

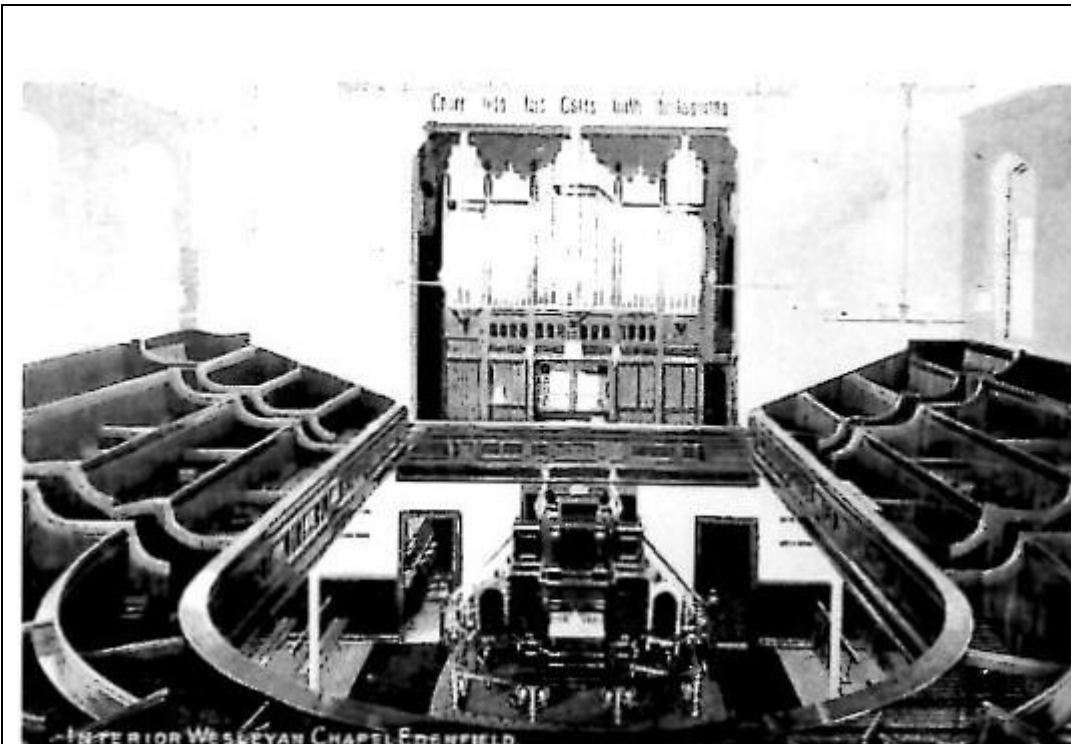
Edenfield 1946 – 1958
Chapel and Sunday School

The Methodist chapel in Edenfield played a large part in the Taylor households' life. Methodism took hold in the district in the 1740's, with Wesleyan Methodism meetings in 1793 taking place in a private cottage at Pinfold in Edenfield. By the 1850's it was decided to build a separate chapel, and a site was selected just off the Market Place. It was finally opened in 1878, with room for nearly 600 people in pews, plus a Sunday School building behind. The Primitive Methodists also built a chapel on Rochdale Road, which opened in 1893. The Wesleyan chapel buildings were demolished in 1960 when they amalgamated with the Primitives.



The imposing frontage of the Wesleyan chapel overlooking Market Place pictured in about 1959.

We left Edenfield in 1958, so this is how it would have looked when we left.



Inside the chapel, with the organ at the far end.

WESLEYAN SCHOOL, EDENFIELD.

THE MARRIED LADIES FESTIVAL

WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY, NOV. 20th, 1909.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.	Part II.
Opening Hymn, 'Praise ye the Lord'	Chorus 'Rock Underneath the Stone' Ladies
Prayer.	Song 'Bethel the Man' Mrs. Clegg
Opening Remarks, Mrs. Ghatwood	Song 'Roses' Mrs. Standing
Chorus 'Flowers of the wild wood' Ladies	Sextett 'A Bird in Hand' Six Ladies
Song 'Why do the Angels stay so long' Mrs. Read	Recitation Mrs. F. Pilling
Lancashire Sketch Mrs. Holden	Song 'Angus Macdonald' Mrs. Read
Quartette 'To cheer the way' Four Ladies	Sketch 'A Village Wedding' Ladies
Song 'A May Morning' Mrs. Standing	Song Mrs. Nuttall
Recitation Mrs. F. Pilling	Chorus 'Home Sweet Home' Ladies
Quartette 'The Busy Housewife' Four Ladies	
Song Mrs. Clegg	
Chorus 'The Ash Grove' Ladies	

INTERVAL

Doxology. ☩

At 4.30, Tea will be served in the Schoolroom. Concert at 7.

TEA & CONCERT, 1/- **CONCERT ONLY, SIXPENCE.**

Proceeds in aid of the Beautifying Fund.

