Morgan
The oldest member of today's Chapel

"The six and a half metre aisle carpet was made in three sections so when severe winter weather made it difficult for the group to meet together each family could work together at home.

"These young people saw the result of their efforts dedicated in a service conducted by Rev. Clive Pugh, Superintendent Minister, and Rev. Stephen Bywater."

The press went on to say that perhaps these young people would walk down their aisle carpet when they marry.

Just that has happened to one of those teenagers. She is now Mrs Carol Dally very happily married with two lovely children who, incidentally, are the great-grandchildren of Mrs Morgan the oldest member of today's chapel.



The Carpet Makers

Today and Yesterday



Could this be the 100th Anniversary Celebrations in 1891?



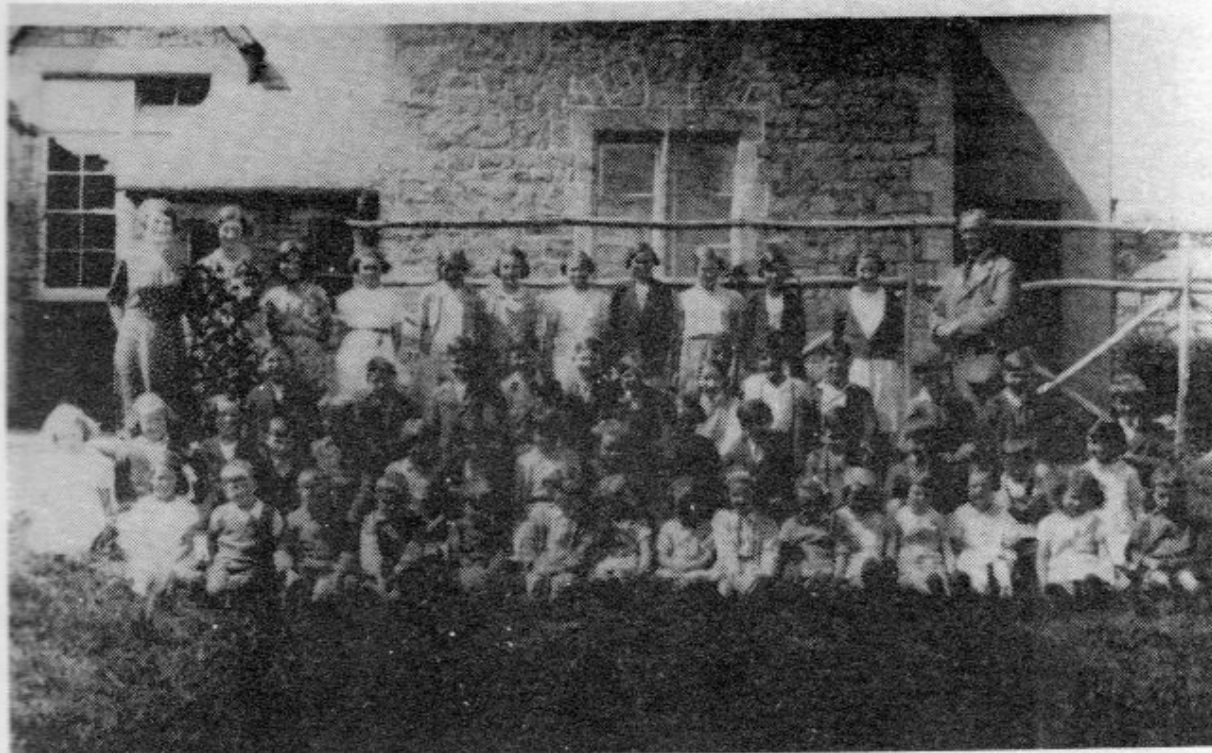
Methodist Friends Meet for a Photograph

Florence Williams
 A Present from the
 Earlswood Wesleyan Sunday
 School, January 6th 1890

Isaac Williams
 A Present from the
 Earlswood Wesleyan
 Sunday School
 January 13th 1889

Pulpit Hymn Book
 Earlswood
 Wesleyan Chapel
 November 1899

Arthur Lewis
 Presented by the Earlswood
 Wesleyan Sunday School
 April 1900



Most of the Earlswood School Pupils were members of the Sunday School
 in 1939



Mrs Margaret Rooney with Rev. Joseph Rooney, Kerry and Emma Williams, Roger Smith and Robin Harris supporting Y.M.A.G. at the rounders match held in aid of the Starving Children of the world in August 1990.



