

Special Events for 2022

Friday, 25 th March 7.30pm	Opening Numbers	Wigan Community Choir
Saturday, 23 rd April 7.30pm <i>Sunday School Anniversary Week-end</i>	All our Yesterdays	Cine and Video memories of members, events and activities
Saturday, 28 th May 7.30pm	Men with a Message	An evening with Deep Harmony Christian Male Voice Choir
Sunday, 5 th June (after morning Service) Platinum Jubilee Holiday	Jubilee Lunch	Fellowship Buffet Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II
Saturday, 9 th July 7.30pm	Party in the Grounds	Anniversary Cream Teas
Saturday, 27 th August from 2.00pm <i>Bank Holiday Weekend</i>	Men's Day	Table Games
Saturday, 24 th September from 2.00pm <i>Harvest Week-end</i>	Sausage Sizzle	Hot Dogs and fellowship
Saturday, 29 th October 7.30pm <i>Church Anniversary Week-end</i>	Listen to the Band	An evening with Pemberton Old Band
Saturday, 26 th November from 2.00pm <i>Ladies' (WA) Anniversary Week-end</i>	Ladies' Day	Crafts and Fellowship (including refreshments)

Note: Details may be subject to change.

Bank Holidays marked in orange. Church "Specials" in purple

Please check Notices and Press for changes!

Everyone Welcome

© Mount Zion IM Church, Pemberton, 1st March 2022

Mount Zion

Independent Methodist Church and Sunday School
Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8ET
Registered Charity Number 249330



Celebrating

150

Years of Service

The Third Phase:

1972 – 2022

Appendix 2 Bibliography [Suggested further reading]

“A Short History of Independent Methodism” (1905)

A. Mountfield

“History of Independent Methodism” (1920)

J. Vickers

“Souvenir Year Book” (1934)

Mount Zion IM Church

“The Origins of Independent Methodism” (1945)

A. Walker

“Independent Methodist History –The Third Fifty Years” (1955)

J Murray

“Centenary History” (1972)

Mount Zion IM Church

“Peter’s People” (1996)

J. Dolan

“The Independent Methodists” (2005)

J. Dolan

Appendix 1 Leadership at Mount Zion 1972 - Present

Presidents

1972-73 C. Beckett
1973-74 D. Beardsmore
1975-76 B. Croston
1977 J. Banks
1978-79 G. B. Hart
1980-82 J. Whatton
1983-90 Presidential Team
(i) J. Whatton / G. B. Hart
(ii) W. Lancaster / B. Lancaster
(iii) L. S. Pennington / B. Croston
(iv) C. Beckett / K. F. Owen serving on a rota basis
1991-Present Mr J. Whatton

A full list of Current Officers is on display in church

Ministers

1972-84 N. Johnson / J. Banks
1984 J. Banks
1984 J. Banks / S. Tickle
1990 J. Banks
2000 **Pastoral Team**
M. E. Whatton /
G. B. Hart
2014 G. B. Hart

Trustees and Executive

2000 – Present
Following re-structure of the Trustees / Governing Body in line with Charities Commission guidelines, the **Executive**, (Minister plus President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer [Annually Elected Officers]) was appointed to fulfil the responsibilities of the **Trustees**

Foreword

The History of the Independent Methodist Denomination has been researched and published in several authoritative, well-researched books since its “birth” in 1800-05, some of which are no longer available in print. [See Appendix 2: Bibliography, p.11]

As we venture into our 150th year, it was felt appropriate to update the story – to look at the changes that have taken place over the last 50 years (1972 – 2022) in the life, ministry and service of Mount Zion Independent Methodist Church at the junction of Ormskirk Road and Enfield Street, Pemberton.



Mount Zion IM Church as in 1872

Activities at Mount Zion



Mount Zion Church and Sunday School 1972

From 1972 until 2014/15, both Church and Sunday School Buildings continued to be used for regular meetings for Sunday and week-day meetings and activities by the departments of the Church and Outside Bodies.

The majority of activities, with the exception of Sunday Services and Choir Practices, took place in the Sunday School Building in Enfield Street.

These included:

Sunday School classes, Meetings and Children's Missions

Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Christian Endeavour Meetings –these were often held in members' homes

Women's Auxiliary – Ladies' Devotional Meeting

Men's Fellowship Meetings

Children's Thursday Club Meetings

Coffee Mornings

Social Evenings,

Concerts,

Quiz Nights

and use by outside agencies including:

Judo Club

Mum and Toddler Club

Miss Sutcliffe's Dance School

Wigan Council – use for Social Services meetings and as a Polling Station for local and General Elections

Throughout this time, necessary repairs and improvements including upgrades to the Stage Lighting equipment, installation of gas fires and electric infra-red wall heaters to the Primary class rooms, a new fitted Kitchen and Heating System in the Sunday School Building.

We thank God for His support and guidance over that last 150 years and trust that, by His grace, many more men, women, boys and girls will, come to a Personal Relationship with Him, through the example and witness of Mount Zion IM Church.

