

# Hutton Cranswick Methodist Church



Celebrating  
150 years of worship



# Hutton Cranswick Chapel Anniversary

## 18 April 2012

Thank you for joining us for this celebration service to mark 150 years of worship in this building. Although some form of Methodism was being practiced in the village before this building was constructed worship in this our current church building commenced in 1862. Land was bought the previous year for the sum of £90 from a local man, a William Moore of Burn Butts, just across the main road from here and work commenced immediately. According to records there are two glass bottles buried underneath the floorboards, one of which contains the names of the trustees, the circuit ministers and the architects and the other contains copies of 'The Watchman', 'The Methodist Recorder' and 'The Drifffield Times'. It took a year to complete the building and we know that the first service was held on the afternoon of April 1st 1862 with a further service being held in the evening, both were well attended with many being unable to get in, quite a thought when you consider that the Chapel could hold up to 300 people.

The original building looks much the same as it does today, although the inside has seen many changes with a change of pews in 1891 from the box type with doors to those that you see now, although 120 years on discussions and plans to modernise the interior may well see these pews being exchanged for a more comfortable and modern type of seating. The original building was heated by two coke combustion stoves and lighting was provided by oil. If you look above you a chandelier used to hang from the centre of the ceiling rose, this provided the main source of light. Today it is hard to imagine the building being filled with the aroma of smoke in a dimly lit atmosphere, especially on a dull day. Maybe the closest we get to this now is during our Christmas Carol Service when the lights are turned off and candles are lit providing a truly magical and spiritual feel to the building.

Things improved for the congregation in 1917 with the installation of a new central heating system and then in 1932 electric lights were installed. Very little has changed since then with electricity being our only source of light

and heating. Back in the 1960's the centenary of this Chapel took place along with the other two Chapels that existed back then. Today only one of the other Chapels remains standing, although not used as a place of worship. This building still stands in Hutton on Orchard Lane, it was built in 1850 at a cost of £144 and seated 100 people. The last service at Hutton was held on the last Sunday of June 2009. This was a lovely sunny day which allowed for the serving of tea and cakes to be taken in the garden at the rear of the Chapel where many people were able to enjoy the warm weather and reminisce. On September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 the amalgamation of Hutton Chapel and Cranswick Chapel took place, thus forming what is now known as Hutton Cranswick Church.

Our Chapel was originally named The Trinity Methodist Church Cranswick but changed to Cranswick Methodist Church after the amalgamation of the third Chapel known as Central Chapel which was situated on Southgate overlooking the village Green. Worship ceased there in the late 1960 's and the land sold. The decision to demolish and sell the land would not have been an easy one but was seen as necessary. The Minister at the time was Rev F.J. Renouf and in 1965 he became the first minister to live in the newly purchased 'Manse' which was also situated on The Green. The Manse saw its last occupant, Rev'd Dale Cotton, leave last year and the property has now been sold with the current Minister and his family now living in Driffield.

An extension was added to the back of the Chapel in the 1970's enabling the extra space to be used not only for church events but also for the local community. Today the building is used on a regular basis by the Scouts, Girl guides, Playgroup, Toddler group as well as being rented out for private functions and of course for any Church activities.

For those who remember in 1974 the nation was hit by general strikes that started in January and continued to March. During that time it was not possible to hold regular Sunday services in the Chapel so at the generosity of the congregation services were held in members homes providing a warmer and brighter environment to worship. Normal services were resumed on Easter Day, I'm sure this would have been momentous day celebrating our risen Lord and worshipping in this building once again.

Other events that have occurred over the last fifty years and within the lifetime of many of our current members include - on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1977 at a special service two silver inscribed bowls were presented to the Chapel by the RAF to mark the occasion of their departure from RAF Leconfield. Also in 1977 Sunday evening services ceased.

Following the kind donation of the Johnson family, in 1980, the Chapel was carpeted.

During 1984 a group of young people from the Capernray Bible College spent a couple of nights sleeping in the hall and joining Phil Clarke in pastoral visits in the area and encouraging our own congregation. Also around this time a Youth Club was started, called Shell Club. It encouraged the youth of the village to meet and take part in activities, this proved to be a very successful event for many years continuing long after Phil left.

