

TWO GATES
RAGGED SCHOOL
CRADLEY



To Commemorate the

125th

ANNIVERSARY

1867 - 1992

Price
One Pound

*Dedicated
to all members
past, present and
future*

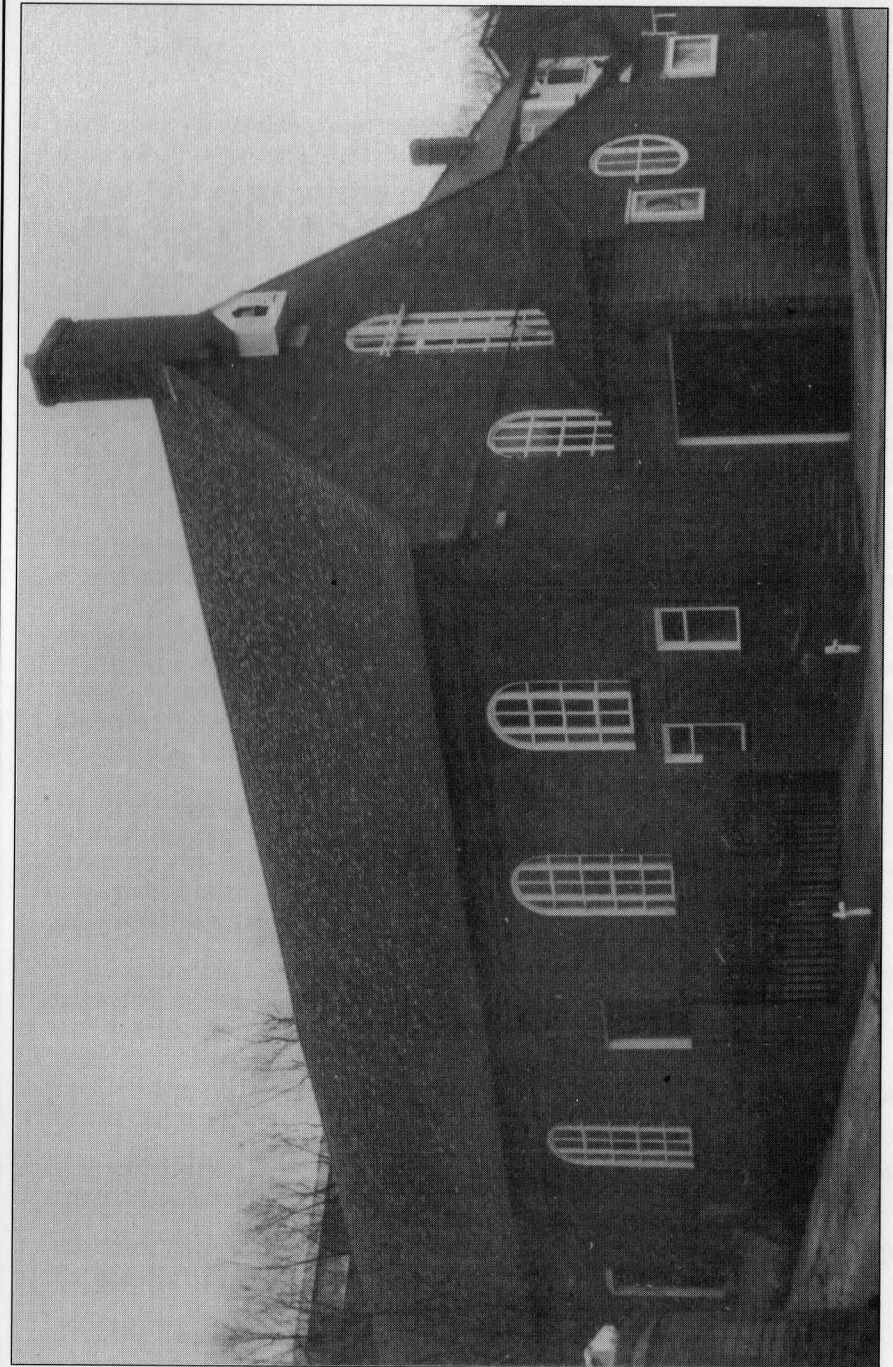


TWO GATES RAGGED SCHOOL
CRADLEY
1867 - 1992

125th Anniversary

Officers of the school 1992

<i>Superintendent</i>	Mrs. H. M. Clifton J.P.
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	Mr. B. G. Willetts J.P.
<i>Sunday School Secretary</i>	Mr. N. Clarke
<i>Treasurer & Childrens Clothing Club</i>	Mr. B. G. Willetts J.P.
<i>Sunday School Primary</i>	Mrs. L. Worton
<i>Sunday School Supervisor</i>	Miss T. Attwood
<i>Bankers</i>	Lloyds Bank & Midland Bank