The Young Members Activity Group 1990

The Earlswood Choir



The Earlswood Choir at the early part of this century

The Earlswood Choir was formed in the early part of this century and Sam Broome who lived across Bicca Common at Cilvanog was Choir Master. Mrs Annie Price, who in her youth lived at the Fost, Earlswood, was a member, and remarkably at the age of ninety-three, and shortly before she died, Mrs Price looked at the photograph and gave the following names of the choir.

Fred Price, John Madley, Claude Shepherd, Bill Holder, Rupert Holder -- Coles, Edwin Price
Starving Acres, Itton Itton

-- Vaughan, Amy, Elsie, Beatie, Annie, Daisy, Ethel, Bill --, Mrs Miss
Llangwm Price Butt Price Price Anthony Price Broome Bamford Michael
Llangwm.

Mrs Agnus Nellie Sam Mrs Dolly Ida Edith Lizzie
Stone Price Blackmore Broome Broome Holder Williams Williams Hanbury

Will Jeremiah, Howard Price, Horace Miles, Eddie Venn, ---, Ivy Broome, Lily Blackmore

Members of the Valley Singers 1980 - 1990

Organists and Leaders

Vera Morris, Vera Bowles, Margaret Threlfall, Carol Fleetwood.

Choir Members

Doris Lewis, Vera Lewis, Ida Reece, Ivy Bevan, Janet Quinton, Kerry Williams, Avril Smith, Trudy Clarke, Mary Howells, Janice Jenkins, Bonnie

Hughes, Thelma Moore, Isabel Morgan, Pauline Smith, Glenys Jones, Cissie Dowler, Roger Smith, Robin Harris, Steven Howells, Michael Penney, Donald Herbert, Edmund Herbert, Alan Quinton, Brian Quinton Paul Herbert.



