

Foreword

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain". Psalm 127 v. 1.

We celebrate this year the centenary of assembly witness in Saffron Walden. The fact that the witness has lasted for one hundred years is only because the Lord has done the building. Today the witness is as strong as it has ever been and we look forward with confidence to even greater things in the future.

This brief history has been written that we might trace the hand of God and give all the glory to Him. We take no credit to ourselves but praise God for all He has done.

I wish to acknowledge the help given by Mr. J. Dix, Mr. & Mrs. J. Banks, Miss L. Faircloth, Mr. J. Pettitt, the late Mrs. A. Dewey and the late Mr. W. Reed who provided valuable material for this story. I also wish to thank Mrs. R. Parsons, Mrs. J. Young and Mr. S. Tuck who were responsible for typing and duplicating the manuscript.

If this story acts as a challenge and incentive to even greater efforts for the Lord in the future, then its writing will not have been in vain.

Raymond Mitson
September, 1970

CHAPTER 1



1870 to 1888

Records of the early days are non-existent, so it is difficult to give much information of the beginning of the assembly. All that is known is that in 1870 a few Christians in the town decided to hire the Lecture Hall in Hill Street for the holding of meetings. This marks the beginning of the Assembly in the town. The Lecture Hall has since been demolished but it was on the site where the fire station now stands.

As far as we know the founder members of the assembly were Mr Robert Dix, a builder in the town, Mr. Frederick William Moore, who was employed at Walter Robson's drapery shop in King Street and Mr. George Newton who was timber buyer for William Bell & Sons (Builder) and Mr. J. Wiseman, a well-known local farmer.

Mrs. A. Dewey was a member of the Hill Street Assembly and was in fellowship at Gold Street until she was called home this year 1970. Mrs. Dewey, who was then Miss Forsdyke, lived with her widowed mother in London Road, who kept a shop next to a public house called "The Oak" now Edgars' the dentists. Mrs. Forsdyke attended the Abbey Lane Congregational Church, but her daughter Alice preferred to attend the assembly in Hill Street where her friends, the Dix family, worshipped. Miss Forsdyke and the Dix children were very attached to each other and it was largely through this friendship that the former made the assembly her spiritual home.

We have received a photograph from Mr. Jim Dix of Hunstanton, formerly of Enfield and grandson of Mr. Robert Dix who was a member of the Hill Street Assembly. The photograph was taken outside the Lecture Hall in Hill Street and shows the members who were in fellowship at that time. The picture includes forty seven members which is an indication of the healthy state of the Assembly so soon after its commencement. Here are the names of some of those shown on the photograph:

Mr. Frederick Moore, Air. & Mrs. Frank Faircloth (parents of the Misses Lucy and Edith Faircloth), Mr. & Mrs. George Newton and Miss Newton, Mr. Alfred Archer, (father of Mrs. G. Banks), Mr. David Miller (grandfather of one of the town's bakers), Mr. & Mrs. Rcubcn Nash and Miss Rachel Hash, Mrs. A. Dewey (then Miss Forsdyke), Mr. Jimmy Player, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dix and Miss Lizzie Dix, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dix, Mr. J. Chapman, Miss Chatfield (employed at the Friend's School), Mr. William Dix and Mrs. John Reed (mother of William and Charles Reed).

There was no baptistry in the Lecture Hall, so where baptisms took place it is impossible to say. To meet in a hired building without a baptistry and with increasing numbers attending, the need for a permanent building became apparent.

Chapter Two



1888 to 1900

In 1888 a move was made to Gold Street where the assembly has met ever since. The site taken over was formerly Freestones' Engineering Shop. Part of the old building was retained in the new structure but it was extensively enlarged to make it suitable as a place of worship. The new building included a baptistry, which has occasionally been used by neighbouring assemblies. The Hall was built by Messrs. William Bell & Sons, for whom Mr. George Newton worked.

To purchase the site and pay for the new building a considerable sum of money had to be borrowed. It was decided that money would only be borrowed from members of the assembly so that if the Lord returned before the money was repaid, no money would be owing to unbelievers. The money was gradually repaid over the years.

The trustees at the beginning were Messrs. George Newton, Frederick Moore, Robert Dix, James Wiseman and Walter Scott. The latter lived in Royston, Herts.

Information about the early years at Gold Street is very scanty, in fact written records have only been kept during the last thirty years. 'The story of the first forty years of the assembly in Saffron Waldon has only been written with the aid of information handed down by the original members.

At first the assembly building was known as "The Gold Street Meeting Room", later it was called "The Gospel Hall" and today "Gold Street Chapel".

In the early days Sunday was even more occupied than it is today. Sunday School commenced at 9.30 a.m. and again at 2.50 p.m. Mr. Newton who had a great love for children, amongst his many other duties, was Superintendent of the Sunday School. The Breaking of Bread commenced at 10.50 a.m. with the brethren sitting on the left hand side and the sisters on the right. It is difficult to know how the brethren justified this strange custom, but it is good to know that after a time the segregation of the sexes was discontinued. The Gospel Meeting was held at 6.50 p.m.

The collection box was never passed round, it was placed at the door on Sunday mornings only. Mr. Newton made a box with three compartments - Expenses, Missions and Building Fund - and the contributions made on Sunday mornings were sufficient to meet all needs.

Chapter Three



1900 to 1914

Quite a few of the early members lived in the nearby villages and they regularly walked to the meetings and they were never late. Mr. Alfred Archer lived between Swards End and Radwinter and Mr. Elijah Webb came from Littlebury Green. The Headmistress of Clavering School also walked regularly from that village to attend the meetings. Whatever the weather, these villagers were sure to be present and after a walk of several miles their faces shone with joy at the privilege of being able to attend the meetings. Fellowship with the Lord and with fellow believers was the highlight of the week for these isolated believers.

Although the villagers were always on time there was one member from Saffron Walden who was invariably late. To make it easier for this brother it was decided to change the time of the Breaking of Bread from 10.50 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. It is reported that the change in time did not have the desired effect because the same member continued to arrive late.

The Gospel Meeting was usually taken by Mr. Moore as he was the only local brother with an obvious gift for this type of meeting. Transport difficulties made it just about impossible to ask speakers to come from the neighbouring assemblies, e.g. Helions Bumpstead, Haverhill, etc. Mr. Moore was a humble, gracious brother who was given the privilege of speaking every Sunday night, not because he sought it, but because local circumstances demanded it.

