

Northamptonshire Record Office

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-- JUL 1978

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE



WELLINGBOROUGH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

Wellingborough became a centre of nonconformist activity during Charles II's reign.

The Congregationalists met for worship and prayer in Silver Street meeting house from 1673. After the Toleration Act of 1689 a minister was installed in Silver Street and a second meeting house in Crown Yard, near Market Street, was established in 1691.

As the number of Congregational worshippers grew it became necessary to provide a larger place of worship and in 1734 the West End, or West Street, Chapel was built. This building was used for services until 1868 when the Primitive Methodists began to hold services there and finally purchased it in 1882.

Cheese Lane Chapel was built in 1746 owing to the rising number of Congregational church members and the dilapidation of Silver Street. (This chapel was eventually sold in 1903 and became part of a boot manufacturers.) In 1811 a rift in the Cheese Lane Chapel congregation led to the formation of Salem Chapel in 1812. The churches worked independently until 1872-3 when communal services were held. The two churches decided to build a united church in the area around Salem, and High Street Church was built in 1875.

After expansion in Wellingborough due to the Victoria Estate a school and mission hall were built in 1879. A new church, the Victoria Church, was built in 1897. Expansion westwards led to the building of Northampton Road Mission (now a Youth Centre).

Other chapels connected with Wellingborough United Reformed Church were founded at Great Doddington, in 1889 and at Little Irchester, in 1893. There is also a Sunday School at Wilby affiliated to the Wellingborough Church.

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Accession 1978/35

MINISTER

- | | | |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | Rev. E.M. Drew. Order of worship for commencement of his ministry. | 1912 |
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See also 25 and 31

REGISTERS

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| 2(a) | Register of baptisms 1901-1929 and burials 1901-1902. | 1901-1929 |
| 2(b) | Copies of certificates of death of trustees 1914, 1918, 1920. | 1914-1920 |
| 3 | Register of members.
Includes: notes on changes of address, marriages and deaths n.d. | 1851-1909 |
| 4 | Register of members. | 1912-1917 |
| 5 | Register of members. | 1918-1922 |
| 6 | Register of members. | 1924-1933 |
| 7 | Register of members. | 1933-1938 |
| 8 | List of members with addresses and year of admission for Great Doddington, Little Irches-ter, Victoria and Wellingborough High Street. | 1969 |
| 9 | Counterfoils of membership transfers. | 1900-1939 |
| 10 | Communion register. | 1892-1899 |
| 11 | Communion register. | 1900-1906 |
| 12 | Communion register. | 1907-1912 |
| 13 | Communion register. | 1919-1927 |
| 14 | Communion register. | 1928-1937 |
| 15 | Communion register. | 1938-1956 |

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DEACONS

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 16 | Deacons minute book.
Includes: trustees minutes 1888, 1890, 1892;
deacons, trustees and signatories (to letter
quoted in minutes of 27/6/1889) 1889; deacons
and Building Committee minutes 1890, 1895, 1896;
deacons and trustees minutes 1893-1894, 1899;
deacons and Victoria Committee minutes 1897. | 1888-1901 |
| 17 | Bundle (from 16) including: deacons voting
results 1897, 1900; savings bank card 1922;
appeal for donations for Mr. J. Ekins 1914. | 1897-1922 |
| 18 | Deacons minute book.
Includes: deacons and trustees minutes 1901,
1909; deacons and ministers minutes 1904;
report of the Financial Committee 1910;
deacons and Victoria Committee minutes 1915,
1918; deacons and stewards minutes 1916. | 1901-1918 |
| 19 | Bundle (from 18) including: correspondence
from Building Society concerning Little Irches-
ter account 1914; correspondence about organ
insurance 1914. | 1914 |
| 20 | Deacons minute book. | 1918-1934 |
| 21 | Bundle (from 20) including: terms of agreement
for the position of caretaker appointed by the
diaconate 1926; letter from solicitors about
licences 1934. | 1926-1934 |
| 22 | Deacons minute book 1934-1950.
Includes: deacons minutes 1952. | 1934-1952 |

CHURCH AFFAIRS

United Churches of Cheese Lane and Salem which
became High Street from 1876 with Victoria from
1896

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 23 | Church meetings minute book.
Includes: church members and subscribers
minutes 1876; church and congregation minutes
1876, 1883, 1888, 1890, 1894, 1897; and notes on
the formation of the united church c.1873. | 1873-1898 |
| 24 | Bundle of church meeting minutes (loose sheets)
1896, 1898. | 1896-1898 |

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CHURCH AFFAIRS

(cont.)