The Valley Singers 1990

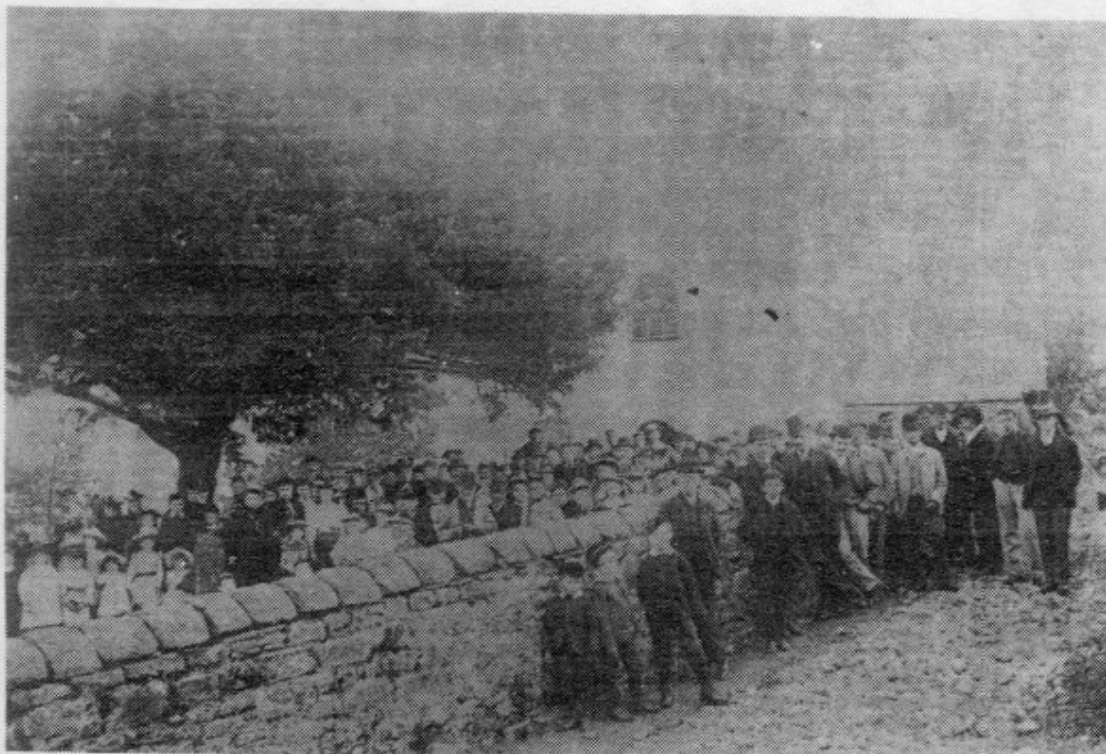
Y.M.A.G. Members 1981 - 1990

Leader Isabel Morgan

Rhys Jenkins
 Rachael Jones
 Genette Williams
 Jodi Bevan
 Gareth Adams
 Charlene Moreton
 Kirsan Frost
 Lewis Thomas
 Toby Scott
 Huw Adams
 Claire Penney
 Robert Quinton
 Nigel Brentnall
 Natasha Brentnall
 Andrew Fleetwood
 Hayley Thomas
 Matthew Parr

Claire Hodges
 Oliver Penney
 Natalie Drake
 Charlotte Scott
 Emma Williams
 Darren Fleetwood
 Ben Frost
 Coral Howells
 Jessica Martin
 Claire Threlfall
 Jennifer Adams
 Sara Parr
 Emily Powell
 David Ostler
 Joseph Jenkins
 Geoffrey Howells
 Karl Kington

Tom Thomas
 Neal Brentnall
 William Parr
 Stephanie Drake
 Mark Threlfall
 Joanna Mumby
 Rhys Warren
 Miles Warren
 Rhys Hinton
 Diana Spary
 Kevin Mustoe
 Jenny Clelland
 Pip Clelland
 Kirsty Clelland
 Katie Mustoe



What was this special occasion about 1880?



Harvest Festival Congregation 1990



Y.M.A.G. make a Christmas visit to Severn View Residential Home in 1989



"I've found my egg" 1990 Easter Search in the Valley Meadow



Easter Monday 1969



*Earlswood School which
these children attended*

The Chapel Building

THE CHAPEL ITSELF has always been well maintained but care has been taken not to alter its character.

The original windows have been carefully repaired when needed, with the one over the gallery actually being removed and taken away for major repair in 1984.

It is thought that the original floor was of flag stones, but a descendant of Ann Rosser, James Tiplin, was responsible for fitting a wooden floor, but flag stones still



remain in the aisle. He also put match boarding around the walls and made the seats, all of which can be seen in the chapel today.

It is said that the stone steps to the gallery were cut to shape by Nathaniel Watkins from very large stones. On the wall at the bottom of those steps can be seen the following inscription embedded in the plaster

*This chapel was built
in the year 1791
I have witnessed these words in print.
May its light shine for ever. O. Collier*

The two pictures hanging on the walls, which have the words of the hymns, *Rock of Ages* and *Take my life and let it be*, have hung there as long as the oldest of the Valley folk can remember.

On the back wall can be seen a certificate presented to Miss Hannah Williams (see Those Who Followed Ann) when she contributed to the Wesleyan Twentieth Century Fund. The certificate has pictures around the outer edge of Dr. Coke, Dr. Adam Clarke, Charles Wesley, the fire at the Epworth Rectory, John Wesley and one of his open air meetings. It reads:

