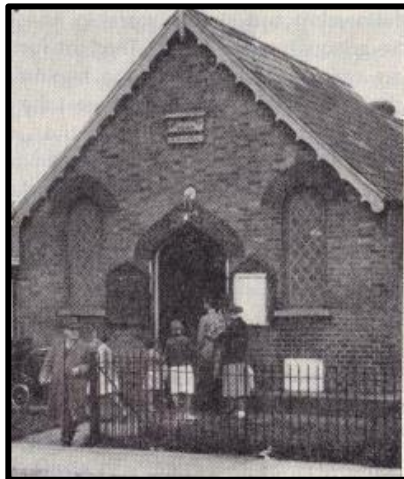




## From Acorns do Mighty Oaks Grow Goffs Oak Methodist Church



**1868 – 2018**

**In honour of the lives of all who have passed,  
Are passing,  
And shall pass this way.**

**Note from the editor**

This booklet has been created from number of sources. The main source for the first century is the booklet 'Goffs Oak Methodist Church the first century' written by Jim Priest. This has been edited and paraphrased.

Contributions for the next fifty years has come from various documents and memories of church members and organisations that can call the Church 'Their Home'.

A grateful thanks is given by Goffs Oak Methodist Church to all contributors too many to name individually.

We are continually looking to expand the history of the church if you have memories please either write them down and pass on to a steward or if you have pictures would you please scan them and send to the following email: [info@goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk) or bring them to the church and we will scan them and return to you. If you have any pictures please put people's names on them so we know for the future.

***Our history is what we make it!***

**Post note:**

We have just been given 2 books

One with the inscription:

*Goffs Oak Primitive Methodist Sunday School*

*George John King*

*A reward for good conduct April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1873*

The other with the inscription:

*George John King*

*A reward for good conduct at the Goffs Oak*

*Sunday School September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1897*

## A Foreword by the Minister - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Greetings! There is an old saying in Methodism that ‘ministers, come and go’. It is a humbling reminder that our pastoral care of a given community is always fleeting and therefore what a privilege it is to be present at such a time as this - 150 Years of faithful Christian lives expressed in witness and service, worship and discipleship.

As you read this you may well be joining us for our 150th anniversary or perhaps looking back through the sands of time wondering what Goffs Oak Methodist Church was like in 2018?

It seems to me - as I in my turn look back at the 100th year anniversary booklet – that in some senses Goffs is what it has always been... a small, faithful chapel at the heart of the community. In a global culture often dominated by the themes rooted in ‘big is good’, I find myself holding onto the word ‘small’. God delights in smallness. God rejoices in speaking in unexpected ways and through unexpected people like small children. Whether it is Christ coming amongst us as a vulnerable baby or his description of the picture of the Kingdom of God as being like yeast that permeates and leavens the whole loaf, or the Holy Spirit present in the still, small voice, God values our smallness and continues to call Goffs Oak Methodist to be a Christian presence in this place.

In the book of Hebrews the writer recounts the many people of faith who have gone before us and then paints this wonderful image saying:

*12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...*

So it is that we mark this 150<sup>th</sup> year, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses that have gone before and by whose faithfulness we are here today. Our incredible church community continues to explore ‘what the Good News may look like in this place’ as together we strive to share a living faith that is relevant to the world today.

We look back with thanks to God, we stand in the present as salt and light, seeking serve and build up our local community and we look to the future ready to take risks for God. May God bless you as you enter this place and meet this community.



**Rev Alan Combes**

## From Acorns to Sturdy Oak...

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE GOFFS OAK (HERTS.) METHODIST CHURCH (1868-1968)

In the early years of last century, there were few meeting places for those who are now generally described as Free Church people, but who were then referred to as Nonconformists or Dissenters. A mighty book entitled Nonconformity in Hertfordshire, completed by a St. Albans congregational minister in 1884, mentions, in connection with the formation of a County Baptist Union in 1810, Newgate Street and Goffs Lane as 'places reported as enjoying evangelical instruction though not a regular ministry'. Although there is no supporting evidence, it may well be that this "evangelical instruction" had some influence on events which came about in Goffs Oak in the 1860's.