Mr. Robert Dix made the Communion Table and this has been in continual use up to the present day; surely an evidence of the durable work of the craftsmen of those days. He also made the organ stool, which was in use until recently.

At this point, mention must be made of an evangelist who did a lasting work for God in the district. Mr. Middleton Wadey, who lived in West Road, had caravan missions in several of the local villages. Although not in fellowship in the Assembly, Mr. Wadey's ministry indirectly, was a blessing to Gold Street.

In 1904 Mr. Wadey was used to lead to Christ an eleven year old Helions Bumpstead boy. That boy was Herbert Germany who himself was later used to the salvation of many. Herbert Germany was a great help to the believers at Gold Street where he regularly ministered the word. He is remembered for his happy countenance, his Bible knowledge and his homely illustrations.

Mr. Wadey had a mission at Swards End in 1905 when Miss Grace Archer (Mrs. Banks) and Mr. Joe Banks were converted on the same night. The preacher's text was "And the times of this ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent". Acts 17 v.30. What a chain of blessing was started that night when God's faithful servant led two children to Christ in the Swards End Mission. What an encouragement these stories are to those who are engaged in Sunday School or young people's work, "in due season we shall reap if we faint not", Galatians 6 v.9. Later, Miss Hagger was saved through Mr. Wadey's ministry and when the Strict Baptist Chapel in London Road, closed, she made her spiritual home at Gold Street, where her radiant Christian testimony is still remembered.

In the early years of the present century, a tent campaign was conducted in the town by the Scottish evangelist, Mr. James McKendrick. Before the campaign, he visited the town and felt led to ask for permission for the tent to be pitched in a meadow (now built on) in Station Street.

This meadow was owned by William Bell & Sons (Builders) where Mr. George Newton an elder in the assembly, was employed as timber buyer. Mr. Newton agreed to approach Mr. Bell, but he was not optimistic that his employer would be sympathetic to such a request. However, Mr. McKendrick was convinced that the Lord had chosen this site, so prayer was asked that any difficulty might be overcome. In a wonderful way the Lord overruled and permission was readily granted and Mr. Newton was humbled by his lack of faith.

The tent was pitched in Station Street and there was considerable interest in the town. Mr. McKendrick was an outstanding servant of God and used to the conversion of many souls. He is remembered for his solo singing to his own violin accompaniment. His favourite hymns were "In tenderness he sought me", "The ninety and nine" and "I'm far frae my home".

Later Mr. McKendrick took his caravan to some of the nearby Suffolk villages and there were some wonderful conversions. Kedington was the first place visited and a permanent work was begun. As a result of this visit an assembly was commenced in the village and the present building was erected. Over the years, Kedington has provided Gold Street with speakers and in return we have been able to help them.

In the early 1900's the Meeting Room was comfortably filled on Sunday mornings when the benches at the front were used for seating, in addition to the forms.

Mr. & Mrs. Newton would occasionally drive in a pony and trap to visit neighbouring assemblies at Haverhill and Helions Bumpstead. They would set off early on Sunday morning to be in time for the "Breaking of Bread". They would return after the evening Gospel Meeting. At the close of the meeting on the following Sunday morning, Mr. Newton would give an account of his visit to the neighbouring assembly. To some of the children who were present in those days, this was one of the most interesting parts of the service.

During the summer evenings, Mr. Newton accompanied by other brethren, would walk out to the villages of Littlebury Green, Cole End, etc. and hold open-air meetings. Some of the Sunday School scholars as a special privilege were occasionally allowed to go as well.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Conference, which was held on Whit Mondays. Visitors came from far and near to listen to the ministry of the Word, renew acquaintances and enjoy fellowship at the tea table,

In those days the conferences were open with no pre-arranged speakers. This practice did not always bring profit to the assembled believers, as a speaker with little gift would endeavour to occupy most of the time. It was therefore decided that two speakers with a gift for ministry would be booked in advance so that all who gathered would receive nourishing, spiritual food. With slight modifications, this practice has been followed ever since, and times of rich fellowship have been enjoyed.

Chapter Four



The Sunday School up to 1914

A Sunday School was started in the Lecture Hall, Hill Street in 1884 with Mr. George Newton as superintendent. Little is known of the Hill Street Sunday School although Mrs. A. Dewey who was recently called home, was a member. Two sessions were held each Sunday, the first at 9.30 a.m. and the second at 2.30 p.m.

When the move was made to Gold Street in 1888, the Sunday School expanded. The fact that quite a few of the scholars were children of employees of William Bell & Sons, is an indication of the influence of Mr. Newton among his workmates.

There are quite a few people still living in the town who were members of the Sunday School in the early part of the present century. Here are the names of a few:

Mr. & Mrs. C. Bouch, Victoria Avenue; Mrs. Gillett, Bell's Close; Mr. H. Green, Landscape View; Mrs. M. Wilson, Alpha Place; Miss L. Faircloth and Miss E. Faircloth.

Some of these old scholars still affectionately refer to the Sunday School as Newton's Sunday School.

The attendance at the Sunday School was between thirty and forty each week. Among those who helped in the school were Mr. Newton who was in charge of the boys. Miss Lizzie Dix who played the organ and also took a class. Miss Mary Newton and Miss Edie Newton who helped with the younger children. Mr. Walter Wilson also assisted, as did Mr. Willie Reed.

Miss Lucy Faircloth has kindly supplied the following account of her Sunday School days at Gold Street.

"The Sunday School Outing, which was always held on August Bank Holiday, was the highlight of the year for both scholars and adults. One and sometimes two wagons arrived at the Gold Street Meeting Room clean with fresh straw strewn on the boards. The horses' tails were plaited and decorated and the drivers were in holiday spirits. There were baths filled with crockery and food and a bag containing the cricket gear. Then we were all lifted into the wagons and the seniors and those in charge jumped in, the tailboard was fixed and Mr. Newton shouted "Right away now Alfred" and off we went. Mr. Newton wore a white straw panama hat, attached to his coat with a cord, for these occasions. Then we jolted happily on to "Gunter's Farm" or "Thunderley Hall", Wimbish.

Mr. Wiseman, who owned both farms was there to welcome us. We quickly alighted from the wagons and rushed to the meadow for games.

Mr Robert Dix, who had been up in the morning to fix the swings, was waiting for any who wished to swing. He patiently continued on this job until the end of the day. Mr. Walter Wilson was in charge of the ginger beer barrel, and of course the boys, especially the cricketers, led by Mr. Charles Reed, had a constant thirst. It was all free.

