Brownhills Methodist Church
OPENING AND DEDICATION
3 p.m. SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, 1967

To cover the cost of this Souvenir Handbook we would be glad to receive a minimum donation of Two Shillings and Sixpence.
“Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us.”

LOOKING BACK

By A. HOWARD CRADDOCK
Mount Zion Church Secretary, 1914-1959

On February 21st in the year 1895 a small band of men met to sign the contract to build a new PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, in BROWNHILLS. During the preceding two years, under the inspired leadership of the Rev. Harvey Roe, discussions had been taking place relative to the old Sunday School and the old Chapel. First of all new classrooms had been added to the Sunday School and finally the momentous decision had been made to pull down the old Chapel and build a new one suitable and adequate for the needs of the growing township of Brownhills.

Records of the old building do not seem to have been kept, or alternatively have been lost, and no one seems to know exactly when the first Chapel was built. The deeds show that the land was purchased in the year 1856, and it is assumed that soon afterwards the first Chapel was erected. We have no drawing or illustration of the building and apparently photography had not advanced sufficiently before 1895 for a photograph to have been taken. But from conversations with those “few” who worshipped in the old chapel and are still with us, they describe it by saying that it was exactly like “Paradise” Chapel at Pelsall, which is a very plain, unpretentious building. Inside, the furnishings were fairly crude, the pews being of the box type and very narrow. The Rev. Harvey Roe was a “Chapel Builder” and it has been stated that during his ministry he probably built more Chapels than any other minister in his day. He was very friendly with Mr. Wm. P. Hartley (of jam fame) and with the Rev. Harvey Roe’s enthusiasm and Mr. Hartley’s financial help these Chapels were spread over the country, wherever his ministry took him. Many tales were told of his ability to get money from the most unlikely people.

The 20 men who were trustees were practically all miners and in the years 1893-4-5 the pits were doing very badly with men working 12 hours per day for a mere pittance, and the courage of these men to undertake the task and responsibility of erecting a new Chapel, cause us admiration and astonishment. Between them it is questionable if they had, all told £100, and yet such was their faith that they undertook this task. So these working men signed the contract for £1,250, which in those days was a colossal sum of money. Then misfortune struck them, for there came the “big strike” and the pits closed down; but nothing daunted, they used this strike as an opportunity as they recruited the miners to come and voluntarily take down the old chapel and “doss” the bricks for the foundations of the new one. Mrs. David Bradbury provided them with corned beef sandwiches and tea, and this was their only remuneration for their work, but it is remarkable how many old men visiting the Church have remarked on the fact that they helped to dress the bricks from the old Chapel. With this help the building made speedy progress, and at Easter, April 13th, 1895, the stone-laying ceremony took place and the Chapel was opened on December 22nd, in the same year. The building thus having taken only ten months to complete—which is really a remarkable achievement. The builder was Robert Harris, of Shelfield, and by the erection of this building he established his reputation in this district. The architect was a Mr. Howdell.

During the 69 years it passed through many vicissitudes, sometimes having difficulty to find its quarterage and Mr. David Bradbury, who was its first Treasurer, had often to take a cow from his farm and sell it in the auction to find the money.

Mount Zion sent the following men into the Ministry:—Rev. John Nicholls, a pioneer missionary, to Africa; Rev. David Bradbury, Rev. Sidney Bampton and the Rev. Walter Bampton, to Australia. It was well served by its Organists and Choirmasters, Mr. D. A. Bradbury, Mr. G. Fulloove, Mr. John Precece, Mr. Sam Bullen, Mr. Arthur Brookes, Mr. James Bullen, Mr. Michael Glover and Mr. Derek White. Its secretaries of the Trust have been Mr. C. T. Littler, Mr. Albert Craddock, for
46 years Mr. A. Howard Craddock and Mr. Roy Craddock. The Sunday School Superintendents have been Mr. David Bradbury, Mr. Wm. Ironmonger and Mr. Horace Craddock—only three in 60 years and the longest term has been served by Mr. Horace Craddock. The Church has produced in its time a fine body of Local Preachers.

