

1905 Renovation of Sunday School - 14th January 1905

The church organised a bazaar in 1904 which realised a grand total of £260 16s 10d, and helped to pay for the organ.

There must have been great enthusiasm at that time because no sooner had the organ been installed than the Trustees turned their attention to renovating the Sunday School building.

The following estimates were approved on 9th November 1904:-

	£	s	d
J.W. Shaw - new roof timbers	30	0	0
new windows	8	10	0
new floor and stage	24	5	6
porch work	7	8	6
Sam England moving complete porch	16	10	0
removing and replacing slates	8	0	0
J Bottomley pointing front of chapel			
pointing roof riggings			
plastering porch	6	10	0
J Bottomley plastering school	3	0	0
Lawton and Hogley painting	7	3	0
Joah Tolson plumbing	7	10	0

The tie rods were installed at the same time and it appears that the walls were increased in height. Gas lighting was also installed.

There was a grand reopening ceremony on Saturday 14th January 1905. The Revd. W.H. Gregory opened the devotions and then introduced Mr. J.E. Heap of Honley; Master George Burgess the youngest Sunday School scholar presented Mr. Heap with a silver key inscribed "Presented to J.E. Heap, Esq., on re-opening Wooldale Wesleyan School, January 14th 1905". Mr. Heap is recorded as having said "Thank you, my boy, for this beautiful gift". He then proceeded to open the door and the congregation followed him into the building.

Once inside Mrs. Henry Booth, the oldest scholar of the school, presented a Methodist Hymn book to Master Burgess. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Albert Bower, and seconded by Mr. Fred Barrowclough. The afternoon service was followed by a tea which had been provided by the six new trustees (Wilson Ellis Goldthorpe, Arthur

Cartwright, Arthur Brook, Fred Barrowclough, Jonas Hobson and Ernest Aspinall).

Mr. Heap was Chairman at the evening meeting, and speakers included Jonas Hobson who gave a financial report, Mr. G. Hebblethwaite who said that he used to live in the cottage on the site of the chapel, Mr. F.W. Goldthorpe, Mr. John Roberts, Councillor John Moorhouse of Meltham, Mr. George Heap, Mr. Albert Bower, and Mr. Herbert Brook. Anthems were sung by the choir conducted by Mr. Arthur Cartwright, and solos were sung by Miss E. Woodhead and Miss C. Hollingworth; the organist was Mr. James Buckley. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. G.P. Bureau.

The church had to borrow money to pay for these repairs, and Mr. W.E. Goldthorpe loaned the sum of £100 at a rate of 2% per annum. This loan was repaid in 1906 but not before the Wesleyan Chapel Fund made a grant of £10 to aid in the extinction of the debt, and not before the trustees persuaded Mr. Goldthorpe to accept goods left over from a bazaar in lieu of his interest!