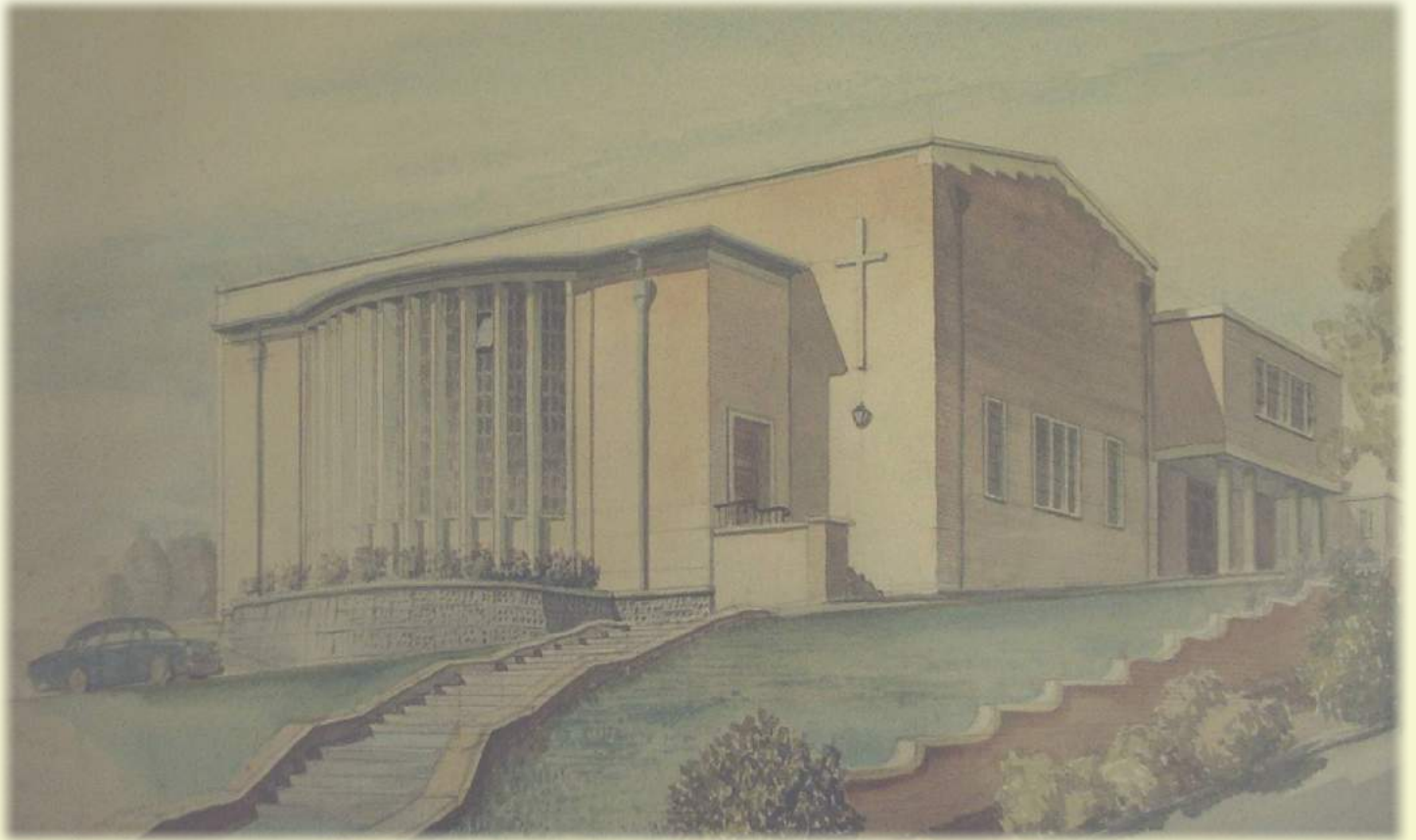


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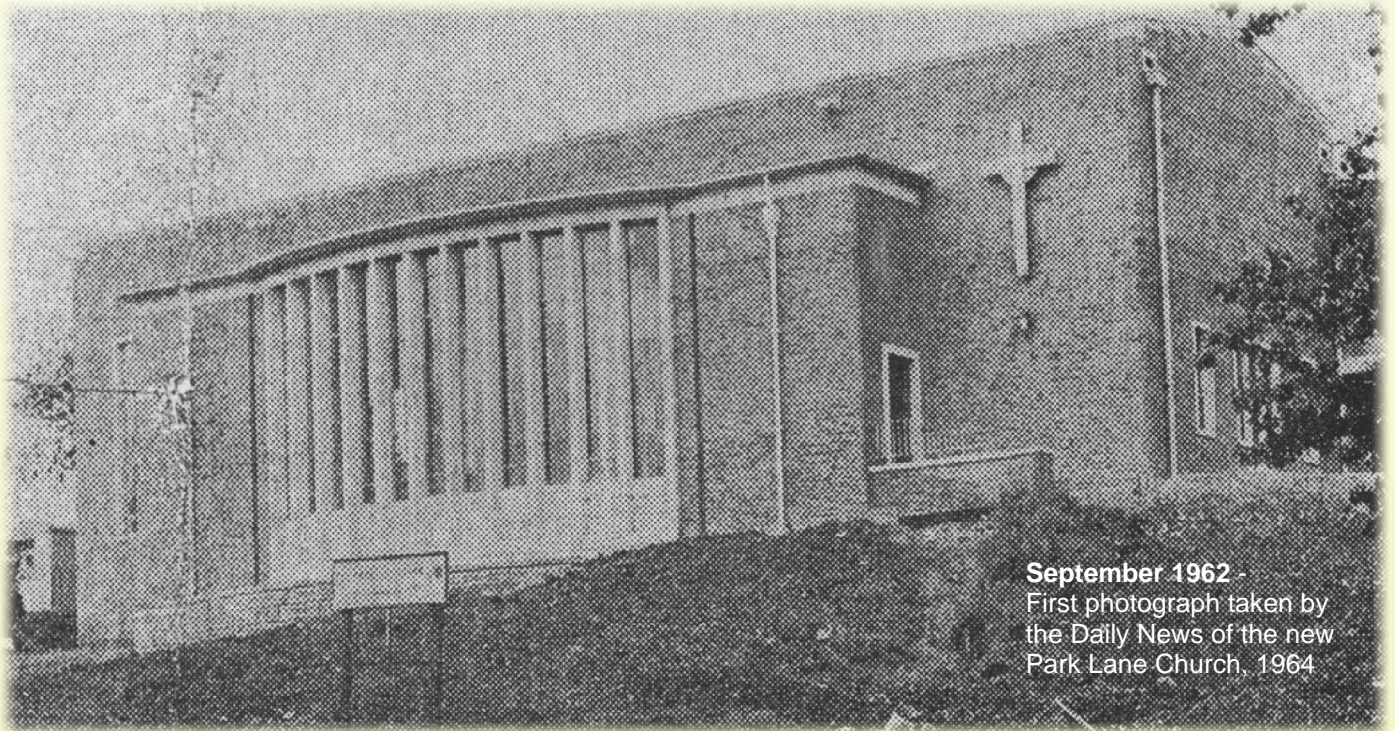
Park Lane Methodist Church  
Wembley

50 Years

1962 - 2012



Park Lane Methodist Church  
Celebrating 50 Years  
1962 - 2012



**September 1962** -  
First photograph taken by  
the Daily News of the new  
Park Lane Church, 1964



**September 2012** -  
Fifty years on Park Lane  
Methodist Church sitting  
proudly on the hill above  
King Edward VII Park



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**2012** – The Olympics came to London and Wembley. England's Legendary 1966 World Cup goalkeeper Gordon Banks (left) carried the Olympic Torch through Wembley to the National Stadium two days before the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games on 27 July

(Photo Credit: Miguel Medina/AFP)

