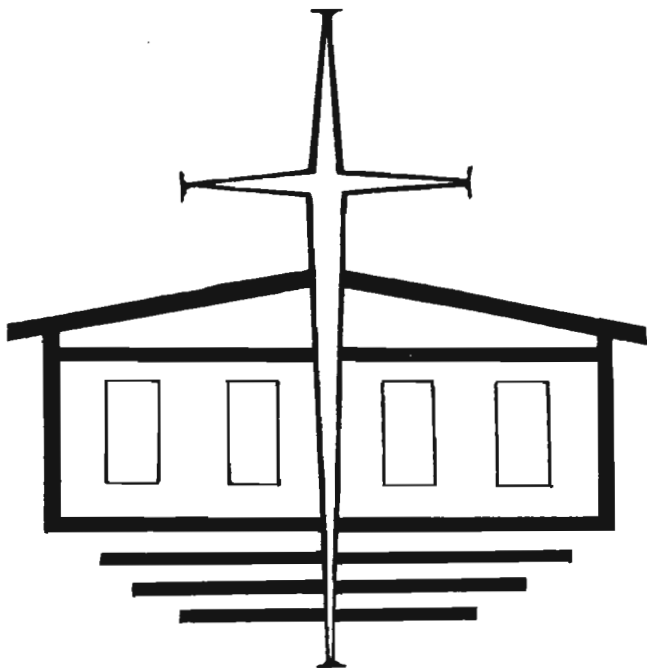


# **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**



**OPENING AND DEDICATION OF  
NEW CHURCH**

**SATURDAY JUNE 22nd 1985  
3.00 pm**

OPENING CEREMONY AND DEDICATION SERVICE

*The Opening:*

*The congregation shall take their place in the Church by 2.45 p.m.*

*At 2.55 p.m. the doors of the Church will be closed.*

*At 3.00 p.m. the Opener and officiating party shall proceed from the Hall to the door of the new Church, whereupon the Opener, unlocking and knocking at the door of the Church, shall say:*

Open to me the gates of righteousness:  
I will go into them, I will praise the Lord.

*The Steward shall then open the doors from within.*

*The Opener, entering, shall stand at the inner doors to the Church and say:*

To the glory of God I declare this Church open for the offering of worship to God and the proclamation of God's word, for the celebration of the Sacraments and as a centre of Christian service to the community. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Minister then says:*

Peace be to this house and to all who shall worship in it;  
Peace be to those who enter and to those who shall go out from it; ,  
Peace be to those who love it, and who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The presiding Minister shall then announce the processional hymn during the singing of which the officiating party shall proceed to their places.*

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**Opener:**

**Miss Diane Tokins**

Executive Secretary to the London Committee.

**Preacher:**

**Rev. Peter A. Kerridge**

General Secretary of the Property Division  
and former Minister.

**Dedication by:**

**Rev. Christopher H. Smith, M.A.**

Superintendent Minister.

**Service Conducted by:**

**Rev. John F. Warren, B.D.**

Minister of the Church.

**Lessons Read by:**

**Mr Denis Moore**

Member of Building Sub-committee.

**Mr Brian J. Sharp**

Circuit Steward.

**Organist:**

**Mr. W. Alan Fox**

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## HYMN

M.H.B. 670

Tune: Grosvenor

Jesus, Thou soul of all our joys,  
 For whom we now lift up our voice  
 And all our strength exert,  
 Vouchsafe the grace we humbly claim,  
 Compose into a thankful frame,  
 And tune Thy people's heart.

While in the heavenly work we join,  
 Thy glory be our whole design,  
 Thy glory, not our own:  
 Still let us keep our end in view,  
 And still the pleasing task pursue,  
 To please our God alone.

The secret pride, the subtle sin,  
 O let it never more steal in,  
 To offend Thy glorious eyes,  
 To desecrate our hallowed strain,  
 And make our solemn service vain,  
 And mar our sacrifice.

With calmly reverential joy,  
 O let us all our lives employ  
 In setting forth Thy love;  
 And raise in death our triumph higher,  
 And sing with all the heavenly choir  
 That endless song above!

Amen.

*Minister:* Let us pray

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires  
 known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the  
 thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy  
 Spirit that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily  
 magnify Thy Holy Name, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Minister:*

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into  
 the hearts of His people to build this house to the Glory  
 of His Name. As we meet to dedicate this place to its  
 proper and sacred use, we are grateful for the heritage  
 that is ours, and conscious of the sacrifices made by  
 those who have gone before us in the faith. Knowing that  
 apart from them, our work would not have been possible,  
 and that apart from us, their work cannot be made perfect,  
 let us dedicate ourselves anew in this act of consecration  
 and worship.

## HYMN

M.H.B. 399

Tune: Morna

What shall I render to my God  
 For all His mercy's store?  
 I'll take the gifts He hath bestowed,  
 And humbly ask for more.

The sacred cup of saving grace  
 I will with thanks receive,  
 And all His promises embrace,  
 And to His glory live.

