

RALPH HENRY GENT

Ralph was born in Aukland, Co Durham in March 1878

He entered the Primitive Methodist ministry in 1901

He married Lilian Elizabeth Knibbs in Leek, Saffordshier in 1907. They had no children.

Ralph became Superntendent minister in Maidenhead in 1918.

He died suddely and unexpectedly on the Isle of Man 11th August 1922.

Ralph's wife Lilian died in Stoke in September 1948

The following Newspaper extracts bring his life to light in some small way.

WEDDING

An interesting wedding took place at Leek on June 27th, the contracting parties being the Rev R H Gent of Pembroke Dock and Miss Knibb the daughter of Mrs Knibb and the late Rev Wm Knibb. The Rev Crewdson of Maryport, formerly of Leek, officiated. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr James Adams of Leek. The bridesmaids were Miss Hockenull of Baddington Bank, Nantwich, cousin of the bride; Miss Gent, sister of the bridegroom; Miss Christine and Miss Eveline Cornes, Master Stanley Cornes acting as page. The duties of best man were performed by the Rev T B Howard of Beverley. The service was choral, Mr W Trafford jnr presiding at the organ. The reception was held at Norton House, after which the bridal pair departed for Derbyshire, where the honeymoon will be spent. The presents were numerous and costly.

BRADWELL

The Rev R H Gent of Pembroke Dock, South Wales, has accepted the invitation to take up the ministry in the Bradwell (Primitive Methodist) circuit next July 1908 on the removal of the Rev E Quine to Sheffield. Mr Gent is a young man, full of energy and ability to work a scattered country circuit like Bradfield.
(Sheffield Independent 23 October 1907)

The Anniversary of the Bradwell Primitive Methodist Sunday school was celebrated on Sunday when the preacher was the Rev R H Gent of Maidenhead, a former minister of Bradwell. As usual the girl scholars were arranged on a platform and were dressed in white. They sang special hymns and anthems, conducted by Mr Isaac Hall. Mr Parker D Morton presided at the organ. On Saturday evening Mr Gent delivered a lecture on "Abraham Lincoln". The collections at all services amounted to £27 7s 3d, a record in the history of the school.
(The Courier 14 June 1909)

MAIDENHEAD

NEW MINISTER.

The Rev R H Gent has left Chalfont St Giles' circuit. He was the recipient of a wallet containing £12. The Rev R H Gent (who succeeds the Rev G Stanyer) will commence his ministry at the Maidenhead Primitive Methodist church on Sunday next (Reading Mercury Saturday 20 July 1918)

It has been the custom of the Primitive Methodists of Peel to hold the afternoon meeting of their school anniversary in the grounds of Peel Castle. Making tracks for the Castle, the procession, headed by Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, came in sight. The streets of the ancient city were alive with passengers, and all seemed to be going the same way.

The conductor of the proceedings was Rev. Luther Kemish, who, with a record of splendid service in East Anglia, is now winning fresh laurels among the sermon-tasters in Manxland. In his first year on the island Mr. Kemish has won a host of friends, and one heard many expressions of appreciation of his distinctive pulpit gifts.

The preacher for the anniversary was Rev. R. H. Gent, of Maidenhead (a former minister), and right well did he acquit himself. The crowd, though scattered, was gripped by his forceful address, and held to the end. Mr. Gent has rare gifts of open-air evangelism. Sitting near was Mr. Samuel Dalglish (member of the House of Keys), listening with much relish to such a fresh presentation of the old story, which is ever new. (Primitive Methodist Leader August 17th 1922)

DEATH OF METHODIST MINISTER

We deeply regret to report the death of the Rev Ralph H Gent, superintendent of the Maidenhead circuit. Mr Gent was on holiday in Peel I.O.M and died there on August 11th. He was laid to rest at Crook, Durham, on Tuesday last.

The passing of Mr Gent was quite unexpected. He was staying with Mr Dalglish, M.H.K., who was circuit steward when Mr Gent was at Peel some years ago.

He was a very successful circuit minister, greatly esteemed by his people, as well as by his brethren in the ministry. He was the Temperance Secretary of the London Second District and represented that District as G.C.D at the Leeds Conference.

(Primitive Methodist Leader August 17th 1922)

It was a great shock to read in the Leader last week of the sudden demise of Rev. R. H. Gent at the early age of forty-five years, in the zenith of his ministry. For the past four years he was minister at Maidenhead, and my neighbour and friend. Through fairly frequent intercourse one came to know him very well and to form the highest opinion of his sterling worth and goodness.

He was a man about whom there was a fine spiritual atmosphere and tone; high-souled, cultured and unusually refined; a most devoted minister, whose sermons and speeches were prepared with the utmost care and delivered with unction.

He lived for, and loved, his work, and a more conscientious man one has never met. Cant and pretence of any kind were to him an abomination. He was no self-seeker or place-hunter, or he might have had some honours he declined. Still he enjoyed being G.C.D. to the last Synod and Conference, and his brethren recognised that he performed the duties with ability and credit.

His bearing was that of one of Nature's gentlemen, and a true minister of Jesus Christ, for he had a high conception of his calling.

Possessed of artistic and aesthetic taste, he was developing as a connoisseur of art, and had collected some valuable pictures. This hobby was an index to his soul, and he exemplified Clutton Brock's teaching, that Christianity is beauty and art.

To his sorrowing widow and her mother, who, too, is a minister's widow, the utmost sympathy will be shown. (T. LLOYD PAGE)

(Primitive Methodist Leader 24 Aug 1922)

A united memorial service to the late Rev. R. H. Gent, of Maidenhead, was held in Queen-street Church on September 7th, Rev. J. Marcus Brown conducting and delivering an address of exceptional merit. Rev. J. Jones, of Great Marlow, and Mr. D. Lewis took part.

Mr. Gent, by his capable ministry, had greatly impressed the town. This was evidenced at the service by the large and representative audience.

It is proposed by the church to erect a memorial to Mr. Gent and in memory of the young men who fell in the war.

(Primitive Methodist Leader 14 September 1922)

COOKHAM WAR MEMORIAL

"This organ was erected to the glory of God and in remembrance of (names) who fell in the Great War 1914 - 18. Also the Rev R H Gent who died in the Master's service August 1 I th 1922 whilst minister of this circuit"

(Plaque in Cookham Rise Methodist Church)