Many distinguished Preachers occupied the pulpit, but its main glory has been in the Ministers who served the Church and Circuit during the 69 years. The Rev. Harvey Roe built it, but left the Circuit having served his term, six months before it was opened. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. Jackson Smith—a great orator and minister. He was followed by ministers about whom one could fill a book in tributes to their sterling worth, but one can only append herewith a list:

Rev. Harvey Roe ..... 1889 to 1895 Rev. E. Allport ..... 1920 to 1930
A. Jackson Smith 1895 1897 W. Dean Turner 1930 1934
A. Johnson 1897 1899 E. C. Hudson 1934 1938
G. W. Turner 1899 1902 Wm. Dawson 1938 1944
W. Evans 1902 1904 Wm. B. Barton 1944 1947
W. T. Taylor 1904 1907 E. P. Richardson 1947 1952
W. W. Price 1907 1910 E. B. Butler 1952 1956
W. C. Ball 1910 1914 C. R. Ransome 1956 1961
J. Brace Evans 1914 1920 Wm. Dickinson 1961 1964

“Let them be counted worthy of honour ... especially they that labour in the word and in doctrine.”—1 Tim. 5:17.

Mount Zion exerted a permanent influence on a multitude of lives, and its members have carried that influence all over the world. It provided Magistrates, Councillors, Teachers and a Dean of a Faculty of Sheffield University, and the lives of a large number of ordinary people have been enriched by the witness which the Church maintained since that small group of people sixty-nine years ago showed their faith in their God and the future.

“... And Lo! I am with you always.”

LOOKING BACK ON BROWNHILLS WESLEY

By FRANK CAULTON
Wesley Secretary
and REV. W. J. HILL

In seeking to compile a brief history of the Wesley Chapel we have to depend almost entirely on the Minutes of Trustees Meetings. Since these are of necessity mainly concerned with the provision and maintenance buildings it is necessary to read between the lines to get an idea of the progress of the work of the Society. The present Wesley Chapel bears the date 1896, but we have records dating back 40 years before that. Our first record is of the conveyance of a plot of land from Mr. John Brewer to Mr. Elias Crapper which is dated 1856. Plans, at least, for a chapel must have been in hand at that time. We know that in 1858 12 Trustees were appointed and that they in turn appointed the first caretaker and agreed to pay him five shillings and fourpence for a load of coal, fourteen shillings for cokes, and a shilling for three dozen coppers for their paraffin lamps. The Society was then in the Walsall Wesley Circuit, as indeed it continued to be until the comparatively recent formation of the Brownhills and Pelsall Circuit.

The young Society contained some real Methodist stalwarts who made progress in spite of the uphill nature of their task. On August 16th, 1886, we find them celebrating the re-opening of an enlarged Chapel and Sunday School with a Public Meeting and Tea, presided over by Rev. W. B. Dalby. A further 10 years of progress resulted in the erection of the present chapel and the building of a new Sunday School, the extra land required for the school building being purchased from Mr. Benjamin
Bates at three shillings per square yard. The building costs amounted to £350. The raising of such a large sum was the occasion of many anxious meetings of the Trustees but they were so enthusiastically supported that the series of efforts they arranged saw them out of debt and with a balance in hand.

Together with their other duties Trustees are responsible for the appointment of the organist and choirmaster, and in 1911 we find them recording their gratitude to Mr. James Thompson for 35 years of faithful service at the organ. Ill health caused his retirement and the Trustees presented him with a cheque in token of their appreciation of his long and loyal service. In his place they appointed Mr. F. Arnold as organist and Mr. S. Cliff as choirmaster. Mr. Cliff will be remembered by the older folk as not only choirmaster, but as Sunday School Superintendent and Trustees Secretary. People outside the church will remember him as the local School Attendance Officer. Other names which appear as ardent supporters during this period are Mr. H. R. Denning, Mr. Sam Houghton, Mr. G. Seedhouse, Mr. G. T. Roberts, Mr. T. Watson, Mr. F. Cope, Mr. J. Caulton and Mr. G. Craddock.

