

Geoffrey William Collinson

Geoffrey was born in York in 1910 the son of W Collinson the chairman of Leak and Thorp Ltd. He candidated for the ministry in 1932 and trained at Didsbury College.

He served in the following appointments:

1932 Didsbury Theological College
1936 London (Wesley's Chapel)
1938 Bromley
1942 Teddington
1946 Maidenhead, Windsor & Slough
1950 Leeds (Morley)
1953 Waltham Abbey & Hertford
1957 Cambridge
1964 Chingford
1969 Guildford

He married Marjorie Sybil Boynton Bellerby in Wesley's Chapel, Priory Street, York on Friday 28th July 1939

Geoffrey and Marjorie were to have three children:

John born Bromley 1940
Derek born Teddington 1943
Ruth born Teddington 1946

Geoffrey William Collinson: Born In York on 6th February 1910. He would always seek to mediate and had a gift for finding a common pathway forward. He began his ministry as union came to the Methodist Church and concluded it with a profound belief in and enthusiasm for ecumenism. The third of four children his parents were strong Methodists. On leaving school he became an assistant manager in the Midland Bank. Having become a local preacher in 1932 he candidated for the ministry and trained at Didsbury, Manchester. He served as a probationer at Wesley's Chapel London, acting as part time curator of Wesley Museum. He then served in Bromley and was ordained at the Liverpool Conference in 1939. In August that year he married Sybil Bellerby who he had met when she was organist at Queen Street Methodist Church in York. They had three children, John, Derek and Ruth. A conscientious and methodical man, he kept dates of home visits and records of the contents of sermons and children's addresses, rarely sleeping more than five hours a night so that he could rise early for his devotions and reading. After a battle with illness Sybil's health deteriorated and she died at home in 1961. Geoffrey's strong faith and disciplined life pulled him through these difficult times. At the age of 57 he took his first holiday abroad. He was invited to become a leader with Methodist Guild Overseas Holidays, which resulted in him travelling abroad for the next twenty years and making friends all over the world. He served at Wesley's Chapel, and in the Bromley, Teddington, Windsor and Maidenhead, Morley (Leeds), Cambridge and Guildford Circuits (where he was instrumental in a unity scheme between Methodist and URC Churches at Godalming). He sat down in 1975 and initially served as an active supernumerary. In 2002 he moved to Cliff Dene the MHA home in Whitstable. Although completely blind he developed a ministry of prayer and intercession. His faith was infectious, he delighted in the company of others. He profoundly believed in family life - not just his three children, seven grandchildren, and seventeen great-grandchildren - but the whole of the wider church to whom he devoted his life. He died on 16th September 2008 at Cliff Dene in the ninety-ninth year of his life and the seventy-fourth year of his ministry. (Minutes of Conference)