

under the care of the Rev. J. A. Spurgeon, for the dismissal of Emily Judge.

F. G. Marchant, { Chairman
Dec: 1st, 81.

Church Meeting, Dec: 1st, 1881.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. E. P. Burls, the Minutes of the last meeting were read & adopted.

745. Alice Day was proposed for membership. It was stated that this young friend though believing fully in baptism, did not on account of ill-health at present seek that ordinance. Brethren M. H. Foster & Chambers were appointed visitors.

746. Leave was given to apply for the dismissal of Miss Sarah Gray, from the Church at Croydon under the care of Rev. J. A. Spurgeon; also of Mrs Frank O'Dell, from the Church at Llanidloes, N. Wales, under the ministry of the Rev. J. Edwards.

747. The Pastor announced that the term of Mrs Wm Russell's suspension had expired, and that by her own request she would forthwith take her place at the Lord's Table.

748. The members of the Church were informed that a Public Meeting of the Hert's Union would be held in the Chapel on the following Thursday Evening, and were earnestly asked to endeavour to be present on that occasion.

F. G. Marchant
Chairman

Jan: 2nd, 1882.

Annual Church Meeting, Jan: 2nd, 1882.

The Tea, which had been announced for five o'clock was well attended; at the subsequent meeting of the Church a less number than usual were present.

749. The Minister reported the death of Elizabeth James, ^{which took place} on Friday, Dec: 30th. Our aged friend passed peacefully to her rest, trusting firmly in Jesus X^t, after honourable membership with the Church for upwards of forty years.

750. On the testimony of the visitors, brethren M. H. Foster and D. Chambers, it was unanimously agreed to receive Alice Day to fellowship.

751. Charles Simkins and Thirza Mansell having been proposed for membership, brethren Wm Foster & D. Chambers were appointed visitors in the former case, and brethren John Morgan and E. J. P. Burlo in the latter.

752. Satisfactory letters of dismission having been received for each, the Church agreed to receive Emily Judge, Sarah Gray, and Mrs Frank O'Dell into membership.

753. On application from the Church at North Fimbley, the dismission was granted of Mr & Mrs Johnson, J. R., J. W., Annie E., & Emily Johnson, also that of Emily Bayley to their communion.

754. It was agreed that the name of Mary Haner be erased from the Roll, nothing having been heard of her since she left the town three years since.

755. Statistics for the year ending Dec: 31st.

Additions.

1. By Profession, through Baptism.

Emily Johnson, Charlotte Gatward, Emily Newton, Mr & Mrs Rainsford, Alice Jeeves, & Lydia Butcher = 7.

Annie and Pattie Ekins, with Harold Doggett were baptized, but not residing in the neighbourhood did not seek admission to the Church.

2. By Dismission from other Churches.

Mr & Mrs Johnson, Y.R., J.H., and A.E. Johnson from Camden Road, Emily Bayley, from New Barnet, Lucy Hutson, from Walsworth Road, Isaac Ibberson from Chesterton, & J.P. Burls, from Canterbury = 9.

Removals.

1. By Dismission to other Churches.

M.A. Myers, Mr & Mrs John Cousins, Sarah Shaw, Louisa Jackson, & Mrs Charles Leonard (formerly Sarah Johnson). 6.

2. By Death.

Thomas Dodwell, Martha Conder, and Elizabeth James 3.

Summary of Statistics.

i. <u>Additions</u> . -	By Baptism	7
	By Dismission	9
	Total Additions	<u>16</u>
ii. <u>Removals</u> . -	By Dismission	6
	By Death	3
	Total Removals	<u>9</u>

Summary Of Members.

On the Roll Dec: 31st, 1881	265
On the Roll Dec. 31st, 1880	<u>258.</u>
Clear Increase for the Year	<u>7</u>

Attendance at the Lord's Supper.

130 . 127 . 112 . 129 . 131 . 73 . 131 . 122 . 118 . 134	
128 . 131 .	Total for year <u>1214 66</u>
	Average per month <u>122 $\frac{1}{6}$</u>

Addresses were afterwards given by brethren J. Morgan, Rennie ^{G. Halsey,} M. H. Foster, E. J. P. Burls, and J. A. Comfort.

756. On the motion submitted to the meeting it was resolved: "That this meeting having heard the statement of Mr. M. H. Foster respecting the employment of a missionary in connection with this Church, heartily concurs in the opinion that the time has come when the Deacons may feel justified in bringing this matter formally before the Church."

The meeting was concluded by singing part of the hymn beginning "Hail sweetest, dearest tie that binds"
F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Jan: 26, 82.

Church Meeting, Jan: 26th, 1882.

757. The minutes having been read & confirmed the death was reported of Jerina Strickland, who after a short connection with the Church on earth, died, full of faith, on the island at Arlesey.

758. On the report of the visitors, Charles Simkins and Thinga Mansell were accepted for membership, after baptism.

759. A vote of thanks was cordially passed to Messrs Pryor and Hill for their long and kind services in shewing friends to their seats in the Chapel on Sundays.

760. The following resolution was moved from the Chair, seconded by Mr. M. H. Foster, and Carried: "That in view of providing funds for the support of the Evangelist alluded to in the resolution of our last meeting, our friends Mr. H. Foster & Smith Woodfield, with power to add to their number, be requested to wait upon each Seat-holder in the Congregation and ascertain how much each would promise per week, month, quarter, or year, for one year certain,

and for two years, if at the end of the first year the labours of the Evangelist should be found acceptable to the Church.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, March 2. 82.

Church Meeting, March 2nd, 1882.

761. The Minutes having been adopted the death was reported of Mr. John Ayres, who was baptized and joined the Church here in 1844. The withdrawal of George Webb, ^{was announced} and the erasure of the name of Thomas, ^{Waller} who had joined another Church was agreed to. The dismission was granted of George Smith to the Church at Olney, Bucks.

762. The Minister announced that the new Supplement to "Psalms & Hymns" would be introduced at the week-night services, a month hence, if friends offered no objection.

763. Mr. Henry Jeeves was appointed auditor with Mr. Griggs, in the room of Mr. Tom Johnson, who has removed to London.

764. It was decided to hold the Good Friday Missionary Tea Meeting, as usual.

765. The report of the friends who consulted to canvass the Cong. for subscriptions to support a missionary was then read, by which it appeared that a yearly sum amounting to about had been promised. This, with the £25 to be given by the minister, ^{should his stipend continue to exceed £200 per annum by that amount,} and with a grant of £20 which was thought the Hertford Union might make, would raise the annual amount to about

Thereupon the following resolution was moved by brethren M. H. Foster, & Pryor & supported by Mr. J. Foster: "That the Pastor and Deacons with brethren Braund, Bards, Halsey, & Parker be a Committee to make inquiries for a suitable man to work as an Evangelist for at least one

year, and report thereon to the Church. This resolution was carried

766.

Mr. Hare called the attention of the Church to the resolution of the S. S. Teachers requesting that Cocon Matting might be laid down in the Gallery; he also drew attention to the desirability of obscuring the lower half of each window in the area of the Chapel, so that persons walking in the Chapel grounds during the services might not be seen from the pulpit. On the understanding that these matters would be considered next month, the meeting was then concluded.

H. G. Marchant

Chairman, May 4th, 1882.

Church Meeting, Thursday, May 4th.

Prayer was offered ~~was offered~~ by Mr. Woodfield, special thanks being given to God for the recent and long blessing resting on the Gospel at home and in our villages.

The following friends were proposed for fellowship after baptism: Mrs. Smith Senr., Mrs. Smith, Junr., Eliza Andrews, Caroline Saunders, Elizabeth Ayers, Mary Bushell, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Peters, ^{Mary Ann} Margaret Smith, M. A. Sharp, Wm. Thompson, Wm. Ewington, Eliza Bird, Clara Underwood, Charlotte Cook (Mrs), Ellen Hitchcock, Ellen Cannon, Martha French

Visitors having been appointed to wait on these friends, the Minister reported the death of Henry Hyde, who had been a member of the Church since 1865.

Fanny Gedney was dismissed to the Church at Edmonton

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771. The Financial Accounts for the past year of the Minister's Fund, the Incidentals, Lord's Supper, & Sunday School Funds, all of which had been duly audited, were then passed, the cordial thanks of the Church having been given to ^{the} brethren who had prepared them.

F. G. Marchant, Chair, May 18th.

Church Meeting, May 18th, 1882.

After prayer by Mr. Halsey, the Minutes of the last meeting were adopted.

772. On the letter of transfer from the Church at Canterbury, it was agreed to receive Miss Alice Hook.

773. On the reports of brethren F. Foster and Ibberson, the Church agreed to receive Elija Andrews (Mrs), Eliabeth Ayers, and William Ewington; on the reports of brethren Wm Foster, G. W. Russell, Caroline Saunders, Mary Bushell (Mrs), Margaret Smith (Mrs), and Martha Peters (Mrs); on the reports of brethren M. H. Foster and Burls, Mary Ann Palmer (Mrs), William Thompson, Mary Ann Sharp, and Martha French (who was restored after backsliding); on the reports of brethren Puyor & Chambers, Louisa J. Smith (Mrs Junr) and John Thrussell. These cases were all from the village Congregation at Preston.

