

Upper Stratton Baptist Church

Starting as Stratton Free Church the current building was built in 1861/2 by Henry Tucker Esq, of Bourton House, Shrivenham. It's proper title is 'The Henry Tucker Memorial Baptist Church'.

The building is a stone structure, with Gothic window and slate roof, with exposed pine roof trusses.

Sunday School Anniversary on 7th July, there were several speakers. *Swindon Advertiser 15-07-1867.*

1868 becomes a Baptist Chapel after joining the Wilts & East Somerset Baptist Association.

1902 Band of Hope formed, and the Capel was bought from the Tucker family and transferred to a group of trustees, prior to that the church paid 10s a quarter rental.

1911 Gas lighting installed.

The New Sunday School Hall built by W G Blake & Sons, Swindon, it opened in August 1929, and the Sunday School Hall at the rear was opened 3rd September 1955. 1930 John Usher was senior Deacon.

The Harvest Festival services over the weekend were lead on Sunday morning by Private Henry J Lawrence of the London Baptist Preachers Association and the evening by Mr. A Howse of Calne. *North Wilts Herald 03-10-1941*. 1952-63 Ralph Maycock became first ordained vicar.

2nd Swindon Boy's Brigade attached to church. *Wiltshire Times 16-06-1956.* They finished in 1998.

From 1957 Evening Advertiser: The Rev and Mrs R C Maycock of Upper <u>Stratton</u> were both elected to high posts in the Wiltshire and East Somerset Baptist Church Association at the annual assembly. Mr. Maycock became vice-president of the association and his wife is the women's president.

1967 Playgroup is opened. And in 1970 they were advertising for 30 more children, *Evening Advertiser 16-03-1970*. 1996 Church undergoes re-build.

2020 COVID19 Epidemic, Upper Stratton Baptist Church are providing FREE FOOD for anyone in our parish community that may be struggling to provide sufficient food for their children at this difficult time.

Baptist Church Scripture Exam Certificate of Merit Awarded to Susan Lott 1963

Ministers

1866 Rev. H Gillmore1867 Rev. Issacher Flecker1872 Rev. A J Hamilton1876-1880 Rev. Nicholas Rogers is pastor,1890 Rev. J W Gardner is listed as minister in North Wilts Directory,

1891 Rev. Aaron N Taylor served until 1919.1963 Rev. G E Boocock,1969 Rev. Ian Hanscombe1981 Rev. David Blandford1993 Rev. Howard Heyburn2009 Rev. Alison Boulton

THE BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL – Through the anniversary tea of the above school, held July 27th, suffered from want of publicity and depression of trade, the Sunday services following were, as usual, successful, several in the evening failed to find standing room in the chapel. The annual tea to the children was given on Saturday, Aug. 3rd, when 145 scholars and about 35 adults, headed by a band, marched to Kingsdown and around the village, arriving at last at Mr. Coleborne's field, opposite the school, kindly lent for the occasion, where a pleasant evening was spent; and after assembling in front of the Superintendent's (Mr. S. Colborne's) residence to give their hearty thanks the school dispersed, well pleased with the days enjoyment. *Swindon Advertiser 10-08-1878*.

For further information please visit Upper Stratton Baptist Church