Congregational Church: High Street, Victoria,
Great Doddington and Little Irchester

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 25 | Church meetings minute book.
Includes: Building Committee minutes 1899;
church and congregation minutes 1900-1901,
1912,1914; deacons minutes 1916; circular
about proposed constitution for Victoria
membership 1918; articles about ministers
1900-1918. | 1899-1918 |
| 26 | Bundle (from 25) including: notice of church
members meeting 1912; circular from Finance
Committee 1913,1917; estimate for manse repairs
1923; correspondence about lightning conductor
installation at church 1923. | 1912-1923 |
| 27(a) | Church meetings minute book.
Includes: church and congregation minutes 1937,
1948; special business minutes 1953. | 1936-1953 |
| 27(b) | Bundle (from 27a) including: church meeting
minutes 1951-1952; deacons and secretaries of
church organizations minutes 1952. | 1951-1952 |
| 28 | Trustees minute book.
At back: index and particulars of fire insur-
ance. | 1898-1949 |
| 29 | Congregational Committee minute book containing
minutes of church meetings held in connection
with the Congregational Committee.
Includes: church meetings minutes 1873,1891;
members and subscribers meetings minutes 1873,
1876; members and school teachers minutes 1873;
united members minutes 1875; members and congre-
gation minutes 1877; General Committee and trus-
tees minutes 1891,1892. | 1873-1892 |
| 30 | Congregational Committee minute book.
Includes: Congregational Committee minutes 1873-
1876,1889-1890; Finance and Building Committee
minutes 1873-1875; Building Committee and Sun-
day School teachers minutes 1876; church and
congregation minutes 1889; General Committee
and trustees minutes 1891. | 1873-1891 |
| 31 | Congregational Committee minute book 1896-1897,
1905-1907.
Includes: church meeting minutes 1896; article
about Rev. G. Rees c.1906. | 1896-1907 |

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CHURCH AFFAIRS

(cont.)

32	Cash book, High Street and Victoria.	1897-1914
33	Ledger, High Street and Victoria. Includes: weekly offerings 1897-1913; ministers fund 1897-1913; incidental expenses 1897-1913; subscriptions to ministers fund 1903-1906; communion fund 1897-1913; poor fund 1912-1913; Sunday School fund 1912-1913; London Missionary Society accounts 1912-1913; hospital fund 1912-1913; maintenance of buildings fund 1912-1913; Miss Kincaid's annuity 1912-1913; William Brown's legacy 1912-1914; Band of Hope accounts 1912-1913; Mrs. J.H. Bellamy's gift 1912-1914; Mr. W.H. Woolston's legacy 1912- 1914; Bradshaw's trust 1912-1914; George Flowman's gift 1912-1913; National Health insurance accounts 1912-1913.	1897-1914
34	Offertory accounts book.	1912-1914
35	Offertory accounts book.	1914-1915
36	Offertory accounts book.	1915-1916
37A-22	Wellingborough Congregational Church Year Book.	1878-1899
38A-20	Wellingborough Congregational Church Year Book.	1900-1919
391-21	Wellingborough Congregational Church Year Book.	1920-1939
401-15	Wellingborough Congregational Church Year Book.	1940-1954
41	"The Record", Wellingborough. Congregational Church magazine.	1913
42	"The Record", Wellingborough. Congregational Church magazine.	1914
43	"The Record", Wellingborough. Congregational Church magazine.	1915-1916
44	"The Record", Wellingborough. Congregational Church magazine.	1917
45	"The Record", Wellingborough. Congregational Church magazine.	1917-1918

BUILDINGS

Salem Chapel

46-47 Lease and release. 1812
 1. Mary Robinson of Wellingborough, widow.
 2. Adam Corrie Esq. and Thomas Peck, surgeon of
 Wellingborough.
 Premises: plot of land in upper end quarter of
 Wellingborough, east part of pightle
 belonging to Mary Robinson's messuage.
 Consideration: £50, Corrie and Peck to erect 7
 foot 6 inch wall.

