

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Source WSHC, Chippenham – document reference 1472/75

In 1806 Mordon and Wanbro' Chapel Registered

Notice of the opening of the Independent Chapel at Swindon in
the Evangelical Magazine Jany 26 1804 – May No. 236

nb: it is interesting to note in the early 19th century an independent cause began in the Wanborough Parish and a chapel was built in 1806. This was fostered by John Strange, lord of the manor, who provided a site and also was a member of the Strange family of nonconformists who were active in Swindon (source..British History online)

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Church Meeting held 26th February 1833

F B Moens, Chair

20 present.

Brother. Strange, Jo Reynolds, Jno Reynolds, Matthews, Miller, Lawrence, Wm Kent, Glead.

Sister. Sh Strange, Hopkins, Sh Reynolds, Mayor, Smith, My Hollick, Ellborough, Adams, King, Saunders, Beasant, Snow.

Brother Job Hunt having been reported as walking disorderly and the same charge being brought against Brother Church – the members requested the Minister to write to them requesting them to be present at the next monthly meeting the first tuesday in April.

Also to write to Brother Pontyn to know whether he considers himself a member of this church since the establishment of a church at Bushen.

The minister reported that

Thomas Horne

John Kent and

Horsell

had applied to him for admission as members of this church, and that from the conversation he had with them he believes that they have received the grace of God in their hearts and testimony being born by several

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

of the members as to their consistent conduct they were unanimously admitted as members of this church.

Elizabeth Moens was also admitted a member of this church

Letter written to Brother Job Hunt

Dear Brother At the monthly meeting of the Church of Christ in this place of which you are a member, I was requested by the members to write to you. As there had been whispering that your walk was not such as is according to godliness, and understanding you have been spoken to according to the Lord I command Mathew 18/15 – but art still continuing weak in these things, the members considered to themselves as a church of Christ, according to 1 Cor 14/40 and 1 Thess 5/14, to request you to attend at the next monthly meeting of the church, which will be held on the first tuesday in April next at 7 o'clock in the evening, to answer to any charges that may be brought against you, and if you feel yourself in fault, may the Lord of all grace, enable you to acknowledge it, and abstain there from, -mem, being --hat the Lord faith 1 Cor 6/14 and 1 Thess 5/22.

I can not but earnestly inhest you as a Brother to ask the Lord to give you Grace to lookup to him

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

for strength and holy candour and trust you will come at the above time to prevent, please God, the most unpleasant but in such a case necessary task of publicly expelling you from the church of God in this place.

He who is able to restore the wandering sheep may he restore you to the arms of your dear Saviour from when I fear you have wandered, And assuring you that I do desire to see all who belong to this church, followers of God, as dear children walk in love.

Believe me

your's F B Moens

29 Feby 1833

Ministern of ye Church of Christ

meeting at Newport Street, Swindon

The same contents to Brother Church

to Brother John Pontyn

My dear Brother. At the monthly meeting of the Church of Christ in this place and of which by list you appear to be a member, I was requested to write to you to know whether you consider yourself still a member of the church here ?. We understand that there has been a church formed in your place in which we would heartily rejoice and wish it every success in the name of the

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Lord, but in this case it would be right for you to be regularly dismissed, the church desiring to follow up the exhortation 1 Thess 5/14, trust you will be to good as to attend next monthly church meeting on the first tuesday in April next, or to let us know your intention. May the Peace of God be with you

29 Feby 1833

your's F B M

Church Meeting held 2nd April 1833

F B Moens, Minister

18 present.

Brother. Strange. Jo Reynolds. Jno Reynolds. Mathews. Lawrence. Wm Kent. Glead. Horne. Jno Kent.

Sister. Mrs Strange. Hopkins. Mayor. M Hollick. King. Beasant. Snow. Horsell. Eth Moens

The Minister reported that he had written to Brother Job Hunt, & having with Brother Lawrence had conversation with him in which he acknowledged his fault, and desiring not to be expelled he was confirmed as a member of the church.

