

MOTTRAM St ANDREW METHODIST CHAPEL



Mottram St Andrew Methodist Chapel

Mottram St. Andrew is unusual as a village as it does not have a parish church within its boundaries despite there being several old houses and more than one hall.

The village is part of the parish of Prestbury.

The Methodist Chapel is the only place of worship within the village confines. It is interesting to note that the ancient name of the field where the chapel is situated was Kirkley Ditch. Kirk meaning church and ley could mean the site of, so the situation is appropriate. Kirkleyditch is the name shown on old maps for the area bounded by Wilmslow Old Road, Priest Lane and Moss Road.

The village has been named Mottram Andrew from at least 1414 and became Mottram St Andrew in about 1750, the Saint being added as an afterthought.

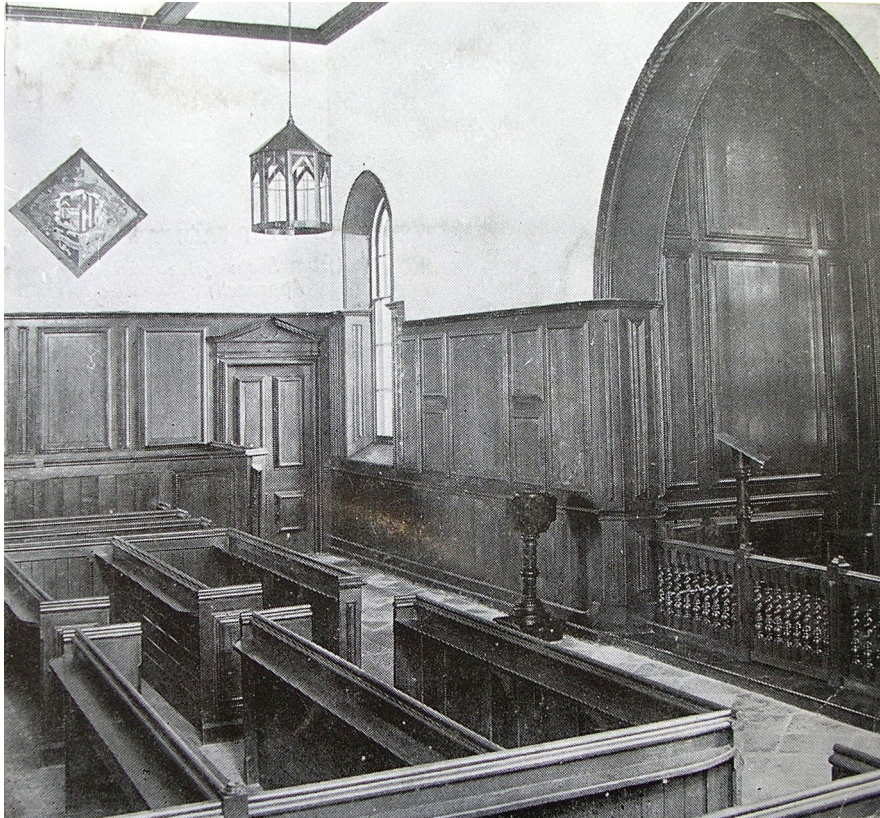
There are unconfirmed memories of a religious community on the Edge near to Clock House Farm, which is in Over Alderley, and there is a Priests Lane. Tradition has it that a priest named Andrew may have lived there using water from what became known as Andrew's Well. This may be the reason that Saint was added to Mottram Andrew in 1750.

When Mottram New Hall was built in 1753 by William Wright, a private chapel was included. It is of a peculiar shape being much wider than long. Panelling, pews and pulpit are of oak and there is a stained glass window in memory of the Reverend Hy Wright and his wife. The last generation of the Wright family were strict Sabbatarians and the estate workers who might have included all the people living in the village were expected to attend chapel each Sunday.

The Chapel is licensed for divine worship and public services were held there for a time.

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Mottram Hall Chapel

A field at the back of Mottram Hall is known as Chapel Field and there is tradition that a chapel existed there.

There is no other mention of a chapel in Mottram but there was a chapel in Newton, which is within the Mottram Parish boundary. It was funded by Humphrey Newton in the early part of the 16th century, possibly in 1504 but after the reformation its revenues were seized and confiscated. The first mention of the Newton Chapel appears in the account of the Inquisition post mortem of Humphrey Newton in 1536. Earwaker states that Humphrey Newton who endowed it from profits from his two mills and part of his land, which was 100 acres of land, 26 acres of pasture, 66 acres of water, heath, moor and waste. The last reference to the chapel was made in 1718 when it was described as being entirely ruined.