48 Bargain and sale or settlement. 1813
 1. Adam Corried and Thomas Peck.
 2. Trustees.
 Premises: land as above on which Independent
 Chapel, vestry and cottage for sexton
 have been erected.
 Consideration: details about doctrine, choice of
 minister, etc.

49-50 Appointment of new trustees. 1836
 1. Adam Corried Esq. and John Spence, cordwainer,
 both of Wellingborough.
 2. Trustees.
 Premises: as 48.

High Street Chapel

51 Conveyance. 1873
 1. Robert Whitworth of the Knowle, Upper Norwood,
 Surrey, Esq., Thomas Leech of Wellingborough,
 farmer and Benjamin Jinks of Wellingborough,
 grocer.
 2. John Woolston of Wellingborough, brewer,
 Nathaniel Pearce Sharman of Wellingborough,
 shoe manufacturer.
 Premises: messuage with yard, stables, barns,
 garden and orchard, containing about
 2 acres in Wellingborough High Street.
 Consideration: £3,700.
 Attached: memorandum that property purchased on
 behalf of Woolston, Sharman and four
 others.
 Endorsed: Memorandum of Conveyances of plots of
 land 1874, 1876, 1878, 1883,

52 Conveyance (with plan). 1883
 1. Nathaniel Pearce Sharman of Wellingborough,
 shoe manufacturer.
 2. Trustees of the United Wellingborough Congre-
 gational Church.
 Premises: plot of land fronting Queen Street for
 the purpose of building a ministers
 house.
 Consideration: £350.

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BUILDINGS

(cont.)

Great Doddington Chapel

- 53 Deed of foundation. 1852
 1. John Woolston of Wellingborough, corn merchant.
 2. Rev. Thomas Thomas of Wellingborough, protestant dissenting minister and others.
 Premises: plot of ground in Great Doddington on the Wellingborough to Earls Barton road with the chapel or meeting house lately erected, known as Great Doddington Chapel.
 Provisions about doctrine, choice of minister, etc.
- 54 Abstract of title, with plan, of Campbell Praed and Co. Ltd. to the Foresters Arms beerhouse, with orchard and 3 cottages, Great Doddington, 1872-1897. 1898
- 55 Charity Commission Order, authorising exchange of land. 1898
- 56 Certificate of contract for the redemption of land tax (with plan). 1899
 1. Commissioners for Inland Revenue.
 2. Campbell Praed and Co. Ltd.
 Premises: 2 messuages with large garden adjoining at Great Doddington.
 Consideration: £11.5s.
- 57 Mutual conveyance and exchange. 1899
 1. Campbell Praed and Co. Ltd. of Wellingborough, brewers.
 2. Trustees of the United Wellingborough Congregational Church properties.
 Premises: land in Great Doddington with the remainder of the old cottage and buildings there standing (to trustees) and piece of ground in Great Doddington with chapel or meeting house (to Company).

Victoria Chapel

- 58 Uncompleted printed deed of covenant as to occupation of plots of ground on Victoria Town Estate. 1869

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BUILDINGS

(cont.)

Victoria Chapel (cont.)

- 59 Conveyance (with plan). 1875
1. The United Land Co. Ltd.
2. William Curtis of Wellingborough.
Premises: plot fronting on Ranelagh Road,
Wellingborough, lot 228.
Consideration: £76.
- 60 Conveyance (with plan). 1878
1. The United Land Co. Ltd.
2. Nathaniel Pearce Sharman, shoe manufacturer,
of Wellingborough, Thomas Smith Curtis, draper
and William Alfred Rubbra, bank manager, all
of Wellingborough.
Premises: plot fronting on Ranelagh Road, lot 229.
Consideration: £80.
- 61 Conveyance (with plan). 1878
Parties as 60.
Premises: plot fronting on Palk Road, lot 295.
Consideration: £29.
- 62 Conveyance (with plan). 1878
Parties as 60.
Premises: plot fronting on Palk Road, lot 296.
Consideration: £29.
- 63 Conveyance. 1879
1. Charles William Curtis of Wellingborough,
butcher and Thomas Miller, photographer, of
Wellingborough.
2. Nathaniel Pearce Sharman, Thomas Smith Curtis,
William Alfred Rubbra of Wellingborough.
Premises: lot 228 (see 59).
Consideration: £93.
Attached: conveyance in trust. 1882
1. Sharman, Curtis and Rubbra.
2. Trustee for Nathaniel Pearce Sharman.
Premises: as above, with building now used as a
Congregational school.