774. From Wymondley, on the reports of brethren J. A. Comfort and A. Jelly, it was agreed to receive Mary Ann Smith and Clara Underwood.

775. From our own Congregation, on the reports of brethren Woodfield & Burls, it was agreed to receive

Eliza Bird, Ellen Hitchcock; and on the reports of brethren O'Dell & Jelly, Senr, Charlotte Cook.

The name of Clara Frost, of Preston, just now absent from home, was allowed to stand over, as was that of Ellen Cannon of Hitchin. As the latter young friend was unable to say much to the visitors, Mrs Wilson Gatward and Miss O'Dell kindly undertook to see her before another Church meeting.

Of the above Candidates those only that are unable ask for baptism, most of the remainder not seeking that ordinance either because of age or weakness.

Our brother Mr O'Dell whose work has, for some past, been most thankfully received by and greatly blessed to the congregation at Preston was able to give concurrent and interesting testimony to the cases from that congregation. While many of the candidates have spoken of God's blessing through several of our own village preachers, and students of Mr Spurgeon's College, the Church specially and most thankfully bears record to the great good which God has been pleased to accomplish through the labours of Miss Cobb, of London, during a fortnight's evangelical services at Wyomondley. Glory be to God in the highest for all His mercy.

77b.
Brethren Mr. H. Foster, Wm Foster, G. Halsey, J. Pym, R. O'Dell, and G. W. Russell were appointed delegates to the meeting of the Herts Union to be held at St. Albans in June next.

F. G. Marchant

Chairman, June 3rd, 1882.

Church Meeting, June 8th.

The Minutes of the last meeting were adopted.

The Case of Ellen Cannon, a young friend applying for baptism and membership, was deferred for further opportunities of instruction.

On the report of brethren Morgan and Woodfield, it was agreed to receive, after baptism, Clara Frost, of Preston.

Our sister Mrs John Wheeler, having acknowledged with contrition her transgression in connection with recent reports of misconduct, it was agreed that she be suspended for six months from this date.

The Committee chosen to enquire for a suitable evangelist reported that they in a case which they had hoped to be able to recommend to the Church, they had met with disappointment on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the Candidate's testimonials.

The ^{Congregation} Church at Stondon made application through the Minister for assistance in some necessary repairs to their Chapel. The matter having been commended to the consideration of the Church, was left for future consideration.

It was reported that the term of office in the disconate for brethren J. A. Comfort & Woodfield had now expired, and that at the next Ch. Meeting measures would be taken for the re-election of these brethren, or ^{for the choice} of others, as the Church might see fit, to serve in their stead.

Brethren G. Halsey & G. W. Russell gave interesting reports of yesterday's meeting of the Hert's Union at St. Albans, which all of our appointed delegates attended.

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Church Meeting, June 12th, After P. Meeting.
Brethren Woodfield Morgan, M. H. Foster & Burlo
were appointed to visit eight Candidates at Stondon
Fr. G. Marchant,
Chairman, June 19, 1882.

Church Meeting, June 19th, 1882.

The Minutes of the two previous meetings having been adopted
Miss M. A. Hainworth was dismissed to the Church at
Chatsworth Road, Lower Horwood.

784.
The following Candidates, seeking baptism, were proposed for
fellowship: — Ellen Mansell (of Charlton) & Walter Charles
Cook; visitors, Messrs R. O'Dell & W. Jelly; Rose Mead, &
Louisa Newton; visitors, W. Foster & Halacy; William
Waters and Samuel Palmer; visitors S. Woodfield & James
Morgan; William Bullard & Arthur Newman, visitors
J. A. Comfort & G. W. Russell; Emily Sturges, visitors
Messrs Merritt & Hare; Edwin Jeeves — visitors Messrs
Burlo & Griegs; Frank O'Dell & Alfred Creasy, visitors
M. H. Foster & J. Ibberson; Edith Morgan & Alice
Sharp — visitors, D. Chambers & J. Rennie.

785.
From Preston, Candidates asking baptism; — Betsy Sannitt
Emma Andrews, Agnes Walker, Wm Boston & Charles
Bell; also Hannah Payne, not seeking baptism. The
visitors for these cases were Fr. Foster, J. Pryor, H. Creasy
& F. Griegs.

Marian Wilton, of Stondon, was proposed for fellowship
after baptism: visitors, brethren Burlo & Chambers.

786.
The following Candidates, all of whom believed in baptism
but were unable through infirmity to receive the ordinance
or who had been baptized were also proposed: —
Mrs Bailey, Mrs & Mrs Hammett, formerly baptized

members at Breachwood Green, William Manning, & Alice Maud Marchant. The visitors in the first three cases were brethren Morgan & Pryor, in the fourth, brethren W^m Foster & Chambers, & in the last, brethren M. H. Foster & Alfred Jelly.

It having been deemed advisable to take reports of Stondon Candidates at this meeting, and some of the visitors not having been able to visit them on such short notice, it was agreed to receive the following friends on the testimony of brethren Woodfield & Morgan: — Julia Angell, Martha Farrow, Emma Conder, and Fanny Arnold after baptism; and the following cases not at present seeking baptism: — Mary Ann Hare, Ann Goodwin, George Whitbread, & Elizabeth Whitbread, the last friend having been baptized.

The meeting was closed with singing & prayer.

F. G. Marchant,

Chairman, June 26. 82.

Church Meeting, June 16th, 1882.

— The minutes were read & confirmed, after prayer by W^m R. O'Dell.

On the testimony of the visitors as named in the minutes of the previous meeting, it was agreed to receive the following Candidates:

After Baptism: — Ellen Mansell, Walter C. Cook, Rosa Mead, Louisa Newton, William Waters, Samuel Palmer, William Bullard, Arthur Newman, Emily Sturges, Edwin Jeeves, Frank O'Dell, Alfred Creasey, Edith Morgan, & Mary Wilton.

789.

Also the following without baptism: - Sarah Bailey
Wm & Eliza Hammett, Wm Manning, and Alice
Maude H. Marchant.

The meeting, which was felt to be one of much energy,
children from no less than five families of our
members being admitted, was closed with the
Doxology, & prayer by the minister.

H. G. Marchant, Chairman.

Aug. 21. 82.

Church Meeting, August 21st, 1882.

After singing, & reading the Scriptures, prayer was offered
by the minister in which divine guidance was specially
sought in the forthcoming election of deacons.

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The previous minutes having been confirmed, it was
agreed on the testimony of the visitors and other friends
to receive the following cases from Preston, most
of them asking baptism: Wm Boston, Elizabeth
Saunders, Charles Bell, (Mrs) Hannah Payne, Agnes
Walker, and Emma Andrews.

791.

The following candidates from our own Cong^y were
proposed for fellowship after baptism: ~~Henry~~ ^{Maria} ~~Hutton~~
visitors, brethren M. H. Foster and Iberson; Mr. (George)
& Mrs (Olive) Burrows; visitors brethren Halsey &
Burd.

792.

The Pastor then stated that the officers had agreed
to recommend the election of three deacons to fill up
the vacancies occasioned by the expiration of the term
of office in the cases of brethren Comford and
Woodfield, and thus provide an additional deacon.

Brethren ~~Prayer~~ ^{Prayer} and Griggs having been appointed Scrutineers of the Ballot-nomination, the Church decided by vote that the results of the scrutiny should be sealed up till next meeting, held for the election. This it was felt would tend to prevent even the unconscious canvassing of names.

On the motion of brethren Pryor & Griggs, Mr. Braund was asked to take the Chair, which the Minister then vacated. The Minister & Deacons having withdrawn, the Church forthwith proceeded to ballot for three names to be put in nomination together with the three nominated by the ^{existing} officers of the Church.

H. G. Marchant, Chairman, Aug. 31, 82.

Church Meeting, Aug: 31st, 82.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. Chambers, the minutes of the meeting on Aug: 21st were confirmed.

On the testimony of the visitors named in the foregoing minutes, it was agreed to receive Maria Hutson, & Mrs & Mrs Burrows, after baptism, the testimony of each of these candidates being very gratifying.

The Minister stated that having asked the former visitors of Ellen Cannon to have some further conversation with her, that they had agreed with him on the desirability of again proposing her name to the Church. Brethren J. Foster and Chambers were appointed visitors.

Mrs Turner, of Ashbrook, being proposed, brethren Wm Foster and Griggs were requested to see her & report to the Church.

No brethren being able to represent the Church in the

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forthcoming meetings at Liverpool, no delegates were appointed to the Autumnal Session of the Union.

796. Mr Braund being absent through illness, Mr Grigg, as one of the Scrutineers, reported that the nomination by the Church of brethren to serve as Deacons was as follows: Woodfield, 31, Burls 31, Comfort 19, Braund 16, Russell, G.W., 6, O'Dell 1. The Minister reported that the Officers were unanimous in nominating brethren Woodfield, Comfort, & Burls; and in the event of the Rev: Job. Comfort, being unable to serve, said that they had nominated with equal unanimity Mr O'Dell. It having been stated that Mr Comfort and Mr Braund declined the office, the following names were declared to be in nomination: — brethren Woodfield, Burls, Russell & O'Dell. The vote of the Church having been taken by ballot, brethren F. Foster & Chambers, the appointed Scrutineers, reported the following result: Woodfield 149, Burls 148, O'Dell 32, & Russell 17. Hereupon the first three brethren named, were declared elected for the next three years.

