

WILLIAM SHARPLEY

William Sharpley was born in Kennington, London on March 18th 1853. At an early age he felt a call to preach and conducted Sunday evening services in his father's kitchen

He was accepted as a candidate for the ministry in 1872 and spent three years at Headingly College. Most of his subsequent ministry was spent in rural circuits.

He came to Maidenhead in September 1878 and in the summer of 1879 married Emily Francis Hewitt the daughter of William Hewitt a long-time Draper of Maidenhead High Street.

On leaving Maidenhead, William and Francis went to Ely where their first child William Thomas (who was to follow his father into the Wesleyan Ministry) was born.

Very little information has been discovered about him. However two articles are of some interest: :

BAKEWELL JUBILEE COMMITTEE THE BONFIRE SCHEME

A meeting of the above committee was held on Thursday night

The place selected for the bonfire was a field near Carlton Pastures which is an elevated spot. Mr Clarke read the programme which had been drafted for Jubilee Day, which has already appeared in these columns. He said that the census showed there were 801 children and 1000 mugs had been ordered. The Rev W Sharpley thought there would have to be an exception to one part of the programme, and that was about all the children going to the Parish church. There would be a special service for the Nonconformists. That step was taken because the Nonconformist ministers would not be allowed to take any part in the service at the Parish church. The Nonconformists would have a separate service at the Wesleyan Chapel. The rev gentleman further added that ten years ago he read the lessons in the Parish Church at Hitchin and all the Nonconformists went to the service. That would be done in hundreds of parish churches in England on Jubilee Day, but it was not permitted at Bakewell, and therefore they were shut out. (Hear, Hear). They thought as it was a national affair, everyone ought to be recognised. They were aware that they (The Nonconformists) would only be able to take a very small part in the service.

Mr Clarke: "I think you have had some correspondence over this matter?"

The Rev Sharpley: "Yes"

Mr Clarke: "And is it settled?"

The Rev Sharpley: "Yes -the Rev E Tozer was in favour of every inhabitant joining in the procession"

Mr T Higgins said he was told that at Cheterfield, one tradesman was to represent each trade in the procession on Jubilee Day, and a horse dealer would take his horse and the milkman his cow (laughter)

The programme of Mr Clarke was adopted. (Dated 12 June 1897)

The second article relates to his son!

“The Rev W T Sharpley, Wesleyan minister at Huntingdon, was stopped at Wanstead in December for driving a morgan tricar without having an identification plate of the regulation size. He wrote to the Bench apologising for being unable to appear, and enclosed a letter from the Morgan firm stating that they had sent out hundreds of such cars so fitted and had not previously had such a complaint. Mr Sharpley also explained that he was using the car just as he purchased it. To this communication he had no reply. His surprised may be judged when on Saturday he received a visit from the local police armed with a warrant for his arrest unless he paid the fine of £1 and 4/- costs. The fine was promptly paid but Mr Sharpley hopes that other Morgan owners will see to their cars and profit by his misfortune.”

William Sharpley died suddenly at Peterborough on 13th January 1913. He was aged 59