Brother Church having neither answered to the letter written, nor appearing was solemonly

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

expelled as a member of this church, will prayer that the Lord might restore him, if a wandering sheep.

Brother Pontyn, not wishing to be considered as a member of this church, was discharged in an affectionate manner.

Charges of inconsistent conduct having been brought against Brother Richard Smith and not having given satisfactory answers to the two Deacons who have conversed with him nor having attended to clear himself, he was expelled as a member of this church with solemn prayer.

Letter written to Richard Smith

After the conversation which the two Deacons of our church had with you and in which you vindicated your conduct in regard to the charges brought against you and you declining to attend the meeting nothing was left but to bring your case before the church meeting held 2nd instant, after prayer and much consideration it was resolved that the church no longer consider you as a member of their body in virtue of the Lord's command, Matth 18 15/17 and also according to 2 Thess 3/6. And the words of God tells us & Thess 5/22. Abstain from all appearance of evil and

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

you have not listened to the warnings given you and wholesome discipline being one of the grounds upon which a Christian church is to expect a blessing. I am under the painful necessity to give you notice that you are no longer a member of this church, it is truly painful to me to do so to an aged man as you are bending towards the grave but praying unto the Lord that he may lead you to see the evil of your ways, may it be one of the means to lead your soul to Christ, with deep repentance and earnest prayer for forgiveness and acceptance in the Lord. May the Holy Christ grant you this blessing is the earnest prayer of

5 April 1833 your's *F B M*

Church Meeting held 30th April 1833

F B Moens, Minister

19 present.

Jno Reynolds, Matthews, Gibbs, Laurence, Gleed, Horne, John Kent.

Sister. Mrs Strange, Hopkins, Turvey, Mayor, M Hollick, Adams, King, Saunders, Beasant, Snow, Horsell, Moens

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

The minister having read the minutes of the last meeting 4th

Reported that Brother John Reynolds had mentioned to Brother Strange and himself that he wished for his dismissal as a member of the church on the ground of his not being able to hear comfortably the doctrines preached, - it was resolved to discharge him in the most honourable manner as a member of this church with earnest prayer that the Lord may lead and direct him in all his ways.

Resolved upon the proposal of the Minister

That, if in a future a member be proposed for admission into the church the case shall stand over until the next monthly church meeting, to give an opportunity to the Deacons and members to satisfy themselves as to the character and experience of the candidate.

Sister Turvey having been reported as having absented herself three successive Ordinances, but having shewn her regret to the Minister requested to be continued if was resolved so to do with earnest recommendation in future to be more regular in her attendances as much as the weak state of her

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

body will allow.

Joshua Hide from Upper Strattham was reported by the Minister to have applied for admission into the church & the Minister reported favourably of the conversation as to his experience had with him, it was recommend to inquire according to the above rule

John Wheeler, was a new proposed by Brother Jno Reynolds & also left for consideration till next month.

Church Meeting held 26th May 1833

F B Moens, Minister

16 present.

Brother. Matthews, Laurence, Wm Kent, Glead. Horne, John Kent, Barrett

*Sister. Hopkins, Turvey, ~~Mayer~~, Smith, M Hollick, Gibbs, Saunders, Beasant.
Moens*

The Minister reported the result of the enquires made respecting Joshua Hide, proposed as a member of this church and being found satisfactory

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

he was unanimously admitted.

The case of John Wheeler was, after some conversation left, for further consideration till next monthly meeting.

Church Meeting held 2nd July 1833

F B Moens, Minister

16 present.

Brother. Thomas Strange, M Matthews, Gibbs, Laurence, Wm Kent, Thos Gleed. F Horne, Stn Barrett

Sister. Catherine Turvey, Mary Mayor, Mary Smith, Mary Hollick, Harriet Saunders, Betty Snow, Horsell, E Moens

The case of John Wheeler was again brought forward and considering that it is evident that drink is sold at his house on the sabbath, it was resolved his admission should for the present be deferred.