797. The deaths were reported of James Robottom, baptized by Mr Broad in 1850, and of Emily Hare, baptized by Mr. Shorb in 1864.

The Meeting was closed by singing & prayer.
F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Sep: 21. 82.

Church Meeting, Sep: 21. 82.

798. The Minutes of the preceding meeting having been confirmed, the death was reported of Mr. Joseph Rainsford, who was baptized and admitted to fellowship in Feb: 1821. This dear friend, though weak physically was strong in faith, giving glory to God by his gladness in the truth of Jct.

799.
The Minister reported that the Evangelists' Committee was, after careful consideration, led to feel it a duty to ~~approve~~^{dismiss} Mr. Donald Browne, recently invited on probation as a local missionary. While all who knew him recognised Mr. Browne's earnestness & love for his fellow men, his grave errors in such important doctrines as concern the Trinity, the Person of Christ, & Substitution, left the Committee no alternative ~~from~~^{from} their severance of this Connection.

800.
The dismissions were granted of Mr. & Mrs. Wilton to the Baptist Church in Canada, & of Walter Street to Park Street Church at Luton.

801.
Leave was given to apply for the dismission of Mrs. Chalkley from Luton, and in the event of the Church there not being able to grant it (our sister having been away for some years) brethren Wm. Foster & J. Morgan were appointed visitors.

802.
The following Candidates were proposed for fellowship after baptism: Louisa Halsey, visitors, brethren Burls & A. Jelly; Emily, Caroline, and Alice Sharp, visitors, brethren Halsey & Woodfield; (Elizabeth Taylor), visitors, brethren H. Foster & Iberson; Olive Cousins, visitors, brethren Wm. Foster & G. W. Russell; Martha Howard, visitors, brethren J. Morgan and A. Jelly; Sarah Dickolls, visitors, brethren F. Foster & Chambers; (Mrs) Louisa Halsey, visitors, brethren O'Dell & Glegg.

803.
It was agreed to receive the following friends: Ellen Cannon after baptism, & Mrs. George Turner, who though believing in the ordinance was unable to be baptized on account of ill health.

804.
The Minister having stated that the Committee had felt some difficulty in dealing with the case of Mr. Browne, the Miss^{es}, in fear of exceeding the powers granted to them

it was moved by Mr. Burls, seconded by Mr. Griggs & passed unanimously that "That the Evangelists Committee be empowered to engage on probation an Evangelist whom they, after inquiry, may deem to be suitable; and, further, to take such measures in regard to the whole work as may appear to them to be necessary, reporting their proceedings from time to time to the Church."

805. Mr. S. G. Parker being unable to serve on the above-named Committee, his withdrawal was stated to the Church, and brethren Alfred Jell & Griggs by the resolution of the Church were added to it.

F. G. Marchant

Chairman Oct: 26 .82

Ch: Meeting Oct. 26 th, 1882.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed after prayer by Mr. Burls.

806. The following Candidates were proposed and accepted unanimously, testimony having been heard from the appointed visitors:—
Mary Louise Halsey, Emily, Carrie, & Alice Sharp, Olive Cousins, Martha Howard, & Sarah Nicholls. All these young friends desired baptism.

807. Brethren W. Foster & John Morgan having seen Mrs. Chalkley, formerly a member of Union Chapel, Luton, & other brethren having testified as to her Christian Character, it was agreed to receive her.

808. Mrs. Crook was dismissed to the Church at Queen Street, Hitchin.

809. The following resolution was proposed by the minister & seconded by Mr. G. W. Russell & supported by brethren Griggs & Woodfield, in view of Mr. Halsey's resignation as Organist, this having been previously announced from the Choir:
"That as our friend Mr. Halsey feels that he is no longer

able to preside at the Organ, this meeting, in accepting his resignation, desires to place on record the indebtedness of the Church and Congregation to him for the kind services which he has rendered as Organist and Conductor of our Psalmody through a period of Twenty years, and very heartily thanks him for the generous way in which for so long a term he has spared neither time nor expense in sustaining among us this important part of the worship of God." This resolution was carried unanimously, and briefly acknowledged by Mr. Halsey.

The meeting was concluded by singing & prayer.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Nov. 30. 82.

Church Meeting Nov. 30. 82.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. Woodfield, the Minutes of the previous Meeting were Confirmed.

From Causes stated to the Meeting, it was explained that the name of Edwin Jones, who had never come forward to be received at the Lord's Table, would be erased from the Ch. Book. The name of Eliza Fletcher (Mrs), would also require to be erased, this friend (owing to removal to that neighbourhood) having applied for membership with the ultra Calvinistic Church at Stevenage, who decline to apply to Churches of our faith and order for letters of dismission.

The following Candidates were proposed for fellowship:—
John Day — visitors: Messrs Morgan & Halsey.
Eliza Arnold (Mrs), Jane Payne (Mrs), & Elizabeth Medlock (Mrs), all of Stondon: brethren Woodfield, Griggs, & G. W. Russell were appointed visitors.

Leave was given to apply for the dismission of James Angell, and Wm. Dveraux, from Skillington, and Amos Arnold from Shefford.

After references to the work of the Miss^{es}, Mr. Brown, the meeting was closed by prayer by Mr. Burlo.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Jan. 1. 83.

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812.

Annual Meeting, Monday, January 1. 1883.

After singing Hymn 465, and reading Ps. CXXI, prayer was offered by Mr. John Morgan. The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.

813. The following Candidates were unanimously accepted:-
 Eliza Arnold (Mrs), not at present seeking Baptism; visitors, brethren Woodfield, Griggs, & G. W. Russell. (Mrs) Jane Payne, visitors, brethren Griggs, A. Jell, & J. Morgan - wishes baptism.
 Elizabeth Medlock (Mrs), not seeking baptism, on account of age; visitors, brethren G. W. Russell, Griggs, & Morgan.
 These Candidates were from Standon. John Day, of Hitchin, who wishes Baptism; visitors, brethren Halacy and Morgan.

814. On the dismission of the Church at Shillington, James Angell, & William Devereux were admitted.

Of the above friends Mrs Arnold, Mrs Medlock, James Angell & John Day received the hand of fellowship at the meeting.

815. After the reading of the Roll by Mr. M. H. Foster, and the Minister's report of friends who had, during the year, passed to their heavenly rest (including a reference to Mr. Richard Lane, for forty years a member with us, & for several years a Deacon & Supt of the School, who died at December at Kingston on Thames where he had been a member since ^{Aug. 1815} 1849), the meeting, ^{with much} solemnity, joined in singing the hymn - "Come let us join our friends above".

816. The following report for 1882 was then made by the Minister. While unusual losses, to the number of 24, had occurred, special cause was found for thanksgiving in the large number of converts who had been added to the Church.

Statistics for the Year ending Dec: 31st, 1882.

I. Additionsi. By Profession, through Baptism.

Alice Day, Charles Simkins, Shirya Mansell (Hitchin), Eliza Andrews, Caroline Saunders, Elizabeth Ayers, Mary Ann Sharp, William Thompson, William Ewington & John Thrussell (Preston); Mary Ann Smith & Clara Underwood, (Wymondley); Eliza Bird, Eliza Hitchcock, & Charlotte Cook (Hitchin); Clara Frost (Preston); Ellen Mansell, Walter Charles Cook, Rosa Mead, Louisa Newton, William Waters, Samuel Palmer, W^m Bullard, Arthur Newman, Emily Sturgess, Frank O'Dell, Alfred Creasy, & Edith Morgan (Hitchin). Betsy Saunders, Emma Andrews Agnes Walker, (~~W^m Boston~~^{not recd}) Charles Bell (Preston); Maria Wilton, Julia Angell, Martha Farrow, Emma Conder, & Fanny Arnold (Stondon); Maria Hutson, George Burrows, Olive Burrows, Ellen Cannon, Louisa Halsey, Emily Sharp, Carrie Sharp, Alice Sharp, Olive Cousins, Martha Howard & Sarah Hickolls (Hitchin).

Making, Baptisms: 29 from Hitchin, 13 from Preston, 2 from Wymondley, & 5 from Stondon; in all 49.

ii By Profession, without Baptism.

Margaret Smith (W^{rs}, Sew^{rs}), Mary Bushell, Martha Peters, Mary Ann Palmer, & Louisa J. Smith (W^{rs}, Jun^{rs}), from Preston; W^{rs} Bailey, W^m Manning, Alice Maude H. Marchant, Hitchin. Mary Ann Hare, Ann Goodwin, George Whittread^{was baptised}, Stondon; W^{rs} Turner, Wymondley.

Making by Profession - Preston 5, Hitchin 3, Stondon 3, and Wymondley 1. In All, 12.

Total Additions by Baptsm + Prof^{sn}

61.

iii Additions by Restoration.

William Hammett, Eliza Hammett, & Mrs Chalkley (Kitchen);
Elizabeth Whitbread (Stondon), Martha French (Preston).

By Restoration 5.

iv Additions By Dismission.