A century ago, of course, Goffs Oak was very much a scattered hamlet of Cheshunt, while Cuffley was an even smaller hamlet of Northaw.

Although only 15 miles or so from London, it was a quiet spot, sparsely populated, in a rolling, well-wooded countryside. Farm houses, with workers' cottages a discreet distance away from them, a village smithy, a windmill, and an alehouse or two constituted Goffs Oak a century ago; there was also a small school (in Goffs Lane near the present village hall), and there was St. James Church, which was consecrated by the Bishop of Rochester in 1862.

It is a pity that records about the beginnings of Methodism in Goffs Oak are so scant. The population of the scattered village in 1868 was probably fewer than 600, for, by the 1890's when the nursery industry was beginning to infiltrate the Cheshunt area, it was only 846.

It is not unreasonable to assume however that nonconformity in Cheshunt may have touched a few people living in and around Goffs Oak.

The 1860's were years in which the Primitive Methodist Connexion was vigorously expanding its evangelising efforts in various rural areas as well as in London and other cities. It is by no means illogical to assume therefore, that there was a small company among the farming folk 'in and around Goffs Oak who deeply cherished the Nonconformist way of religious life, and were determined to do something about it!

A local reference book, produced at the end of last century, briefly mentions that the "Primitive Methodist Chapel, built in 1868, seats 100 persons." But there are many still in and around Goffs Oak, and many, undoubtedly,

throughout this and other countries, who remember 'With a sense of deep gratitude' the unpretentious brick and slate building known for so many years as the chapel. Its interior was severely functional, with pitch-pine predominant, but the atmosphere created by it must have been the homeliness and warmth characteristic of Methodism a century ago.

The foundation-stone of the old church is preserved in the vestibule of the present modern dual-purpose hall. Its inscription proclaims quite simply:

THIS STONE WAS LAID  
OCTOBER 19th, 1868  
BY J. FOWELL, ESQ OF LONDON

Despite a great deal of research, it has been impossible to discover how much the original Goffs Oak Methodist Church cost to build and furnish. Such information as has been "handed down" indicates that the small plot of land on which the church stood was grudgingly given by the owner of the estate. Building and furnishing costs were probably no more than a few hundred pounds—but to have raised such a sum in the 1860's must have involved much sacrificial giving and patient, though zealous endeavour by a comparatively small company of faithful and determined people. Their labour was not in vain, and, like so many pioneers, they "built better than they knew". One of these pioneers, it has lately been discovered, was a Mr. John King who, in 1851, moved to Goffs Oak from Rede, in Suffolk. He came to work on the Woodgreen Park estate, and undoubtedly brought with him the Primitive Methodist fervour which influenced him as a young man in Suffolk. When John King died, in 1921, at the great age of ninety-eight, it could be said with certainty that he had been a trustee of the Goffs Oak church for 53 years.

One other who must be named in this chronicle, although he was not in Goffs Oak at the beginning of the church. He was Mr. Albert Wombwell, who came to live and work at Beaumont (another outlying hamlet of Cheshunt) somewhere around 1900. Mr. Wombwell was a native of Langley, a north-west Essex village with tremendous enthusiasm for Primitive Methodism.

Village life a century ago was not, in all respects, as idyllic as it is now sometimes portrayed. By those who declared themselves to be 'chapellers' (as Nonconformists were usually dubbed) opposition and persecution in one form or another often had to be borne. Yet their faith was strong and their outlook serene. There is no valid reason not to suppose that the little chapel in the Common Road (as Newgate Street Road was at that time known) drew packed congregations but, unquestionably, it became a centre of warm

fellowship and simple worship, the influence of which can never be adequately assessed.

Although it has no direct concern with the Methodist Church, there is one aspect of life in Goffs Oak a century ago which is worthy of mention here. There were, no doubt, then several people living in the village who could scarcely read or write; the small school, as already mentioned, was accommodated in a cottage which still stands near to the Village Hall in Goffs Lane. There was, however, an educational development of importance to the village when on December 13th, 1872 the "New Schools" (now S. James Parish Hall) were officially opened at 6 p.m. "After the Addresses", the announcement of this event reads, "a Musical Entertainment and Readings will be given by Local and other Friends; admission: —Front Seats, Sixpence; Back Threepence". It may be added that the announcement makes no reference to refreshments!

