

Ministers at Bourne

Notes

Appointments were to circuits so there could be overlap. It appears that there were two ministers at a time. One based in Kirkby and a Superintendent based in Sutton.

Details are drawn from the diaries, Edith Searson's book(let) and online resources particularly My Primitive Methodists and, to a lesser extent, My Methodist Memories.

For details of Hartley Training College – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartley_Victoria_College

Taylor

?-1914

Grandad referred to a Rev Taylor being ordained in Mansfield in March 1914 and he subsequently heard him preach in April of that year. He preached a farewell service in August 1914.

Thomas Richard Auty

1914-1918

Not mentioned at all in diaries. Edith Searson recalls him as a young man with a wife and two young boys. In 1918, he became Connexional Sunday School Secretary and a founder member and host of the Methodist Holiday Homes. He was born on 5 July 1885 at Wood Green London and he died in 1971 in Llandudno. He trained at Hartley College and he started ministry in 1910 in Thetford. His wife was Edith Blanche nee Mossop. They had four children – Jabez K (b1915), John Hugh (b1917), Richard Mossop (b1920) and Kathleen M (b1922). It would be the first two of these that Edith Searson recalls.

Matthew Henry Bainton

1912-1918

Not mentioned at all in diaries. Edith Searson mentioned that he was the Superintendent and was based in Sutton. He was in place when Edith arrived in 1917. He was born at Brynmawr, Breconshire in 1881 and he died on 31 December 1966. Before entering the ministry, he had worked in mining. He trained at Hartley College. He married Maria nee Harrison in 1910.

Source: [My Primitive Methodists](#)



Albert Griffiths

1918-1921

Not mentioned at all in diaries. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was born in Pontlottyn, Glamorgan on 26 June 1882, He died on 27 August 1944. He trained at Hartley College and entered ministry in 1909. He married Lily Matilda nee Stephens in 1915. They had a son.

Alexander Surtees

1918-1923

Not mentioned at all in diaries. Edith Searson noted that he lived to be 102 and that she received a letter from him each Christmas. He was born on 24 December 1877 at Spennymoor and he died on 19 January 1979. He entered the ministry in 1903. He married Mary nee Stephenson in 1907 and they had one child Elizabeth Stella (b1908)

William Thomas Edwards

1921-1924

Not mentioned by grandad but mum recalled him coming to speak at a circuit rally and the chapel anniversary in April 1950. At the circuit rally, she said he had been "boring". She noted that he was now living and working in Chester. She noted that the morning service had been good and that 106 people attended at night. Edith Searson recalled him as a much loved pastoral type of Minister but she did not recall anything he said! He was born in Walsall Wood, Staffordshire in 1869 and he died on 25 November 1956. He went to Hartley College in 1916. He was married to Emma. From 1947 to 1954, he was working in the Chester George Street circuit.

Source: [My Primitive Methodists](#)



Edgar Trevvett

1924-1929

This is the first Minister grandad noted in his diary. When he was unwell, Rev Trevvett visited him twice in February and March. Grandad noted going to his farewell service in June 1929. Edith Searson noted that she became a member, in 1926, while he was Minister. Apparently, his name is on the foundation stones, of the commemoration tablet in the Brook Street Hall of St John's Church in Sutton. He was born on 5 January 1890 in Leeds and he died on 12 June 1966. He went to Hartley College in 1916 but was then withdrawn for circuit work. He returned in 1920. He married Margaret nee Paxton in 1922 and they had one child, Edgar Derek (b1925).

Thomas Johns Martin 1923-1928

In April 1948, mum noted that he came to speak. She referred to him as a special man but also noted that the service had been terrible! Edith Searson noted that he was the Superintendent based at Sutton. She noted that she became a member, in 1926, while he was Minister. Apparently, his name is on the foundation stones, of the commemoration tablet in the Brook Street Hall of St John's Church in Sutton. She also noted that when he visited Kirkby he would go to her parents for the day. She also remembered one of his texts which was from Revelation and was "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day". She recalled that they also sang "*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*". He was born in 1875 in Eskdale, Cumberland and he died in 1960. He trained at Hartley College. He married Mary Elizabeth nee Murray in 1906 and they had three children Alice May (b1907), Thomas Murray (b1910) and Lydia Margaret (b1916).

