

Primitive Methodism

The Primitive Methodists were a major offshoot of the principal stream of Methodism - the Wesleyan Methodists - in the nineteenth Century.

In the early decades of the nineteenth century there was a growing body of opinion among the Wesleyans that their Connexion was moving in directions which were a distortion of, not to say a betrayal of, what John Wesley had brought to birth in the 18th century.

Eventually a Methodist preacher called Hugh Bourne became the catalyst for a breakaway, to form the Primitive Methodists. Probably 'primitive' was used to clarify their self-understanding that they were the true guardians of the original, or primitive, form of Methodism.

The sorts of issues which divided the Primitives and the Wesleyans were :

- The Primitives focused attention on the role of lay people. The Wesleyans developed a high doctrine of the Pastoral Office to justify leadership being in the hands of the ministers.
- The Primitives stressed simplicity in their chapels and their worship. The Wesleyans were open to cultural enrichment from the Anglican tradition and more ornate buildings.
- The Primitives concentrated their mission on the rural poor. The Wesleyans on the more affluent and influential urban classes.
- The Primitives stressed the political implications of their Christian discipleship. The Wesleyans were nervous of direct political engagement.

By the end of the 19th century these two streams of Methodism realised they had more in common than they might have supposed. So, conversations began which led to their being the two principal partners in the union to form the present-day Methodist Church in 1932 when the Deed of Union bonded the Methodist traditions.



Barton's Wesleyan Methodist Chapel moved to its existing location on Chapel Lane in 1816. At the time there were only forty-six members. By 1839 the number had increased to two hundred, with an additional seven hundred "hearers" so it needed to be enlarged.

The image shows the new Chapel opened in 1861. It was the third Wesleyan chapel to be built in the town.

A hall and Sunday School were added at the rear, facing Holydyke, in 1902.

Sources:

bartonbriggmethodist.org.uk

Barton upon Humber Civic Society *Town Trail*



Primitive Methodist Chapel, Queen Street, opened in 1867.

Early records of Primitive Methodism appear to have been lost, but it is likely that this branch of Methodism was formed in the Town around 1818.

Source: Wilderspin National School Museum Archive

The Wesleyan Chapel (right), built in 1862 on Waterside as a Mission Chapel, was designed by the Hull architect, Alfred Gelder. The original Mission Chapel (left) was converted into a Sunday School. The Chapel and Sunday School was gifted to the Wesleyan Society because of the need identified for that area of the town.



In 1960, local needs brought these three Barton-upon-Humber Methodist Churches together as a single Society, based at the Holydyke premises. The Church was re-designated as the Trinity Methodist Church to reflect the traditions of the three separate societies.



Trinity Methodist Church, Holydyke, Barton