On July 10th, 1913, the Minutes record there was another re-opening service at which the preacher was no less a person than the President of the Methodist Conference. The occasion this time was alterations, enlargements and decoration of the premises and the installation of a new boiler and heating plant at a total cost of £186. This was also the occasion when the newly appointed organist, Mr. W. Brookes, took up his duties. Mr. Brookes was organist until a hand accident in 1922 forced him to retire. He was succeeded as organist by Mr. John Blakemore, and Mr. G. E. Fullelove was appointed choirmaster. Mr. Blakemore resigned next year when a new organ was installed and Mr. S. Seedhouse began a long and fruitful partnership with Mr. Fullelove. Under Mr. Fullelove’s direction the choir grew in size and quality. His outstanding ability and great love of music made him well known throughout the Midlands in musical circles. Through his inspiration the Brownhills Choral Society began the series of Musical Festivals which are today more popular than ever. He was popular not only as conductor and pianist but also as a vocalist singing both tenor and baritone solos. His death in 1957 was a great loss to the Wesley Society. The memorial plaque placed in the chapel to his memory bears a fine portrait of him. Mr. Seedhouse continued to serve as organist until the illness of his wife forced his resignation in 1961 after 40 years of faithful and voluntary service to his Church and his Master.

In 1933 the Trustees found themselves with sufficient money in hand to build the present kitchen on to the school and also to purchase a new piano for the Sunday School which had grown over the years to around 200 scholars. The school was the training ground of several talented Local Preachers. Most have now passed to higher service but a few of them still proclaim the Gospel through the Circuit. One of these, Sidney Caulton, went to Cliffe College for training as an evangelist and then to Handsworth College to train for the ministry. His training over he was sent as a missionary to the West Indies. His valuable ministry was tragically short. Whilst on furlough in this country he died suddenly in his sleep at the age of 33.

The Minutes for 1933 also record the passing of one of the most generous benefactors of Wesley, Mr. George Hodgkins. The Trustees still receive a small income from a bequest he made to them. Their gratitude to him is marked by a memorial plaque in the chapel.

In 1936 Rev. Dr. Henry Bett came to preach at yet another re-opening service; this time the occasion was the installation of electric light throughout the premises.

The night of July 31st, 1942, was an eventful one for Brownhills and for Wesley Chapel in particular. Enemy aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on the area and some of them landed on the roof of the chapel over the pulpit. The resulting fire caused much damage to the front of the chapel including the organ, pulpit and communion area. Prompt action by the Fire Service restricted the destruction to that area. The Trustees were, of course, entitled to War Damage Compensation but this was not sufficient to cover the cost of reconstruction and restoration. Their burden in this respect was considerably lightened by a grant of £288 from the
General Chapel Fund. The restoration was carried out by Mr. George Roberts, under the direction of the Architect, Mr. C. Gray, of Walsall. Mr. P. T. Craddock, of Loxton & Co., Solicitors, Walsall, acted for the Trustees in their negotiations with the authorities. The restored chapel was rededicated by Rev. Clifford Hawkins on Sunday, December 19th, 1942. The occasion was marked by the gift of an electric blower for the organ which was presented as a thankoffering by Mr. and Mrs. S. Seedhouse and installed free of charge by Mr. W. Holyman.

The same Mr. Holyman in June, 1956, oversaw the overhauling and cleaning of the heating system and the replacement of the old coke fired boiler by a modern oil heating plant. Under his direction a number of willing helpers made a thorough job of cleaning out the pipes. The change over to oil meant one less chore for Mr. Cyril Jones, the very worthy stoker, who through the years had kept Wesley warm on even the coldest days. The Trustees thanked him then for his services and they thank him today for the large contribution he makes to the warmth of the Wesley welcome. Rev. Cyril Ransome dedicated the new heating system and, at the same time, an electric clock, presented in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Holyman. That couple, incidentally, had been the first to be married in the chapel. A Gift Day and one or two other efforts raised the £200 needed to pay for the new heater.