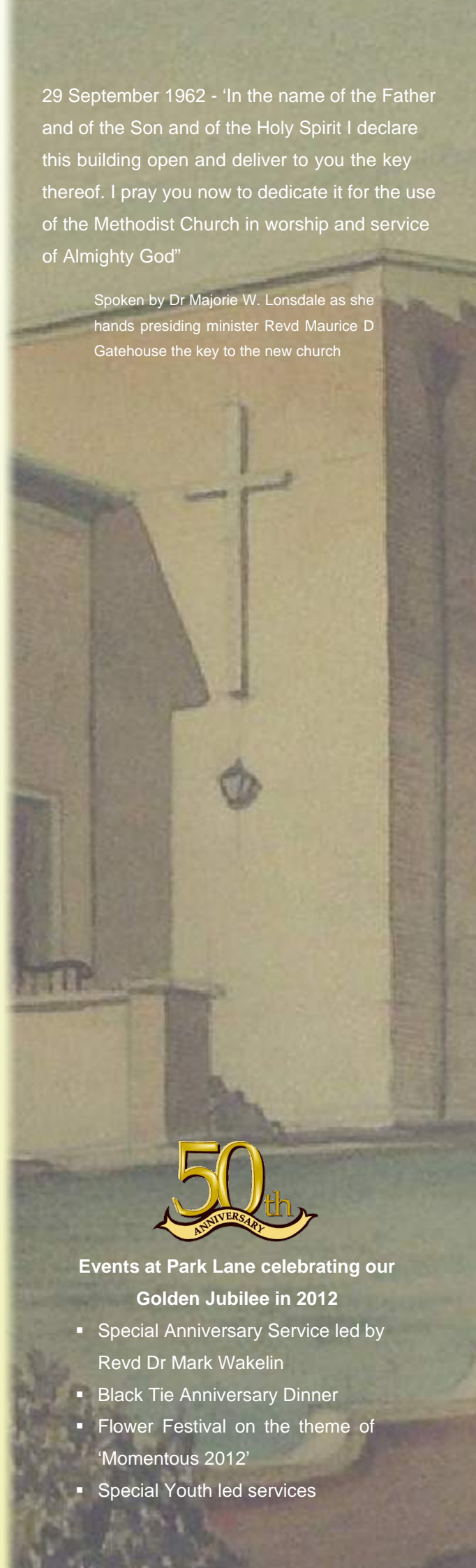


**2012** - Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago both celebrated their 50 years of independence since 1962.

**2012** - Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 commemorating Sixty Years on the throne

29 September 1962 - 'In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I declare this building open and deliver to you the key thereof. I pray you now to dedicate it for the use of the Methodist Church in worship and service of Almighty God"

Spoken by Dr Majorie W. Lonsdale as she hands presiding minister Revd Maurice D Gatehouse the key to the new church



### Events at Park Lane celebrating our Golden Jubilee in 2012

- Special Anniversary Service led by Revd Dr Mark Wakelin
- Black Tie Anniversary Dinner
- Flower Festival on the theme of 'Momentous 2012'
- Special Youth led services

# Park Lane Methodist Church

## Celebrating 50 Years

1962 - 2012

Cover picture: Architects drawing of the new Park Lane Methodist Church c. 1959

Below: Stained glass window in the Park Lane Memorial Chapel dedicated to builder William Henry Wakeling. The theme of the window is 'Suffer the little Children to Come unto Me'. It was removed from the old church before demolition in 1961



### Foreward

**The Reverend H. Elaine Joseph**  
Minister Park Lane Methodist Church &  
Superintendent of Wembley Circuit, 2012

I am struck by the fact that so many people featured in this history are still very much alive and active in the life of the church. This provides a crucial link between the past (his-story) and the present (our-story). All of their stories highlight the movement of God's spirit in the lives of people from across the world. It shows how faith, lives and witness have all become inextricably linked with each other in worship, service and witness from 'The Church on the Hill'.

As we celebrate Park Lane's 50th Anniversary 'on the hill' I pray that we reflect on the journey, regularly evaluate our current ministry and prophetically envision what God wants the Church on the Hill to be and do the next phase of ministry and for the generations yet to come.

The Christian church is called to reflect the light of Christ so that all people, of differing faiths and no faith, may experience God's love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, peace and hope, through our relationships with them. May Park Lane Methodist Church so reflect the light of Christ that people may continue to come to faith in Christ, worshipping Him and commit themselves to serving Christ in the Church and their communities

### Acknowledgements

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**Basil Solomon, Ezra Thomas**  
**Rodney & Dawn Wilkes, Andrew Worth**

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## Message from the President of Methodist Conference

### **The Reverend Dr Mark Wakelin**

It is with great pleasure that I bring greetings and congratulations on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary.

My great grandfather Benjamin Wakelin discovered Methodism while living in Wembley and took my grandfather and my father with him to the local Chapel.

His great joy was that 'all can be saved' and 'all are loved and welcome' of Wesleyan teaching. He would rejoice in who you are now as I do and long for you to keep offering Christ to all

Revd Dr Mark Wakelin  
President of the Methodist Conference



## Message from the Mayor of Brent

### **The Worshipful the Mayor Michael Adeyeye**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to everyone involved with the wonderful work of the Park Lane Methodist Church over the past Fifty Years.

I wish you all the best for the planned celebrations in 2012 and hope that the year ahead brings peace and prosperity

Cllr Michael Adeyeye  
Mayor of Brent Council



## Message from our MP for Brent North

### **Barry Gardiner MP**

In the Bible after seven times seven years there was the Year of Jubilee - a time when captives were set free, debts cancelled and God's justice and liberty was proclaimed. In this your Jubilee Year it is right that you look back and celebrate your Fifty Years of service to God and this community of Wembley. I pray that it may also be for you a moment of new beginning --- where you renew your faith, your love for one another and your work to achieve the reconciliation, justice and liberty that are the heart of biblical Jubilee

Barry Gardiner MP  
Member of Parliament for Brent North  
Special Envoy for Climate Change & the Environment



# Park Lane Methodist Church

## A History

### Methodism Comes To Wembley - 1887 to 1960

Methodism came to Wembley in 1887 when Mr & Mrs FJ Westbrook, two devote Methodists, commenced a Sunday School in their sitting room at Moss Villa, 2 Napier Road, Wembley. As services became increasingly popular they were transferred to the nearby Workman's Hall.

In 1895 a chapel was built at the junction of Watery Lane (now Ealing Road) and Union Road, the society then comprising about thirty members. The growth of Edwardian Wembley increased the membership of the church to such an extent that in 1907 a new site was located at the corner of what was Blind Lane (now Park Lane) and the High Road and was purchased for the princely sum of £1,200.

In 1911 the Wesleyan Hall was opened to replace the Union Road Chapel. In the ensuing years an important decision was taken by the church trustees, who included Wembley's leading builders, Comben and Wakeling, to build a new Church at the Blind Lane site. Work started in 1924 to the designs of A.E Lambert and the church was opened at the corner of Park Lane and the High Road at a cost of £14,000 on 13 June 1925.

Albert Edward Lambert was a Nottingham-based Methodist architect. Most of Lambert's work was in the East Midlands where he built a number of chapels and other secular work including two major railway stations. He also built chapels in Manchester and at Sedbergh and in London at Winchmore Hill. Most of his work seems to have been twenty years earlier than Park Lane, supporting the idea that it was old-fashioned as soon as it was built! Another source describes the Winchmore Hill church of 1912 as in a free Gothic style and this is true of Park Lane also.

However by the 1940's the new Church walls and roof began to give trouble, one notable reason being the nearby railway cutting of the Grand Central Railway. The church continued to be used to its fullest through the 1950's but the premises were now out date for modern worship and church activities. The decision was made, under the guidance of the Superintendent Minister Denise Evans, to sell the valuable High Road site and to start again elsewhere.

The old Church and land were purchased by Chesterfield Properties Ltd for around £200,000 for the commercial development of shops and office space.

The new Church was to be located on the site of the former Gables Preparatory School for boys. Work began on the new site in the autumn of 1960, built to the designs of Thomas F Ford & Partners, architects and constructed by Comben & Wakelin Ltd, building contractors. The inaugural Stonelaying service for the new church was held on Thursday 1 June 1961.