TWO GATES RAGGED SCHOOL, CRADLEY
Built 1867

HISTORY

The first Ragged School was started in Portsmouth in 1767 by a poor cobbler named John Pounds. It was a wooden shop, one room down and one up. The downstairs room measured 16ft x 7ft x 6ft. In this room, with only tallow candles for lighting and water obtained from a pump in the street, John Pounds taught the raggedly clothed children of Portsmouth to read and write.

Hundreds of children, waifs, hooligans, pickpockets, indeed the worst possible characters, John Pounds brought in and they were taught to read the Bible. This wooden hut was called a ragged school, because by its nature, it catered exclusively for children who were poor and neglected.



Picture of John Pounds. A cobbler, who founded the first Ragged School in Portsmouth, shown teaching children to read the Bible. Born 17th June 1766. Died 31st December 1839.

FOREWORD

To those of us who can remember the Centenary celebrations it seems but yesterday, now we are in our middle years.

Twenty five years onward from that memorable time, we are again looking back at the memories and forward to the future. The traditions, the Christian examples that our forefathers established, have been maintained to the present day. During the past twenty five years many chapel members including our Superintendent Councillor Clifford Willetts O.B.E. have passed away. God has blessed us with new and very dedicated worshippers and we have retained the same membership the last quarter of a century. The Sunday School is still very active and the children willing to learn of Christian values and continue to participate in all the Christian services and local activities.

The tradition of the Chapel has continued over the years, no charge is made for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms etc. We rely solely on voluntary contributions. The fabric of the Chapel has been maintained in very good order, also many items purchased for use in the Sunday School and Chapel. There is no debt and indeed we have been blessed with many friends and members who through their kindness have enabled Two Gates Ragged School to continue with it's Christian work.

To celebrate the Centenary of Two Gates Ragged School, a book was written by our late Superintendent Councillor Clifford Willetts O.B.E. covering the history and events of those early years. In this book we are endeavouring to record the continued Christian work of the last quarter of a century.

It is impossible to name every event, some may be retained in one's personal memory. Also with modern technology, television, video's and hundreds of photographs which are all part of the memorabilia. Over the years a countless number of lay preacher's have given us their time and Christian message in worship each Sunday, to all those, we give thanks.