United Wellingborough Congregational Church

- 64-66 Deed of foundation and consolidation of trusts 1882
(with plans), xerox copy and epitome.
Premises: West End Chapel and burial ground;
Cheese Lane Chapel and school; Salem
Chapel and schools; Great Doddington

/cont.

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BUILDINGS

(cont.)

United Wellingborough Congregational Church

- 64-66 Chapel; High Street Chapel; the Victoria room;
(cont.) The New Congregational Chapel; and Wilby Chapel
and rooms.
- 67-68 Grants of Attorney to execute trust deed. 1882
- 69 Appointment of new trustees. 1891
Minutes of special church meeting of 6th. Novem-
ber 1890 attached.
- 70 Mortgage. 1891
1. Trustees of United Wellingborough Congrega-
tional Church.
2. Adam Corrie Keep of Wollaston, gentleman and
William Hugh Jackson of Bedford, gentleman.
Premises: church and land at High Street; the
manse, Queen Street; school buildings
at Ranelagh Road (Victoria Estate);
school buildings in Northampton Road.
Consideration: £3,250.
- 71 Further charge on freehold properties (and memo- 1900
randum).
1. Trustees of the United Wellingborough Congre-
gational Church properties.
2. Adam Corrie Keep of Wollaston, gentleman.
Premises: as above.
Consideration: £1,000.
- 72 Valuation of mortgaged premises. 1901
- 73 Transfer of mortgage. 1902
1. Executors of Adam C. Keep.
2. Charles Joseph Keep Woolston and others.
Premises: as above.
- 74 Reconveyance. 1907
1. Charles Joseph Keep Woolston Esq. and others.
2. Trustees of Wellingborough United Congrega-
tional Church.
Premises: as 70.
- 75 Appointment of new trustees. 1913
Premises: as above.
- 76 Appointment of new trustees. 1948
- 77 Appointment of new trustees. 1965

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BUILDINGS

(cont.)

High Street Church

78/1-2 Photographs of church exterior and interior. c.1950

Victoria Chapel

79 Certificate of worship. 1897

80 Certificate of solemnization of marriages. 1898

United Wellingborough Congregational Church

81 Building Committee minute book. 1897-1914

82(a) Renovation fund account book. 1914-1915

82(b) School building fund, sale of work accounts. 1922

The Manse

83 Plan of the manse. 1965

CHARITIES

Salem Chapel

84 Envelope containing: extract of will of Janet Kincaid, spinster, deceased 1877, £50 to minister and deacons of Salem Chapel to be invested, income to be used for repair to her parents graves, the residue to be divided up amongst the poor members of the congregation; correspondence about will 1878; stock certificates 1878, 1913. 1877-1913

High Street Chapel

85 Envelope containing: extract of will of William Brown deceased 1900; £500 to trustees of High Street Church to invest and to give interest for a sick member fund and £200 to the Band of Hope Committee. 1899

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ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School (United Wellingborough Congregational Church)

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 86 | Teachers minute book. | 1873-1912 |
| | <u>Mothers Meetings</u> (Northampton Road) | |
| 87 | Account book. | 1912-1917 |
| | <u>Womens Guild</u> | |
| 88 | Northampton Road, Womens Guild bank book. | 1954-1955 |
| | <u>Working Party</u> | |
| 89 | High Street, Working Party, mission folder. | 1930-1935 |

ASSOCIATED CHAPELS

West End

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 90 | Church minute book.
Includes: list of members 1860; committee minutes 1860. | 1860-1862 |
|----|--|-----------|

February, 1978.