November, 1963, was one of the sad months in the Wesley story. It saw the deaths of the most helpful Trustees and Officers. They were Mrs. S. Seedhouse, Mrs. E. Platt, Mrs. B. Cautlon and Mr. W. Holyman. One of Mr. Holyman’s last tasks had been to arrange for representatives of Wesley and Mount Zion Trusts to visit those churches in the area which it was thought might offer ideas for the new church which was to be the home of the united Mount Zion and Wesley Society. In anticipation of the union of the two Societies and the building of the new church, a new Trust had been formed to include the former Trustees of both chapels. When Mount Zion was closed the new Trustees took over the administration of the affairs of the United Society and the last minutes of a meeting of the Wesley Trustees as a separate body bears the date 19th November, 1965. With the entries under that date their very worthy secretary, Mr. Frank Cautlon, brought his record of their proceedings to a close.

In this brief outline we have named a few of the good Methodists who served Christ and His Church with devotion and self-sacrifice in the Society which worked and worshipped in Wesley. They themselves would hasten to assert that they were but representative of very many loyal and dedicated souls whose devotion to the work of God was the outworking of their love and gratitude for His goodness and mercy. Together their stories make the history of Wesley a glorious record.

MINISTERS WHO SERVED AT BROWNHILLS WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL

PAST AND PRESENT

By ROY L. CRADDOCK,
Church Secretary.

In these modern days of take over bids and mergers, it was inevitable that these ideas should reach Brownhills. So it was no real surprise to hear about the High Street Development Scheme. But, when we realized that it would involve our two Churches, Mount Zion and Wesley, it brought some serious thinking.

For some, it was “an answer to a prayer.” The cost of running two churches, with the same thought, so near to each other with small congregations was a headache for the two Trusts. So the joining of the two societies was only a matter of time. In spite of the need to join, association to “our” church was strong. A church does not need to be beautiful to be “our” church. It may have been the church where mother and father came, or it was the church where you attended Sunday School and went on the Anniversary. Perhaps it was where you gave your life to your Saviour. Thoughts too are strong—memories of a full church at a special performance of the “Messiah”—that popular preacher or evangelist—that beautiful Carol Service with the candles or the day we were married. So many personal reasons to stay—so many practical reasons to move.

When the scheme was commenced, Mount Zion was involved almost at once. The Sunday School site was needed eventually for a car park, but it was required for storing and a place for wood working. The date was arranged for the closing of Mount Zion and on Sunday, October 18th, 1964, the final service took place.

I would like to put on record that the Church was packed for that final service. I cannot, but those who attended will never forget the atmosphere, sentiment and nostalgia during the service. No one was ashamed of the tears that suddenly appeared as some incident was recalled. The service was conducted by the Minister, Rev. William Dickinson, assisted by Sam. Breeze, J.P., Lewis Davies, J.P., Mr. W. Upton and Mr. Lorin Craddock.

So the union was made and joint services took place on October 25th, 1964, at Wesley Church. There could not have been a happier amalgamation between two churches.

Meanwhile, a tender for building our new church had been accepted by Messrs. J. & F. Wootton, of Bloxwich. Various difficulties arose, so it was not until February, 1966, that the site was cleared and work commenced.

Progress, at first, seemed painfully slow, and there was little to see after months of work. But later steady progress was maintained until we came to the Stone-Laying Ceremony. We were very pleased and honoured that the Vice-President to the Methodist Conference, Mr. Albert Bailey was able to accept our invitation to lay the foundation stone. So, on a very windy June 4th, 1966, with many honoured guests, and an enthusiastic crowd, the ceremony took place. Two stones were laid, the second by Mr. Roy Craddock commemorating the joining of the two Societies, Mount Zion and Wesley.

After the stone laying the church began to take shape and soon the distinctive outline of the church roof was a new silhouette on the Brownhills skyline.

Residents of Silver Court began to get used to the daily cavalcade of cars, ready-mixed cement lorries and sight-seers who made the pilgrimage down Silver Street. Problems on the site were quickly resolved with the help of the excellent foreman, Mr. Alan Bonson, on behalf of J. & F. Wootton, and Mr. Clive Ford, on behalf of Birch and Caulfield, the architects.

