



Baptist Church

The ministry started here with cottage services. James Sly (1814-1882), originally from Faringdon ran the Post Office and was one of the original lay preachers.

The first services of the Baptist Tabernacle in Bright Street were held on 16th and 17th February 1878, this building was sold May 1882.

The current chapel was 20 perches of land bought by Mr. Whiteman for £100. Mr. William Drew was asked to draw up the plans. The brick Gothic structure was built by Mr. Thomas Barrett for £600 to house about 250 worshippers. The memorial stone was laid by Mr. J. Holden and it opened for services on 20th October 1883.

In 1902 it was extended to include a Sunday school and gallery; the Gallery was never built. The first baptism was on 28th August 1904 conducted by Rev. Fred Shallard and 8 members were baptised. The upper room of the church hall was used during the war by Fire Watchers.

The latest church extension was opened on 25th November 2000 on land which was originally a toilet block and car park, the new building has 8 rooms including a kitchen and classrooms which can be used for community events.

With thanks to Gorse Hill Baptists for supplying details of History.