May God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Barry Hart'.

G. Barry Hart [Minister]

On behalf of the Executive, Officers and Members of Mount Zion IM Church and Sunday School



Current Church interior

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact:

Mr. B. Lancaster (Church Secretary); Tel: 01942 226123
404, Billinge Road, Highfield, Pemberton, WIGAN, WN3 6BL

Looking to the Future!

Since our foundation in 1872, our objective, as a Christian fellowship, has been, and still is, to provide a Place of Christian Worship which serves our community.

Throughout the years we have honoured our commitment to spreading the Gospel of Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ and have endeavoured to offer the “hand of fellowship and friendship” to all we meet. We have always enjoyed good relationships with other local church fellowships and have engaged in shared social and spiritual events, to our mutual benefit.

We have all felt the effects of the Covid19 pandemic in some way or another, yet, during this period we have strengthened our links within our own and other local church fellowships, through our weekly **e.mail** and **Facebook Services**, monthly **Newsletter**, and having set up a “**WhatsApp**” group and a **Facebook** page (and soon hope to have our own **Website**) The friendliness and warmth of our fellowship is often commented upon by visitors to our church.

In the recent past, resulting from the success of our regular weekly **Coffee Morning**, and through an initiative supported by Wigan MBC, we launched “**MOZAIC**”, a drop-in Dementia Café, offering activities to sufferers and short respite periods for their carers. Unfortunately, the uptake was very poor and the café closed after a period of one year.

The repurposing and remodelling of the Church interior provided us with greater flexibility in its use so that the activities that we originally held in the Sunday School Hall have, in the main, transferred well to their “new home” in the Church building – the only casualties being **Miss Sutcliffe’s Academy of Dance** and the **Judo Club**, which have found new homes elsewhere, the closure of the **Christian Endeavour** and **Men’s Fellowship** groups (due to lack of members) and **Thursday Club** [Youth Club] (as most of our Sunday School Scholars are still too young to attend). Our hope is that, when the “time is right” that the **Thursday Club** will be re-introduced.

A warm invitation to all our activities is extended to all.

A Time for Change

In 2014, with attendance in decline and remedial works required on both Church and Sunday School, the decision to have both buildings inspected was taken.

As expected, both buildings required considerable repair and the decision was taken to dispose of the Sunday School and use the monies realised to refurbish and repurpose our facilities in the “New” (1934) Church building

Mount Zion IM Church has had a long-standing relationship with Pemberton Old (Wigan) Bands who purchased the Sunday School Building for conversion for use as a Band Room, Practice and Performance Venue – thus keeping the “suite of Buildings” intact.

An extensive programme of alterations, including re-ordering, overseen by the Executive, was planned, in consultation with Architects, **Schafer Associates** of Ashton, and approved by the membership over a series of meetings.

The works commenced, in Spring of 2016, with the removal of the fixed pews, sanding, sealing and varnishing the floor and installation of upholstered chairs.

The pulpit was later dismantled and the re-claimed timber used to construct a screen to provide a storage area for chairs and tables, in part of the North Transept alcove.



Mount Zion Sunday School.
Coffee Morning c 2002



Pews out



Chairs in



Sunday School Room

In order that the work of the Sunday School would not be interrupted by the disposal of the Sunday School building, the former Minister's Vestry was refurbished. This involved completely rebuilding the bay window, including brickwork and window frame, replacement of the roof and light fitting, redecorating and recarpeting.



Office / Meeting Room

The former Choir Vestry was redecorated and refitted to serve as an Office and/or Meeting Room.

Both WCs at the East end of the church were refurbished, redecorated and the Sanitary ware replaced. The Cloakroom/kitchen area at the West end of church was converted into a WC with full "disabled access"



One of the refitted WCs

The fabric of the large West Gable Tracery Window was, as part of the Structural Inspections, found to be in such a poor condition that the decision to replace it, with a double glazed, hard wooden unit (as the cost of a like for like replacement would have been far too expensive), was taken; the works being carried out by **Abbey Windows**.



West Gable Replacement Window

The remaining windows to the East Gable and the North and South elevations were also replaced with brown upvc frames with "decorated" triple glazed units, two of which have locking "opening lights" to provide ventilation.



East Gable Replacement Windows

To provide a further Meeting room for the Sunday School, it was later decided to remove the 1917 Pendlebury Pipe Organ and convert the "Organ Loft". The design and oversight by **Mike Allen**, while all the removal, construction, reinstatement of the façade and decoration works were carried out by the men of the church.



New Sunday School Room

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Tea station

A new Tea-bar/Catering area, necessary electrical supplies for appliances were designed and installed at the rear of Church, by **Elite Kitchens**. The Sound and Loop Systems were upgraded by **Makerfield Installations** and the interior lighting by the men of the church



Facade refitted
(looks like it's never been disturbed!)

Further photographs of the progress of the refurbishment works to the Church buildings are on display in the church.