The last service at the old church was Harvest Festival on 3 September 1961, the church was filled to capacity with many past Park Lane members returning for the occasion. Remaining services in September 1961 were held in the Wesley Hall until the end of the month when the old church was demolished. Sunday School transferred to Copeland School in Harrow Road. The new Church was opened and dedicated in September 1962



Above: The old Park Lane Methodist Church photographed around 1935. The tram lines were in use from 1911 until the start of the Second World War



Inscription at the foot of the Memorial Chapel stained glass window taken from the old church and reinstalled in the new church in 1962. It reads 'To the glory of God and in loving memory of William Henry Wakeling, 1951'



Left: The original Union Road chapel built in 1895 still stands today. This picture was taken in 2010





Above: The Wesleyan Church which was opened in 1911 to replace the old Union Road chapel



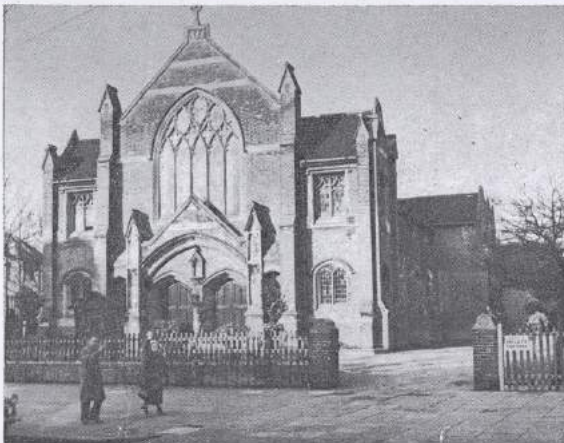
Above: The Gables, an old house that was converted into flats during the 50's was demolished to make way for the new Park Lane Church

Methodists plan new building on The Gables site—1959?

# PARK LANE CHURCH MAY MAKE WAY FOR A STORE

**IF** all goes according to plan the 34-year-old Park-lane Methodist Church in High-road, Wembley, will be pulled down to make way for a commercial development. Among the schemes for which planning permission is being sought is a "supermarket."

This does not mean that the Methodists will be without a church. Negotiations are at present going on by the church to buy The Gables, a house just a little way up Park-lane from the church, which was at one time a preparatory school for boys, with the Rev. Harold J. Kerridge, as the principal.



The Methodist Church at the junction of Park-lane and High-road, Wembley, that may be pulled down to make way for a commercial development—

**Residents approached**

Residents of the Park-lane area have been approached by Wembley Council and asked if they would object to a change of user on the site.

Many residents are asking why the trustees should be anxious to have the church and halls pulled down and also lose a valuable car park.

The Rev. W. Davies Evans, who is the Methodist circuit superintendent Minister, told The News that the foundation and roof of the church needed repairing and would cost a considerable sum.

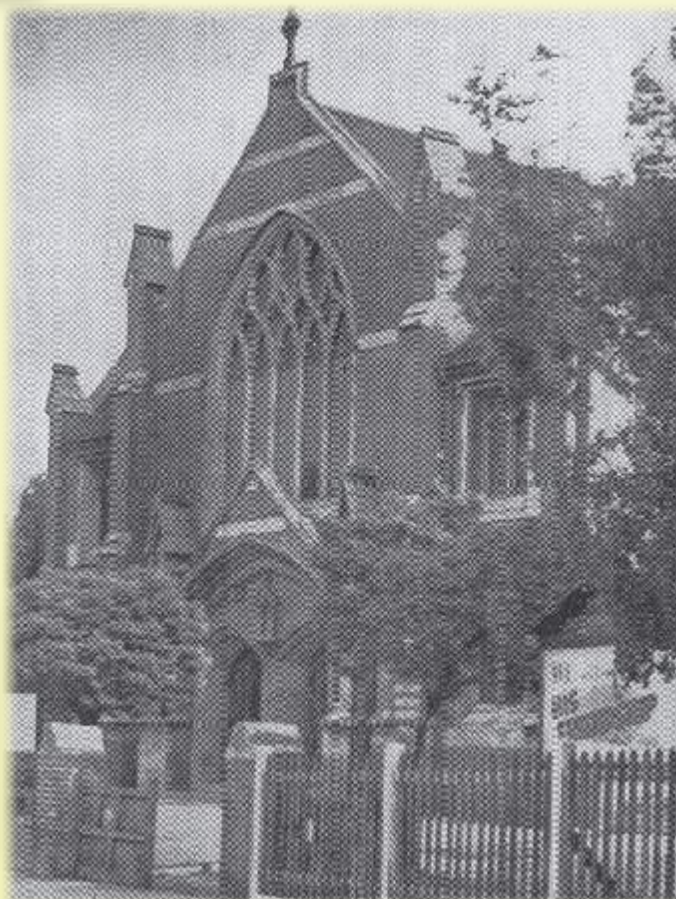
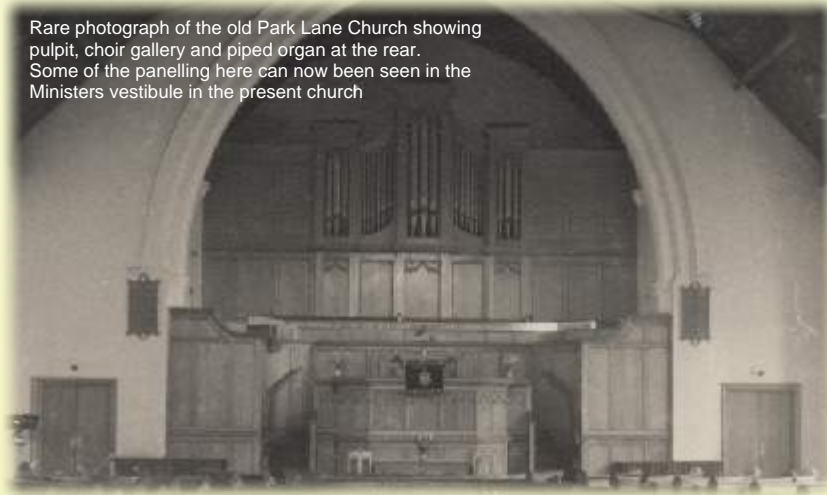
**"A delicate stage"**

He did not wish to comment on the plan to pull down the church and build a new one along the road, as he

Left: 'Hold the Front Page!' The Recorder reports on the proposed demolition of the old church and plans for a 'New Church', 1959

Below: The old Park Lane Wesleyan Methodist Church in the High Road. The architect A E Lambert had developed his free Gothic style in the Edwardian era and the church looked slightly old-fashioned as soon as it was built in 1924. This picture was taken In 1961 just before the church was demolished

Rare photograph of the old Park Lane Church showing pulpit, choir gallery and piped organ at the rear. Some of the panelling here can now be seen in the Ministers vestibule in the present church



MINISTERS			
R. Newton Barritt	-	-	1907-1911
C. W. Atkinson	-	-	1911-1912
W. Lindley Tasker	-	-	1912-1913
Francis W. Moon	-	-	1913-1915
J. A. Colston Copson	-	-	1915-1918
William Gill	-	-	1918-1920
Edward Blackall	-	-	1920-1922
Leonard J. W. Babb	-	-	1922-1925
Leonard F. Webb	-	-	1925-1928

William G. Findlay	-	-	1928-1931
Ebenezer J. Ives	-	-	1931-1934
F. Howell Everson	-	-	1934-1939
J. Norbury Clarkson	-	-	1939-1942
W. Bertrand Smith	-	-	1942-1946
Ralph Kirby	-	-	1946-1951
George Speller	-	-	1951-1952
Albert E. Pickard	-	-	1952-1954
H. Mortimer Sinfield	-	-	1954-1959



# Park Lane Methodist Church

## A New Church Rises

1961 - 1962

Around 400 guests and dignitaries filled the church at the 29 September service, with a similar number seated in the main hall next door. Closed circuit television was provided by the Rank Organisation to allow guests to view the whole service.

The interior of the new church was principally furnished by gifts from church members, many of them being memorials to past workers on the building.

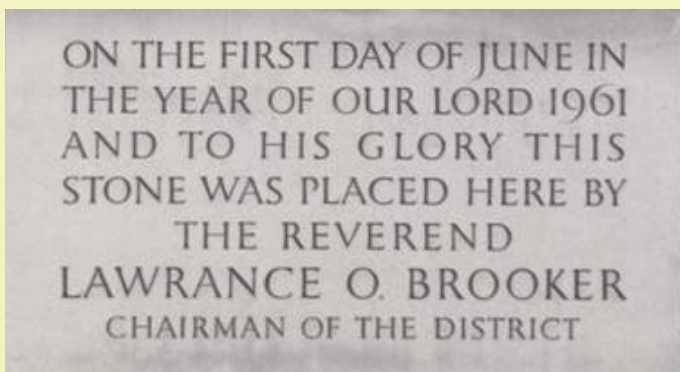
Many messages of goodwill were received from former Ministers and the local churches within Wembley. These were all read out during a special evening service the same day. Park Lane was formally open after this service.