Emily Judge (now Mrs Dylott), Sarah Gray, Mary O'Dell
(Mrs Frank), and Alice Hook.

By Dismission 14.

II. Removals.i. By Dismission to Other Churches.

Mrs & Mrs Richard Johnson, Tom R., & J. Neal Johnson, Anne
E. & Emily Johnson, & Emily Bayley (to North Finchley); George
Smith (to Olney, Bucks); Fanny Gedney (to Edmonstone);
Mr. A. Hainworth (to Lower Harwood); Mr & Mrs Wilton (to
Canada); Walter Street (to Luton); & Mrs Crook (to Queen Street).

Total Dismissed 14.

ii. By Erasure.

Mary Hamer, George Webb, Thomas Waller, & Eliza Fletcher.

By Erasure 4.

iii. By Death.

Jemima Strickland, John Ayres, Henry Hide, James
Robottom, Emily Hare, Joseph Rainsford.

By Death 6.

III. Summary of Statistics.i. Additions.

By Profession 61; By Restoration 5; By Dismission 4.

Total Additions 70

ii. Removals.

By Dismission 14; By Erasure 4; By Death 6

Total Removals 24

Clear Increase 46.

IV. Summary of Members

i. On the Roll Dec: 31st, 1882 311

ii On the Roll Dec: 31st, 1881 265

Clear Increase 146

Earnest and interesting addresses were afterwards given by brethren F. Foster, R. O'Dell, D. Chambers, G. Halsey, E. J. P. Burls, & M. H. Foster. A statement was also read from the Missionary, Mr. Brown, who was too unwell to attend, giving an excellent account of his two months probationary labours in Hitchin & the surrounding villages. A spirit of deep earnestness and thankfulness pervaded the meeting, which was brought to a close by singing the hymn, "Hail sweetest dearest tie that binds," &c.

[Note: Before passing the above minutes the two corrections were made: (1) That George Whitbread had been baptised, & (2) that Wm Boston, for sufficient reasons, had not as yet been received.]

F. G. Marchant, Chairman.

Feb: 8th, 1883.

Church Meeting, Feb: 8. 1883.

After prayer by Mr. Halsey, the minutes of the Annual Meeting were read, and, after a slight correction, confirmed.

817. The Minister said that he had been requested ^{from} the Officers' Meeting to state that, in future, friends in the Congregation wishing to use the Organ for practice would be required to make application to the deacons, and to pay 10/- per quarter for one practice per week, and £1 per quarter for two or more practices per week.

It was announced that the time of their suspension

818.
having expired, and satisfactory evidences of contrition having been manifested, Sarah E. Day, and Mrs Wheeler, would be invited to resume their fellowship with the Church.

819.
Leave was given to dismiss Clara Frost to the Albemarle Baptist Church at Scarborough.

820.
On a letter of dismission from the Church at ~~Shefford~~ ^{Shefford} ~~Stillington~~, it was agreed to receive Amos Arnold, of Stondon, to our communion.

821.
It was stated to the Church that on consideration of the work of Mr Brown, during two months' probation, the Evangelists' Committee had expressed a decided opinion that he might be invited to continue his labours amongst us, but that this invitation had not yet been formally given.

822.
Reference having been made to the recent Mission of Messrs Fullerton and Smith, and to the large & manifest blessing of God upon the whole of the fortnight's services, the following Candidates were proposed for membership after baptism.

Joseph & Emma (Mrs) Simmons	visitors,	Brethren Woodfield & Whaley.
Henrietta Mead	"	Brethren Halsey & Burlo
"Fred" Morris	"	" Woodfield & J ^r Morgan
Ada & Matilda Waldock (Sisters)	"	" F. Foster & Chambers.
Ellen (Mrs) Holloman	"	" John Morgan & Merritt.
Elihu Burgess (Miss)	"	" H. Foster & Halsey
Henry & Alice (Mrs) Hammett (Jun ^r)	"	" Burlo & Russell.
Charles & Esther Mrs Pibron (Charlton)	"	" W ^m Foster & W ^m Jelly.
Rebecca Brown (Miss) Coamore	"	" H. Foster & W ^m Hale
Gertrude & "Aya" Street (Misses)	"	" R. O'Dell & James Morgan

Brethren O'Dell & Gyzzo having reported on their visit to Mrs Halsey who had been kept from joining the Church through serious illness, & which for some time at least much prevented

her baptism, it was unanimously agreed that, after the very interesting testimony offered by the visitors, our friend should be received.

In accordance with a ^{notice} ~~resolution~~ given at a previous meeting Mr O'Dell moved for the formation of a Benevolent Society for aiding the poorer members of the Church & Congregation. After remarks by brethren H. Foster, Halsey, Burls, F. Foster, G. W. Russell & the Minister it was resolved "That the question of forming a Benevolent Society, brought forward by Mr O'Dell, be considered at our meeting two months hence, & that meanwhile the brethren O'Dell, H. Foster, Halsey, Burls, F. Foster, & G. Russell be requested to act as a Committee to ascertain how far, and in what manner best, such a Society might really help the poor, without doing harm to the spiritual work of the Church."

F. G. Marchant, Chairman.

Feb: 22. 83.

Church Meeting, Feb: 22. 83.

825. After Prayer by Mr Wm Foster, leave was granted to apply for the dismission Miss Emily Hatton, from Kingston, and of Mr ^{Henry} Brown, the Missionary, from Bernon Chapel, King's Cross.

826. On the explanation that Wm Arthur Berrill had for some time past been a member of a Church at Adelaide, it was decided to erase his name from our own Roll.

827. On the resolution of brethren Burls & John Morgan it was arranged to hold, as usual, the Good Friday meeting, the Ladies Committee being requested to solicit trays.

928.

Testimony having been given by the visitors named in the adopted minutes of last meeting, the following Candidates, all ^{for} seeking baptism, were cordially accepted by the Church: Joseph & Emma Simmons, Henrietta Mead, "Fred" Harris, Ada & Matilda Waldoek, Eliza Burgess, Henry & Alice Hammett, Charles & Esther "Pierson", Rebecca Brown, Gertrude & Aya Street.

The following Candidates were proposed:
 George Street, visitors: Brethren W. Foster & Chambers.
 Arthur Theobald, " Wm Foster & Halsey.
 Walter Litmus, " J. Morgan & W. Jell.
 Sarah Ann Smith, " Woodfield & A. Jell.
 Hubert Doggett, " F. Foster & G. W. Russell.

The meeting was closed with singing & prayer.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, April 5th 1883.

Church Meeting April 5. 1883.

The minutes of the former meeting having been adopted the Church agreed to receive the following Candidates, on the testimony of the visitors: George Street, Arthur Theobald, Walter Litmus, Sarah Ann Smith, Hubert Doggett, Elizabeth Taylor, & Ellen Holloman. All these friends desired to be baptized.

The following Candidates were proposed: —

Bertha Newton : visitors, M. W. Foster & Wm Foster.
 Louisa Chambers : " J. P. Burls & Wm Jell.
 Stephen Sharp : " Smith Woodfield & G. Halsey.

Alice M. (Mrs) Sharp (not seeking bapt^m) "

Rosetta Taylor (Mrs) " J. Morgan & R. O'Dell

Edward West Payne " Wm Foster & Chambers

929.

930.

(Miss) Grange : Visitors, Brethren, M. H. Foster & Purlis.
 Walter Unsell : " " Jm. Morgan & A. Jell
 Alice Wheeler : " " Woodfield & A. Jell.

Brethren Purlis, Halsey, F. Foster, & Griggs were also requested to visit the following Candidates from Stondon: George Cooper, William Cooper, Josiah Farrer, Caroline Hill, & Emma Simpkins.

831. At the request of the Church the brethren Halsey and A. Jell kindly consented to act as auditors of the accounts to be presented at the Annual Financial Meeting. The meeting was closed with the Doxology & prayer.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman
 Ap: 16. 83.

Church Meeting, Ap: 16. 83.

832. The Minutes were read and confirmed. The accounts of the Minister's, the Incidental, the Burial & the Communion Funds were presented by the Treasurer Mr. M. H. Foster and adopted.

The thanks of the Church were very heartily voted to the Treasurer & Mr. Braund for their services in keeping the accounts, coupled with the request that they would continue to give this kind assistance. Thanks were also cordially voted to the auditors Messrs Halsey and A. Jell.

833. Mr. F. Foster gave notice that he would move at the next Church Meeting: "That all funds raised in Connection with Salem & Bunyan Chapels be paid into the hands of the Church Treasurer."

834.

It was agreed to receive ^{Miss} Emily Hatton, on the transfer of the Ch. at Kingston on Thames.

835.

The Minister was requested to write to the Ch. at Ely Place, Wisbeach, for the dismission of Miss Alice Fox.

The transfer was granted of Mrs Hornefield to the Ch. at Vernon Chapel, Pentonville.

836.

Miss Gertrude Foster and Miss Olive Allbon were proposed for fellowship; brethren Halacy & A. Jell to visit in the former case, brethren M. H. Foster & Burdoin the latter.

837.

