



CHURCH BOOK

BAPTIST CHAPEL

NEW SWINDON

JANUARY 1855

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The foundation stone of this Chapel was laid early in the year 1848.
By Revd J Case of Hackney.

Opened for public worship Jany. 4th 1849

The Revd James Sherman of Surrey Chapel London

The Revd Thos Winter of Bristol preaching on the occasion

School and Class Rooms erected in the year 1858

Chapel enlarged and new School and Class Rooms 1868

The Revd Richard Breeze the founder and first Paster of this church sustaines the pastorate until Febr 3rd 1865

The Revd John M Murphy was Ordained Pastor of the Church in the year 1866. Resigned Mar 25th 1873

The Revd G T Edgley was Recognized Pastor Octr 1873. Resigned Sept 29th 1876

The Revd Frederick Pugh was chosen Pastor in Sept 1877 & continued until his death April 4th 1897

During his Pastorate 780 members were omitted to the church

The Revd W L Williams was chosen Pastor in Sept 1898

Articles of Faith agreed to at a Church Meeting held 2nd March 1855

We believe

- 1st That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God - that they were written by inspired men and that they constitute the only rule of faith and practice
- 2nd That there is one Lord and true God whose name above is Jehovah and that there are three distinct persons in the Godhead the father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost - yet they are and in essence and equal in power and glory
- 3rd That by reason of the Fall of our first Parents there is in all men an original propensity to evil and the practises of departure from God
- 4th That God provided and revealed a plan of redemption in the persons of his son Jesus Christ who when the fullness of time was come, after rendering obedience to the Divine Law and affording us an example of perfect holiness, died on the Cross in the character of an atoning Sacrifice thereby yielding such satisfaction for sin as Jehovahs Law demands and the implacability of divine justice required
- 5th That the benefit of Redemption are to be obtained only through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that to such repentance and faith the heart is naturally averse and that to over come this aversion of heart is the work of the Holy Spirit
- 6th That the Sanctification of the Believer is the will of God and that by the operations of the Holy Spirit on the Soul the believer is gradually transformed into the image of Christ

Rules of Practice

We resolve

1st That none be admitted into Church fellowship but such as give a satisfactory relation of the work of peace in their heart where conduct corresponds with their professions, and who have followed the Lord in the ordinances of believers baptism.

2nd That we will assemble together for the public worship of God on the first day in each week, which we will consider to be the Lord's day and morally binding upon all Christians and that we will meet at all other convenient reason for exhortation prayers and praise.

3rd That we will meet on the first Lord's day in every month to break bread together in commemoration of the Saviours death and to contribute to the necessities of the poorer members and the members absenting themselves three months without assigning satisfactory reason shall be subject to the discipline of the Church.

4th That we will meet on the last Friday evening preceding the Ordinance for the admission of Members and transacting the business of the Church, at which meetings all the Members are expected to be present.

That all matters of business and all suggestions respecting the future welfare of the Church shall be communicated to the Deacons previous to their introduction to the Church, and we agree also that in our church meetings in the spirit of kindness and brotherly love one toward another, we will endeavour to avoid in matter and manner whatever would give needless pain to any present, and to obtain from all observations that censure would either express or imply on any Members whether present or absent.

5th That all questions of order and discipline shall be decided by a majority of the Church assembled except in the admission of members which must be unanimous.

6th That all who wish to unite themselves with the Church shall first propose themselves to the Pastor who if satisfied of their conversation to God, shall recommend a Committee of two Members to converse with the individual proposed, and to investigate character, offer a proper satisfactory examination on the part of the Committee / they shall request the candidate to appear at the next Church meeting to inform the Church (either personally or by letter / of the work of grace in their hearts). Members of other Churches shall be received by letter of dismission.

This Rule was altered 4 Jany 1874 by vote of the Church, see end of Rules.

7th That in all cases of private offence the sacred rule in Matthew 18 chap 15 . 17 verses shall be strictly observed any breach of which or promulgating a report when it has not complied with, shall make the offenders amenable to the censure of the Church and in no case shall it be introduced to the Church till that precept has been regarded - Members acquainted with the disorderly walk of any fellow member shall report the same to the Pastor or Deacon but in no case to spread it abroad.

8th That we recognise it to be our duty to conceal and keep secret from any who are not members however dear to us, all the affairs of the Church and the proceedings of the Church meetings.

9th That in addition to the office of Bishop or Pastor the Church shall have one or more Deacons who shall be chosen from the Members of the Church; paying strict regard to 1st Timothy 3rd Chap 8 . 13 v.

10th That we consider the unions by marriage of believers with unbelievers to be expressly forbidden in the word of God and that any member infringing this divine injunction shall be amenable to the censure and discipline of the Church.

Rule 6 was altered 4 Jany 1874 by vote of the Church. That instead of the Candidate coming before the Church to relate his or her experience, the testimony of the Committee of two Brethren appointed to visit the Candidate, shall be deemed sufficient.