During the 1980's there was a very well attended Sunday School and many of the children along with other members of the church often took part in the annual village carnival decorating a float, we even won one year.

Various fellowship groups have commenced and continued in one way or another over the years. Some of the recent ones in our history have included the Focus group formed in the 1980's when the then Ministers wife Janet Clarke decided that there was a need for the younger women of the Chapel to be able to meet. These meetings were held in members homes and originally started meeting in the afternoons and then over the years as families grew the group started meeting in the evenings and renamed itself Osmosis.

The Chapel has always been keen to support the local community and in the 1990's Rev Graham Ransom and his wife Gillian began a luncheon club for those who live alone in the village. This has proved successful and much appreciated by all who have over the years attended each second Wednesday of the month and enjoyed the meals produced by Kathy Hales who is always at the forefront of any event where food is provided. Kathy also organises the Paul Wheeler concerts and the coffee mornings.

Win Pickering another of our members who gives her time and energy into working tirelessly for the life of this Chapel has, for a number of years, been the leader and an inspiration to all who attend the Wednesday afternoon 'pleasant hour' an opportunity for chat prayer and to listen to the various guest speakers. Win along with her husband Laurie have, for a number of years, given up their home to a number of Bible Study and fellowship groups and also organise and provide the setting for our annual 'Cream Teas' event.

During the 1990's and under the guidance of our very first female ( and to date only) minister the Rev Linda Day, started 'The Alpha Courses' these have continued over the years bringing new people to Christ and encouraging all who have attended. As a result of these courses a number of House groups were formed some of which still meet today. These groups are a mixture of denominations and have brought together a closer relationship with our friends at St. Peter's Church in Hutton.

This relationship resulted in Rev Dale Cotton and Rev Ruth Hind, the then vicar of St Peter's, joining forces in a new type of worship, a monthly midweek service called LINK, a lively modern service with it's own music group 'The Revelation'. These services have proved very popular.

It has now become an annual event for us to join together with St Peter's during the summer and hold a service on 'The Green' and over the last few years these have been well attended and have provoked positive feedback from the villages with many people attending who don't normally attend our Churches.

The Chapel has had a number of recent changes with the modernisation of the lower hall section which has been greatly improved bringing modern facilities and a new vestry. Inside the Chapel some changes were made including easy access into the Chapel for the less able. The addition of the wooden Cross above the pulpit is much admired and adds to the beauty of the building. Eventually further changes will take place to improve our building.

So like the building itself we have had to evolve and grow , change is not always appreciated at the time is sometimes resisted, but it is essential we need to look forward and find new ways to encourage and bring new life into the Church and continue to inspire those already here to ensure its future. We have a duty as Christians to inspire and to witness to those who have not found the Love of Christ. So as we look back today over the last 150 years let us also remember to look forward and welcome and embrace change.

Although we are here to celebrate our Chapel anniversary we have to acknowledge that this building would not be present today if it were not for the people who attend and maintain it. The people are the heart of the Chapel and over the years it has been a place where lives have been touched by the presence of the Lord and should continue to do so. It has been well supported by its members both old and new and by those now departed from this life. We are proud of what they have done and continue to do, for their time and for the work to ensure the smooth running of this place. Some quietly go about their work inspiring and leading by example and others have gone on to lead and witness to the glory of God. We thank God for them.

We have also been blessed over the history of this Chapel, to have been led by some inspiring preachers all very different in their approaches but all with the same goal to guide us and teach us, and today we are fortunate to have someone from the past as well as our current minister to join us in this special occasion. We thank both Phil and his wife Janet for their contribution to this service and for the work they carried out in the 1980's. We know he inspired many of those who are here today and know that he continues doing so today. Ian and Jackie have only been with us a short time but bring with them a wealth of experience and a different style of worship; we look forward to many years of their contribution to Hutton Cranswick Chapel and the area they serve. We also thank all those who have contributed to this service today.

We thank God for this building and those who worship and serve and pray for the continuation of the work of our Lord here. May we be inspired to

not only continue the work, but also to reach out to our community and be the people of God that He so desires us to be.

God Bless

Margaret Collinson & Carol Cooper