John Harold Charter Rogers 1929-1944

Grandad noted attending his first Sunday on 21 July 1929. He was the Minister who married grandma and grandad in March 1930. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was born in Hull on 5 July 1894 and he died on 15 March 1976. He trained at Hartley College and spent 15 years in Kirkby and Sutton. He married Muriel Doris Maude nee Tinslay in 1926 and they had two children Paul Edwin C (b1930) and John D C (b1933).

Ezra Sellers 1928-1935

He is not mentioned in the diaries. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was born in Sheffield on 30 May 1886 and he died in 1954. He trained at Hartley College and entered the ministry in 1909. He married Gertrude Ruth nee Benstead in 1913 and they had two children – Eileen Ruth (b1915) and John Ezra (b1923).

Victor Elijah Vowles 1935-1938 and 1956-1959

He is mentioned several times in the diaries but there were lots of spellings of his name (Voles, Vowells, Vowles, Vowles). Mum and grandad noted he visited for the weekend in April 1949. In May 1957, when he preached he came to grandma and grandad's house for dinner and tea. Mum also noted that he spoke at Family Circle in April 1960. According to Edith Searson, he served two separate spells at Bourne (but she too spelled his name differently – Vowles and Vowles). Those spells appear to have been from 1935 to 1938 and from 1956 to 1959. He was born on 2 May 1899 in Cwm, Monmouthshire and he died on 11 May 1981. He trained at Hartley College. He married Hazel Kathleen nee Meredith in 1929 and they had one child, Roy M (b1931), but he died aged 6 weeks. His wife Hazel died in 1948.

George Arthur Lofthouse 1938-1942

He is mentioned very extensively in the diaries as he and his wife Ella (nee Martindale, married in 1932) became firm family friends and his daughter, Dorothy, was one of mum's long-term friends and was bridesmaid at mum's wedding. Ella's father was a Primitive Methodist minister, George Gowthorp Martindale. Arthur was born in Brotton in August 1901 and he died in 1991. Following Ella's death, he remarried in 1967 – Jessie nee Marsh. Jessie and Arthur spent their honeymoon with grandma and grandad in Norfolk. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was first a Methodist local preacher and he then trained at Cliff College, following which he worked as a lay pastor. He then went to Hartley College and was ordained in 1932 as one of the last ordinands in the Primitive Methodist Church and one of the first in the uniting conference.



Arthur Lofthouse with his daughter Dorothy

Charles Walter Bowdler Hemshall 1942-1943

Grandad mentions going to hear him and that he is the new minister in September 1942. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was born on 1 May 1899 in Coppenhall, Cheshire and he died on 19 March 1977. He began local preaching aged 16 and he served in the navy during the first world war. He entered Hartley College in 1921 and served as a missionary in (what is now) Zambia from 1924 to 1926. He was married twice, first to Doris nee Parry in 1951. Following her death in 1971, he married Dorothy nee Spurway in 1974.

Gwynne Hodder 1943-1946

He is mentioned extensively in the diaries. In September 1943, grandma and mum went by train to Newstead for a reception for him as a new Minister. Mum noted him frequently as a speaker until 1946. He is not mentioned by Edith Searson in her list. He was born in Tupton, Staffordshire in 1889 and he entered the Wesleyan Ministry in 1915. He died in Dolgellau on 5 March 1965.

Source: [My Primitive Methodists](#)



Rev. George Kendall, C.P.

George Kendall 1944-1948

Mum recorded Rev G Kendall as a speaker several times during 1946. For example, he was the speaker at Newstead Anniversary in June 1946. In February 1947, he spoke on the topic, can we live to be 100? In September 1947, he spoke about Hugh Bourne and William Clowes. Edith Searson noted that *"during the war the Rev George Kendal OBE of the London Kent Road Mission came to be the Superintendent at Sutton. This was in the forties. He had been in the blitz and his nerves were very bad. I remember how ill he looked, we would say he looked a wreck. After a stay of four years as Superintendent he recuperated. He would tell of being out when the enemy planes were over, and how he hid out of the way of them, including in a cemetery at the back of a gravestone. When at Bourne for the day he came to our home, bringing his slippers as he used to say "to be comfortable". He was born in Hoyland in 1882 and he died in 1961. He trained at Hartley College and he started ministry in 1906. He served as a chaplain in the first world war and was awarded an OBE.*

Alfred William Hall

1946-1950

Mum refers to him frequently speaking at chapel and at Youth Club including once on John Wesley in July 1947. He visited her when she was ill in January 1949. She noted that his farewell service was in August 1950. In April 1955, he came back to Bourne for the chapel anniversary. He is mentioned by Edith Searson in a list she provides on p62. He was born on 1 April 1889, in Clapton Gloucestershire, and he died in 1962 in Kingston upon Hull. He entered the Primitive Methodist Ministry in 1915 and spent the years of the First World War with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Greece and Palestine. He served in a variety of country circuits. He married twice – Gertrude Barron in 1920 and Ida Hall in 1954, following Gertrude's death the previous year.