However the Ministers' Manse which was also built on the new site began to suffer from severe cracks and within a few years of the opening had to be demolished in the early 1970s.

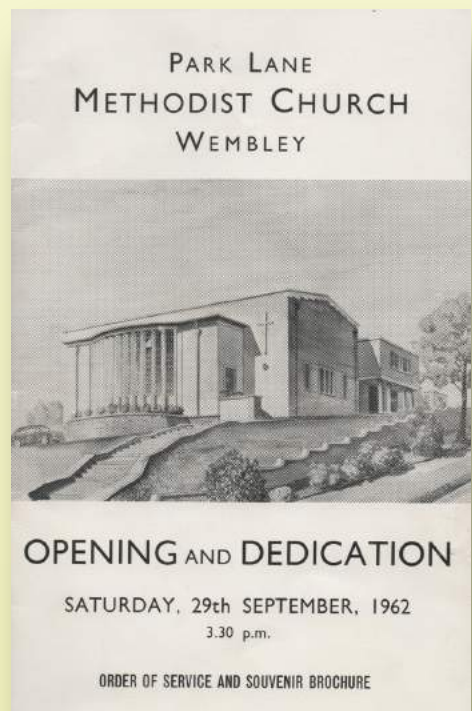
The manse has ever since been at 10 Kingsway, Wembley



Above: Pulpit and communion rail view of Park Lane Church, taken 1962  
Stone below can be found on the outside the Church today



Above: The Order of Service from the Stonelaying Ceremony in June 1961. As part of the offertory the architects Mr Thomas F Ford presented a trowel to the Chair of District the Revd Brooker who then laid the first stone



Above: Order of Service Opening and Dedication Service on 29 September 1962 The Mayor and Mayoress of Wembley and the local member of Parliament Ronald Russell were also in attendance



# PARK LANE CHURCH

## ORDER OF SERVICE

The Choir and Congregation being assembled in the Church, the doors will be closed and locked at 3.25 p.m.

The Ministers, Special Visitors and Stewards, having assembled in the Roving Room, will proceed to the main door of the Church. Knocking at the door, the Rev. Maurice D. Gatehouse will say:

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will enter into them. I will give thanks unto the Lord.

The doors will be unlocked and opened by Dr. Marjorie W. Lonsdale, after she has received the key from the Architect, Mr. Thomas F. Ford, F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A.S. Dr. Marjorie W. Lonsdale will then deliver the key to the Minister of the Church, saying:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I declare this building open, and deliver to you the key thereof.

I pray you now to dedicate it for the use of the Methodist Church in the worship and service of Almighty God.

The Rev. Maurice D. Gatehouse will answer:

I accept the key in token of the trust committed to the Methodist Church, Park Lane, Wembley. We are ready to proceed to the dedication.

Passing through the inner door of the Church, the Rev. Leslie R. Goy will pause and say:

Peace be to this house and all who worship therein.

Peace be to those who enter, and to those who go out therefrom.

Peace be to those who love it, and who love the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



A scene inside the church during the dedication service

## Goodwill messages pour in

**MESSAGES** of goodwill from former ministers and from other local churches were a feature of an evening service in the new church.

Before introducing them the Rev. Leslie Goy, who presided, paid special tribute to the work of Mr. Stanley Griffin, organist and choirmaster, and a trustee of the church.

"Not only has Mr. Griffin had a great interest in the music of the church," said Mr. Goy, "but he has borne a tremen-

and thought behind the organization of these premises." He also acknowledged the debt due to the choir.

Mr. Goy then read messages from Mr. Eric Bullus, M.P. for Wembley North, who was unable to be present at the opening because Parliamentary duties had taken him to Singapore, where he was visiting the R.A.F.; and separately from the church councils of St. Cuthbert's Church, North Wembley, and St. John's Church, Wembley.

"During this long interval," said Mr. Goy, "we have been able to use many of the rooms belonging to St. John's and the debt to them is very great indeed."

The Rev. H. Mortimer Sin-

Lane from 1954-59, wrote: "Congratulations on vision and courage in scrapping an old weapon and fashioning a new one. All this spells opportunity."

Good wishes were also received from the Rev. Harry Barnes, a former member of the church, now a minister at Batley.

Another former minister, the Rev. Ralph Kirby (he was there from 1946-51) was present on Saturday evening to give his own greeting.

"You have had a succession of devoted ministers," he said. "I have been happy in all my churches, but Park-lane was the church in which this Methodist friendship was deepest and has remained most constant. All

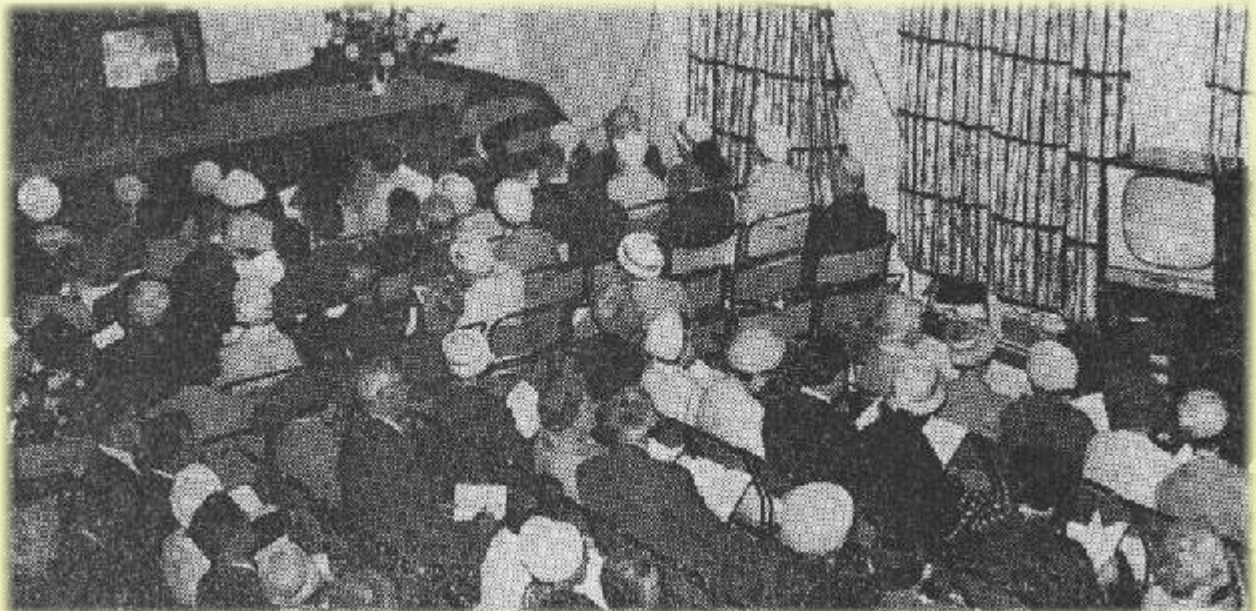
same thing. It is my conviction that that is your guarantee of future."

Mr. Kirby referred to the presence above the communion table of the large cross, and said: "I am glad that in your new church you have placed the centre of your worship always a reminder that the scene of your service is before you the cross of our Lord and Saviour."

### 'ASTUTE'

The Rev. A. Kingsley Turner, chairman of the London North-West Methodist district, said he had recently visited hospital the Rev. Leonard Babb, first minister of the original Park-lane church

Above: Extract from the official Opening and Dedication Service booklet for the 29 September 1962 ceremony



Right: Corner of the Main Hall at Park Lane, 29 September 1962. The entire service was relayed on close circuit television provided by the Rank Organisation for the occasion



# Park Lane Ministers

## 1962 - 2012

### 1959 - 1966

#### Reverend Maurice D Gatehouse

The Reverend Maurice Douglas Gatehouse was born in Darlington. He was educated at Queens College, Taunton. He married Sheila in July 1946 and they had two daughters and two sons. His first ministry was in East Ham and he was then stationed in Colchester, Southend-on-Sea and Tonypany before moving to Park Lane in the Kilburn and Hampstead Circuit in 1959.

