

## CHAPTER 23

### Everyday life in Barley Chapel

One of the staunch supporters of Barley Chapel throughout her life, Miss Ruth Dellow, has written this graphic account of her experiences :

'Charles Dellow, my father, was a deacon at the Chapel, and my mother Fanny Dellow was the Chapel cleaner for many years. They went to Chapel every Sunday and always took their family with them, even visitors who happened to call on Sunday.

'The Chapel was heated by a furnace with hot water pipes going round the Chapel and a rainwater tank in the schoolroom, which my father used to keep topped up. He also used to go down some steps outside the Chapel to keep the furnace going.

'Miss Frances Wilkerson, Mr. Clear Wilkerson and Miss Enid Chuck (who later married Mr. Jack Smith) were our Sunday School teachers when I was young, and later Misses Molly, Betty and May Wilson helped.

'We attended Sunday School twice on Sunday, morning and afternoon. We were given a pretty card with a verse on it from the Bible, and when we had collected so many, we exchanged them for a bigger one, and when we had collected so many of these (which were called rewards), we were given a Bible or hymnbook.

'Mr. and Mrs. Fred King were Sunday School teachers for many years. Mr. King was also a lay preacher and took many Services in Barley Chapel, and even conducted my niece's wedding. He was a deacon. Beryl Smith (who later became Mrs. Beryl Monk) was also a Sunday School teacher, and Maurice Chuck's two daughters Christine and Sandra.

'We had brass lamps to light the Chapel when I was young, which had to be cleaned and polished and filled with paraffin every week. Mum made cakes and rag dolls, and used to go round the village getting people to guess the weight or name the doll to help Chapel funds.

'Miss Margaret Casbon and her brother John were good supporters of the Chapel, gave generously and attended regularly. Mr. Kelly was also generous, and gave chairs for the schoolroom, and had the path tarmacked. Mr. Albert Chuck was choirmaster for many years until he had a stroke and was confined to his bed.

'Mrs. Drake was a wonderful organist. She was there when I was a young girl and was still playing the organ when I was sixty. She also played the organ for our Anniversary Services, when we got book prizes for regular attendance.

'Mr. Stan Smith always attended and stood in the porch to give out the hymnbooks on Sunday evenings. His brother Jack was a deacon, and always took the collection and welcomed the preachers in the vestry before the Service.

'Jim, another brother, sat regularly in the family pew which his mother and father (Mr. and Mrs. Percy Smith) used many years before, when they had their little family. They had a long walk from their home at Lower Fields to attend Chapel'.