

ROUNDBABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

Verwood Methodist Church, Vicarage Road.



Methodist worship has been strong in Verwood for well over a hundred and fifty years. In 1847 it was mentioned as being in the Salisbury circuit of the Primitive Methodist Church, though it is likely that worship was conducted in homes or barns. In 1853 Open Air Services were being held and a Primitive Methodist Chapel was erected in 1876 on the site of the present Methodist Church.

The imposing Methodist Church in the

old photo above incorporated a hall to the right and was built 1909 in Vicarage Road. It replaced the old Primitive Methodist Chapel on the same site. Later the surrounding brick wall was removed and an exterior hall added in the rear grounds.

A larger, modern permanent Hall was added at the rear and opened on 4th February 1984. In 1993 under the ministry of Rev. Chris Blake, the church was extensively enlarged and redesigned with attractive glass panelled doors fronting the pavement. The 'new' church reopened in January 1994.

The colour change on the roof quite clearly shows the relatively recent extension and the new entrance and porch to the front. The hall appears much as it was with two rooflights replacing the single dormer. The properties to the far left in the old photo still stand but are now hidden by the Verwood Town Council offices from this viewpoint.

March 2017

