

## JOHN CLAPHAM GREAVES

**John Clapham Greaves was born in Birstal, Yorkshire on the 11th of December 1842 the son of Mary Greaves and William Greaves a Stay Maker. (Yes - a Stay maker was a highly skilled tailor with a knowledge of anatomy!).**

**John entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1863.**

**He was based in Windsor and served in the circuit from 1864 to 1867. He was soon taken to heart particularly by the small congregation at Cookham, preaching the Chapel Anniversary sermons both morning and evening in October 1865 and being presented with a farewell gift when he left the Windsor circuit in July 1867:**

### *PRESENTATION:*

*On Monday the Rev J.C. Greaves paid his farewell visit to the Wesleyan Chapel at Cookham. Several of the friends connected with the society took tea with the rev gentleman, after which a handsome silver cruet-stand was presented to him as a token of their gratitude for his faithful ministry among them during three years. In the evening, Mr Greaves preached a sermon of an eminently practical character.*

(Reading Mercury 27 July 1867)

**John had a thirst for, and promoted, Christian Holiness and with three other ministers produced a series of twelve tracts, later bound together as “Scriptural Holiness”, and began issuing a small-scale magazine, “The Guide to Holiness”, the prelude to “The King's Highway”**

*“The thirst for holiness was resuscitated in Methodism by a small group of relatively obscure younger ministers. J Clapham Greaves, W.G. Pascoe, I.E. Page and John Brash were drawn together in 1870 by a common experience of 'Perfect Love'.*

*In 1871 they held several meetings to promote scriptural holiness in New Street Chapel, York and during Conference that year there were informal discussions on the theme.*

*These were followed in 1872 by the first of an annual series of public meetings at Conference, sponsored by Cuthbert Bainbridge, a wealthy Newcastle ware-house owner.*

*Bainbridge also provided the money to launch, in January 1872, 'The King's Highway', a substantial monthly periodical. The journal established a healthy circulation, secured more than seventy Wesleyan contributors in its first twelve years. It had some impact on other Methodist denominations, whose representatives were admitted to share in its management.*

*Its influence extended even beyond Methodism. 'I have just got two copies of The King's Highway', reported a hyper-enthusiastic Baptist minister in 1872, 'and I'm eating them!'*

*By 1874 it was possible for the promoters to hold a conference devoted to holiness alone. Gathering at Wakefield, it attracted about fifty ministers and laymen.”*

(From “Evangelism in Modern Britain:” A History from the 1730s to the 1980s by David W. Bebbington)

*“Perhaps more than any other source, this magazine acted as the stimulus for a renewal of Holiness interest in Methodism and as an interpreter of the higher life movement worldwide. It was said of Greaves that his whole life and message were Holiness”*

(From; “The A to Z of the Holiness Movement” edited by William Kostlevy)

*“The question of the Church's purity involves the question of saving millions of men; while we talk about our weakness, and argue and hesitate, men are passing from our midst to eternal flames .....would that upon the whole Church might come a baptism of ..... self-consuming love.”*

(Rev J.C. Greaves The King's Highway 1872)

**John married Mary Elizabeth Cowell on the 6th August 1867 in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Birstal, Yorkshire.**

**Over the succeeding ten years John and Mary were to have eight children.**

**Cliff College in the Derwent valley was improved extensively with money provided by the Million Guinea Fund where in February 1904 John Clapham Greaves was appointed to teach Theology**

**He was elected to the Legal Hundred in July 1905**

**He died March 1908 aged 65**