

Commencement of Rev Thomas Gilbert's Pastorate October 3rd 1847

Zion Chapel - Highworth

This record is extracted from the Church Book of the Zion Chapel in Highworth:-

"The Pastorate of Thomas Gilbert commenced October 3rd 1847
I, Thomas Gilbert, late Pastor of the Congregational
Church at Wheathamstead, Hertfordshire, (where I
was ordained April 23, 1841) do this day enter upon
my ministerial duties in Zion Chapel Highworth, Wilts,
(having received a cordial & unanimous invitation from
the Church) humbly relying on the blessing of the Master
whom I serve, to make me very useful in extending the
limit of his visible Kingdom in this town, establishing
the people in the faith of the Gospel."

More Church Minutes:-

"Office bearers in this Church, January 1, 1848
Thomas Gilbert, Pastor
Thomas Angell, Deacon
William Henry Heyes, Deacon"

"1848, April It being found necessary to enlarge the
Chapel, a meeting of friends was convened for the purpose
of considering the matter and the sum of £70 raised
by them in aid of such enlargement. The Chapel
was closed for about 2 months and Divine Service performed
in a large room at the old workhouse. On the completion
of the alterations, we again met in our "beautiful house".
Thanking God & taking courage (cost of enlargement £207)
(Chapel reopened July 20th 1848)"

Source: "Highworth United Reformed Church – A Short History 1777-1977" by R A Beck

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