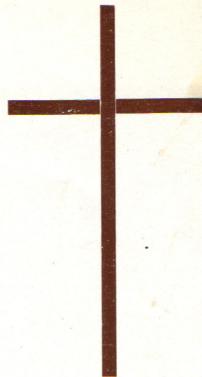


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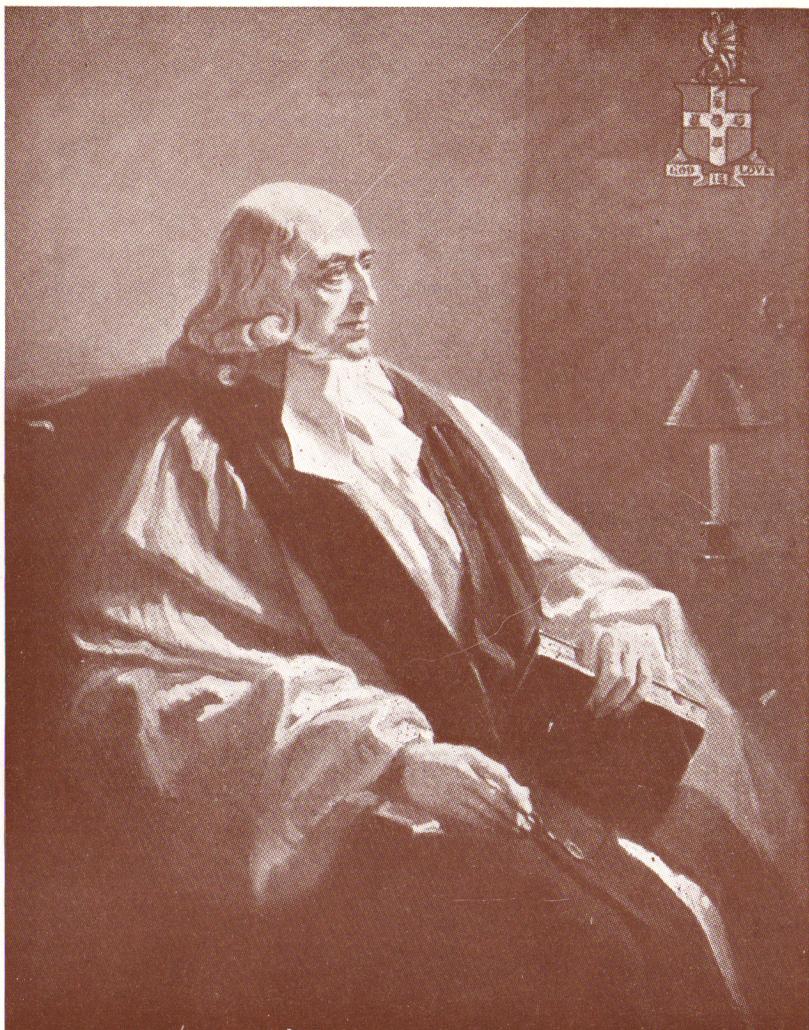


OF REDEDICATION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UNION OF THE METHODIST
CHURCHES OF QUEEN STREET
AND HIGH STREET, MAIDENHEAD

On Sunday, the Ninth day
of October, 1955

at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Holy Communion 8 a.m.

IN THE HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH



JOHN WESLEY — Evangelist

*"O that the world might taste and see
The riches of His grace !
The arms of love that compass me
Would all mankind embrace"*

Foreword

OCTOBER THE NINTH, 1955.

On this memorable day we meet to worship Almighty God and to invoke His blessing upon the Union of the Methodist Churches of Queen Street and High Street, Maidenhead, now to be consummated in one New Church.

The way we have been led to this solemn yet joyful day has been traced by earnest thought and mutual prayer. Great decisions in life are never easy—the way to them is often accompanied by “fightings within and fears without.” We have felt such emotions and we have searched our hearts. The great decision has now been reached. We have resolved, by God’s help, to become one Christian family working and worshipping together.

Our purpose is to be more effectively used for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in Maidenhead. By the union of the wealth of our separate traditions and experience, our gifts and resources, we go forward with new vitality and greater vision

“to serve the present age,
Our calling to fulfil.”

Let us to-day pledge ourselves afresh to the Lord of the Church, to work and speak and think for Him, to guard the holy fire and to pray and work in our new life for the true harmony of the Spirit, “loving one another with brotherly affection.”

E. HAROLD HARDY,
FRANCIS V. BURNS,
Methodist Ministers.

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

led by the REV. FRANCIS V. BURNS, B.D.

Organist - Miss Enid Lake.

Introit "Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in every generation" (694.v.1.)