The tea was marvellous! I've never tasted such delicious bread and butter and cake, since.

During the afternoon, Mr. Moore would arrive with a horse draw carriage bringing the older sisters, who after tea, with much gentle persuasion from the brethren, would enter into the delights of such games as "Nuts and May" and "I've sent a letter to my love", etc. etc.

When the evening shadows began to fall, prize packets, sweets and nuts were given to all scholars. After this we were again hoisted into the wagons. The cheers for Mr and Mrs. Wiseman as we left the farm, were loud and hearty. We certainly had spent a wonderful time, which has lived in our memories ever since. Our lungs were again tested as we came under the Thaxted Road Railway Bridge and again when we went by the house and shop of Mr, & Mrs. Nash in East Street, who had given us toys from their stock. After leaving Gold Street, we waited to see the fireworks which were exploding in the Deer Park and then home and bed, tired but happy."

Another annual occasion, which the scholars looked forward to, was the Winter Sunday School Treat and Prize giving.

Chapter Five



1914 to 1920

With the outbreak of war in 1914, there was some disruption in the services at Gold Street. The Sunday School was closed and quite a few of the scholars joined the High Street Baptist Sunday School.

The open-air witness in the villages also came to an end. Later in the war the Meeting Room was commandeered by the Military authorities and soldiers were billeted in the building. This meant that all services at the Meeting Room came to an end. It was decided that at least the "Breaking of Bread" should continue and Mr. William Reed (son of Mr. J. W. Reed) kindly offered the use of his front room for meetings. Mr. & Mrs. Reed were living at "The Pines" in Thaxted Road (next to the Railway Bridge at the bottom of Prospect Place). Every Sunday morning between twenty-five and thirty believers assembled in Mr. Reed's house to remember the Lord. This must have meant a real sacrifice on the part of Mrs. Reed, for she was nursing a young baby (Hilda) and also looking after four soldiers who were billeted in their home.

The Meeting Room was left in a terrible state by the army and extensive repairs and re-decorations had to be carried out before meetings could be held in the building again.

In August 1919 a new family came to Saffron Walden from Newmarket. Mr. Arthur Mitson had now been advised by his doctor to leave the town for the benefit of his health. He had been a stable lad but was converted through reading a text carried by one of the Lord's faithful servants on the racecourse. His father was a jockey who had ridden with the famous Fred Archer who later committed suicide. Before coming to Saffron Walden, Mr. Arthur Mitson worked for a time as a London City Missionary. His son Samuel, who had just come back from war service, cycled round the Newmarket district, looking for a suitable house for the family. He was unsuccessful until he came to Saffron Walden where Cheffins the Estate Agents, advised him that a house and shop (5 High Street) were available to rent. Mr. Sam Mitson accepted the tenancy on the spot. Soon after this Mr. & Mrs. A. Mitson, together with four of their children (Samuel, Mary, Jessie and Grace) moved into 3 High Street. From this time Sam. Mitson took an active part in the work of the assembly, later joining the oversight. Mr. Mitson senior ran a cycle shop and his daughter Grace was in charge of a boot shop. At this time Sam Mitson worked as manager of Frost's Grocery shop in Newport. Later he had his own cycle shop in the town. In 1921 Sam Mitson married Miss Bessie Brittain from Hoddesdon (Herts) and their home was always open to entertain visiting preachers.

Chapter Six



Some of the Early Characters

Mr. J. W. Reed, who was a cartage contractor, was employed by the council during the winter, to remove the snow from the streets of the town. He would be out with his workmen at 6.00 a.m. loading the snow on to the horse drawn wagons to be taken to the common for dumping. By 9.00 a.m. when the shop and office workers were about, the roads were clear. It would appear that the job was done far better in those days than it is today with all our expensive mechanical equipment.

When Mr. Reed was converted he could neither read nor write. He immediately took reading lessons so that he could read the Scriptures for himself. It was about this time that the famous meeting took place between Dr. Livingstone and H. M. Stanley. Mr. Reed, so recently literate, avidly read the accounts of Livingstone's journeys and from that time he took an active interest in the spread of the gospel in Central Africa - the Beloved Strip. Mr. Reed concentrated his prayers on this part of Africa to the exclusion of the rest of the world and in a wonderful way his prayers were answered. He had three grandsons and all went as missionaries to the Beloved Strip (Victor, son of Mr. Charles Reed, Walter and Donald, sons of Mr. Willie Reed). In February 1970 one of Mr. Reed's great grandsons (David, son of Victor) left England with his family, to take up a teaching post in Uganda. Mr. Reed senior did not live to see his prayers answered but they were answered nevertheless. What a challenge this is to us. We might have to wait for the answer, but the answer will come, for the One to whom we pray, **"is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think". Ephesians 3 v.20.**

Mr. P. W. Moore was held in high regard in the town both by those who attended the Meeting Room and by those who did not. His favourite subject was "The Tabernacle" illustrating his talks with a model. When Mr. Moore was called home the following appreciation appeared in the Saffron Walden Weekly News:

He was connected with the Meeting Room in Gold Street, where he had been the principal speaker for more than fifty years. He was a real Bible student and for many years had "brought forth out of his treasury things new and old".

He had a deep love for and profound knowledge of the Word of God, was blessed with a marvellous memory, never spoke from notes and hardly ever repeated himself. Though richly endowed with both natural and spiritual gifts, he was of a retiring character".

Mr George Newton was a keen soul-winner but he sometimes let his enthusiasm run away with him. He would "button-hole" visitors as they left the Meeting Room and because of this, quite a number never came again. Mr. Moore for the saints and Mr. Newton for the sinners was a common saying in the assembly in those days.

Mr. Newton lived in London Road and he made it quite clear where he stood for painted on the glass panel above the front door of the house where he lived was the text "Behold the Lamb of God". Mr. Newton was a regular attender at the Prayer Meeting, which in those days was held on Thursdays, and he usually prayed loudest and longest.

When Mrs. Newton died, her husband asked if some of the brethren would act as bearers at the funeral. The brethren agreed to do this and for many years this practice was followed, in the true tradition of the Acts **"Devout men carried Stephen to his burial". Acts 8 v.2.**

It is reported that a visitor came to Saffron Walden and asked a passer-by to direct him to the most godly man in the town. The visitor was directed to Mr. Reuben Nash who lived with his wife and daughter at the shop opposite the Boys' British School. Perhaps some of the residents of the town might have wondered whether the visitor had been directed to the right man, for they regarded Mr. Nash as an eccentric as the following story will show.

