

The History
of
South Cliff
Methodist Church
Scarborough



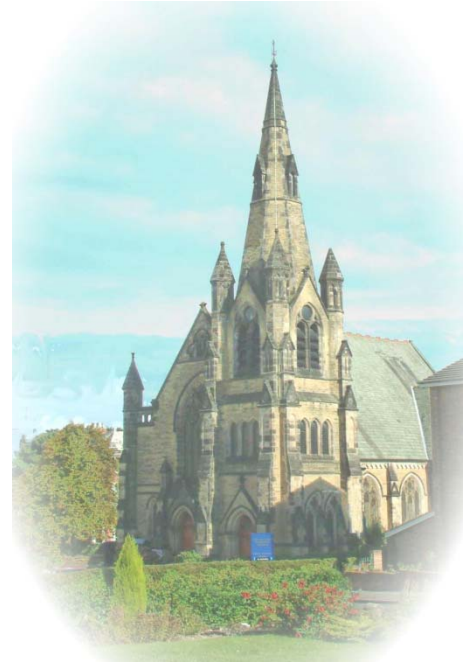
Newspaper Reports from THE SCARBOROUGH MERCURY

Friday 21st May 1886

The South Cliff Wesleyan Chapel

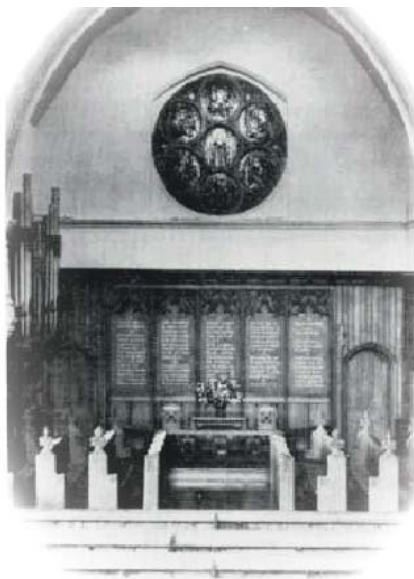
This, the latest addition to the places of worship in the town, is now rapidly approaching completion, and so far as the exterior is concerned, it may almost be said that the work is accomplished. The spire has just been finished and surmounted by a weather vane of highly ornamental design, and a lightning conductor.

The vane, which has been fixed by Mr. William Slater, of Bradford, is of an entirely new pattern. (later removed by the Fire Brigade for safety reasons during the 1990s)



Friday 4th June 1886

The New Wesleyan Chapel, South Cliff



This place of worship is near completion, It will be opened early in July. Instead of the usual 'covering in" supper, the trustees of the chapel invited all the workmen and contractors engaged in the erection of the building to a substantial tea on Thursday evening last, in the schoolroom adjoining the Chapel. About 100 persons were present. After tea the Rev. R. Culley, Messrs. Calvert, Tonks, Qakey, S. N. Smith (trustees), and Councillor Peacock (contractor) gave short addresses. Mrs. Lovett. the Misses Shaw. Finton, Druce, and Mr. R. Clough gave songs. Mr. F. Brown presided at the pianoforte. A vote of thanks to the ladies for presiding at the tea tables, and to all who had taken part, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

Interior – How it used to be

Friday 8th June 1886

New Wesleyan Methodist Church, South Cliff, Scarborough

OPENING SERVICE:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, Rev. Richard Roberts, 'Will Conduct a Devotional Service and deliver an Address in the New Church, on Friday, 2nd July, 1886 at 3 p.m. and Preach in Queen Street Chapel on the same day at 7 p.m.

TEA will be provided in Queen Street, on Friday, 2nd July at 5 p.m. Tickets 1 Shilling each.

On Sunday, July 4th, 1886 at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. The Rev. James A Macdonald of Rhyl, will Preach.

The following Ministers will conduct the Opening Series of Services - Rev. J. Jackson Wray (Two Lectures), Fred Luke Wiseman B.A., Joseph Posnett, G. W. Olver B.A, John Martin, W. Maltby and Joseph Cranswick.

Friday 2nd July 1886 - Second Edition 6.00 p.m.

Opening of the South Cliff Wesleyan Church Address by the President of the Conference.

The newly-erected Wesleyan Chapel situated on the South Cliff was opened for public worship this afternoon in the presence of a large congregation.

Among those present were the Revs. Richard Roberts (President of the Conference), W. Silcox, H. E. Gregg, Robert Culley and W. Young (Sherburn) The Rev. William Silcox, superintendent of the circuit, having read the deed of registration by which the church is acknowledged as a place of worship, gave out Hymn 590 'How lovely are Thy Tents, O Lord'. The congregation having sung this hymn, The Rev. H. E. Gregg read a part of II Chronicles Chapter 6 which was followed by the singing of Hymn 592 "How Pleasant how divinely fair". The Rev. W. Silcox afterwards engaged in prayer, to be followed by the rendering of the Hymn, "Great is the Lord, our God". The Rev. R Balgarnie also led the congregation in prayer. The Rev. Richard Roberts afterwards delivered an address.

