

I have not mentioned the saintly women who so ably supported their husbands in the cause, by entertaining the travelling preachers and Ministers to dinner and tea, and occasionally providing them with accommodation. The women took an active part in the conduct of the services and frequently led the prayers. While food and money was short, the Lord's work did not suffer, even though they had to deny themselves. On special occasions, such as the Camp Meeting, the band and group of visiting preachers were made welcome in their homes. Prominent among this group of women were Ellen Sealey, Ellen Partridge, both always called Nellie, Louise Partridge, and many others.

The new chapel was built in 1926 and is still open for worship, being now in the Swindon Circuit. I well remember the opening and the joyous singing of "Thou Shepherd of Israel and mine", a favourite of that time. As the organist for this service, I still feel proud to have taken part.

Several others, who like myself, belong to a younger generation, should also be mentioned. Firstly, my brother Harry, who, although a cripple from a very early age, became a local preacher and travelled to appointments in a motorized wheelchair. Secondly, Jimm Williams, who for many years was Society Steward and with his wife, who is still with us, gave wonderful support to the cause.

Then, Mr and Mrs Chivers, Mr Chivers being the Society Steward, and my sister, Violet, who has for many years acted as organist, secretary, Sunday School teacher and Trustee.

We can only pray that God will again pour out his Spirit and send another John Ride to Ashbury.

On a personal note, I find it was sixty years ago that I was appointed as organist at Ashbury. Ever since then, I have continued to play and take services in our Methodist Chapels, sometimes even now having to take both parts because the organist is ill, such being the training I received at Ashbury. My thoughts sometimes go back and I can feel the faith and assurance still coming through from those who have laid the trail for us to follow.

I am indebted to the Reverend William Leary, B.A., the Connexional Archivist of the Methodist Church, for his assistance.

Frank Partridge, O.B.E.