Brother Thomas Gleed having been over taken in a fault, but having acknowledged his guilt was publicly reprovved before the church accords to Tim 5/20 .

Brother Job Hunt having been absent these 4 Ordinance days, it was resolved to ask

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

of him to give a satisfactory reason for his conduct.

John Chambers of Wooton Bassett was proposed as a church member and left for consideration till next monthly meeting according to the rule.

Church Meeting held 20th July 1833

18 present.

Brother. Thomas Strange, Laurence, Horne, Gibbs, Glead, Matthews

Sister. Mrs Strange, Hopkins, Major, Adams, Saunders, Beasant, Snow, Horsell, Moens, Hollick, Smith

Job Hunt having been requested by letter to attend but not complying therewith was considered as no longer to be long to the church according to the rule that if any member absent themselves 3 successive Ordinances without giving sufficient reason they shall be expelled.

Brother Matthews having been overtaken in as fault acknowledges his guilt was publicly reprovved.

John Chambers having been well reported of was admitted as a member of the church.

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Thomas Nash and Sarah Nash both having some time belonged to the Wesleyan Society desired to unite with the church here, were proposed as members here as also Thomas Sharpe and left for inquiry and consideration till next meeting according to the rule.

Church Meeting held 27th August 1833

14 present.

Brother. Matthews, Laurence, W Kent, Thos Glead, Jno Kent, F Barrett.

Sister. Mary Strange, Sarah Frances Major, Smith, My Hollick, King, Snow, Moens

The minutes of the former meeting having been read.

<i><u>Thomas Nash</u></i>	<i>having been well</i>
<i><u>Sarah Nash</u></i>	<i>reported of, were admitted</i>
<i><u>Thomas Sharp</u></i>	<i>as members of the church</i>

Henry Jefferies, of Eastcot was proposed as member of the church & left for consideration until next meeting according to the rule

Mary Hollick having had charges brought

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

against her, was publicly reproved after acknowledging herself in the wrong.

Church Meeting held 24th September 1833

20 present.

Brother. Thos Strange, Matthews, Laurence, Wm Kent, Glead, Horne, Jno Kent, Barrett, Nash, Sharps

Sister. My Strange, Hopkins, Major, Smith, Hollick, Adams, King, Beasant, Snow, Nash.

The minutes of the last meeting been read.

Henry Jefferies having been well reported of, was admitted as a member of this church

Sister Holloway not having attended here at the Ordinance, living some distance from town it was resolved to write to her and ask her the reason of her absence during 6 months.

*The Minister & Brother Strange having reported Sisters Horsells conduct not only of letting out their barn, for Theatrical performances but also though they ~~gave~~ cancelled this engagement, attending at the theatre & her conduct after she had been spoken to, it was **resruck***

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

& cut her off as a member of this church, according to Matthew 18 vs 15/20 & 2 Thess 3/6.

28 Sept 33

To Mrs Horsell As you did not think proper to appear at the church meeting of last tuesday, when the late unpleasant circumstances relating to you were brought forward before the church in an impartial manner according to truth, it is now devolves upon me to mention to you that, as you offended your brethren & sisters, with whom you were connected in church fellowship & you had according to Matthew 18 15/17 been warned, without appearing to regard it – You were charged before the church, with conduct unbecoming a member of a Christian church having fallen into the sin of Balaam 2 Peter 2/15 and of Demas 2 Tim 4/10. The church of Christ which you were a member, have after prayer and serious consideration, resolved, that they no longer consider you as a member of their body, according to the above passage Matth 18/17, and also according to 2 Thess 3/6. And the word of God tells us, 2 Thess 5/22 abstain from all appearance of evil and you not having listened to the warnings given you and wholesome discipline being one of the grounds upon which a Christian church is to expect a

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

blessing. I am under the painful necessity to give you notice that you are no longer a member of this church but have forfeited all right to its Christian privileges. It is truly painful for me so to it but Gods came requires faithfulness, without respect of person--. The church will I trust pray for you to the Lord that he may convince you of the error of your ways & lead you to sincere repentance like the prodigal son, Luke 15. May it be one of the means to lead your soul with earnest self examination to keep repentance unto Christ with earnest prayer for forgiveness & acceptance in the beloved. May the Lord the Holy Spirit grant you this blessing is the affect prayer of your late pastor.