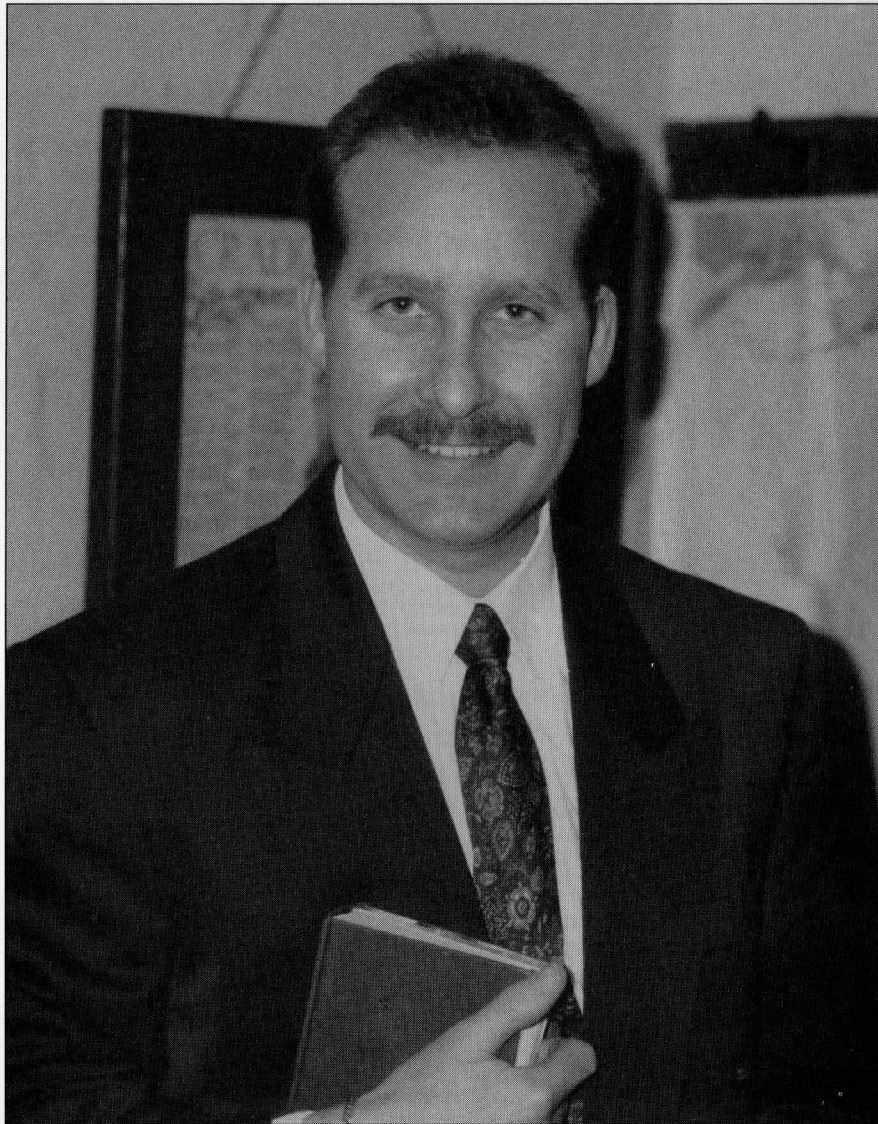
The poet once said "God gave us a memory, so that we may have roses in winter",

We look back on those happy memories and look forward with hope for the future.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS 1967 - 1992

- 1967** 4th June Centenary Anniversary Service - Collection was £283.00
- 21st June "At Home" to commemorate the Centenary of the chapel - Old members returned and mingled with Sunday School Scholars. A successful evening.
- 24th June A Special Service attended by Alderman N. Garner J.P., The mayor of Halesowen. The congregation was entertained by The Bournville Male Voice Choir. During 1967 the Sunday School was featured on Television
- 8th July Cradley Carnival. The Sunday School entered a float to celebrate 100 years of Sunday School.
Also during this year The 'Broadstone' was embedded into the path by the Sunday School entrance.
- 24th Dec The first Candlelight Carol Service was held.
- 30th Dec The year closed with the childrens Christmas Party at Caslon School.
Superintendent during the Centenary celebrations was Clifford Willetts, Sunday School Secretary was Pat Grice and Organist for the Chapel and Sunday School was Percy Bate.
- 1968** 7th Jan Patricia Wright appointed Assistant Sunday School Secretary
- 17th Feb Five coaches left the School for The Alexandra Theatre Birmingham for the pantomime 'Goody Two Shoes'.
- 15th Mar Sunday School entered the National Scripture Examination, top marks in their respective divisions were attained by Robert Skelding and Patricia Wright who were presented with medals at the Prize giving in May.
- 7th April Overend Mission were unable to find enough children to perform the Anniversary, the children from Two Gates were only too pleased to help Overend with this Service.
- June Anniversary Service - Collection was £249.00
- 30th June Pat Sidaway (Formerly Grice) resigned as Secretary. Patricia Wright appointed