It is believed that the Newton Chapel was located between two yew trees near to Yew Tree Cottage and Newton Hall Cottage near to where four roads meet; Mill Lane, Lees Lane, Woodford Lane and Wilmslow Road. Some years ago a stone bearing the one word 'dead' was discovered in the vicinity of Yew Tree Cottage, but this has now vanished. This was probably part of a gravestone, but there are no records of any burials taking place there.

After the reformation the revenues of the Chapel were seized and confiscated. The incumbent at the time was James Smythe on a stipend of 73 shillings and 4 pence per year. The items that were taken from the Chapel included two bells weighing 80 pounds. Subsequently the chapel was reopened and the subsequent ministers included Henry Brydges, Richard Bullock, John Mather and John Cleeve. The chapel eventually fell into decay and was demolished. There are no details as to what happened to the two bells weighing 80 pounds.

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The Prestbury registers record the burial on 23.12.1578 of Henry Brydges, minister at Newton, and on the 15.02.1588 that of Richard Bullock, curate of Newton. In 1604 and 1609, John Mather was mentioned in records at Chester and Stockport registers. In 1610 the Wilmslow registers give the name of John Cleeve, minister at Newton.

The Wilmslow registers also record two marriages celebrated at the chapel in 1678 and 1682. The marriage in 1682 was on the 9th August between John Oldham of Prestbury and Dorothy Astle of Wilmslow and was conducted by George Newton, vicar of Prestbury.

Newton Chapel is named 'Jewish Chapel' on the 1882 version of the Ordnance Survey Map. The reason for this name is not known.

It is quite clear that there was a Methodist congregation long before the present chapel was built in Mottram St Andrew. The baptismal record is said to date back to 1863 pre dating the building of the present Alderley Edge Methodist Chapel which was built in 1866.

The small Hough Chapel between Alderley Edge and Mottram St. Andrew was opened in 1838 and it must be true that whatever congregations there were in Mottram St Andrew and Alderley Edge survived in buildings that no longer exist or in borrowed rooms. There is a tradition that the congregation in Mottram St Andrew used a room over a silk weaving factory at 'Silverthorn', a house in Alderley Road. The house was previously known as 'Mount Pleasant'.

In the 1861 census, silk weavers accounted for 11% of the workforce in the village. After that silk weaving declined due to the import of cheaper French products.



Former Silk Weaving Factory now named 'Silverthorn'

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Non conformists had difficulty in buying land on which to build their chapels or in which to bury their dead. The land usually belonged to the Squire and 99% of them would be supporters of the established church. There were exceptions. In 1689 Thomas Eaton of Mottram St Andrew allowed the Baptists to use his house for worship, although it was against the law to do so, and conveyed to them a piece of land for £1 for a burial plot. He was the nearest friend that they could find to their Warford Baptist congregation, five miles away. The ancient burial ground which dates back to 26.11.1691 is in what was the wheelwright's garden in Oak Road. This is now Oak Cottage. The plot is 32 yards long and 20 yards wide.

The earliest date of any readable gravestone is that of Dorothy Preston who was buried there on the 08.08.1701. There are other gravestones dating back to the 1700s. Mary Hay Wood, buried 06.06.1706, Margaret Eaton, buried 30.09.1702, the wife of Thomas Eaton, who had earlier conveyed the plot and Thomas Eaton, aged 77, buried 02.01.1710. Other gravestones are for Joseph Burgess, buried 19.07.1745 and a Chillworth, buried January 1755, aged 80.



Dorothy Preston Gravestone

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Joseph Burges Gravestone

Another gravestone lists Thomas Faulkener, aged 55, buried 16.01.1757, Samuel Faulkener, aged 24, son of Thomas, buried 09.02.1757, Samuel's wife, aged 24, buried 09.03.1757 and Elizabeth, wife of Thomas, buried 22.10.1757. Locally these deaths were accounted for by the fact that they had eaten potatoes grown on the burial ground and it is said that calves put there to feed also met the same fate. The last burial took place there in 1866.



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Burial Ground Gravestones

It is just possible that similar difficulties in acquiring land delayed the building of the Methodist Chapel in Mottram St.Andrew.



Mottram St Andrew Methodist Chapel

In 1840 George Yarnold complained that the poor children of the village were in need of spiritual instruction and it could have been as a response to such a need that the Methodists decided to take action.

The Chapel was built by Isaac Massey and Son of Alderley Edge at a total cost of £475-10s-5d and the opening ceremony was on Wednesday 16th January 1895 at 3pm and performed by the President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, the Reverend Walford Green.