Quietly, at the converted church of Wm. Hawkins, at Walsall Wood, the rebuilding of the Mount Zion organ was taking place. The old organ was divided to eventually go either side of the stained glass window in the new church. The new
organ has many additions, an electric action, separate console and a much brighter balanced tone.

The church itself is modern in design and will be easily recognised as a church. The steep roof and high arches adds majesty to this beautiful building. First to catch the eye is the gold cross over the main entrance stretching its arms in welcome. On entering the church the centre piece is another cross over the altar covering almost the whole of the far wall. The arches can be seen supporting the roof of cedar wood giving it a perfect finish.

The stained glass window, a feature in the new church, incorporates memorial windows taken from Mount Zion and Wesley churches. We hope to add to this window with more stained glass as time goes by. Another feature in the church is the side extension—separated by a folding door. This can be opened when we have special services, to accommodate an extra 70-80 people. The large schoolroom and stage will be an asset to the church, for Sunday School work, stage shows and wedding receptions. The kitchen has a wide serving hatch to the hall which we hope will make life easier for the ladies. Certainly the “lay-out” of the kitchen, with plenty of cupboards and working space, will be appreciated by all who use it.

We hope we have built a church that will be used. Many hours have been spent looking at other churches and using their best ideas. This is an active church and we are increasing the activities as time goes by. We would like to increase our Sunday School and all children would be most welcome. We need young boys and girls and a Youth Club Leader, to form a Youth Club, and as there is a first class stage perhaps a Dramatic Society could be started.

So many things can be done, please remember this church has been built for YOU Use it.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

By REV. W. J. HILL, B.Sc., M.C., H.C.F.

Our invaluable Secretary, having dealt with the past and the present in the efficient manner normal to him, has left it to me to discuss the future. The first thing that springs to mind is the old familiar phrase “the future all unknown.” My second thought is that the phrase is one of those half-truths that can be so misleading. The future is not ALL unknown. Because it will be born out of the present as the present was born out of the past, there are some things we do know about the future. The past, in this instance, is represented by two Methodist societies, two companies of people inspired by the inheritance they received from their Methodist forbears and by their own experience of the redeeming love of God in Christ to dedicate such talents as they possessed to the service of Christ’s Kingdom in this place. The present is represented by the union of those two societies into one fellowship enriched by the inheritance and experience of both. This is the soil out of which the future will grow, and this soil is enriched by the determination of the united society to be faithful stewards of what has been committed to their charge; to use the beautiful and commodious premises of which they are now possessed for the building up of the Church of Christ, the strengthening of their Christian fellowship, the training of the young in the knowledge and love of God and the proclamation of salvation for all who will place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. The first Sunday evening service in the new church will include a service for the Public Reception of New Members when a group of young people, at present in training, will be received into the Church. We regard this event as a token of our true intent for the future. We pray earnestly that the efforts we are able to make towards the extension of the Kingdom of Christ on Earth may be inspired, directed and blessed by Almighty God our Heavenly Father.
So much for our spiritual obligations. They are not the only tasks the future holds for the Methodists of Brownhills. We have financial obligations which belong no less to "the work of God" than do those of which I have spoken. When the plans for the new church were drawn our people were happy in the expectation that the £50,000 they were to be paid to provide "equivalent reinstatement" for Mount Zion and Wesley would be ample to meet the cost of the new premises. But the future, whilst not entirely unknown, can hold some unpleasant surprises. When the final cost was worked out it transpired that we should have to raise a further £4,000 within twelve months of the opening of the church. Our people are generous and in good heart, but this is a formidable task and we shall gratefully welcome any help which our friends from other churches may be able to give us.

Our final word, however, must be of thanksgiving and optimism. We look forward with a cheerful courage and a high-hearted happiness to the challenge of the future, secure in the knowledge that we are the servants of Christ and live in God's world.
Those Officiating
at the Opening Ceremony and Dedication Service

_The Architects_
Mrs. M. E. Wootton
_The Opener_
Rev. D. Thompson,
_President of the Methodist Church_
Rev. Brian S. O'Gorman,
_Chairman of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District_
Rev. Joseph Dowell,
_Secretary of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District_
_Circuit Ministers:
The Rev. W. J. Hill, B.Sc., M.C., H.C.F._
The Rev. J. W. Clarke

The Procession will consist of officiating Ministers, Visiting Ministers and Clergy, the Contractor, the Architects, the Opener, the Circuit Stewards.