At the time of one of the local elections, Mr. David Barton, a respected member of High Street Baptist Church, was canvassing for votes in the town. He called on Mr. Nash and asked for his vote.

"No Mr. Barton. There will be no voting in heaven and I will have nothing to do with it on earth" replied Mr. Nash.

A few weeks later Mr. Nash was out selling his vegetables when he called on Mr. Barton who lived at the top of High Street. Mr. Nash knocked on the door and Mr. Barton answered his knock.

"Mr. Barton, would you like to buy some Brussels sprouts?" asked Mr. Nash.

Mr. Barton replied, "There will be no Brussels sprouts in heaven and I don't want any of yours down here. Thank you very much Mr. Nash."

Chapter Seven



1920 to 1939

The disruption caused by the war was still being felt in 1920. The numbers attending the Gospel Meeting averaged only twelve. Although the interior of the building had recently been redecorated, the colour scheme was not designed to attract the outsider. The wooden ceiling was painted brown and the walls a dull green. Heating was provided by a tortoise stove situated in the corner of the room, where the hymnbooks are now stored. The big disadvantage of this type of heating was that you were roasted if you sat near the stove and you were frozen if you sat at the other end of the Hall. There was gas lighting and coconut matting on the floor. The hard forms were so uncomfortable that it was difficult to enjoy a long address. In those days, there was no platform or pulpit. When Mr. John Pettitt was received into fellowship in 1920, although a baptized believer, he was expected to sit at the back for two weeks to observe, before his name was publicly announced.

The Assembly had frequent visits at this time from Mr. J. Gilfillan and Mr. H. Downie, both of Scotland. These two evangelists with their Scottish accent still live in the memories of some of our older members at Gold Street.

Early in the 1920's Miss Nellie Norrington called a meeting at the Friends' School where she was employed as housekeeper. Miss Norrington invited to the meeting any ladies from Gold Street who were interested in the commencement of a Sewing Meeting. The result of this meeting was wholehearted agreement in the project. Soon after this, the weekly Sewing Meeting started. Here are the names of some of the early members:

Miss Nellie Norrington (leader), Mrs. Faircloth, Miss L. Faircloth, Mrs. G. Banks, Mrs. Bessie Mitson, Miss Grace Mitson, Mrs. A. Dewey, Miss Olive Pettitt, Mrs. Bunion and Mrs. Bass.

While the meeting was in progress Miss Norrington always read from a missionary book, this was to stop the ladies gossiping. The sewing meeting has continued to the present day, now under the leadership of Miss L. Faircloth, who it is good to say, is not such a strict disciplinarian as Miss Norrington. In these days, the meeting is held in the homes of members and not in the chapel.

Thousands of garments and hundreds of pounds have been sent to missionaries and ex-missionaries. A faithful ministry has been carried on by the sisters and the many letters of thanks are eloquent testimony to the appreciation of the missionaries. May their ministry long continue in the true Dorcas tradition (Acts 9 v.39).

For many years the Cycling Preachers paid annual visits to Saffron Walden. About twenty or thirty brethren from the London area would cycle to Saffron Walden. They would stay for the weekend, holding open-air meetings in the town. The party usually included Mr. G. C.D. Howley (Editor of The -Witness) and Mr. Frank Whitley (Hoddesdon).

In 1928 a Bible Class was started by Miss Grace Mitson and soon after this the Sunday School was recommenced with Mr. Charles Reed as superintendent. The Sunday School was now held in the afternoon only. Later Mr. Reed had the assistance of Miss L. Faircloth, who did sterling work in that department for many years.

In 1932 the Text Carriers from London paid a visit to the town and this inspired several local brethren to do a similar work. Here are the names of some who engaged in this courageous ministry:

Messrs. Eldred Baldwin, John and Harold Pettitt, Tom, Sam and Harry Wheelhouse, Bill Storey and Arthur White.

Mr. Sam Mitson painted the texts and these were carried through the streets of the town. The carriers also handed out tracts to passers-by. In addition to this activity the workers would cycle to nearby villages on Sunday afternoons, to carry their texts and to visit every house with tracts. This work was carried on for several years until it came to an end when some of the helpers left the town.

Following the visit of the Text Carriers, the open-air witness was revived and this was carried on until the outbreak of war in 1939. Each week a few of the brethren including Messrs. C. Reed, S. Mitson, J. Banks, J. and H. Pettitt, H. Ridgewell and others, would cycle to one of the neighbouring villages to hold an open air meeting. Such villages as Swards End, Little Walden, Hadstock, Littlebury Green and Rickling Green were regularly visited.

In the 1930's the assembly was enriched by the ministry of several evangelists who paid frequent visits to the town, e.g. Mr. W. J. Campbell of Scotland who later went to India as a missionary, Mr. I. Logan (France), Mr. T. Lambert (C.M.V.C. evangelist in Norfolk), Mr. Varney and Mr. E. M. Varnock (Counties).

Each year the Wycliffe Preachers visited the town where open-air meetings were held. The preachers also visited quite a number of chapels in the neighbourhood where lantern slides were shown,

In November 1938 Jubilee Meetings were held at Gold Street to celebrate fifty years of witness in that building. Afternoon and evening meetings were held with a fellowship tea in between. About fifty sat down to tea including quite a number of visitors from neighbouring assemblies. The speaker on this occasion was Mr. W. J. Campbell (Scotland).

The keynote of the meetings was praise and thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of the previous fifty years and to face the challenge of the future. Little did the Christians know who met together on this happy occasion, that in less than a year, this country would again be engulfed in a war.

Chapter Eight



1939 to 1950

War was declared on Sunday 3rd September 1939 and a week before this a train load of evacuees arrived in Saffron Walden Station. The children came from the Tottenham area and quite a number were billeted with assembly members. These children were encouraged to attend the meetings and later a few professed faith in Christ.

Mr. Reed retired as superintendent of the Sunday School in 1940 and Miss L. Faircloth carried on for some years with the help of Mr. Frank Faircloth and Mr. John Pettitt. These were difficult times for the Sunday School with the numbers swollen by evacuees and a shortage of teachers, but Miss Faircloth soldiered on.