The Minister at the time of the opening was the Reverend Josiah Evans and there have been several Ministers since that time as follows:-

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1893.1896 | Josiah Evans |
| 1896.1899 | A.H.Vine |
| 1899.1902 | J.R.Imission |
| 1902.1905 | Clement Stuchbery |
| 1905.1908 | Ebenezer Morgan |
| 1908.1911 | W.Augustus Tresize |
| 1911.1914 | W.Scott Page |
| 1914.1919 | William Stewart |
| 1919.1922 | Ernest Rhodes |
| 1922.1927 | J.Marwood Sanderson |
| 1927.1932 | Albany S.Renton |
| 1932.1935 | Walter G.Freeman |
| 1935.1939 | William A.Unsworth |

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| 1939.1944 | Alan R.Miller |
| 1944.1947 | Harold Thompson |
| 1947.1953 | Kenneth E.Jinks |
| 1953.1960 | Frank Scott |
| 1960.1966 | Sam Thornton |
| 1966.1973 | Eric Challoner |
| 1973.1981 | John Dykes |
| 1981.1988 | Peter B.Swinglehurst |
| 1988.1991 | David Redrobe |
| 1992.1993 | Kenneth Renouf |
| 1993.1994 | Diana Holbert |
| 1994.1995 | Sally Rhodes |
| 1995.2001 | Brian Mifflin |
| 2001-2004 | Geoffrey Nadin |
| 2004.2006 | Martin Freeman |
| 2006.2007 | Paul Wilson |
| 2007- | Ben Clowes |

In the 1920s the congregation filled the church with men sitting on one side of the church and women on the other side.

In the chapel there are records displayed of baptisms and a record of those who served and fell during both World Wars.

Mottram St Andrew Methodist Chapel is currently administered through 'The Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit', a group of churches in rural North Cheshire. From the prosperous village of Alderley Edge to the historic market town of Knutsford, and encompassing four village chapels and two outreach centres, this small, vibrant circuit serves the Cheshire greenbelt communities to the south of the Greater Manchester conurbation.

The circuit has 3 serving ministers and a number of part-time lay-workers supporting the Churches' ministry. Currently there are over 500 members and some 1000 included in the Community Roll.

In recent years the building has been brought up to date with modern facilities and has recently been re-roofed and redecorated.

Regular Sunday Services are at present held at 9.30am with occasional special services at 6.30pm. Details of services may be found on the notice board outside of the Chapel.

The chapel is also open on Thursday mornings from 10.00am until 11.00am.

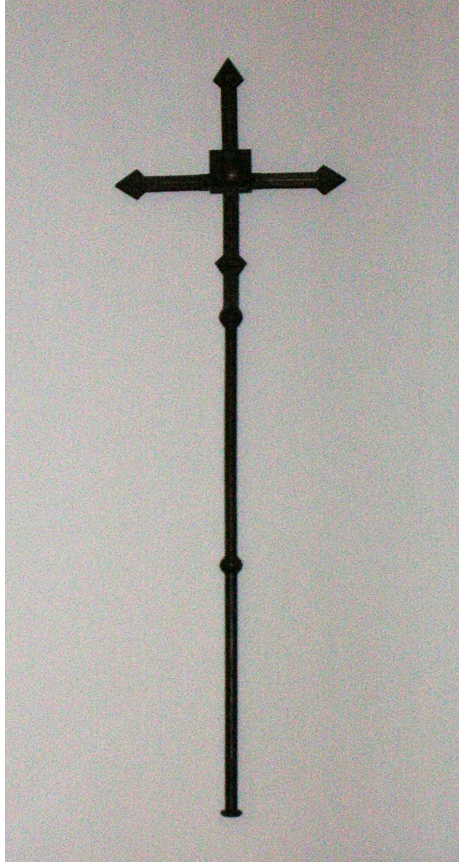
For younger people, and on the first Sunday of every month, a 'Little Fishes' and a 'Dolphin Group' are integrated into the Service. Visitors are always made very welcome at all of the services and there is an opportunity for fellowship and a chat after the morning service when refreshments are served.

The Chapel is also a certified 'Fair-trade' Chapel using Fair-traded goods wherever possible.

The wooden Cross behind the pulpit in the present Methodist chapel came from the Mottram Hall Chapel. The Cross was handed to the Sunday School Children when they

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attended the last service to be held in the Hall Chapel so that the tradition of worship might be continued. This was believed to have been in the 1970s.



The Cross from Mottram Hall Chapel



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