To Sister Holloway

28 Sept 33

F B M

*As it was found by the List that you have absented yourself for 6 following Ordinances of the Lord's supper and it being one of the rules of this church that any member absenting it self from the Lord's table for 3 successive months without giving a satisfactory reason shall be excommunicated, the church have at the last meeting on tuesday requested me to write to you before they act up to this rule, that you might have an opportunity of giving a reason for your absence to me or at the church meeting which du will be held on on the 29th of October next, as the church cannot think that distance alone would prevent you being informed your residence is not 4 miles from here which cannot think would prevent you to attend at least **nows** them.*

*May the God of all Grace lead your heart from the world to feel the blessing of Communion with him and as a poor sinfully creature to cast yourself at his footstool for guidance in this **xxxx***

Believe me affectionately

*yours **late** Pastor*

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Church Meeting held 29th October 1833

18 present.

Brothers. Thomas Strange, Matthews, Laurence, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies

Sisters. Sarah Strange, Major, Smith, Hollick, King, Saunders, Beasant, Snow, Moens, Nash.

The minutes of the last meeting been read.

The Minister read the letters he has written to Mrs Horsell and Holloway requesting the latter to give a reason for her absence or to attend this evening but having conformed neither to the one nor the other and not having been present at the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper for 8 successive months – it was resolved that Ann Holloway be no longer a member of this church according to the rule that if any members absent themselves during 3 successive months from the ordinance of the Lord's Supper they shall be expelled. And the Minister to give her due notice thereof.

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Letter written to Ann Holloway 1 Nov 1833

At the church meeting held last tuesday according to notice given to you it was resolved that, not giving any reason for your absence for 7 successive Ordinances of the Lord's Supper, nor coming to the meeting to that end, you are no longer considered a member of the Church of Christ in this place, nor entitled to any of its Christian privileges. According to 1 Con 14/40 "Let all things be done decently and in order", and also according to the Law of the Church "That any member absenting him of herself from the Lord's table three successive months without giving a reason which shall be satisfactory to the church will be excommunicated". I have therefore to inform you that you are no longer a member of this church. May the Lord grant you to feel that you never can satisfy the Lord for your sins but that it is the blood of J C alone which cleans you from all sin.

I am

Your late pastor

F B M

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

Church Meeting held 27th November 1833

17 present.

Brethren. Thos Strange, Matthews, Lawrence, Wm Kent, John Kent, Barrett, Sharp, Jefferies.

Sisters. Mary Strange, Smith, Hollick, Adams, King, Saunders, Beasant, Snow, Moens, Nash.

The minutes having been read of the last meeting.

Brother Wm Kent a new proposed John Wheeler to be admitted as member of this Church the obstacle which prevented his being admitted before now being removed.

According to the rule, was left for inquiry and consideration till next monthly meeting.

Church Meeting held 31st December 1833

18 present.

Brethren. Strange, Jos Reynolds, Matthews, Lawrence, W Kent, Horne, J Kent, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies.

Sisters. Mayor, Smith, Hollick, King, Saunders, Snow, Moens, Nash.

The minutes of the former meeting having been read. John Wheeler was unanimously admitted

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1833

© Wiltshire OPC / John Pope 2011

as a member of this Church.

The Minister reported that

Mary Sharps

Robt Woolford

Thomas Goodwin

Mary Ann Godwin

*desired to become
members of this church
and from this knowledge
of them & conversation
with them, proposed them as members, to hand over according to the rule till
next month.*