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Records of Leytonstone United Reformed Church, previously Leytonstone
Congregational Church, High Road, Leytonstone.

Deposited by : Leytonstone United Free Church Council

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Condition : Permanent loan

Congregationalism in Leytonstone grew out of meetings held by Tabernacle preachers, followers of George Whitefield, in Leyton from c.1780. Early meetings were held at a house in Chapel Yard in Leyton High Road in conjunction with a group of Methodists as the United Brotherhood of Methodists and Independents which dissolved in 1812. A Congregational Mission was established by students from Hackney College and by 1826 it was felt necessary to erect a small chapel in Leytonstone High Road opposite Back Lane, which was registered in that year by George Collinson, minister of Walthamstow Marsh Street new meeting (1797-1837) also President of the Village Itinerary Society's theological college at Hackney (1803-1847). By 1839 the church, under the name Leytonstone Independent Chapel, was being run by a management committee, though this was to resign the following year because of difficulties arising from the lack of a full-time pastor and responsibility for the Chapel's affairs handed over to Hackney College. The Committee was reconstituted and a pastor appointed in 1844, its business recorded was in a record book for the years 1839-1867.

A temporary iron church was built in the High Road at the corner of Wellesley (now Michael) Road in 1873 to accommodate a growing congregation, but this was found to be inadequate and a permanent church was built near this iron one in 1877. The iron church was used as a Sunday School until 1885 when the Barclay Hall was built to the rear of the new church and the old premises sold. In 1914 an institute was erected on the same site under the Sunday School Forward Movement. The church was damaged by a flying bomb in 1944 and was closed until 1946 and a mission station which had been established by the Congregationalists in 1867 at Harrow Green was sold to Harrow Green Baptist Church in 1943 after that church had been destroyed by enemy action.

Prior to its union with Fillebrook Baptist Church in 1979 (q.v.) Leytonstone Congregational Church had become part of the United Reformed Church.

Registers and Church Meetings *

RB 1	Church record book comprising:	
	minutes of church meetings	May 1867 - Dec.1881
	register of baptisms	Aug 1867 - Apr.1880
	church roll	Jan 1868 - Dec.1884
	Register of collections	Jun 1868 - May 1875
	(1 volume, vellum bound)	
RBp 1	Register of baptisms	Dec.1883 - Jul.1886
	(1 volume, calf bound)	
CM 1	Minutes of church meetings	Dec.1881 - Mar.1896
	(1 volume, leather bound)	

* Further registers are retained on church premises, applications for specific searches may be made to the Church Council.

Registers and Church Meetings (contd)

✓ CM 2	Minutes of Church meetings (1 volume, leather bound)	Mar.1898 - Aug.1922
✓ CM 3	Minutes of Church meetings (indexed) (1 volume, cloth bound)	Aug.1922 - Dec.1936
✓ CM 4	Minutes of Church meetings (1 volume, cloth bound)	Dec.1936 - Aug.1952
✓ MA 1	Members attendance book and church roll ** (1 volume, half bound leather)	1922 - 1932

Manuals

M 1-62	Manuals or year books comprising reports and subscriptions for church activities, historical notes, lists of church officers, members and seatholders for each year except 1898, 1943,1945, 1947 - 48, 1950. (62 booklets, printed)	1885 - 1951
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Deacons' meetings

✓ D 1	Minutes (1 volume, quarter bound leather)	Apr.1867 - Nov.1874
✓ D 2	Minutes (1 volume, half bound leather)	Jan.1875 - Jan 1886
✓ D 3	Minutes (1 volume, half bound leather) <u>at back</u> finance committee and special organist committee minutes, church rules <u>enclosing</u> pew rent receipts, estimate for notice board, correspondence concerning warming apparatus (7 papers).	Feb.1886 - May 1891
✓ D 4	Minutes (1 volume, half bound leather) <u>at back</u> finance committee minutes	Jul.1891 - Sep.1899
✓ D 5	Minutes (1 volume, half bound leather) <u>at back</u> finance committee minutes	Nov.1899 - Sep.1907
✓ D 6	Minutes (1 volume, half bound leather) <u>at back</u> finance and selection committee minutes	Sep.1907 - May 1914
✓ D 7	Minutes (1 volume, quarter bound cloth) <u>at back</u> finance committee minutes	Feb.1920 - May 1925
✓ D 8	Minutes (1 volume, quarter bound cloth) <u>at back</u> finance committee minutes	Jul.1925 - Jun.1931
✓ D 9	Minutes (1 volume, quarter bound cloth) <u>enclosing</u> general correspondence, balance sheet for Harrow Green Sunday School, 1939 (11 papers, 2 files) <u>at back</u> finance committee minutes	Sep.1936 - May 1942

** For further church rolls see manuals below

Deacons' meetings (contd)

✓ D 10 Minutes (1 volume , cloth bound) Jan.1945 - Apr. 1950
enclosing rules for the election of deacons

Committees

✓ BC 1 Church Building Committee minutes Apr.1875 - Jul.1878
 (1 volume, leather bound)

✓ JC 1 Joint Committee minutes May 1879 - Jan.1886
 (1 volume, leather bound)

Societies

✓ LS 1 Leytonstone Young Men's Mutual Improvement Jan.1869 - Feb.1875
 Society minute book, including printed
 programmes and lists of members.
 (1 volume, leather bound)

LS 1 Leytonstone Literary and Debating Society Jun.1929 - Apr.1932
 minute book, including printed programmes
 (1 volume, half bound leather)

Sunday School

✓ S 1 Leytonstone Independent Sabbath School, Sep.1860 - Dec.1874
 minutes of teachers' meetings
 (1 volume, half bound leather)

✓ S 2 School Building Committee minutes Apr.1884 - Jul.1886
 (1 volume, leather bound)
enclosing Sunday School Union receipt for
 collecting boxes and rough account (2 papers)

Accounts

✓ A 1 Ledger (indexed) (1 volume, leather bound) 1882 - 1920

✓ A 2 Receipts and expenditure accounts 1937 - 1949
 (1 volume, half bound leather)
enclosing miscellaneous loose accounts (11 papers)

Seat rents

✓ PB 1 Pew book (1 volume, half bound leather) 1916 - 1947

Miscellaneous

✓ MC 1 Envelope containing miscellaneous programmes, 1880 - 1973
 circular letters and accounts, including: sermon
 preached by Rev.J.Brierley; Venetian Bazaar programme
 (1922); Induction programme of Rev.R.O.Skinner; papers
re Centenary (1927); manual supplement (1943);
 Thanksgiving Reunion programme (1927); Woodland Fair

Miscellaneous (contd)

✓ MC 1 Woodland Fair programme (1957); Induction programme of Rev. J.P.Caton (1965); Headlight (Sept.1973); constitution of Howard Hall Church General Council; balance sheets (1944, 1947); photograph of Rev.A.H.Lemon.

(14 papers, 5 booklets, 1 file)