

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members – 1836 & 1837

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STOP PRESS !

New Members: Thomas & Priscilla Parks; Fredrick Morris Simkins from Mordon; Robert Fisher of Shaw; Sarah Dore of this town

Released member: Thomas Godwin, to preach at Pewsey Chapel & his wife

Dismissed members: James Morris; Wheeler; Thos Sharps; Elizabeth Moens

Temporary members: Mary Glead of Wash Pool, Liddiard; Clement of Cirencester

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Church Meeting held 9th February 1836

20 present. The Minister

*Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, John Kent, Jeffries, Sharps, Wheeler, Morris.
Sisters. Sarah Strange, Mary Strange, M Hollich, Ellborough, M King, Betty
Snow, Moens, M Sharps, Osman, Tidd, Hardwick, Tait.*

The minutes of the last meeting having been read. The minister stated to the church that

*Parks, & his wife, Parks, the latter
having sat down with this church for 6 months were desiring of uniting with
this church in Church Communion – likewise Mary Glead of the Wash pool,
Liddiard - he had no scruples to propose them as members to this church & to
stand over till next monthly meeting.*

*The minister also proposed according to the 5th rule of this church, that the
Deacons keep regular accounting of all monies received pay'd which account
shall be made up once a year, or oftener & submitted to the church or its
deputy who must be a member Brother Horn as requested so to do, & the
minister to join him & report at the next meeting.*

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Church Meeting held 1st March 1836

17 present. The Minister

Brethren. Laurence, Strange, J Kent, Wheeler, Nash, Sharps, Jeffries, Pruce.

Sisters. Sarah Strange, Hollich, Ellborough, M King, Sharps, Tidd, Hardwick, Tait, Barrett.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read the Minister a new proposed Mary Gleed who was admitted as a member of this church.

Parks being obliged to go out of the town, it was resolved to let him & his wife stand over till next meeting.

Brother Horn & the Minister reported that they had examined the accounts kept by Bro Strange & found them perfectly correct, but sorry to state that there was a balance of £5 due to him.

The Minister proposed Fredrick Morris Simkins from Mordon, as a fit member to this church & and some members spoke their belief that he was truly a character born again by the Spirit he is to stand over for a month as usual.

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Church Meeting held 29th March 1836

21 present. The Minister

Brethren. Laurence, Strange, J Kent, W Kent, Wheeler, Nash, Barrett, Sharps, Jeffries, Morris.

Sisters. S Strange, M Strange, Hollich, M King, Sharps, Moens, Tidd, Hardwick, Osman, Snow, L King.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read the Minister a new proposed; F M Simkins , as a member, as also Thomas Parks & Priscilla Parks his wife.

They were all three unanimously admitted as members of this church.

Church Meeting held 17th August 1836

present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Jno Kent, Wheeler, Nash, Barrett, Jeffries, Pruce and Thos Sharps.

Sisters. Sh Strange, Hollich, M King, Tait, Tidd, L King, Moens.

Thomas Sharps having been guilty of the sin of drunkenness, he was publicly reprovved before the church but acknowledging his sin before God xxxx deep contrition was allowed to continue in the church.

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Church Meeting held 1836

present. The Minister

Brethren. Sharps, Barrett, Pruce, Jno Kent, Nash, Jeffries, Horn, Godwin.

Sisters. Hollich, M King, Sharps, Tidd, Oosman, Tait, Barrett, Moens, L King, Hardwick.

Brother Thomas Godwin having for the last two years exercised the Ministual Gift the Lord has granted him sharing for the last 12 months, regularly preached to the church of Christ at Pewsey in this County, and having received & accepted an invitation as pastor of that church, and being about to remove thither he was and with Sister Godwin his wife, released from their union of this church, with earnest prayer for Covenant & brings upon them.

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Church Meeting held 14 March 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Gibbs, Sharps, Strange, Barrett, Jno Kent, Wheeler.

Sisters. My King, Tidd, Tait, Barrett, Moens, Park, Mayor.

The Minister laid before the Church a Correspondence. With the Commission for a general registry, they requiring the registers of Births & burials to be sent up to them to London and the Minister & Deacons, hesitating so to do unless authorised by the church thereto, now wished for their decision- & after it was fully explained to the church, it was unanimously resolved to send it up, first getting a correct copy thereof taken.