South Cliff New Wesleyan Church Summary of Receipts and Expenditure to October 1888

Total Cost of Church and Site	£6450
Cost of Minister's House	£1350
Total	£7800
Amount subscribed and promised	£4900
Grants and Loans from Conference Funds	£ 650
Debt allowed to remain	£1600
Balance	£ 650

Special Effort to raise £650

Sunday October 21st - sermons were preached at Queen Street, Westborough and South Cliff.

Monday October 22nd - service was held at South Cliff. In the Evening a Public Meeting was held at Westborough.

Collections were taken at all these assemblies.

A SALE OF WORK was held on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week in the Lecture Hall.

Jottings from the Archives

- 1888** The chancel being unfinished it was decided to continue the design round at a cost of £4 12s 6d
- 1891** The Sunday School boasted a total of 67 scholars, and by the end of the year it had grown to 77.
- 1898** The Sunday School now has 17 teachers. No mention is made number of scholars, but one can hazard a guess that the Sunday School is going from strength to strength.
- 1914** December 16th. There is a hole in the church spire attributed to the German Navy. £40 was claimed against the government
- 1916** November 24th. At a meeting on this date the entertaining of "Hunt's Battalion" in the school-room was approved. One vestry was made into a kitchen.
- 1926** October 29th. Further additions to the church were planned the oak pulpit, choir stalls and the dado.
- 1928** The cost of painting the church and the lecture hall was £22 10s 6d.
(The Year 2001 was £4,500 excluding the Hall, with other estimates of over £10,000)
- 1940** December 9th - A decrease in numbers at the Sunday Evening Services was attributed to the canteen, run during the Second World War.
- 1945** December 11th - A meeting on this date reported the closure of the canteen. The regiment receiving hospitality had left Scarborough.

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The Windows of South Cliff Methodist Church



The Road to Emmaus

Although we at South Cliff cannot claim the distinction unique to St. Martin's of windows and interior decorations largely designed and executed by William Morris and his associates, we have a fine set of stained glass windows of slightly later period showing clearly the influence of William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.



It was the undated Hartley window, the Walk to Emmaus, which first attracted my attention, for in the bottom

right hand corner it bears the inscription, "Morris, Burne-Jones and Co.". This led me into a little detective work, for I wrongly assumed that this window must date from the life-time of William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. In fact, it is the latest of the windows. Trust records show that in 1930 permission was finally given to Mr. Frank Hartley to proceed with the insertion of the window, but the matter had been under discussion for several years and in 1927 the Trustees had accepted his offer of a window depicting the Three Marys at the Tomb. There is no reference to a change of subject, nor to the firm who submitted the original design. Why the change? During what period did the firm "Morris, Burne-Jones and Co." exist under that name, to which I can find no reference?

The Walk to Emmaus is the most recent window, but the Pre-Raphaelite influence is evident in them all, and in so far as this window alone omits architectural canopies at the head of the lights it is the most characteristic. But the three windows in the body of the church all have typical and delightful detail in, for example, leaves and flowers in the foreground, and all show the use of lead lines to outline figures and other important features in the true medieval fashion revived by the Pre-Raphaelites. Particularly pleasing is the delicate shading of colours in the sky, using individual small pieces of glass as the medieval craftsman did, rather than larger pieces enamelled with a range of colour on each, as had often been the practice in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



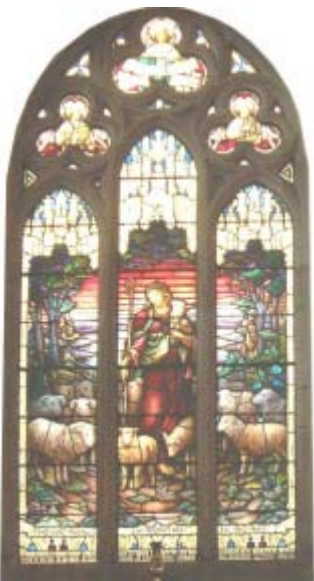


For All the Saints

It was in October 1913 that permission was given to Mr. Turner to place the first window in the church as a memorial to his wife and daughter.

“For all the saints who from their labours rest, Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest”, this window shows a group ranging from a deaf old man, on the left to a richly dressed child on the right, all gathered around Jesus in adoration. Of particular interest is the head in one of the top trefoils, for it is the head of Mr. Turner’s daughter. *But which one?*

Detail from the above window illustrating the particularly fine detail and lavish use of colours



The Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd window, however, shows a slightly different technique and much more use of brush-work. The Pre-Raphaelites did not copy medieval windows, and in the same way our windows preserve some of the characteristics of the medieval craft without pretending to be what they are not.

The Good Shepherd window, a memorial to Mr. Fawcett, treasurer from 1909 to 1916, was dedicated on 14th November, 1926.

When World War I was over it was decided to install the Rose Window as a war memorial. This window was completed in 1921. The medieval rose window usually showed Christ in Majesty surrounded by angelic choirs and heavenly hosts. Our window, strongly Pre-Raphaelite in style, shows a feminine, heavenly orchestra surrounding Christ in Majesty. It includes percussion, wind and stringed instruments, and pipes, directed by a conductress whose every line seems to speak of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. This window appropriately smiled down upon our choir.



The Rose Window

It is remarkable but aesthetically satisfying that our windows, inserted at four quite separate dates, and as far as I can tell by four different firms, should have such unity of style and colour. They deserve careful study. Try sitting in different parts of the church, and meditate on each in turn.

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