

Church of England

- **All Saints, Eppleton**

From "A Short History of the Parish and of the District of Hetton-le-Hole from 1200AD to 1931 AD.

By Rev. F. Smith

EPPLETON, or Hetton Downs, was formed from the Parish of Hetton-le-Hole in 1883. All Saints' Church, built of red brick etc., consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and a large vestry, porch, etc. There is a carved oak screen, and the E. Window of painted glass. The seating accommodation is about 650. The registers date from 1887.

Rectors: Revs. W.H. Illingworth, R. Hindle, D. Cowling and G. Salisbury.

- **St. Nicholas, Hetton**

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- **St. Michael & All Angels, Lyons**

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LYONS, or Easington Lane, was formed from Hetton-le-Hole and Pitlington in 1869. St. Michael's Church consists of nave, chancel, aisles, south porch and vestries. The seating is for about 600. The registers date from 1870. There is an oak reredos and panelling in memory of those who fell in the Great War, and a Clock Tower was also erected by the parishioners in the Front Street as a memorial. The population is, probably about 6,000.

Rectors: Revs. R.G. Hutt, J.R. Brown, Dr. Taylor, and W.L.M. Law (since 1909).

- **Moorsley Mission chapel** belonging to St. Cuthbert's, East Rainton, which will seat about 180

Methodist

High Downs Methodist Church, Hetton Downs

Built in 1865 it was formerly known as Hetton Downs Primitive Methodist Chapel. Part of Hetton Circuit. Closed on 26 September 1968.

From "NORTHERN PRIMITIVE METHODISM" by W.M. PATTERSON,
E. Dalton, London, 1909 - p265-280

John Archer, George Thompson, William Soulsby, and others were the founders of the church at Hetton Downs, about the year 1860. Though the Downs section of the Hetton society was the stronger, bitter opposition was offered to the formation of a separate society at the former place; and, with George Thompson, the elder, at their head, the Downs members had to fight the question at four Sunderland quarterly meetings. They succeeded at length. The first chapel was built in 1865, and an enlargement, with a schoolroom under the new portion, was made in 1877. There were numerous converts during Miss Peart's mission in 1888, George Thompson, the younger, now a leading official in the circuit, being one of them. His nephew, J. T. Bell, of Pocklington (sent into the ministry from the Downs society), though only eight years of age, was drawn to the Lord in the same mission. Mr. and

Mrs. Harrison were at the Downs in 1903, and so mighty was the awakening that it was said there had never been anything like it known there before. At present there is a virile church at the Downs.

Chapel Street Methodist Church, Hetton Downs

Also known as Low Downs Methodist Chapel. Built in 1874 as a Wesleyan chapel.

Part of the Houghton, William Street Circuit until 1944 when it transferred to the Hetton Circuit.

The chapel closed on 13 September 1972.

Front Street Methodist Church, Hetton-le-Hole

Built in 1824 as a Wesleyan chapel. Part of Houghton, William Street Circuit until 1944 when the Wesleyan chapels in the Hetton area merged with Hetton (ex-primitive) Circuit to form Hetton Circuit.

The chapel closed on 22 November 1965.

Union Street Methodist Church, Hetton-le-Hole

Built as a Primitive Methodist chapel in 1858. Part of Sunderland Primitive Methodist Circuit until 1863 when it transferred to the newly-created Hetton Primitive Methodist Circuit.

From "NORTHERN PRIMITIVE METHODISM" by W.M. PATTERSON,
E. Dalton, London, 1909 - p265-280

The opening of Hetton Chapel on Saturday, May 22nd, 1858, was one of the most conspicuous events in Northern Primitive Methodism half-a-century ago. A chapel to seat 750 people and a school to accommodate 600 children was erected in that colliery village, and over 1,100 persons partook of tea on the opening day. John Petty preached on the Sunday, and overflow meetings had to be held. Among the first and the best in Sunderland Circuit, Hetton society was formed in 1823 by J. Cook, T. Dakers, and others; it had a chapel in 1824, and floods of blessing fell upon it throughout the years, and still descend.

Moorsley Methodist Church

Also known as High Moorsley Methodist Church. Formerly Primitive Methodist. Part of the Hetton Methodist Circuit.