- 19th July Won Second Prize in Cradley Carnival for decorated float.
- 28th Aug New Gates to the Car Park (now landscaped area) were presented by Mrs Vera Dimmock in memory of her Mother and Father Mr & Mrs Knight. They were manufactured by Mr W. Brookes of Two Gates.
- 1969** 15th Feb Six Coaches departed from the school to the pantomime in Birmingham at The Alexandra Theatre, 'Dick Whittington'.
- 21st Mar 18 Children entered the Scripture Examination. One medal won by Patricia Wright who also gained the Southall Silver medal which was awarded nationwide.
- 1st June 48 Children were on the platform for the Sunday School Anniversary - Collection was £231.80
- 23rd June Sunday School Union Anniversary, Two Gates were represented by a number of children.
- 6th Aug Sunday School trip to London.
An expensive year - Overdrawn at Bank.
- 1970** 25th Jan Prizes at the Annual Sunday School Prize giving were presented by Mrs Pat Sidaway
- 12th Feb Pantomime trip to see Aladdin.
- 15th Mar Scripture Examination
- 7th June Anniversary - Collection was £204.05
- 5th Sept Trip to London.
- 1971** 19th Jan Prizes were presented by former scholar Mrs Millie Harris.
- 16th Feb Pantomime trip to the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham to see 'Cinderella'.
- 26th Mar Scripture Examination took place. Two medals were won by Hazel Clifton and Patricia Wright
- 6th June Anniversary - Collection was £224.66
- Oct Patricia Wright resigned as Secretary when she obtained a position at Liverpool University.
- 7th Nov Neal Clarke appointed Sunday School Secretary.



NEAL CLARKE
SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY
1971 - 1992

- 1972** 24th Jan Prizes presented by Mr Percy Bate, Organist for over sixty years.
- 12th Feb A trip to the Pantomime 'Robinson Crusoe' at the Alexandra Theatre Birmingham took place.
- Mar Scripture Examination
- 22nd April The first excursion abroad departed from Elmdon Airport by Monarch Airlines to the bulb fields in Holland.
- 1st May Scripture Examination results - Prizes presented by Mrs Hazel Clifton (President of the Sunday School Union) at Two Gates, the only time that the union have used Two Gates Ragged School as the venue. Medal winner was Linda Taylor.
- June Anniversary Services - Collection was £198.92
- 1973** 30th Jan Childrens Prize distribution service took place, Prizes were distributed by Mrs Nola Smith.
- 5th Mar Mr Percy Bate resigned as organist due to ill health after more than 60 years of dedicated service to the Sunday School, Ladies Classes, Men's Own and Chapel Services.
- May The Sunday School won the Cup in the Scripture examination medal winners were Hazel Clifton and Glenda Willetts.
- June Anniversary Services - Collection was £259.50
- Sept Mr Percy Bate died, a memorial service was held and the chapel was full of former scholars who came to pay their respects.
- Oct An Autumn Fayre was held organised by the Sunday School children
- 16th Nov A trip abroad to Benidorm Spain, departed from Elmdon Airport.
- Dec Mr Harry Clift was appointed as organist
- 1974** Major repairs needed to the chapel organ at a cost of £230.00. The cash was raised in three weeks.
- 5th Feb The Prize distribution service took place and the prizes presented by Christine Guest.
Gas central heating installed at a cost of £1000.00
- May The Sunday School finished in third place in the Scripture Examination. Medals were won by Hazel Clifton and Glenda Willetts.
Outside of the School was painted at a cost of £100.00
- June Anniversary Services - Collection was £302.00

- 18th Oct Autumn Fayre was held
Dec A 12ft tall Christmas tree was erected in the chapel, this is now an annual feature throughout the December Services.
- 1975** 21st Jan Prize Distribution Service - Prizes were distributed by Miss Patricia Wright.
21st Mar Scripture Examination held - high marks were obtained but no medals won.
23rd May A trip abroad departed to Lido Di Jesolo Italy from Elmdon Airport.
8th June Anniversary - Collection was £362.00
Prior to the Anniversary the interior of the chapel was painted at a cost of £400.00
- 1976** 24th Feb Prize Distribution Service - Prizes distributed by Christine Woodward
March Scripture Examination - 28 Children and Young people took part
Sponsored Walk - Raised £114.00
13th June Anniversary collection had an all time record of £470.00. Services were very well attended and present were the Mayor of Dudley and the Chairman of the West Midlands County Council
20th Oct Superintendent - Clifford Willetts celebrated his 80th Birthday
30th Oct Autumn Fayre raised £250.00
Dec Gift Day Service - entertained by the Darby and Joan choir
- 1977** 8th Jan Childrens Christmas Party
Feb A Telegram was received from the Queen Congratulating Two Gates on their Silver Jubilee Street Party
March Scripture examination, the Woodhouse Shield was won by High Town Ragged School and the runners up cup by Two Gates Ragged School
June Anniversary raised £326-00
9th July Sponsored walk, 30 Scholars raised £140.00
8th Oct Children invited to Apley Park for the day
Nov The Autumn Fayre was moved to the last Saturday in November to give our first ever Christmas Fayre which was a great success and raised £250.00

