

## Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

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Barnet Wood Street United Reformed Church

There seems to have been a strong tradition of Nonconformity in Barnet. The Rector Rev. Samuel Shaw was ejected from his living in 1660 for Puritan sympathies. From the writings of Richard Baxter and John Corbett two eminent Nonconformists who came to live in Totteridge during this period we learn of the early Independent Chapel at Barnet. The first leader was the Presbyterian John Faldo who began preaching in a rented room in Wood Street often to a congregation of over two hundred. A register of the certificates issued to Protestant Meeting Places, 1689-1706 is held by the Record Office (Ref. QS Misc 1471). In this volume two places in Barnet were registered at the Midsummer Sessions July 1689 - the house of John Hudlestone and the house of William Freejohn. The first chapel building in Wood Street was erected in 1709 probably at the expense of Mrs Fiennes and John Nicholls. Until this date the members had probably met in each others homes. The fortunes of this chapel, however, fluctuated wildly during the remainder of the eighteenth century. The buildings became increasingly delapidated and after the disastrous ministry of Dr Thomas Marryatt closed altogether in 1760. A small group of people reopened the chapel in 1797 but by this date only one trustee remained. In 1804 the Rev. John Morison came to Barnet and under his guidance the church grew. He opened the first Sunday School to be established in Barnet. His example was followed by his successor the Rev. Alexander Stewart who was a noted promoter of education for people of all ages and became very involved with the social welfare of his congregation [see NR1/7]. The chapel was rebuilt in 1824 and during his ministry land was purchased behind the building for use as a burial ground allowing access from Union Street. The buildings were renovated in 1880 and also at this date enfranchised so making all the church's property freehold. The church prospered and in 1893 during the ministry of Rev. John Matthews the present church building designed by George Baines was erected. A manse was purchased in 1900 and in 1907 the new Sunday School hall and classrooms were opened. This building became known as the Ewen Hall and was used as a Hospital during the first World War.

A daughter church in Chesterfield Road, Barnet was established in 1935 by Rev. R E Thomas and several members of his congregation from Wood Street. The first minister to be appointed to Chesterfield Road was Rev. J C Alexander but more recently the church has been served by the Minister of Wood Street. Apart from the small group of items referred to below [NR1/32] no records of this church are held by the Record Office.

A history of the Wood Street church by Rev. T Perry An Independent People 1669-1969 is available in the Record Office Search Room.

The records listed below were deposited in the Record Office in May 1979 by Miss A M Parkins a member of the Wood Street Church [Acc 1700].

Barnet Wood Street United Reformed Church

- /1 Church Book containing de- 1 vol 1747 - 1762  
 clarations of covenant, 27  
 Dec 1747 with list of members;  
 articles of agreement, Apr  
 1748 concerning church meet-  
 ings and finance; church  
 accounts Apr 1748-Aug 1762
- /2 Church Book containing de- 1 vol 1804 - 1852  
 clarations of covenant, May  
 1804 with list of members  
 and trustees; copy of invit-  
 ation sent to Rev. John Morison  
 and his answer; minutes of ordin-  
 ation service 11 Sep 1804;  
 minutes of church meetings, Jun  
 1806 and Feb 1807; lists of  
 church members, 1804-1852;  
 notes concerning appointment  
 of Mr Stewart as Pastor, 1823
- /3 Church Book containing histor- 1 vol 1853 - 1867  
 ical account of church up to  
 1862; minutes of church meet-  
 ings, Mar 1853-Jan 1867;  
 accounts of collections, Jun  
 1853-Mar 1860; roll of church  
 members, 1853-1866; register  
 of marriages, Oct 1853-Apr 1860;  
 register of baptisms, Sep 1853-  
 May 1862 including date of birth  
 and names of parents; register  
 of burials Sep 1853-Jan 1866
- /4 Church Book containing re- 1 vol 1867 - 1873  
 solution of church meeting  
 concerning election of deacons,  
 Jan 1867; accounts of collect-  
 ions, Jan 1867-Sep 1873; roll  
 of church members, 1867-1870;  
 one marriage entry dated 30 May  
 1868 between William Hawksley  
 and Eliza Long; register of  
 baptisms Nov 1866-Aug 1872  
 including dates of birth;  
 register of burials, 1866-1871.

