

## GEORGE DOBSON MASON

Rev George Dobson Mason was born in Scarborough in September 1855, entered the Methodist ministry in 1879 and following his training at Richmond College was sent as a missionary to Sierra Leone.

He returned from Sierra Leone after nine months for health reasons. However during that period he was able to found a High School for Girls and extend a good deal of the work in primary education.

While a minister at Penzance he had the privilege of presenting RNLI medals for gallantry to the crew of the five crew members of the "Lily White" in their part in rescuing the crew of the ketch "Baltic" wrecked off Mousehole 1st November 1907.

He came to Maidenhead in September 1912 and later returned in February 1921 to unveil the WW1 War memorial on the Sanctuary wall.

He married Susannah Edith Freemantle in September 1884 and they were to have four children; Cornelius, Jane, Gladys and Raymond.

### **Speaking in Northgate Chapel Gloucester at the Wesley Centenary in March 1891**

**George Mason prefaced his remarks by saying:**

*"That it was a religious gathering, the tone of which would be spiritual throughout, he said that although it was advertised as a public meeting, it would hardly follow that course, his idea being that it should take the form of a reminiscence and conversation.*

*When they spoke of the design of Methodism they understood rather God's design in raising up Methodism than in John Wesley's design, for Wesley several times said he had no idea whatever of founding a sect, and if he possibly could have avoided separation from the Established Church in England, no doubt he would have done so. But the design of God avoided that, and Wesley saw His design, and helped to work it out. Perhaps Wesley himself hardly ever thought that Methodism would become the power of universal blessing that it had become in the world. God was the author of the good and great movement called Methodism; Jesus Christ sounded the key-note; the Church of England provided the bass; the Presbyterians and Congregationalists took up the tenor; the Baptist and other churches the alto; whilst he thought the Methodists might claim very prominently to sing the soprano, and give the air imparted in the spiritual life of the country in which we live today.*

*Having briefly spoken of the doctrine of entire sanctification, and the witness of the spirit, he said that there was a great absence of confidence and assurance in Wesley's day, and the design of God in raising him up to introduce Methodism into the world was, he thought, to give prominence to that doctrine which had done so much to brighten the lives of those Christians who had received that truth, and to give enthusiasm and confidence to them, as Methodists.*

*He exhorted them to take to heart Wesley's motto "The world is my parish", to avoid everything like sectarianism, narrowness, or bigotry, and in working out God's design, to be responsive using those methods which they felt had His approval, even as Wesley put aside everything like stereotyped ways. Let them seek to be worthy of the name they bore by imitating Wesley's tremendous enthusiasm, patience, and untiring devotion to God, and God would bless the future of Methodism in a way they had never yet thought of. (Applause)*

**George retired in 1923 and went to live at Hucclocote, Gloucestershire but as far as health would allow he continued to minister. He was co-chaplain at Gloucester Poor Law Institute a position he held until his death**

**At his funeral the preacher said of him:**

*“Four sentences from the Sermon on the Mount which summed up the life of their dear departed friend.*

*The first was “Ye are the light of the world”. What a day’s sunshine meant to the earth, so was a good man and a good man’s life to the world.*

*“Ye are the salt of the earth”. Salt was the best antiseptic and it was one of the indispensable things, so a good man’s life was the salt of the world.*

*“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God”. Their friend was rich in the gift of reconciliation and more than one home at this time was full of peace and fellowship where a few years ago husband and wife were living apart.*

*“Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth”. Their friend did good by stealth and they thanked God that there had dwelt among them a man who all his life offered to God the sweet incense of loving deeds”*

**He died at Hucclecote, Gloucester on 12th March 1926. He left his wife and just one daughter. His only son (aged 3) and two other daughters having predeceased him, one of the latter just shortly before he himself died.**