After leaving Park Lane in 1966 Maurice held two posts at Weston-super-Mare and Kendal until 1979. His hobbies included clock repairs, golf and fly fishing. He died in 2004 in Bristol. He is survived by his wife Sheila

The Reverend Maurice Gatehouse officiating at the wedding of Bert & Avril Fearon in July 1964



### 1966 - 1969

#### Reverend Gordon Turner

Gordon Turner was born in Sunderland in 1923. He felt a call in his early years to the Methodist ministry and this was confirmed in his naval service during the war and in his marriage to Vida in 1951 who was a caring partner through his ministry. They had two daughters and three sons.

After training at Headingley College, Leeds, Gordon served in six circuits in Scotland and England. His ministry began in Glasgow and Greenock circuits where he experienced urban poverty and deprivation which gave him a sensitivity to social issues which remained with him for the rest of his ministry.

In 1966 he was appointed to the London (Kilburn and Hampstead) Circuit where he had pastoral charge of Park Lane to 1969. His circuit ministry concluded with ten years as the Superintendent Minister of the Salisbury Circuit. In 1969 Conference stationed him in the Methodist Youth Department as a secretary and subsequently as General Secretary.

Gordon sat down in 1988 but devoted years to the British Trust now known as the Christian Education Trust. He died in 2005



The Reverend Gordon Turner, right and the Reverend Geoff Goodman, left presenting a cheque to Cllr Jackson of Brent BC, June 1972



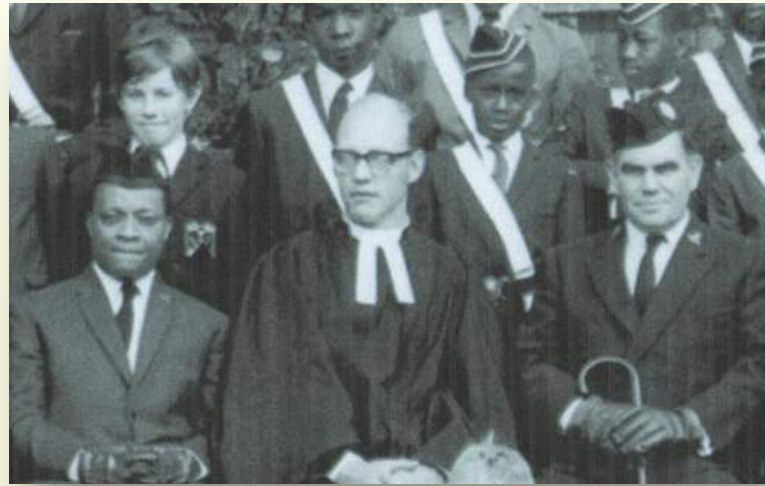
## 1969 - 1976

### Reverend David J Cardew

David John Cardew was born in Columbo, Sri Lanka in 1930. He was educated in the UK and studied at Kings College London before doing his ministerial training at Bristol. He married in 1956 and had one daughter and a son.

His first appointment was in Harrow before moving to Sutton and then to Wembley & Golders Green circuit in 1969. He remained at Park Lane until 1976 when he moved onto Blackpool North.

His special interests were in counselling and specialised in grief counselling. He retired to Brixham in Devon and died in 2005



The Reverend David Cardew, centre photographed with the 2nd Wembley Boys' Brigade in 1970. Ezra Thomas is seated to his left and the 2nd Wembley Company captain Reg Wilkes to his right

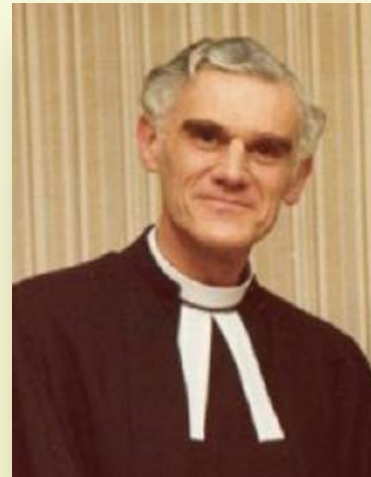
## 1976 - 1981

### Reverend Douglas H Brown

Douglas H Brown was trained for the ministry at Richmond College. His first appointments were at Brighton & Hove and Southampton before he came to Wembley.

He married Lois in the 60's and have two children; their son attended the Methodist Kingswood School in Bath, their daughter was married at Park Lane.

He retired in 1981 and now lives in Cheltenham with Lois



## 1981 - 1990

### Reverend John R Jennings

John Richard Jennings was born a son of the manse at Baddingmuirhead, Scotland and educated at the Methodist Kingswood School in Bath. He married Lynn in 1962 and they both have two sons and a daughter.

His ministry began in the Caribbean where he stayed until 1970. This was followed by appointments in Lincoln and Rochdale and then Wembley in 1981. He remained at Park Lane until 1990 when he moved to another district..

John retired to Worthing with Lynn where his present hobbies include art and music



## 1990 - 1995

### Reverend Malcolm W Wainwright

Malcolm William Wainwright was born in 1931 in Leeds. He was educated at Cross Featts School in Leeds and educated at Pembroke College Oxford. He married Alister in 1959 and they had two daughters and two sons.

Malcolm was only 26 when he was given his first appointment in Western Nigeria. He returned to the UK to the Market Rasen & Caistor Circuit and then to Saltburn and Gainsborough before moving to the London Mission (North West) Circuit and then to Wembley in 1990.

Malcolm retired to York in 1995 where he still lives today. Alister died in 2012



## 1995 - 2004

### Reverend Roger Lee

Roger Lee was born in St Albans and worked in motor insurance before responding to his call to the ministry. He studied for one year at Cliff College and four years at Hartley Victoria College Manchester, during which he met his wife Adrienne who was studying Spanish in the University. Roger and Adrienne have three children.

Roger's first appointment was in the Bay Islands of Honduras, Central America, followed by Leek in North Staffordshire, Leigh in Lancashire, the Eastwood Mission in Rotherham, Yorkshire, Acton in the Ealing Circuit and finally to Wembley in 1995. Adrienne commuted to work in Central London, including a period at Methodist Church House. After nine years here, Roger and Adrienne retired to Bicester in Oxfordshire in 2004.

Roger is still a keen supporter of Park Lane Boys Brigade. He collects and deals in old postcards, and established the Postcard Fairs at Park Lane, and is also an expert on Wesleyana commemorative ceramics.



## 2004 - 2012

### Reverend Robert G Pritchard

Bob was born and brought up in South London. He married Christine in 1967 and they fostered over thirty children in the following years. Bob was a buyer in the building industry before he went to bible college at Cliff College. After three years as a lay worker in the London Mission he completed his ministerial training in Bristol.

Bob was stationed in South Essex (Grays), Newquay and then at Perranporth & St Agnes (Cornwall) before coming to Wembley. Each circuit has proved to be in the purpose of our great God.

Bob enjoys music, travel, cycling, cricket and football, He sat down in 2012 and retired with Christine to Lincolnshire





2007 (July-August)

### Reverend Jim VanZandt

Congratulations to Park Lane Church on this milestone anniversary! Amy, Rebekah and I cannot tell you just what an important time it was for us to be with you and the other churches of the Wembley Circuit during our exchange program. We truly never thought we would have such an opportunity in our lifetimes. You folks could not have been more welcoming or shown more hospitality to us. We often look back at our photographs of our time with you. It's the people we remember the most. There are too many of you to single out, but please know we think of you often.

The exchange helped at least these three Americans expand our understanding of the world and the place of the Christian church. Because of you, we have become better world citizens, and I believe more effective Christians (we watch BBC America nearly every morning now - they have much better coverage of world happenings than most other broadcasts we see).

We cannot thank enough the Pritchard's, the Barker's and the leaders of the Wembley Circuit for having things well organised for our visit so that we could make the most of the wide variety of experiences. The only downside for us is that we never actually got to meet Bob and Christine!

We were reassigned this past summer 2012 to Carlisle PA to begin a new ministry by merging three large churches into one with an eye on building a new church. It will be a difficult task, but it is filled with opportunity as we strive to be a more effective witness to our



community together than separately. Amy had to resign her position as a children's librarian and now enjoys volunteer work at our local public library. Our daughter Rebekah who was with us on the exchange is now a senior in college studying psychology - although she did study fashion for a year along the way (a result of too many trips to Bond and Oxford Streets in London).

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this special celebration in this way. We are humbled that you would remember our time with you and mark it in your history. It was a highlight for us to be sure. We have talked many times about visiting with you again.

