

SAMUEL DOBSON

Samuel was born in Walton, Cheshire in 1830 the son of John and Mary Dobson.

He entered the ministry in 1854 and Married Dorothy Bland in Mar 1856 in Preston.

Dorothy and Samuel came to Maidenhead in 1868 where Dorothy died after one year.

Samuel later remarried and fathered twin boys born in 1874

Despite recurrent illnesses Samuel's ministry was effective and greatly appreciated.

He died in Luton on June 12th 1914

Two examples of how Samuel's ministry was appreciated:

Farewell and presentation to the REV. S. DOBSON.

After having charge of the Wellingborough Primitive Methodist Circuit for three years and half, the Rev. S. Dobson, is about to leave to take part in the work at Bedford. The farewell services on Sunday were largely attended in the evening, the chapel being almost full, when Mr. Dobson preached an appropriate sermon from 2 Corinthians xii, 11, "*Finally brethren. farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you*"

Towards the close of his discourse, the Rev. gentleman said he had now been with them three years and seven months; he had nothing to regret about his coming there, and he trusted the members had not either. Referring to his successor, the Rev. W. Roe, Mr. Dobson said he was in the circuit as a young man about 22 years ago, but now he was coming after having gained broader experiences and he asked them to welcome him as a man of God, and if they carried out the advice of St. Paul as given in the text, the church would prosper.

A tea and public meeting took place at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, West-end, on Monday, for the purpose of bidding farewell to the Rev. S. Dobson and his family, who are about to remove to Bedford. There were about 90 present at the tea, tables at which were presided over by Mrs. Swannell and Mrs. Geary, and at the meeting which followed there was a large attendance. Mr. W. Betts presided, and on the platform were the Rev. S. Hobson, Mr. W. Saddington, jun., Mr. A. Hustwaite, Mr. Busby, and Mr. H. Sheffield.

The Chairman, in the course of his opening address, said as steward he had been brought into close contact with Mr. Dobson, and he personally much regretted his leaving, while he was sure, after Mr. Dobson's faithful services, none of them could part with him without regret. - Mr. Busby also expressed his sorrow at Mr. Dobson's removal. - Mr. W. Saddington, jun. followed with a short address, and alluded in eulogistic terms to Mr. Dobson's work. To the young men he had acted as a father and a spiritual guide.

Mr. Dobson then gave his farewell address in the course of which he remarked that he had been a Primitive Methodist for nearly 40 years, and expressed his pleasure that he had ever come to the Wellingborough circuit, in which he had made so many lasting friendships. He referred to the restoration of the West End Chapel during his ministry there, and spoke of the liberality of gentlemen outside their own Church which had enabled them to carry this out, and in concluding thanked the officials and others who had helped him in his difficult work in that circuit.

An interesting ceremony then took place, Mr. Sheffield, the circuit steward, on behalf of the Church, presenting to Mr. Dobson a handsome marble clock, and to Mrs. Dobson, a very nice teapot. Accompanying the presents was the following address :

"Wellingborough Circuit, to the Rev. S. Dobson. - Dear Sir, as the time has now come for you to take your departure from the Wellingborough circuit, on which you have laboured for nearly four years, with that patience and perseverance which has won for you the high esteem of all who knew you, and the deep attachment and love of those you have ministered to in spiritual things, we felt the time a most fitting one to acknowledge your ministrations by making you this small present, which we hope you will accept and value, not merely for its worth, but for the motives which prompted the subscribers thereto. Those motives have been to show their appreciation of your work and labour of love which you have done amongst us during the time you have been here, for we believe you have laboured hard for our spiritual and eternal welfare, after calling us on to greener pastures and sweeter waters, which our Heavenly Father has so richly provided for all His children. And now the time has come for you to take your departure from us to another sphere of labour, we pray that the great Triune God may rest upon you in all you may do, and your family also. And when you look upon this small token of our love for you, we trust that you will at the same time be able to look back with some degree of pleasure to the time spent on this circuit. And while we pray that a great measure of the divine goodness and mercy may still rest upon us here, we would at the same time pray that in your new sphere of labour, that the great God will uphold you, the blessed Saviour save and keep you, and the Holy Spirit guide and comfort you, in all you may do for the uplifting and saving of the people, and for the extension of His kingdom. Whose you are and Whom you serve. Again wishing you God speed we bid you a loving farewell"

In making the presentation Mr. Sheffield spoke in terms of the highest praise of Mr. Dobson's work. - Mr. Hustwaite, on behalf of the teachers of the Sunday-school, presented Bibles to Masters Samuel and Henry Dobson, after which the Rev. S. Dobson feelingly responded to the tokens of kindnesses shown to him and his family..