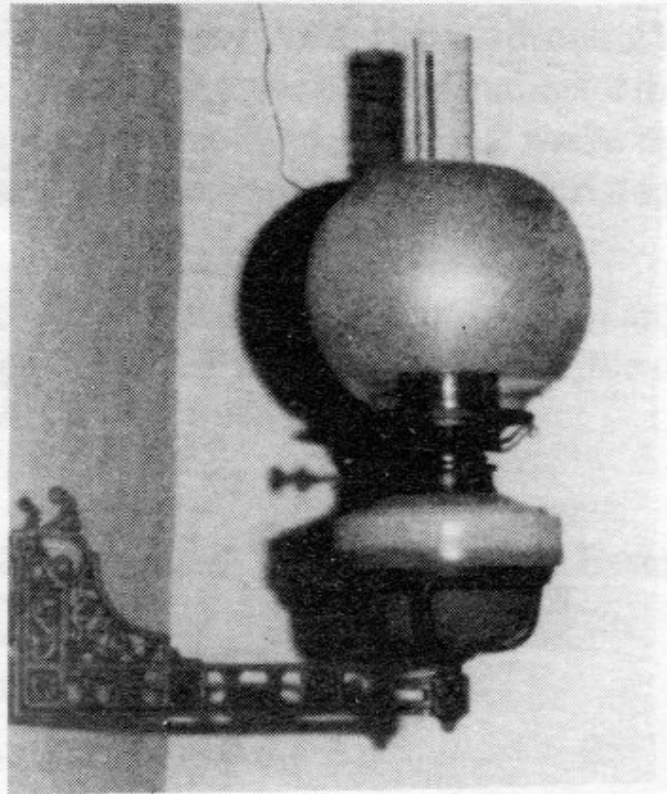
WESLEYAN METHODIST TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND

The name of
Hannah Williams
Is inscribed upon the historic roll
of the WESLEYAN
TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND
instituted in 1898 to obtain One
Million Guineas From One Million
Methodists for the Purposes of
The Wesleyan Methodist Church.

However changes have been made to improve lighting and heating but not without careful thought being given to the change. Very little could be done to improve the heating and lighting until electricity came to the Valley in 1956 when lighting was installed and electric fires purchased. This was much

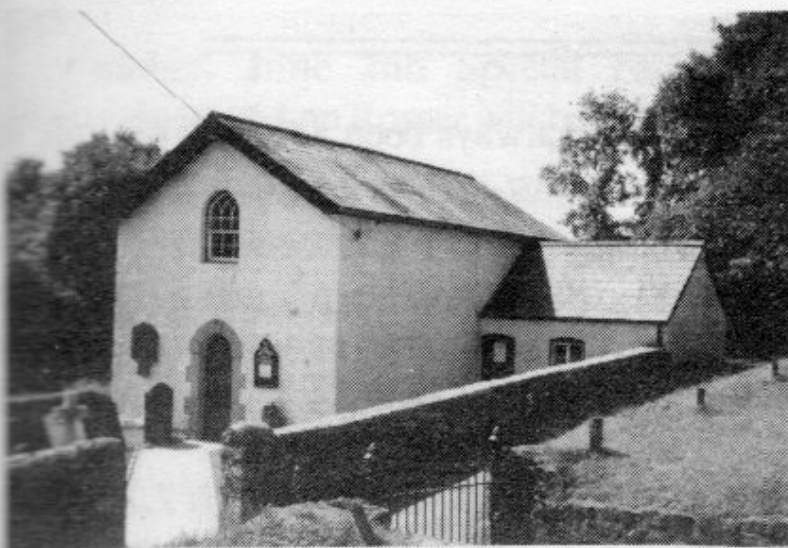
appreciated by the congregation and even more by the lamp lighter and stove stoker.

The two pulpit bracket lamps were fitted to the side walls and always contain paraffin in readiness for an emergency. They proved very useful when there was a power failure one Harvest Festival evening. Matches were soon supplied from Chapel House and the lamps were lit and soon the wicks turned up to give full light, and, with a few candles and the minister holding up a large torch in the aisle, some people managed to read the words of the hymns. Someone was heard to mutter in the back seat "Well, if he had chosen the well known harvest hymns we could have managed without any light."



