



# *Primitive Methodist Chapel*

## **Laying of Foundation Stones for the New Chapel**

The Primitive Methodists of this village are not one whit behind their brethren in other places in the matter of enterprise and display that marked vitality from a small beginning so peculiar to the sect. The accommodation at their old chapel (built in 1831) has been inadequate for the village, and the ventilation very bad, and consequently the Bishopstone people have bestirred themselves and every effort has been made for some time past by a number of influential gentlemen connected with the cause to remedy this defect. The result has been that their efforts have been blessed, and on Wednesday afternoon last, the 16th inst., the interesting ceremony was performed of laying foundation stones for a new chapel, to be built on a much more commodious scale than the old one. The situation selected is a very suitable one, facing the High Street, and at the top part of the same. The laying of the stones was performed by a number of ladies, and the weather being favourable, a very large concourse of people assembled to witness the commencement of this new enterprise for the village of Bishopstone

The proceedings were opened with the singing of a hymn, the Rev. G. Fowler, supt. Of the circuit, presiding. The Rev. P. Kay (Faringdon) read a portion of Scripture, which was followed by an address by the Rev. J. Herridge, of the same place. Another hymn and prayer brought the strictly portion of the proceedings to a close, when the laying of the first stone was proceeded with by Miss Morse (Stratton), who acted on behalf of her mother, who was unable to attend, but sent a donation of £5. Mrs J. Collett placed the next stone, and also gave a donation of £5. Other stones were placed and donations given by the following:- Mrs. S. Wentworth (Bishopstone), £5; Miss Lawrence (Bishopstone), 10s.; Mrs E. Stone (Bishopstone), £3; Mrs A. Wicks (Faringdon), £5 5s.; Mrs D, Tictener (Bishopstone), £5; Miss Hicks (Westcott), £1 10s. Other donors were Mr. R. Bearly (Croydon), £5; Mrs J. Ford, £1; Mrs C. Hunt, £1; Mrs J. Richards (Bourton), £1; Miss Hermon (Childrey), 10s.; Mr. J. Halliday, £1; Mr. J. Stratford, £1; a friend, £1 10s.; a friend, 5s.; Miss M. Beasley (Bishopstone), £2. Other sums by Miss Fowler, Miss Goddard, Miss Turvey, and others. The collections at the opening services amounted to £2; the total amount collected on the site being £46 2s. 6d.

There was a tea meeting held afterwards at the old chapel, when a further sum of £3 9s. Was realised, the tea, &c., being given by friends, the public meeting which took place after being sustained by Mr. J. Goddard (senior circuit steward), Mr. R. Kemble, Mr. T. Smart (junior circuit steward), Rev. J. Herridge, Mr. J. Hicks, of Westcott (upon whose ground the chapel will be erected), and the Rev. P. Kay, circuit minister. The account given by the Rev. G. Fowler showed that the collections at the evening service amounted to £2 4s. 8d., and that promises had been made of £30 to be paid at the opening services in December next, the congregation present promising £20 of this, and Mr. L. J. Morse, (Chairman) £10. Therefore with £55 previously procured. £51 the proceeds of the day, and £30 promised by the opening day, there is a total of £136 towards £400, the probable sum required, We must not omit to mention that the Primitive Methodist Brass Band was engaged for the occasion on Wednesday, and greatly assisted in making the meeting so successful as it was.

**Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 19 September 1885**