The meeting soon afterwards closed with prayer.

(Northampton Mercury Saturday 7 July 1888)

PRESENTATION TO THE REV S DOBSON

An interesting presentation took place at the close of the Wednesday evening class meeting held in the Cardigan street Primitive Methodist chapel last evening. The Rev S Dobson, who has conducted the class with great success for some time, is leaving the district on account of indifferent health and the members of the class took the opportunity at the last meeting he proposed to conduct to present him with a purse containing £5, and to Mrs Dobson a dainty sugar basin.

Mr J Clark made the presentation in a few appropriate words and was supported by Mrs Pilling who explained that the gift was from the members of the Society as well as the class and really expressed the well wishes of the whole Church. She hoped Mr and Mrs Dobson would appreciate these little presents not only for what they were but because they represented the love, esteem and gratitude of the friends at Cardigan street to Mr Dobson for the work he had done. She had not known him so long as some of them but she knew him long before he came there and when she needed help and comfort she found in him a friend.. He had been a real pastor to that little church at Cardigan street. It had altered much for the better since she first knew it, and she was sure much of the improvement was due to the really good pastoral work he had put into it. With the gift they gave him their love, their good wishes and their prayers for his restoration to health, and they hoped he would come back again and take up once more the work of the class - hear hear.

Mr A Dockerill also spoke of the high esteem and respect Mr Dobson had earned from the congregation.

The Rev S Dobson, in reply, thanked the members on behalf of himself and his wife for their gift and for their kindly wishes and said it was his earnest wish that he might be restored to health and be enabled to take up his duties again. He also thanked those who had helped to make the class brighter and more successful and counselled them to stick together in the future as they had done in the past.

(Luton News 29 March 1906)

An brief outline of Samuel's life and work

The Late Rev. S. Dobson.

Wo regret to record the death on Friday afternoon of the Rev. Samuel Dobson. of 86. Moor-street, at the advanced age of 86 .years.

He was very well known in Luton and the District, where he was greatly respected, particularly in Primitive Methodist and Nonconformist circles.

Born at Walton. in. Cheshire, in 1830. Mr. Dobson early in life went to Runcorn, in the same county, where he lived for tome time with his mother. After attending one of the Primitive Methodist-camp meetings at Runcorn, he decided to join the Church. As class lender and then local preacher he received useful training, and assisted by the instruction given him by the sup[erintendent of the circuit. Dr. William Antcliff. he becamer a minister in 1859.

He worked in the Northwich and Preston circuits, and then illness caused him to retire to his former occupation for a time. For eight years subsequent to 1851 Mr. Dobsan was the missionary for Warrington, and in 1865 he again offered himself to the Conference, and was appointed to Sheerness, and afterwards to North Bow Mission, and then Maidenhead. Here he became widowed, but he married again while in the London Third Circuit. His wife died eleven months later, leaving him with twin boys.

In 187.3 he was appointed superintendent at Weymouth, and following that he went to Chalfont St, Giles. Colne Brook, Marden, Wellingborough., Bedford, and Chertsey.

Advancing years induced him to retire in 1895, and he went to live at Bedford, but in 1900 he came into the Luton First Circuit and was also for a time chaplain at the Luton Union House. Since then he has rendered what assistance lay in his power, until death closed an unusually active and useful life. He leaves, a widow and two sons to mourn their loss.

(Luton Times and advertiser Friday 19th June 1914)

Samuel remembered:

Rev. Samuel Dobson.

Another of our ministerial veterans has passed away in the person of Rev. Samuel Dobson, who for the last fourteen years has resided at Luton. He passed peacefully away on June 12th, and was interred in Luton General Cemetery on the 16th.

Eloquent tributes to the work done by Mr. Dobson were paid at the funeral service held in Cardigan-street Church prior to the interment. The crowded congregation, and the large number of people at the graveside, testified to the respect in which he was held.

The service was conducted by Rev. F. W. Clulow, assisted by Revs. R. N. Wycherley, A. Fawcett, and L. H. Wood. Rev. W. F. Clulow officiated at the interment.

A memorial service was held in Cardigan-street Church on Sunday, July 12th, conducted by Rev. R. R. Connell.

Through failure of his walking powers and general state of health, he sought superannuation in 1895. He returned to Bedford for five years, and then came to reside in Luton, where he has now passed away.

(Primirive Methodist Leader 16 July 1914)