

# Kirkbymoorside Methodist Church



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH BUILDING IN PIERCY END, KIRKBYMOORSIDE

On 25 December 1788, for the sum of £25, there was a transfer by indenture of land and property from Samuel Allison the younger to the trustees for the purpose of building a meeting house in which “the said John Wesley and such persons as he may appoint, may therein preach and expound God’s Holy Word.....at all times for ever permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly conference of the people called Methodists as established by ..... John Wesley under his hand and seal bearing date the 28th February 1784”.

An application was made on 8 August 1788 for a new chapel to be built in Piercy End with the licence being granted on 16 February 1790. William Myles in *A Chronological History of the People called Methodists*, 3rd edition in 1813 gives the date of the first chapel as 1794.

However, there is a date of **1812** set in the lintel above the main entrance into the present worship area so there is some confusion over whether this was a continuation of the building of the first chapel or perhaps a second. More research needs to be done to ascertain a more definite history of the building between the years of 1788 and 1812.

In 1836, the chapel was enlarged and a schoolroom added for education and social purposes. In 1865 the chapel was enlarged again – date engraved on stone set high on west facing wall of the chapel. Central heating was installed in 1906.

The chapel had wooden pews, a three-sided gallery, a pipe organ and a raised central pulpit with dark wood panelling and two aisles. There was a cottage at the front of the chapel facing Piercy End and the chapel was reached through a narrow passage called the *Chapel Ealing*. Kirkbymoorside Wesleyan Methodist Church was for many years in the Kirkbymoorside Circuit and included many chapels in the surrounding area. A plan from 1905 lists the following chapels – Kirkbymoorside, Kirby Mills, Edstone, Normanby, Marton, Nunnington, Ness, Nawton, Wombledon, Low Farndale, High Farndale, Bransdale, Rosedale (West), Rosedale Abbey, Gillamoor, Hutton, Lastington, Appleton, Stonely wood and Spaunton. Sadly, many of these chapels have closed but their legacy remains. In 1959, the Ryedale Circuit was formed by an amalgamation of the Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside circuits.

A different branch of Methodists started out in Bethel Chapel in Tinley Garth around 1840 and in 1861 moved to a newly erected Jubilee Chapel in West End. At the time of Methodist Union in 1932, the Jubilee Chapel was in the Pickering circuit. In 1969, the Jubilee Chapel closed, the remaining congregation joined with the congregation at the chapel in Piercy End and the building was sold.

In 1964, a kitchen and toilets replaced the two cottages adjoining the schoolroom. The Jubilee Room was opened on 15 June 1971 following the demolition of the cottage on Piercy End.

This extension was built using the proceeds from the sale of the Jubilee chapel in West End.

In 1979, it was decided to create a lighter, more open building so the gallery, organ and pews were removed and the ceiling lowered. The renewed premises were designed to meet the changing times and the flexibility of the furnishings would enable conferences, public meetings, musical events and dramatic presentations to be held as well as being regularly used for worship.

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