

Newport Street Congregational Chapel, Swindon

Meeting minutes and Roll of members - 1834

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STOP PRESS !

New Members: Robert Woolford, Mary Sharps, Thomas Godwin, Mary Ann Godwin, Horatio Weston, Harriett Osman, Miles Terrant of Wroughton and John Newth of Shaw, Alice Tidd, Mary Ann Hardwick, Sarah Barrett, Eliza Adelaide Tait

Recently departed: Caroline Turvey

Dismissed members: Matthews, Sarah Nash

Temporary members: Elizabeth Speckman of Costor

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Special Church Meeting held on the 24th day of January 1834

At the last church meeting some doubts being raised in how far it would be consistent to admit persons who had been baptized by immersion; a special church meeting or a convened to deliberate on the subject . And after many passages from scriptures, wishing to try everything by this test as the great standard of truth were brought forward from the acts and the Epistles to prove that we ought to receive than whom we believed to be the children of God, several instances from Churches in Bristol &

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Hackney & of this church, were brought forward, as proofs, that it was the custom among the Churches of Christ, of the Independent denomination, to admit persons, who were baptized by immersion as members; A letter was also read from a member of Mr Stratten's church Paddington Chapel, stating that he had been baptized by immersion, upon the Minister & deacons of that church approving thereof, prior to his being admitted as a member, & also stating that there were a considerable number of adult Baptists among that church.

Extracts were also read from the trust deed, to prove, that no apprehension need to be entertained on the subject, no Trustee nor pastor being eligible unless they approve & consent or preach doctrine according to the doctrinal articles of the church of England, as also to the articles of faith, compiled by the reverend assembly of Devines, convened for that purpose at Westminster in the year of our Lord 1643.

It was Unanimously resolved that persons who have been baptized by

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immersion, and whom the church consider to be believers in Christ Jesus, shall, upon their application to become members, be admitted as such provided, they are not members of any other Church, or, produce letters of dismissal there from.

Some of the members, who had not attended the Church meetings, three times during the past year, were reported to the Church, & the deacon requested to go & remonstrate on the subject with Mary (Jonathn) Hollich, the having at different times been reprov'd by the Minister & other of the members. The next meeting to be tuesday next.

At the meeting were present (26)

The Minister

Brother. Strange, Reynolds, Matthews, Gibbs, Kerby, Miller, Lawrence, Kent, Glead, Horne, John Kent, Barrett, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies, Wheeler.

Sister. Mayor, Hollich, Ellborough, Gibbs, King, Saunders, Snow, Moens, Nash & Smith.

*Sister Caroline Turvey died in the Lord
7 January 1834, aged 34 Years.*

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Church Meeting held 28 January 1834

18 present. The pastor

Brother. Matthews, Lawrence, Horne, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies, Wheeler.

Sister. Sarah Strange, Major, Smith, Hollich, Ellborough, King, Saunders, Snow, Moens, Nash.

The minutes of the two former meetings having been read, the Deacons not having as yet spoken to Mary (Jon) Hollich, were recommended to do so & report next meeting.

Robert Woolford

Mary Sharps

Thomas Godwin

Mary Ann Godwin

were after particular inquiries as to character & admitted as members of the church.

The Minister proposed

Horatio Weston

Harriett Osman

As far as he was able to judge as fit persons to become members of this church to stand over till next monthly meeting.

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Special Church Meeting held on the 20th February 1834

The Minister

21 present.

Brethren. Strange, Reynolds, Matthews, Laurence, Wm Kent, Horn, J Kent, Sharps, Jefferies, Wheeler, R Woolford.

Sisters. Reynolds, Smith, Hollich, Adams, King, Saunders, S Moens, Nash, Sharps, Godwin.

A charge being publicly made against Brother William Kent of improper connexion with a married woman, it was inquired into by some of the members and the prevaricating late of the woman gave much reason to believe the charge was untrue, yet Brother Kent with apparently and as we believe, sincere feeling that he should not have abstained, ~~even~~ from the appearance of evil, acknowledged, that he had by trifling & playsome conduct he had given reason for the cause of Christ to be evil spoken of acknowledging his fault, at the same time denying even any intention of criminal conduct. He was in the name of the church reprov'd for his conduct exhorted to abstain from these things & praying that the Lord may keep each of us & from his example to learn prudence and closely live with God ~~xxx~~s continued in the church.