There is, unfortunately, no sound evidence about the extent of the circuit or Primitive Methodist Preaching Station in which the Goffs Oak church was first placed. One clue to this is provided by the Baptism Register, a historic volume started in 1869 and obviously taken round the circuit by the minister in charge. Entries over many years covered Tottenham, Edmonton, Enfield, and Southgate, in addition to Cheshunt (Goffs Oak), the first record of a baptism at the Goffs Oak Methodist Church being on September 24th, 1872 of "Arthur and Mary Anne, son and daughter of John and Ann Brace". This Baptism Register, incidentally, has been used exclusively at Goffs Oak since 1938, and there are still several pages to be filled.

But from around the beginning of the present century, Goffs Oak was, for many years, part of the "Enfield Station of the Primitive Methodist Connexion", the other three churches in the circuit being Enfield Chase Side (now the Salvation Army hall), Bush Hill Park, and New Southgate. It was a "one minister station," though at different times a probationer was appointed to help. The Goffs Oak church maintained its cause and pursued its work, at various times its membership (35) being greater than that of the church at Bush Hill Park. On several occasions, Goffs Oak was congratulated by the circuit on an excellent Sunday School attendance, and on one occasion (in 1935) the Goffs Oak Trust was able to lend £100 to the circuit, the financial condition of which had become precarious. Shortly thereafter the Chase Side church was closed and the Enfield (P) circuit, as it was known, was amalgamated with what subsequently became the present Enfield circuit, the little church at Goffs Oak being something of a country "out-post" at the extreme northern end of that

circuit, with its pastoral care being, for many years, the responsibility of the minister living at Enfield.

A fact of considerable significance and interest in celebrating the centenary of the Goffs Oak Methodist Church is that the most striking developments, so far, have occurred in virtually the final decade of that church's first century. It must never be forgotten that throughout all its years Goffs Oak, like so many other churches, has been served by faithful and energetic people. Before the last war, the trustees were investigating the possibility of acquiring additional land and building a new church, and by the end of the war, through the activity of the London Mission committee, a site on Cuffley Hill was acquired. But there were enormous pressures on building resources of all kinds and the project for a new Methodist Church at Goffs Oak was some distance from the head of the queue!

In the early 1950's, however, the expansion of the village of Goffs Oak as a residential area was very apparent. The pace of house building quickened, the population steadily increased, and it became plain for all to see that Goffs Oak, the erstwhile isolated hamlet of Cheshunt, would soon be a sizeable residential part of that town, without the total disappearance of the characteristics of a self-contained community. In 1956, there was opportunity to acquire some land adjacent to the little church built in 1868, an opportunity which was quickly seized by the Goffs Oak trustees who, having disposed of the Cuffley Hill site, vigorously set about the planning and building of a new church.

Rev. G. A. Lardi had by then become superintendent of the Enfield Circuit and minister-in-charge of Goffs Oak, and with unflagging zeal he led a band of equally zealous stalwarts. The effort was tremendous, generous grants were obtained from the Rank Trust and the London Mission and Extension Fund, the essential connexion at procedures were negotiated and finalised at top speed (for nobody could keep anything in a "pending" tray!). There was a stone-laying ceremony in March 1957, and, on Saturday, September 28th, 1957, the new premises, comprising a dual-purpose hall with various other rooms, were dedicated. It was a day of thanksgiving and great rejoicing, made even more memorable because, as in October 1868, there were brought together the gifts in money, materials, and service, of people devoted to the welfare and happiness of Goffs Oak.

More history than usual has been made by the Goffs Oak Methodist Church in the last ten years or so. It has endeavoured to shape itself as a centre for all sections of the community; it has endeavoured also to emphasise its truly ecumenical outlook. Without in any way devaluing simple Christian principles,

Goffs Oak Methodist Church has tried to chart a course untrammelled by anything sectarian rigidity, with the result that folk of all ages, who have settled in this still-growing area have come to feel that the church is theirs and is not the perquisite of a few.

