

Ebenezer Baptist Chapel



The church known as Piccop's "New Meeting," house built at Lane Head was in a weak condition at the time of Mr Piccop's death, but fortunately, was not long without a pastor, John Hirst, a member of the Baptist Church at Accrington, was appointed pastor and commenced his duties in 1773. By 1777 the congregation had largely increased and a larger meeting house was erected at a cost of £400.00, all of which was promised before the building started. By 1810 still more room was needed and this was met by the building of a new chapel which was opened in 1812 and under this chapel a room was provided for a Sunday School.

By this time Mr Hirst had become very feeble and it was only with great difficulty he continues his pastoral work. Towards the end of his life, determined to preach, he had to be carried into the pulpit and though not able to stand he addressed the congregation from his "preaching chair". He died in 1815 after a devoted and successful ministry of 42 years. The Rev. W. J. Dyer succeeded Mr Hirst in 1816, but in 1821 Mr Dyer and about half the members seceded and formed a second church later known as Irwell Terrace.

In September 1964, the empty premises of Ebenezer Baptist Chapel and Newgate Mission were sought to house an extension to the firm of Messrs Vernon Rigg textile Company of Parrock Mill. The site at this time had been scheduled for demolition having been included in the clearance orders for this area. The last service being held on 28th October 1962.