Transport restrictions made it difficult for speakers to travel a distance, so the assembly had to rely on local talent. A few brethren, however, did manage to get through and the visits of the following were much appreciated:

Messrs. R. Hammond (Newmarket), W. Hindmoor (Hadstock Mission), J. Meredith (Stansted), H. Germany (Helions Bumpstead), V. Reed (Bishop's Stortford), J. Nicholls, (Helions Bumpstead) and others.

In 1943 Pastor Alfred Schultes paid his first visit to Saffron Walden. Mr. Schultes, a refugee from Nazi Germany, addressed some well-attended meetings at this time.

During the war our numbers were augmented by Christians in the forces who were stationed in the locality. Some of the airmen stationed at Debden and Duxford and a few soldiers from Radwinter made their spiritual home at Gold Street. We also appreciated the fellowship of some of the Christian girls in the W.A. A. F.'s who were billeted at the Grammar School in Ashdon Road.

After hostilities had ceased there were still quite a number of prisoners of war at a camp in Radwinter. To cater for these men, several meetings were held at Gold Street. A German brother from Sheffield, Mr. L. Dewitz and Pastor Schultes were frequent visitors at this time. They were able to speak to their fellow countrymen in their own language with much blessing. In October 1947 a meeting for prisoners of war was held at Gold Street when Pastor Schultes was the speaker. Invitations printed in German were distributed among the prisoners and quite a number accepted the invitation to come. The German chaplain expressed thanks on behalf of the prisoners for all that had been done for them. Coffee and cakes were provided and these too, were much appreciated.

Mr. Banks had now taken over as superintendent of the Sunday School and he was assisted by Miss Faircloth. Children's meetings conducted by Mr. G.F. Vallance were held at this time and these were a great encouragement to the Sunday School workers. Mr. Vallance had a real gift for speaking to children and many can remember his ability to hold the attention of any number of youngsters as he retold Bible stories in his own inimitable way.

Mr. R. Guthrie had been appointed J.M.V.C. evangelist for Essex and he made his home in Balsham (Cambs). Mr. Guthrie and his family regularly worshipped at Gold Street when his engagements allowed.

Quite a number of children's meetings were conducted by Mr. Guthrie at Gold Street and in the surrounding district.

Another activity of the assembly, which is worthy of mention, is the sending of parcels to Germany. In spite of the restrictions in this country, about ninety large food and clothing parcels were sent to Germany. The postage alone on these parcels came to £17 but the letters of thanks that were received made the effort well worthwhile.

In December 1948 Mr. Sam Mitson was called home suddenly. He had been a member of the assembly for close on thirty years. His experience, advice and sound judgement were greatly missed. A few weeks before he died he penned the following lines:

Christmas and New Year Thanksgiving

I thank Thee for the past, even its loss,
Thy gentle discipline which proved my gain,
For Thy great love which planned it all,
Thine arms my chain.

I thank Thee for the grace that kept my feet,
In those sweet paths that lead to God,
For that rich blood which ever pleads for me,
And for Thy Word.

I thank Thee for the present with its light,
Thy daily comfort calms my fears,
For present grace, sweet thoughts and hopes so bright,
Sweetening the daily cares.

Let Thine eternal counsels lead me here,
In paths of faithfulness and godly fear,
That when the bridegroom comes into the air,
In shining garments I may meet Him there.

Chapter Nine



1950 to 1960

In September 1951 Mr. Donald Meadows conducted a Children's Campaign at Gold Street. Good numbers attended the meetings and some of the children joined the Sunday School.

In 1953 Miss Nellie Norrington was called home. Miss Norrington had been the leader of the Missionary Sewing Meeting for about thirty years and she had done the job with enthusiasm and faithfulness. The following lines penned by Miss Norrington are her testimony to the Lord's faithfulness and they speak far more eloquently of her character than any words we could write.

"Be Still and Know"

"Be still and know",
Yea, know "that I am God"
Let not thy spirit restless be
Nor chafe beneath the rod.
Thy strength is to sit still,
Quietly bow then to His will.

Again His word "Be still"
Hushes the soul to rest.
"In quietness and confidence"
Upon the Saviour's breast.
No trial then, no pain or grief,
But he will surely give relief.

"Be still and know",
'Tis God who speaks above.
His hand it is affliction sends;
And yet 'tis all in love.
His grace is all sufficiency,
In weakness He thy strength will be.

"Be still and know"
Oh precious, precious word.
We love to dwell upon it still,
Yea, know that He is God.
What can be sweeter too than this,
That He is mine, and I am His.

"Be still and know",
Yea, know He cares for thee.
Know too, He still will lead thee on
Where many mansions be.
Tho' trials come, the way be drear
He still doth wait thy heart to cheer.

"Be still and know",
Yea Lord, we leave it all,
Knowing Thou ever watchest o'er
Thy creatures, great and small.
May we then rest upon Thy word,
And know Thee as the living God.

"Be still and know",
His promise stands secure:
He is the same as yesterday
And will for aye endure.
"All things together work for good
To those who love our Saviour God".

In 1954 another Children's Campaign was held at Gold Street, this one conducted by Mr. Tom Brayshaw (Uncle Tom) of Harrogate. Mr. Brayshaw had been a chimney sweep but because of the demand for his services in conducting children's meetings and missions, he gave up his secular occupation in order to devote all his time to children's evangelism. Hundreds of children attended the meetings and each night the Hall was packed with enthusiastic youngsters. Uncle Tom was a gifted evangelist who was able to hold the attention of any number of children. He could also get the children to sing choruses, as few others could. Such singing had never been heard before in the Gospel Hall.

As a result of this Mission the Sunday School was revitalised and we are still reaping the benefit to this day. Following the campaign it was decided to hold as many special Sunday services as possible as a means of attracting parents. As a start, an annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service and a Sunday School anniversary were commenced. That this decision was right has been proved by subsequent events. In our long term evangelism these special services have done more than anything else to break the ice and to help outsiders to feel at home in the Hall. There are many who look back with thanksgiving to God that Mr. Brayshaw was ever invited to Gold Street.

To stimulate interest in work among the young, Mr. R. Guthrie (C.M.V.C. evangelist for Essex) commenced monthly prayer meetings. These were held in the homes of members of the assembly. After a short Bible exposition, Mr. Guthrie would give a report of his activities in the previous month and a list of his engagements in the following month, All would then engage in prayer, giving thanks to God for young people who had trusted the Lord and asking for God's blessing on the meetings planned for the future. After this, refreshments were served and times of happy fellowship were enjoyed. Mr. Guthrie always said what a blessing these meetings were to him, and on behalf of the many who attended we can say they were a like a blessing to us. Later Mr. Guthrie was appointed C.M.V.C. evangelist for Sussex. Since then our brother has been called home and we thank God for every remembrance of him.