It must not be thought that, following the dedication of the new building in 1957, crowds flocked immediately to receive its ministrations. Far from it, the impact was steady and in no way spectacular, but at no time was there unwillingness on the part of the church to seek the best ways of changing the old order of things in order effectively to meet the challenge of a greatly changed and continually-changing Goffs Oak.

The first real change occurred in the Sunday School (or Junior Church as it is now more appropriately called). For years, as in other churches, the Goffs Oak Sunday School had met in the afternoon. But many of the families who came to make their homes in the new houses springing up in the village ten years ago had been living in London's northern outskirts, and Sunday afternoon was a convenient time to go back to visit relatives and friends who remained there. So, early in 1958, the Goffs Oak Sunday School changed from the traditional hour of 3 o'clock in the afternoon to 10 in the morning. One result was that a high average attendance was quickly established and maintained, the numbers joining have progressively increased, and the change was one which pioneered the pattern of Sunday morning family worship at 10.15 a.m. which has now been followed for several years.

The formation of a Cub pack later in 1958 paved the way to the soundly-based Scout group, a development which was quickly followed by Brownie packs and a Guide Company. There was also a revival of the youth club, the organisation of which have passed through many different phases in the last decade. Today, it is a purposeful activity with a beneficial "out-reach" to many young people. Yet another development of tremendous benefit to the community is the Wives' Club which through its regular meetings (with an organised creche) is an effective means of bringing together wives and mothers who might find it difficult to get to know each other in new surroundings. But in this context, the quiet and influential work of the Women's Fellowship, now celebrating its thirty-first anniversary, is not overlooked; with its lively and active interest in women's missionary work at home and overseas, it continues to do a power of good. All these organisations, whether for the youngsters or for those who are older, owe much to the devotion and energy of an inspired band of men and women who lead them. For some time after the new premises were opened, the original 1868 chapel was used for much of the growing youth activity, but the day came when it just had to be demolished and, to replace it,



two temporary "pre-fabs" were acquired by Rev. George Martlew, the present Superintendent Minister of the Enfield Circuit, and were erected and made habitable by prodigious effort on the part of men and women in the church and many others who were willing to lend a hand in what was readily acknowledged to be a desire on the part of the church to help a growing community.

That community sense is clearly demonstrated in the organisation of the church's annual fete, which has undoubtedly come to be regarded as an important village event. The Goffs Oak outlook is thoroughly ecumenical, and in the still-growing neighbourhood is likely to become more so in the days that are ahead. There is, for example, a real sense of fellowship with the Parish Church of S. James. This began, a few years ago, with united services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, from which there has developed a pattern of regular joint worship on one Sunday evening a month, the services alternating between the two churches. Joint study groups and other activities are also engaged in, resulting in increasing affinity of purpose. Reverting to the Goffs Oak Methodist Church as a centre of worship, there are many occasions during the year, the great festivals (including harvest thanksgiving) when the family service attracts more than a capacity congregation! At this point, it is appropriate to mention that a year or so ago the church received a most generous anonymous gift in the form of a new electronic organ.

For by far the greater part of its first century, pastoral oversight of Goffs Oak has been inevitably, the responsibility of the Superintendent Minister living in Enfield. There is grateful recollection of the many who have thus served the "country outpost" of the Enfield Circuit, but, until comparatively recently, no Methodist minister has lived in or very near the village. In the early 1950's, however, the Rev. B. Bernard Beard, on his retirement from full work, settled in the home of his sister at Goffs Oak, and soon revealed his gracious personality and helpful influence in the life of the church. The many who knew and loved him will readily agree that some of the most fruitful years of his long ministry were those which he spent in retirement at Goffs Oak.

As the activity of the new church gathered strength, much careful thought and planning was given to the matter of ministerial leadership, resulting in the Enfield Circuit adopting a policy by which the services of a probationer minister should be secured whose main task should be shared between Goffs Oak and the St. John Methodist Church in the Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, leading, ultimately, to the stationing of an ordained minister who would live at or near to Goffs Oak. As a result of this policy, Rev. Raymond H. Norgate, B.A., was appointed in 1961 for the remaining two years of his probation prior to

ordination. He made his home at Goffs Oak and accomplished a great deal of valuable work in steering the activity of the new church towards the course that it must obviously take to serve effectively the growing neighbourhood in which it is set. Moreover, the beginnings of the much closer association with the Anglican Church came about during Raymond Norgate's time.

