



Methodist Church	
Location:	Bury Road
Post Code:	IP29 5HP
Year Built:	1926
Status:	No longer in existence
Notes:	The Methodist Church was put up for sale in 2010 and was knocked down in 2011 to make way for a new house. Also see 'Methodist Church Laying of Foundation Stones – 1926' below.

### **Hargrave Methodist Church (Chapel) & Boys' Brigade Hut**

This building was usually referred to as being a Methodist Chapel, however the picture above shows the noticeboard outside the Chapel which clearly states "Hargrave Methodist Church", presumably the Hargrave Methodist Chapel was part of the Methodist Church.

John Wesley frequently addressed audiences in Suffolk throughout his mission, during his journeys to and from Norwich. Hargrave's Methodists are recorded as first meeting in a barn in the village in 1800. Their Chapel was built in 1926 with donated money from villagers and local friends. It was built of Suffolk red brick with pebble-dashed walls and a slate roof. The building was of modest rectilinear form, and had domestic type fenestration.

The Drill Hall, sited immediately to the rear of the Chapel was used mainly by the thriving Boy's Brigade which attracted members from adjoining villages. The Hargrave Brigade was the 8th Mid - Suffolk Company but for the first five years it was known as the 1st Wickhambrook. The first enrolments into the new Company took place on 15th March 1941 before a packed church congregation in Wickhambrook.

Following the early years, when meetings took place first in the Chapel and later in the Village Hall, an ex-RAF Nissun Hut became available in Newmarket, but the Company lacked the wherewithal to get it to Hargrave. The building was full of sanitary fittings - like gold so soon after the war - and a local builder was persuaded that he could have the fittings for re-use provided that he dismantled the building and transported it to Hargrave. Members of the Company then set to, to wire brush and paint every individual component of the building, preparatory to its re-erection.

Mrs. Laura Morley's father made a piece of land available for the building, and after filling in a pond and levelling the ground, the task of concreting the foundations and ground-slab was undertaken. Piles of aggregate and sand were delivered to nearby land and a large concrete mixer was obtained. With meticulous drill (or very nearly!) respective teams shovelled sand or aggregate or cement into the mixer, whilst an equally drilled team barrowed the product across and down the road to the building site. Note that Hargrave only saw about ten cars in those days, and if they tried the same thing today they would probably be run over!. The friendly builder was on hand at site with a team of placers and tampers, and at the end of a very eventful Easter weekend the base was in position. Brickwork followed to a slightly more relaxed timetable and the Company then joined forces again to erect the newly painted frame and panels. They obviously did a good job as the building remained in use for around 60 years.



The Boys' Brigade closed during the 2000s and at the end of 2010 the site, including the Methodist Church, had been sold for re-development. A new house has since been built on the site covered by the Methodist Church and the Boys' Brigade hut. The new house is called, appropriately, Chapelstone.

**Paul Rogers**  
**August 2020**

### **Methodist Church Laying of Foundation Stones – 1926**

For around 85 years the Methodist Church (often called 'The Chapel') provided a centre for religious worship, until falling attendances led to its closure, sale and ultimately its demolition with a new dwelling house built upon the site.

Reading the press article below you can get a feeling of the enthusiasm of those promoting the construction of their first permanent meeting place for themselves and for future Hargrave residents in to the future. Beliefs change however, and we can only hope that they would have been happy when in its heyday it was usually full on Sundays, and overflowing for Anniversary, Harvest Festival, Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve Services.

**The following article was published in the Bury Free Press on the 18 September 1926**

*HARGRAVE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.*

*Stone-laying of a New Church.*

*Yesterday's Ceremony.*

*For some 20 years now, the Primitive Methodists in the village of Hargrave have had to use a small mission room for their devotions, but on Thursday afternoon they commenced a new era in the local life of the church by laying the foundation stones of a new church.*

*The late Mr. Hewson Wray bequeathed £50 for the purpose of new building and from this the nucleus of a building fund was formed. Mr, F. W. Pask offered a piece of ground for the sanctuary, and, further subscriptions coming in, it was decided to get with the work of erecting better place of worship. At the present, there has been given about £100, a further £300 roughly being required to complete the work. Mr. B. Morley has offered to pay for the conveyance of the ground. The Rev. G. Softley, of Newmarket, is the secretary of the fund, while Mr. B. Morley is the hon. treasurer.*

*The new edifice, which is being erected by Mr. George Ellwood, of Barrow, will seat 100 people, and will cost somewhere round £400. It is being built of brick and rough casting and the inside measurements are 32ft. long and 17ft. wide. It is hoped that the church will opened in November.*

#### **YESTERDAYS CEREMONY**

*was conducted by the Rev. W. G. Softley, who was assisted by the Revs. G. A. Lucas (of London and a former minister at Hargrave) and R. W. Chapman (resident minister). Among those present were the Rev. F. J. Pavey (Harrow Congregational Church), Messrs. F. G. Lovelace (Great Barton), E. Bradfield, Bert Newton (Newmarket), —. Frost (Leeds), C. Norman (Wickhambrook), C. Wright (London), B. Morley, Alfred Newton, Jas. Marsh (Newmarket), Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Marsh (Saxham Street), the Misses Bradfield, Mr. D. Clarke (Whepstead), Mr. G. (Barrow), etc.*

*The service opened with the hymn, "I know that my Redeemer lives," followed by prayer by the Rev. R. W. Chapman.*

