

## CHAPTER 13

Revs. Frederick Oliver, Frederick Greaves and

David King(1946-1962)

Mr. Hobson was succeeded by Rev. Frederick Oliver, who had been born in 1900 and ordained on 8th July 1937. His ministry at Great Chishill and Barley began with an Induction Service on 28th February 1946, and lasted until 1951.

He married rather later in life, but he and his wife Vera had no children. He was a sociable, contented countryman, an acceptable preacher beloved of his people (who showed their appreciation by giving him produce from their gardens) and loyal to his vocation.

Mr. Oliver was devoted to the preaching of the Word and to pastoral care, being a happy and talkative person. In his ministry he was supported by his wife, who was perhaps somewhat livelier and conducted Women's Meetings. He died on 4th April 1979.

The minister who followed him (Rev. Frederick Greaves) in 1951 was somewhat older, being born in 1890 and ordained in 1917. He was much older than his wife Lilian, who well supported his ministry.

Mr. Greaves was tall and thin, noted for tapping his stick as he walked, for he was rather unsteady on his feet. Somewhat unusually, he visited members of the congregation by bicycle at night. He shared actively in the wider work of the Church, and it was said of him that 'he made and left his own distinctive mark. His influence cut deep because it was exercised without intrusion'.

Mr. Greaves intimated in August 1957 that he wished to resign in order to take a part-time pastorate

at Fenstanton for health reasons and advancing years, and he closed his ministry on 27th October 1957. At his Induction Service there, a coachload of sixty persons from the chapel attended.

For a time in later years, Mr. Greaves and his wife returned to live in a bungalow in Great Chishill. He died on 4th March 1971.

The succeeding minister (Rev. David King) was of similar age, being born on 24th December 1892. During the First World War he had been a conscientious objector, and had been imprisoned for a while on account of his beliefs. He was ordained in 1929 after undertaking a three-year non-residential course. He was a graduate in Arts.

The Induction Service for Mr. King was held on 13th February 1958, and it was noteworthy that the local vicar took part in it. By this time, Mr. King was already beyond normal retirement age, but he stayed until August 1962, when he moved to another pastorate on the coast at Birchington, Kent. He died in 1967.

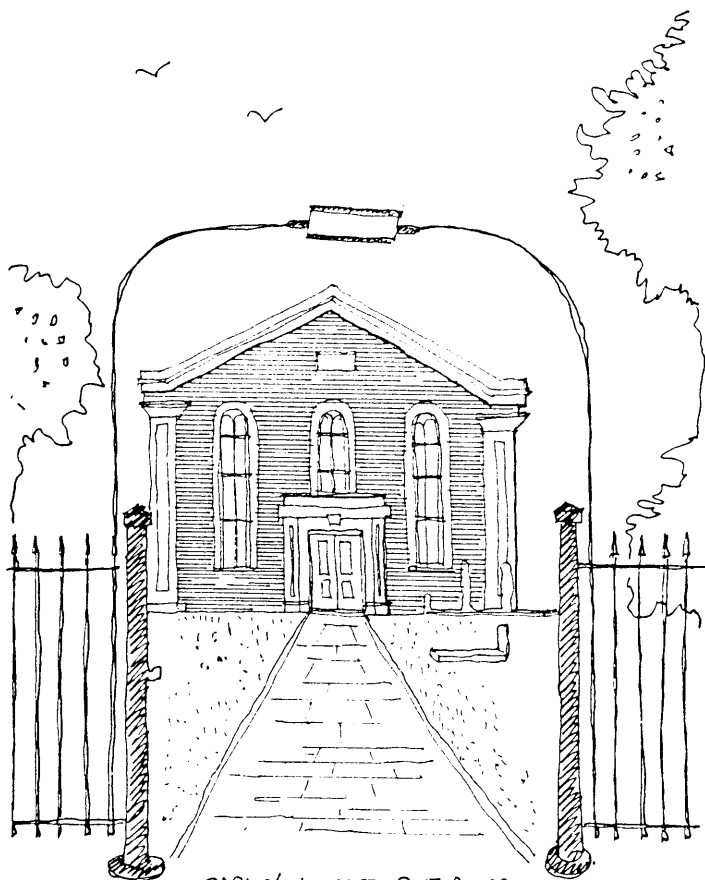
Mr. King was a short man, somewhat reserved, but friendly, sympathetic, understanding, and having always a kindly word. His was a robust faith and sense of vocation, but he was only an indifferent preacher. Despite the hilly nature of the district, he insisted on undertaking all his pastoral duties by bicycle. He was fond of music and sang a useful tenor voice.

Since the first intimation in July 1952, the church secretary (Mrs.E.Oyston) with the full support of the church meeting had undertaken a course of study, and passed the ministerial examinations.

In April 1958, Mrs. Oyston informed the church meeting that she had accepted a call to the pastorate of the Longworth Group of Congregational Churches, near

Oxford. In recognition of her period of eight years service and this call to ministry, the congregation in May presented her with an address and gift of £12.5s.

During the interregnum (October 1962), it was finally decided after a consultation period of 35 years to transfer the trusteeship of the chapel to the Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire Congregational Union.



BARLEY UNITED REFORMED  
CHURCH.