

FUND RAISING

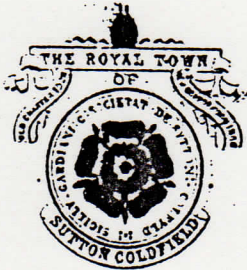
Churches seem to have been engaged in a perpetual round of fund raising during the century. In the early days prominent members were very generous in their gifts, donating land, manses, and providing organs for new churches. And when for example, a donation to Connexional funds fell short of its target, a donor would, at a quarterly meeting make up the deficit to general applause. The minutes would record in fulsome detail the circumstances of the gift. Such donations often paved the way for circuit development when it would seem that all avenues were blocked by lack of money.

Affluent members were sometimes asked for personal gifts to raise money for a particular cause (a move not unknown today) and usually the gift was forthcoming. The less affluent played their part of course in the frequent bazaars, fetes, sales of work and gift days. Some of these were very elaborate, with organising committees of twenty or more. In the 1920's and 30's the Town Hall in Sutton Coldfield would be hired for a three day event. Stalls would be allocated to Church groups and every name would be in the handsome programme of events published for the occasion.

The 44 page booklet issued on the occasion of an "Olde Englyshe Fair" held at the Town Hall in 1926 contained 45 advertisements large and small ranging from Harpurs Drapers corset advertisement (with illustration) to an appeal from the Corporation Electricity Department to install electricity in your home to eliminate drudgery.

The Windsor Orchestra gave afternoon and evening concerts. Opening ceremonies each day featured such local celebrities as the Member of Parliament and the Mayor of Sutton. Eighteen groups uunder the direction of the Bazaar Executive raised over one thousand six hundred pounds for a anew Sunday School;the equivalent of over ten thousand pounds today.

At the height of the depression in the 1930's a two day sale in Wesley Hall South Parade raised over onethousand pounds (over six thousand today), with Ye House of Oddments (the white elephant stall) doing particularly well. But as the years went by sales and fairs gradually shortened into one day events and then in the 60's into mornings only. In 1981 one fund raising event was advertised as "morning sale and lunch" with lunch at one pound 25p. By 2pm the stalls would have disappeared and the Hall ready for Sunday School. Few events of this nature in the post 1945 period were designed to raise funds for church use; they were more likely to be for Overseas Missions or a local charity..



ATT

Mayor's Parlour,
Council House,
Sutton Coldfield.

25th March 1926.

Dear Sir,

WESLEYAN CHURCH BAZAAR.

Referring to our recent interview and your letter of the 18th instant, I have carefully considered your request and have pleasure in granting you the use of the Town Hall for the dates you mention on payment of an inclusive sum of Twenty Pounds (£20.0.0). In addition you will have to pay for any Crockery that may be broken.

I trust these terms will be satisfactory to you.

Yours faithfully,

W E Parnell

Mayor

Thos. Hannibal Esq.,
Elvaston,
Station Road,
WYLDE GREEN.

Ack. 30 Mar 1926

The Connexional funds, Property, Ministerial and Local Preacher Training, Overseas and Home Missions, have always been supported by local churches, some voluntarily, others by levy set by Conference. The major concern of the churches in the circuit throughout the century has been Overseas Missions, first under the auspices of the Methodist Missionary Society and later the Overseas Division. No other charitable work receives as much financial support and the O.M. committee has always been strong and active. The children's branch, the J.M.A., flourished in post-war years, the children collecting weekly from adult church-goers, and attending rallies designed to educate and entertain. The decline of the Sunday school numbers has reduced the children's contribution, but it continues due largely to the adult treasurers who each week must be present to receive the money collected. In the early and mid-century years O.M. rallies, concerts and exhibitions (800 people attended one circuit mission exhibition and activity day in 1975) were held, not just to attract funds, but to keep people informed of missionary work and needs. The prayer manual issued annually contained the names and locations of those who were serving abroad and stimulated interest in the work and showed that educational staff, engineers and agriculturalists were important in the developing countries although the primary concern has of course been with evangelism. Many ministers who have served the circuit have had experience of overseas work, and are popular speakers at special services and meetings.