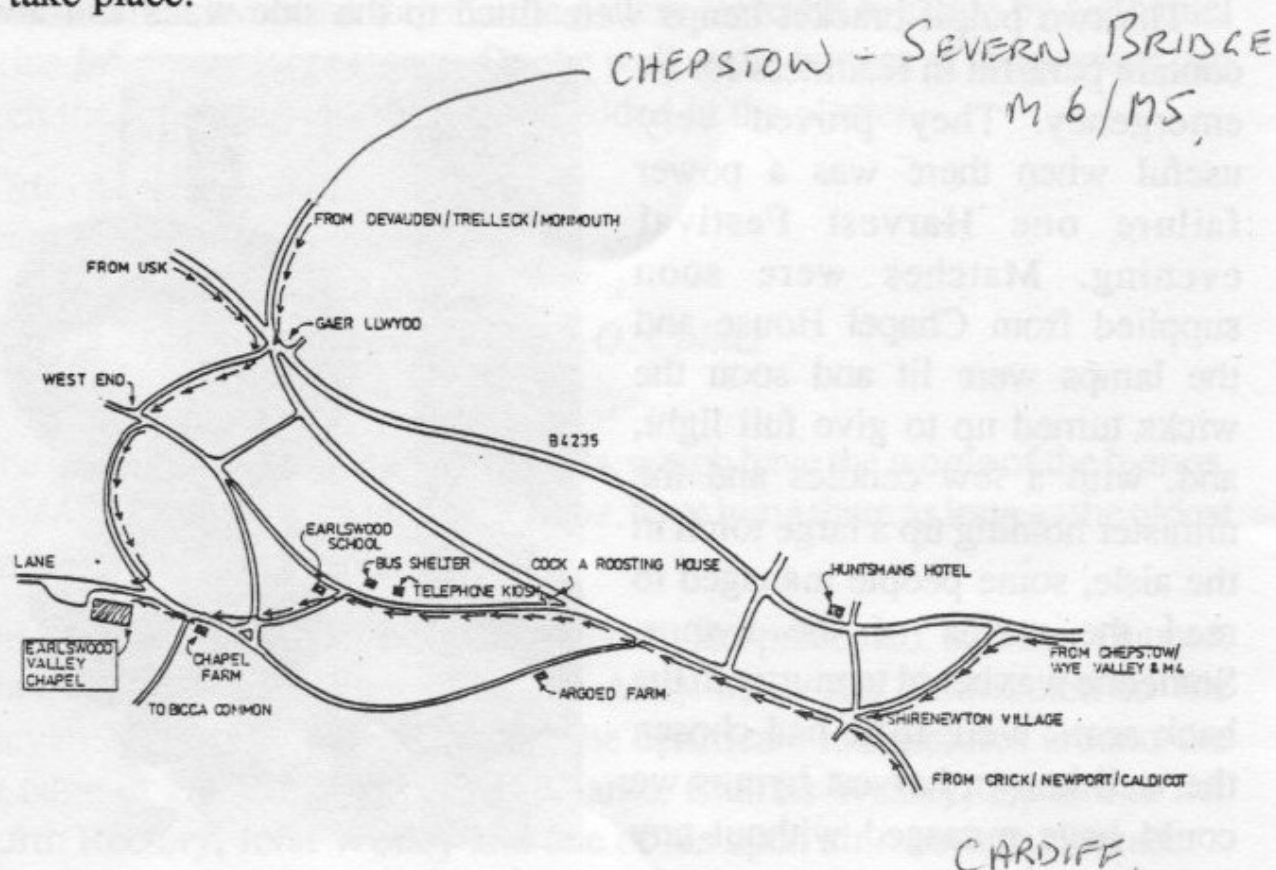
The old coke stove which stood half way up the aisle was removed to make way for the electric fires.

For some years after electricity was installed the old pedal organ remained in use, but was finally replaced with an electric organ. However, not having been sold when the power supply failed it was also brought into use.



In 1961 the roof was re-slatted and in 1987 a new ceiling was fitted. In 1989 a new electric heating system was installed and by having wall mounted heaters there was a much better distribution of heat, it was much safer and allowed a little more, much needed, floor space.

There are further thoughts for modernisation, all of which are very necessary for the work going on with young people and for the social events that take place.



The arrows indicate the best routes to Earlswood Valley Chapel

Planning for the Bi-Centenary Celebrations

FOR MEMBERS of the chapel there has always been a feeling of pride in belonging to the oldest Methodist Chapel in Wales and the realisation that the chapel is there because a young woman was actually converted by John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism. Also that people, sometimes perhaps just a handful, for two hundred years have had the desire to maintain a witness in the Valley and to care for a building which was built by local people who wanted a place where they could worship their God.