Order of Service

_The congregation being assembled in the Church the doors will be closed and locked at 2.55 p.m._

_The Minister will invite Mrs. M. E. Wootton to open the Church._

_The architect will present the keys to Mrs. M. E. Wootton who will unlock and open the doors and deliver the keys to the Minister of the Church saying_

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I declare this building open and deliver to you the keys. I pray you now to dedicate it for the use of the Methodist Church in the worship and service of Almighty God.

_The Minister will answer_

I accept the keys in token of the trust committed to Brownhills Methodist Church.

_Entering the Church he will say_

Serve the Lord with gladness, enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

_and announce the processional hymn. As the procession enters the Church all will arise and sing the hymn._

_Tune: Old Hundredth_

ALL people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make; We are His folk, He doth us feed; And for His sheep He doth us take. O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do. For why? The Lord our God is good; His mercy is for ever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure. Amen.

**Prayer—Rev. J. W. Clarke**

**Let us pray:**

Almighty God, our eternal heavenly Father. Who hast called us into the fellowship and family of Thy Church, grant to us that as we have built this house to Thy glory we may within its walls so worship Thee in spirit and in truth that, strengthened by Thy grace and guided by Thy spirit, we may be enabled in all things truly to serve Thee; and grant that the reward of our service may be to see the increase of Thy kingdom in this place through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Minister and people:** Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever, Amen.

**Tune: Aurelia**

O THOU whose hand hath brought us Unto this joyful day, Accept our glad thanksgiving, And listen as we pray; And may our preparation For this day’s service be With one accord to offer Ourselves, O Lord, to Thee. And as the years roll onward, And strong affections twine, And tender memories gather About this sacred shrine, May this its chiefest honour, Its glory, ever be, That multitudes within it Have found their way to Thee. Lord God, our fathers’ helper, Our joy, and hope, and stay, Grant now a gracious earnest Of many a coming day. Our yearning hearts Thou knowest; We wait before Thy throne: O come, and by Thy presence Make this new house Thine own.

**The Bible Reading by the Rev. J. Dowell**

Ephesians, Chapter 4, verses 1-16.

**The Choir will sing an Anthem—Praise the Lord, O My Soul.**

By T. P. Royle.
THE DEDICATION

The congregation being seated the Rev. Brian S. O’Gorman shall say:

BELOVED in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this house to the glory of His name. 
Let us, therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

All standing, the Rev. Brian O’Gorman shall say, the people responding “Amen” clearly and heartily:

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His Grace, 
And of His Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us: 
And of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us: 
We dedicate this house. 

For the worship of God in prayer and praise; 
For the preaching of the everlasting gospel; 
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments; 
We dedicate this house. 

For comfort to all who mourn; 
For strength to those who are tempted; 
For light to those who seek the way; 
We dedicate this house. 

For the hallowing of family life; 
For teaching and guiding the young; 
For the perfecting of the saints; 
We dedicate this house. 

For the conversion of sinners; 
For the promotion of righteousness; 
For the extension of the Kingdom of God; 
We dedicate this house. 

In the unity of the faith; 
In the bond of Christian brotherhood; 
In charity and good will to all; 
We dedicate this house. 

In gratitude for the labours of all the saints; 
In loving remembrance of those who have finished the course, 
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord, 
We dedicate this house. 

The Minister and people together shall say:

We now, the people of this Church and Congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God.

The Minister shall say:

ACCEPT, O Lord, this service at our hands, and I bless it with such success as may most tend to Thy glory and the salvation of Thy people; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. 