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- /5 Church Book containing minutes 1 vol 1873 - 1917  
of church meetings, Oct 1873-  
Dec 1889; roll of church members,  
1873-1895; register of baptisms,  
Jun 1874-Jun 1917; register of  
burials, Feb 1874-Sep 1904
- /6 Register of baptisms 1 vol 1824 - 1853  
[At front notes from minutes  
of church meetings concerning  
resignation of Mr Morison and  
appointment of Mr Stewart as  
Pastor [see NR1/2]
- /7 Register of burials 1 vol 1824 - 1853  
[At end list of names and  
addresses with notes concern-  
ing visits made, nature of  
sickness and amounts of relief  
given, c.1832-1834]
- /8 Certificates of baptism and 1 bdl 1873 - 1903  
registration of death former-  
ly enclosed in NR1/5
- /9 Copy of marriage register 1 item Aug 1883-Jan 1896  
[names of bride and groom  
only]
- /10 Framed photocopy of certi- 1 item 1948  
ficate registering place of  
worship for Presbyterians  
at Wood Street, Barnet, 9 Apr  
1719
- /11 Framed certificate regist- 1 item 30 Jun 1837  
ering Wood Street Chapel as  
a place of religious worship

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|-----|--|--------|-----------------|
| /12 | Typed copy of covenant,<br>Dec 1747  | 1 item | n.d.            |
| /13 | Printed covenant, 1804   | 1 item | 22 Feb 1807     |
| /14 | Solicitor's accounts and<br>correspondence concerning<br>preparation of trust deeds<br>and enfranchisement of church<br>property   | 1 bdl  | 1840; 1878-1880 |
| /15 | Accounts and correspondence<br>concerning general maintenance<br>and alterations of church<br>buildings including: surveyor's<br>report, 1877; specification for<br>new class rooms and contract<br>with Samuel Woodhall of Whet-<br>stone, Middlesex, builder, 1879;<br>accounts of building fund, 1879-<br>1880; printed appeal leaflet,<br>with list of contributors,<br>1878; and printed statement of<br>building account, May 1880 | 1 bdl  | 1832 - 1881     |
| /16 | Printed leaflet requesting<br>subscriptions for proposed<br>rebuilding scheme  | 1 item | Nov 1890        |
| /17 | Detailed draft account for<br>building new chapel and<br>additional works  | 1 item | 1892 - 1893     |
| /18 | Correspondence concerning<br>redemption of land tax on<br>church premises  | 1 bdl  | Oct - Nov 1936  |
| /19 | Correspondence and papers<br>concerning repair of war<br>damage and redecoration   | 1 bdl  | 1948 - 1949     |

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|-----|---|--------|-------------------|
| /20 | Correspondence and accounts concerning renovation fund and rebuilding of organ  | 1 bdl  | 1949 - 1951       |
| /21 | Illustrated booklet commemorating new porch and stained glass window erected to the memory of Mrs Martha Ann Balding by her husband | 1 item | Jan 1923          |
| /22 | List of memorials inside church   | 1 item | c. 1956           |
| /23 | Ground plan of church and hall showing proposed alterations. Architects: Hallam Begby and Associates                                | 1 item | 1974 - 1976       |
| /24 | Treasurer's accounts  | 1 item | Jan 1849-Jun 1850 |
| /25 | Printed Treasurer's accounts  | 3      | 1882; 1895; 1897  |
| /26 | Fire Insurance Policies with related correspondence   | 1 bdl  | 1916 - 1918       |
| /27 | Agreements between Deacons and Minister for tenancy of manse 25 Ravenscroft Park, Barnet  | 2      | 1917; 1929        |
| /28 | Programme and Order of Service for opening of Ewen Hall and Institute   | 1 item | Jun - Jul 1907    |

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- /29 Photocopy of Declaration of Trust concerning Ewen Hall and Institute 1 item 24 Jan 1911
- /30 Framed certificate presented to the Church by the Army Council as a record of thanks for the use of the Ewen Hall as a VAD Hospital during the First World War, signed Winston S Churchill, War Office, London 1 item Jul 1920
- /31 Printed conditions for hiring Congregational Lecture Hall, Union Street [Ewen Hall] 1 bdl 1922
- /32 Congregational Church Hall, Chesterfield Road: Order of Service for Dedication with proposed constitution and rules 1 bdl 1935
- /33 Correspondence and plan concerning tennis courts Leecroft Road, Barnet property of the church 1 bdl 1938
- /34 General correspondence and notes concerning services, church meetings, and new members; also including newspaper cutting concerning appeal for subscriptions for memorial fund to benefit the widow of Rev. Samuel Davis, 1866 1 bdl 1863 - 1947
- /35 Report of Sunday School Committee on Family Church 1 item 1956