From "NORTHERN PRIMITIVE METHODISM" by W.M. PATTERSON,
E. Dalton, London, 1909 - p265-280

The Moorsley society has also been the means of doing much good. A gracious work took place in 1868, the leader in which was Richard Clish, whose real worth and service can never be fully estimated. He was supported by such men as James Bell, William Wilkinson, Joseph Smailes (now living at Boldon Colliery), David Parkinson, T. Hill, and Joseph Stack. Out of that movement sprang the present chapel, wherein many have been brought to know the truth. T. Redfern is still to the fore there, and from this society John Bainbridge, William Curry, and John Pinchen went into the ministry.

Moorsley Wesley Methodist Church

Formerly Wesleyan Methodist; part of Houghton le Spring, William Street Circuit until 1944 when it transferred to Hetton Methodist Circuit.

Easington Lane, Wesley Methodist Chapel

Formerly Wesleyan Methodist. Closed 7 January 1954. Part of the Houghton, William Street Circuit until 1944, when it transferred to the Hetton Circuit.

Central Methodist Church, Easington Lane

Formerly Primitive Methodist, built in 1870. Part of Hetton Circuit.

New Church opened 29 August 1981, and closed 21 August 2005.

From "NORTHERN PRIMITIVE METHODISM" by W.M. PATTERSON,
E. Dalton, London, 1909 - p265-280

For many years Easington Lane, which is also in "the revival zone," has had a powerful society, and it has a fine block of premises in which to worship and culture the young. John Robson, William Parker, John Howe, Henry Tonks, F. Platts, and Joseph Rosecamp are named as the "fathers."

- **Methodist New Connexion (Kilhamites)**
- **United Methodist (?)**

Independent Methodist

- **Easington Lane**

Harold Watson has produced 2 booklets. 1 written in 1981 to celebrate the Church centenary and a further 1 expanding on the Centenary booklet entitled "The Church History & its Ministers."

From "A Short History of Independent Methodism – A Souvenir of the 100th Annual Meeting on the Independent Methodist Churches – 1905" by Arthur Mounfied

EASINGTON LANE: On March 22nd 1881, a few earnest men and women met in a cottage for a prayer meeting, the outcome being the formation of a church. The old Miners' hall was secured, and in this building some blessed times were realized, the Hardwick family being at this time very energetic workers. Funds were gathered, and on Good Friday, 1884, the foundation stone of the present Church was laid. This Church has had testing times, but has been the means of many souls finding light and liberty. Faithful service has been rendered to this Church by Robert Young, the present President and his wife.

- **Hetton-le-Hole**

Shaun Newton has produced "An illustrated Church History." Originally produced in 2001 it has been updated continually since that time.

From "A Short History of Independent Methodism – A Souvenir of the 100th Annual Meeting on the Independent Methodist Churches – 1905" by Arthur Mounfied

HETTON-LE-HOLE: Some 22 years ago a number of men and women left the Salvation Army, together with the local leader, and commenced a "Christ's Army" in the old Miners' Hall. The work progressed, and it is said that without counting the cost a commencement was made with a building, in which to worship. The men, after finishing their daily toil at the mine, worked at bricklaying, joiners' work and generally everything connected with the erection of the building, the children bringing the meals whilst their fathers worked. After much difficulty the building was completed. With the loyal help of Sunderland Circuit the Church became firmly established, and to-day is one of the strongest in the Circuit. Ralph Bolton, who took up

residence at Hetton some eight years ago, has been, and still is, a tower of strength in this Church.

Roman Catholic

St. Mary's

The parish was established in 1925

Salvation Army

- **Hetton**
- **Easington Lane**

Apostolic

- **Easington Lane**

Others

- **Baptist (1820's – 1840's - ?)**

Hetton Methodist Circuit

Hetton Methodist Circuit started life as Hetton Primitive Methodist Circuit, created out of Sunderland Primitive Methodist Circuit in 1863. For records relating to this circuit see MC.Su5.