In 1957 a Tent Campaign was conducted by Mr. P. McMinn on the Anglo-American Memorial Playing Fields. Mr. McMinn, who was the Counties evangelist for Essex, held meetings every night for children and adults. Hundreds of homes were visited and quite a number of outsiders attended the meetings. Several children and young people trusted the Lord and something had to be done for these. A Young People's Fellowship was started and has been carried on ever since. At first the numbers were good, sometimes as high as sixty, but recently the attendance has gone down. It is because of these falling numbers that a reorganisation of the Young People's work has been undertaken. Details of these changes will be given later.

From 1957 a monthly Youth Service was held during the winter with encouraging results. Sometimes as many as thirty young people were entertained for tea in the homes of the workers. Afterwards all would go along to the chapel for the Youth Service. Some of the young people were converted and for this reason alone, the effort has been well worthwhile.

In 1958, following the principles laid down in Acts Chapter 6, deacons were appointed for the first time. The duties of the deacons would be mainly practical, leaving the elders to be responsible for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the assembly. The deacons appointed at this time were:

Messrs. Alan Banks, John Holmes and Raymond Mitson.

The elders were:

Messrs. George Brown, John Pettitt, Maurice Killingback and Arthur Mitson.

From the beginning there has been a happy relationship between the elders and the deacons and all have been able to work together to the glory of God.

In 1958 extensive structural and roof repairs to the building were found to be necessary. While these repairs were being carried out the believers met for the Lord's Supper at the home of Dr & Mrs. P. Clements in Mount Pleasant Road. The Lord wonderfully supplied the financial needs and in a very little time £260 had been given to pay for the repairs.

In 1959 Mr. Arthur Mitson and his family left the town. Arthur felt the call to a full time ministry and the family took up temporary accommodation at Seven Kings so that he could commute to the London Bible College. Arthur's ministry on Sunday mornings was very much missed, especially his meditations from The Song of Solomon.

In the same year Mr. Charles Reed was called home. He had been a member of the oversight for many years and also Sunday School Superintendent. A quiet, unassuming brother who never occupied the public platform but when he ministered on Sunday mornings, all were drawn closer to the Lord. Mr. Reed had had a legal training and before his retirement worked in a solicitor's office in the town. Like Paul, he used his legal mind to present Bible truths in a logical way.

Chapter Ten



1960 to 1970

In the 1960's the possibility of having an Assembly witness on one of the new housing estates was discussed. There were two possibilities; first, to close Gold Street and have a new building, say on the Rowntree Way estate and secondly to keep Gold Street open and also to have a new building on one of the estates.

After much discussion it was decided not to proceed any further with these proposals at that time. It was felt that the assembly was too small to divide and the town was barely big enough to warrant two assemblies. When enquiries were made regarding the opening of a new assembly on the Rowntree Way estate, we were told that the Free Churches were also planning to have a new building in that area. In view of this, it was decided that the idea would be dropped for the time being. It can now be reported that after several years the Free Churches have gone no further with their plans, so perhaps at some future time discussions will again take place regarding further developments.

A building fund had been started early in 1960 and it was decided to use this money to pay for extensive alterations at the back of the chapel. Two new toilets were provided in place of the one inadequate toilet which was there before. Two new rooms were built, one also containing a new kitchen. A partition between the two rooms could easily be opened, thus providing accommodation for a Bible Class of twenty-five members. The opening of these rooms in 1966 made it possible for the first time for the Bible Class to meet in separate rooms quite apart from the juniors in the Sunday School. The cost of these additional rooms was £950 and all bills paid immediately the work was finished for which we praise God.

The C.M.V.C. Prayer Meetings continued when Mr. Ron Price took over Essex in 1960 and later when Mr. Frank Nelsson was made responsible for the county. The prayer meetings came to an end in 1966 when Mr. Nelson was moved to the north of England. The present evangelist, Mr. S. V. Gardner, lives at Wickham Market, about fifty miles from Saffron Walden. The distance made it impossible for him to keep in personal touch with the prayer meetings, so they ceased to be held.

Meanwhile, changes were taking place in the Sunday School. In 1964 Miss Faircloth retired from the Sunday School after more than thirty years of devoted service. In 1965 Ray Mitson took over as superintendent from John Holmes who, although giving up his responsibility, still continued as a teacher. In 1967 Mr. Banks retired from the Sunday School after more than twenty years of active service in that department.

About this time it was suggested that it might be a good thing to close the Sunday School during the month of August each year. The very idea came as a shock to some of us, so we will give you the benefit of our experience. In previous years the attendance during August had been very low and several of the teachers were also away on holiday. How much better to close at the end of July and recommence at the beginning of September. This would provide an opportunity for everyone to have a complete break after which all could return with renewed enthusiasm. There were reservations in the minds of some as to whether the scholars would return after four weeks holiday. However, in 1966 it was decided to give the idea a trial. We are pleased to report that our fears were ill founded and the change has now become permanent, with beneficial results for both scholars and teachers. We visit the parents a week before the Sunday School is due to recommence to make sure that the children have not forgotten the date when

the new school year begins. This, of course, provides an added opportunity for visiting the homes of the children and the parents are always pleased to see us.

In 1967 another change in the Sunday School programme was introduced, For sometime we had been concerned that the attendance on Sunday afternoons during the summer was always lower than at other times. This was because parents went out for the day, taking their children with them. Quite a number of parents had asked if the Sunday School could be changed to the morning. In view of this, serious consideration was given to a possible change. After much discussion it was decided to visit all parents to see what their reactions would be to such a change. This was done and the results showed that three to one were in favour of morning school, and most of the other parents had no particular preference. We therefore decided to go ahead with the change for an experimental period.

The assembly was asked if the Communion Service could be moved from 11.00 a.m. to 1.15 a.m. This would make it possible for the Sunday School to commence at 10.00 a.m. The assembly was most co-operative and readily agreed to this change, which has now become permanent. The result has been a far more regular attendance, especially during the summer months.