- 1978** 32 Scholars sat the Scripture examination
13th March Prize Distribution Service - Prizes Distributed by Mrs Andrews
Memorial for Harry Cox, life long member and Treasurer of the Chapel was held
June Anniversary raised £415.00
28th Nov Christmas Fayre - record takings of £450.00. Opened by Black Country Poet, Harry Harrison
- 1979** Among the events this year were Scripture Examination - Jumble Sales
Sponsored Walk - Sponsored Silence
London Trip - Float in Cradley Carnival and Discos. A very lively year for the Sunday School
14th March Prize Distribution Service
1979 Concert with the Salvation Army Band
June Anniversary raised £454.00
21st June New Pulpit Bible was dedicated in memory of Mrs Joan Clarke.
Chapel re-wired at a cost of £704.16
23rd Nov A Trip to Majorca Spain, Departed Elmdon Airport.
- 1980** Chapel was painted
Donation from Sunday School and Young People Of £300.00
3rd March Prize Distribution Service - Prizes Distributed by Mrs Annette Penn
Mr Clifford Willetts awarded the O.B.E. in the Queens Birthday Honours
June Anniversary raised £448.25
23rd August The Secretary, Neal Clarke Married Georgina Elizabeth Freeman
Electric organ purchased for use in the Sunday School
- 1981** 4th Jan Superintendent Clifford Willetts O.B.E. passed away aged 84, the Chapel was full and an overflow congregation followed the service outside.
A memorial service followed
New Officers appointed
Mrs H. M. Clifton J.P. - Superintendent
Mr B. G. Willetts J.P. - Assistant Superintendent
Mr N. Clarke - Re-Appointed Secretary
March 32 Children sat the Scripture Examination - Debbie Southwick won a Medal



MRS HAZEL CLIFTON SUPERINTENDENT
1981 - 1992

- 6th April Prize Distribution Service
June Anniversary raised £560.43
- 1982** Jan A Life long supporter Mr Ashley Pegg a well known industrialist passed away
- 19th April Prize Distribution Service - presented by Mr Michael Skelding
- 22nd April Concert by the Worcestershire Youth Dance Orchestra
- 9th June Anniversary - Evening Service was conducted by Mr John Blackburn M.P. and raised £495.63
- 27th Nov Christmas Fayre raised £450.00
- 1983** 18 Children sat the Scripture Examination in March and Debbie Southwick won the Medal
- 21st Feb Prize Distribution Service - Prizes presented by Miss Gwen Stokes
- June Anniversary raised £575.33
- Chapel was broke into and equipment to the value of some £600.00 was stolen, the whole of Two Gates rallied round, fund raising efforts came from the Broadstone and Smiths Arms Public Houses and in a matter of weeks most of the material things were replaced, except the heavy brass cross and the Communion table vases
- 1984** A Cheque for £250.00 was received from the West Midlands Probation Service as an ex-gratia payment in respect of the 1983 theft
- 21st March Prize Distribution Service - Prizes given out by Mr Colin Totney
- Mr Harry Clift passed away
- 3rd June Anniversary raised £527.07
- 9th Dec Concert by the Halesowen Handbell Ringers
- Sunday School outing to Drayton Manor Park
- 1985** June Anniversary - Collection £410.78
- 12th Aug Prize Distribution Service took place with prizes given out by Mrs Sandra Cooke

17th Aug Sunday School outing - Trip to Drayton Manor Park

26th Oct A coach departed from the Sunday School for a day out in London

Mr Eddie Truman began as organist on a part time basis

8th Dec A plaque in memory of Mr Clifford Willetts O.B.E. was dedicated by Mr John Hackett also Hymn Books in memory of Mr Warren Billingham and Mr Harry Clift. The Cradley Darby & Joan Choir also took part in the service

15th Dec Carol Service in which the children of the Sunday School sang their favourite carols

A sponsored Walk held earlier this year had now raised £103.00

1986 18th Jan Childrens Christmas Party took place

March 12 Children entered the Scripture examination

6th May Prize Giving Service - Prizes were distributed by Mrs Sandra Skinner

1st June Anniversary - Collection was £590.63
Mini Market and Sponsored Walk raised £90.00