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|-----|---|--------|-----------------------------|
| /36 | Church rules [printed]  | 1 bdl  | 1867; 1896; 1921            |
| /37 | Short history of church<br>[printed]  | 1 item | Oct 1902                    |
| /38 | Typed history of church by<br>Miss Parkins  | 1 item | c. 1959                     |
| /39 | Rev. Henry Griffith: news-<br>paper cuttings and in<br>memoriam cards   | 1 bdl  | 1884 - 1891                 |
| /40 | Newspaper cuttings and orders<br>of service concerning Rev.<br>William Emlyn Jenkins: Fare-<br>well Meeting, 1927; funeral,<br>1939; and unveiling of memorial<br>window, 1946. | 1 bdl  | 1927 - 1946                 |
| /41 | Printed handbooks and leaf-<br>lets concerning church bazaars   | 6      | 1907 - 1910;<br>1957 - 1959 |
| /42 | Orders of Service: induction<br>of Ministers - Rev Terence<br>Perry, 21 Feb 1959, and Rev<br>Derek Stockwell, 20 Jun 1975   | 2      | 1959; 1975                  |
| /43 | Printed menu for "Success<br>Seventy Seven Supper"  | 1 item | 18 Sep 1976                 |
| /44 | Orders of Service: United<br>Church Services  | 2      | 1952; 1969                  |
| /45 | <u>Church Calendar</u>  | 2      | Apr & Jul 1926              |



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- /46 Leaflet advertising exhibition 1 item May - Jun 1957  
in Ewen Hall mounted by Barnet  
Council of Christian Churches as  
part of Livingstone Centenary  
Celebrations  
[See also D/EX 655/2 and 7]
- /47 300th Anniversary: lists of 1 bdl Oct - Nov 1969  
names with addresses to whom  
invitations were sent; printed  
menu of anniversary dinner;  
order of service for anniversary  
services; list of exhibits arts  
and crafts exhibition
- /48 Newspaper cuttings concerning 11 1906 - 1976  
church events including:  
laying foundation stone of  
Ewen Hall, 1906; Boys Brigade,  
1920; Girl Guides; Rev W E  
Jenkins, 1927; Tercentenary,  
1969; Induction of Minister,  
1975
- /49 Notelets with illustration 1 bdl 1937  
of 1824 Chapel sold for  
benefit of church funds
- /50 Hertfordshire Congregational 1 bdl 1958 - 1969  
Union: printed luncheon menus  
annual assemblies 1958, 1968-  
1969; and papers concerning  
Visitation of Churches Scheme,  
1969
- /51 Orders of service: services 2 May 1966  
of thanksgiving for the  
covenant, held at Westminster  
Chapel and Whitefield Memorial  
Church, Tottenham Court Road,  
London

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- /52 The Finger Post published by Trinity Congregational Church, St Albans advertising "The Old Hertfordshire Bazaar". 1 item 1 Jun 1905
- /53 Brookmans Park Congregational Church, Oaklands Avenue, Brookmans Park: order of service for dedication of new church building 1 item 19 Nov 1960
- /54 Congregational Church Darkes Lane, Potters Bar: order of service for laying of foundation stone of new Church Centre 1 item 19 Jun 1965
- /55 Foundation tablet commemorating rebuilding of chapel 1 item May 1824
- /56 Photographs: 29 19th - 20th cent.
- /1 Church building, 1824
- /2-5 Church building, 1893 (George Baines, Architect, 4 Great Winchester Street, London)
- /6 Opening of Ewen Hall, 1907
- /7 Ewen Hall Hospital, Jul 1915
- /8 Mothers Meeting - Bricket Wood, Jul 1904
- /9 Morning Fellowship, n.d.
- /10-12 Gymnastic Club, c.1909-1910
- /13-16 Choir outings, 1919-1925
- /17-20 Ewen Hall Bazaar "The Four Seasons" Apr 1908
- /21 Miss Megan Lloyd George opening bazaar, 1921
- /22-23 Tennis Club, 1899 - c.1925

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- /24 Rev. W E Jenkins, c.1897
- /25 Mr White, Deacon c. 1897
- /26 Rev. W E Jenkins and Deacons, c.1897
- /27 Rev. R E Thomas and Deacons, 1949
- /28 Mr Wells, Life Deacon and Sunday School  
Superintendent, died 1917
- /29 Interior of church during marriage  
ceremony, 1969. (wedding of Ann Bincliffe)
- /57 Photocopy of extract from will of Celia Fiennes, 1741  
who bequeathed 20 shillings  
per year for a 10 year period  
and a table cloth and pewter  
plate to the church in Wood  
Street 1 item n.d.