Amen.
ANGEL voices, ever singing
Round Thy throne of light,
Angel harps, for ever ringing,
Rest not day nor night;
Thousands only live to bless Thee,
And confess Thee
Lord of might.
Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can scan,
Can it be that Thou regardest
Songs of sinful man?
Can we know that Thou art near us
And wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

Yea, we know that Thou rejoicest
O'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears, and hands, and voices
For Thy praise design;
Craftsman's art and music's measure
For Thy pleasure
All combine.
In Thy house, great God, we offer
Of Thine own to Thee,
And for Thine acceptance proffer,
All unworthy,
Hearts, and minds, and hands, and voices
In our choicest
Psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.
Of the best that Thou hast given
Earth and heaven
Render Thee. Amen.

The congregation being seated the Minister of the Church shall give notice of forthcoming services to be held, and the following hymn shall be sung during which an offertory shall be received.

WHAT shall we offer our good Lord,
Poor nothings, for His boundless grace?
Pain would we His great name record
And worthily set forth His praise.

Great object of our growing love,
To whom our more than all we owe,
Open the fountain from above,
And let it our full souls o'erflow.

So shall our lives Thy power proclaim,
The grace for every sinner free;
Till all mankind shall learn Thy name,
Shall all stretch out their hands to Thee.

Dedication of the Offerings by the Minister of the Church.


ALL praise to our redeeming Lord,
Who joins us by His grace,
And bids us, each to each restored,
Together seek His face.

He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on.

The gift which He on one bestows,
We all delight to prove;
The grace through every vessel flows,
In purest streams of love.

Open a door which earth and hell
May strive to shut, but strive in vain;
Let Thy word richly in us dwell,
And let your gracious fruit remain.

O multiply the sower's seed!
And fruit we every hour shall bear,
Throughout the world Thy gospel spread.
Thy everlasting truth declare.

We all, in perfect love renewed,
Shall know the greatness of Thy power,
Stand in the temple of our God
As pillars, and go out no more.

Dedication of the Offerings by the Minister of the Church.


ALL praise to our redeeming Lord,
Who joins us by His grace,
And bids us, each to each restored,
Together seek His face.

He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on.

The gift which He on one bestows,
We all delight to prove;
The grace through every vessel flows,
In purest streams of love.

Even now we think and speak the same,
And cordially agree;
Concentrated all, through Jesus's name,
In perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one,
The common peace we feel,
A peace to sensual minds unknown,
A joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below
In Jesus be so sweet,
What heights of rapture shall we know
When round His throne we meet.
Prayer: Minister of the Church:

Almighty God, we give Thee heartfelt thanks for this our new Church, strong and beautiful, set in the midst of our community, to be a sure stronghold for Thy faithful people, and a beacon to wayfaring men; we pray that as it bears witness to Thee in the beauty of its outward form, so all who worship Thee here may bear witness to Thee in the inward beauty of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Blessing by the President.

The procession will reform and retire led by the Minister while the recessional hymn is sung:

Tune: Nun Danket

NOW thank we all our God,
With hearts, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers’ arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With Them in highest heaven:
The one, eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.
**MID-WEEK SERVICES**

**MONDAY—**

**Ladies' Fellowship:**
Our Ladies' Fellowship Meeting is held every Monday night at 6.30 p.m. We hold a Devotional Service and different speakers are invited to take part in our services which is attended by a good company. We have been blessed with good Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurer and have made great strides both spiritually and financially. The Mount Zion Ladies' Guild joined the Wesley Ladies' Fellowship in 1965 and are now looking forward to meeting in our new church, which will have a church parlour with the easy chairs.

We welcome all ladies to join us and I am sure you will be wonderfully blessed.

**TUESDAY—**

**4th Brownhills (Brownhills Methodist) Brownie Pack:**

The Brownie Pack was formed in 1964 and meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. We have a full Pack under the supervision of Brown Owl Mrs. Lorna Lakin, assisted by Mrs. M. Craddock, Tweeny Owl. We do have a waiting list so any girls aged between 7½ and 11 who are interested in joining the Brownies should send their name, age and address to: Mrs. Lakin, 17 St. John's Road, Shire Oak, Brownhills.