Peter Robinson

1950-?

Mum mentions in August 1950 that the Minister who replaced Alfred Hall was called Peter Robinson. She mentions him a small number of times between 1950 and 1952. He is not mentioned by Edith Searson and I have not found details of him online.

W Taylor

?

Grandad referred to a Rev Taylor being ordained in Mansfield in March 1914 and he subsequently heard him preach in April of that year. He preached a farewell service in August 1914. These references almost certainly refer to a different person. Grandad noted Rev and Mrs Taylor visiting for the day in October 1952. Mum noted in September 1953 that he left to join the Church of England in September 1953.

William Edward Howells

1953-1959

He was Minister at Bourne Methodist Chapel when mum got married. He is first mentioned in mum's diary in September 1953. It seems he may have come to the church at a difficult time as mum refers to the previous minister, Rev W Taylor having left to join the Anglicans. She noted sometimes when he spoke including to the junior youth club in October 1953. In July 1954, mum and dad went with him to Bridge Street for a meeting of Young Methodist torchbearers. He had a car and used it to give lifts to grandad to Mansfield General Hospital in August 1954 for an xray. He also sometimes gave lifts to grandma, e.g. to attend Bright Hour in September 1954. He also helped grandad and mum when they were learning to drive in 1955. In January 1959, he and one of the stewards, Ben Searson took part in a concert as *"Bill and Ben"*. A farewell service was held for Mr and Mrs Howells in August 1959. He visited for the weekend in October 1962 and took both services at Trinity. Edith Searson spells his name Howels and includes him in the list she provides on p62. She also noted the performance that her husband and *"Rev Bill"* gave as *"Bill and Ben"*. He was born in Appledore Devon on 6 December 1920 and his mother's maiden name was Day. He entered the Ministry in 1947. He died in Chelmsford on 2 October 1970. In the 1939 Register, he was living in Northam, Devon and working as a boat builder apprentice. It seems he married Winifred Hartley in Richmond in 1950. Sometimes, in the diaries, grandad mentions Mr and Mrs Howells and Mrs Hartley, so presumably this was Mrs Howells' mother.

Thomas Marlowe

1954-?

In September 1954, mum noted attending a welcome service for Rev Marlowe. Edith Searson also lists a Thomas Marlow among ministers she had known (p62). I have not found details of him online.

James Derrick Leach

1959-?

There are a lot of details about Derrick Leach, and his wife Mary, in the diaries, particularly mum's, as they became firm family friends. For example, they were my godparents. According to mum's diary, Derrick was born on 10 December 1932 and Mary was born on 17 March 1933. Mum referred to him being the new minister in September 1959. The Leaches and my parents frequently visited each other in their own homes and seemed to share a love of board games, such as Totopoly, Careers, Scoop, Flutter, Contraband and Eye Witness. Mum stayed in touch with the Leaches after we moved to Norwich and we visited them whenever we were back in Kirkby. Mum also noted when their daughter, Kathryn Mary was born on 21 May 1962. When mum was struggling with her mental health in February 1967, she went to stay with Mary and Derrick for a week near Preston. He is not mentioned in Edith Searson's book(let) and, he is not among the list of Methodist ministers who entered the ministry after 1932 as that only includes those who died prior to September 2016. I recall that he was minister in Colwyn Bay and I found a reference online to him leading their centenary celebrations in 2005 including a photo. He is also mentioned in the 2018 conference as a letter of concern was written to him and Mary, presumably in relation to his ill-health. I heard from their daughter, Kate Thompson, in 2020. Mary died on 23 May 2020. Derrick had previously died on 4 August 2018.

Source: [Nant-y-Glyn Methodist Church](#)



Rev J Derrick Leach



*Left - News cutting from 1962 concerning opening of new Trinity church. Rev Derrick Leach standing to the right
Above – service in my grandparents garden in Welbeck Street with Rev Leach at the front. Early 1960s*