

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT



Vicarage Road around the turn of the century.

The photo above shows the old Primitive Chapel in Vicarage Road. The land beyond was originally a small holding belonging to Dan Sims, son of the Verwood smuggler (mentioned in our previous September issue), who left money for the parish bread charity. He used to organize apple races for the children in the roadway outside.

The houses opposite are built with decorative string courses of white Ebblake Brick. One of the buildings farthest away on the right remains and is still identifiable albeit partly shrouded in creeper.

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 (shown above) on the site of the present Methodist Church which replaced it in 1909. This was extended forwards by about a third around 15 years ago.

The Methodists had their own music group in earlier times and there has been a thriving youth group enjoying many activities and outings.

It was noted that on the 1940 annual outing to Christchurch the coach fare was £3 and the cost of tea £1.0.6d including one for the driver. There was also a Sunday School outing to Weymouth. The ladies of the congregation made hundreds of ham and boiled beef sandwiches but there were no cakes or biscuits! The Sunday School met twice on Sundays when verses of scripture were learned and repeated unaccompanied by any other activities.

