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Primitive Methodism at Aylestone Park



An interesting ceremony took place at Aylestone Park on the afternoon of Good Friday in the presence of several hundred persons. The Primitive Methodists of this rapidly increasing adjunct to the village of Aylestone have for the last eight years conducted their worship in a temporary wooden building, ministers from the neighbourhood having from time to time placed their services at the disposal of the congregation.

The cause speedily developed after its commencement. The Sunday School now boasts of some two hundred members and the congregations have so largely increased that it was found imperative to have a more commodious and capacious place of meeting. A new and what promises to be pretty structure has consequently been commenced upon, and Good Friday afternoon was the occasion of the laying of the memorial stones.

The building is situated at the junction of the Kingston and Cavendish Roads. Its dimensions inside will be about 44½ feet x 33 feet and calculated to hold about five hundred persons. It will be of plain red brick, with stone dressings in the front and somewhat after the Gothic style of architecture. The cost will be something like £1500 and no doubt Messrs W Langton & Son of Enderby, the contractors will, under the direction of the architect Mr J Wills of Derby, make an edifice which will not only serve the purposes for which it is being constructed, but also be an ornament to the neighbourhood.

Among those present at the ceremony were the Revs J Odell, N Haigh, N Jefferson and J Gair, Messrs T Lawrence, W Windram and W Langton (the contractor) and Councillor J Underwood. The opening hymn "All Hail the Power" was heartily joined in by the assemblage, after which the Rev J Odell offered prayer. Another hymn followed and the Rev J Gair read a portion of scripture. The laying of the stones was then proceeded with. There were four in number and those who performed this interesting ceremony were Mrs Lorrimer, Messrs E Jennings, T Lawrence and W Windram. Each expressed the hope that the work commenced might be carried on with increasing prosperity and be productive of the greatest blessing to the people in the vicinity. A number of bricks having also been laid, a large company assembled for tea in the board school at 4.30pm.

Subsequently a public meeting was convened Mr W Key presiding. Addresses were given by Revs N Haigh, J Gair and others and a pleasant evening was spent. The following subscriptions were promised Mrs Lorrimer £25, Mr T Lawrence £50, Mr E Jennings £25 and Mr Windram on behalf of the scholars and teachers £32. With these and the proceeds of the tea and collection it was expected that the result of the day's proceedings would be the raising of some £250 towards the building fund.