Many other causes are supported by local churches, some individually, others on a circuit basis. The Methodist Homes (for the aged), Christian Aid, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, the Ministers Housing Society are the subject of fund-raising efforts or receive grants from church outreach funds, and each church will have its own list of charities it supports.

One remarkable success in the last two decades has been the establishment of the Share Care Shops. These are located at Lichfield Road and Kingstanding and are run by a committee drawn from circuit members, many of whom staff the shops. Clothes and other goods are re-cycled and sold at attractive prices; the substantial profits are allocated to various charitable causes, and the circuit meeting is pleased to hear the annual report.

There are many other fund raising occasions which since 1899 have contributed to church finances and charities. Garden parties, concerts, barn dances, music halls, parties of all kinds and coffee mornings have been the source of great fellowship and fun, with the comforting knowledge that someone in need somewhere will benefit.

METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH PARADE, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Please accept this invitation to an

ALL DAY SALE

ON TUESDAY, 19th MAY, 1970

The proceeds will be given to support Women's Work Overseas

IN THE MORNING

10.45 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Chair to be taken by Mrs. E. HOWES

Sale to be opened by
Councillor Mrs. MARJORIE CARPENTER

Coffee 1/-

IN THE AFTERNOON

3 p.m.

Chair to be taken by Sister IRENE BRYAN

Sale to be opened by
Miss PEARL CHAPMAN

Buffet Tea

Soloist in the afternoon

Miss BERYL CUTLER
of West Bromwich

BRING AND BUY STALLS

including

GROCERY

HOME PRODUCE

SOAP AND PERFUME

WHITE ELEPHANT — PLANTS — CHILDREN'S CORNER



Fayre Executive Committee



Chairman:

REV. R. S. ARMSBY, B.A.

Treasurer:

MR. G. T. HENSEL

Secretaries:

MRS. ARMSBY

MR. C. S. BOULTON

Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| MISS ACE | MRS. L. G. PARSONS |
| MISS ARMSBY | MR. & MRS. PURCELL |
| MR. G. F. BARTLEET | MR. & MRS. RADCLIFFE |
| MR. BROCKBANK | MISS D. A. SAVEKER |
| MISS BUCKLER | MR. T. H. SAVEKER |
| MR. & MRS. F. W. BURD | MRS. SHELDON |
| MR. & MRS. EDMONDS | MR. & MRS. SLARKE |
| MR. & MRS. FULLER | MISS SLARKE |
| MR. & MRS. GIBBINS | MR. F. W. TURNER |
| MR. & MRS. HARTLEY | MRS. G. H. WHILE |
| MR. D. HARTLEY | MR. & MRS. C. S. WILKINSON |
| MRS. HENSEL | MR. W. A. WILKINSON |
| MR. MADGE | MR. & MRS. F. WILKINSON |
| MRS. MASON | MISS WILKINSON |
| MRS. MILLER | MRS. WINFIELD |
| MISS MOORE | MR. & MRS. WOOD |
| | MR. WRIGHT |



The committee appointed for a three day
sale at the Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield
1926



At . De . Sign of . De Lollipoppe and Nobeltie

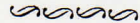


To be opened
by:—

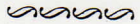
Mrs. SEYMOUR SMITH.

Leader :—Miss D. A. SAVEKER.

Mrs. T. H. SAVEKER. Mrs. A. BRIDGEWATER.
Mr. & Mrs. F. SAVEKER. Mr. F. W. TURNER.
Mrs. T. C. CASTLE.



CHOCOLATES. - TOFFEES. - CARAMELS.
FANCIES. - NOVELTIES.
CRACKERS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.
EXCELLENT SELECTION OF GIFT BOXES.



At De Olde Well

Pull! PULL!! PULL!!!
Paye Two Pennies and . . .
select your gift.



BROMFORD METHODIST CHURCH
WHEELWRIGHT ROAD
ERDINGTON

"THE
METHYLATED
SPIRITS"

A CONCERT IN AID OF
THE RENOVATION FUND

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY OCT. 11TH

START 6-30 PM.

ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME ONLY PRICE 1/-