



Primitive Methodists in Scarborough by Mr Maynard

The “Prims” were established in Scarborough in 1821 by Hugh Bourne and William Clowes from Hull. They set up meetings at 4 Globe Street. John Abbey was designated as “missionary” and within 11 weeks had recruited 100 members. A church was established on a site that had been used by Franciscans named Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The site and chapel were developed over the years with a large building being completed in 1865 at a cost of £6000. This became known as the “Sep”. This “High Victorian” preaching house could seat 1200 people. The church served many families from the “Old Town” and even had a woman preacher, Mrs Markham. 100 years later in 1965 membership had fallen to 112 members.

In 1861 the “Jubilee” Methodist Church was opened in Aberdeen Walk at a cost of £3441. The debt was cleared by 1898. During the summer season the building was filled to capacity on most Sundays but the devastating effects of two world wars reduced the numbers considerably. The old brown and cream colour scheme was “lightened” in 1958 at a cost of £700.

Other Primitive Methodist churches were established in St. John’s Road, Gladstone Road, Seamer Road, Queen Street and the Bethel Mission Chapel on Sandside.

The Maynard family were always involved with the Prims in Scarborough, especially the one in St. Sepulchre street which has now disappeared.

Mr Maynard’s great grandfather, David Maynard, was a local councillor and a plumber. He had 9 other brothers and sisters as was common at that time. Mr Maynard’s grandfather and father ran a grocery shop at the corner of North Marine Road and Castle Road until 1967 when pressure from the bigger Tesco type shops cut their profit margins. They lived over the shop and worked from 8.30 am till 6pm. They had an errand/delivery boy with a front panier on his bike, but also had a van to collect goods from a wholesaler and deliver them to hotels. The shop had rows of drawers filled with dried goods such as lentils and everything was weighed out and wrapped. Butter was cut on a marble slab and formed into shape with ladles. The shop closed midweek and Sunday when they went to church in the morning, Sabbath/Sunday school in the afternoon and then back to church for an evening service. No money was to be spent on a Sunday, not even an ice cream on a hot sunny Sunday. The only holidays were to stay with relatives in Middlesborough.

Mr Maynard has a fine collection of photographs, newspaper articles, brochures and meeting books relating to the Prims and dating back to 1840.