

Mere Methodist Church



The Methodist Church, In North Street, was built in 1846, using local stone. At that time it was the Primitive Methodist Chapel, but after Methodist Union in 1932, it became the Mere Methodist Church. It now forms part of the Shaftesbury and Gillingham circuit.

A manse was built in 1852 which later became a caretakers cottage. A new manse was built in 1903, was converted in 1968 into two flats, the lower one reserved for the Minister.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century various improvements were made including a one manual pipe organ, and a gallery to increase the number of seats. In those days members paid a rental for their pews. A school room was built behind the chapel in 1874.

Further improvements came in 1936 with a new pulpit, a communion rail, electric light and a two-manual pipe organ.

During WWII the Methodist Church was the only one in Mere which could be blacked out, and combined evening services were held there. The school room was used as a restroom for servicemen; it was manned by all denominations and sing-songs were held after the evening services. The Caisson Choir (U. S. Army) gave concerts in the church.