May God continue to bless Park Lane Church!

Jim and Amy VanZandt

2012 -

### Reverend H Elaine Joseph

My parents migrated to England in the 1950s from Jamaica and I was born in Hackney, East London (UK), the second of four children. Due to medical problems four years of my early life were spent living with my maternal grandparents in St. Catherine, Jamaica. I returned to England to begin my schooling in Hackney, where I also received my secondary education at John Howard Grammar School, Clapton.

My working years (1976-1987) were spent in London in the employment of London Transport, London Borough of Hackney and London Churches Resettlement Agency. During this time I was also actively involved in my local church Clapton Park Methodist Church and the circuit as a Local Preacher.

In 1986 I candidated for the Methodist Ministry from the Hackney Mission Circuit (London NE District) in 1986. The first two years of theological education was at Wesley College, Bristol (1987-1989) and the third year at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) in Jamaica (1989-1990).

As a probationer I was stationed in the Tooting Mission Circuit of the London South West District from 1990-1995. The call of the Caribbean beckoned in 1993 and I offered to serve as a Mission Partner in 1994.



I was privileged to serve Christ in the South Caribbean District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas from 1995 - 2007 in Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados. In 2007 I returned to UK, having accepted a match with the Leeds (Headingley & West) Circuit, where I served for five years (2007-2012). I married Ewart in Trinidad in 2003

# Park Lane Methodist Church Youth and Sunday School

## Turn of the Century to 1950

Wembley in the early years of the twentieth century was like a new town, an ideal home for young and growing families. Hence the Sunday School was established even before the church and in the 1920's it attracted huge numbers of children.

In 1926 and with the growing number of children attending the Sunday School it was essential to begin grading them; Beginners, Primary, Juniors, Seniors and Young Peoples Guild were formed. Young teachers were recruited from the older scholars and training classes met each week to prepare materials for the following Sunday classes. By the 1930's there were over 70 members of staff and a waiting list of young people eager to train as primary helpers.

By 1938 there were 314 names on the Sunday School roll with an average attendance of 85%. As the 1939-1945 war approached many of the men and women at Park Lane went off to war and many children evacuated. Park Lane children were sent out of Wembley which meant on some Sundays there was only a handful of children attending all the classes, but the Sunday School never closed down during the war period.

During the thirties and forties the YPG or Young Person's Guild, now known as the Seniors, had a steady membership of sixty and its activities included an inspiring Sunday Afternoon Fellowship



Above: The Park Lane Senior School in 1948



Above: The Park Lane Senior Leaders, 1949. (L-R) Mr W H Waking; Miss Comben; Mrs F J Aylward



Above: Leaders and secretaries of the Beginners, Primary, Junior and Senior Sunday schools taken in 1949. The Reverend Ralph Kirby and Ethel Randel who led the Beginners during the late forties to the early fifties can be seen on the front row

Back row (L to R). W.M Cann; T Sedgwick; Misses S Ashdown; S Carr; S Cowderoy; P How; Messrs T Clark and J Robert Powell  
Front row (L to R). Misses M Fruin; E Randall; Mr B V Whatley; Revd Ralph Kirby; Mrs J McDonald; Miss C Turner



# 1951 - 2012

As the Church moves into the second half of the century the Sunday School teachers in Park Lane continue to play a vital role in the continual growth and development of the church.

They have volunteered over the years to take on the role to teach our children about God and to help them understand the way that Christ works in all our lives. Young people face many pressures today and the Christian teaching provided by those dedicated staff still help the youngsters to make sense of their lives and grow into positive Christian adults. After all, most of us can still recall our own Sunday School experiences all those years ago!



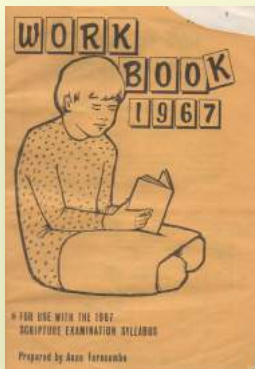
Above: Junior Church visit to Nottingham, late 60's  
Centre left: A dance social for Park Lane Youth held in the Main Hall, 1974



Below: Children from Park Lane Junior School, early nineties



Above: Members of the Park Lane Methodist Youth Club leaving for a visit to the South Downs, 1972



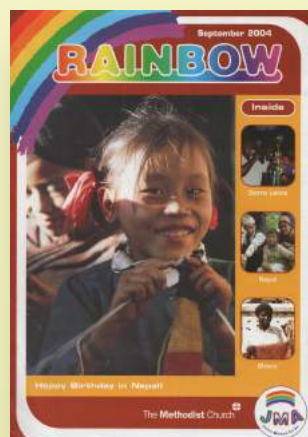
Above: 'Workbook' was used by Junior Church for Scripture Examinations during the 60's



## JMA

JMA or the Juvenile Missionary Association as it was known had its humble beginnings at Park Lane dating back to 1903. As well as raising money for Home and Overseas Missions it came into its fore during the two world wars raising hundreds of pound in today's money for good causes. It wasn't until the 70's that its name was updated to Junior Missionary association and then to Junior Mission For All in 1991.

Over the years JMA children have been awarded medals, ribbons and pins on the seven colours



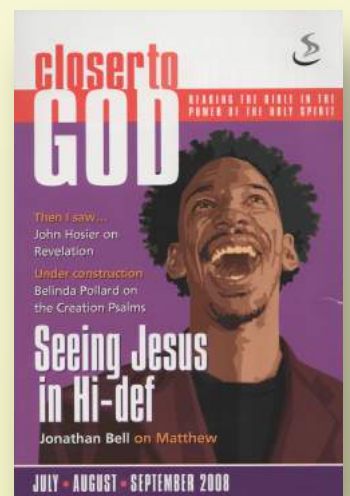
Left: 'Rainbow' the magazine for JMA, this a 2004 edition

Right: 'The Grid'. Senior Sunday School teaching material used in 2012.

'Closer to God', above right was published and used in 2000



Above: 'Adventurers' was a Weekly Youth Sunday School material produced by Scripture Union in the early 70's. These editions date back 1974





# Into the 60s, 70s and 80s

As Park Lane Church moved into the 60s, 70s and 80s the population make-up of Wembley was beginning to change; with migration from the Commonwealth, predominately the West Indies, Asia and West Africa, continuing into the nineties. The majority arrived in London to work in transport and health. Some as we witnessed in the late seventies arrived seeking asylum, some escaping tyranny in their own countries and as we travelled into the nineties many fleeing devastation caused by natural disasters notably Montserrat in the mid-nineties. All were welcomed to Wembley, to Park Lane and the other circuit churches.

As we left the sixties the membership of the church began to grow and this continued into the seventies and eighties. Chalkhill Estate was a new and emerging housing estate in the heart of Wembley. It was built in the late sixties and all its 1900 houses and flats were occupied through the 70's until the late 90's. The emergence of the estate brought a new generation of residents to this part of Wembley and to Park Lane Methodist Church. The estate was completely demolished in 2000.

Today Park Lane is a mixture of first, second and third generation Settlers from around the world, a fusion of cultures and customs all in one place



Sir Rhodes Boyson, pictured left, was an author and politician, Member of Parliament for Brent North and a government minister in Margaret Thatchers cabinet during the eighties. He was knighted and made a member of the Privy Council in 1987. He was a member of Park Lane Church during the eighties. He died in 2012 aged 87

Below: 1976 Church Christmas photograph of the Park Lane congregation. Reverend Douglas Brown can be seen centre right



'I was a Stranger ...' was an essay on British migration during the 60s . It was written by the Reverend Stanley V. Hollis, who was Secretary of the Committee on Migration within the Methodist Church. The essay was published in August 1967 and set out to summarise the reasons behind UK migration and how the Methodist Church could assist with migratory settlement especially within inner city regions such as Wembley and Neasden.

## 'I was a Stranger ...'

The essay outlined examples where 'the New-Comer' as they were referred to, whether from the Caribbean, Africa, India or Pakistan, were blamed for the housing shortages, unemployment and general poverty in their inner cities. The essay set out to outline the churches role in breaking down these prejudices and tensions which they saw as born only out of fear and 'nourished in ignorance'



### Park Lane Membership From Across the World

The congregation at Park Lane have travelled from many islands and continents over the last fifty years with a fair number of its present members born of second and third generation settlers

- Antigua
- Barbados
- England
- Ghana

Right: Park Lane welcomed many international friends over the years. This gathering was to meet friends 'from the United States, Ray and Marliis Mitzner in 1990



Far right: Fellowship meeting at the Manse during Malcolm Wainwright's ministry in 1995





# Recollections of the 60's

## Doris Henry

Park Lane Member 1960 to Present Day

Doris Henry came to Britain during the 50's. Back in her homeland Jamaica Doris grew up in the Methodist Church so was keen to find a Methodist church to attend in the UK.