When Mr. Norgate left in 1963, he was succeeded by Rev. Donald J. Sampson who is now concluding an outstanding five-year term as minister at Goffs Oak and St. John Churches. Although he has lived (perhaps slept for a few hours each night would be more accurate!) in the Great Cambridge Road, Mr. Sampson has undoubtedly become "very much part of the village of Goffs Oak."

On his ordination in 1965, Mr. Sampson was cordially invited to remain, as a minister in full connexion, for a further three-year period. At that point, hopes were high that in his final year in the circuit (1968) a manse would be acquired in or near to Goffs Oak. But, alas, the policy adopted in 1960 has had to undergo subsequent revision, and that part of the forward planning to which Goffs Oak energetically set its hand and heart has not yet found fulfilment

It is with present and future responsibilities very much in mind that the Goffs Oak Methodist Church joyfully celebrates the completion of its first century.

## **The next Fifty Years**

Now you are familiar with how Goffs Oak Methodist Church started, what happened next as the villages of Goffs Oak and Cuffley grew?

National and Local Government had its eye on the lands north of London as a suitable area for growth and in particular as an overspill area suitable for commuters. The expansion of rail lines to both Hertford North and Hertford East resulted in a greater use of the stations at Cuffley and Cheshunt. Consequently there was a rash of new buildings in these areas, in particular either side of Cuffley hill expanding initially North along Newgatestreet Road and Robinson Avenue and then in the mid 60's South along Jones Road. The rural nature of the village changed to that of a commuter area.

There have been a lot of changes to Goffs Oak Methodist Church. The first change started at the end of the first 100 years, the church had started to get a 'permanent' minister instead of just being a country outpost of the Enfield Circuit, which stretched from Edmonton in the south to Goffs Oak in the north.

The minister at the end of the first 100 years (and also at the start of the next 50 years) was Rev. Donald Sampson. In 1955 the trustees of the church had a vision, which was to replace the old chapel with a dual-purpose hall (completed in 1957) and then build a new church on the site of the old, however funds did not allow this and only the hall was built. Donald Sampson carried this vision forward and wanted to complete the building of church.

Many things are meant to happen, a happy accident led to the arrival of a Buildings Surveyor in to Goffs Oak such that in August 1965 Don Clark moved to Goffs Oak – two days later Donald Sampson ‘pounced’...

Many plans for the new church developed over the years including changing the projection room in to an altar space or the addition of an altar space to the side of the church in Wesley Close. The final plan for a new sanctuary and dividing partition were developed and approved by the church council.

The church embraced the need to raise funds, a church carnival and fete was held on the local playing fields, at a time when the playing field came almost to the road. As the local Library was developed so was the church building fund developing. The church also held sponsored walks where the then minister Dr Peter Graves was eagerly leading from the front, Christmas bazaars, Sponsored swims, 100 clubs and many other imaginative ways to raise funds were implemented. Eventually with the addition of grants which were gratefully received enabled building of the Sanctuary and rear hall to be started. During the building of the Sanctuary and Rear Hall the original church foundations were uncovered which lead to the original church foundation stone being able to be placed back in its original position of 1868.

It should be noted at this point that from inception of the new church building to its completion took the combined efforts of Six Church Ministers supporting the efforts of the Church Congregation and Trustees.

The combined efforts resulted in the circuit churches coming together for a special service in September 1977 to dedicate the new church sanctuary. St. James Parish Church presented Goffs Oak Methodist Church with a special Bible, which is still in use today.

The addition of the church sanctuary enabled development of the church as a centre of the community. The Junior Church developed to over 50 and embraced many ideas including Junior Mission for All (JMA) and Scriptures. Numbers over the years have decreased mainly due to the transient nature of the work place causing people to move and the cost of housing! But even

though numbers were very low they are currently on the increase again. The Junior Church continues to provide an important role thanks mainly to the support of volunteers.

The church also developed the Church Youth Club, meeting weekly on a Friday. The club became a very strong social link for many members with several members meeting their future spouses there, in addition to the social side there were some sports promoted including table tennis.