The following cases from Preston were proposed. —
 Seeking baptism: Mrs Ann Ayres, Lucy Ayres, Elizabeth Houghton, Mrs Ann Walker, Wm Boston, Thomas Peters, Mrs Scott, Herbert Sharp, & Oliver Burton.
 Not seeking baptism: Ann Adams, & Wm Jenkins.
 The visitors appointed to see these friends were the deacons, with brethren Chambers, G. W. Russell & James Morgan.

838.

On the testimony of the visitors it was agreed to receive the following candidates, all of whom, excepting Mrs Sharp, desired baptism: Miss Bertha Newton, Louisa Chambers, J. Grainze & Alice Wheeler; Stephen & Mrs (Alice M.) Sharp, Edward West Payne, & Walter Ansell.
 Mrs (Rosetta) Taylor's case was deferred, she desiring to wait for her husband, who is seeking Ch.

The meeting was closed with the doxology and prayer. It was decided to take the Preston, the Miss^y & S. School accounts at the next meeting.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman.

May 24. 53.

Church Meeting, May 21th.

839. The Minutes of the last meeting having been Confirmed, the accounts of the S. School were read by Mr. Grigg, and adopted by the meeting. The accounts of Preeton Chapel were read in part by Mr. O'Dell, but the Incidentals' Statement being in the possession of Mr. Tom Foster, who was not present, it was thought best to defer the whole till next meeting.

840. It was moved by Mr. F. Foster, seconded by Mr. Halsey, and carried unanimously, "That all funds raised in connection with the direct religious work of Salem & Banyan Chapels be paid into the hands of the Church Treasurer."

841. Letters of dismission from the Churches at King Cross & Wisbeck having been read it was agreed to receive into fellowship Henry Brown, our Miss^g, and Alice Fox.

842. Dismissions were granted to the Church at Barnet of Mr. & Mrs. Bayshaw, our brother having accepted Colportage work in that district.

843. Frederick Stanford was proposed for membership, brethren Halsey and ^{G.W.} Russell being visitors.

Gertrude Foster and Olive Allbon were cordially received by the Church, after the testimony of the visitors had been heard & their letters read.

844. The Minister with brethren Mr. H. Foster & Halsey then made a statement to the Church of a proposal to erect new School Rooms on the site of the old Chapel, should that be found suitable. It was arranged to consider the matter at a Meeting of the Church in a fortnight's time.

845. The following brethren were appointed delegates to

the Men's Union for the meeting at Barnet on June 6th:
 M. H. Foster, Wm Foster, Halsley, Woodfield, Burls,
 O'Dell, Braund, Pryor, A. Jelly, & Whaley.

F. G. Marchant
 Chairman, June 11th. 83.

Church Meeting, June 11th. 83:

846.

After prayer ^{by Mr. Grieve} and the confirmation of the Minutes,
 the Preston Incidentals' Account was read by Mr.
 Wm Foster and, together with the S. S. account
 read at the previous meeting by Mr. O'Dell, was adopted.

847.

The dismission was granted of Wm Bullard to
 the Church at Walworth Road, strong expressions
 of regret being made that the wish of this young brother
 led him to remove so soon after his union with
 the Church here as a new convert to St.

848.

The Minister stated that Mr. Henry Foster &
 Mr. Burls had bought the Chapel at Whitwell
 at a cost of £80, and that in so doing they had
 been moved by a wish to meet the spiritual
 needs of that neighbourhood, and a desire to
 prevent a place long used for the worship
 of God being diverted to some other use. The
 Village Preachers had several of them kindly
 promised to do their best to carry on the
 services there for the next six months. It
 was further explained that the purchase money
 of £80 would be but part of the ultimate
 cost, expenses of conveyance, "fines" on the
 Copyhold, and some outlay for renovation
 having yet to be met.

Mr. Burls said that the services had already been commenced, and that the friends worshipping in the Chapel were glad at the prospect of being able still to meet and serve God in a place long endeared to them. Some 60 or 80 people had attended the services on the two Sundays that the Chapel had been reopened.

It was moved by brethren F. Foster & Woodfield, "That this meeting having heard of the purchase of the Chapel at Whitwell by brethren M. H. Foster & E. Burls desires to thank them very heartily for their Christian interest in the wants of the people of that neighbourhood, and pledges itself to do what it can to sustain the work of preaching the Gospel there for at least the next six months."

849. On the testimony of the appointed visitors it was agreed to receive the following Candidates "after Baptism":— Frederick Stanford, Hitchin, Josiah Farrow, Stondon; Thomas Peters, & Oliver Bwiton of Preston: without baptism, Mrs Hill & George Cooper of Stondon, & Mrs (Emma) Scott, of Preston.

850. Miss Dawson and Miss Eliza King were proposed for fellowship after baptism, brethren Halsey & Burls visiting in the former case, & brethren W^m Foster & Chambers in the latter.

The meeting was closed with singing and prayer.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman

Aug: 27. 1883.

1853.

Church Meeting, Aug: 24th.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. Tom Foster, the minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

851. Miss Kate Squires was proposed for fellowship after baptism, brethren W^m Foster & Woodfield being visitors.

852. Subject to the result of the ministers' inquiries, leave was given to apply to the Church at Walsworth Road for the transfer of Mr. & Mrs. Oroman.

Mr. Isaac Johnson was dismissed to Queen Square Brighton.

853. On the testimony of the appointed visitors it was unanimously agreed to receive Miss M. J. Dawson, and Miss Eliza King after baptism.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Oct: 25. 53.

Church Meeting, Oct: 25th.

After prayer by Mr. John Morgan, the minutes of the last meeting were read & adopted.

854. Cordial & satisfactory testimony having been given by the visitors in the case of Kate Ellen Squires, it was agreed to receive her, she having been baptized.

855. Brethren Halsey & Morgan were appointed to visit Harriet Horne, who having recently been baptized at Ridgmount, was commended to our fellowship in a letter from her pastor.

856. On the dismission of the Church at Walsworth Road, it was agreed to receive Mr. & Mrs. Oroman.

857. Notice having been given of the arrangements for the forthcoming Miss' Meetings on Oct. 4th & 6th, the question of building new School Rooms was introduced. After remarks by Mr. Halsey & the Minister on the

insufficiency of the present accommodation, and the great desirability of removing the children from the Sunday morning service to a separate service of their own, the following resolution was moved by Mr. M. H. Foster, seconded by Mr. Pryor and carried unanimously, all present appearing to vote for it: —

"That the Church having heard the accounts given of the present state of the Sunday School, as to the number of the scholars and the insufficient accommodation for teaching them, recognises the necessity for new School Buildings, believes that the time has arrived to provide them, and pledges itself to hearty and vigorous effort to raise the needful funds for buildings suitable to the needs of the work."

It was further proposed, by Mr. Burls, seconded by Mr. M. H. Foster, and carried unanimously,

"That the following brethren, with power to add to their number, be requested to act as a temporary Committee to invite contributions & promises from the members of the Church and Congregation, reporting the results of their labours to a meeting to be called on as early a day in the month of November as may be found practicable: — The Minister, Messrs M. H. Foster, G. Halsey, G. W. Russell, Jr., and E. Burls."

A hearty feeling was manifested about the proposed work, and the meeting was concluded by Singing & Prayer.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman,

Dec: 6, 1883.

Church Meeting Dec: 6th.

After prayer, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

858.

Mrs and the Misses Forster were dismissed to the Church meeting in Bunyan Chapel Bedford.

84

859.

The Minister was requested to apply to the Church at Breckwood Green for the transfer of Mr. H. Hill, and to the Church at Queens for that of Miss Julia Newman.

84

860.

On the motion of the Minister, seconded by Mr. M. H. Foster the name of Thomas Briden was erased for conduct inconsistent with Church membership.

861

Mr. Henry Newton was proposed for fellowship after baptism, brethren R. O'Dell and Grygg being visitors.

84

862.

On the testimony of the visitors, it was agreed to welcome Miss Harriett Horn to fellowship.

The Minister then explained that a misunderstanding having arisen between himself and one or two friends on the Communion question he had found it undervalued to proceed with the Canvass for subscriptions to the new Schoolroom. This statement evoked considerable feeling, and remarks of a somewhat personal nature were made by several friends.

The meeting was concluded by prayer by Mr. A. Jell.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman
Jan: 1st. 1884.

1884.

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Jan: 1. 1884.

863.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. Barker, the baptisms were reported of Mrs Elizabeth Charles, of Chester, from the Presbyterians, & Miss Clarke, of Winchendon, from the Episcopalians; also the dismissal of Mr Henry Brown, our Missionary, from Pentonville.

864.

On letters of dismission Mr. Charles Hill, of Breachwood Green, and Miss Julia Newman, of Queen Street were accepted by the Church.

865.

Leave was given to apply to the Church at Brockley, London, for the transfer of Mr Cheesman.

866.

The following Report for the past year was then made.

I. Additions.

i. By Profession through Baptism.