As a young woman she attended many churches in North West London notably Queens Park and Harlesden Methodist Churches.

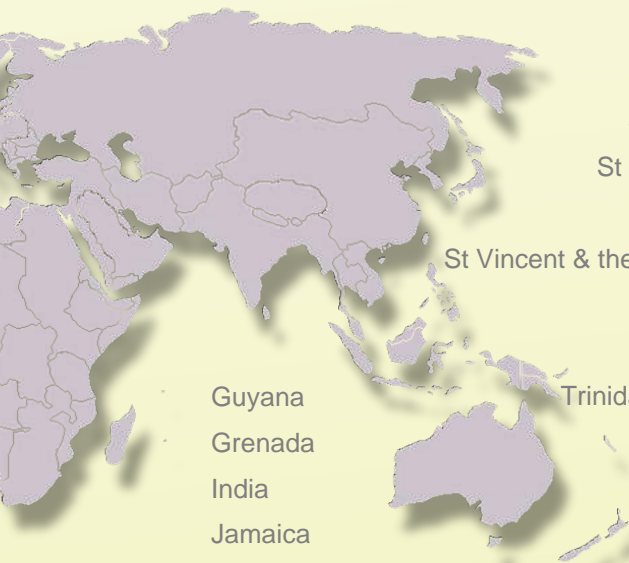
Doris's first contact with Park Lane was at the old church in the High Road attending a family christening.

She decided to settle there but recalls "the church was very old and very cold!. The congregation was large and recalls being the only black member for the entire two years she attended there. This continued for the early years in the new Park Lane church however she was determined to settle here.

During the late 60's and early 70's Doris recalls an upturn in black and ethnic minority attendance at Park Lane many from the new Chalkhill Estate in Wembley. Doris still lives



Doris Henry in 1990



- Montserrat
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- St Kitts & Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent & the Grenadines
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Vietnam
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- Guyana
- Grenada
- India
- Jamaica



1968 - The Chalkhill Estate, above, in Wembley was built in 1966 and was occupied during the late 60's to the late 90's. Its 1900 houses and flats were demolished in 2000





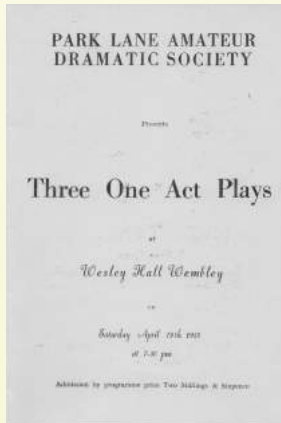
# Park Lane Methodist Church

## Ministry & Social

1962 - 2012

Over the past fifty years Park Lane have presented countless plays, concerts, anniversary celebrations as well as spiritual get-togethers and religious retreats for its congregation, circuit and locality.

Each performance, retreat and celebration was brought to the Park Lane ministry by sheer dedication of its congregation and leaders and this pledge has not wavered over the last 50 years!



Above: One of the many Circuit Concerts on the stage in the main hall at Park Lane. This was one of the ministers contributions to a concert in 1969. Along side a programme for one of the many amateur dramatic performances by Park Lane players during the 50s and 60s



Left: 1967. 'Devotions' was held once a week for the young members of Park Lane on adult night in the side classrooms. The Reverend Lawrence Barker can be seen seated far left



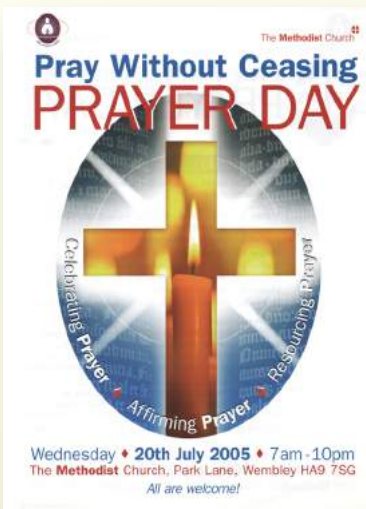
Below: One of the many Park Lane Amateur dramatic productions held on the stage in the main hall, This production we believe to be early 1960's

Below: In 1971 a group of Park Lane members made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The 15 day trip took them to The Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, The Church of the Nativity, Dead Sea and many more

Above: 2006. Park Lane Talent Night fund raiser for the Lititz Moravian Church, Jamaica, here Revd Bob Pritchard and his rendition of 'Are You Lonesome Tonight?'







**Park Lane's Most Requested Hymns**

**And Can It Be**  
Charles Wesley

**How Deep the Father's Love for Us** - Stuart Townsend

**I Cannot Tell why He whom Angels Worship**  
William Y. Fullerton

**Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining** - Graham Kendrick

**My Song is Love Unknown**  
Samuel Crossman

During the 90s and 00s

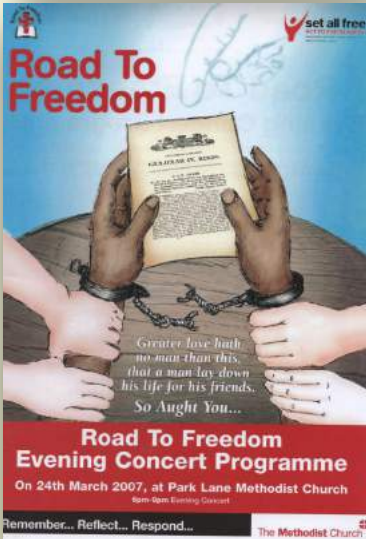


September 1987

In September 1987 Park Lane celebrated its Silver Jubilee.. The theme of the weekend was 'Don't Preach, Share' with Revd John Jennings leading the special preceding and devotion



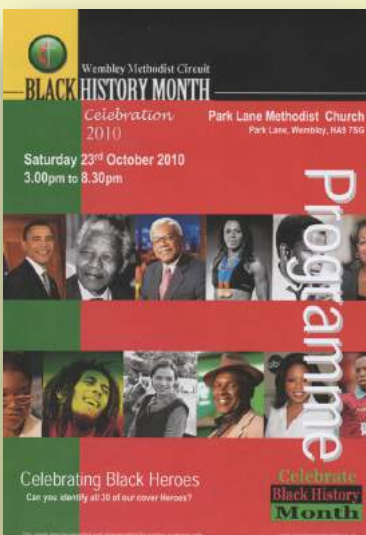
Above: Church trip to St Albans during Park Lane's Silver Jubilee Year 1987



Left: Reverend John Jennings holds a prayer meeting group with some Park Lane members in 1985

Below left: The 32nd Park Lane Church Anniversary Dinner, 1994

Below: The 47th Park Lane Anniversary Lunch in 2009. The Main Hall is always dressed for these special faith meals



Left strip: Some of the recent major productions organised by Park Lane members. Top, down; 'Prayer Without Ceasing' held July 2005. 'Road To Freedom' held March 2007 celebrating the 200 anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade.

In 2009 and 2010 two Black History Celebrations were held. Both were all day events with day activities, movie screenings, a faith meal and evening praise and worship in the Main Church

Right: Park Lane residential weekend retreat to High Leigh in 2002





# Park Lane Methodist Church

## Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

1900 - 2012

The 2nd Wembley Company of the Boys' Brigade had its beginnings as a platoon of the 1st Kenton Company back in 1964. It was started by the then member of Park Lane Methodist Church, Eric Fawthrop with the help from other church members Ezra Thomas and John Askew.

It became a company in its own right in 1966, its first captain was Mr Reg Wilkes, husband of Sheila Wilkes and father of Rodney Wilkes. The Girls' Association was formed in 1995 and the company were founder members of the Girls' Association now part of the BB.