Today there are those who week by week still want to do just the same, others like to return for weddings and baptisms or to lay a loved one to rest because of many past memories of Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel.

For all these reasons many people wish to assist in Bi-Centenary celebrations worthy of a building which has meant, and still means, so much to so many.

It is now six years since the late Mrs Vera Morris said while still sitting at the organ following afternoon service, "Isn't it time we started planning for the 200th Anniversary?" She had that habit of giving us an occasional shake up. It seemed a very long way off but it was then that the collection of material for this booklet was started.

We record very grateful thanks to all those who have contributed in any way towards the publication of this booklet which we hope captures a little of the Earlswood Valley story from its beginning to this present day.

During the bi-centenary year, 1991, celebrations will continue from Easter until Harvest Thanksgiving.

We record here the events that will take place:

Easter Day, 31st March Opening of Celebrations.

Sunday 28th April 200th Chapel Anniversary. Visit of the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Dr. Donald English, M.A., B.A. who will conduct afternoon worship at 3.00p.m.

The service will be relayed to a marquee in the Valley Meadow for those without seats in the chapel.

Parking arrangements are being made. Picnic Tea will be served following the service.

Sunday, June 2nd Special Family Service at 3.00p.m. to which descendants of Ann Rosser will be invited. This will be followed by picnic tea.

Wednesday, July 10th Reunion of all past Sunday School pupils to commence in the early evening.

August Methodist Hymns "Ancient and Modern". Community Hymn Singing on a Sunday evening to be announced later.

Monday, 16th September Close of Celebrations with special Harvest Festival evening.

During the celebration period there will be an Exhibition 1791 - 1991.

So we close the story of the first two hundred years in the life of a small rural chapel, hidden away from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

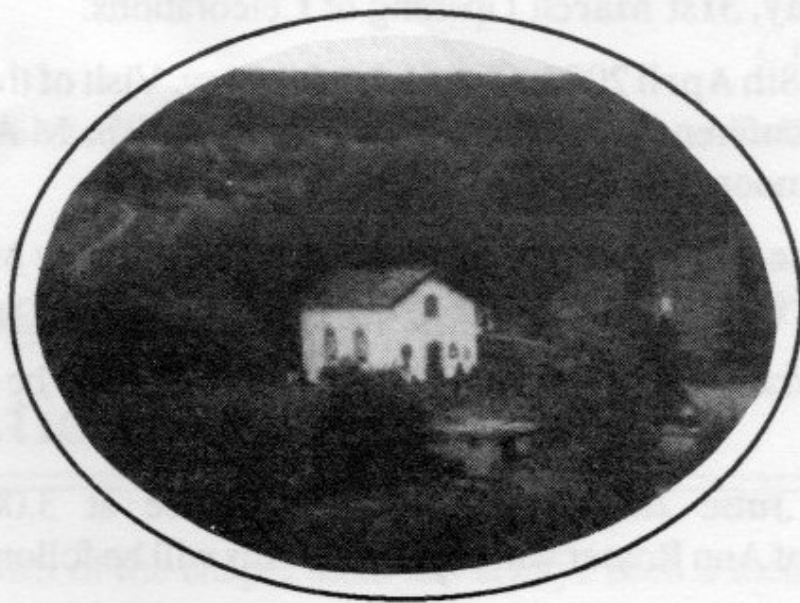
What will the next two hundred years bring? What does the future hold? Will there be another story for another booklet?

We shall never know, but we pray that there will be other pillars of strength at Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel, for we know that without committed people the chapel cannot live on.

Finally, what more fitting way to end than with the words that have meant so much to all who have worked there for two hundred years and for those we trust will work on into the future.

The Best Of All Is, God Is With Us.

These were the last words spoken by John Wesley, the man who so inspired a young woman called Ann Lewis (Rosser) that she founded Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel which was opened in the year 1791.



We regret that our oldest member Mrs Daisy Morgan who gave much help with photographs and information of past events for this booklet died in October shortly after the copy was received by the printers.

SACRED

To the Memory of
ANN ROSSER of this
parish who died Jan the 2nd
1832 Aged 84 Years

We write her name on this Plain Stone
Because to Memory dear
But in the Book of Life it shines
Far more devinely clear