Joseph Simmons, Emma (Mrs) Simmons, Henrietta Mead, Fred Norris, Ada & Matilda Waldoch, Ellen (Mrs) Holloman, Eliza Burges, Henry & Alice Hammett, Charles & Esther (Mrs) Pierson, Rebecca Brown, Gertrude and Olga Street, Elizabeth Taylor, Louisa Haley, John Day, George Street, Arthur Theobald, Sarah Ann Smith, Hubert Daggelt, Bertha Newton, Louisa Chambers, Stephen Sharp, Edward West Payne, Jane (Miss) Grange, Walter Ansell, Alice Wheeler, Josiah Farrow, Gertrude Foster, Olive Allbon, Thomas Peters, Oliver Burton, Frederick Stamford, Matilda Dawson, Eliza King, Kate Squires, James Angell (Popham)

Baptized & Added

39.

Baptized, but not, or not yet added: -
 Miss Jane Bennett (several years a member), Mrs Elizabeth
 Charles, of Chester, Miss Clarke, of Winchinton, & Mary
 Newton, of Devonshire, who awaits membership = 4

Total Baptisms 43.

ii. By Profession, without Baptism.

Arnold Eliza (Mrs), Jane Payne (Mrs), Elizabeth
 Medlock (Mrs), Alice M. Sharp (Mrs), Caroline
 Hill (Mrs), George Cooper, Emma Scott (Mrs),
 Anne Harriett (Miss), Titmus Walter. = 9.

iii. Added By Dismission.

Wm Dverence, from Shillington, Amos Arnold, from
 Sheppard, Emily Hatton, from Kingston on Thames, Henry
 Brown, from Bernon, Kings Cross, Alice Foy, from Kibers
 Mrs & Mrs (Emma) Orman, from Walsworth Road

Total 7.

Removals.

i. By Death.

Mrs Sarah Ann Pryor, Eleanor Hare, Mrs Mary
 Ann James, Miss Martha James, George Norris, Mrs
 Mary E. Jeeves, Mrs Stamford.

Total 7.

ii. By Dismission.

Clara Frost, to Scarborough, Mrs Horsefield, to
 Kings Cross, Mr & Mrs Bayshaw, to Barnet, William
 Bullard, to Walsworth Road, Isaac Ibberson, to
 Forster, Mrs, Miss, & Miss Annie, to Bedford

Total = 9.

iii. By Emigration.

Berrill Arthur (Australia), and Thos Pruden

1884.

Summary of Statistics
Additions.

i. By Baptism (43 Baptized)	39
ii. By Profession	9
iii. By Dismission	7
Total Additions	55.

Removals.

i. By Death	7
ii. By Dismission	9
iii. By Erasure	2
Total	18.

Total Additions 55

" Removals 18

Clear Increase 37.

Present Number on Roll, Dec. 31. 83 =

Number on Roll, Dec: 31. 82 =

Clear Increase

Addresses were delivered, after the reading of the Roll, by brethren M. H. Foster, Rennie, G. W. Russell, H. Brown, A. Jell, and Wm Foster

J. G. Marchant
Chairman.

1884.

Presentation Meeting, Feb. 12th.

867:

It being felt, generally, that some notice of a very interesting meeting should have some permanent record amongst our Memorials, the following notice is inserted from "The Freeman" of Feb. 26th.—

On Tuesday evening the 12th inst., the Rev. F. G. Marchant, pastor of the Tilehouse Street Baptist Church was presented with a purse containing One Hundred Pounds. The subscriptions in aid of the Testimonial were confined to members of the Church and Congregation. The following statement was made in collecting:— 'It being the cordial wish of the members of the Church & Congregation to present the Rev. F. G. Marchant with a substantial proof of their esteem and appreciation of his faithful and efficient ministrations for six years amongst them, they consider the beginning of the present year a reasonable time for carrying out their object'. The presentation took place in the School Room, which had been elaborately decorated for the occasion. There was, first of all, a Tea Meeting, at which some 250 people were present. After tea, the Rev. W. G. Lewis of St. Albans, presided. Mr. H. Foster, the Senior Deacon, then presented Mr. Marchant with a purse containing the sum named above, and took occasion to speak of how deep was the love and esteem felt for Mr. Marchant by his people, and of their sympathy with him in his arduous labours here, and his important work in London in the training of young men for the ministry. They also desired to express their gratitude

1884.

to Mrs Marchant for the great good she had done in so constantly visiting the sick, and in speaking words of comfort to the afflicted.

Mrs Marchant made suitable acknowledgment. Mr Wm Foster, Mr F. Foster, Mr Woodfield, Mr Matthew, of Cambridge, and Mr Grieggs afterwards said a few words, telling of the esteem in which Mrs Marchant is held.

Church Meeting, Apr: 3rd.

868. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting having been adopted, Miss Elizabeth Juggins was proposed for fellowship after baptism; visitors brethren Wm Foster & Grieggs.

869. A desire was expressed that some notice of the recent meeting for presenting a testimonial to the Minister should be entered in the Church Book.

870. On the motion of brethren ^{the} Woodfield & Morgan, brethren M. H. Foster, E. Bards, R. D. Dell, J. Pryor, F. Grieggs, & G. W. Russell, were appointed delegates to the forthcoming meetings of the Baptist Union.

It was also decided to hold, as usual, the Good Friday Missionary Meeting.

F. G. Marchant
Chairman

Church Meeting, May 8th, 1884.

871. A letter was read from the Church at Shillington, dismissing to us Mr & Mrs Charles Burr, who were unanimously received. It was also unanimously agreed to Miss Juggins to fellowship, after baptism.

The Annual Accounts of the following

872.

Funds were then presented and passed:—
 Ministers', Incidentals', Burial Ground, S. School,
 Lord's Table, Evangelists', and the Village Mission.
 All these were shown to be in a prosperous condition,
 though owing to extra expenses for Linoleum and
 repairs to Heating Apparatus, to the amount of about
 Seventeen Pounds, a debt of about Fifteen Pounds
 was due to the Treasurer on the a/c for Incidentals.
 Collections for the Infirmary, &c., of £
 for Regents Park College of £10, & for the Herts
 Union of £11.3.11, were also reported.

873.

The thanks of the Church were very cordially
 voted to Mr M. H. Foster, the Treasurer, and to
 Mr Braund, for his valuable assistance; also to
 Mr Halsey & Mr A. Jell for acting as auditors.
 On the appointment of the Church, these brethren
 kindly consented to act for the ensuing year.

874.

The cordial thanks of the Church were also
 voted to Miss Rose Jell, the Organist, and to Mr
 A. Jell, the Choir Leader, and on the resolution
 of the Church, these two friends kindly promised
 their services for another year. Mr Jell, however,
 stated that the Organ much need cleaning, tuning
 and repairing, and expressed the hope that the
 Church and Congregation would, before long, consent
 to provide funds for its enlargement.

The Meeting was closed with ringing and
 prayer.

J. G. Marchant

Chairman, June 26. 84.

Ch: Meeting, June 26. 84.

The Minutes, from Feb. 12th to May 8th, inclusively, were read and adopted.

875. The death was reported of Mr. John Reeves, who had been a consistent member of the Church for 24 years.

876. It was stated from the Chair that the election of deacons, now due, was postponed till September.

877. Walter Litmus, whose penitence for his transgression, had satisfied his visitors that it was sincere, was suspended from fellowship for three months for conduct inconsistent with Christian life.

878. The Church agreed, on the proposal of brethren John Morgan & R. O'Dell, to continue the work at Whitwell to the end of the year.

879. Reports of the Union Meetings held at Hemel Hempstead were given by brethren Burls, O'Dell, Griegs & Woodfield, and on the proposal of brethren M. H. Foster and O'Dell it was agreed that a contribution of not less than £10 be sent to the Treasurer for the New Chapel at Essendon.

J. G. Marchant,

Chairman, Sep: 14. 84.

Ch: M: , Sep: 14. 84.

880. The Minutes of the last meeting having been adopted, it was announced that meetings would be held on Monday & Thursday next for the nomination & election of Deacons.

881. Candidates were proposed for fellowship as follows: - Frank Dawson, without Bapt-;

visitors brethren Mr. Foster & Woodfield; Thomas Roberts, after baptism, visitors brethren Burls & Alf. Jell; Henry Wheeler, visitors brethren Woodfield & Wood. Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Russell were dismissed to the Church at Ellington, Hunts. It was agreed to erase the name of Joseph Monti, who had long since removed from the neighbourhood.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman, Oct: 2nd

Church Meetings Sep: 8th & 11th.

A Meeting having been held on Monday Sep: 8th at the close of the Prayer Meeting, the Church in the absence of the Officers proceeded to nominate two brethren for the diaconate, the period for which brethren J. Morgan & J. Foster were elected having expired.

At the Church Meeting on Thursday for the election, the Minister having stated that he had refrained from taking any part in or from endeavouring in any way to influence the nomination, on this occasion, the Scrutiniers declared the nomination of the Church on the Monday Evening to be as follows:— Mr. Morgan 36 & Mr. J. Foster 29. Mr. Henry Foster on the part of the Deacons, stated that he was not present at the Officers' meeting for nomination, but that he concurred in their decision. This decision being in favour of Mr. Morgan & Mr. J. Foster, it was considered that only these brethren were in nomination, and they were therefore declared elected, no further vote being made by the Church.

J. G. Marchant
Chairman Oct: Oct. 2

1884.

Church Meeting, Oct: 2nd, 1884.

