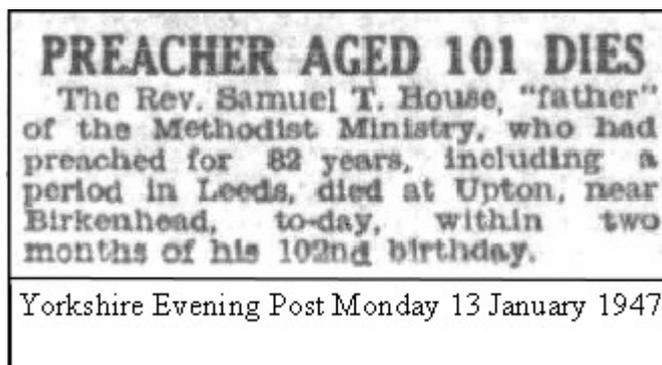


## SAMUEL TURNER HOUSE



Samuel Turner House joined the Methodist Ministry at the age of 21 and his second appointment was to the High Street Church, Maidenhead where he settled in a house in York Road in September 1869. His Superintendent Minister was the Revd Joseph Portrey who just five months before had laid to rest his eldest son Richard aged 20 in the High St Church graveyard. (n.b. the Portrey family gravestone remains outside the church to this day)

Samuel was born in Holcombe, Somerset in 1845 the eldest child of Joseph House "Brewer and Local Wesleyan Preacher"(!). He left school aged 15 and entered the brewery company of which his father was manager. He became a Local Preacher aged 18, candidated for the ministry two years later and entered his first appointment in 1866.

His subsequent career was spent in the main "North of Watford" and wherever he went he was widely respected not only as a Preacher and but also as a Public Lecturer. (Newspapers of the day record such lecture themes as "Sir Francis Drake", "Charles Haddon Spurgeon", "Sunshine and Showers of Life", "The Pulpit and its Power", "Thoughts and Memories", "The Making of Men", "Signs of the Times"). He retired from the active ministry in 1903.

His age and seniority was acknowledged during the opening session of the 1939 Methodist Conference, when, as he was sitting in the gallery, the Conference gave him the respect of inviting him to sit "on the platform" throughout the several days' proceedings.

He was credited with a keen sense of humour, After recovering from a serious bout of pneumonia, he preached to a crowded congregation at Tuebrook Methodist Church, Birkenhead on his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Yorkshire Post reported on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday that:

*"He still enjoys a country walk. With the exception of a little deafness, he has all his faculties. Until recently he enjoyed wood-chopping as a hobby. Yesterday he took Holy Communion".*

The flavour of one of his lectures is contained in the Leamington Spa Courier for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 1910. –

*"The Rev S T House exceeded all expectations in his brilliant lecture, in which he took a rapid survey of human life in its varied aspects under the somewhat speculative heading of "Thoughts and Memories". One of the great questions of the day, he said, was "Is life worth living?. To his thinking, life was certainly worth*

*living. Some people were always dissatisfied. If they got to heaven they would be dissatisfied with the fit of their halo or the absence of reserved seats (laughter). He knew a man of 90, who said he was quite ready to die, only he wanted to be an old man first. There were always people who want to extreme and made themselves conspicuous. If we had not got the absurd crinoline dress, - which, by the way would prove rather an obstruction in some of our tramcars, what about the hats?. He could remember when bonnets were so small that they could hardly be seen. On the whole, though, we were much more sensibly dressed now-a-days, especially the children. One of the hardest things in the world is to come down in life. People would financially cripple themselves in order to keep up appearances. He warned them not to be led by the dictates of fashion but by common sense. When we escaped from the hurly-burly of the world, and had time for a little quiet meditation, we realised that our personal responsibility to God was the most important thing in life. We must have a living faith in God through Christ, which would give us strength for the present and confidence for the future”.*

**He died peacefully aged 101.**