Camp is a large annual event for the brigades. Regular BB camp sites visited over the past 46 years. Other BB companies taking part at some camps over the years have been 1st Wembley, 1st Wealdstone, 1st Croxley Green, 1st Harrow Weald, 1st Edgware, 2nd Hendon, 72nd London and 2nd Kidderminster along with 2nd Wembley Girl's Association



Above: 1909. 1st Wembley Boys Brigade Company in full uniform

Below: 1983. Captain Reg Wilkes with some of the Park Lane BB boys



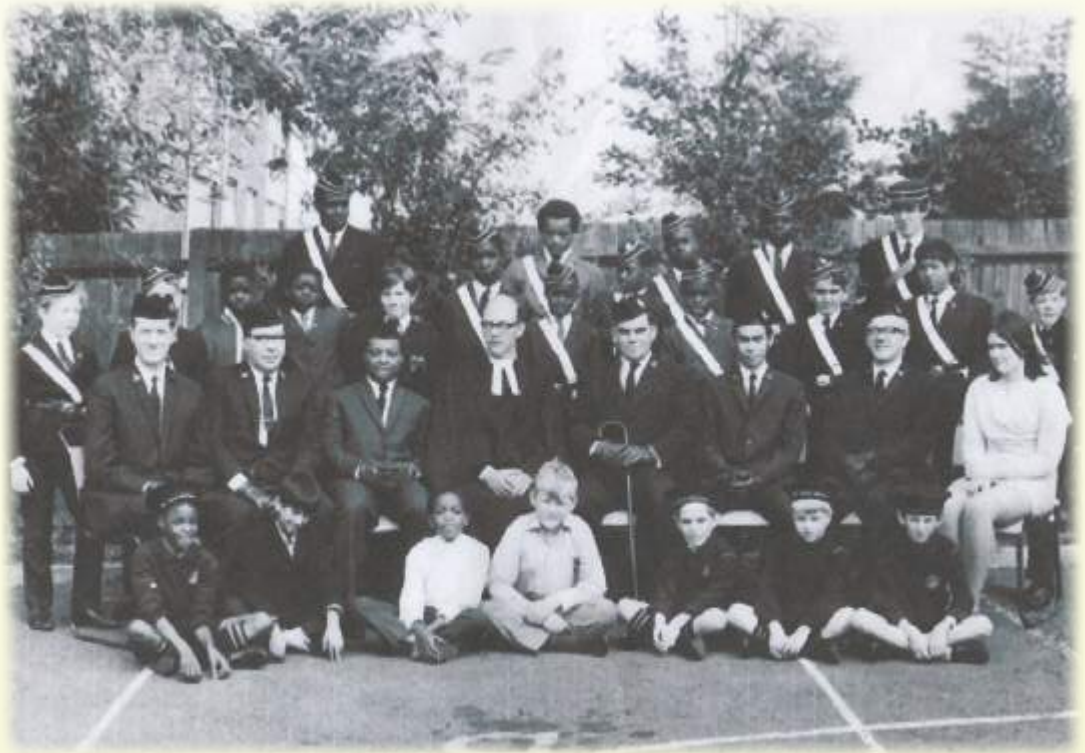
Left: 1960. Trevor Legg (far left) at BB Camp at Beer in Devon, his first of fifty consecutive camps from age 13

1967 (approx) Sunday Morning Church Parade with full band. Those taking part were the Park Lane 2nd Wembley company with 1st Kenton and 1st Kingsbury





Right: 1970. Early black and white photo of the 2nd Wembley Company taken in the car park at Park lane. Officers include (seated from left) John Askew, Jack Lampard, Ezra Thomas, Revd David Cardew, Captain Reg Wilkes and Carl Ho-A-Shoo



Middleright: 1996. The 2nd Wembley Company with 2nd Kidderminster at Bearsted, near Maidstone, Kent

Bottom centre: 2007. 2nd Wembley Company 40th Anniversary display at Park Lane

Bottom right: 2005. Group photograph after church parade at Park Lane. Here Anchor Boys were being promoted to Juniors and Juniors promoted to company section. Revd Bob Pritchard can be seen far left



# Park Lane Methodist Church

## Reflections

### Our Stories

#### Ethel Randall

Ethel Randall was born in Kensal Rise in 1914 and features prominently in Park Lane's history in both the old and new churches.

She began her work with the Methodist Sunday School at the old Park Lane site in 1931. Her work with the 'Beginners' school led to becoming leader for what was at the time over fifty children on the Beginners roll alone. Ethel continued with Sunday School through to the new present Park Lane school until 1979 when she handed the baton onto Ezra Thomas after 48 years.

Ethel was principal in the Park Lane Amateur Dramatic Society who staged many full and extraordinary productions at the old Wesley Hall during the 50's and the New Church in the 60's; Ethel can be seen right in a Park Lane amateur dramatics production.

Ethel was also a Senior Steward during the 80's. She continues to live in Wembley and still a member of Park Lane Church



#### Ezra & Eleanor Thomas

Ezra and Eleanor Thomas, left, are well known in the Church and Circuit. They have been members of the church since 1967 when they settled in Wembley, Ezra was already working for British Telecommunications as a telephone engineer which he has for most of his career, Eleanor was a nursing Sister.

They have two children Philip and Hannah, both attended Park Lane and the Sunday School. Both Ezra and Eleanor have had constant roles within the church over the last forty years; Eleanor a continuing member of Women's fellowship and flower ministry. Ezra was a founding member of the Wembley 2nd Boys' Brigade Company and a regular at Boys' Brigade and a Sunday School teacher for over thirty years. Both continue these roles in the church today

#### Bertram & Avril Fearon

Married in Park Lane on 25 July 1964

Avril said not to make too much of the year she was married and she definitely doesn't look it! She said: "I must say it was a beautiful day, a new experience. One of the best things that happened to us!" Bert felt that he "had to wait too long at the altar" for his lovely bride!

After they were married at Park Lane and for the first few years of their married lives, Avril and Bertram, right had to attend a different church which was closer to where they lived. "But the children were christened here and this has always been our main church"





### Shirland & Florence Ward

Married in Park Lane on 14 July 1980



Our own Chief Steward! We all know Shirland is a man of few words, but he said with a warm smile – “It was a blessed day!” The couple were married on a weekday and Rev Douglas Brown was the officiating minister

### Roy & Linda Stanley

Married in Park Lane on 26 July 1997



Linda remembers – “It was a lovely day. I remember it rained lightly, I got to the church with an umbrella. Roger Lee conducted a lovely service with lovely hymns. The sun was shining when we went out to take our photos, it was lovely!

Roy’s birthday was actually the next day and his recollection was “I remember the day clearly, arriving at the church with my brother and waiting nervously for Linda to arrive. She looked beautiful”

For many years The Messenger was Park Lanes quarterly round-up of news, stores and pastoral news. The last edition was in 2010.

However Park Lane has continued its pastoral and community work into 2012 and along with a network of pastoral visitors within the church continue to support a number of local and national charities

### Maxine & Lloyd Mentore

Married in Park Lane on 1 August 1981

Sadly, Lloyd is no longer with us, but Maxine remembers their happy day very clearly – “On the morning of our wedding it was raining... Thankfully it was all fine for the service in the afternoon. Charles and Diana were married on the Wednesday; we got married on the Saturday. A doctor I used to work with said my wedding gown looked much nicer than Diana’s!”

The couple used to attend Neasden Methodist Church but their building had been knocked down and was only due to re-open in September. So they opted to be married at Park Lane by their own minister Revd David Carruthers



### Paul & Jacquie Rochester

Married in Park Lane on 2 August 1997

Jacquie took time out of her busy schedule to reminisce: “The church looked beautiful because we had a lovely sunny day and the sunlight was streaming in through the windows. It looked beautiful at the front, the altar, with a lot of lovely flowers. We were really blessed with the sunshine on the day because it had been raining the entire week.”

Paul added – “I was nervous and didn’t turn round to look at Jacquie as she came down the aisle – and she wanted me to see her!” That’s the only thing he regrets. The couple were married by Rev Roger Lee



## Park Lane Methodist Church

### Pastoral



Park Lane Methodist 'The Church on the Hill'  
is an ever growing and aspiring Church rich in diversity.  
It seeks in its mission to engender a calming and faithful influence  
which reflects its diversity, its friendly open door approach  
and firm in its conviction of God's love



Park Lane Church is part of the Wembley Circuit  
and the London District of the Methodist Church.  
Other churches that make up the circuit are in  
Ealing Road, Neasden and Sudbury



Park Lane Methodist Church  
Celebrating 50 Years