

ASSEMBLY HALL DEDICATED AS METHODIST CHURCH
(Ilkley Gazette Friday 19th September 1969)

TEMPORARY MEASURE UNTIL NEW CHURCH CAN BE BUILT

The Assembly Hall, Wells Road, which over the past few months has undergone A transformation, was dedicated last Sunday morning as Ilkley Methodist Church. The step comes with the closure of the Leeds Road and Wells Road Methodist Church buildings and the uniting of the two societies.

Until such times as a new church can be built, the assembly hall will serve as a place of worship and be used for all the midweek activities to. A new church building fund has already been opened.

Except for the painting of the high ceiling all the work has been done by voluntary labour. Shades of pale apricot and magnolia paint have been used in the main hall and the dark woodwork has either been stripped to its natural colour or painted. The walls of the main staircase are in two shades of moss green. Other corridors and rooms are pale apricot and magnolia.

SANCTUARY

The extending stage in the main hall can easily be transformed to provide the sanctuary. At the back of the stage a high panels of crown teak and a large wooden cross. The choir pews and light wooden pulpit are accommodated on the stage but could be placed at floor level. The communion table, chairs and rail are already at floor level. The grand piano can be put where required.

Wood and items from both the Leeds Road and Wells Road church buildings have been incorporated in the sanctuary.

A classroom at each side of the main hall has been decorated to provide the Minister's and choir vestries.

SERVICE

The dedication service on Sunday morning was conducted by the Rev. Leonard Constantine. The theme of his sermon was "Thanksgiving and Dedication".

There was, he said, thanksgiving for the heritage of the past and the traditions which had brought Wells Road and Leeds Road into being; and thanksgiving for the unity which had now brought them together. He stressed that unity was found in service and spoke of the unity and fellowship which those who had worked together to decorate the Assembly Hall had found. That unity of service must now be expressed in the continuing life of the church, in its mission and service to the world.

Mr. Constantine said there was thanksgiving for new opportunities, for the sense of togetherness and adaptability which the reconstruction of the premises had made possible, for the release of resources of money and manpower for the true work of the church.

Speaking of the dedication, he said that in a very real sense the church had already been dedicated by the voluntary labour of all those who had transformed the Assembly Hall into a place of worship, and with their own hands had fashioned the Sanctuary. He ended with a plea for personal dedication by all the members of the church.

FIRST BAPTISM

The first Baptism to be held at Ilkley Methodist Church was that of Kevin John Jubb, second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Jubb, Wellington Road, Ilkley. Mr. Constantine celebrated Holy Communion at the close of the morning service.

Lessons were read by Mr. George Askew, Society Steward at Leeds Road and Mr Peter Hinde, Society Steward at Wells Road. They and the other Society Stewards from the two churches are all continuing in office.

The Choir, accompanied on the piano by Mr Robert Lantaff, sang the anthem "I was glad when they said unto me" to a setting by Dr. T Termus Noble, one time organist at York Minster.

Worship in the evening was conducted by the Rev. James Welch after which many of the congregation took the opportunity to drink coffee served in the Guild Room. This follows a tradition begun at Leeds Road. The profits will be put to the new building fund.