

This document is an amalgamation of research done in 2004 and 1991.
In it; our members of that time recall our history...

Where required modern editing has been added.

Our first building was built in the late 1920's and was a wooden shed on signal road.



Building over the Wooden shed in the late 60's
with our brick building MKI!
Courtesy Grantham Journal.

'I first went to the Sunday School there in 1931. The youth group was called 'Camp Fire' & was run by Gordon Wylie. There wasn't a minister, the ministers from the town used to take it in turns, eventually there was a deaconess - but that was after my time. When the Organist moved away I was asked to take over, it was one of those which you had to peddle with your feet.' - Mary Robinson - (1925 - 2011)

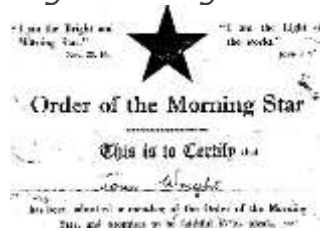
The building was then moved to our current site - but still it was a shed.

'It was an old Army Hut, but you make of it what you want. We had a pulpit in the corner & removable chairs so that it could be used for other things - we hadn't been in long when the clinic asked to use the building - every Wednesday that was.' - Anne Wright- (1923 - 2011)

But even when it was built - there was a vision....

I went to the shed for Sunday School. Everyone knew it as the Clinic or the Hut - Never the church! Almost from the beginning we brought our old 'Bun Pennies' to Sunday School for the building fund, we didn't realise it would take Fifteen years! The things I remember most about moving in to the new building are the separate male and female toilets & the instant electric heating - the Shed had had a coke boiler. - Joan Coyne - attending since 1955

Joan Coyne also received an 'Order of the Morning Star' Badge and Certificate.



In 1963 the dream was to build a proper brick structure was realised, almost immediately there had to be an extension, to cope with increasing numbers! But by the 90's there were a number of problems that needed sorting - not least the fact that it was not big enough!

'Latest Health and Safety regulations meant that we needed a new Kitchen, Toilets and a Heating System. Not only were we having to put extra chairs out every Sunday for the increasing numbers, at the same time cracks were appearing in the walls. We could have bodged it - but it wouldn't have lasted very long.' - John Watson. (1924-2020)

So a single storey community centre was envisaged.
With a bit more thought (and money) this was transformed in to the 2-storey building we have today.

Also

In 1991, Member John Watson, compiled a history of the church, its building and ministers. This is on the next page...

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This typed document has been scanned and digitally re-mastered.

NOTE ALL FACTS HERE ARE (CIRCA 1991 - UNLESS SPECIFIED)

A CHURCH STUDY

HISTORY OF HARROWBY LANE METHODIST - 1951--1991.

The land which the Church stands on, is on the corner of Harrowby Lane and Princess Drive. It was purchased in May 1951 for £475. The legal documents (conveyance) were signed by Rev. John Banks-Lee (he was the Superintendent Minister of the Grantham Methodist Circuit) and twelve Trustees, .

Initially, a wooden hut was moved from Signal Road, Grantham and placed on the site and this was used as a place of worship with a Wesley Deaconess, Sister Eileen Hutchinson, in charge. As the Harrowby area was being developed as a housing estate, it was felt that a new building would enhance the Methodist witness in that part of town.

An active membership met at "the hut" with a large Sunday School and other weekday meetings taking place. In December 1951, there were 283 Sunday School members on the Roll and the average attendance was 190. There were 6 teachers and helpers and 55 young people attended the Junior Guild during the week.

In the meantime negotiations began with an architect from Skegness, MR O.M. THORPE. Plans were eventually agreed and Fosters Builders of Grantham were engaged to build the new church, at a cost of approximately £10,000.

The Stone Laying Ceremony was held on Saturday June 8 1963 which was a hot, sunny day. The Service of Opening, and Dedication was held on Saturday December 14 1963 at 3.00pm. In December 1963, there were 80 Sunday School members on the Roll and the average attendance, was 56. There were 5 teachers and helpers and 36 young people attended the Junior Guild.

The building cost was assisted by a grant of £2,500 which was received from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust and also £750 received from the General Chapel Committee, Manchester. The remaining money was received from other donations and the church was able to open free from any financial debts or loans.

When Broad Street Methodist Church closed in early 1964, the organ was transferred to Harrowby Lane. A new electronic organ was purchased from Harris Organ Builders of Birmingham in 1969.

A new schoolroom extension (replacing the remaining part of "the hut") was completed in 1968 by Fosters Builders, who also in 1968, built a new manse on land adjacent to the church. A new span roof covering the whole of the schoolroom and flat roof areas at the front and back of the church was erected in 1985 by G.W.Seoffield (Builder) of Belton Lane.

The kitchen was updated in 1990. The current membership stands at 93. Community roll stands at approximately 150.

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<u>Activities Circa 1991</u>	
SUNDAY	Morning and Evening Worship
MONDAY	Bible Fellowship Youth Club Mums and Toddlers Group
TUESDAY	Women's Fellowship
WEDNESDAY	Friendship Club Infant Welfare Clinic
THURSDAY	Wives' Group (Held Fortnightly)
FRIDAY	Weeknight Holy Communion

<u>Deaconesses and Ministers at Harrowby Lane Methodist Church</u>	
Minister	Manse
1952 - 1955 Sister Eileen Hutchinson	Flat, New Beacon Road
1955 - 1964 Sister Olive Greensmith	Flat, New Beacon Road
1964 - 1965 Rev John M Edwards	Hill Avenue
1965 - 1968 Rev Hector Chick	Hill Avenue
1968 - 1972 Rev Frederick C Cox	Princess Drive
1972 - 1979 Rev Norman Bray	Princess Drive
1979 - 1984 Rev Stephen D Bales	Princess Drive
1984 - 1986 Rev Robert Henderson	Princess Drive
1986 - 1988 Rev Keith Howe	Princess Drive
1988 - 1989 Dr. Barry Biggs	Princess Drive
1989 - 1996 Rev Bernad Allinson	Princess Drive
1996 - 2010 Rev Tony Pick	Princess Drive
2010 - 2011 Rev Ian William	Manse Hired out for interregnum
2011 - 2012 Rev Den Bullus	Princess Drive
2012 - 2020 Rev Ian Worrall	Princess Drive