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Church Meeting held 25th February 1834

20 present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Matthews, Wm Read, J Kent, Sharps, Barrett, Jefferies, Wheeler, Godwin, R Woolford, Nash.

Sisters. Smith, Hollich, King, Saunders, Moens, Nash, My Strange, Sh Strange.

The minutes of the two former meetings having been read, the Deacons reported that they had spoken to Mary (Jon) Hollich, on her never attending but on the Sabbath morning, her excuse was great age, weakness, domestic concerns xx & a promise, as the season advanced to endeavor to attend oftener, the church considered that as she was one of, if not, the oldest member they would bear with her a little longer.

Horatio Weston

Harriette Osman

were then proposed a new and admitted as members of the church having both been well reported of by the Deacons & many of the members present. The Minister then

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Proposed

Miles Terrant of Wroughton and John Newth of Shaw as members of this church, believing, both had experienced the spirits work in their souls, to stand over till next monthly meeting.

Three Children were baptized as per Register book vzl William Kent

Thomas Strange

Harriette Osman

Special Church Meeting held on the 18 March 1834

present the Minister

13 Brethren. Strange, Barrett, Laurence, Matthews, John Kent, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies, Wheeler, Woolford, Weston.

9 Sisters. Major, Smith, Hollich, Adams, Gibbs, Saunders, Snow, Sharps, Osman

The Minister proposed that, as according to the 5th rule of the Laws of the church, the Deacons keep regular accounts of all monies

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received and paid, which account shall be made up once in every year or oftener and be submitted to the inspection of the church or their deputy who must be a member :- Brother Thomas Horne be requested so to do , the minister was also requested to join Brother Horne.

Church Meeting held 1st April 1834

19 present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, Barrett, Matthews, W Kent, Gleed, Nash, Sharps, Woolford, Jefferies, Horne.

Sisters. Smith, Hollich, King, Hollich, Sharps, Adams, Snow, Beasant, Saunders, Moens.

The minutes of the two former meetings having been read, the Minister a new proposes

Miles Terrant of Wroughton

and John Newth of Shaw

who were both unanimously admitted as members of this church.

*Brother Horne & the Minister reported that they had examined the church account kept by the Treasurer Brother Strange for the **hro** last year and highly approved of them leaving in the Treasurer **xxx***

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a balance of fourteen pounds and five pence half penny.

Special Church Meeting held on the 8th April 1834

27 present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Gibbs, Matthews, Jeffries, Gleed, Woolford, Nash, Wheeler, Horn, Barrett, Sharps.

Sisters. Smith, King, Hollich, Osman, Major, Ellborough, Nash, Sharps, Adams, Strange, Moens, Beasant, Snow, Godwin.

Brother Lawrence stated the state of intoxication in which he saw Brother Matthews on friday last the 4th inst and also that since the public reproof in July last, he had been guilty of the same crime, the church considering the injunction of the Saviour Matthew 18/15 & the command of the Son 2nd Thess 3/6 and 1 Thess 5/22 considered the case. Gave Brother Matthews an opportunity to defend himself, who did acknowledge his fault, but the church after praying to the Lord for direction & looking at the repeated offence, at his general conduct no ways becoming

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a child of God, as also at circumstances after his fall, came to the resolution to expell him from the church, and the Minister stating to him the case & that he was no longer considered a member of this Christian church closed in prayer for him, that he might be restored & for each of us to be kept by the Lord.

Special Church Meeting held on the 19th June 1834

26 present. The paster

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Gibbs, Jeffries, Nash, Wheeler, Horn, Sharps, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Godwin.

Sisters. Smith, King, Hollich, Osman, Major, Ellborough, Sharps, Adams, My Strange, Sh Strange, Moens, Beasant, Snow, Godwin, Hopkins.

The Minister reported that having some time ago spoken to Sarah Nash, & again lately on account of improper conduct, & from more than one quarter received sad complaints about her, she knowing a church meeting was to be held for this purpose acknowledged herself unworthy to be a member of this Christian church, & now proposed she should be expelled & no longer be considered a member according to Matt 18/15. She was unanimously expelled – praying that she might if God's child, be restored & each of us might be kept by the Eternal Spirit

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the meeting was adjourned till next tuesday.

Church Meeting held 24th June 1834

present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Jeffries, Nash, Wheeler, Sharps, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Glead, Godwin.