7th Dec Christmas Gift Day Service took place with The Cradley Darby & Joan Choir

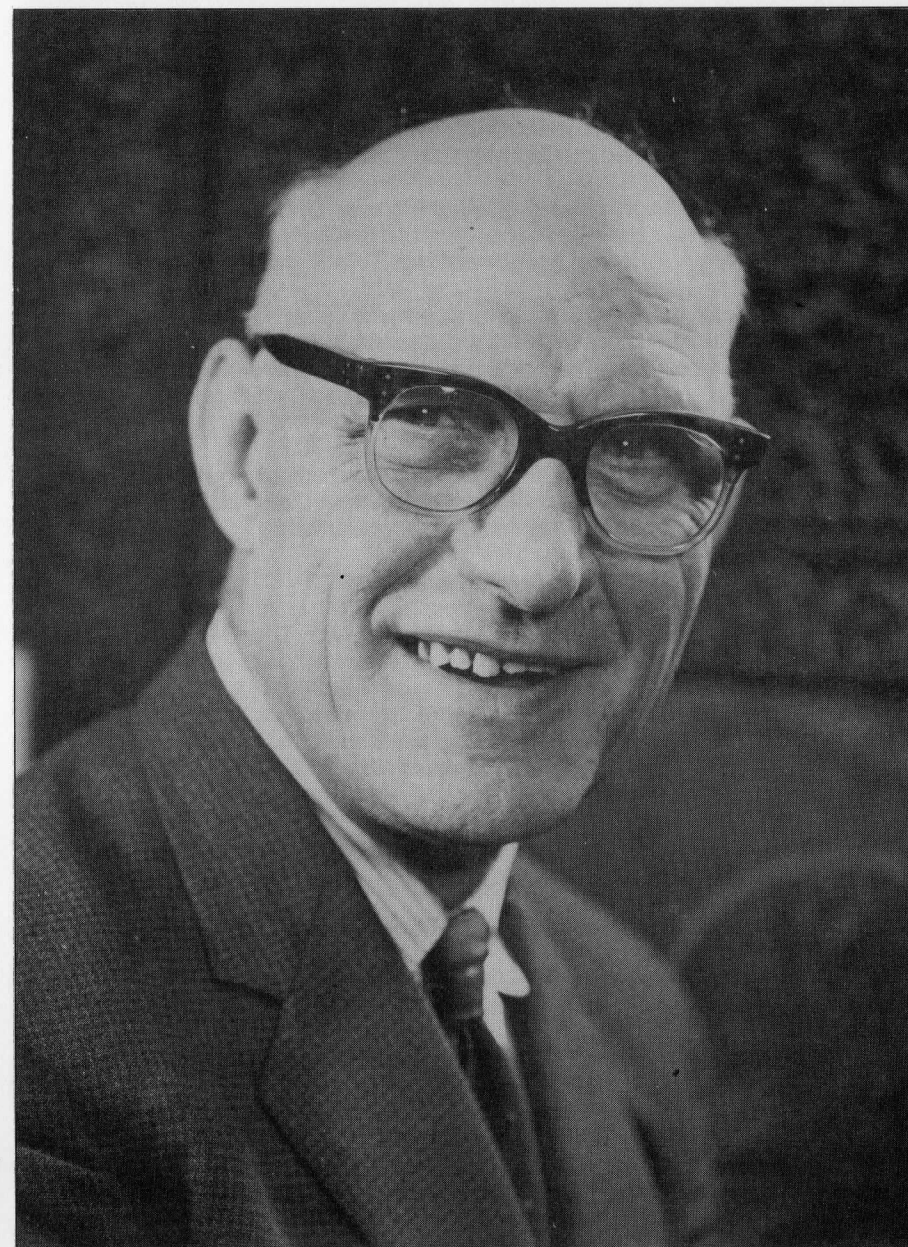
1987 31st Jan Childrens Christmas Party was held

14th April Annual Prize Distribution Service - Prizes were given out by Mrs Evelyn Botfield

7th June Anniversary - Collection was £643.25
A Sponsored Walk raised £90.00

6th Dec Gift Day Service with The Cradley Darby & Joan Choir

13th Dec A Nativity Play was presented by the Sunday School children, it was the first time for many years that the children enacted the story of Christmas



