

## SAMUEL YOUNG

Samuel Young was born in Bolton in 1797 and became a Methodist minister in 1822. He went straight into the South Africa mission field for 12 years.

It is most probable that Samuel was already married when he went to the mission field.

Very early on in their marriage Samuel and his wife had three children but Samuel records in his memoirs that sadly his wife ( "the wife of my youth and the partner of my joys and sorrows") and two of the children died early in his ministry.

His remaining child, Elizabeth, born in 1825, survived.

On his return to England, Samuel paid a visit to his spiritual home in Lancashire to attend a special Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Tea Meeting in the body of the Old Chapel, Ridgeway Gates, Bolton. After the tea and to a chapel filled to overflowing, Samuel had the following to say:

*"My Christian friends, I scarcely know how to give utterance to the feelings which agitate my mind - I feel affected at the kind reception you have given me - it is to you, in a real sense that I owe my place in the church - it was you my dear brethren, who directed me when a sinner to my Saviour, and it was you who recommended me to that great work to which it has pleased God in His good providence to call me'*

*He then detailed to the meeting his experience as a missionary - his reception among the different tribes to which he was appointed to preach the everlasting gospel to and amongst whom he has laboured for the last twelve years".*

(Bolton Chronicle)

Despite his personal loss Samuel considered that his time in South africa was a means of blessing and on his return to England described his pioneer work in a small book:

**A MISSIONARY NARRATIVE**  
**Of the Triumphs of Grace, as seen in the Conversion of Kafirs, Hottentots, Fingoes,**  
**and other Natives of South Africa.**  
**By the REV. SAMUEL YOUNG, late Missionary in Southern Africa.**  
**18mo., cambric. Price 1s. 9d.**

**Within the book he speaks of his family tragedy:**

*"It pleased God, just at this important crisis, to deprive me, by death of the wife of my youth, and partner of my joys and sorrows. She had truly been a help for me in that land of darkness. A little before this I had been taught, by the sudden death of two of our dear children, the uncertainty of all earthly comforts; but while I felt much, under these truly trying circumstances, yet, by the grace of God, I was enabled meekly to bow to the dispensation to say 'It is the Lord'. I had many fears that the work of the Mission would suffer in some of its departments from the loss of one who had taken such an interests in the instruction of the young and in the conversion of the aged"*

**As a “returning missionary”, as was customary, Samuel frequently represented the Missionary Society at regional Missionary Society meetings:**

Annual Meeting of the Truro Branch of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in March 1837

*"He had the honour of being employed for twelve years as the Society's missionary in a foreign land. he considered it a great honour to be permitted to carry the standard of the cross, and to erect it in a country purely heathen.*

*On his arrival in South Africa he was appointed chaplain to the British settlement, and about three years after, he was sent as a missionary into the country of the Cafers. Two wagons were supplied him, as was usual on similar expeditions one for the missionary and his family to sleep in at night, and the other for the reception of the provisions, which they were always obliged to take, as they could not return to the settlement till 12 months had elapsed*

*Well he moved forward into Cape land and on the fourth day after his departure, he arrived in that country, when he was pleased to find that much interest was excited amongst the natives by his approach.*

*The next day he proceeded to visit the chief who was an old man; it was of great importance to secure his good will, and if he had died before he (the speaker) had seen him it would have been a great obstacle to the spread of the truth. He found the old man sitting in judgement on a delinquent, but when he heard of the arrival of the missionary he dismissed the case.*

*He (Mr Y) then sat down, about 50 yards from the chief's door; he did so because it was not customary for a stranger to go directly into a house, but to wait till he was asked respecting his business. Presently a young man came from the hut, apparently in haste and with a spear in his hand, and asked in his native language 'where do you come from and what do you want?' He (Mr Y) answered I am the missionary; I am sent by the great people in England, (the term "Great People" they apply to the English, and if a stranger did not come from them, he would not be received by the Cafers), and! want to see the chief. I must see his face and cannot return without doing so'*

*Away went the young man and delivered his message, when the chief said 'it is rather cold; tell him to come up and sit down, and we can talk the matter over'. When he got to the door the chief rose from his seat and, meeting him at the door, shook him by the hand very heartily; said that he was glad to see him and told him to walk in*

*He (Mr Y) said ' I am so glad to see you and am happy and consider it an honour to see you in your own hut; I have been sent to you by the great people; I have long desired to see you; I have often prayed to God to bless you with His grace. 'What' said the old man who with this declaration appeared much struck*

