

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL



Chapel interior following the last service in 1984

The congregational chapel was erected in 1907 and could seat 120 people. Mr H E Rogers of Shrewsbury, who also donated the house known as 'The Rest', and two other cottages, gave the site.

The chapel building was of a basic design consisting of a main room, (32' x 10'), a vestry and a storeroom, with double entrance doors leading into the main room, which had elevated stained glass windows. It was built of rendered brick with a clay-tiled roof.

Before this building was created, services had been held from 1858 in the private house known as '1603', but by 1895 the numbers in the congregation had become too large and a room was found at the other end of The Row, and a Sunday school was started. This too, became too small, and the Chapel was then built. Fratzi Limited carried out the building work at a cost of £245, which included preparing the site. Electric light was

installed in 1947, and the building was re-decorated and partly re-furnished in 1952, largely paid for by Colonel and Mrs J W Thompson.

The 50th Anniversary of the opening was celebrated on Wednesday 7th August 1957, with a Service of Thanksgiving followed by a supper and social evening, and the next day there was a party for the Sunday school children. The officers of the church at that time were the minister, Rev H L Hensman (the Manse, Church Stretton), the secretary, Mr F J Joy (Plas Newydd, Church Stretton), and the treasurer, Mr William Wight (Weatherly, Church Stretton).

In 1972 the Congregational Church joined with the Presbyterian Church of England, and became the United Reformed Church.

Services continued in the chapel until the early 1980s, when structural difficulties and reduced congregations caused it to close. The then Minister, Rev. Michael Crutchley asked if he could use St Michael's Church, a request which was gladly welcomed, and the vestry was made into a small chapel for their use, although there are quite frequent combined services.

The property known as 'The Rest' was used as a home of rest for United Reformed Ministers and missionaries during the summer, and let commercially during the winter. The combined rents were used for the upkeep of all three properties.

The Chapel was converted into a house, now called Chapel End, which incorporates a number of the original features of the chapel including the stained glass panels and many items of furniture and fittings.



Chapel End photographed in 2006



In 1957 a special service was held to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Congregational Chapel. This photograph was taken outside the building.

We have identified several people but still have some missing. Please see the table below.

Do you know anybody on the Picture? – please contact us if you can help.

wore a full-length gown of lace and net Manty and Miss ...
over taffeta, with a full-length veil and dressed in lemon net over taffeta with pink accessories.

All Stretton church's 50th anniversary

A SPECIAL SERVICE to commemorate the 50th anniversary of All Stretton Congregational Church was held on Wednesday, when a large congregation attended. The special preacher was Rev. Hector Macdonald, minister of Shrewsbury Abbey Foregate Congregational Church, who was supported by the resident minister, Rev. H. L. Hensman, Church Stretton. Our picture, taken outside the building, shows the two ministers with church workers and members of the congregation.



REV. HECTOR MACDONALD, Shrewsbury, and Rev. H. L. Hensman are in the centre of this "Journal" group, taken after the celebration service on Wednesday evening.



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were Mrs. Sylv
Shirley Richards
full-length ice-b
lemon head-dres
carried bouquet
with matching
Mr. Kenneth
was held at th
bury, after whi
spend their hon
bride travelled
geranium-pink
Bigley: Wels
Welsby, daughter
Welsby, 98, Fr
St. George's Ch
Leslie Bigley; t
Mr. Wells, Mer
service was con
Agnew (vicar)
Arkininstall. T
her father, wor
of parchment r
veil held in pl
pearls, and sh
white camellia
Miss Rosalind
sister) was br
ballerina-lengt
a pearl head-
bouquet of r
J. Simpson we
men were Me
James Bigley,
horseshoes wa
Bigley (page),
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a touring hon
dressed in na

LATE MR. J
and popular
postman in
Clive Smith
on Wednesd
Cophorne H
aged 51. H
the second
Mr. George
Clive, and t
Mrs. Smith
had lived at
hill Post
where his
postmistress,
the past 20

A local newspaper article appeared with the photograph.

All Stretton Congregational Chapel.

Key to photograph taken on 50th anniversary, 7 August 1957

Updated after an interview with Margaret Trow, 12th February 2024

Number	Name	Address/Comments
1	Julie Spurgeon	Maryville, Farm Lane
2	Jean Coles	Leetbotwood
3		
4	Marjorie Locke Evans	
5	Mollie Spurgeon	Maryville, Farm Lane
6	Margaret (or June) Hotchkiss	Farm Lane
7	Mrs Hartley, organist	
8		
9	Miss G. Lee	“Scenic View”, nr Castle Hill
10		
11		
12	Miss Edith Forester	Brooklyn, Shrewsbury Rd (nr Cardingmill)
13	Mr Chambers	Church Stretton
14		
15		
16	Mrs Phylis (Freda?) Jones	Chelsea, Shrewsbury Road
17	The Rev Hensman	The Manse, Church Stretton (by Sandford Hotel)
18	Mrs Rose Jarrett	Sunnydale, Batch Valley
19	Fred Jones	Chelsea, Shrewsbury Road
20	George Dunn, chemist	Worsley/Highlands
21		
22	(Anne Roberts) or Mrs Doreen Wilkes	(Hurstwood Cottage) or The Row
23		
24		
25	Mrs Ada Douglas	The Row
26	Pam Spurgeon	Maryville, Farm Lane
27		
28		

29		
30		
31		
32	Mr Hartley senior	Melverley, Heighways Lane
33		
34		