Early in 1967 at a Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, it was suggested that it would be a good idea for the children to "adopt" an underprivileged or handicapped child. After writing to various societies we were put in touch with the Kalenjin Deaf School in Kenya, East Africa, which is run by the Africa Inland Mission. A letter written by Miss E. Rainey, a teacher there, gave us details of a boy named Joel Benjamin. He was thirteen at the time, deaf, in poor health and desperately in need of help to pay his school fees amounting to £5 per term. So the interest in Joel was born, and since then children and teachers have been able to contribute over £40 to help this boy.

We have sent Joel a photograph of the scholars and in return we have received a photograph of him and this is a constant reminder for prayer and regular giving.

Another highlight of 1967 was the Tent Campaign conducted by Mr. Andrew Jelfs, the Counties Evangelist for Essex. The meetings were held in a tent pitched in the South Road Playing Field adjoining the College of Education. About sixty children attended the meetings each evening and quite a number of parents came on Parents' Nights. The meetings created considerable interest in the town and many parents expressed their appreciation for all that had been done for the children. Several children professed faith in Christ, some of these came from our own Sunday School and some attended the other chapels in the town.

As mentioned before it is our policy in children's work to have as many special services as possible during the year. We began with just a Harvest Thanksgiving Service and a Sunday School anniversary. We have now added an Egg and Flower, Family and Carol Service to the list. On these special occasions the chapel is usually full with an attendance of about one hundred.

For many years we had been conscious that as an Assembly we were not really reaching the outsider. We had to confess that although we were having some precious times at the Lord's Supper we were making little impact on the unsaved of the town. Rarely did we see non-Christians at the Gospel Meeting. Hardly any of the residents of Gold Street had ever crossed the threshold of the chapel. We had talked and prayed but had done little. With the Assembly much stronger than it had been for a long time with quite a few Christian families moving into the town, now was the time for action. What could be done?

"Can a lifeboat man stand idle

When he hears the drowning cry?
Can a doctor sit in comfort
While his patients round him die?
Can a fireman see men perish
And not give a helping hand?
Can you sit at ease in Zion
With the world around you damned?"

We knew that if we were to reach outsiders this would only come about as part of a long-term programme. Now, after about four years we can report that the unconverted are present every week and on special occasions as many as twenty or thirty are present. As an encouragement to others in a similar position, here is a brief report of our recent outreach efforts.

We began by arranging a Harvest Tea in the chapel on a Sunday in 1968. For some years the harvest produce had been distributed to elderly people in the town and these were invited to tea and to the service that would follow. We felt that our elderly friends could hardly refuse such an invitation, having enjoyed our harvest gifts on a number of occasions. All the elderly people in Gold Street were visited and others in the rest of the town. Transport was offered to all those who needed it. About forty visitors came to tea and all except one (a Roman Catholic) stayed for the evening service. About twenty of our guests come from Gold Street alone and most had never been inside the chapel before. This was a breakthrough indeed and many of our guests said they had felt very much at home and they would be coming again. The harvest teas have continued with about the same number attending.

Monthly Guest Services were arranged when the attendance usually went up to about seventy. Refreshments were provided after these services v/hen an opportunity was provided for conversation with our guests. The monthly Guest Services have been held during the winter each year and our guests love to come. What is even more important several of our friends now feel free to come on the Sundays in between and some come quite regularly.

Another form of outreach is the house-to-house visitation. An Outreach Committee was appointed whose responsibility it was to divide the town into areas and to see that these were systematically covered each month. A leaflet was designed giving brief details of the services held at Gold Street Chapel, a short message, an outline of our beliefs and an offer of assistance to anyone in need. Four thousand of these leaflets were printed and the occupants of each house visited are given a copy and also an invitation to a Guest Service. About twenty helpers from the assembly are engaged in this house-to-house visitation and about two hundred homes are visited each month. Any useful information gained is recorded on a card index and these addresses are followed-up again. Some useful contacts have been made and some have shown a lively interest. Quite a number have appreciated our concern for them and have invited us inside for a chat.

We have been invited to conduct occasional services at the Alms Houses. About forty of the residents meet together once a month in the Common Room for a service of worship and praise. These people like to hear the good, old Gospel and they always look forward to our visits.

We are now producing a quarterly magazine, "Contact", which is distributed to all who show interest when visited. The magazine contains a short evangelistic message and details of any special services we are holding.

At the beginning of 1969, Saturday Venture, designed for teenagers was introduced. These are held monthly and take the form of Coffee Bars with a well known group in attendance. At first they were held in the Chapel, but are now held in the British Legion Hall. A barbecue has also been held when about two hundred young people were present. By this means, many young people who do not normally attend a place of worship have heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. We know of at least one young man who has been converted through Saturday Venture and he is now in happy fellowship at Gold Street, and for this we praise the Lord.

These then, are some of the ways we are endeavouring to reach out to the unreached and we praise God for any measure of blessing we have experienced.

In 1968 the Gold Street magazine, "The Link", was revived. It had been issued for a time, some years before, when Mr. Arthur Mitson was the editor. The magazine ceased publication when Arthur left the town to enter the London Bible College. About one hundred copies are duplicated each quarter and in addition to local members of the Assembly receiving a copy, copies are sent to various parts of the country to friends who formerly worshipped at Gold Street. We are constantly getting letters from friends who tell us that by means of "The Link" they are able to pray intelligently for the work and witness in the town. We were very humbled recently to get a letter from an 83 year old sister, who is an invalid but who has prayed for us daily since leaving the district quite a few years ago. All the blessing we have had in recent years, and we have had a lot, is not due to us but to those who from behind the scenes, have upheld us at the throne of grace. Prayer is the most powerful weapon we can use and we neglect it to our cost. Can we make the following verses our prayer?

An Intercessor

Make me an Intercessor
One who does really pray
One of the Lord's Remembrancers
By night as well as by day,

Make me an Intercessor
In spirit touch with Thee,
Who given the heavenly vision
Prays through to victory

Make me an Intercessor
Teach me how to prevail,
To stand my ground and still pray on,
Though powers of hell assail.

Make me an Intercessor
Till pleading at Thy throne,
The joys and sorrows of other lives,
Become my very own.

A generous gift by the late Miss Hagger made possible the purchase of a Hohner Electronic Organ. In September 1968 the organ was used for the first time on Sunday mornings. It was felt that there was no scriptural reason for unaccompanied singing. Most agree that our singing is more glorifying to God and more worthy of Him when it is accompanied, than when it is not.

