

EDMUND RAWLINGS

Edmund was born on 23 September 1817 in Calne, Wiltshire
the son of Samuel and Rachael Rawlings

He came to Maidenhead as a single man and married Susannah Cock in 1849 shortly
before the end of his appointment.

Edmund and Susannah had a son, Edmund Charles born in March 1855,
who later became vice-president of the Primitive Methodist conference.

Susannah died in Wallingford on 6 December 1869

Edmund remarried in 1876 to Ann Pettitt

He was superannuated in 1876 after 40 years in the ministry

Edmund died on 12 September 1894 in Hammersmith



Edmund Rawlings
born September 23rd 1817

The detail of his ministerial appointments can be found via::

http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/category/primitive_methodist_ministers

He was widely respected during his ministry as can be gathered from the following
published newspaper and journal extracts.

During his second tenure at Wallingford, his efforts were rewarded:

WALLINGFORD

HANDSOME GIFT TO THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

The heavy debt on the above chapel, amounting to nearly £400., we are informed has been most generously cancelled by the mortgagee, Mr. J. S. Mellis, who states in a letter to the resident minister (the Rev. E. Rawlings),

"Wishing to do good while I live, and believing you to have struggled hard for years with your chapel case, I hereby send the two notes cancelled. Please burn them, and consider yourselves free of debt."

(Reading Mercury 21 March 1868)

The life of a minister was not often plain sailing:

DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP

At the county petty sessions on Saturday (before Mr. T. Chamberlaine, Mr. W. W. Bulpett, Mr. W. B. Simonds, m.p., and Dr. Hitchcock), Edward ward *****, a young man, was summoned upon two charges, viz., for having behaved disgracefully in the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Otterborne-hill, and for assaulting George Hedges, one of the office bearers there, on Sunday, December 21

Hedges, a bricklayer at Allbrook, was at evening service as usual, and saw defendant near the door cracking nuts and throwing the shells on the floor. He was besides this talking aloud, and swearing at another lad, who desired better behaviour. Hedges went to him, and, finding it impossible to get him quiet, turned him out of the edifice.

Turton, a shepherd, confirmed this evidence, and the fact that the chapel was duly certified was proved by the Rev. E. Rawlings, district superintendent, who said that all they required was quiet and orderly conduct during service, and that they must secure. There was no desire to hurt the defendant beyond getting through his example better behaviour.

It appeared that he had behaved shamefully on several occasions. The charge of assault was withdrawn on payment of costs.

The Chairman told the defendant he had committed a most disgraceful offence in thus disturbing people at public worship, and the sentence on him would be fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal 20 January 1872)

His work was often appreciated and suitably acknowledged

FA. RINGDON.

PRESENTATION. - On Monday last a meeting was held at the Congregational School Room to bid farewell to the Rev. E. Rawlings, Primitive Methodist Preacher, who has resided in Faringdon for the past three years.

The chair was taken by the Rev. T. C. Udall, who, during the meeting, presented a purse containing £11. (which had been subscribed to by the ministers and friends of the various denominations in the town) to Mr. Rawlings, who gave an interesting account of his six years' labour in various parts.

The Revs. T. Pinnock, R. E. Bainbrough, and others, made appropriate speeches. The room was completely filled and the meeting was opened and closed by singing and prayers.

(Oxford Journal 15 July 1876)

A strong indication of the quality of Edmund's life and labours is shines through the following:

The Mayor of Hammersmith.

On Friday last, Mr. E. C. Rawlings, the Connezial Solioitor, was unanimously elected Mayor of the important London Borough of Hammersmith. The new Mayor of Hammersmith needs no introduction to Primitive Methodists, he being among the most widely known and most esteemed laymen of the church.

. The son of the late Rev. Edmund Rawlings, one of the choicest spirits that ever adorned the Primitive Methodist ministry, he has taken the deepest interest in the church from his early days. A frequent delegate to the Annual Conference, he is among the most foroeful of the members of that assembly, his contributions to the discussions usually being of a most helpful kind. The Conference of 1905, held at Scarborough, elected him Vice-President, an office well merited and which he filled with conspiouons ability.

For a number of years Mr. Rawlings has been a member of the National Free Church Council, is the auther of several books, including the 'Free Churchman's Legal Handbook,' which has had a wide ocirculation. The election of Mr. Rawlings will be particularly gratifying to the readers of the Leader, he having been chairman of the Company from its formation.

(Primitive Methodist Leader 15 Nov 1906)

The Rev George Windram of Aberdare writes:

“The late Alderman E C Rawlings was a son of the manse and was exceptionally privileged in the home influences he enjoyed. Means were scant. but the home was a veritable antechamber of Heaven.

His father, Edmund Rawlings, was a saint, and moved about his circuits like a Divine benediction. When E. C. Rawlings came to London in the 'seventies to study for his profession, he at once joined the London First Circuit and became a worker, and there his honoured father on his superannuation followed him.

Soon after qualifying as a solicitor the gifted son commenced to practise for himself, and, despite.the strenuous labour necessary to establish himself amid the old and well-known firms in the heart of the great world city, he never permitted anything to prevent him giving his highest and best to the service of his beloved father's Church.

He identified himself with every branch of Christian work. Sunday found him busy in the Sunday-school, the services and the prayer meeting. He was a local preacher, and spoke with much ability and acceptance. In all his work he was supported and encouraged by his beloved wife, who, like himself. was a loyal Primitive Methodist.

Only the great God knows how hard they both toiled to make theirs 'a glorious Church,' and the writer, with many more, will ever feel indebted to them for the splendid services they so generously rendered in days when friends were few and far between.”

(Primitive Methodist Leader3 January 1918)