*'What! You pray for me before you come into the country. No man in the country ever prayed for me, so far from it, they and even my own sons are continually stealing my cattle. They come in the morning and say 'the wolves have carried off an ox' but they are the wolves.*

*Ultimately the old chief together with many of his tribe, was converted to Christianity, he adopted him (Mr Y) as his son, and at his death ordered the people to obey him.*

*The missionary's life was most an easy one; frequently he had to preach ten or twelve sermons at different places before breakfast, but the harvest was abundant. (Royal Cornwall Gazette 31 March 1837)*

MAIDENHEAD

*"The anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society has just been held, in connection with which two able and impressive sermons were preached in the Wesleyan chapel on Sunday last. In the morning by Dr Alder one of the general secretaries of the society, and in the evening by the Rev S Young, Missionary from Caffraria. On Tuesday evening, the annual meeting was held in the Guildhall the chair was taken by Mr Johnson of Reading and most interesting and eloquent addresses were delivered on behalf of Christian Missions by the Rev John Hebb, Rev S Young, Rev John Nelson, Missionary from the West Indies, and Rev Joseph Hargreaves of London. The detailed account of the introduction of Christianity among the Kafirs given by Mr Young, together with the success that had attended the labours of himself and coadjutors, was highly satisfactory. The collections at the various services amounted to more than last year, besides the sum of £5 1s 2d which was presented at the meeting from the Wesleyan Sabbath School"*

*(Reading Mercury 3 November 1849)*

On his return to England Samuel was first resident minister in Canterbury and later in Croydon where on 6th July 1837 he married Charlotte Brunswick.

Within a few week of his marriage, along with his new bride Charlotte and his daughter Elizabeth, Samuel took up residence in the Windsor circuit where he had responsibilities for the Wesleyan congregations both in Maidenhead and in Cookham.

Soon after his arrival, arrangements were set in motion to purchase the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel in Maidenhead for Wesleyan use:

BOYN HILL, MAIDENHEAD.

THE only place of Worship in this district, except All Saints Church, is a commodious Chapel, lately occupied by the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion, which has just been purchased by the Wesleyans. They are erecting spacious School Rooms, and greatly increasing their accommodation for the poor. This elegant Chapel is most advantageously situated at the top of the High-street, Maidenhead, in the midst of an increasing population, and is calculated to seat 400 persons, and the total cost will be about 1000*l*. The Trustees appeal with confidence to all the friends of Evangelical truth, to assist them in carrying out this important enterprise.

Subscriptions thankfully received by the Rev. S. Young, Wesleyan Minister; or Mr. John Higgs, J. P. Maidenhead.  
*October, 1858.*

Samuel soon brought his experience of the mission field to the circuit

SLOUGH

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.— On Monday last, a meeting in aid of the above Society was held at the Wesleyan Chapel. Mr. Newman, of Maidenhead, ably occupied the chair. Some excellent addresses were delivered by the Rev. S. Young, late missionary in South Africa, Rev. G. R. Osborne, of Staines, Messrs. Morris, of Wrexham, North Wales, — Hewitt, of Maidenhead, and other friends, whose earnest appeals on behalf of the heathen, combined with some sketches of the life of the Fingoes—what they were previous to the missionary labours among them, and what they are at the present time—drew forth the sympathy of the audience. Although the attendance was not so large as on previous occasions, the collections were double the amount of last year. The Sabbath-school juvenile collectors sang in a very pleasing manner the "Missionaries' Farewell." It is pleasing to see this school, which a short time ago was at a very low ebb, showing signs of improvement. Through the indefatigable exertions of the present superintendent, it bids fair to become a flourishing school.

(Reading Mercury Nov 13 1858)

**The new place of worship was purchased and opened on Thursday 3rd February 1859**

**MAIDENHEAD**  
**WHAT ARE THE WESLEYANS DOING ?**

This section of the church of Christ which a very few years ago was but 'two or three', met together in a small room to worship God and to spread the truths of His glorious Gospel, has become a very important body of Christians in this town.