The Minutes of the Meeting on Sep: 4th were read & confirmed.
The Minutes of the Meetings of Sep: 8th & 11th having been read, the Chairman called attention to the rules for the Election of Deacons which had been made on June 12th, 1879. In so doing he specially pointed^{out} that he did so with no wish whatever to dispute the recent election, but ^{merely} to prevent this from becoming a precedent for the future. ^{and a question by Mr. F. Foster relative to a previous election which the Chairman answered as fully as he was then able}
After the confirmation of the minutes, Mr. Bwils wished to make a statement to shew that when he was elected in 1882 the same course was pursued. The Chairman thereupon ruled that any statement of the kind would almost certainly lead to a general discussion of the recent election, and that as the meeting had only been called for general business, and as ^{more} a statement was irregular, notice must be given of a resolution on the question. Mr. Bwils, after some insistence on his right to make a statement, gave notice that he would move a resolution on the matter at the next Ch. Meeting. Regretting that the course taken by Mr. Bwils would have the effect of forcing the recent election under discussion, and stating that otherwise he should not have done so, the Chairman ~~then~~ gave notice of a resolution, for the consideration of the next Ch. Meeting, for forming a Business and Finance Committee to conduct the future business of the Congregation and to have the management of all funds contributed by the Congregation, except the Lord's Supper Fund.

1884.

A further notice was given by Mr Alfred Jell of a resolution on the question of the Chairman's ruling that a statement from Mr Bwelo on the ^{matter} ~~question~~ of the recent election of deacons would be out of order.

The Cases of Candidates for fellowships were then considered. Mr M. H. Foster being absent on account of ill health, sent a letter ~~recommending~~ Mr Dawson. Mr Wm Foster stated that Mr Woodfield, also absent from illness, had seen Mr Dawson & recommended him to fellowship. Testimony having been given by Mr Comford, & Mr Dawson's letter read he was unanimously received. Mr ^{Thomas} Roberts and Mr Henry Wheeler, both lately baptized, were also unanimously accepted, after hearing the testimony of the visitors & other friends.

On the letter of Transfer from the Church at Loughton it was unanimously agreed to receive Mr W. Vivian.

On the application of a Congregational Minister at Rochester, it was agreed to transfer Mr Edwin Rudd to the Church in that town under the care of the Rev. W. J. Andrews.

F. G. Marchant
Chairman.

Church Meeting, ^{Oct} Dec 20th, 1884.

After singing and prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr Butcher, on the application of the friends there, was dismissed to the Baptist Church at Worthing.

1884

On the application of the Rev. Thomas Lloyd, Miss Hannah Comfort was dismissed to the Church at Lk. Ives.

An omission of the statement, due at a previous meeting, having been explained, the baptisms were reported of Miss May Sharp and Mr. Frank Rose.

Disaffection having arisen in the Church in connection with the recent election of deacons, a long discussion took place in relation thereto which was continued at several subsequent meetings. In consequence of this disagreement the usual Annual Members meeting was not held.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Jan. 29/85.

Church Meeting Jan. 29th, 1885.

After singing and prayer, it was resolved that the Minister ^{H. Foster} Mr. ~~Comfort~~ and Mr. ^{Wm. Foster} ~~Barlow~~ be a Committee to decide ~~on~~ what of the minutes should be entered in the Church Book relative to the recent meetings.

Resolved that, on a letter now read, the resignations be accepted of Messrs Woodfield, O'Dell, John Morgan & F. Foster as deacons of this Church. The resignation of Mr. Barlow as deacon, was also formally accepted, this not having been done at the previous meeting.

A letter from Mr. F. Foster having been read announcing his withdrawal & that of Mrs. Foster from membership, this was confirmed by the vote of the Church.

The resignations of Mr. Alfred & Miss Rosa Jell as Choir Leader & Organist were also accepted.

1885.

Explanations having been made for the course proposed it was agreed that we separate ourselves from Mr Alfred Jelly and that his name be erased from the roll. The thanks of the Church were given to Mr A. and Miss R. Jelly for their past services in the Choir and at the Organ.

The resignations of the following Village Preachers, were accepted: - Messrs Woodfield, John & James Morgan, F. Foster, Chambers, Parker, Skinner, O'Dell, F. Griggs, & A. Jelly.

On the ~~conclusion~~ of the Church the Rev. J. A. Comford and Mr Pryor laid before the Meeting some resolutions from a meeting of the Congregation held in the Town Hall in Nov. last, expressing their confidence in the pastor and the hope that he might be aided by the Church in the continuance in his work.

The following resolution was then proposed and carried by a large majority: "That with a view to alter the character of their membership, all Village Members, not having been ordinary worshippers and communicants in our Chapel be suspended for six months from this date, and that no such member from the Village be admitted to our Church Meetings in the mean time, till he or she shall have given satisfactory proof of not having voted in the recent meetings, and have received a written pass signed by the two Senior Deacons & the Minister."

It was particularly stated before this resolution was put that ~~this~~ it was not intended to keep any Village member from the Lord's Table during the six months in question, & the Pastor himself promised to move that the suspension should be

1885.

cancelled as soon as the memberships of these friends could be put on such basis, as would prevent their being brought in to vote on the business of the Lilehouse St. Church.

It was further moved by the Minister seconded by Mr. Burges, and carried without dissent, that all seats of which the rent has not been paid by next Wednesday week be declared vacant. F. G. Marchant,
Chairman, May 21. 85.

Church Meeting, Feb. 19th, 1886.

The minutes of the previous meeting in Jan^r not having been fully entered, the abstract was read merely for information.

It was stated that the Committee appointed to consider what of the minutes of several irregular meetings of the Church, held between October 20th & Jan: 29th should be entered, had come to the conclusion that it was undesirable to make any detailed record of them whatever.

The following resolution was then moved by the Minister seconded by Mr. Pryor & carried without dissent: That this meeting, deeply regretting the manner in which some thirty or more members from the villages have been brought here and incited to vote during a recent time of trial in the Church, hereby resolves that henceforth only such members as are ordinary worshippers and communicants in our Chapel be allowed either to attend or vote at our Church Meetings; that members in the villages who are not ordinary worshippers & communicants with us be no longer known as full members, but only as Communion Members, and be entered on a separate Roll, and that no such village member be admitted to full membership,

unless he or she shall have been an ordinary attendant with us at the Lord's Table in our Chapel for twelve months, and then only on the special vote of the Church, and only for so long as such attendance is continued".

The Minister then moved, Mr Pryor seconded, and it was unanimously carried that the resolution passed at the previous meeting, suspending Village Members ~~from~~ ~~for~~ six months, be cancelled from this date.

A letter of withdrawal from the Church by Mr Ayford was then read and accepted.

It was further resolved that Mr W. Gatward, Mr Pryor & Mr J. J. Hunt be a Committee for the arrangement of matters pertaining to the Choir.

J. G. Marchant, Chairman, *Jan 21. 85.*

Church Meeting, March 26th 1885.

The notes of the minutes of the previous meeting were read for information.

Mr Cheeseman & Mr Henry Jeeves were requested to act as Auditors for the accounts now due, & for those of the ensuing year.

Leave was given to apply for the transfer of Mr Cheeseman from the Church at

Two letters from ~~the~~ Rev. F. J. Bird, of the Walsworth Road Church were then read asking for the transfer of the following 59 members: Mr & Mrs Woodfield, Samuel Palmer, William Waters; Mr & Mrs Joseph Abbott, Mrs Ayford, Walter Ansell, Louisa Ambrose, Mrs Andrew Robert Preech, E. J. Burles, Mr & Mrs Wm Barker, Mr & Mrs Joseph Brown, Mr & Mrs Burrows, Olive Cousins, Mrs M. A. Chalkley, Rhoda English, Mr & Mrs F. Grippo, Mr, Mrs, & Miss Halsey,

Mrs Haley, Mr & Mrs James, Mrs D., Misses M. & R. Jelly, Mr
& Mrs John Morgan, Emma & Edith Morgan, Thirya Mansell,
Alice Mansell, Mrs Newberry, Mr & Mrs R. O'Dell, Sarah
Nicholls, Mrs Mary O'Dell, Ed. West Payne, Mr & Mrs
Pierce, Mr & Mrs Pierson, Mrs Rowbottom, Mr & Mrs
Stephen Sharpe, Mr & Mrs Skinner, Miss Thompson,
Mrs Waters, Sophia Winn, Mrs J. Williams, Miss
Mary Williams, & ~~Mrs~~ Miss Harriett Westwood.

The Minister having laid before the meeting a
detailed statement of the attendance of many of
these members at the Lord's Supper during the last
eleven years, the transfers were granted in the
spirit of the following letter, which, after submitting
it to two or three of our brethren the Minister
forwarded:

To the ^{Baptist Church} Walsworth Road Church, Hitchin:

Dear Brethren

While we regret that we are unable to dismiss
most of the members concerning whom you apply to
us with that heartiness of commendation which is
usual, yet, considering that you are probably aware
of the circumstances which have made the removal
of many of them from our Communion desirable,
and that you apply for their dismissal notwithstanding
these circumstances, and without any reference
to our officers, even in a few cases painfully
conspicuous, we hereby transfer to your fellowship
the fifty-nine members named in your two letters
of application.