MR CLIFFORD WILLETTS O.B.E. SUPERINTENDENT
1932 - 1981

- 1988** March 15 Children entered the Scripture Examination and Tracey Attwood won a medal
- 15th May Prize Distribution Service was held and prizes were given out by Mrs C.A. Cartwright
- 5th June Anniversary - Collection was £645.66
- Aug Drayton Manor outing
- Aug Trip to Dudley caverns and caves - A barge full of friends including old scholar Vernon Cox on holiday from Australia, first time back in Two Gates for 30 years. We all were treated to a hot faggots and peas supper on the barge
- 29th Sept Another theft - £1,700.00 worth of equipment stolen. The whole village rallied round and helped raise money to replace everything
- 26th Nov Christmas Fayre raised £611.00
- 4th Dec Christmas Gift Day Service with The Cradley Darby & Joan Choir
- 1989** March 19 Children sat Scripture Examination, again the school finished second and won the cup. The children were taken to the cinema at Merry Hill as a reward to see Walt Disney's The Lady and the Tramp.
- 30th April Prize giving service, prizes were distributed by Mrs M. Morton
- 4th June Anniversary - £787.37 was raised
- 30th Oct 300 Crocus bulbs were planted at the side of the School
- Nov A party of 28 visited Halesowen Police Station
- Nov Christmas Fayre - All children were in fancy dress
- 3rd Dec Christmas Gift Day Service conducted by Brigadier Nellie Coley and The Cradley Heath Sunshine Choir
- Dec A Crib scene was used for the first time. The Nativity set was hand carved in Kenya and bought by Barry and Rhoda Willetts

The Chapel was donated an electric organ worth £3,000.00 by Mr Albert Head, a very kind thought and was greatly appreciated by all the members

- 1990** Jan The Sunday School and Chapel was decorated inside and out.
- 1st April Prize Distribution Service - Prizes were given out by Mrs Pat Whitehouse
- 6th May The Children visited Halesowen Fire Station and were treated to a demonstration by the firemen until they were called out on an emergency call
- 3rd June Anniversary - Collection for the first time reached £1,006.36
- 5th Oct A visit to the Walsall illuminations was very successful, everyone enjoyed the laser displays
- 2nd Dec Christmas Gift Day Service with The Wombourne Methodist Singers
- 1991** 7th April Childrens Prize Distribution Service - Prizes given out by Miss Tracey Pennells
- April Children raised extra money by filling smartie tubes with 1p coins, each tube held 82p. A total of £47.63 was raised.
- 2nd June Anniversary - Collection was £681.55
- 25th Feb Tracey Attwood appointed Sunday School Supervisor
- Aug Childrens outing to Drayton Manor Park
- 31st Oct 14 Children entertained the residents at 'Woodlands Gate Rest Home' with a musical evening
- 1st Dec Gift Day Service with The Cradley Heath Salvation Army's Sunshine Club Choir.
- Dec Nativity and Candlelight Services were also held
- 1992** Jan Eddie Truman resigned as part time organist owing to ill health.
- Feb Albert Slater agreed to play the organ on a part time basis

STATISTICAL RECORDS

Baptism's 1867 - 1967	567	
Baptism's 1967 - 1992	480	

	1,047	Total

Weddings 1867 - 1967	44	
Weddings 1967 - 1992	151	

	195	Total

Many funeral services have been carried out in the chapel over 125 years, but no records have been maintained.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR THE 125TH YEAR 1992

New Years Eve Service	1st January
Scripture Examination	27th March
Prize Distribution Service (Prizes distributed by Mrs Ann Hillman)	5th April
Good Friday	17th April
Easter Day	19th April
Anniversary	7th June
Anniversary Repetition	14th June
125th Celebration Service	21st June
'AT HOME' Open Evening	24th June
Sunday School Outing	August
Harvest Festival	4th October
Sale Of Goods	5th October
Christmas Fayre	28th November
Gift Day	6th December
Nativity	13th December
Candlelight Carol Service	20th December
Christmas Morning	25th December
New Years Eve Service	31st December

In addition to the above, Services are held each Sunday

Sunday School	10.15 am
&	
	2.15 pm
Evening Worship	6.00 pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
3rd June 1990

