

METHODIST CHURCH TO REOPEN  
(Ilkley Gazette Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 1975)

A modernisation scheme at Ilkley Methodist Church which has cost in the region of £44,000 have been almost completed and a service of Thanksgiving and rededication will be held tomorrow (Saturday).

The Church in Wells Rd was demolished and the land sold in November 1971 for £26,000, a record figure at the time for a land sale in Ilkley. The churches assembly hall then became the meeting place for worship and other gatherings. In January 1974 the premises were handed over to contractors for the extensive transformation work to be done and the Methodist society was invited to share Ilkley United Reformed Church.

The redevelopment scheme was intended to take a year but a fire in the summer of 1974 destroyed the church roof and the extra work involved has delayed the opening until now. In fact, the basement area for use mainly by the youth club and the junior church is not quite finished.

Mr. S. A. Clark one of the oldest active church members will formally reopen the church at 3:00 PM tomorrow (Saturday), and the Rev. Ralph E. Fennell, Chairman of the West Yorkshire Methodist District will dedicate the church. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Ronald J. Bradwell, Ilkley Methodist Minister, and the sermon will be preached by the Rev. John Banks of Manchester and Salford Mission and formerly of Leeds.

Owing to limited accommodation, admission to the service will be by ticket only, but all are welcome to the celebration service on Sunday.

ILKLEY METHODIST CHURCH RE-OPENS AFTER £44,000 SCHEME  
(Ilkley Gazette Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 1975)

Following a £44,000 modernisation scheme Ilkley Methodist Church was reopened last Saturday afternoon by Mr. S. A. Clark, one of the oldest active church members. An invited congregation of a 300 people packed the church for the rededication and thanksgiving service.

Both the Leeds Road and Wells Road Methodist Churches in Ilkley were closed down some while ago and subsequently demolished, the assembly hall in Wells Road becoming Ilkley Methodist Church. In January 1974 the building was put in the hands of contractors and the full scale modernisation scheme began. The congregation moved temporarily to share the United Reformed Church.

#### ROOF FIRE

Work was considerably retarded when the roof was destroyed by fire last summer. A concerted effort over the last few weeks ensured that the Church itself and several ancillary rooms were ready for the opening ceremony but work is continuing in the basement area which will be used principally by the Junior Church and Youth Club.

The main church entrance is now in Wells Promenade opening into a large carpeted foyer. Another new feature is the small Chapel opening off the foyer, in which focal points are a section of wall comprising stones collected by church members and a cross of charred wood salvaged from the roof fire.

#### LARGE CROSS

A large cross of wood taken from the Leeds Road and Wells Road Churches is the centre of attention in the church. The new furnishings in the communion area are in Iroko a light coloured African wood. The panel of wall bearing the cross is white, the other walls all being covered in sand coloured hesian. The new wooden chairs are upholstered in red, to match the ceiling panels of Terracotta with white moulding and beams of silver grey. The church is carpeted in turquoise and at the rear dividing off the under balcony area are sliding glass screens with curtains in shades of red. A two manual electronic organ has been introduced.

New kitchen and toilet facilities have been provided on the ground floor, along with the Minister's vestry and the Guild Room.

A new stairway leads from the foyer to other meeting rooms upstairs.

#### CEREMONY

As part of the reopening ceremony the keys were handed by the architect Mr D. V. Robinson (of JB Bailey and Son) to the property steward, Mr Clifford Bastow, who then invited Mr. S. A. Clarke to unlock the door. The official act was relayed to the congregation waiting inside.

The service was led by Rev R. J. Bradwell. He welcomed the guests, who included. - Mr and Mrs A. H. Bell (United Reformed Church), Mr R Brown (Builder H&R Brown) and Mrs. Brown; Rev. L Constantine (former Minister at Ilkley Methodist Church) and Mrs. Constantine, Mr Denis de M. Guilfoyle; Rev. T. H. Levesley (Vicar of St Margaret's Church) and Mrs Levesley; Mr. and Mrs. John Lund (United Reformed Church); Mr E. G. Metcalf (Quantity Surveyor, Rider Hunt & Partners) and Mrs Metcalf; Mr H. C. Mudge (Circuit Steward, Ilkley Methodist Circuit) and Mrs Mudge; Mr D. V. Robinson (Architect) and Mrs Robinson; Cr J. A. Wilson (Chairman, Ilkley Parish Council) and Mrs Wilson.

#### TRIBUTE

Mr Bradwell paid tribute to Mr Clifford Bastow, the property steward, who acted as an unpaid, on-the-spot agent during the alterations. "We owe him a great deal" commented Mr Bradwell.

He continued, "We hope when the work is all complete, the dust is settled and our last Gift Day has been held in November we should be able to turn away from ourselves. We who have received so much will turn to giving".

Secretary of the trustees Mrs Barbara Spivey, read greetings received from the Methodist Property Division, Manchester: The Joseph Rank Benevolent Fund, from which a £5,000 grant was received; the Rev Micah Hopley formally Minister of Ilkley United Reformed Church: and from United Methodist Churches in the United States (Brandon, Florida, and Spring Lake heights, New Jersey) which Mr and Mrs Bradwell recently visited during the new world mission.

#### LESSONS

Lessons were read by Rev Peter R. Gray (Minister Ilkley Methodist Circuit) and Mrs Mary Bell (United Reformed Church). The Junior Church Choir contributed 2 anthems, "To God who makes all lovely things" which was accompanied by a special arrangement on a harp and two recorders and "Give to us eyes".

Prayers were said in different parts of the church by Mr P J Hinde (Local Preacher) at the pulpit; Julia Robinson and Matthew Halsall (baptised in the old church) at the font; Mr Andrew Walbank (Communion Steward) at the communion Table; Miss Kathleen Hunter (choir) by the Organ; Mrs Judy Dixon (Church Member) in the worship area.

The Rev. Ralph F. Fennell (Chairman of the West Yorkshire Methodist District) dedicated the Church and the sermon was preached by Rev. John Banks of the Manchester and Salford Mission and formerly of Leeds.