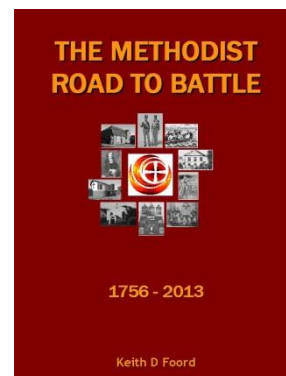


## The Methodist Road to Battle 1756 to 2013

This book of 100 pages has published recently. It is illustrated in B&W throughout it follows the development of Methodism in South East Sussex from its early days around Rye and Winchelsea with active involvement by John Wesley then its later gradual spread via various interesting routes in Napoleonic and post Napoleonic times into the rest of 1066 country, around the Bexhill, Hastings and Battle areas. It is a tale of many small chapels, Victorian projects and early tin tabernacles, sometimes set up in adverse circumstances. It leads to the present day as Battle Methodist Church embarks on its new adventure and updates local history from new data found at the sale of the old Chapel and various other new sources.



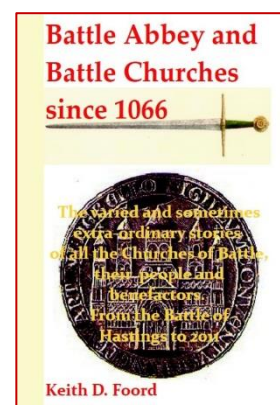
**The book may be ordered by post from: [bmcbooks](#), Battle Methodist Church, The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL** - Please enclose a cheque (sterling only) for £7.00 plus post and packing (UK £3, EU £5, RoW £9). The cheque should be payable to 'Battle Methodist Church'.

**Also on-line (where you can pay securely by credit/debit card) from:**  
<http://www.cpibookdelivery.com/publisher/bmcbooks>

**It is also be available directly from the Emmanuel Centre and local Methodist Circuit contacts.**

## Battle Abbey and Battle Churches since 1066

This well researched book, of over 200 pages and illustrated in colour and black and white throughout, was written in celebration of the big changes occurring within Battle Methodist Church during 2011-2013. It covers the histories of all the churches of Battle, from the original Abbey Church of St. Martin to today.



**The book may be ordered by post from: [bmcbooks](#), Battle Methodist Church, The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL** - Please enclose a cheque (sterling only) for £10.00 plus post and packing (UK £3, EU £5, RoW £9). The cheque should be payable to 'Battle Methodist Church'.

**Also on-line (where you can pay securely by credit/debit card) from:**  
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**It is also be available directly from the Emmanuel Centre and local Methodist Circuit contacts.**

### **SPECIAL OFFER**

***BOTH Books can be bought by post or directly at the same time for a special price of £14.00 +/- £3 P&P (this offer is NOT available for on-line purchase)***

Note: Both books should also be available to order via major on-line booksellers with an order time of 2-3 weeks.

## **Review of THE METHODIST ROAD TO BATTLE 1756 – 2013 ISBN 978-0-9569597-1-3**

This is a natural successor to the author's 'Battle Abbey and Battle Churches since 1066' published in 2010 and for the same purpose – the raising of funds to support the building of the Battle Methodists' new church and community facility.

Dr Foord provides a clear account of the origins of Methodism and its appearance in (particularly East) Sussex. He explains the reasons for Rye being the Wesleyan hub and the early division of Sussex between two differing opinions within Methodism, which actually appears to have been quite a gentlemanly affair.

The early days of Methodism in Battle have apparently left scant record, which is unfortunate as it is interesting to note that unlike neighbouring areas where Methodist preachers led the 'conversion' here in Battle it was a Baptist minister who established the first Methodist Society. We also glimpse the more violent and hazardous aspects of local life with Methodists being at risk due to their opposition to smuggling and even subjected to stoning and near drowning!

The text is clear and there is a useful index. In summary the book provides an interesting glimpse into the difficulties faced by non-conformism in the local area and includes aspects of more general interest, particularly relating to the military presence during the invasion scares following the French Revolution and smuggling.

**Neil Clephane—Cameron July 2013**

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## **Reviews of BATTLE ABBEY AND BATTLE CHURCHES SINCE 1066**

This book is absolutely fascinating and hard to put down!

**Norma Jenner**

Dr Foord draws upon a rich variety of sources, from Searle's classic 'Lordship and Community' to unpublished papers belonging to the respective churches of Battle and documents located in the East Sussex Record Office. Included with the bibliography is an interesting list of web-sites, and the 164 pages of narrative benefit from a comprehensive index. The book is profusely illustrated with 73 black and white illustrations and 36 colour plates.

For too long the histories of Battle have, understandably, focussed upon the abbey and early development of the town, ending where the free spiritual life of the town essentially begins – at The Dissolution. Without attempting to explain or illustrate the turmoils of faith which rolled like torrents into the ensuing void the curious reader, resident or visitor is denied an insight into the vibrant political and spiritual life of the townsfolk of Battle during the socio-ecclesiastical tumult of the seventeenth- to the nineteenth-centuries. With the publication of this book a plug has now been placed in that gap and, to add another metaphor, a light is now shone upon the human story.

Presbyterianism was first among the non-conformist sects to establish themselves in Battle, in 1696 and Presbyterianism was to hold a virtual monopoly in non-conformist activity until it could no longer contend with the explosion of religious turmoil from the mid eighteenth-century, when Baptists, Unitarians and finally Wesleyans appeared. Eighteenth-century religious radicalism and dissent was reflected in (or led to) political radicalisation in the nineteenth-century, with Battle being visited by some of those reformers such as William Cobbett during the period of agrarian reform.

Dr Foord observes that 'some sources may be more than a little suspect....or written from biased viewpoints.' However that may be, the work itself gives not only an excellent single point of reference for those interested in knowing more about the religious life of Battle's residents, but also shows through its narrative the powerful motivations and zeal of those (invariably few) individuals, who carried their faith into their community; the rich topography of which we, today, are the inheritors.

**Neil Clephane—Cameron (Battle & District Historical Society)**

The author originally set out to write a history of Battle Methodist Church as that congregation embarked upon the exciting journey of relocating in new multi-purpose premises in a more populous part of town. Instead of a history of just the Methodist congregation the book grew to become a history and overview of all the town's congregations past and present. As such this book should prove to be of great interest to a wide readership.

There is a detailed chapter on the Abbey and also one on the Parish Church (built opposite the Abbey, and a "Royal Peculiar", outside of the normal Diocesan structures of the Church of England) and its daughter (formerly mission) church. There is a chapter on the Catholic church and its relationship with local aristocracy. There is a wealth of information relating to the various nonconformist and dissenting bodies that have made their home in the town. Of particular interest is the relationship between Presbyterian / Independents / Calvinists / Baptists/ Universalists and Unitarians centred mainly on one piece of land next to the Catholic church. The Universalists in Battle were "the first regular church in England to declare for Universalism".

As well as the usual facts and figures there are numerous details of people that help to bring the stories to life. Many black and white and some colour photographs and illustrations are included. There are also some interesting diagrams attempting to unite the stories of the individual congregations.

**Stephen Page (for the Chapels Society)**