Scripture Sentences "How lovely are thy dwellings O Lord of hosts . . . O praise the Lord, all ye people, for His merciful kindness is great toward us, the truth of the Lord endureth for ever."

The Doxology (all standing to sing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayers of Invocation and Adoration,
followed by the Lord's Prayer (recited).

Hymn No. 12. "Praise my soul the King of heaven"

Scripture Reading . . . Psalm 84 . . . (Mr. S. Goldfinch)

Hymn No. 10. "Now thank we all our God"

An Act of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Minister: Brethren, we are met here in the presence of Almighty God, joined by faith to the ranks of the Church Triumphant in heaven and of the Church Militant here on earth, to render thanks to God for His unspeakable goodness to us and to all men. His love and providence have been underneath and round about us all the days of our life. That love has never failed us, and it is meet and right that we should render thanks to Him, the author of our salvation.

Let us pray :

Minister: We give Thee thanks, O God, for all the beauty and the glory of this fair earth. Thou hast given unto us life and reason and filled our lives with good things.

People: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.

Minister: Thou hast comforted us with kindred and friends, and ministered unto us through the hands and minds of our fellows. Thou hast spoken unto us of Thy love in and through our human love, and all the dear and happy intimacies of the life of our homes.

People: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.

Minister: We praise Thee especially because Thou hast cast our lot within the fellowship of the Christian Church, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. Thou hast called us into that

Church, and appointed us members within the glorious Fellowship.

People: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.

Minister: And especially, at this moment, we praise Thee for Thy servants, John and Charles Wesley, whom Thou didst raise up to spread Scriptural Holiness throughout the land. For their work and witness two hundred years ago, for all the miracles of Thy redeeming grace wrought in Methodism, for the preaching of the Word and the celebration of Thy sacraments, for lives redeemed, and for men and women led out of darkness into the glorious liberty of Christ.

People: We praise Thy Holy Name, O Lord.

Minister: O God of unsearchable Power and Wisdom and Love, we praise Thee now for all the saints, apostles, prophets and martyrs who have fought the good fight and made a good witness to the faith that was in them. Especially do we praise Thee for all those men and women who, in these two Churches now united, have served their God faithfully and well. Their names are written in heaven, and we, who follow after them, rejoice in the noble inheritance which they have left behind. For all these Thy faithful servants,

People: We praise Thy holy Name, O Lord.

Minister: We praise Thee, too, O God, for the way in which Thou hast prospered the work of our Methodist Church in every land. We are now joined by faith to a great company of men, women and children, in great cities and in small villages, and we pray that we may be conscious of our true and living place within the whole glorious Church of Jesus Christ.

People: We beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord.

Minister: O God our Father, who dost use the hands and minds of us Thy children to fulfil Thy will, we thank Thee that Thou hast led us by Thy Spirit to this time and place.

People: Praise be unto Thee, O God.

Minister: Bless, we humbly beseech Thee, O God, this that we have done, for we have done it in Thy Name. If there has been anything unworthy in the motives that have guided us,

People: Good Lord, forgive us.

Minister: So fill us, O Lord, with that Love that was in Christ Thy Son, and enable us, as thus we come together, to be a true and living part of Thy universal Church. May the Love of God reign perpetually in our hearts and minds. Grant that in love of the brethren we may be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honour preferring one another; in diligence, not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

People: We beseech Thee to hear, O Lord.

Minister: So bless us, Thy children, O God, and do Thou prosper the work of our hands, now and always as together we seek to serve Thee and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

People: Hear now our prayer, we beseech Thee, O God.

Minister: And now, brethren, let us remind ourselves of our high calling in the Gospel, and let us remember that it is God alone who must decide our place and witness. Let us rise and repeat together the words of this Covenant.

Minister and People (standing):

We are no longer our own but Thine. Put us to what Thou wilt; rank us with whom Thou wilt. Put us to doing; put us to suffering. Let us be employed for Thee, or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee. Let us be full; let us be empty. Let us have all things; let us have nothing. We freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it. And the covenant which we have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 12.12-27 (Mr. A. H. Gibbs)

The Union of the Churches

High Street I, Norman Bromley, a member of the High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead, do declare that the courts of this Church have, under the guidance of Almighty God, considered the union of these two churches and have declared that they believe such union to be the will of God. We rejoice that the union of three streams of Methodism in 1932 has now become an accomplished fact in this place. It is our earnest prayer that God will bless and use this Church for the extension of His Kingdom in this town, and that, thus united, we may go forward in faith and confidence to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Queen Street I, Terence Donoghue, a member of the Queen Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead, publicly declare, in the presence of God and of this congregation, that the Queen Street Methodist Church has duly and prayerfully considered the proposal of union. The courts of our Church have long and earnestly examined this proposal, and they have declared unmistakably their desire to unite with their fellow Methodists and with their sister Church. We, too, rejoice that the ancient

divisions within that part of the Body of Christ known as the Methodist Church are now healed, and that we, by the Grace of God, may serve Him together in the Unity of the Spirit.

It is our prayer that, thus united, we may serve the present age, knowing that our labour is not vain in the Lord.

Declaration of Union by the Rev. E. Harold Hardy,

(all standing)

Brethren, you have heard the words of these two leaders of the Churches now uniting. You will know that it is contrary to the Will of God that the Body of Christ should be divided. You will recall that in 1932, in the presence of His late Majesty George VI, the three branches of the Methodist Church, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the United Methodist Church, healed their divisions and became the one Methodist Church of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It is clear from what we have heard that these two Churches in Maidenhead desire now to be one Church, in order that their work may be more effective and their missionary enterprise more vigorous. I rejoice that I have lived to see this consummation of our hopes and prayers, and I pray for the perpetual guidance of the Holy Spirit as together we begin to serve Him.

I, therefore, Ernest Harold Hardy, called by God to be the minister of this Church and Superintendent Minister of this Circuit, do declare that the Methodist Church of High Street and the Methodist Church of Queen Street are now one united Church, meeting at the premises in High Street, Maidenhead. May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us grace. Amen.

The Te Deum . . . No. 2. Ancient Hymns & Canticles (Jackson)
(by the Choir and Congregation)

Short Address to the Children and Young People
by the Rev. C. Leonard Carty (Leeward Islands)

The Offertory received by the Rev F. V. Burns.

Hymn No. 92. "Jesus! the Name high over all"

Sermon . . . "The Forward Look" — (Rev. E. H. Hardy)

Hymn No. 263. "See how great a flame aspires"

The Benediction Rev. E. H. Hardy.

ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP

led by the REV. E. HAROLD HARDY.

Organist - Miss Ruth Thomas.

Introit "Praise to the Holiest" (M.H.B. 74)

Scripture Sentences . . . Call to Worship.

Hymn No. 2. "All people that on earth"

Psalm No. 56 in M.H.B.

(The congregation repeating alternate verses)

Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving.

The Lord's Prayer (chanted)

Hymn No. 745. "All praise to our redeeming Lord"

Scripture Reading . . . Isaiah 6. . . . (Mr. C. N. Moon)

Anthem by the United Choir

"Jubilate Deo" (A. Somervell)

Scripture Reading . . . Romans 12. . . . (Mr. A. Kempton)

Hymn No. 824. "Come let us join our friends above"

Prayers of Intercession.

The Offertory.

Hymn No. 107. "O Jesus, King most wonderful"

Sermon . . . "Head of Thy Church triumphant"
(Rev. F. V. Burns)

Hymn No. 270. "My heart is full of Christ"

Sentences.

The Doxology . . . Benediction . . . (Rev. F. V. Burns)



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

You are invited to retain these Orders of Service as a memento of this inspiring and historic act of Union.

The Morning Service, which celebrates the actual act of Union, will be recorded on a magnetic tape. This record will be preserved for future interest and use. It will also be available to any sick or aged folk in their homes if they will express their wish to hear it.

If you have no definite Church attachments and feel that you would like to enjoy the life and fellowship here, please speak or write to the Minister, who will be glad to see you. (i.e. Rev. E. H. Hardy, 31 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead.

Tel.: 1760)

It will interest all Church Members to know that for some time to come all church officers of "Queen Street" will continue to serve with their colleagues at "High Street" in the various activities, and that the Trust is now being renewed to include a substantial number of previous members at Queen Street.

That the combined Leaders' Meeting will meet frequently to re-plan and re-organise the activities of the 'new church.'

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday	— Divine Worship at 11-0 a.m. and 6-30 p.m. Sunday School at 2-30 p.m.
Monday	— Wesley Guild at 7-45 p.m.
Tuesday	— Women's Fellowship at 2-45 p.m.
Wednesday	— Women's Pleasant Hour at 2-45 p.m. Epworth Youth Club from 7-0 to 10 p.m.
Thursday	— Committee Night and various activities.
Friday	— Choir Rehearsal at 8-0 p.m.

Besides the above there are :

Class Meetings, Cubs and Scouts, &c.

PASTORAL CARE

Although the Rev. F. V. Burns is formally relinquishing the pastoral care of the previous members at Queen Street, he will assist the Rev. E. H. Hardy in whatever way he can to enable him become familiar quickly with the needs to be served.

Mr. Hardy would be glad to be notified at any time of sickness or any other need where visitation is indicated. He would like members to know that they are always welcome at the Manse.