My vows I will to His great name  
 Before His people pay,  
 And all I have, and all I am,  
 Upon His altar lay.

Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe  
 To Thee whate'er is mine,  
 Born in Thy family below,  
 And by redemption Thine.

Thy hands created me, Thy hands  
From sin have set me free,  
The mercy that hath loosed my bands  
Hath bound me fast to Thee.

The God of all-redeeming grace  
My God I will proclaim,  
Offer the sacrifice of praise,  
And call upon His name.

Praise Him, ye saints, the God  
of love,  
Who hath my sins forgiven,  
Till, gathered to the church above,  
We sing the songs of heaven.

1st Lesson: 1 Kings 8, 22-23, 27-30.

#### HYMN

M.H.B. 702

Tune: Harewood

Christ is our corner-stone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heaven are  
filled:  
On His great love our hopes we place  
Of present grace and joys above.

O then with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall  
ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing,  
And thus proclaim in joyful song,  
Both loud and long, that glorious name.

Here, gracious God, do Thou  
For evermore draw nigh;  
Accept each faithful vow,  
And mark each suppliant sigh;  
In copious shower on all who pray  
Each holy day Thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from heaven  
The grace which we implore;  
And may that grace, once given,  
Be with us evermore,  
Until that day when all the blest  
To endless rest are called away.

Amen.

2nd Lesson: 1 Cor.3, 10-17.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

#### DEDICATION OF OFFERING

#### HYMN

M.H.B. 984

Tune: Aurelia

O Thou whose hand hath brought us  
Unto this joyful day,  
Accept our glad thanksgiving,  
And listen as we pray;  
And may our preparation  
For this day's service be  
With one accord to offer  
Ourselves, O Lord, to Thee.

For this new house we praise Thee,  
Reared at Thine own command,  
For every generous bosom,  
And every willing hand;  
And now within Thy temple  
Thy glory let us see,  
For all its strength and beauty  
Are nothing without Thee.

And oft as here we gather,  
And hearts in worship blend,  
May truth reveal its power,  
And fervent prayer ascend;  
Here may the busy toiler  
Rise to the things above,  
The young, the old, be strengthened,  
And all men learn Thy love.

And as the years roll onward,  
And strong affections twine,  
And tender memories gather  
About this sacred shrine,  
May this its chiefest honour,  
Its glory, ever be,  
That multitudes within it  
Have found their way to Thee.

Lord God, our fathers' helper,  
Our joy, and hope, and stay,  
Grant now a gracious earnest  
Of many a coming day.  
Our yearning hearts Thou knowest;  
We wait before Thy throne:  
O come, and by Thy presence  
Make this new house Thine own.

Amen.

#### DEDICATORY SERMON

The Rev. Peter A. Kerridge

*The congregation will then stand.*

DEDICATORY PRAYERS led by the Superintendent of the  
St. Albans Circuit, the Rev. Christopher H. Smith.

To the glory of God the Father, Who has called us by His  
grace,  
And of His Son, Who loved us and gave Himself for us;  
And of the Holy Spirit Who illumines and sanctifies us:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

For the worship of God, in prayer and in praise;  
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;  
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

For the comfort of those who mourn;  
For strength to those who are tempted;  
For light to those who seek the true and living way:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

For the hallowing of family life;  
For the teaching and guiding of the young;  
For the perfecting of the saints and the extension of  
the Kingdom:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

For the making of friendships in the bonds of love,  
For the breaking down of barriers and the building up of  
peace;  
For hospitality and understanding, in the one family  
of God:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

In the unity of the faith;  
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;  
In charity and goodwill to all:

*Response:* WE DEDICATE THIS HOUSE

Accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and bless it with  
such success as may most tend to Thy glory, and to the  
salvation of Thy Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Be with us, gracious Lord, today;  
 This house we dedicate to Thee;  
 O hear Thy servants as they pray,  
 And let Thine ear attentive be!

Within these walls let holy peace,  
 Let love and truth be always found;  
 May burdened hearts find sweet release,  
 And souls with richest grace be crowned.

Here, when the gospel sound is heard,  
 And here proclaimed the saving name,  
 May hearts be quickened, moved and stirred,  
 And souls be kindled into flame.

Make this, O Lord, Thine own abode;  
 Thy presence in these courts be given;  
 Be this, indeed, the house of God,  
 And this, in truth, the gate of heaven.

Amen.

THE BLESSING - Rev. Peter A. Kerridge.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only  
 wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all,  
 evermore. Amen.

*The congregation will continue to stand until the officiating party has left the church.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The church and ancillary rooms have  
 been designed and erected by  
**Stocks Bros. (Buildings) Ltd.**

The Managing Trustees wish to record their  
 thanks to the builders and the sub-contractors  
 for the completed scheme and to express  
 their gratitude for financial help from:

**The Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust,  
 The Property Division,  
 The London Committee,  
 The Highgate, Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted,  
 Harrow, Luton South, and St. Albans Circuits.  
 Local Businesses,  
 The Members and Friends of the Church.**