

PIPERS ASH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH

Late in the 19th Century, a group described as non-denominational began to meet in a building behind James H. Bentley's farmhouse on Hoole Road, near where the A55 and Motorway roundabout is now. The five families involved acquired a plot of land in Pipers Ash which was then in Hoole and on September 16th, 1891, three foundation stones were laid for a small Chapel which was to be a part of the George Street Methodist Church; the names on the stones were Mrs. Beresford Adams, Mrs. Carter of Lea Hall, and Mrs. Thomas Hales.

The Chapel prospered and in 1914 a larger church was built, the Chapel becoming the School Room. The new church had twenty foundation stones, the names upon them luckily being preserved in the Cheshire Record Office.



Pipers Ash Primitive Methodist Church

The Church's trustees provide an interesting list:

William Vernon, Building Contractor

Beresford Adams, Estate Agent

James Dandy, Farmer, Guilden Sutton

James H. Bentley, in whose farm the group first met

The building contractor was Messrs. Cash & Sons, the building costing £604 plus £200 for services, heating, ventilation and electrics. The name Pipers Ash Primitive Methodist Church appears on one of the foundation stones of Hamilton Street Methodist Church (1928).

Between the two World Wars, the Church continued to thrive reflected by a Sunday school attendance of up to 100 children. Account books between 1892 and 1932 show income from lectures, entertainment, Good Friday efforts, harvest festival sales and in one year, £1.18s 6d from carol singing.

Pipers Ash became something of an isolated community, the Chester Bypass (A41 dual carriageway) being constructed in the 1930's separating it from the Hoole Lane area. In 1965, Queen Street Congregational Church (the frontage of which is now part of Tesco's, Frodsham Street site) moved from the City centre to Green Lane, Vicars Cross and became 'The United Reform Church' attracting worshippers away from Pipers Ash.

The dramatic fall nationally in attendance at church and chapel began what became a terminal decline in the Pipers Ash congregation. The Sunday School closed in 1978 and although it re-opened in 1984, it attracted only a dozen children and the congregation was eventually reduced to fewer than 20 elderly members. When 2 of the members died whose knowledge and skills had kept the fabric in good order, it was agreed that the church was no longer viable, and the last service was held on 17th June 1993.

The premises were used for some time by a packaging company who moved to an industrial site in Waverton. The church was demolished in 2015 and houses built on the site.



Pipers Ash Methodist Church after closure