The church, following the development, continued to support the voluntary uniformed organisations – Scouts and Guides – with four groups using the church. Church Parades with the colours of each group being presented were held monthly, currently these are held termly.

Other groups that were using the church included mother & baby clubs, nurseries, Junior Red Cross, Dancing classes and Jujitsu which all concentrated on the younger side of the community. However, this was not all the Church concentrated on, it was concerned with the older community as well. Operatic Societies, Drama Societies, Hand Bell Chiming groups and Keep-fit groups also used the halls, even our four-legged friends were included with dog training classes being held – some of whom even made Crufts (it's not sure whether it was the owners or the dogs who were the most obedient).

Over the years the support to the community has changed as the make-up of local community has changed. The church still concentrates on both the young and old, it still supports the uniformed organisations and toddler groups. The current desire within the community is for fitness and a number of different fitness groups use the church covering a wide range of ages – some classes have 18-year olds whilst the oldest person in a class is 81 (not the same class though!!).

The church also supports other interest groups including a Brass Band, various Women's Institute groups, and an Anonymous group. Currently various other groups using the church facilities include a painting group, a lace making group and a flower group. The church also supports the NHS and its diabetic programme, other local organisations use the church meeting room on an ad-hoc basis.

Support for the youth of the community has always been an ideal of the church, apart from the youth club and other organisations the church established in the mid 90's a Summer Holiday Club. Each year a different parable or scripture is the main theme of the week but it is portrayed in a fun,

interactive way. Each year there can be 20-40 young children from all parts of the community coming, some parents even ask each Christmas when the next one will be so they can book their holidays around it. We have been going over 25 years!.

There is a Christmas party each year with a highlight special guest of Father Christmas.

The church, being in the centre of the village, is the centre of many of the village events and milestones.

In late 1966 there was an article in the local paper suggesting that the proposed M25 would be diverted from its original route under Waltham Cross to one through the centre of Goffs Oak and back to Waltham Abbey. Members of the church together with some of the congregation of the St James Church formed an action group to represent the community at the Official Public Hearing in order to maintain the village of Goffs Oak. This action was successful and eventually led to the establishment of the Goffs Oak Community Association, a number of their meetings being held at the church.

At the millennium the church was involved in the village celebrations which included special services, concerts and a Fete organised within the village.

Following the millennium the church re-established the Carnival and Fete. The church has a history of promoting and running them having run them before in the 50's, late 60's and late 70's. The Church led members from a number of local organisations including The Comrades Club, St James Church and the local Automobile Museum to organise a Carnival and Fete which included a carnival starting at the Church travelling though both sides of the village and ending up on the local playing ground. The carnival consisted of approximately 25 floats and vehicles – even the mayor walked with the carnival. The fete included a 5-a-side competition (with two trophies – one for the winning team, the other presented by England Football Star David Beckham for the best outstanding player each year). There were also some 60 stalls and an arena display lasting for 3 hours. The event was so successful that it continued for seven years and became a major outreach programme for the church. The local scout group then took over the mantle for several years.

Every year the Church joins forces with St James Parish Church to hold a service of remembrance at the War Memorial. This is only one of three such services held each year in the Borough of Broxbourne, usually being attended by over 300 people including the Deputy Mayor, other local dignitaries and many of the

local youth from around the area. The most precious moment is always the playing of the 'Last Post' by a lone musician.

In the late 90's there was a decision to replace the plain window above the entrance to the church with a celebration window. As with all groups it was very difficult to decide what it should celebrate! Eventually it was decided by the church that the window should celebrate Goffs Oak – but how? A local artist Mr P Chapman-Tait came up with a design that celebrates the village roots with a Dove of Peace, other birds, squirrels, ears of Barley, and oak leaves. It was designed as an eight-panel window.

Four panels (the centre four) were the first to be commissioned and were unveiled in 2000. It was named the Medhurst Memorial Window in memory of Jim Medhurst who was a driving force within the church youth movement.