The Minister having stated to the church that one of the Deacons Brother Laurence was through domestic circumstances present & from at sending to the church concerns as he used to do & Brother Strange also often constrained to be absent, they thought right to propose a third Deacon to be chosen & to that end proposed Brother Barrett, the church approving of it, it was left for his consideration till this day week.

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Church Meeting held 21st March 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, Jno Kent, Sharps, Gibbs, Sharps, Park, Horn, Wheeler, Jeffries, Barret.

Sisters. Moens, Tait, Tidd.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read, the minister reported that Brother Barrett, though under many fear consented to be chosen as Deacon, and being a new proposed was unanimously chosen as deacon of this church, the 3rd chapter of the bk of Timothy having been read, he was with earnest prayer to God, solemnly appointed to the office.

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Church Meeting held 2nd May 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, J Kent, Sharps, Park, Horn, Jeffries, Pruce.

Sisters. Sh Strange, Hollich, My King, Tidd, Tait, L King, Moens, M Sharps.

The minutes of last meeting being read & confirmed. The Minister proposed Robert Fisher Shaw as member of this church, to stand over till next meeting.

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Church Meeting held 23rd May 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, Barrett, Sharps, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Jeffries, Gibbs.

Sisters. My Strange, Sh Strange, My King, Snow, Tait, Barrett, Tidd, Moens, Hollich.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Minister proposed a new proposed Robert Fisher of Shaw and was unanimously admitted as member of this church.

Michael Matthews was again spoken of, for readmission, but very serious charge as to his conduct even on the day before having been brought in, it was resolved not to take any further notice of it.

The minister reported that Brother Morris had not attended public worship here, for the last 6 or 7 weeks, and had been spoken to by the minister alone & an other tome accompanied by Brother Barrett and had yesterday again been written to on this subject without giving any answer or taking any notice

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he now thought it right now according to the 18 of Matthew to bring it before the church, & after consideration, Brother Strange & Barrett were requested again to speak & remonstrate with him on the subject, & report next month.

Church Meeting held 26th June 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, Barrett, Jno Kent, Parks,

Sisters. M King, L King, Hollich, Snow, Barrett, Moens, Sharps.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, and confirmed.

Brother Strange reported that he has had asked upon Brother Morris with Brother Barrett but that he continued in the same mind & did not at all see he was wrong, it was therefore proposed that he should be expelled no longer considered a member of this church.

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Church Meeting held 1 August 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Laurence, Strange, Barrett, Pruce, Jeffries, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Horn, Sharps, Snow.

Sisters. S Strange, Moens, M King, M Hollich, L King, Tidd, Tait, M Sharps.

The minister stated to the brethren, the unbecoming conduct of B. John Wheeler, on the day of the election, & his inconsistent walk in general far from the conversation becoming a member of a church – this statement was confirmed by many of the members, he was not present tho' requested so to be but he sent a letter expressing his regret but the church having considered all things having been reprov'd before privately & before the church resolved to expell him as a member of this church.

The minister also referred to the conduct of Brother T Sharps, during the day of elections ~~xxxx~~ following, he being present expressed his sorrow but having been reprov'd before by the church, they tho' with regret thought it right to expell him also as

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a member of the church according to Matt 18.

The conduct of Brother Parks on the day of the election & on meeting occasions was likewise stated, he not being present, it was after consideration resolved, as his was the first time he was brought before the church to let it stand over till next tuesday, to give him an opportunity of expressing his sorrow, if so the Lord is pleased to move him.

Clement, member of the church of Mr White, Cirencester, was admitted to sit down, during 6 months.

Sarah Dore of this town, was proposed a a member of this church, - to stand over till next month.

8th August 1837 Adjourned meeting

present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Jefferies, J Kent, Horn, Parks.

Sisters. S Strange, Moens, My King, L King, Hollich, Tait, Snow.

Brother Park's case being again brought forward he being present, acknowledged with deeply apparent sorrow his past conduct & trusted the Lord would keep him for the future, he was admonished & reprov'd & allowed to continue in the church communion.

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Church Meeting held 29th August 1837

present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Barrett, Horn Jno Kent, Jeffries.

Sisters. My Hollich, L King, Tait, S Strange, Parks, M King.