At their commencement they rented a small cottage, that soon became too strait for them: then they built a small chapel, which was soon well filled; a large school-room adjoining the chapel was next built, and a good Sabbath school secured; then more room was required in the chapel, which was obtained by erecting side galleries, these also were soon filled; and they have recently purchased the commodious chapel, formerly occupied by the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion, adjoining which they have erected a large school room, and we are pleased to hear that they intend to let it for religious services, and to societies having in view the moral and intellectual welfare of the people, on a very low scale of charges, which we all hail as a great boon to the town, the need for such a room having long been felt.

**WESLEYAN SCHOOL ROOMS**

The opening of these rooms took place on Thursday, February 3rd when a large number sat down to tea, after which the chair was taken by R Sexton, Esq, of London, and various addresses of a most animating nature were delivered eliciting the warmest approbation of the audience. The room was decorated with banners bearing suitable mottoes.

During the meetings was announced that a Penny Bank was about to be established and we are informed it will be open on Saturday evening February 12th, at the above rooms.

( South Bucks Free Press, Wycombe and Maidenhead Journal 11 February 1859)

**Alterations to the premises were satisfactorily implemented by Thursday 13th November**

**MAIDENHEAD**

*"The Wesleyan Chapel in this town having been closed for some time past in order to admit of various alterations, the addition of a vestry, a finely toned organ, kindly presented by one of the Maidenhead friends, together with new pewing, &c, the re-opening services commenced on Thursday, the 13th, the Rev C Westlake of Witney preaching in the afternoon and evening.*

*Between the services, the friends, to the number of two hundred, partook of tea in the Town Hall kindly granted for the purpose by the Mayor, William Lock esq.: the Rev Samuel Young in the chair. At the close of the meeting, which was altogether of the most social character, an able address was delivered by the Rev John Nelson of Slough.*

*The services were continued on the following Sabbath when the Rev J Nelson preached in the morning, and the Rev S Young in the afternoon and evening; on both days, and at each the attendance was very large: the sum total collected amounted to £43 13s 6d, far exceeding in magnitude even the sanguine expectation of the friends.*

*Whatever inconvenience the Wesleyan Society, in this town, may have experienced during the close of their Chapel, they are now fully repaid, by the many and marked improvements which have been affected in their place of worship, presenting as it now does, in its interior, an uniform beauty of design, and air of comfort, but seldom met with even in our larger country chapels"*

(Reading Mercury 22 Sept 1859)

**Samuel left the Windsor circuit in 1860 to continue a normal Wesleyan itinerancy, going first to  
Budleigh Salterton**

**BUDLEIGH SALTERTON**

We have received from this Circuit the following, from the Rev. Samuel Young:

*"I feel much pleasure, in being able to state that we have been encouraged in our work in this Circuit in almost every way during the past two years.*

*At Budleigh-Salterton our congregations were so large that more seats were earnestly sought by persons desirous of sitting under our ministry. We have, therefore, enlarged the chapel considerably, with a new school-room over the gallery. The chapel was re-opened on Sunday, the 27th ult, by the Rev. John Ralph, of Exeter; and on Monday, the 28th, the Rev. George Curnock preached to a very respectable congregation. The impression made upon the people at these several services will not soon be forgotten. We are greatly indebted to a Christian gentleman in Salterton for assisting us with a noble subscription of £300 to make the chapel respectable and convenient at this popular watering-place.*

*At Sidmouth, the second place in the Circuit, our chapel is much too small. All the seats have been let for some time, and many more are asked for. Our leading friends are anxious for a new and much larger chapel, if a suitable site could be obtained for a chapel and school-room, which would be a credit to Wesleyan Methodism in this pleasant watering-place.*

*At Branscombe, several new pews have been erected in the chapel, all the seats are let, and more are wanted: but the 'best of all is God is with us' and during the past two years many souls have been converted to God, some of whom have already begun to exhort in meetings for prayer, and two are this quarter on our Preachers' Plan.*

*All our meetings have been marked by peace and Christian love. Our prospects for the future are encouraging. We believe that 'times of refreshing' shall more gloriously 'come from the presence of the Lord'"*

(The Watchman and Wesleyan Advertiser:Thursday. August 7. 1862)

**Charlotte died in Aylesbury June 1869**

**Samuel subsequently married Annie Ward in December 1897 in Lymington**

**Samuel died in Westhampnett, Surrey in 1884**

**Death - June 28 at his residence. Bognor, Sussex,  
in the 88th year of his age and the 62nd of his ministry,  
the Rev. Samuel Young. Wesleyan minister.  
formerly a much respected missionary in South Africa,  
and for some years superintendent of Irish missions and Schools**