Another change introduced at this time was the planning of ministry after the Breaking of Bread. Speakers are now booked in advance but nearly all come from our own Assembly, This

makes it possible for a subject to be prepared in advance which is more to the edification of believers than unprepared ministry. There are very few brethren who can give helpful ministry without prior preparation. The Sunday morning service is the best-attended meeting of the week and it is important that the ministry given on these occasions should be profitable to all. Planned ministry does not mean that we have dispensed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can guide just as well a week in advance as He can at the present moment, We are exhorted to do things decently and in order and on the whole, our experience of planned ministry has been very profitable indeed.,

This year we changed to a new hymnbook - quite an event in the life of any Assembly. For many years we had used "Hymns of Praise and Spiritual Songs" on Sunday mornings and "Golden Bells" on Sunday evenings. The large size copies of Golden Bells are now out of print so an alternative had to be found, After much discussion, it was decided to purchase "Hymns of Faith" with the Mitchley Supplement as an all-purpose hymn book, suitable for both Sunday mornings and evenings too.

In recent years, two brethren and a sister who had links with the Hill Street Assembly have been called home.

In 1968 Mr, Frank Faircloth went to be with the Lord at the age of 98 years. Before his retirement Mr. Faircloth was a well-known and respected builder in the town. He took a keen interest in all assembly activities, especially the work among young people. He was most regular in attendance and right up to the end ministered and prayed on Sunday mornings. A brother who did a lot behind the scenes, he was and still is, greatly missed.

Mr. William Reed was called home in June 1970 at the age of 83. He was one of the trustees of the assembly and was in fellowship at Gold Street until he moved to Bishop's Stortford with his family. Mr. Reed, who was never seen without his buttonhole, was a regular attender at our conferences and a frequent speaker, until failing health made it impossible for him to come. He was a happy Christian with a deep love for the Lord and for His Word. The Bishop's Stortford Assembly sent Mr. Reed a buttonhole every week right up to the time of his death. Just before his death, Mr. Reed provided valuable information on the early days of the assembly, vividly recalling incidents and personalities of his childhood. He was very much looking forward to reading this account of assembly Witness in the town, but this was not to be and he has gone to be "with Christ which is far better".

Just prior to the publication of this story, Mrs. Alice Dewey went to be with the Lord at the age of 96. Mrs. Dewey was then living at Stanley Wilson Lodge and had been unable to attend the meetings for some time. She was a member of the Hill Street Sunday School and her passing breaks a link with the Assembly's early history.

Chapter Eleven



The Present and the Future

The members of the oversight at the present time are:

Messrs. G. Brown, J. Pettitt, G. Holmwood and R. Mitson.

The deacons are:

Messrs. A. Banks, J. Holmes and S. Tuck.

The trustees are:

Messrs. J. Banks, G. Brown, J. Pettitt and R. Mitson.

We are happy to report that we have over fifty in fellowship at Gold Street Chapel. There are also twenty-eight who are the children of members of the Assembly. During term time we are pleased to welcome a number of students from the College of Education, sometimes as many as eight are present on Sunday mornings. Some of these are members of other denominations but have made their spiritual home at Gold Street during their stay in the town.

During a weekend last year, thirty-five Cambridgeshire scouts stayed at the local Youth Hostel. One of the objects of their visit was to attend the nine churches in the town to observe the various forms of worship and then to write a report of their impressions. On the Sunday morning they split up into groups and four of them attended Gold Street. We wondered what their reactions would be attending the Lord's Supper in an Assembly for the first time. We discovered afterwards from the Scoutmaster, that all the groups compared notes, and in "Which" terminology, the joint best buys were the Pentecostal Church and Gold Street Chapel. They were particularly impressed by the warmth of the welcome and the fact that they were made to feel so much at home. May all who visit "Gold Street" come away with a similar impressions.

The keynote of our future plans is still "Outreach". The house-to-house visitation will continue and we hope to welcome many friends at the Guest Services, But we shall not be content just with good attendances, we want to see the Holy Spirit at work in bringing about real conversions, We shall be praying and working to this end.

We are planning to develop and expand our children's and young people's work. Here are brief details.

This report goes to press just before our Vacation Bible School takes place on the Memorial Playing Fields. The school will last for one week and will be led by Mr. Jim Fraser of Chadwell St. Mary. We are erecting four tents on the playing fields and meetings will be held each day from 9.50 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. A varied programme has been planned, including Bible Teaching, stories, verse learning, practical work and games, etc. The whole assembly is involved in the Vacation Bible School, some are teachers, some are helpers and all are pray-ers. The cost of the V.B.S., just over £100 has been fully covered by gifts, even before we commence. We are looking forward to boys and girls coming to know the Lord and greater numbers attending the Sunday School and Bible Class as a result of the V.B.S.

Immediately following the V.B.S. the reorganised youth programme will come into operation. On two nights each week the young people will meet as follows:

Tuesday Club	Boys 8-11 years	5-45 p.m.
Tuesday Club	Boys 12-15 years	7.30 p.m.
Thursday Club	Girls 8-11 years	5.45 p.m.
Thursday Club	Girls 12-15 years	7.30 p.m.

These will not be run as meetings on the traditional pattern. Instead there will be a period of games and recreation, a devotional period followed by classes, e.g. angling, model-making and stamp collecting for boys and soft-toy making, fashion design and dress sense for girls. In addition, each group will be able to purchase soft drinks, crisps etc. Those who come will be expected to attend Sunday School or Bible Class unless they already attend another place of worship. It is hoped that quite a number of those who attend the V.B.S. can be linked up with the Tuesday or Thursday Clubs. About twelve people have volunteered to help with these mid-week activities.

The teenagers will be catered for by Saturday Venture with a slightly revised programme. Instead of monthly coffee bars, a concentrated effort will be made during one week-end a quarter (Friday to Sunday).

This is an unfinished story and the future with all its challenge and opportunity is in the Lord's hands. From a small beginning in 1870 in Hill Street the work has grown to what it is today. We can only join with the Psalmist and say **"This is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes". Psalm 118 v.23.**

Now that one hundred years of witness has been completed, a new chapter opens. The methods of 1970 are so different to those of 1870 but the message remains the same. The Lord's return is much nearer now than it was when the work began. Let us be quick to seize every opportunity of making Him known. May the Lord's urgency be ours "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work". John 9 v.4.

The desire of all at Gold Street is to glorify God in worship and witness and we finish the story where we began

"Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it". Psalm 127 v.1