

Thorn Wesleyan Chapel

Though the chapel at Thorn was formerly opened on May 5th 1872 that date was not its real commencement. Strictly speaking it was a transfer from premises in Union Street, where both chapel and school services had been held for over twenty years. Those premises were officially known as Union Street School, Chapel for the destitute or the Bacup ragged school. Following a committee meeting of members of Mount Pleasant in 1851 it was agreed to look for premises in the area of Irwell Street for the purpose of setting up a school for the destitute children of Bacup. Three persons on the committee present were James Heyworth, John Dawson and Joshua Hoyle all of which were cotton manufacturers and the respective heads of the three firms known as Dawson and Haworth, Waterside Mill. Joshua Hoyle and Sons, Plantation Mill and James Haworth and Bros, Forest Mill. On November 14th 1851, Lawrence Lupton was appointed Superintendent of the Union street school and that Benjamin Thomas become a teacher in the same school. Benjamin Thomas was better known as " Benny Mark" and was Bacup's oldest postman. On the day of opening in 1872 sixty three scholars from the Union Street school made their way to the chapel in a procession. Three of those were Mary Ann Coppin nee Abbott, Martha Hartley nee Harper and Betsy Ann Hacking nee Nuttall.





The Rev. William Perkins was the first minister, and in later years he became President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference. Greatness personified ! The following list gives the ministers' names in their order.

- Rev. William Perkins 1874- 1876
- Rev. Sampson Weaver 1877 - 1879
- Rev. John Denholm Brash 1880 -1882
- Rev. David Solomon 1883 - 1885
- Rev. Thomas Hargreaves 1886 - 1888
- Rev. John Naylor 1889 - 1891
- Rev. Joseph Whitehead 1892 - 1894
- Rev. Walter F. Mayer 1895 - 1897
- Rev. G. W. Kettleborough 1898 - 1900
- Rev. E. H. Maggs 1901 - 1903
- Rev. Sidney R. Rees 1904 - 1905
- Rev. E. A. Prince 1906 - 1908
- Rev. J. G. Penman 1909 - 1911
- Rev. Benjamin Barker 1912 - 1914
- Rev. W. T. Kilbride 1915 - 1918
- Rev. Robert Mettam 1919.

During the Great War 12 boys of Thorn Chapel lost their lives and were remembered on a marble tablet that was in the entrance of the church. The names of the fallen were.
Harry Ashworth, Harold Bacon, Enoch Butterworth, William Crane, Fred Harrison
Thomas Howorth, Bertie Hutchinson, Harry Snowden, Adolphus Stranger, Fred Thomas
Herbert Thomas, Fred Walmersley.