W. WHITTAKER, PRINTER, EDENFIELD.

This is the detail of a very flimsy 'poster' of an event in 1909. It could have been a serviette. The full item is below.



Dad learnt to play the piano and the chapel organ when he was young, and certainly after the war he was the main organist, playing for the morning and evening services. As the musician, he was also part of the choir and used to go along with them on the annual choir trip.



A choir trip, destination and location unknown. Dad is kneeling on the left.

The choir trip would be a day trip somewhere with no overnight stops. This obviously limited the range of where they could go, but dad used to say that a favourite amongst many in the choir was the Lake District. I can remember dad telling me that on some of the journey's up to the Lakes, they would stop at Ingleton for refreshments at a hotel on the Main Street that is now a Care Home. The photo below was of a trip to Sherwood Forest circa 1895, and was taken under the Great Oak.



Cousin Roger has supplied the following as to who is who, the relationships following the name are those to Annie Elton who later married Fred C. Astley. My comments are in ().

Back row: ?, James Farnell, Lawrence Barlow (uncle Lol), James Barlow, Alfred Worsick, Robert Pilling, John Elton - uncle, Eli Elton - father, ?, Thomas Thompson, James Beswick, Edward W Elton – brother. Next to back row: ?, Norman H Elton - brother, John W Alty, James Thompson, ?, Emma Worsick, Jack Lord.

Next to front row: James S Alty, Rosannah Pickstone (mum's real mum), Mrs Roland Whittaker, ?, ?, ? Kay, Bella Kay, ?, Edith Elton – cousin, Mark Taylor – later married to Elsie Elton.

Front row: Annie Wolstenholme – later married to Norman Elton, Elsie M Elton – sister, later married to Mark Taylor, Emily Parker (Evelyn's mother), ?, Alice Pilling, ?, ?, Annie Elton – later married to Fred C Astley.

As well as playing for the Sunday services, he also played for the annual performance of the Messiah each December. For this, the chapel would pay for soloists drawn from the area, with the choral parts being sung by local singers. Part 1 would be performed in the afternoon, with parts 2 and 3 in the evening. We would hand out the leaflets below in the afternoon, and then go inside and listen to the performance until we were fed up. Consequently, I became quite familiar with the opening numbers in part 1.

For the Messiah, Uncle Arthur used to visit. Tree up? He was called Arthur Irlam (or Earlam?), and worked with dad at the CWS. He was an interesting character who became a director for Kavanaghs toffee in later life. I wish I'd have known more about him, as I remember him once telling a story about staying in a mountain bothy with other climbers, and it sounded very exciting. Little did I know that I'd be doing something similar in later life.

Fred Tomlinson founded the Rossendale Male Voice Choir in 1924, and held the baton for 52 years before handing over to his son, also Fred. He was made an MBE for his services to music. I can remember him coming to our house for tea and asking him for his autograph. He could have been

conducting the Messiah, or it could have been on another occasion.

METHODIST CHURCH, MARKET PLACE, EDENFIELD.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 1945.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Part I. Afternoon at 2-15. Parts II & III. Evening at 6-0.

Presided over by Rev. M. H. GIDDINGS.

Principals :

Soprano : Miss PHYLLIS WESTBY, L.R.A.M. of Gt. Harwood.

Contralto : Madame ELIZABETH SHENTON, of Rawtenstall.

Tenor : Mr. JAMES H. VAUSE, of Edenfield.

Bass : Mr. JOHN T. KAY, of Edenfield.

Organist : Mr. J. Taylor.

Conductor : Mr. J. W. Fisher.

HYMN I.

PRAAYER.

THE "MESSIAH" Part I.

1	Overture		
2	Recit (Tenor)	...	"Comfort ye"
3	Aria (Tenor)	...	"Every valley"
4	Chorus	...	"And the glory"
5	Recit (Bass)	...	"Thus saith the Lord"
6	Aria (Bass)	...	"But who may abide"
7	Chorus	...	"And He shall purify"
8	Recit (Alto)	...	"Behold ! a Virgin"
9	Aria and Chorus	...	"O, Thou that tellest"
10	Recit (Bass)	...	"For, behold, darkness"
11	Aria	...	"The people that walked"
12	Chorus	...	"For unto us"
13	Pastoral Symphony		
14	Recit (Soprano)	...	"There were Shepherds"
15	Recit	...	"And the Angel"
16	Recit	...	"And suddenly"
17	Chorus	...	"Glory to God"
18	Aria (Soprano)	...	"Rejoice greatly"
19	Recit (Alto)	...	"Then shall the eyes"
20	Aria (Alto & Soprano)	...	"He shall feed His flock"
21	Chorus	...	"His yoke is easy"

HYMN II.



"Whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me"



Cradle Roll Certificate

This certifies that

born John Hugh Taylor
 born 10th January 1946
 has been enrolled as a member of
Canfield Market Place Methodist Sunday School
 Date of enrolment 24th February 1946
 Signed Agnes H. Giddings Minister.
Nancy Hill Superintendent.
Gertrude Brown Cradle Roll Secretary.

NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION, LONDON, E.C.4

I was enrolled into the Sunday School when I was born: see above.

I don't know what age I started going, but we used to meet in one corner of the chapel next to the vestry door. On the inside photo above, it's on the left under the balcony by the door. Mum used to help out, but not sure who else.

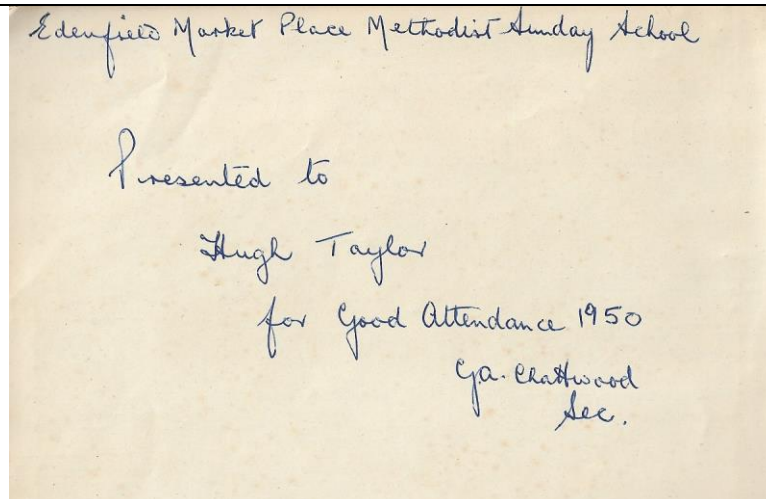
As children grew older, they moved into the school room which was a separate building behind the chapel. This had a large hall with a stage, with two separate rooms at the rear and a kitchen off one side. There may have been a balcony. We used to share the hall with older people, and we would break off into smaller groups at the side of the hall for bible teaching. I can remember going through the parable of the man, his sons, and their talents, and being confused about the relationship between the physical talents that the sons were given, and talents as in abilities. I can also remember being taught about the three-in-one, father, son and holy ghost, and not understand how one person could be three different things.

At Christmas, there would be a nativity play, or similar, in the school hall, and I dreaded it as I always worried about forgetting my lines. It's something that still concerns me when singing!



Children and teachers from Market Place Methodist Sunday School in about 1950.

Second row in – Unknown lady, Clive, ?, me, Duncan, David Lee on rhs end?
Third row in – Magnall twins on lhs, Lynette on rhs with hood
Fourth row in - ? Brian Ashworth



Inscription in books given for good attendance at Sunday School.

Every Christmas, I was given a book token 'for good attendance at Sunday School'. Taking this, we went on the bus to Rawtenstall and visited the book shop there to choose a book. It was then presented to us signed – see above.

One of the highlights of the year was the Sunday School trip. With not having a car, trips away from the village were few and far between. All trips on coaches seemed to involve Ben Barnes coach's from Rawtenstall. I can remember going to New Brighton, and Southport – where the tide always seemed to be out and thus the sea a long way off. Possibly Lytham-St Anne's? Not sure about Blackpool.



We think this was Sunday School outing, but not sure where to. Mum is on the back row, second from the right. Lynette is on the row next to the back, and second from the left. Is that me on the front row on the right?



This is the Sunday School taking part in some kind of procession. I can't pick out myself or Lynette.

Two events in the chapel calendar that I didn't look forward to were the Whit Walks and the Sermons. Whit Walks. I think these may have been unique to the north-west, and consisted of children and adults from a church or chapel parading round their local area, usually following a brass band. We all had to dress up in our best clothes. The band would play, and we marched along. The band would then rest their lips and just the drum would play a beat to march to.

All the individual churches and chapels had their own walks, though in the 1930's the Wesleyan Methodists decided to have a joint walk with the Primitives. With having separate walks, it meant that when they passed each other the bands would stop playing. I thought it all very embarrassing and silly. By 1959, they must have thought so too as they decided on a joint walk, the reason probably being increased traffic and a fall-off in church attendance and interest.



This photo isn't of Edenfield, but gives an idea of what it was like, with children walking holding the tapes to keep in line, and adults carrying a large banner.

Sermons: I think these started out in the 1800's as a day when preachers from far and wide were invited to give a sermon to the congregation, and historically were very popular. One of the sermons was usually focused on the children. On the day, a tiered seating area was erected below the pulpit in the chapel, and covered with white linen. We walked in and sat on this 'stage', and sang hymns/songs. I can remember facing the chapel full of people and being shy.

One service at Christmas that I didn't mind was probably held in the morning. All the children had to go through their stock of toys at home, and bring at least one to chapel to donate to the less well off. At some point in the service, we carried them out to the front and placed them on the cushions by the alter rail. Who actually received them I don't know, presumably Dr Barnardo's as it was called then, or Barnardo's now.