We deem it desirable to add that, at our

1448.
Meeting to-night, special attention was called, in detail, to the very poor attendance of many of these members at the Lord's Table during the past eleven years.

With all good wishes for your welfare,
We are, dear Brethren, Yours sincerely,

The Church at Lislehouse Street,

per F. G. Marchant, Minister.

The Manoe, Hitchin, March 26th, 1885.

To the Rev. F. J. Bird.

After a statement that the Financial Accounts would be brought forward at the next meeting, the Minister, with brethren M. H. Foster, W. Foster J. Pryor, & G. W. Russell were appointed delegates to the forthcoming meetings of the Baptist Union.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman, Jan: 21. 85.

Church Meeting, May 21. 85.

The Minutes of Meetings on Jan. 29th, Feb. 19th & March 26th were read and in each case unanimously confirmed.

Mrs Cheeseman was admitted to fellowship, after hearing the letter of transfer from the Church at Braintree.

Miss Lydia Butcher was dismissed to Wrotham, & Mrs. Alfred Creasey to Kingston on Thames.

The Accounts of the following funds were read & adopted, subject to the concurrence of the Auditors, who had not been able to finish their kind service: viz. Minister's Incidentals, Burial Ground, S. School, Evangelists, and Preston Village.

The Treasurer, Mr. M. H. Foster, also read a short Statement as to the Organ Repairs' Fund, which the

a considerable debt owing to himself, only about Eight Pounds having been collected out of the £25 which the repairs cost. Mr Pryor stated that the Choir Committee had engaged Mr Moulden as Organist. The cordial assent of all the friends present was given to the suggestion of the Minister for the reintroduction of the Le Deum and an occasional anthem into our Lord's Day services.

Notice of Motion was given by Mr M. H. Foster touching ~~the~~ invitation to ^{in the Congregation} Lian friends, to connect themselves with the Church, and of others, who might not see their way to do this, to take their place at the Lord's Table, as believers with us in Ch, according to the terms of the Constitution as set forth in the Trust Deed.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman
July 23. 85.

Church Meeting, July 23. 85.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and Confirmed. It was stated that the Auditors had finished their examination of the A/c read at last Ch. Meeting, and reported them to be correct. The Poor Fund a/c was now read and passed. A vote of thanks to the Auditors for their kind service was cordially passed.

On a letter of testimony from Mr F. Finch of Malden Hall it was unanimously agreed to receive into fellowship Miss Priscilla Shekel.

At his own request it was agreed to erase the name of Daniel Chambers, who reported himself as seeking membership "elsewhere".

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A letter purporting to come from fourteen of the Village Members at Preston having been read, asking that their names might be erased, brethren W^m Foster, Wheeler and James Morgan were appointed to see them and ascertain if the expression of this request emanated from themselves individually.

It was agreed to transfer Henry Newton to the Church at Helston, Cornwall.

The Minister stated that a letter had been received from Walsworth Road asking the transfer of a member, but that owing to some possible irregularity the deacons with himself deemed it best that enquiry should first be made.

In accordance with notice given Mr. M. H. Foster then moved the following resolution: "That in view of the fact that several friends of known Irish character have for some time past been worshipping with us, some of whom were formerly in membership with this and some with other Churches, but whose membership from non-residence or other causes has lapsed, we hereby cordially invite such friends to unite with us in full membership, and request the Minister and Deacons, as soon as convenient, to confer with them on this subject." In moving this resolution Mr. Foster referred to a similar course taken by the Church under the pastorate of the Rev. John Broad, and to the good results which followed, some ^{of the} friends ^{then} joining in response to this invitation being still members with us & others having been ^{so} for years, till removed to the Church above. The resolution having been seconded was passed unanimously, and after a few remarks on the coming year Thanksgiving the meeting was concluded.

Church Meeting, Sep: 14. 85.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
Miss Priscilla Sheckel was reported to have been received
at the Lord's Table on the last Ordinance Sunday.

The dismissions were granted of Miss Alice Fox to
the Church at Queen St., Peterboro, and of Mrs Clara
Payne to the Church at Upper Holloway.

On the report of brethren requested to see the following
friends at Preston, at their own request their names were
erased from the Church Roll: Mrs B. Saunders, E. Andrews,
E. Ward, L. Smith, Mr & Mrs Peters, Mr & Mrs
Burton, Dr. Palmer, Mr Thompson, C. Saunders,
and Mr. A. Sharp.

The names of W. Gwington & A. Walker were
deferred ~~for~~ till the next meeting in order that they
also might be visited.

Brethren W. Foster & Wheeler were appointed
to see one of the brethren at Preston reported
to be walking disorderly.

At the wish of the Walworth Road Church,
who had been communicated with for receiving
a member immediately after his exclusion from
our Community, ^{without any reference to our officers, & knowing him to have} their request for the dismissions
of another member was withdrawn.

F. G. Marchant, Chairman { Oct. 29.
1885.

Church Meeting Oct: 29. 85.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

The Minister stated that the case at Preston had been
visited by Mr Wm Foster and the officers had thought
it best that it should stand over for the present.

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The names were proposed for fellowship of Mr & Mrs Doggett of Newham; as these friends had previously been members of this Church, and also members at Stotfold, where their membership had lapsed through their having for some years worshipped with us, the Minister & Mr M. H. Foster were requested to seek them & report to the Church at its next meeting.

It was stated that Mr Frank Dawson had made application for baptism, which would be administered at an early opportunity.

The Minister made a short statement as to the necessity of electing more deacons, also on the desirability of altering both the method of nomination & election, asking the Church to give him permission, after conference with the present officers, to propose the names to be considered from the Chair. He also stated that the Deacons & himself had unanimously agreed upon three names to recommend to the Church at the meeting next week, & gave the following notices.

1. That ^{at} the next Church meeting he would propose the election of three additional deacons for an indefinite period of time, & that they be elected by the open vote of the Church, i. e., by show of hands.

2. That the Church, which is requested to meet on Monday evening next, should ^{then} proceed to election.

The Minister having urged friends to talk about the matter very little among each other & very much to God, Mr Foster earnestly pressed the desirability of this upon the Church.

Special Ch. Meeting, Nov. 2nd, 1885.

After a Prayer Meeting full of quiet joy in the Holy Ghost, the Minister read to the Church, which remained behind for the election of three deacons, the minute of the last Meeting bearing upon this subject.

After a few words of recapitulation as to the altered manner of nomination & election:

The Minister proposed that the Rev. J. A. Comforth be asked to again serve the Church in the office of Deacon. This was seconded by Mr. Hume Burges and carried unanimously. The name of Mr. J. Pryor was then proposed from the Chair & seconded by Mr. M. H. Foster, and carried unanimously. The Chairman then proposed and Mr. Wm Foster seconded the call to office of M. G. W. Russell, the Sup^t of the S. School whose name also was unanimously passed. A feeling of deep and holy thankfulness seemed to pervade the meeting. Almost every member present, in a large meeting, voted for each name proposed, and no one voted against either.

With a few words to Mr. Russell, who reentered the meeting at this stage, the pastor welcomed him to office, desiring for him & the brethren elected with him, that the same holy fervour which had pervaded the whole meeting might rest on each of them during many years of office there.

On the motion of brethren Jelly and Rennie it was unanimously agreed to receive into fellowships Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Doggett. The meeting was concluded with prayer for the brethren newly elected.

F. G. Marchant,

Chairman, Dec: 28. 85.

Church Meeting, Dec: 28. 1885.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, it was stated from the Chair that the present meeting had been called ^{principally} with a view to remove from the Ch: Roll the names of many who for a long time had not attended the Lord's Table, several of them not having been during the entire term of the present pastorate.

On letters of application Elizabeth Underwood was transferred to the Church at Stroud Green, London, and Louisa Chambers to the Congregational Church at Grays, Essex.

At their own request the names of Sarah Payne and Mary Jane Bennett were removed from the Roll.

The following names were then erased for non-attendance: - George Catterill, James Bullard, Frances Parkins, Reuben Cousins, Wm John and Mary Ann Farr, Sarah Ann Preston, Ellen, Rosa & Jessie Prudden, M. A. Salter, Elizabeth A. Gills, George & Jane Farrier, Harriett Field, Emma Francis, Ellen Webb, Elizabeth Morris, Ellen Arnold, Mary A. Smith, Ellen Newman (formerly Mansell) Arthur Newman, Charles & Julia Hill, And Maria Welch.

The meeting was concluded with prayer.

J. G. Marchant

Chairman. Jan: 1. 1886.

Near this Tables,
lie interred the remains
of the
Rev^d. John Wilson
the first, Pastor of
this Church and Congregation
On the
28th day of April 1677
he was set apart, as Pastor
over this people.
having been honourably dismissed
for that purpose from the Church
at Bedford, over which Mr. Bunyan
presided. — Mr. Wilson died about
the close of the year 1717. —

In the exercise of his 40 years
ministry, both he and his people
suffered much from persecutions
and, for a considerable time he had
to endure imprisonment, in Hertford
Gaol, on account of his ~~perseverance~~ ^{for his preaching} ~~perseverance~~

During the last twenty years of his
life, he laboured under many
infirmities, and suffered from a
paralytic stroke, so that he was
obliged to be taken to the Meeting
House, in a chair

"Remember the former times"