There was a period when the church needed fabric repairs and concentrated on its out-reach so it was not until 2010, when the church wanted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 that it decided to complete the Stained glass window and dedicate it to:

‘The community and young people of Goffs Oak and the Diamond Jubilee of  
Queen Elizabeth II’

There were many generous donations from Friends, Members of the Church, and Members of the Community resulting to a dedication of the remaining panels of the window in July 2014 – A view of the window is shown at the back of this booklet. An unusual feature of the window is that at the start of the Sunday service the reflection of the colours of the window are on the congregation, but as the service progresses the reflection moves round so that by the end of the service the colours are on the Alter Table.

Goffs Oak Methodist Church and its members are very appreciative of all the support it has received over the past 150 years from the Methodist Church and from both the Enfield Circuit and from the Hertford Circuit (of which the church was a member for a short while in the 80's), enabling the church to develop, provide a home for the community and to spread the word.

Goffs Oak today sets out to be a community hub that connects to and supports local people and displays an active and living faith. The church enables community services like Carols by Torchlight in aid of Action for Children and shares in the leadership of the annual, ecumenical Remembrance service around the memorial. We have 500 people through the doors of the church each week engaging in everything from girl guides and lace making to brass

bands and Cocaine Anonymous. The variety is huge and links to events such as Girl Guiding - Happy Hearts - ensures that we support people of all abilities in engaging in life to the full.

There is a tremendous sense of thanksgiving for all that is past, but there is tremendous confidence about what needs to be done now and, in the future, to help in the extension of the Kingdom of God on Earth. In October 1868, a small company of faithful people planted an acorn in the form of a modest Methodist Church in Newgatestreet Road; its successor in 2018 can reasonably claim to be a sturdy oak!

And so to the next 150 years .....

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*Footnote: This is the message from the minister at the end of the first 100 years – Rev. Donald Sampson*

Dear Friends,

The centenary celebrations confront us with the temptation to indulge in an orgy of reminiscence, and, as a church, we are concerned that we do not fall to that temptation. Whilst we are keen to learn lessons from the past, we must fix our attention on the goal ahead. We remain thankful for the rich tradition into which we have entered, but we are keenly aware that it would be fatal to be chained by it. The Christian faith is unchanging, yet it must be re-stated if it is to make sense to the people of our secular society.

Having been privileged to serve in Goffs Oak during the past four-and-a-half years, I cherish the many people who, through loyal service and diligent devotion, are re-stating Christianity in intelligible terms. The witness of those who have cared for the sick and lonely; of those who have made time to listen to youth; and of those who have struggled to lead worthwhile worship, has not been in vain. Nor ought we ever to expect such service to be so. The servant who throws himself away in love for God and neighbours is aligning himself with New Testament Christianity—a force which has continued to bring a new dimension to human life wherever it is taken seriously.

Those who have gone before us had faith, vision and love. It is for these gifts that we pray at the milestone. Goffs Oak as a community frequently shows us generous goodwill, and may we, as Christ's servants, never forget that it is for the well-being of the total community that we exist as part of the Christian Church.

Yours sincerely,

DONALD J. SAMPSON.



**The Medhurst Memorial Window Dedicated July 2014**

**List of Ministers – Goffs Oak Methodist Church**

1868 - Church Established and Chapel built on current site in Goffs Oak (although references to a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on the North side of Goffs Lane in 1833 can be found)

John King – first steward

Responsibility for the ‘out-post’ at the extreme Northern End of the Enfield circuit was with the minister living at Enfield.

Early 1950's	<b>B. Bernard Beard</b>	1977	-	<b>Robert Foster</b>
1956	- <b>G A Lardi</b>	1979	-	<b>Bill Jones</b>
(1957	- <i>New Dual-purpose church hall built)</i>	1983	-	<b>Colin Letchford</b>
1961	- <b>Raymond H Norgate</b>	1988	-	<b>Nick Young</b>
1963	- <b>Donald J Sampson</b>	1994	-	<b>Stephanie Hibberd</b>
1968	- <b>Dr Peter Graves</b>	2003	-	<b>Marion Cole</b>
1969	- <b>Arthur Freeman</b>	2005	-	<b>George Mawire</b>
1974	- <b>Martin Charles</b>	2010	-	<b>Inez Reid</b>
(1977	- <i>Current church sanctuary opened)</i>	2013	-	<b>Alan Combes</b>