*In an address, the Rev. W. G. Softley said that they were met that day to lay the foundation stones of a new church, erected, they hoped, to the glory God and to the welfare of the people who might live in Hargrave in the future. They hoped that it would a great blessing to the locality in the years that were to come. That day had been looked forward to for long time. There were to be two memorial stones laid that day, one in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bradfield, to whose kindness the church was indebted for great number of years, for they owned the building in which the services had been held for so long. Mr. Wray had owned the room before that, and the church indeed owed very much to these two families. The other stone was in memory of one of the local preachers of the circuit, who lived a great age and who did a great work in preaching up and down the circuit. He referred to the late Mr. George Phillips, who had occupied the top place on the local preachers' plan, and that spoke volumes for the length of service which he had rendered for Primitive Methodism. Mr. Phillips had lived in the village all his life, while Mr. Bradfield had also been a resident of the village, although not for many years as Mr. Phillips. They were delighted to see present representatives of Mr. Bradfield, but he had to offer a sincere apology for the absence a member of Mr. Phillips' family.*

*Proceeding, the speaker said that the building would cost approximately £400, and to help defray the balance required, those who desired would be given the opportunity of laying stones. In conclusion, he introduced Mr. Lucas, who had been greatly respected during his two years' ministry at Hargrave some 23 years ago. (Applause.)*

*The Rev. G. A. Lucas gave an inspiring address, expressing his joy at once more visiting the village. He extended them the greetings of his present circuit in London, of which he was the secretary, and said that he was sure that from his London friends would come messages of love and goodwill, for they were not less pleased that it was only a village church which was being erected, for much was due to*

## VILLAGE METHODISM

*There was no better work done for God and the homeland than at such places. He spoke of those preferring the big open spaces to the little churches in the worship of God, and said that they wanted a little sanctuary where they could meet in closer communion and fellowship. They asked God's blessing upon their church and that it might be the Bethel of many a soul.*

*After the hearty singing of the hymn "Breathe on me, Breath of God," a collection was taken for the building fund. The memorial stones were laid, Mr. E. Bradfield laying that of his father and mother, and Mr. Pask placing that of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips. The stones were inscribed: "Laid to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bradfield, September, 1926," Mr. and Mrs. Phillips' names of course being inscribed on their stone. A number of those present laid individual bricks upon which they placed donations to the fund.*

*A tea followed the ceremony, while there was a meeting in the evening at which Mr. Bert Newton, of Newmarket, presided, and addresses were given by the Revs G. A. Lucas, W. G. Softley and R. V. Chapman.*

**Nicholas Newman**

**November 2021**

## **Hargrave Chapel Opening Ceremony - 1926**

**The following item was printed in The Suffolk and Essex Free Press on the 16th December 1926.**

*AFTER TWENTY YEARS.*

*Hargrave's New P.M. Church.*

*A twenty-years' desire was consummated Thursday afternoon last, when the Primitive Methodists of Hargrave opened a new chapel. A small Mission Room has, to the present, been used for divine service. The late Mr. Hewson Wray bequeathed £50 for the purpose a new building and from this*

*THE NUCLEUS*

*of a building was formed. Mr F. W. Pask offered a piece of ground for the sanctuary, and further subscriptions coming in, it was decided to get on with the work of erecting a better place of worship. The Rev. W. G. Softley, the Senior Circuit Minister, of Newmarket is the secretary of the fund, while Mr. B. Morley is the hon. treasurer. The building will cost approximately £400, the major portion of which has now been subscribed.*

*The chapel which was erected by Mr. George Ellwood, of Barrow, seats 100 people, and is built of brick and rough casting, the inside measurements being 32ft. long and 17ft. wide. Just about three months ago foundation stones were laid in the presence of a good assembly, which, however, was exceeded on Thursday, when parties came from West Row, Beck Row, Newmarket, Great Barton, Barrow, Wickhambrook, Ousden, Chedburgh and Chevington, those present including the Revs. W. G. Softley, R. W. Chapman, E. Sellers (Wymondham) and R. S. Crompton (Wickhambrook), Mr. F. W. Pask, Mr. and Mrs. B. Morley, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay (Southwood Park), Mr. Sanderson (Wickhambrook), Mr. Frank Lovelace (Great Barton), Mr. Ellwood, Mr Norman (Wickhambrook), Mr. A. Newton (Newmarket), Mr. G. Hurrell (Circuit Steward), Miss Banks (Barrow), Messrs. A and H. Phillips (West Row), etc.*

## THE CEREMONY

*Opened with the hearty singing outside the edifice of the hymn "All hail the power of Jesu's name," following which the Rev. R. W. Chapman read Psalm lxxxiv., while the Rev. R. S. Crompton led in prayer.*

*On behalf of the church and circuit, the Rev. W. G. Softley extended a hearty welcome to the visitors and remarked that that was*

### A GREAT DAY

*in Hargrave because they now had the consummation of their earlier effort of laying the foundation stones. "We have lived to see the church erected and ready for the worship of God. We stand as a Free Church and we desire to extend the Kingdom of God in our midst – that is the purpose for which the church was erected. We hope to be able to maintain services here down the ages by those who are ordained to the work of preaching either as ministers or as laymen."*

*Mr. Ellwood then handed the key of the building to Mrs. Morley, who proceeded to open the church, remarking that she felt that no one was more interested in the chapel than herself. (Hear, hear.) "The project has been in our minds and hearts for a number of years and, through the providence and blessing of God, the happy day has arrived (Hear, hear.) I trust that it will be the centre of great spiritual activity and that many will realise it to be a Bethel indeed (Hear, hear.) To the honour and glory of God, I open this chapel." (Applause)*

*Mrs. Morley was presented with a beautiful bouquet of pink and white carnations, made by Mr. J Clarke, by little Miss Irene Pask.*

*The church was filled for the service which followed, the Rev. E. Sellers preaching an eloquent sermon.*

*In the evening, Mr Lovelace presided at a meeting, Mr. A. J. Hurrell being vice-chairman. An address was given by the Rev. E. Sellers. Mr. Norman presided at the organ throughout.*

**Nicholas Newman**  
**June 2022.**