

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

Bethel Chapel, Ringwood Road.

Mid 1900's



The Bethel Chapel in Ringwood Road, Verwood was opened on 23rd April 1931 on land acquired for £50. It had previously been the site of Tent Mission. Two Verwood men, Godrick Sims and Clifford Sims who had attended Evangelical Meetings in Bournemouth came home and prayed over Lloyd Shearing, a chronically sick young man who made a complete recovery.

So Lloyd's father Frederick then became a committed Christian and he, Godrick and Clifford gave up their jobs in order to build Bethel accepting only £37 between them for labour. An official loan of £100 repayable over ten years was made followed by another of £82 the following year. When the Chapel opened it had to have three Sunday services to accommodate all those who wished to attend. The first Pastor was Winston Shearing and when he left his brother Lloyd succeeded him for twenty-five years.

Electricity was installed in 1935 when the application was signed

by Winston Shearing, Gardener of Manor Lane and witnessed by Frederick Prior. On 28th May 1954 the Chapel was registered to solemnize marriages.

Further alterations and extensions were made and in 1991 the vestry and kitchen were added and in 2004 the old doorway was replaced by a porch.

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