At this time the Hetton circuit included Birtley, Chester le Street, Easington Lane, Fatfield, Hetton Downs, Hetton le Hole, Houghton le Spring, Lumley, Middle Rainton, Moorsley, Murton, Murton Colliery, Newbottle, Ouston, Pelton Fell, Peshaw, Philadelphia, Shiney Row, South Hetton and Waldrige Fell.

In 1891 the Houghton Primitive Methodist Circuit was created and the following places transferred to it:- East Rainton (Middle Rainton), Houghton le Spring, Lumley, Newbottle, Peshaw, Philadelphia and Shiney Row. Birtley, Chester le Street, Fatfield, Ouston, Pelton Fell and Waldrige Fell were also transferred to another circuit.

By 1892 only Easington Lane, Hetton le Hole, Hetton Downs, Moorsley, Murton, Murton Colliery and South Hetton remained in the Hetton Circuit.

As a result of the merger of the Primitive Methodists, Wesleyan Methodists and United Methodists nationally, the Hetton Primitive Methodist Circuit joined with Hetton United Methodist Circuit to form Hetton (ex-Primitive) Methodist Circuit in 1932. Finally, in 1944, Hetton (ex-Primitive) Methodist Circuit joined with the former Wesleyan Methodist churches in the Hetton area which were included in the Houghton le Spring (ex-Wesleyan) Methodist Circuit to form the Hetton Methodist Circuit. Places included in this circuit remain as they were in 1892.

Hetton United Methodist Circuit

This was formerly the North Durham Mission of the Bible Christians, established in 1874. Many different congregations were included in it from time to time, but some were short-lived. In 1882 the Circuit included Seaham Harbour, Murton Colliery, New Herrington, Wingate Colliery, Hetton, Wheatley Hill, Haswell, Silksworth, Cramlington, Houghton le Spring, Shankhouse and South Terrace. However, by 1892 the constituent congregations had radically altered, now including Sunderland, Murton, New Herrington, Wingate, Hetton, Haswell, Trimdon, Station Town and Wheatley Hill. By 1906 the number had further declined to just Murton, Wingate, Haswell and Station Town.

The following year the Bible Christians merged with the Methodist New Connexion and the United Methodist Free Churches to form the United Methodist Church. This resulted in a reorganisation of the North Durham Mission to form the Hetton United Methodist Circuit, which contained only 2 congregations consistently throughout its life - Murton and Easington Lane.

In 1932 the United Methodists joined with the Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyan Methodists to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain, and the Hetton U.M. Circuit ceased to exist. The churches within it were absorbed into the Houghton le Spring or Hetton Methodist Circuits. See MC.HS1 and MC.Hel.

Explanation of the different Methodist Churches

- 1797 The **Methodist New Connexion** formed. Chapel and their Members were often called Kilhamites after their first leader, Alexander Kilham.
- 1806 **Independent Methodist Churches** held their first Annual Meeting. Formed by Peter Philips having been influenced by The Quakers, Lorenzo Dow and Hugh Bourne. The name 'Independent Methodist' was agreed in 1908, until that point churches by various names including: Free Gospel Church, Christian Lay Church, Christian Brethren, Gospel Pilgrims, Band Room Methodists and also Quaker Methodists.
- 1807 **Primitive Methodists formed** in 1807 led by Hugh Bourne and William Clowes.
- 1815 **The Bible Christians formed.**
- 1827 The **Protestant Methodists** was formed in Leeds in 1827
- 1836 The **Wesleyan Methodist Association** was formed in 1836.
- 1849 The Wesleyan Reformers were formed having broken away from Wesleyan Methodism.
- 1857 Some of the **Wesleyan Reformers** joined together with the **Protestant Methodists** and the **Wesleyan Methodist Association** to form the **United Methodist Free Churches.**
- 1857 **Wesleyan Reform Union** formed by those Wesleyan Reformers who did not join the **United Methodist Free Churches.**
- 1865 William Booth leaves the **United Methodist Free Churches** and establishes the East London Christian Mission, later to be re-named **The Salvation Army.**

1907 The **United Methodist Church** formed by the **United Methodist Free Churches, the Methodist New Connexion** and **the Bible Christians**.

1932 **The Methodist Church** was formed by the coming together of the United Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Shaun Newton (November 2010)