The minister a new proposed Sarah Dore of this town as a suitable person as member of this Christian church. Brother Strange mentioned that he had conversation with her, & was well satisfied, she was unanimously admitted as a member.

It was resolved that in future ~~members~~ persons who are proposed as members in stead of standing over, one month as the rule has hitherto, shall only have to stand over for one week, that time being considered sufficient for members to converse with them and inquire about them.

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***Special Meeting of the Church held Sabbath day 20th October
1837***

present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Barrett, Horn, Kerby, W Kent, Jno Kent, Jeffries, Neuth, Simpkins, Strange, Parks, Gibbs, Terrant, Pruce.

Sisters. My Strange, Sh Strange, M King, My Hollich, Adams, Tait, Todd, Major, Lucy King, Parks, Snow, Sharps, Parsons, Ellborough, Dore, Barrett.

The Minister reported that his wife, Sister Elizabeth Moens after her sad fall, was willing to come before the church, and acknowledge her sins before God and man but that he considered that if she did so, the church could not upon scripture grounds put her out of the church, to which all agreed, he then submitted that for the good of the church it would be better for her to withdraw which she had also agreed to do, therefore asked her dismissal as a member of this church, which was accordingly granted.

He then stated further, that under the afflicting and degrading circumstances in which he person-

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ally and the church as a body with him were involved, and that considering the conduct of his wife had caused the cause of God & the members of this church, to be evil spoken of, and although he stood entirely free from any share in her conduct in that respect = Yet he thought it was an act due to the church to give up his charge as Pastor, which he had, under God, received from this church & therefore would lay it down in their hands praying that the Lord might direct them in their ways, & in his time provide them with a faithful man after His own heart, - having spoken this, he left the meeting under the deepest feeling.

Brother Strange, then stated a few reasons why for himself thought this course would be best, no body offering any remark the case was then left & he closed in a few words of prayer.

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***Special Meeting of the Church held Sabbath day 3rd December
1837***

present. The Minister, who opened with prayer

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Barrett, Gibbs, Kerby, Wm Kent, Bedford, Horn, Jno Kent, Jefferies, Terrant, Pruce, Simpkins, Parks, Fisher.

Sisters. Sh Strange, My Strange, Major, Reynolds, Hollich, Ellborough, Adams, My King, Parsons, Snow, Sharps, Tidd, Tait, Lucy King, Glead, Parks.

The Minister explained the reason why the last meeting was, so abruptly broken up, and as nothing was then decided, he had now with the knowledge of the Deacons called an other church meeting.

He then read a letter, Mr Jackson J Smyth of Bristol had written to the church here on our present very singular and afflicting circumstances which letter is fixed at the beginning of the book.

Going over to the bussiness of the present meeting he stated, that as the laying down of his charge, or resignation at the former meeting, had neither been accepted, nor referred, he must consider himself as not discharged from his pastoral charge, and he, therefore

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Now wished each of the members present, clearly to state whatever they might have to say, begging them to remember that we were together as Brethren in Christ and hoped, flesh & carnal feelings might be sacred & love prevail, Brother Strange addressed the meeting to the same effect in a very impressive manner, the minister wished them as much as possible to confine themselves to the subject of his leaving, on account of his wife's lamenable fall. It was then proposed to take the votes, each member stating distinctly, whether they were for the Minister leaving or staying. The Minister having been requested to leave the room whilst the votes were taken, he did so, with the understanding that no other subject should be entered into. Brother Strange engaging to take the votes, according to the list of the members, which having been done, and the minister being called in again it was found that

the votes were 14 for his leaving

16 Against it

1 Neuter which of course was added to the majority

the minister destroyed the List not wishing to know, who voted for or against his staying & desired

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Brother Strange to burn it.

During the meeting 3 or 4 Members said that for some time they had not been blessed under the minister's preaching, and therefore thought best he should leave.

The Minister then said that he should take time to consider how to act, and would give an answer in 10 or 12 days if he could. After that he concluded in prayer, and the meeting broke up, having on the whole been conducted with great propriety & mutual forbearance.

Henry Kidpell late of Poleworth, Warwickshire and formerly student of Newport Pagnell College, Bucks being invited by the Deacons of the church viz Messrs Strange & Laurence to take the oversight of the same for 12 months accepted of that invitation and entered upon his pastoral labouring on Lord's day Feby 17th 1839.