

## **Extracts from the diaries of Joseph Anthony Barnes relating to the building of the new Methodist chapel in Levens**

The following extracts, transcribed by Helen Caldwell from the original diaries of Joseph Anthony Barnes the Methodist minister, are intended to illustrate the timescale of events, from conception to completion and opening.

### **1888**

#### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Meeting to consider new chapel scheme in evening. Opposed rebuilding old one without first considering price of new.

#### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Walked over & saw Mr Rogers of Greenside about land. Referred me to John Holme, his steward.

#### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Still busy with chapel scheme.

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Beathwaite Green Isa XL 8 Matt VII 21

Felt at home in both services. Evening sermon was new & unwritten, spoke for 40 minutes. Said a few words about the new chapel afterwards.

#### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

Spent most of day making Plan for New Chapel from Mr Cole's model. Shocked to hear from Miss Cole who sent Plans that her father died a week or two ago.

#### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

Drew plan for proposed new chapel.

#### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Began to collect subscriptions for new chapel, good success for a start.

#### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Working in garden. Collecting for new chapel in evening.

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Still collecting subscriptions & writing letters.

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Endmoor & Holmescales Matt VII 21, Isa. XL 8.

Good time at Endmoor, not so good at Holmescales – subject inapplicable to audience. Collection for Levens New Chapel £ 2 – 2 – 0.

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

Kirkby Lonsdale Matt. VII 21, Matt. VI 19

Walked over – glorious sunrise, dry & frosty. Good times preaching – collection for Levens Chapel £2 – 10 - 4½.

## **1889**

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Measured Chapel ground with G. Jennings, called at Jesper's & Shepherds.

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Wrote to Chapel Trustees summoning meeting.

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Successful Trustees meeting at Kendal. Chapel to serve purpose of school as well; got permission to consult Stephen Shaw as architect.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Afternoon Stephen Shaw came over to see ground for new chapel. Very satisfactory interview.

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Levens Eccles XII 13 Mark I 29

Took services for George Jennings. Got out bills for open-air service on site of new chapel in evening. Everybody interested, excellent congregation, lovely evening, & I felt quite at home in speaking.

## **1890**

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Wrote several letters for Chapel Donation.

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Otley Ps.XLVI 5, John XXI 17

Fair time preaching in the morning. Afternoon walked out to Clifton with my host Mr Armitage & heard him preach. Had a good time at night, and many thanks from several members of the congregation. My host promised £10 to Levens Chapel, unasked. Pleasant time staying with him.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

Mealbank S.S.A. John XXI 15, Ps XLIII 5

Drove with Mr Jesper to Kendal; preached sermons before preached at Kendal & this bothered me, as several Kendal people were present. After the afternoon service was presented with £5 – 3 – 6 for Levens new Chapel collected by Mealbank friends. Walked home.

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Heard Mr Punch of Mealbank at Levens. Went to Sunday School in afternoon & heard a lady friend of Mrs Jesper's give the address. Gave account of New Chapel affairs up to date, after evening service.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

Levens Job XLII 5,6, Matt VII 1-5,

Preached on behalf of New Chapel Fund, good congregations, especially at night; everybody in sympathy. Collection £3-9-3.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Walked to Kendal to see Mr Barlow about New Chapel. Had Mr Stabler's company on way there.

**1891****Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Read Williams; inspected preparations for Stone-laying; went to Grange to meet James, but walked home alone as he met Forster & Smithies at Carnforth & returned with them via Milnthorpe. Met all three of them just at corner of our garden.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Arranging flowers for tables etc. Stone-laying in afternoon – hosts of friends – weather cold but bright until just close of ceremony. Splendid Centenary Meeting in old chapel at night.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Kendal in afternoon to settle accounts with chapel Treasurer Mr Poole. Mr Banks of Lawrence House drove me home. Spent evening talking etc. with Mr Forster, Smithies & Mr Stabler.

**Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>**

Returned home for a fortnight's holiday. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July Gardening etc. Met local Trustees (Wed) evening to discuss date of Sale and Chapel opening.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Meeting of Levens New Chapel Trustees at Kendal; went to Mr Barlow's to tea. Calm summer's evening for walk over Barrows; very refreshing.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Called on Misses Gandy, Walker, Argles & Benson with Mr Barlow to ask subscriptions for new chapel, but found them all from home.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

Ordered china & earthenware for Levens Sale of Work.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Went home to be present at Sale of Work for new chapel, found Mother & Annie & all village people very full of it.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Gathering apples in morning & helping to set out stalls for Sale in Mr Powley's barn.

### **Thursday 1st October**

Levens Sale of Work. Had scarcely time to speak to anybody, was so busy selling crockery. Felt flurried and upset. Sale very successful, £73.

## **1892**

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Levens Chapel Opening: Got out notes of new sermon in morning. Felt restless & nervous but had a good time. Lovely chapel, crowds of visitors, day quite a success.

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

A purposely lazy day; lolling on garden seat & grass in afternoon. Tennis at Mr Jesper's; finish of sale of work, then an hour's singing at home with Misses Parkinson.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Counted sale money etc., looked out sermons for next day. Walked to Kendal to Bank; home to tea, various odd jobs; looked at bees but no honey ready. Misses Parkinson in for Music.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Levens Opening Services:** Matt. V 13; Rom VIII 3;

Good congregation in morning, quite full at night including vestries; felt very much at home in both services. Realise more & more what a beautiful little place the new chapel is. Quiet restful afternoon & wonderfully still, soothing half-hour in garden after dusk.