Sisters. Smith, King, Hollich, Osman, Beasant, Snow, Moens, Dunsford.

The Minister proposed & was unanimously resolved.

That in future, any Believer in our Lord & Saviour occasionally residing here or in this neighbourhood, & desirous of commemorating with this church the death of our Lord at his table shall be so admitted for 6 months, and no longer, and should they continue a longer time residing here or in this neighbourhood then to be proposed as a regular member.

Elizabeth Speckman of Costor, was admitted as an occasional communicant.

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Church Meeting held 27th August 1834

20 present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Jefferies, Nash, Wheeler, Wm Kent, John Kent, Glead, Horn, Weston.

Sisters. Smith, King, Hollich, My Strange, Osman, Beasant, Snow, Dansford, Hopkins, Sharps, Major.

The Minister stated that Alice Tidd desired to become a member of this church and that from conversation with her & beholding her becoming conduct, he has no hesitation in proposing her as a member of this Christian church, to stand over till next meeting.

Eliza Tate was admitted as an occasional communicant.

Church Meeting held 30th September 1834

18 present. The Minister

Brethren. Strange, Jefferies, Nash, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Glead, Horn, Woolford. Barrett, Sharps, Gibbs.

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Sisters. Adams, Hollich, Osman, King, Smith, Moens.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read.

Alice Tidd was anew proposed, and some of the members stated that from their conversation with her they fully approved of her becoming a member, she was unanimously admitted as a member of this church.

The Minister also proposed, Mary Ann Hardwick (formerly a member of Mr Gipps's Church hereford, who, last year sat down with us for some months) as a stated member of this church, to stand over till next month.

Church Meeting held 28th October 1834

16 present. The Minister

Sisters. Hollick, S Strange, Osman, Major, King, Smith, Beasant, Moens, Snow.

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, J Kent, Jeffries, Wheeler, Sharps, Barrett.

The minutes of the last meeting

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Having been read.

Mary Ann Hardwick was a new proposed, and many of the members after conversation with & previous knowledge of her, fully approved of her becoming a member, she was unanimously admitted as a member of this church.

Sister Smith having been reported as having been intoxicated & the minister having reprov'd her alone, & in the presence of Sister Major, on former charges brought against her, was called up & charged there with but as she denied it, it was resolved further to inquire into it, at the same time admonished not to sit down at the Lord's Supper next Lord's day, & Brother Strange was requested to make further inquiry.

The Minister complaining of the short attendance at church meetings gave notice that God willing, he would make a proposal to constrain members who live within 6 miles to attend a certain number of times within the year.

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Special Church Meeting held on the 31st October 1834

17 present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Nash, Jno Kent, Jeffries, Sharps, Gibbs, Wm Kent, Woolford.

Sisters. Sarah Strange, Hollich, King, Smith, Snow, Sharps, Moens.

Brother Strange reported that he had made inquiry respecting the charge brought against Sister Smith, & that the inquiry confirmed the accusation. She now acknowledged her fault & was reproved in the name of the church with assurance that another fall would surely cause her to be expelled.

The Minister proposed Sarah Barrett as a member of this church, to stand over till next month.

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Special Church Meeting held on the 4th November 1834

16 present. The Minister

Brethren. Lawrence, Strange, Horn, Weston, Jno Kent, Wm Kent, Jeffries, Sharps, Wheeler.

Sisters. Sarah Strange, Hollich, King, Snow, Moens.

The Minister reported that Eliza Adelaide Tait, who was admitted in the month of August last as an occasional communicant was desired, under a feeling of Union in Christ with many of the members, to call her lot among us & to be admitted as a member of the church, he ~~therefore~~ believing her to be called & meetly brought to know the Lord proposed her as a member of this church to stand over till next monthly meeting.

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Church Meeting held 2nd December 1834

15 present. Thos Strange, the Minister being ill.

Brethren. Lawrence, Wm Kent, Jno Kent, Nash, Sharps, Jefferies, Wheeler, R Woolford.

Sisters. Mary Strange, My Hollich, Adams, King, Tidd, Hardwick.

*Sarah Barrett and
Eliza Adelaide Tait*

being again proposed as members, they were unanimously admitted into this church.

James Morris formerly a member of thr Wesleyan Society in this place, was proposed as a member, to stand over until next monthly meeting.