We are urgently in need of someone to form a Guide Pack as we have nowhere to send the Brownies at the leaving age of eleven. Anyone who feels they can do this can count on the help of the Brownie Guiders and should contact Mrs. Lakin at the address given above.

**Choir:**

Though small in number the united choirs of Mount Zion and Wesley help considerably with the music of the church. In the past, as an augmented choir, we have performed such works as "The Messiah," "Elijah," and "The Creation." Many notable singers have been associated with the choir and we have been very fortunate in having first-class organists to conduct and play.

Practice takes place each Tuesday at 8.10 p.m. and a welcome is extended to all who are interested.

**WEDNESDAY—**

**Wives' Fellowship:**

The Wives' Fellowship was formed at Mount Zion Church twelve years ago, originally as the Young Wives' Circle. It was started by Mrs. Butler, the wife of Rev. Eric B. Butler, and at the first meeting there were nine ladies present. We meet every other Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. and now have a membership of thirty-eight. We have a varied programme with cookery demonstrations, talks, film shows, beetle drives, social evenings, devotional talks and an annual Christmas dinner. There is a friendly atmosphere at our meetings and a warm welcome is given to new members.

**The Friendly Group:**

The Friendly Group was formed when Mount Zion and Wesley combined. Members of Mount Zion Christian Endeavours joined with friends of Wesley to meet in each other's homes, once a fortnight, on a Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. approx.

Activities range from topics of a wide variety, followed by discussion, to record evenings.

Christmas 1966 saw the Group's first Carol Singing Evening and we collected £12, which was forwarded to the National Children's Home. This year it is hoped to double that amount.

New members and new ideas are always welcomed.
PLAN OF SERVICES

FINAL SERVICE — WESLEY CHURCH — SUNDAY, 16th APRIL, 1967

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH — SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, 1967 — 3 p.m.

Opened by Mrs. M. E. WOOTTON.
President of Methodist Church, Rev. D. THOMPSON
Rev. BRIAN S. O’GORMAN, Chairman of the District.

Sunday, April 23rd—
8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION (for friends of the Circuit).
10.45 a.m. REV. J. W. CLARKE.
6.00 p.m. REV. W. J. HILL (Membership Service).

Sunday, April 30th—
SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.
10.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. REV. JOHN R. BARRATT (Newport).
2.45 p.m. MUSICAL SERVICE. REV. J. W. CLARKE.

Thursday, May 4th—
L.P.M.A. Dinner and Film.
Speaker: President of the L.P.M.A., H. A. BETTS, Esq.

Sunday, May 7th—
SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.
10.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. REV. CYRIL R. RANSOME.
2.45 p.m. MUSICAL SERVICE. Mr. LEWIS DAVIES, O.B.E., J.P.

Sunday, May 14th—
10.45 a.m. REV. J. W. CLARKE (with Local Preachers).
6.00 p.m. REV. W. J. HILL.

Sunday, May 21st—
10.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. REV. BRIAN S. O’GORMAN,
Chairman of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District.

Sunday, May 28th—
10.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. REV. RONALD SPIVEY, M.A., D.D.

Sunday, June 4th—
10.45 a.m. Mr. A. HORACE CRADDOCK.
6.00 p.m. REV. W. J. HILL.

Sunday, June 11th—
10.45 a.m. Mr. W. E. SIMPSON, M.A., B.Sc.
6.00 p.m. REV. J. W. CLARKE.

Wednesday, June 14th—
7.30 p.m. LADIES’ RALLY.
Speaker: SISTER CLARE POWERS, of Wolverhampton.
Chairman: Mrs. JONAH DEAKIN, of Brownhills.

Sunday, June 18th—
10.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. LADIES’ DAY.

Sunday, June 25th—
10.45 a.m. Mr. W. UPTON.
6.00 p.m. Mr. LORIN H. CRADDOCK.

Thursday, June 29th—
3.00 p.m. MISSIONARY SOCIETY WOMEN’S WORK GARDEN PARTY
at the Manse.

Sunday, July 9th—
10.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. REV. ERIC B. BUTLER, H.C.F.