

## THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



*Bank Street Methodist Church*

It's difficult to imagine that Bank Street Methodist Church once stood here. Due to its lofty position, the impressive landmark building was visible for miles around. Built in 1878 the church took just over a year to build at a cost of £4,600, with £1,800 raised by subscriptions. It seated over 600 people and was adorned with ornate wood panelling.



The church was sadly destroyed by a major fire in 1997.

Hadfield's many churches were at the heart of village life. As well as Sunday services, fetes, teas and suppers were held. Churches ran cricket, tennis and football teams, theatrical groups, youth organisations, and the first lending library was at Bank Street Methodist Church. Sunday school anniversaries at Bank Street were special occasions, requiring two services, in the afternoon and evening, to seat everyone.



*Bank Street with Waterside Mills behind*

Mrs Clough, nee Moss, born in 1911, was a Sunday school teacher at the church. She said that people couldn't afford holidays, and the Sunday school organised day trips to Buxton. And when they'd saved up enough money, up to 30 children went by charabanc to Blackpool or Southport every year to enjoy a day at the seaside.

Bank Street Methodist Church's congregation members moved to a new place of worship, a former retail premises in nearby Station Road.



*Harry Buxton at 34 Bank Street*

### *Did you know?*

- The former Liberal Club (flats to your left) was used as the Job Centre in the hit BBC TV comedy 'The League of Gentleman' in the early 2000's.
- Hadfield Bowling Club at the end of Paradise Street used to be owned by the Liberal Club and has been in existence for over 100 years.
- Opposite the Liberal Club (now flats) was Hadfield's Picturedrome. Built in 1923 it was a huge part of village life. In 1958 it became the Drome Bingo Hall before being demolished in the 1980's. The area is now occupied by houses.



*The Manse at 46 Bank Street. Home of the minsters*

*Images courtesy of Harry Buxton, Sue M Hickinson and Michael H. Brown. Illustration by Nature Sign Design.*

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This project is funded and supported by:

